

April 5, 2026
Easter Sunday
11:00am — Sanctuary



‘Easter Morning’, by Rev. Dr. Huibing He- China



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Fanfare

Organ Fugue in G major BWV 541

Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Hallelujah Chorus

The Strife Is O'er

Lew Gillis

Johann Sebastian Bach

Llanfair/Rawsthorne

George Frideric Handel

Victory/Rawsthorne

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

On Friday, we thought the good news had been silenced.

On Friday, we thought the good news had taken its last breath.

On Friday, we thought the good news had been buried.

But today, we know the good news is alive and well.

The good news is dancing!

The good news is on the loose!

The good news is out in the world, calling your name!

Alleluia! Even death has lost its sting.

Let us worship our good-news Christ.

***Hymn No. 232**

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

EASTER HYMN

***Call to Confession**

Friends, on Easter Sunday we remember that the world did its worst to God. The world battered and bruised, betrayed and abandoned, crucified and buried our living God. And despite it all, Jesus still chose to return. Jesus rose again and immediately went to work spreading God's love to the very people who had hurt him. So hear me when I say, there is nothing you can do that could keep God's love at bay. With that good news mind, let us go to God in prayer, trusting that Jesus Christ loves, claims, and seeks us. Friends, let us pray together.

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we want to be Easter people.

We want to shout your good news from the rooftop.

We want to follow the disciples, who ran to look for you.

We want to follow the angels, who said, "Be not afraid," but we are afraid.

And we don't know where to look.

And we are worried we'll say the wrong thing.

So forgive us, for we are imperfect Easter people.

We are best intentions and best laid plans.

We are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias."

We are on our way, but we are not there yet.

Show us how to embody your good news in this world.

Show us how to be your Easter people.

With hope for tomorrow, we pray, amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Family of faith, even when we are an out-of-tune chorus of "alleluias," we belong to God. Jesus died and rose for you. And there is nothing that could keep God's love at bay. So join me in this good news declaration:

Through Jesus Christ we are seen, saved, loved, and claimed.

This is the good news of the gospel! Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

***Responsive Hymn No. 238**

Thine Is the Glory

JUDAS MACCABEUS



Thine is the glo - ry, ris - en, conquering Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry
thou o'er death hast won. An - gels in bright rai - ment rolled the stone a - way,
kept the fold-ed grave-clothes where thy bod - y lay. Thine is the glo - ry,
ris - en, con- quering Son; end - less is the vic - t'ry thou o'er death hast won.

HEARING THE WORD

Time with Children

Please bring your fish banks with you.

There is no Sunday School today so we can celebrate Easter together.

Prayer for Illumination

New Testament Reading

Acts 10:34-43

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Gloria (movement 1)

John Rutter

Gospel Reading

Matthew 28:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“The Good News is a Revolution”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

We believe in an Easter God, who transforms darkness into light, hatred into tolerance, despair into hope.

We believe God is always working for good, changing every Good Friday nightmare into an Easter dream of new possibility.

We believe in the risen Christ, who befriends us on our roads of searching and worry; who touches us through song and silence, word and gesture; who calls us by name to enter the dance of life.

We believe in the Spirit, the hidden presence behind every resurrection, who beckons us to leave tomblife safety and trust the gracious invitation to live joyfully.

We believe the Spirit is always renewing the church and making us a people who practice kindness, encourage beauty, and work for justice and freedom.

We believe we are an Easter people, a sign that with God all things are possible.
Amen.

***Hymn No. 248**

Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!

HYMN TO JOY

Announcements

Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory Anthem

Gloria (movement 3)

John Rutter

*Responsive Hymn No. 609 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow. Praise God, all crea - tures here be -
low; Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heaven - ly host; Cre -
a - tor, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

*Prayer of Dedication

God of Hallelujahs, You have given us purpose and hope, forgiveness and grace, a place to belong, and a job to do. You have given us all that we could need and more, so we wonder—how do you repay someone for that? The obvious answer is that we could try living for you. So today we lift up this offering as a gesture of our love for you. We pray that you can use it to bring about your promised day where all are known, all are loved, and all are safe. In your name we live, and in your name we pray. Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 826

Lift High the Cross

CRUCIFER

*Benediction

*Postlude

Toccata (from Symphony #5)

Charels-Marie Widor

Easter Music and Flower Donations

In memory of...

loved ones by Steve and Kathy Adair
Jim Ator by Irene Ator
loved ones by Anne Barnett
loved ones by Arthur “Chuck” and Linda Chapman
loved ones by Joeng and Dj Cho
loved ones by Rollyn and Julie Coverdale
loved ones by Susan Dorion
Bruce and Julia Bain by Annie (Bain) Epling
Patty Greist (music) and Jerry Winters (flowers) by Eric Evans and Sherrie Steiner
Sangtae An and Yimsoon Limby by Roger and Ann Federspiel
loved ones by Dick Florea and Sandy Shearer
Rosie Gilpin and Tom Foltz by Luci Foltz Gilpin
Kathleen Moses and Andy Gumbert by Ron and Diane Gumbert
loved ones by Bettina Hickman and Tim McKeachie
Jack Spindler by Christopher and Joanna Johnson
loved ones by Frank and Susan Johnson
the Kettler family by Carol Kettler
loved ones by Ron and Pat Kohart
Dr. H. S. Lee by Antoinette and Gretchen Lee
Betsy Chapman and Joe McGeehan by Jane McGeehan and Howard Chapman
John E. McKibben by his family
loved ones by Sondra and Jim Mergenthal
Dan Michnay by the Michnay family
loved ones by Robert and Jennifer Nickerson
Robert P. Norton by Beverly Norton and children
beloved friends and family by Joseph and Carol Offerle
Randy Riley, Boyd and Gwendaline Riley, Travis Kissick by Gary and YuCha Riley
loved ones by Marj Sapp and Scott McMeen
loved ones by Krista Schloss
their parents Cynthia and David Scott
Byron and Isabel Sites by Tom and Nancy Sites
family and friends by Jeff and Carole Slater
and gratitude for her dear parents by Diana Spindler
her mom, Susan Winebrenner, by Carrie Winebrenner
loved ones by Anita Wolfe

In honor of...

Carrie Winebrenner’s service by Scott and Joan Pattison
our children, youth, and families by Carrie Winebrenner

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Annie Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Director of Music Ministries: Colin Andrews

Assistant Organist: Irene Ator

Crucifer: Maggie Kinder

Acolytes: Anne Barnett, Carole Slater

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Ina Carlson, Chip Davis, Jeff Slater

Ushers of the Month: Dave Beer, Dan Serban, Anita Wolfe

Chancel Choir: Richard Baughman, Brendan Caffé, Edith Coplin, Quinton Davis, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, Liz Graham, DuWayne Hintz, Joan Kern, Jane McGeehan, Scott McMeen, Alli McQueen, Kemel Mitchell, Kip Ormerod, Mia Paris, Ellis Pedersen, Carol Rhudy, Marj Sapp, Sandy Shearer, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters

Brass Ensemble: Brittany Barrus-Peckinpough, Colin Dorion, Owen Follis, Addison Koble, Katherine Loesch, Michael Patek, Carter Smith, Todd Ward

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Prayer List

- Kathy Miller
- Mary Winters
- Janice Roddy
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Jim and Sondra Mergenthal
- Tanner, nephew of Jennifer Stone
- Family and friends of Phyllis Evans
- Ashley and Marilyn Lassiter

If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, let us know.

Care & Support

FPC is a **Stephen Ministries** congregation and has a dedicated group of Stephen Ministers. Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. The Stephen Ministry is completely confidential, and open to all FPC members. For more information, please contact Carolyn Krebs at 956-844-3890 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or you're a longtime member, we are thrilled to have you join us as we explore our shared journey with Christ. I hope you find the worship service uplifting and meaningful.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we hold our 193-year-old history in creative tension with 21st-century challenges. We honor traditions that have shaped generations before us while exploring how Jesus's message speaks to the complexities of life today. Our members come from different backgrounds, carry unique stories, and approach faith with a variety of perspectives. Some of us may have questions, others may have doubts, and many of us are navigating challenges—yet we come together as one body to worship and grow in faith.

You're welcome to visit our website at www.firstpresfortwayne.org for more information about the church, and I invite you to talk to any of the pastors, stop by the Welcome Table in the narthex (lobby) after church, and/or join us for coffee in McKay Hall following worship. We have many programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. And, if you are looking for a church home, we hope you'll get connected at First Presbyterian. It would be an honor to be your church family.

Blessings,
Annie Epling, Pastor/Head of Staff

—> **Hearing Loops**

To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T”, T-Coil or telephone position.

—> **Families with Children**

Jesus loves the little children, and we do too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child, ages 6 months through five years, is always invited. Our nursery meets in the first-floor day school wing, so please ask an usher or the front office volunteer for assistance and a key fob.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Last weekend to sign up for Hands On Fort Wayne!

On April 12, we will go out and serve "hands on" at various community partner organizations, or complete "hands on" service projects onsite at FPC. People of all ages and abilities can serve and are encouraged to serve! Our goal is to have at least 100 people serving on this day, and we encourage you to invite family and friends to participate with us, too. Sunday worship will be very abbreviated and will include a commissioning of service prior to beginning our work.

Sign-up sheets are now available for each project in the small dining room or you can scan the QR code. The deadline to sign up is **today!** We can't wait to serve and share the Good News with you!



Silent Movie & Organ in the Theater

Step back into film history with two special screenings of “Our Hospitality” (1923), a classic Buster Keaton comedy brought to life with a live theatre organ performance by Fort Wayne native Mark Herman.

In this beloved silent-era gem, Keaton, famous for his brilliant physical comedy and legendary “stone face”, plays a New Yorker who unexpectedly gets swept up in an old-fashioned family feud in 1840s Kentucky.

Mark Herman, is an internationally acclaimed theatre organist who has performed hundreds of concerts and silent film accompaniments across the globe. He received the American Theatre Organ Society’s Organist of the Year award in 2012, and also serves as President of Herman Organ Company, where he leads a team dedicated to the restoration and care of historic pipe organs.

Join us at **7pm on Saturday, April 18 or 2pm on Sunday, April 19** for an amazing blend of classic cinema, live music, and timeless entertainment, perfect for film lovers and audiences of all ages! Children 18 and under are FREE! Tickets are available through ArtsTix online by scanning the QR code or call 260-422-4226!



An Evening with K-Pop: A Dance Showcase Fundraiser

Save the date for our fundraiser showcasing K-Pop performances from talented individuals & groups across Indiana! Donations are encouraged and all proceeds will help Korea Festival Fort Wayne grow!

Saturday, April 25 - Doors open 6:30pm, show begins 7pm
First Presbyterian Theater- \$20 Adults / \$10 Under 18

Ticket Reservation can be made online by scanning the QR code!
Cash or Venmo will be accepted at the doors.



MAD2 Camp Volunteers Needed! — June 1–5

Lights, music, and a whole lot of shine! MAD2 Camp is back for another unforgettable week of **Music, Art, Drama, and Dance** for kids entering Kindergarten through graduating 5th grade—and this year our theme is **KPOP: Golden!**

From high-energy dance moves to colorful creativity, this camp is all about helping kids discover their confidence, express their gifts, and shine like they were born to be. But no great performance happens without an incredible crew behind the scenes—and that’s where you come in!

We’re looking for enthusiastic volunteers to help bring the week to life. Whether you’re guiding a small group, lending a hand with crafts or snacks, cheering kids on, or simply helping keep the rhythm of the day moving, there’s a place for you on the **MAD2 Golden Crew**.

Please scan the QR code on the back of the bulletin or email any questions to **Carrie at cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org**. Thank you for helping create a week where every child can step into the spotlight, try something new, and discover just how brightly they shine. **Let’s go up, up, up—this is their moment!**

GETTING CONNECTED

MEMBERSHIP

Whether you live in the Fort Wayne area or worship with us online, we welcome you to join our family of faith. Through Coffee with the Pastors, you'll learn more about First Presbyterian Church, its history, and its current ministry in a relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're sure membership is right for you, or you're just beginning to wonder if this might be your spiritual home, we'd love to have you join us for coffee. Keep an eye out for our next date of Coffee with the Pastors. All are welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION

Wired Word — Sunday Mornings, 10am

Join us each week as we delve into a topic inspired by recent news and explore how the Bible speaks to the events shaping our world today. Each Sunday brings a fresh topic, making this group perfect for those with busy schedules who may not be able to attend every week. Topics are emailed each Friday, so please let Luci Gilpin at lucifoltz@gmail.com know if you'd like to receive that email. All are welcome — come as you are and join the conversation.

Women's Bible Study — Fridays, 1pm

This group is now led by Rev. Susan Keirn Kester and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Susan at keirnsusan@aol.com.

Table Talk for Women — Wednesdays, 10am

This group reads a book at their own pace and is led by members of the group on Zoom. ZOOM Meeting ID: 870 6712 2177. ZOOM Passcode: 260 426 7421. For more information, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

Men's Bible Study — Fridays, 10am

This group is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and meets on Teams. For more information, email Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

North and South Dinner Groups — 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30pm

A great way to get to know other First Pres members is through our local area Dinner Groups. These groups meet the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:30pm. The South Dinner Group meets at Hall's Coventry (5745 Coventry Lane). No need to RSVP, just ask for the First Pres tables. It's a big group, so you can't miss it! The North Dinner Group meets at Don Hall's Factory. Please RSVP to Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or by email at marj.sapp@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Faith, Fiber, and Fellowship — Mondays, 3pm

This group meets weekly at 3pm on Mondays in Room 302 on the 3rd floor. Bring your latest fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting.

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B) — Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30PM in McKay Hall

Maintaining balance is essential as we age. A decline in stability increases the risk of falls, impacting independence and quality of life. Good balance helps prevent falls, supports daily activities, and reduces the risk of serious injuries.

Join us for 3B, a lifetime fitness class designed to improve balance, flexibility, and strength using chairs and other provided equipment. These free classes are open to all adults aged 50 and older and are filled with fun, fellowship, and fitness. Our holistic approach combines proven physical therapy exercises, healthy brain activities, and opportunities for spiritual, emotional, and social growth. Classes meet twice a week in McKay Hall. We'd love to have you join us!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday School for Children and Youth

Two Sunday School classes for children and youth are offered during the worship hour. We all begin worship in the sanctuary, then the children head to Sunday School after Time with Children. Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on Communion Sundays so that we may all participate in that sacrament as a family.

Holy Moly — for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade

Join us for another fun semester of learning from the Holy Moly curriculum from SparkHouse. Each class includes a Bible story, video, and craft time, with an opportunity to earn Bible Bucks for fun prizes and treats.

Level Up — for youth in 5th through 9th grades

Join us as we explore big questions about our church, our faith, and the world, such as science, politics, social justice, and environment.

Youth Group — 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:15-2PM, lunch provided

Building relationships while burning off some energy is important! Through service, games, food, and more, we have many events to decompress from school and extracurriculars throughout the year. All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to join this amazing group of young people! Keep an eye on the Family Ministry bulletin board (by the elevator) for schedules and plans.

MISSIONS

Through our **Missions Ministry**, many of our members and friends are engaged in volunteering and advocacy. Our programs include collecting, making, and serving meals for shelters, schools, food banks, and more. We also maintain mission partnerships with many local, national, and international partners including:

- Help Not Handcuffs
- Washington Elementary School
- South Wayne Elementary School
- South Side High School
- St. Josephs Mission
- Wellspring Interfaith Services
- East Wayne Street Food Bank
- United Faith Presbyterian Church Food Bank
- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Matthew 25 Clinic
- Rescue Mission
- Reproductive Rights Action Committee with Plymouth UCC
- PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Costa Rica, Taiwan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon

The **Schools Team** wishes to remind everyone that a designated bin is available in the Small Dining Room to deposit gently-used clothing for the Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank. Through school referrals, the Clothing Bank has provided clothing for thousands of students and families in need. All types of gently-used clothing in all sizes are needed. (Socks and underwear must be new.) If you're paring down your wardrobe, please remember to bring in a bag of wearable items for the FWCS Clothing Bank bin. Thank you!

Our **Green Team** is active throughout the year. In the winter, you can find them distributing the “Bag of Bags,” which are reusable grocery bags. In the spring, they have a booth at Eco Fest, sponsor a recycling drive at Hands ON Fort Wayne, and host our biennial Pet Blessing with a collection of items for local animal shelters. Throughout the year, they sell Fair Trade chocolate with proceeds supporting our food bank ministry.

FINE ARTS MINISTRY

The **Fine Arts Ministry** consists of the Art Gallery, Music Series, and the Theater. Throughout the year, the three art forms together present exhibits, concerts, and shows which seek to enhance our faith through visual art, music, and drama, all while highlighting themes and challenges within our world. The mission of the Fine Arts Ministry is to *Enrich Our Faith Through the Arts*. This important ministry seeks to create artistic beauty and to help us grow in our faith with God, right along with the mission of the church. A full listing of these events can be found at <https://firstpresfortwayne.org/arts/>.

Our **Theater**, established in 1968, creates entertaining, educational, and inclusive theatre productions to inspire and motivate our audiences. We produce comedies, musicals, and dramas that teach us about ourselves and the world we live in. Our engaging productions have something for everyone, including pertinent messages like love, compassion, and bravery, while focusing on the human condition which can be funny and traumatizing.

The **Chancel Choir** sings for all English Worship Services, and they welcome anyone who enjoys singing God’s praises. Chancel Choir rehearsal is on Thursdays 7pm-8:30pm, and Sundays at 10am. The **Handbell Choir** practices Thursdays 5:30pm-6:30pm and rings occasionally in Worship.

CALENDAR

Today

10:00 am

Wired Word.—2nd Floor Parlor.

Choir Rehearsal.—Music Room.

Easter Egg Hunt.—McKay Hall.

11:00 am

English Worship.—Sanctuary & Livestream.

Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.

12:00 pm

Fellowship Time.—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon Apr 6

1:30 pm

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).—McKay Hall.

3:00 pm

Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.—Room 302.

Wed Apr 8

1:30 pm

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).—McKay Hall.

Fri Apr 10

10:00 am

Men's Bible Study.—Teams.

1:00 pm

Women's Bible Study.—Zoom.

Coming Soon

Sun Apr 12

11:00 am

Hands On Fort Wayne!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PRESENTS
MAD² CAMP
AN ARTS CAMP FOR KINDER THRU 5TH GRADE

KPOP EDITION!

JUNE 1-5, 2026

Scan Me To Register! 

Scan Me To Volunteer! 

IT'S YOUR MOMENT TO SHINE!

The poster features a vibrant purple and blue background with light rays. On the right side, there is a stylized blue cat character with yellow eyes and a small black hat. The text is in various fonts, with the main title 'MAD² CAMP' in large, bold, white letters. The dates 'JUNE 1-5, 2026' are also in large white letters. At the bottom, there are two QR codes with arrows pointing to them, and the slogan 'IT'S YOUR MOMENT TO SHINE!' in white capital letters.