

**Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**June 21, 2026**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



Hagar in the Wilderness, Camille Corot, French, 1835.



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Congregation responds in bold**

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Six Renaissance Dances (1531)

Anon

### **Chiming of the Hour**

#### **Call to Worship**

Come and worship God, who cares for the greatest and least among us.

**Come and worship God, who knows every hair on our head.**

Come and worship God, who raises us to new life.

**Come and worship God, who hears the cries of all, whoever they are and wherever they may be. Come, let us worship God.**

**\*Hymn No. 280**

Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us

EBENEZER

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

We have died to sin; yet we continue to live in it.

God's grace abounds so we might move past our sins.

Trusting that promise, let us confess together.

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

**Gracious God, we try to follow your word:**

**to put others above ourselves,**

**to remember that we are all bound together as your beloved children,**

**to seek the common good instead of our own interests.**

**But it is so easy for our lesser selves to get the better of us.**

**We succumb to jealousy, vindictiveness, callousness, and indifference.**

**In your mercy, send your healing to those we have hurt,**

**and to our own misguided souls so that we may follow you once more.**

#### **\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

We are united in Christ's life, death, and resurrection:

he has saved us from sin so that we might live in God.

**Thanks be to Jesus Christ, who frees us from sin!**

## \*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

Genesis 21:8-21

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Anthem

Summer Choir

### New Testament Reading

Matthew 10:24-39

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Sermon

“Not Their Best Moment”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.32–33)

**The life, death, resurrection, and promised coming of Jesus Christ has set the pattern for the church’s mission.**

**His human life involves the church in the common life of all people.**

**His service to men and women commits the church to work for every form of human well-being.**

**His suffering makes the church sensitive to all human suffering so that it sees the face of Christ in the faces of persons in every kind of need.**

**His crucifixion discloses to the church God’s judgment on the inhumanity that marks human relations, and the awful consequences of the church’s own complicity in injustice.**

**In the power of the risen Christ and the hope of his coming, the church sees the promise of God’s renewal of human life in society and of God’s victory over all wrong.**

**The church follows this pattern in the form of its life and in the method of its action. So to live and serve is to confess Christ as Lord.**

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 440**

**Jesus, Lover of My Soul**

**ABERYSTWYTH**

### **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.**

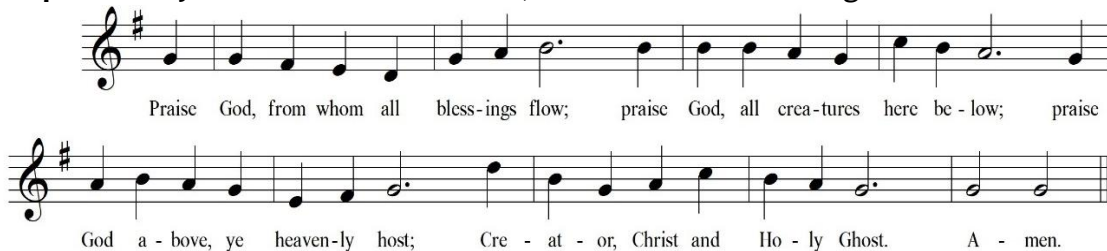
### **Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

**“Jesus, My Refuge” BWV 728**

**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 be - low; praise  
God a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; Cre - at - or, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

Listening God, you hear the cries we whisper and the cries we cannot speak. In a world still marked by fear, abandonment, and unfairness, you remain the one who listens and who hears the voices of the outcast, the wounded, the overlooked. As we bring our offerings today, open our ears as yours are open. Make our giving an act of solidarity with those whose voices rise in need. Use these gifts to reveal your presence, to bring water into desert places, and to remind all your children that they are not alone. Shape us into people who hear because we have been heard. Amen.

**SENDING**

**\*Hymn No. 493**

Now There Is No Male or Female

OMNI DIE

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

Tocatta "Fluorescence"

Paul Patterson

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Tom Foltz and Rosie Gilpin  
by Luci Foltz Gilpin.

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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

**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:** Jeff Slater

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## Prayer List

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

**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!

### Theater Auditions

Open auditions for FPT's production of Hay Fever will be held on Sunday, July 5, and Monday, July 6, from 7:00-10:00 pm. No advance sign-up required! The production will be directed by Jordan Plohr. Scan the QR code for all the details!



### Welcome Ian Clarke!

We are delighted to announce that Ian Clarke will join First Presbyterian Church as a Resident Pastor, beginning August 16, 2026.

Ian is a Candidate for ordination in the PC(USA), and a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as of May 2026. He grew up in Indianapolis, IN, and attended Northminster Presbyterian Church until college. Ian has worked with young people for essentially his entire adult life, with experiences ranging from teaching preschool and elementary school to mentoring middle and high schoolers, and served as a Children, Youth, and Families Intern at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church in Austin, TX. His inclinations in ministry are toward liturgical theology and liturgical design, rest and renewal, and Reformed theology. Ian is a musician, coffee guy, sports fan, and chess novice. He otherwise enjoys playing Magic the Gathering, reading, watching movies, eating good food, and hanging out with his partner Anna & their two cats, Remi & Marley.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Ian to our church family as he begins this new chapter of ministry us!

## 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.

Volunteers will help visitors to create small pieces of art that will become a big mosaic over the course of the day. The mosaic will join an exhibition of art created by the Queer Art Club of Fort Wayne, showcased at the First Presbyterian booth.

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



## 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 TODAY)**



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)**



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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.
- 4:00 pm**     **Serving a Meal at the Mission.**—Offsite.

This Week

**Mon Jun 22**

- 1:30 pm**     **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall.
- 3:00 pm**     **Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302.
- 5:00 pm**     **Serving a Meal at St. Joseph's.**—Offsite.

**Wed Jun 24**

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

*Coming Soon*

**Sun Jun 28**

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

**Sun Jul 5**

- 7:00 pm**     **“Hay Fever” Auditions.**—Theater.

### —> **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.