

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 5, 2026

11:00am — Sanctuary



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Jesus Calls O'er the Tumult

arr. Wilbur Held

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship (Psalm 95:1-3, 6)

O come, let us sing to the Lord;

let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;

let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

For the Lord is a great God,

and a great King above all gods.

O come, let us worship and bow down,

let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

***Hymn No. 12**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

ST. DENIO

***Call to Confession**

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Trusting in our Partner in grace, let us make our confession together.

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious and loving God, forgive us when we turn a deaf ear to your call in Jesus Christ and to the cries of those in the world who need your love and your help. Forgive us when we treat discipleship as a yoke of oppression rather than a blessing and gift for leading a faithful life as your people. O Lord, forgive our sin. Help us to know and love you with all that we are that we may love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We pray for the strength of your Holy Spirit to equip us for our calling as followers of Jesus Christ, in whom we have our hope and put our trust. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting, and I remind you of this surpassing grace – in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

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

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem

Deep River

spiritual arr. Moses Hogan

Epistle Reading

Romans 7:15-25

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Dare we have faith to be free?”

Rev. Susan Kester

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

***Hymn No. 69**

Here I Am, Lord

HERE I AM

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.

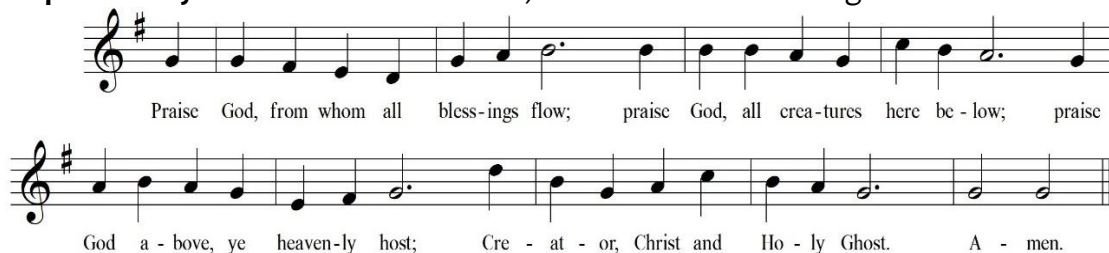
Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Lift Every Voice and Sing
O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

Rosamond and James Johnson
Katherine Bates and Samuel Ward
with descant by Colin Andrews

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



*Prayer of Dedication

Accept these gifts we bring, O Lord. Give us the wisdom, courage, and love we need to use them in ways that please you, spread the gospel, and care for our neighbors with the love of Jesus. We thank you for your indescribable gift! Amen.

SENDING

*Hymn No. 451

Open My Eyes, That I May See

OPEN MY EYES

*Benediction

*Postlude

Prelude in G BWV 550

J.S. Bach

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Guest Preacher: Rev. Susan Keirn Kester

Liturgist: Sherrie Steiner

Director of Music Ministries: Colin Andrews

Soloist: Liz Graham

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

Ushers of the Month: Anne Barnett, David Beer, Eric Evans, Dan Serban

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Prayer List

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| • Kathy Miller | • Sondra Mergenthal and Family |
| • Janice Roddy | • Tanner, nephew of Jennifer Stone |
| • Jennifer Kern Kelly | • Lisa Keirn, sister-in-law of Susan Kester |
| • Sam Shepherd | • Ashley & Marilyn Lassiter |
| • Beth White | • 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.

NEWS AND EVENTS

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.

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

FAME Festival Art Show

FAME, or the Foundation for Art and Music in Education, has highlighted musical and artistic work by local students for four decades. In the words of the Foundation, “We believe in the value and power of the arts to kindle the imagination, encourage creative thinking and enhance human development.”

Artwork from the Fort Wayne FAME Festival will be displayed in the FPC Art Gallery Sunday, July 12, until Friday, August 28. An opening reception will be held on Sunday, July 12, at 12:15 PM in the Gallery. Please join 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.



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.



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 — On Summer Hiatus

Table Talk for Women — On Summer Hiatus

Men's Bible Study — On Summer Hiatus

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

North and South Dinner Groups — 2nd 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. 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.

CALENDAR

Today

- 10:00 am** **Wired Word.**—2nd Floor Parlor.
11:00 am **English Worship Service.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.
 Korean Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.
12:10 pm **Fellowship Time.**—McKay Hall.
7:00 pm **“Hay Fever” Auditions.**—Theater.

This Week

Mon Jul 6

- 1:30 pm** **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall.
3:00 pm **Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302.
7:00 pm **“Hay Fever” Auditions.**—Theater.

Wed Jul 8

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

Coming Soon

Sat Jul 18

- 7:30 pm** **Soccer Stadium 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.