

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**June 14, 2026**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

*Congregation responds in bold*

## **GATHERING**

### **Prelude**

Variations on the Chorale “Oh How Fleeting Is This Earthly Life”      Georg Böhm

### **Chiming of the Hour**

### **Call to Worship**

In worship,

**May we be as welcoming as Sarah and Abraham,  
who were quick to serve the stranger.**

In faith,

**May we proclaim that nothing is too big for God.**

In moments of holy surprise,

**May we laugh with deep abiding joy.**

For God is in the holy surprise,

**God is in the winding path.**

And God is in our presence today.

**Let us worship Holy God.**

**\*Hymn No. 403**

Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty

UNSER HERRSCHER

### **\*Call to Confession**

We come before God who loves us with a love that surpasses understanding. Even when we struggle to forgive ourselves, God reaches out to us with grace and peace. There isn't anything that could take that love away. So we come to God to name where we have failed, trusting in God's amazing grace. Friends, let us confess our sin together:

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**God of unexpected joy and answered prayers, we confess that sometimes things feel too good to be true, while at other times we wonder if you hear us at all. When life unravels for the worst, we blame you. But when life unravels for the best, filling our days with holy surprises, we tend to praise ourselves, thinking we've earned this unexpected joy. Forgive us. Help us to see you in our midst. And with every breath that turns into a laugh, draw us closer to you. Amen.**

### \*Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, God loves you. God wants to be in relationship with you. God allows nothing to come between you and God. Believe this and know that you are forgiven and freed to love and serve. **Alleluia. Amen.**

### \*Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us now share Christ's peace with others.

*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. 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

1. Glo - ry to God, \_\_\_\_\_ whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, \_\_\_\_\_ whose grace has  
2. World with-out end, \_\_\_\_\_ with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, \_\_\_\_\_ with - out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, \_\_\_\_\_ whose love has set me free. As it  
end. A - men. World with-out end, \_\_\_\_\_ with - out end. A - men.

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

## HEARING THE WORD

### Prayer for Illumination

### Old Testament Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Genesis 18:1-5 (21:1-7)

Anthem

Summer Choir

## **New Testament Reading**

Matthew 9:9-13

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

“Incredulous”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

**We believe in God, who comes to us in unexpected ways, appearing at the door of our lives when we least expect it.**

**We believe in God, who keeps promises even when fulfillment seems impossible, who remains faithful when our faith falters, and who continues to work when we can see no way forward.**

**We believe in God, who hears both our prayers and our laughter, who is not frightened by our doubts, our questions, or our disbelief.**

**We believe in God, who opened the future for Abraham and Sarah, who brought life where there was barrenness, hope where there was despair, and joy where there was only waiting.**

**We believe in God, for whom nothing is too wonderful, nothing is beyond redemption, and no person is beyond grace.**

**Therefore, we trust God's promises, follow God's call, and live in hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 51**

To Abraham and Sarah

LLANFYLLIN

### **Announcements**

#### **The 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.**

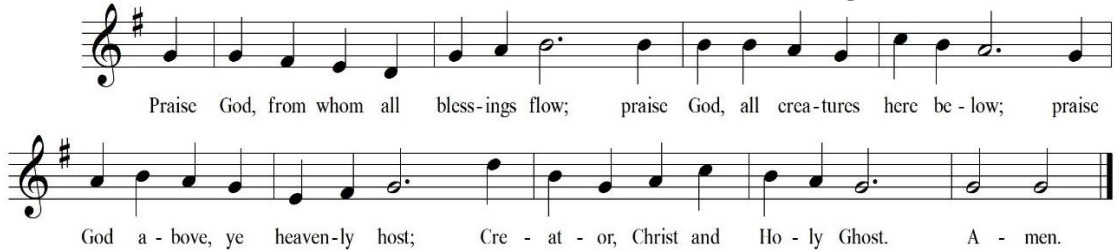
## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here” BWV 731

J. S. Bach

### \*Responsive Hymn No. 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise  
God above, ye heavenly host; Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, how can we thank you for all that you have given us? We give back but a tiny portion in hopes that it may bless the world as you have blessed us. In the name of Jesus, our brother and our Lord, Amen.**

## SENDING

### \*Hymn No. 308

O God in Whom All Life Begins

NOEL

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

Prelude in G major BWV 541

J. S. Bach

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of  
Betsy Chapman and Joe McGeehan  
by Jane McGeehan and Howard Chapman.

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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**Pastors:** Rev. Dr. Annie Epling (she/her)

**Liturgist:** Rollyn Coverdale

**Director of Music Ministries:** Colin Andrews

**Assistant Organist:** Irene Ator

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Brittany Bodine, Sandy Shearer

**Ushers of the Month:** Anne Barnett, Scott McMeen, Carol Offerle, Steve Weissner, Anita Wolfe

**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Marj Sapp

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## Prayer List

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- Kathy Miller
- Janice Roddy
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Sam Shepherd
- Beth White
- Mark Laughner
- Jim and Sondra Mergenthal
- Tanner, nephew of Jennifer Stone
- Lisa Keirn, sister-in-law of Susan Kester
- Ashley & Marilyn Lassiter
- Joyce McGiffin
- Sarah Kelley

**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.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Summer Choir

Each Sunday in June, ANYONE is welcome to sing in the ad hoc choir, no commitment, weeknight rehearsal, or skill necessary! Join Colin Andrews in the choir loft at 10am before service to practice a familiar hymn to be sung in worship. Come make some joyful noise together!

### Support Healthier Moms and Babies' fifth Annual Community Wide Diaper Drive!

Did you know that 50% of U.S. families experience diaper need? Between June 1-15, 2026, donations of diapers and wipes for families in our community will be accepted at FPC! Please place the items in the bin located in the Narthex. Last year, over 150,000 diapers, wipes, and baby items were donated! Please consider helping with the effort in 2026!



### June Food Bank Collection

Please bring your contributions to the church through Sunday June 21. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief." The following items are requested:

Canned Chicken or Tuna	Rice - white or brown (1-2 lb. bags preferred)
Baked Beans	Cereal - Corn Flakes or Crispy Rice
Peanut Butter	Canned Vegetables - Green Beans or Corn
Applesauce Cups	

Thank you for your contributions and help with this ministry. Hunger relief is an important part of First Presbyterian's mission to our surrounding community. We support three food banks: Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, United Faith Presbyterian Church, and East Wayne Street Center.

### Women's Bible Study

This group will be on summer hiatus until Friday, Sept. 11. Keep an eye out for updates as they get closer to starting a new book!

## Just for Fun—Summer Edition!

Following the success of our Lent “Just for the fun of it” events, we’ve planned a couple more for Summer (because not all of us go to the lake!). **Both events require a reservation and payment in advance.**

Join your friends and make new ones as we go for a ride on the Sweet Breeze. Explore our natural river on a replica of an original canal boat which is fully accessible for wheelchairs. We'll see you **Sunday, June 28, 2:30-3:45. (\$23, RSVP by June 21)**



Next up, watch a game with us at the new soccer stadium: Fort Wayne Football Club vs. Detroit City. We are looking forward to **Saturday, July 11 at 7:30pm! (\$25, RSVP by July 1)**



## Pride Fest 2026

Come be a part of God’s vibrant mosaic at Fort Wayne Pride Festival 2026! Join us on Saturday, July 25, anytime between noon and 7pm.

Show your love and represent First by volunteering for a 1.5 hour shift at our booth. Three to four volunteers will cover each shift, so there will be time to talk, laugh, and make art together.

Scan the QR code to sign-up for a slot! For any questions, contact Beth Iserman at [bdiserman@gmail.com](mailto:bdiserman@gmail.com).



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## GETTING CONNECTED

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### **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](mailto: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 — On Summer Hiatus**

#### **Table Talk for Women — On Summer Hiatus**

#### **Men's Bible Study — On Summer Hiatus**

### **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

#### **North and South Dinner Groups — 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 5:30pm**

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](mailto: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**

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.

## **CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES**

### **Sunday School for Children and Youth — On Summer Hiatus**

### **Youth Group — On Summer Hiatus**

## **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, during June, rehearses on Sundays at 10am. **Handbell Choir** is currently on Summer Hiatus.

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## CALENDAR

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Today

- 10:00 am**     **Wired Word.**—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Parlor.  
**Choir Rehearsal.**—Music Room.
- 11:00 am**     **English Worship Service.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.  
**Korean Worship Service.**—Chapel & Livestream.
- 12:10 pm**     **Fellowship Time.**—McKay Hall.

This Week

**Mon Jun 15**

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

**Tues Jun 16**

- 6:30 pm**     **Session Meeting.**—Session Room.

**Wed Jun 17**

- 1:30 pm**     **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall.

*Coming Soon*

**Sun Jun 28**

- 2:30 pm**     **Sweet Breeze Boat Trip.**—Offsite.

### —> **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.