

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 Worship

We are grateful for your presence and welcome you to participate in all First Pres has to offer!

New here? If you are seated in the sanctuary, you'll see orange and yellow papers nearby. If you have joys or prayer concerns to share with the congregation during today's service, please fill out an orange prayer card. Ushers collect the orange cards when we share the Peace of Christ. The yellow slips of paper are to let us know you are here. We hope everyone will fill out their name(s) and any information you'd like us to have. Please place these in the offering plate when it is passed later in the service.

Children are always welcome in worship with their people! Childcare for pre-kindergarten and younger is available in room 109 in the education wing. Carts with books and activities for all ages are available in the rear of the room and outside the door at the front. 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: our worship services are live streamed and available on Facebook and YouTube. For more information please visit fpcevv.com.

Following worship, you are invited to 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

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Children of God, for what do you give praise?
Children of God, what do you hope for?
Rejoice! God meets us in the midst of our hopes.
Let us worship God.

OPENING PRAYER

...one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Loving God, in Christ you have made us one, but we confess how often we forget.
We let differences divide us.
We are not always kind.
We ignore the needs of others.
Forgive us.
Change our hearts and change our lives.
Help us to love and to follow your ways of peace, through Christ our Lord.
- silence is kept -
...In Christ we are forgiven and given a new song. **Thanks be to God.**

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS . . . no. 662, v1

Ratisbon; German folk melody

"Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"

Charles Wesley

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies; Christ the true, the only light;
Sun of Righteousness, arise; triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; daystar in my heart appear.*

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

Please share signs or greetings of peace in the chat.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

...through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

PSALM

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD

all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, LORD, do I seek.

Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger,

you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 4:12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles - the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea for they were fishers. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fisher of people.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

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

SERMON

The Gift of Bold Action

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

"I Believe in God the Father"

*I believe in God the Father, merciful and mighty Lord,
maker of the earth and heaven, whom we worship and adore;
and in Jesus Christ the Son, only Savior, sovereign one,
by the Holy Spirit given, born of Mary, blessed virgin.*

*Under Pilate, Jesus suffered, faithful to his final breath.
He was crucified and buried, and descended into death.
From the grave he did arise; he ascended through the skies;
now enthroned with God in heaven, he will judge the dead and living.*

*I believe in God the Spirit, and the church in every place;
saints in glorious communion, all forgiven, full of grace;
flesh and blood will live again; life in Christ will never end.
Holy Spirit, Son and Father: I will praise your name forever.*

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SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS IN OUR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

CALL TO GIVING

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

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY

*OFFERTORY RESPONSE . . . no. 606

Old Hundredth; Genevan Psalter
Thomas Ken

"Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

*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 -

...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. 314 vs. 1, 2, 5

“Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness”

Christ, Be our Light
Bernadette Farrell

*Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

*Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.*

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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.**

POSTLUDE

Leading worship:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	Sarah Cross
Guest Organist	Neal Biggers
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

We thank Neal Biggers leading our music, while Director of Music Robert Nicholls is on vacation; he will return to the office on Tuesday.

Liturgy adapted from the PAM Child of Blessing resource and the Book of Common Worship.

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Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Pres is again pleased to host **United Caring Services' White Flag Walk this Saturday, January 31 starting at 10:00 a.m.** There's no cost or requirement to raise funds - the goal of the walk is to bring awareness of what it is like to be unhoused during the coldest part of the year. Participants will walk from First Pres to UCS on 6th Street and back. For more information or to sign up, please go to the UCS' website: <https://unitedcaringservices.org/events/>.

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. **Please note: Sunday, January 25th Sessions will be online only.** (Zoom links are available in 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.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is back! On the first two Sundays in February, root for your favorite team in this year's 'big game' by **bringing canned goods with you to church**. A special display will be set up in Fellowship Hall where you can put your team's cans in their "end zone"! The real winners will be our neighbors who use the food pantry at Patchwork Central - all the donations will fill their shelves. Go Team!

Book Group at First Pres meets next on Monday, February 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 105. A Zoom option is available; contact Francie Hubbard (francie@myhubbards.com) to learn how to sign in. February's book is *Whalefall* by Daniel Kraus. The book is a scientifically accurate survival thriller about a teenage scuba diver who's been swallowed by an eighty-foot, sixty-ton sperm whale while looking for his father's remains in the Pacific Ocean off the California coast. He is forced to confront his past - particularly his relationship with his father - while seeking a way to escape the whale before his oxygen runs out.

As we settle into this new year, we give thanks for all our "church mice"! From ushering and greeting, to making coffee on Sunday mornings, to straightening the pews, to holiday decorating and more, these folks have done and continue to do so many small but important tasks around First Pres. **And new "church mice" are always welcomed and needed!** If you are looking for a way to give your time on a routine or occasional basis, contact the church office with the note "I Can Do That!" (firstpres@fpcevv.com; 812-423-6297) Your offer of time is deeply appreciated!

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 25

All Activities Cancelled/Building Closed due to inclement weather

Monday, January 26

Tuesday, January 27

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, January 28

12:00 p.m. We Make the Road

7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, January 29

4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners

5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Friday, January 30

Church Office Closed

Saturday, January 31

10:00 a.m. White Flag Walk

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
Church Administrator

Gary Harper
Church Caretaker

Finch Parker
Technology Coordinator



**First
Presbyterian
Church**

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

