

**Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**August 9, 2026**  
**11:00am — Sanctuary**



"Jesus Walks on Water", Paul Oman



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

*Congregation responds in bold*

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

The Guardian Angel

Alexander Moesler

### **Chiming of the Hour**

#### **Call to Worship**

Over the turbulent waves in our lives, Jesus calls us.

**We get so busy watching the waves, we block out Jesus' call.**

Look again. Jesus is calling to you.

**Lord, help us hear your voice.**

Come, place your trust in Jesus.

**Lord, forgive our doubts, receive our lives.**

**\*Hymn No. 8**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save

MELITA

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

Let us confess our sins before God and one another, lifting up the brokenness in our own families and communities. Let us pray.

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

**Lord, you know us too well. You know how easy it is for us to come to you and to proclaim loudly of our faith when all is going well. But when the waters get rough and the waves threaten to swamp our little boats, we cry and wail in fear. We are sure that these waves will be the very things that destroy us. Over the wind and the waves you call to us to place our trust in you. That's not so easy for us. We are so used to getting lots of reassurances and written guarantees of safety. But still you call to us. Help us take our focus off the wind and the waves and place our gaze directly on you. Attune our hearts and our lives to hear your call and to respond in faith. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

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

Don't be afraid. Jesus is with you at all times. You are healed, forgiven, and loved. Come and live in the love of the Lord. **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.

### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

## **HEARING THE WORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Old Testament Reading**

Psalm 105:1-6

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Anthem**

Here I Am, Lord

Precious Lord, Take my Hand

Daniel Schutte

Thomas Dorsey

### **New Testament Reading**

Matthew 14:22-33

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

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

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,  
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,  
sets us free to accept ourselves  
and to love God and neighbor,  
and binds us together with all believers  
in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles  
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,  
engages us through the Word proclaimed,  
claims us in the waters of baptism,  
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,  
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world  
the Spirit gives us courage  
to pray without ceasing,  
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,  
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,  
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,  
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

**\*Hymn No. 463**

How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

### **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

Andante Espressivo

Cèsar Franck

### \*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; Cre - at - or, Christ and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

### \*Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, the gifts we offer reflect only a portion of all that you have given us. Take these offerings, we pray, and multiply them for your use. May our offerings be a blessing to those most in need, to those most vulnerable. May our offerings, given in a spirit of generosity, abate the desire to hoard, and spread the desire to share. Amen.

## SENDING

\*Hymn No. 819

Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

\*Benediction

\*Postlude

Crown Imperial

William Walton

## CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Marianne Mead Platt  
by Chelsea Vaught, Fran Page and Jill Therrien.

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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

**Soloist:** Ellis Pederson

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Brittney Bodine, Andrew Kopec

**Ushers of the Month:** Eric Evans, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, Anita Wolfe

**Live Stream Operators:** Dick Florea, Alexi Jetmore

**Sound Board Operators:** Jeff Slater

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## Prayer List

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- |                           |                                             |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| • Janice Roddy            | • Tanner, nephew of Jennifer Stone          |
| • Jennifer Kern Kelly     | • Lisa Keirn, sister-in-law of Susan Kester |
| • Sam Shepherd            | • Joyce McGiffin                            |
| • Beth White              | • Carolyn Krebs                             |
| • Family of Barbara Kerch | • Donna Jesse                               |

**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](http://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.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### Sunday School Resuming

We're excited to welcome children back to **Sunday School beginning Sunday, August 16!**

Following the Children's Message in worship, children (Pre-K through 5th grade) are invited to join us for a fun and engaging time of Bible stories, hands-on activities, and growing together in faith. Whether your family has been with us for years or you're joining us for the first time, there's a place for every child.

As a new school year begins, we look forward to learning, laughing, asking big questions, and discovering God's love together. We can't wait to see you on August 16!

### Help Shape a Child's Faith This Year

One hour. A few Sundays. A lasting difference.

As we prepare to begin Sunday School on August 16, we're looking for a few more volunteers to serve with our Kindergarten–5th Grade and LEVEL UP (Middle School) classes.

Teaching K–5 is easy! Everything you need is provided—lesson plans, activities, and supplies. You don't have to be a Bible scholar or a professional teacher. Just bring a caring heart and a willingness to spend time with our children.

And what about middle schoolers? Despite their reputation, they're actually one of the most rewarding groups to teach. They're thoughtful, funny, full of questions, and eager for adults who will listen, encourage, and help them explore their faith.

Whether you can teach once a month or a few times during the year, we'd love to have you on the team. Investing in the next generation is one of the most important ministries of our church. Scan the QR code to sign up!



## July Food Bank Collection

Please bring your contributions to the church through Sunday July 19th. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief." The following items are requested:

Peanut Butter  
Cereal  
Box Mac-N-Cheese  
Canned Soup

Rice - white or brown (1-2 lb. bags)  
Canned Fruit - Pineapple or Peaches  
Canned Chicken or Tuna

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 Resumes

This Zoom group will be resuming on Friday, September 11, at 1pm. During the the 2026-2027 season, the group will be reading: *United through Christ, Bound to Each Other, a study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians* by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. There is no preparation required as the group reads through the study together. All women interested in studying the Bible as a group are welcome. For more information, please contact Susan at [keirnsusan@aol.com](mailto:keirnsusan@aol.com) or at (260)445-5475.

## Men's Bible Study Resumes

Beginning Friday, August 21, the Men's Bible Study will resume meeting online every Friday from 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM via Microsoft Teams.

Started in 2019, this ongoing Bible study takes us on a journey through the history of Israel through the reading of Scripture. Having covered the entire Old Testament—beginning from the Book of Exodus—we will now explore the history of the New Testament through the Gospel of John starting this August. In addition, we will use *The Bible in the Early Church* by Justo L. Gonzalez as a supplementary text to learn about how the Bible came to be formed.

If you are interested in joining, please contact Rev. An at [ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org) or Steve Weissner, at [stevewwmew@gmail.com](mailto:stevewwmew@gmail.com).

## Hay Fever Tickets

Tickets are on sale now for First Pres Theater's 2026/27 season opener, the delightful HAY FEVER, by Noel Coward!

Step into the delightfully chaotic world of the Bliss family, where the drama never stops, and the guests never quite know what they've gotten themselves into. HAY FEVER is a sparkling comedy of manners filled with sharp wit and larger-than-life personalities. With hosts this outrageous, escape may be the only option... but will the guests make it out with their dignity intact? Directed by Jordan Plohr.

August 21, 22, 23 – August 28, 29, 30  
FRI/SAT @7:30pm, SUN @2:00pm

Tickets are available by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226 or purchase online by scanning the QR code!



## Get Connected! Ice Cream Social

Looking for ways to connect with others, serve your community, or discover a new opportunity to get involved? Join us for our Get Connected! Ice Cream Social on **Sunday, August 23, at 12:15 PM**, immediately following worship.

Enjoy an ice cream treat while exploring the many ministries, programs, and volunteer opportunities that make First Presbyterian such a vibrant community. From serving our neighbors and supporting local outreach to music, theater, art, education, and fellowship, you'll have the opportunity to meet the people who make these ministries happen, ask questions, and discover where your interests and gifts can make a difference.

Whether you've attended First Pres for years, you're new to the area, or you're simply looking for a welcoming community where you can connect and serve, we'd love to meet you.

## **Dinner Groups**

Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, August 10, 2026, 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. We look forward to seeing you!

Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, August 10, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

## **New Dinner Group**

You are super highly encouraged to attend our new Totally Awesome Dinner Group! This new dinner group, created for the college and career members and friends of First Pres, is meeting on Saturday, August 15, for dinner and relaxed conversation, and we would love for you to join us!

We'll meet at the church at 6:30 PM to gather and introduce ourselves, and then we'll either walk or carpool together to dinner at a nearby restaurant. It's a relaxed way to share a meal, meet some new faces, and enjoy a little time together outside of Sunday morning. No agenda, no program... just good food and great company!

If you're able to join us, or would like more information, please email Esther Coplin at copline7@gmail.com so we know how many seats to plan for. And a plus one is absolutely invited! Hope to see you there!

## **Staff Farewell**

Please join us in sending prayer and best wishes to August Burger, as we say farewell and extend our heartfelt gratitude for her faithful service in our front office for the past 2 years. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her God's blessings on the journey ahead as she moves to a new opportunity at Purdue Fort Wayne assuming the role of Music Tech Operations Manager for the new Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building!

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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 — Resumes September 11!**

This group is led by Rev. Susan Keirn Kester and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Susan at [keirnsusan@aol.com](mailto:keirnsusan@aol.com).

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

#### **Men's Bible Study — Resumes August 21!**

This group is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and meets on Teams. For more information, email Rev. An at [ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org).

### **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. 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 — Resumes August 16!**

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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> 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 — 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
- Josephine's Place Women's Shelter
- 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 Choirs resume on August 27!** The **Chancel Choir** sings for 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.

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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.

### This Week

#### **Mon Aug 10**

- 1:30 pm**      **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).**—McKay Hall.  
**3:00 pm**      **Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302.  
**5:30 pm**      **Dinner Groups.**—Offsite.

#### **Wed Aug 12**

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

### *Coming Soon*

- Fri Aug 14**      **FPC Rummage Sale.**—McKay Hall.

- Sat Aug 15**      **FPC Rummage Sale.**—McKay Hall.

- Sun Aug 16**      **Sunday School Resumes!**

#### **Sun Aug 23**

- 12:00 pm**      **Get Connected Ice Cream Social.**—McKay Hall after worship.