

BROADWAY IN THREE ACTS

Fourth Sunday after Easter

May 3, 2026

11:00am — Sanctuary



What I Did
For Love

FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET



OFFICE 260.426.7421
300 W. WAYNE ST. FORT WAYNE

FIRSTPRESFORTWAYNE.ORG

GATHERING

Prelude

Piano etude in C# minor, Op. 25/7

Chopin

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

Every life of faith becomes part of a larger story.

A story shaped by grace, courage, and love.

Those who came before us have shown us what it means to live with hope and to serve with faithful hearts.

Their witness reminds us that love is never wasted.

So today we gather to worship the God who holds every chapter of our lives.

Let us worship the Lord whose love carries the story forward.

*Hymn No. 366

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL

*Call to Confession

Friends, the story of faith is a story shaped by love. Yet we know how often we fall short of that calling. We hold back our compassion. We cling to fear instead of courage. We struggle to forgive as freely as Christ forgives us.

Still, the good news of the gospel is this: God's mercy meets us exactly where we are. So let us come before God with honest hearts, trusting in the grace that makes us new. Let us pray.

*Prayer of Confession

Loving God, You call us to live lives shaped by grace, courage, and love. Yet we confess that we often settle for something less. We turn inward when we are called to reach outward. We protect ourselves when love asks us to be vulnerable. We grow weary of the work of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Forgive us. Renew our hearts with your Spirit; teach us again to love as Christ has loved us. Give us courage to speak truth with grace, to serve with humility, and to live faithfully in every season of life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

*Declaration of Forgiveness

Hear the good news. Even as Stephen faced the stones of the crowd, he entrusted his spirit to God and spoke words of forgiveness.

This is the promise of the gospel: the love revealed in Jesus Christ is stronger than sin, stronger than fear, and stronger even than death.

Friends, believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ, we are awakened to new life.

In Jesus Christ, the empty places of our story are not the end.

In Jesus Christ, we are sent to live with faithful love.

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

*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. 232 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today



Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Sing we to our God a - bove,



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - - - le - lu - ia!
praise e - ter - nal as God's love,



who did once up - on the cross Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Praise our God, ye heaven - ly host,



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - - - le - lu - ia!
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Gospel Reading

John 14:1-14

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Ave Verum

Peeters

New Testament Reading

Acts 7:55-60

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Act 3: What I Did for Love” Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in the God of new life,
who raised Jesus Christ from the dead
and continues to breathe life into the world.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
who walks beside us in every season of life,
opening our hearts to hope and calling us to follow.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who gathers the church into community,
awakens courage within us,
and sends us into the world with love.**

**We believe that the story of God is still unfolding,
that grace is stronger than fear,
and that love will always carry the story forward.**

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***Hymn No. 836**

Abide with Me

EVENTIDE

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Were You There?

arr. Chilcott

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer 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.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

First Presbyterian Church believes the table is not ours, but God's. All who put their faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of church affiliation, are encouraged to participate in the great feast of faith.

Communion Music

“O Mensch, bewein dein Sunde gross” BWV 622

J.S. Bach

SENDING

*Hymn No. 547

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

AR HYD Y NOS

*Benediction

*Postlude

Fugue in C minor BWV 582

J.S. Bach

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in honor of sister, Linnea Brunk's birthday and in memory of the Kettler family by Carol Kettler.

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!



Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Liturgist: June Schwertfager

Director of Music Ministries: Colin Andrews

Assistant Organist: Irene Ator

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Denise Davis, Jeff Slater, Sherrie Steiner

Ushers of the Month: Eric Evans, Ashley Lassiter, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, 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, Jessi Spencer, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters

Communion Servers/Preparers: Anne Barnett, Ina Carlson, Judy Hayhurst, Meredith Palmison, Carole Slater, Sherrie Steiner, Jill Therrien

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Marj Sapp

Prayer List

- Kathy Miller
- Janice Roddy
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Sam Shepherd
- Joyce McGiffin
- Jim and Sondra Mergenthal
- Tanner, nephew of Jennifer Stone
- Ashley and Marilyn Lassiter
- The Family of Dewayne Johnson, Uncle of Bill Patterson

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

Hymn Festival on May 10!

Join us for this year's hymn festival, Praise with Us the God of Grace. This year, once again, the hymns will be made up entirely of hymns submitted by the congregation during the 2024 March Music Madness. The hymns were selected with the idea of singing through the many aspects of life. Whether that is a high moment or a low moment, God's gift of music is how we express our emotions, praise, and love for God.

When we have so much joy that we do not know how to express it in words, we sing. When life is so difficult that we have no idea how to even pray, God calls us to sing. So come sing with all your might, as we praise the Creator of music and Author of our songs.

Reception for Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

Please join us as we gather to say farewell and extend our heartfelt gratitude to Pastor Carrie, who has faithfully served as our Associate Pastor for the past 6 years. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her God's blessings on the journey ahead.

A special reception will be held in McKay Hall on May 17, after worship. This will be an opportunity to celebrate Carrie's contributions to our ministry and to express our appreciation for her dedication and service.

PCUSA Joint Service – Memorial Day

Join us Sunday, May 24th, 2026, 10:30am, when all the Fort Wayne Presbyterian churches will come together for a joint indoor worship service at Grace Presbyterian Church, located at 1811 Fairhill Rd in Fort Wayne.

This special service will feature prayers in three languages: English, Korean, and Spanish. Following the service, a food truck will be available for lunch! Please note there will be no worship service here at First Pres on that Sunday.

Eco Fest 2026

Join us for Eco Fest Fort Wayne at Headwaters Park on Sunday, May 17, from 12:00-5:00 pm! The Green Team will have a booth to distribute tote bags made of recycled material. Eco Fest is a sustainability focused and family friendly event with workshops, music, food, and vendors.

Honoring Life, Planning Ahead

Join us for an informative and thoughtful evening on Tuesday, May 26, at 6:30 PM in the Parlor. Sponsored by Stephen Ministry, this program will be led by guest speaker Guy Dupuis, a licensed Pre-Planning Advisor. This 45-minute session will explore the benefits of planning ahead for a funeral, including an overview of service options and current trends such as green burial, water cremation, celebrations of life, and more. Time for questions will follow.

While this can be a difficult topic, it's also a meaningful step toward clarity, care, and peace of mind for you and your loved ones. All are welcome. No RSVP needed. Please contact Carolyn Krebs or Marcie Weissner through the church office with any questions.

Dinner Groups

First Pres has two groups available for those who enjoy fellowshiping around the dinner table:

Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, May 11 at 5:30 pm, location is Don Hall's Factory. Please RSVP to Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or by email at marj.sapp@gmail.com.

Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, May 11 at 5:30 pm.

We look forward to seeing you!

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!**

Grace Church Running & Walking Club

Looking for a fun way to get moving and enjoy fellowship? Join the Grace Church Running & Walking Club, meeting Sunday afternoons at 1:00 PM at Grace Presbyterian Church (1811 Fairhill Rd). Runners and walkers of all paces are welcome. For more information, contact Rev. Sandy at gracepastor@gpcfww.org.



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 & 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

Stay strong, steady, and connected with 3B, a free fitness class for adults 50+ focused on balance, flexibility, and strength. Using chairs and simple equipment, each class combines movement, brain activities, fellowship, and holistic wellness in a fun and welcoming environment. Classes meet twice weekly in McKay Hall. 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
- South Wayne Elementary
- South Side High School
- St. Josephs Mission
- Wellspring Interfaith Services
- East Wayne Street Food Bank
- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Matthew 25 Clinic
- Rescue Mission
- Reproductive Rights Action Committee with Plymouth UCC
- United Faith Presbyterian Church Food Bank

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.
- 11:00 am** **English Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.
KLM Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.
- 12:00 pm** **Fellowship Time.**—McKay Hall.
Blessings in a Backpack.—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon May 4

- 1:30 pm** **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall.
3:00 pm **Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302.

Wed May 6

- 10:00 am** **Table Talk.**—Zoom.
1:30 pm **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall.

Fri May 8

- 10:00 am** **Men's Bible Study.**—Teams.
1:00 pm **Women's Bible Study.**—Zoom.

Coming Soon

Sun May 10

- 11:00 am** **Hymn Festival.**—Sanctuary.

Mon May 11

- 5:30 pm** **North and South Dinner Groups.**—Offsite.

Sun May 17

- 11:00 am** **Installation and Ordination of New Elders & Deacons**
Last Day of Holy Moly and Level-Up Sunday Schools
- 12:00 pm** **Reception for Rev. Carrie Winebrenner.**—McKay Hall.

Sun May 24

- 10:30 am** **Worship at Grace Presbyterian Church.**—Offsite.
Please note the time change of worship!