

November 19, 2023

Harvest Home Sunday

10:30 a.m.



First Presbyterian Church

609 South East Second Street

Evansville, Indiana 47713

(812)423-6297

www.firstpresevansville.com

Welcome to Worship at First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.

Please visit our [Facebook](#) page - First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana. We hope you'll "like" us!

Please note that this service is being livestreamed on our Website and Facebook page, and the recording will be posted to our [YouTube](#) channel.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP GOD

**You may rise in Body or Spirit.*

THE PRELUDE

THE INTROIT

"God Has Gone Up"

Jack Warren Burnam

God has gone up with a shout, the Lord with the sound of the ram's horn. Alleluia!

You have gone up on high and led captivity captive. Alleluia!

- Psalm 47:5, 68:18

*THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Come with hearts overflowing in gratitude!

All God has done great things for us!

One Be glad and rejoice!

All We rejoice in God's gifts!

One Sing Praises of Joy!

All Our mouths are filled with laughter!

One Shout with thanksgiving, in sunshine and rain!

All Praise God for our lives, for harvest, for food!

***THE OPENING HYMN . . . no. 367**
"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

St. George's Windsor; George Job Elvey
Henry Alford

Come, ye thankful people, come; raise the song of harvest home.
All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin.
God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come; raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit in thankful praise to yield,
wheat and tares together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
from each field shall in that day all offenses purge away;
give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store in God's garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home.
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
there forever purified, in thy presence to abide:
come, with all thine angels, come; raise the glorious harvest home!

***THE CALL TO CONFESSION**

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*in unison*)

God of justice and mercy, we come before you in humility. We consider the first Thanksgiving meal a time of celebration and unity, yet our country is filled with division. All too often, we do not do the difficult work of building bridges and seeking unity. Forgive us for the times we've made false assumptions, for the times we've been complacent with injustice, and for the ways we focus on ourselves rather than seeking you. Help us to see your presence everywhere and to find new ways to partner together in service of you and the world, for we ask it in Jesus' name.

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION**

***THE DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE RESPONSE . . . no. 336**

"We Gather Together"

Kresmer; Neder-landtsch Gedenck-Clanck

attr. Andrianus Valerius

**We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing;
he chastens and hastens his will to make known;
the wicked oppressing now cease from distressing.
Sing praises to his name; he forgets not his own.**

**Beside us to guide us, our God with us joining,
ordaining, maintaining his kingdom divine;
so from the beginning the fight we were winning;
thou, Lord, wast at our side; all glory be thine!**

**We all do extol thee, thou leader triumphant,
and pray that thou still our defender wilt be.
Let thy congregation escape tribulation;
thy name be ever praised! O Lord, make us free!**

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God

The Announcements

WE HEAR THE WORD OF LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

THE FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 30:18-22

Thus says the Lord:

I am going to restore the fortunes of the tents of Jacob,
and have compassion on his dwellings;

the city shall be rebuilt upon its mound, and the citadel set on its rightful site.

Out of them shall come thanksgiving, and the sound of merrymakers.

I will make them many, and they shall not be few;

I will make them honored, and they shall not be disdained.

Their children shall be as of old, their congregation shall be established before me;
and I will punish all who oppress them.

Their prince shall be one of their own, their ruler shall come from their midst;

I will bring him near, and he shall approach me,

for who would otherwise dare to approach me? says the Lord.

And you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

THE ANTHEM

“Psalm 121”

Sir. H. Walford Davies

*I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot be moved; the one who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, God who keeps watch over Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Creator watches over you; God is your shade at your right hand.
So that the sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night.
God shall preserve you from all evil; it is God who shall keep you safe.
God shall watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth for evermore.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Psalm 100

- One Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands;
serve the Lord with gladness and come before God’s presence with a song.
- All **Know this: The Lord alone is God;
we belong to the Lord, who made us,
we are God’s people and the sheep of God’s pasture.**
- One Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving;
go into the holy courts with praise;
give thanks and call upon the name of the Lord.
- All **For good is the Lord, whose mercy is everlasting;
and whose faithfulness endures from age to age.**

THE HYMN

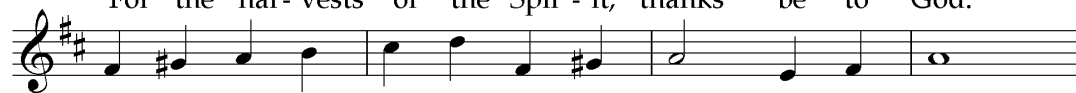
"For the Fruit of All Creation"

East Aklam; Francis Jackson

Fred Pratt Green



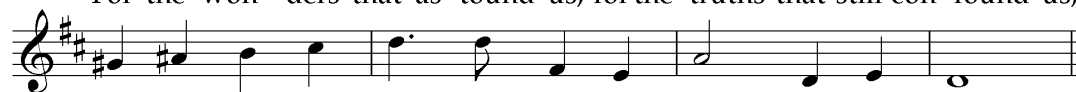
For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.
In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will be done.
For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For the gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will be done.
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,
In the world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and des - pair - ing,
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will be done.
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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THE THIRD LESSON

Joel 2:21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things!
Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before.
The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you.
You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

THE ANTHEM

“It is a Good Thing to Give Thanks”

David Hurd

*It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord; and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;
to tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning and of your faithfulness in the night season;
on the psaltery and on the lyre, and to the melody of the harp.*

*For you have made me glad by your acts, O Lord;
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.*

- Psalm 92:1-4

THE FOURTH LESSON

Psalm 96

- One Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- All Sing to the Lord and bless the Lord's name;
proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.**
- One Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations
and the wonders of the Lord among all peoples.
- All For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
- One As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- All Oh, the majesty and magnificence of the presence of the Lord!
Oh, the power and the splendor of the sanctuary of our God!**
- One Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- All Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the divine name;
come to the holy courts with your offerings.**
- One Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble in awe.
- All Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is Sovereign!
the Lord has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
and will judge the peoples with equity.”**
- One Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- All Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord who is coming, who is coming to judge the earth.
The Lord will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with truth.**

THE ANTHEM

"Offertory"

John Ness Beck

*With what shall I come before the Lord and bow myself before God on high?
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, shall I come before him with yearling calves?
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil?
Shall I give him my firstborn for my transgressions, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?
He has shown you, O man; he has shown you what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?*

- Micah 6:6-8

THE FIFTH LESSON

Psalm 66:1-8

- One Be joyful in God, all you lands; be joyful, all the earth.
All Sing the glory of the divine name; sing the glory of God's praise.
One Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!
Because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.
All All the earth bows down before you, sings to you, sings out your name."
One Come now and see the works of God,
how wonderful you are, O God, in your doing toward all people.
**All You turned the sea into dry land,
so that they went through the water on foot,
and there we rejoiced in you.**
One In your might you rule for ever; your eyes keep watch over the nations;
let no rebel rise up against you.
All Bless our God, you peoples; make the voice of God's praise to be heard.

***THE HYMN**

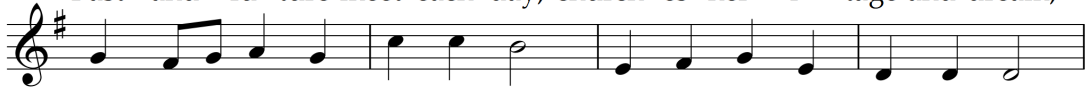
“Hear the Songs of Thanks We Raise”

*Dix; Conrad Kocher
Jane Parker Huber*

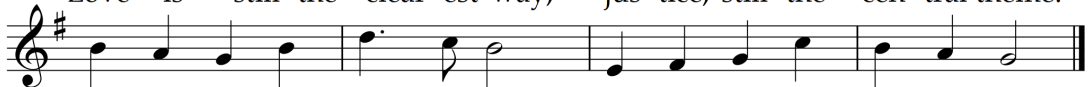


Hear the songs of thanks we raise, God of earth and space and star.
Here a wel-come waits for all, food for bod - y, mind, and soul.

High voices All God's peo-ple make a noise, meet new cul-tures, friends, and art,
Low voices O - pen spac- es, o - pen doors, o - pen win-dows, o - pen minds,
Past and fu - ture meet each day, church- es' her - i - tage and dream,



Hear our voi-ces blend to praise who you were and who you are.
Talk and laugh-ter fill each hall, thought and si-lence have their role:
sing your prais-es, share life's joys, find a lan- guage, heart to heart:
o - pen air where bird-song soars, o - pen peo-ple of all kinds:
Love is still the clear-est way; jus-tice, still the cen -tral theme:



God of pow -er, God of grace, you have rich - ly blessed this place.
God of mer -cy, God of grace, you have rich - ly blessed this place.
God of won-der, God of grace, you have rich - ly blessed this place.
God of beau-ty, God of grace, you have rich - ly blessed this place.
God of his -try, God of grace, you still rich - ly bless this place.

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THE SIXTH LESSON

Psalm 107:1-3, 33-43

- One Give thanks to the Lord, who is good, whose mercy endures forever.
All **Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim
that the Lord redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**
- One God gathered them out of the lands;
All **from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**
- One The Lord changed rivers into deserts, and water-springs into thirsty ground,
All **a fruitful land into salt flats,
because of the wickedness of those who dwell there.**
- One God changed deserts into pools of water and dry land into water-springs.
All **God settled the hungry there, and they founded a city to dwell in.**
- One They sowed fields, and planted vineyards,
and brought in a fruitful harvest.
All **God blessed them, so that they increased greatly;
God did not let their herds decrease.**

One Yet when they were diminished and brought low,
 through stress of adversity and sorrow,
**All God pours contempt on nobles
 and makes them wander in trackless wastes.**
 One God lifted up the poor out of misery
 and multiplied their families like flocks of sheep.
**All The upright will see this and rejoice,
 but all wickedness will shut its mouth.
 Whoever is wise will ponder these things,
 and consider well the mercies of the Lord.**

THE ANTHEM

“Glorious and Powerful God”

Charles Wood

*Glorious and powerful God, we understand Thy dwelling is on high, above the starry sky.
 Thou dwell'st not in stone temples made with hands, but in the hearts of all your folk on earth.
 To dwell is thy delight, near hand though out of sight.
 We give of thine own hand, thy acceptation is very life and blood to all actions good:
 Whenever here or hence our supplication from pure and with unfeigned hearts to thee ascend,
 Be present with thy grace, show us thy loving face.
 O down on us full showers of mercy send;
 let thy love's burning beams dry up all our sin's streams.
 Arise, O Lord, and come into thy rest. Both now and evermore thy Name be blest:
 founder and foundation of endless habitation.*

- Henry Ramsden Bruntley

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

*THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

**As grateful children of God, we strive to:
 let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts,
 since as members of one body we are called to peace;
 be thankful;
 let the message of Christ dwell among us richly
 as we teach and admonish one another with all wisdom
 through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit,
 singing to God with gratitude in our hearts.
 And whatever we do, whether in word or deed,
 we do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus,
 giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

- based on Colossians 3:15-17

THE MORNING OFFERING

The Invitation to the Offering

The Offertory

You may give online at firstpresevansville.com/giving or by sending a check to the church.

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

Conrad Kocher; arr. Brent Olstad

*The Presentation of Our Tithes and Offerings . . . no. 606

Old Hundredth

“Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

Thomas Ken

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heav’nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*The Prayer of Dedication

THE PRAYERS

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

The Litany of Thanksgiving

One Give thanks to the Lord who is good.

All **God’s love is everlasting.**

One Come, let us praise God joyfully.

All **Let us come to God with thanksgiving.**

One For the good world;

for things great and small, beautiful and awesome;

for seen and unseen splendors;

All **Thank you, God.**

One For human life;

for talking and moving and thinking together;

for common hopes and hardships shared from birth until our dying;

All **Thank you, God.**

One For work to do and strength to work;

for the comradeship of labor;

for exchanges of good humor and encouragement;

All **Thank you, God.**

One For marriage and committed partnerships;

for the mystery and joy of flesh made one;

for mutual forgiveness and burdens shared;

for secrets kept in love;

All **Thank you, God.**

One For family;

for living together and eating together;

for family amusements and family pleasures;

All **Thank you, God.**

One For children;
for their energy and curiosity;
for their brave play and startling frankness;
for their sudden sympathies;

All Thank you, God.

One For the young;
for their high hopes;
for their irreverence toward worn-out values;
for their search for freedom;
for their solemn vows;

All Thank you, God.

One For growing up and growing old;
for wisdom deepened by experience;
for rest in leisure;
and for time made precious by its passing;

All Thank you, God.

One For your help in times of doubt and sorrow;
for healing our diseases;
for preserving us in temptation and danger;

All Thank you, God.

One For the church into which we have been called;
for the good news we receive by Word and Sacrament;
for our life together in the Lord;

All We praise you, God.

One For your Holy Spirit,
who guides our steps and brings us gifts of faith and love;
who prays in us and prompts our grateful worship;

All We praise you, God.

One Above all, O God, for your Son Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and lives again for our salvation;
for our hope in him; and for the joy of serving him;

**All We thank and praise you, Eternal God,
for all your goodness to us.**

The Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

WE DISPERSE TO SERVE GOD AND NEIGHBOR

*THE CLOSING HYMN. . . no. 643

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Nun danket alle Gott; Johann Crüger
Martin Rinkart

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things hath done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers’ arms, hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
and keep us in God’s grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God, who reigns in highest heaven,
to Father and to Son and Spirit now be given:
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,
the God who was, and is, and shall be evermore.

*THE SENDING AND BENEDICTION

THE BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“God be with you ‘til we meet again”

William G. Tomer

May the Lord bless you and keep you; God be with you ‘til we meet again.

May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you:

by his counsels guide, uphold you.

May the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, with his sheep securely fold you,

And may the Lord give you peace, for now and evermore: God be with you ‘til we meet again.

THE POSTLUDE

“Nun danket alle Gott”

Johann Sebastian Bach; arr. Virgil Fox

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor

Anna von Winckler

Liturgists

Becky Sparks-Thissen, Sarah Cross, Sandra Mants,
Sue Schriber, Steve Wylie

Director of Music Robert Nicholls

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

The Flute Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Dick Bernhardt, Director

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About Today's Choral Music

God Has Gone Up

Jack Burnam is a prominent composer in the Episcopal Church in America. He has visited First Pres in Evansville many times via a mutual connection with the RSCM King's College Course. *God Has Gone Up* was composed for the choir of Immanuel Baptist Church in Wilmington, Delaware, for use as a festive call to worship. The text, from Psalms 47 and 68, is closely associated with the ascension of Jesus into heaven after his resurrection.

Psalm 121

Henry Walford Davies (1869-1941) was an English composer, organist, and educator who held the title Master of the King's Music from 1934 until his death. He began his career as a chorister at St. George's Chapel, Windsor. His later teachers included Hubert, Parry, and Stanford. The most celebrated of Davies' own pupils was Leopold Stokowski. The Anglican Chant Walford Davies wrote for his setting of Psalm 121 is unique: the first and third quarters are sung by soprano and tenor soloists respectively, while the second and fourth quarters have simple harmony, with almost no variation in voicing, sung by the full choir. The effect is of a mantra-like litany, heartfelt in its simplicity.

It is a Good Thing

David Hurd is widely recognized and admired as one of the foremost concert organists, sacred composers, and church musicians in the United States who is currently the Organist and Choirmaster at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin in New York City. *It is a Good Thing* is a setting of Psalm 92:1-4 and encapsulates many features of Hurd's music, the use of chant-like passages, beautiful melodic lines which are developed organically, rich and luscious harmonies, and an improvisatory quality which keeps textures changing and harmonic colors flowing from start to finish.

Offertory

Offertory by John Ness Beck is a beautiful, contemplative, and beloved piece, often performed by our choir. A setting of Micah 6:6-8, the music is a chaconne with a repeating melody over a repeating bass that changes key. The unusual texture derives from the original scoring being for string quartet with solo voice.

Glorious and Powerful God

Charles Wood was an Irish-born composer who settled in England, rising to Professor of Composition at Cambridge University. He was the first modern Director of Music at Gonville and Caius College. He is most famous for his church music including the *St. Mark Passion*, which the our choir has in its repertoire, and an a capella setting of the Christmas carol *Ding! Dong! Merrily on High*. His writing is conservative but finely crafted. *Glorious and Powerful God* can be understood as a precursor to the modern hymn-cantata, with a strong original tune presented in three different orchestrations corresponding to the three verses of text.

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Light is working hard to help you get a head-start on your holiday gift shopping! They'll have **crafts and plants available for purchase** after both worship services on **November 26 and December 3**. There will be a variety of succulents as well as other plants and arrangements. For those who would like to support the youth, but do not currently need more plants or craft items, [donations](#) will happily be accepted (designation: Youth Fundraisers). Thank you for all you do to support and encourage our youth as they prepare for a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland next summer.

We welcome the AIDS Resource group to First Pres on **Friday, December 1** as we observe **World AIDS day**. Join with members of the community as we raise awareness of the AIDS pandemic and remember those who have died of the disease. Gathering begins **at 6:00 p.m.**, with a program at 6:30, followed by a brief reception.

Do you love **holiday decorating**? Join your First Pres friends on **Sunday, December 3 after the 10:30 service** to help Anne Asbury 'hang the greens' for the Advent/Christmas season. There are tasks for all abilities, and lunch will be provided. Make a note on your yellow worship form if you plan to attend, so we order enough pizza!

The next gathering of **First Pres' LGBTQ+** group is **Sunday, December 3, 5:30 p.m.** at the Steves' home in Henderson, KY. Everyone is encouraged to stay (or come back) after the 10:30 service to help with the Hanging of the Greens, and then head across the "money-saving bridge" to Henderson for a potluck. Attendees are invited to bring a side dish; the main course and drinks will be provided. RSVP by [email](#) or call Steve Wylie at 270-238-2265.

Weekly Calendar

Elder of the Week: Gary Morris

Sunday, November 19

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
Children's Sunday School
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

Monday, November 20

- 10:00 a.m. Mission Committee Meeting

Tuesday, November 21

- 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell/Chime Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, November 22

Thursday, November 23 *Thanksgiving Day*
Church Office Closed

Friday, November 24

Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 25

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Pastor
Director of Music
Children and Youth Ministry Coordinator
Parish Visitor/Administrative Assistant
Office Administrator

Anna von Winckler
Robert Nicholls
Carrie Aiken
Jerusha Van Camp
Lora Blaylock



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Evansville, IN 47713
(812) 423-6297
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