

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**June 28, 2026**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



Marc Chagall, Sarah and Abraham (1956).



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Congregation responds in bold**

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Movements from BWV 1035

J.S. Bach

### **Chiming of the Hour**

#### **Call to Worship**

God calls us by name and invites us into a life of faith.

**Here we are, Lord.**

God is faithful through every generation,  
calling ordinary people to extraordinary trust.

**Here we are, Lord.**

Come, not because the way is always easy,  
but because God is always faithful.

**We come to worship the living God.**

**\*Hymn No. 1**

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

NICAEA

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

Scripture reminds us that following God is not always comfortable or convenient.  
Yet we often seek the easy path, resisting the costly demands of love, justice, and  
discipleship. Trusting in God's abundant mercy, let us confess our sin together.

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

**Faithful God, You call us to trust you, yet we cling to our own security.**

**You call us to serve, yet we protect our comfort.**

**You call us to love our neighbors, yet we count the cost before offering  
ourselves.**

**Forgive us when we settle for an easy faith instead of courageous discipleship.**

**Forgive us when we seek blessings without embracing responsibility, grace  
without gratitude, or faith without commitment.**

**Renew our hearts. Give us the courage to say, "Here I am," and the faith to  
follow wherever Christ leads.**

**In his holy name we pray. Amen.**

## \*Declaration of Forgiveness

Friends, the good news of the gospel is this:

God's grace is never earned by our faithfulness, nor is it withdrawn because of our failures. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, and called once again to follow with courage and hope.

**Thanks be to God!**

## \*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 22:1-14

## **New Testament Reading**

Matthew 10:40-42

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

“A Difficult Story”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

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

We believe in God,  
who calls ordinary people into lives of extraordinary faith.

We believe in Jesus Christ,  
who showed us that love is costly,  
discipleship requires commitment,  
and abundant life is found in giving ourselves away.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
who strengthens us when the way is difficult,  
encourages us when we are afraid,  
and equips us to serve with joy.

We trust that God's grace goes before us,  
God's mercy surrounds us,  
and God's faithfulness will never fail.

To God be the glory, now and forever. Amen.

### **\*Hymn No. 718**

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

BOURBON

## **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**

Come, All Christians, Be Committed

arr. Mark Hayes

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

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be - low; praise  
God a - bove, ye heaven-ly host; Cre - at - or, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**Generous God, everything we have comes from your hand. Receive these gifts, and receive our lives as well. Use what we offer this day to proclaim your love, serve our neighbors, and build your kingdom. Give us generous hearts, faithful hands, and willing spirits, that we may follow Christ wherever he leads. In his name we pray. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Hymn No. 307**

God of Grace and God of Glory

CWM RHONDDA

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

II. Scherzo. Vivace

Robert Muczynski

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Dr. and Mrs. Frederic G. Perry by their family.

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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

**Liturgist:** Joan Pattison

**Director of Music Ministries:** Colin Andrews

**Assistant Musicians:** Edith Coplin, Esther Coplin

**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
- Sondra Mergenthal and Family
- Tanner, nephew of Jennifer Stone
- Lisa Keirn, sister-in-law of Susan Kester
- Ashley & Marilyn Lassiter
- Joyce McGiffin

**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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### 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!



### Just for Fun—Summer Edition!

Watch a Fort Wayne Football Club game with us at the new soccer stadium. **The date has moved to Saturday, July 18 at 7:30pm! (\$25, RSVP by July 8)**



### 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).



## FPC Rummage Sale:

Get ready for two days of treasure hunting at the First Pres Rummage Sale!

**Where:** First Presbyterian Church in McKay Hall

**When:** Friday, August 14 | 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Saturday, August 15 | 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Discover hidden gems, browse unique finds, and enjoy delicious treats from our bake sale and concession stand! Whether you're searching for bargains or just love the thrill of the hunt, there's something for everyone!

Volunteers Needed! It takes many hands to set-up and run the rummage sale! Volunteer for the 2026 First Pres Rummage Sale, to be held on August 14-15! We need greeters, cash register attendants, and food sales attendants! We also need donated baked goods! Sign-up today by scanning the QR code. Contact Bill Patterson with any questions at [bpatterson@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:bpatterson@firstpresfortwayne.org).



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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.  
**11:00 am**     **English Worship Service.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.  
     **Korean Worship Service.**—Chapel & Livestream.  
**12:10 pm**     **Fellowship Time.**—McKay Hall.  
**1:00 pm**        **Sweet Breeze River Boat Tour.**—Offsite.

This Week

**Mon Jun 29**

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

**Wed Jul 1**

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

**Fri Jul 3**

**FPC CAMPUS CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY**

*Coming Soon*

**Sun Jul 5**

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

**Mon Jul 6**

- 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.