

First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana, is called to embody God's love, made known in Jesus Christ, in life-giving ways, and to engage with God in transforming lives, communities, and institutions to reflect God's goodness.

As a community of open-hearted disciples, we covenant to support and encourage one another as we explore God's grace on our journey of faith.

Convinced of God's Grace and Love, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the worship of Christ.

We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, ability, or socio-economic standing. We encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.



Welcome to Sanctuary Worship

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

First things first! Children and their people are always welcome in worship.

- Activity carts for children to use during worship are available near the nametag table by the doors to the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall and at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- During the 10:30 Service, childcare for small ones up to age 4 is available in room 109 in the education wing.
- After the *Call to Live, Love, Pray, Grow*, children from kindergarten through fifth grade may go to *Follow Me Time* with the leaders to room 107 in the education wing.

Please note that our worship services are live streamed.

You may visit our website: fpcevv.com,
our Facebook page: facebook.com/firstpresevensville,
and our YouTube channel: youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianevansville
to join us online and stay up to date on the ministry and mission of First Pres.

Following worship, please stay for refreshments and conversation in the parlor.

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

GATHERING

*You may rise in Body or Spirit.

Congregational responses are printed in **bold**.

PRELUDE

INTROIT

"How Did My Heart Rejoice"

Robert Nicholls

How did my heart rejoice to hear my friends devoutly say, 'In Zion let us all keep the solemn day'.

I love her gates, I love the road;

the church adorned with grace stands like a palace built for God, to show God's milder face.

Peace be within this sacred place, and joy a constant guest;

with holy gifts and heavenly grace be all believers blest. Amen.

- Isaac Watts

GREETING AND WELCOME

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth!

Sing to the glory of God's name.

All of creation worships, singing praise to God.

Sing to the glory of God's name.

Let us give glory to God.

*HYMN . . . no. 610

Azmon; Carl Gotthelf Gläser

"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Charles Wesley

*O for a thousand tongues to sing my dear Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King, the triumphs of God's grace!*

*The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
sings music in the sinner's ears, brings life and health and peace.*

*Christ speaks, and listening to his voice new life the dead receive;
the mournful waken to rejoice; the poor in heart believe.*

*My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of thy name.*

*To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above, the Church in earth and heaven.*

*GATHERING PRAYER

...In the name of your Son, our Lord, **Amen.**

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

...Assured of God's grace, let us confess our sin together:

Holy God, when we are in need, we cry out for your mercy and healing. Yet, we confess that too often, we are confident in our own strength. We take the blessings to which we feel entitled and continue on our way, rather than returning to you in worship and praise. Jesus, have mercy on us! It is easy to take for granted the ease of life we so often experience, while failing to question why others are pushed to the margins and excluded. It is tempting to take pride in our health and strength rather than confronting ableism in all its forms. Jesus, have mercy on us! Help us to grow in compassion for all people. Redirect our paths so that we return to you, offering our praise and gratitude, now and always.

- silence is kept -

...Our sin is forgiven! Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE . . . no. 176

"If You Only Had Faith"

Si Tuvieras Fe

Caribbean Pentecostal chorus

If you only had faith, just like a little seed of mustard: this is what Jesus has said.

If you only had faith, just like a little seed of mustard: this is what Jesus has said.

You would be able to tell this mountain: Move away! Move away!

You would be able to tell this mountain: Move away! Move away!

And then the mountain will move away, will move away, will move away.

And then the mountain will move away, will move away, will move away.

© 1995 General Board of Global Ministries, GBG Musik

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us share the Peace of Christ!

There are many ways to share signs of peace with one another. You may cross your hands across your chest or hold your hands together in front of you if you'd rather not shake hands or hug. Please ask before assuming that the person you are greeting wants a hug or handshake. Smiles are always appropriate as we share signs of peace.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

...as we seek to follow Jesus, in whose name we pray, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7

These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

"Bless, O Lord, Us Thy Servants"

Martin How

*Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple;
Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts,
and what we believe in our hearts we may show forth in our lives;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

- from the Chorister's Prayer

PSALM

Psalm 61

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
sing the glory of God's name; give to God glorious praise.

Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

All the earth worships you;
they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name."

Come and see what God has done:

God is awesome in their deeds among mortals.

God turned the sea into dry land;
they passed through the river on foot.

**There we rejoiced in God, who rules by their might forever,
whose eyes keep watch on the nations - let the rebellious not exalt themselves.**

Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of God's praise be heard,
who has kept us among the living and has not let our feet slip.

**For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.**

You brought us into the net; you laid burdens on our backs;
you let people ride over our heads;

**we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.**

CALL TO LIVE, LOVE, PRAY, GROW

Tallis' Canon

All will sing one time through together - children grades 5 and younger are invited to come forward as we sing (bringing the blue information card from the pew rack with them). After the first time through, we'll sing in canon twice each: lectern side, middle, pulpit side, choir loft. After the song, those 5th grade and younger may choose to go to Follow Me Time with their leaders, and those who wish to remain in the Sanctuary may return to their people.

Be with us, God, show us your way. Teach us to live, to love, to pray.

Through Je - sus' life, help us to grow. Guide those who stay; guide those who go.

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Seek the Welfare of the City

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

- A New Creed (United Church of Canada)

*HYMN . . . no. 797

"We Cannot Measure How You Heal"

Ye Banks and Braes; Scottish melody
John L. Bell and Graham Maule

*We cannot measure how You heal or answer every sufferer's prayer,
yet we believe your grace responds where faith and doubt unite to care.
Your hands, though bloodied on the cross, survive to hold and heal and warn,
to carry all through death to life and cradle children yet unborn.*

*The pain that will not go away, the guilt that clings from things long past,
the fear of what the future holds, are present as if meant to last.
But present too is love which tends the hurt we never hoped to find,
the private agonies inside, the memories that haunt the mind.*

*So some have come who need Your help and some have come to make amends,
as hands which shaped and saved the world are present in the touch of friends.
Lord, let Your Spirit meet us here to mend the body, mind and soul,
to disentangle peace from pain and make Your broken people whole.*

© 1989, WGRG the Iona Community (Scotland), admin. GIA Publications, Inc.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

...hear all of our prayers for the sake of Jesus, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

You may send a check to the church office, or give online at fpcew.com/giving, or text "GIVE" to 833-921-6520.

...to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Let us offer our lives to God.

OFFERTORY

"Thy Perfect Love"

John Rutter

*Jesu, my love, my joy, my rest, thy perfect love close in my breast that I thee love and never rest;
and make me love thee of all things best, and wounde my heart in thy love free,
that I may reign in joy evermore with thee.*

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . no. 606

Old Hundredth; Genevan Psalter

"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.*

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with You.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

- prayer continues -

...with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

SENDING

*HYMN . . . no. 54

“Make a Joyful Noise to God!”

Dix; Conrad Kocher
Michael Morgan

*Make a joyful noise to God! All creation sings your praise!
Great your wonders here displayed, unexcelled throughout our days.
Glorious is your sacred name, ages old, yet still the same.*

*Come and see what God has done, great the blessings to the just:
walked the chosen through the sea, brought their enemies to dust.
Let us lift a thankful voice for God’s mercies, and rejoice!*

*Bless the Lord, our refuge sure; let our songs of praise be heard!
By whose justice, we are tried; by whose grace, our guilt deferred.
When our life’s sure end shall come, bring us to your heavenly home.*

© 2010 Michael Morgan (admin. Congregational Ministries Publishing, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A))

INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

BLESSING AND CHARGE

...and the song of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Alleluia!**
...rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Alleluia! Amen.**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“A Grateful Heart”

Mary Plumstead

*Thou that hast given so much to me give one thing more, a grateful heart.
Not thankful when it pleaseth me, as if thy blessings had spare days:
But such a heart, whose pulse may be thy praise.*

- George Herbert

POSTLUDE

“Fugue” from Concerto in D Minor

Antonio Vivaldi, arr. Johann Sebastian Bach

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	Sue Schriber
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First	Presbyterian Church
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

Liturgy adapted from texts written by the Rev. Dr. Charles A. Wiley, III, Columbia Theological Seminary and the Book of Common Worship. Used with permission.
Some materials in this service bulletin are reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-702939; others are under CCLI Licenses #1419649 and #20550012. All rights reserved.

First Presbyterian Church Staff:

Rev. Mary Beth McCandless
Senior Pastor, Head of Staff

Rev. Jerusha Van Camp
Minister of Spiritual Formation and Connection

Robert Nicholls
Director of Music

Bri Alley
Music Support Assistant

Lora Blaylock
Office Administrator
Finch Parker
Technology Coordinator



**First
Presbyterian
Church**

609 South East Second Street
Evansville, IN 47713
(812) 423-6297
www.fpcev.com

First Presbyterian Church
is a partner congregation with the
Covenant Network of Presbyterians
and with More Light Presbyterians.



Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Join your First Pres friends and neighbors **tonight** for **Evening Prayer**. We'll gather around the firepit in the courtyard for s'mores at **6:30**, and the brief service of evening prayer will begin at 7:00 p.m. (*First Light youth group will not meet this evening, but youth are welcome to come to Evening Prayer.*)

First Presbyterian Church's **OCTOBER HOURS** will be variable and unpredictable due to off-site commitments. If you arrive and find the doors locked, please text or call Pastor MB to find out when someone will be in the building or to schedule an appointment: 812-872-4882. Please include your name/company in your text or voice message: "This is _____"

Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment (**CAJE**) wants to know your concerns, worries, and hopes for the Evansville area. First Pres members will lead three "**House Meetings**" that are a space to listen and connect with each other over your concerns, and take just 60 to 75 minutes. You don't have to be a member of First Pres to participate, just have a willingness to share and listen. CAJE will use the information as a starting point for finding the next project to help make Evansville a better place for everyone. The next two House Meetings are in-person at in the chapel at the church: **Monday, October 13 at 6:00 p.m., and Friday, October 17 at Noon**. Thanks for participating!

Little Lambs' 30th Anniversary Celebration is this Thursday, October 16 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Evansville Country Club. An anonymous donation has made the reservation of a table of eight for folks from First Pres possible. If Little Lambs has held a special place in your heart (or if you simply want to support them as they celebrate 30 years) please contact Pastor MB (812-872-4882 or mb@fpcevv.com) to see if seats at our table are still available. You may also reserve your own tickets (\$50 per individual; \$400 for a table of eight) by calling 812-425-5262 or by emailing littlelambs.evansville@gmail.com.

October is here, which means it's **Silent Movie time** at First Pres! Mark your calendars for **Friday, October 24 and Saturday, October 25** to hear Director of Music Robert Nicholls improvise soundtracks to the silent movie classics *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari* (Friday) and *Metropolis* (Saturday). Bring your friends to this free event, have a spooky evening, and help raise a little money (donations gratefully received that evening) to help send young First Pres musicians to special music experiences!

Did you know that you can **give to First Pres online**? It's simple: click the "[giving](#)" tab at fpcevv.com and follow the prompts. And now you can give via your phone: text "GIVE" to 833-921-6520. If you've given online to First Pres in the past, you'll notice things look a little different - and should be even easier than before. If you've set up automatic giving, watch for an email about updating your giving schedule. Thank you for supporting First Pres!

The next gathering of **4th Sundays at 1st Pres** is coming up on Sunday, October 26 from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. This month's theme is "Living in Table Community" (Watch your weekly *Connect* email for link to a Taco Bar Sign-Up). Our act of service will be putting together Halloween treat bags for youth to hand out on Friday, October 31. **Please bring bags of candy with you to church this month** - there's a container in the courtyard lobby for the goodies!

Join Rev. Jerusha in a yearlong quest for spiritual formation, reorientation, and activation by participating in weekly conversation groups based around Brian McLaren's book ***We Make the Road by Walking***. Hybrid (in-person + online) groups meet on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at Noon and 7:00 p.m. (Zoom links are available in [Connect](#) and on the [church website](#)). Books (\$11) are available in the church office (and on Kindle and Hoopla), and you can drop in/out as your schedule allows.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 12

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 8:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- Choir Rehearsal
- We Make the Road
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
- Follow Me Time
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- Music Support Committee
- 6:30 p.m. Evening Prayer

Monday, October 13

- 10:30 a.m. Feeding Mission @ UCS
- 6:00 p.m. CAJE House Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Book Group: *The Barn*

Tuesday, October 14

- 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Teen Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, October 15

- 12:00 p.m. We Make the Road
- 5:30 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, October 16

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners
- 5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, October 17

- Church Office Closed*
- 12:00 p.m. CAJE House Meeting

Saturday, October 18

- 8:30 a.m. Outside Cleanup Crew