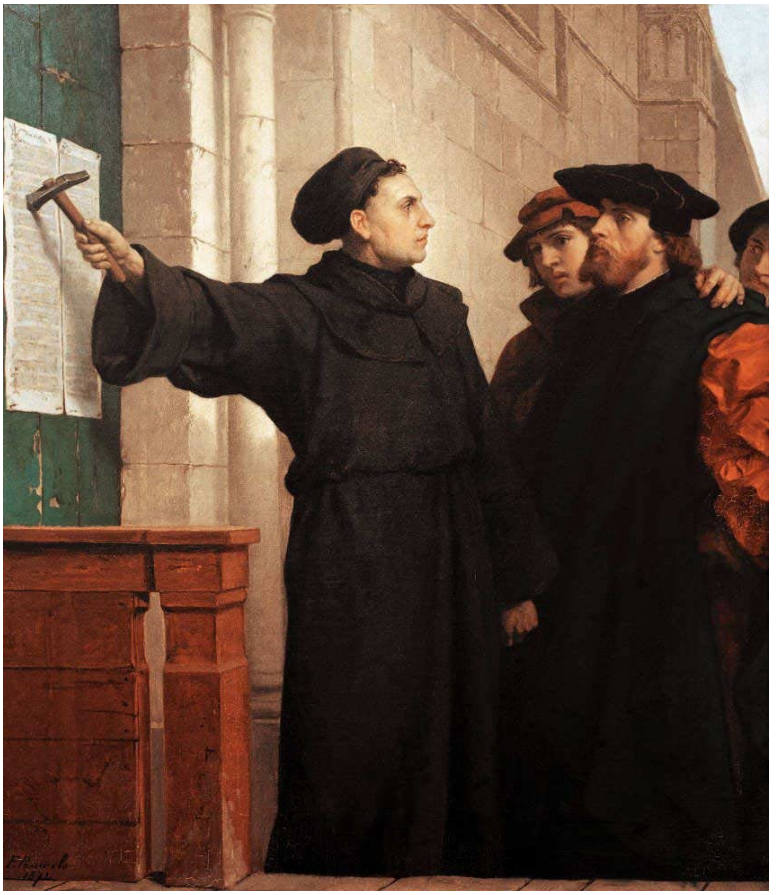
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
October 25, 2026
11:00am — Sanctuary



Luther Hammers His 95 Theses to the Door,
by Ferdinand Pauwels, c. 1872

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

Those who are able, please stand* ***Congregation responds in bold*

GATHERING

Prelude Dearest Jesus We Are Here BWV 731 J.S. Bach
Toccata in D Minor BWV 565 J.S. Bach

Tolling of the Hour

Call to Worship

The source of being is above,
Which gives life to all people;
Every day we are made new
to live our lives as God intends.
God is our comfort and our guide,
Always faithful and life-giving.
We gather to celebrate the life we have by God's grace.
Let us worship God!

***Hymn No. 275** A Mighty Fortress Is Our God EIN FETSE BURG

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God,
we confess
that we have trusted in our own strength
rather than in your justifying grace.
We hold faith in ourselves alone,
forgetting your faithfulness in us.
We have divided your Church
through pride, fear, and indifference.
We have failed to love our neighbors
and neglected the call to bear witness to your truth.
Forgive us, O Lord.
Renew us by your Holy Spirit.

Reform what is broken in us,
restore what is lost,
and reshape us into the likeness of Christ,
so that our lives may proclaim
your gospel of freedom and grace.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

***Assurance of Forgiveness**

Anyone who is in Christ is a new creation.
The old life has gone; a new life has begun.
Believe the good news, & be at peace:
in Jesus Christ, we are Forgiven.
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



HEARING THE WORD

Time with Children

Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading Psalm 1

New Testament Reading Romans 3:21-26

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Anthem With a Voice of Singing Martin Shaw

With a voice of singing declare ye this, and let it be heard,
Alleluia!
Utter it even unto the ends of the earth.
The Lord hath delivered His people,
Alleluia!
O be joyful in God, all ye lands
O sing praises to the honor of His name,
make His praise be glorious.
With a voice of singing, declare ye this and let it be heard,
Alleluia!

Gospel Reading Matthew 22:34-46

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon Faithful and Always Faithful-ing Ian Clarke

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.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Hymn No. 39** Great Is Thy Faithfulness FAITHFULNESS

Announcements

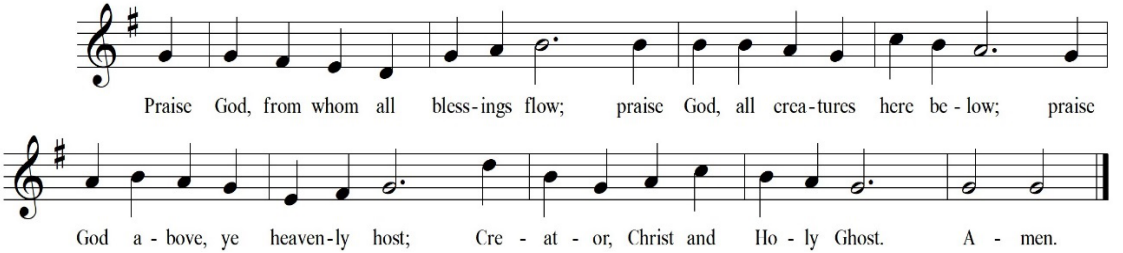
The Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

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	Shenandoah	Traditional Folk Melody
Handbell Ensemble	For The Beauty Of The Earth	DIX

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



***Prayer of Dedication**

Gracious Provider, God of all, we return to you the fruit of our labors and the gifts of your bounty. May they be a blessing through which your faithfulness is shown, your will is known, and our lives are made whole. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 829**	My Faith Looks Up To Thee	OLIVET

***Benediction**

***Postlude**	Fugue in D minor BWV 565	J.S. Bach

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of William Kern by Joan, Edward and Jennifer.

One License A-708176 for print, streaming and podcast. Christian Copyright Solutions PerformMusic License Glory to God: The Presbyterian Hymnal Online. CCLI Copyright: 2801108; Streaming: 21661340

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Annie Epling (she/her)

Resident Pastor: Ian Clarke

Director of Music Ministries: Colin Andrews

Accompanist: Edith Coplin

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Ina Carlson, Chip Davis

Ushers of the Month: Dan Serban, Anne Barnett, Dave Beer

Live Stream Operators: Alexi Jetmore

Sound Board Operators: Mark Schulenburg

Choir Members: Richard Baughman, Andrew Budd, Brendan Caffe, Edith Coplin, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, Liz Graham, Elliot Hammond, DuWayne Hintz, Joan Kern, Kemel Mitchell, Kathy Miller, Jane McGeehan, Scott McMeen, Kip Ormerod, Ellis Pedersen, Carol Rhudy, Marj Sapp, Sandy Shearer, Jessi Spencer, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters

Handbell Ringers: Richard Baughman, Annie Epling, Edith Coplin, Elliot Hammond, Karen Morgan, Savannah Mooney, Joan Pattison, Marcie Weissner

Prayer List

- Janice Roddy
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Beth White
- Bob & Kathy Beatty
- Penny Pulz
- Nancy Sites & Family
- Kip & Mary Jane Ormerod
- Barbara McCants & Family
- Lisa Keirn, sister-in-law of Susan Kester
- Joyce McGiffin
- Carolyn Krebs
- Wendell Cree
- Ashley Lassiter
- Joan & Scott Pattison
- Judy Ruoff
- Kathy Miller

Need Pastoral Care? Please Let Us Know!

We want to be there for you when you need us. If you or someone in your family is in the hospital, moving to a rehabilitation facility or nursing home, would like a pastoral visit, or simply needs someone to talk with, please let us know.

We don't always know when someone is experiencing a difficult time or has been hospitalized. Hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation facilities do not notify the church when one of our members is admitted or transferred, even if you tell them you're a member of First Pres.

If you would like a pastor to visit, pray with you, talk with you, or simply be present, please reach out and let us know.

For pastoral care, please contact Rev. Dr. Youngsoo An, Associate Pastor, at (260) 426-7421 x105. We want to walk with you through life's joys and challenges. Let us know how we can be there for you.

—> 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.

NEWS AND EVENTS

Tell Me Something Good — and Be Part of It

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2027! As we continue our *Tell Me Something Good — and Be Part of It* stewardship campaign, we're grateful for the generosity and commitment that make our ministry possible. So far, 99 households have pledged a total of $387,725, an increase of more than $40,000 over their pledges for last year!

If you haven't yet made your pledge, there's still time to be part of the good God is doing through First Presbyterian Church. Every pledge helps sustain our worship, care for one another, and ministry in the heart of our city. We hope you'll join us in supporting our shared mission in 2027.

Pledge cards are available at church, or you can make your pledge online at Pledge Now Thank you for being part of the good things happening at First Presbyterian!

***Middletown* opened on Friday, October 16, at 7:00 pm at First Pres Theater**

First Pres Theater's production of *Middletown* is on stage for its last performance today at 2:00 pm! From laugh-out-loud moments to heartbreaking turns, *Middletown* takes us through life's highs, lows, and everything in between. It's funny, poignant, and full of the moments that make us reflect on our own lives, and the people who share them with us. Join the Hogans and the Abrams as they look back on 33 years of friendship, love, laughter, loss, and life. Tickets are $20.00, and available at the ArtsTix table in McKay Foyer.

All Saints Worship Service - Submit Names for Remembrance

As we prepare for our All Saints worship service on Sunday, November 1, we invite you to submit the names of friends and loved ones you wish to have remembered during the service. Please submit names by Monday, October 26. You can do so by emailing jepling@firstpresfortwayne.org or by turning in your name(s) to the office on Sunday morning. Let us honor their memory together in this special time of reflection and gratitude.

Annual Bible Study for Women

The annual Bible study for women is Horizons Bible Study for 2026-2027 *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*. This is a study of the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Church he founded in Corinth. It is Paul's first effort at defining the theology of the nascent Christian Church. We are learning our roots in the early Church. We meet by ZOOM weekly from 1:00-2:30 each Friday through December and resume in January until we finish the study. We read the Scriptures and Lessons together in our sessions each week. All women are welcome to participate in the group. The Church Office usually has an extra copy available for purchase. For more information contact Rev. Susan Keirn Kester at keirnsusan@aol.com or 260.445.5475.

Volunteer Opportunity

Join the Green Team on Wednesday, November 4, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Hop River Brewing Company for an evening of stewardship and volunteering! We'll be working on a volunteer project in support of the Little River Wetlands Project to grow native seeds for planting on Eagle Marsh!

This project is a great way to support the Little River Wetlands Project and a local brewery. Hop River is an all-ages venue, so children are welcome. If you don't enjoy beer, that's okay, they have plenty of great food (especially the wings!) and non-alcoholic beverages too. Please contact Josh Spencer at joshualspencer@gmail.com if you are interested in participating!

Open Call for Parish Artwork!

Our biennial parish show, "Diverse Artists, One Community" is coming up in January 2027 and the gallery should be filled with your work! We are looking for any craft, art, poetry, writing, spoken word, anything creative, that has been made entirely by you (not from a kit or paint-by-number, etc.).

To give everyone's work enough breathing room, we ask that larger items (like quilts or installations) be on the smaller side. There will be a section of the gallery devoted to tiny art. Small canvasses will be available for you to draw, paint, glue, stitch and alter, as you see fit, but certainly submit anything else tiny as well. And we would love to show work made by our youngest members!

The gallery will accept work starting now until the deadline of Friday, January 8, 2027. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Beth Iserman at bdiserman@firstpresfortwayne.org.

FWAIC-PFW Fall Food Drive
With the support of the Fort Wayne Area Interfaith Cooperative, we're joining other faith communities to help reduce food insecurity in our city.

On Sunday, November 8, PFW students will join us in worship to speak about the project and distribute paper bags with lists of needed items. Please fill your bag and return it the following Sunday, November 15. Most donations will go toward feeding people in need, but we're also collecting food for animals cared for by Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control. The students will return to collect, weigh, and deliver all donations.
This effort reflects the shared values of the diverse faith communities within FWAIC, and we believe we are better together! From September through November, our community-wide food drive aims to fill 18 barrier-free Forward Indiana food pantries across Fort Wayne. Each pantry takes about 250 pounds to fill for one day.
Together, we hope to collect 4,500 pounds of food to meet that goal. Join us in making a real difference! Pick up a bag, fill it generously, and help feed our neighbors in need!

New Gallery Exhibit- Art of Hope
Join us for the opening of the FPC Gallery exhibit, Art of Hope, on Friday, November 6, from 6:00-7:30 pm. Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana's Art of Hope is an art exhibit highlighting local artists and sharing inspiring stories about recovery, healing, and hope. The opening night reception features art, music, refreshments, and conversation! The event is free and open to the public.

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 — Fridays, 1pm

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

Table Talk for Women — Wednesdays, 10am

Men's Bible Study — Fridays, 10am

This group is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and meets on Teams. For more information, email Rev. An at *ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.*

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

College & Career 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, meets monthly on a Saturday 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!

North and South Dinner Groups — 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30pm

These groups meet on 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

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 4th 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 5th through 9th grades

Join us as we explore big questions about our church, our faith, and the world, such as science, politics, social justice, and environment.

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 Side High School
- Josephine's Place Women's Shelter
- Wellspring Interfaith Services
- East Wayne Street Food Bank
- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Matthew 25 Clinic
- Rescue Mission
- Reproductive Rights Action Committee with Plymouth UCC
- United Faith Presbyterian Church Food Bank

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 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.

CARING MINISTRY

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.

CALENDAR

Today

10:00 am	**Wired Word**—2nd Floor Parlor
11:00 am	**English Worship Service**—Sanctuary & Livestream
	Korean Worship Service—Chapel & Livestream
12:00 pm	**Blessings in a Backpack**—McKay Hall after worship
	Middletown—Theater

This Week

Mon Oct 26

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

Wed Oct 28

10:00 am	**Table Talk for Women**—Zoom
1:30 pm	**Body, Brain, and Belief (3B)**—McKay Hall

Fri Oct 30

10:00 am	**Men's Bible Study**—Teams
1:00 pm	**Women's Bible Study**—Zoom

Sun Nov 1

11:00 am	**All Saints Sunday**

Wed Nov 4

6:00pm	**Green Team Event at Hop River**

Fri Nov 6

6:00pm	**Gallery Opening "Art of Hope"**