

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 here in Fellowship Hall, you'll see orange and yellow papers near you on the table. 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 the yellow slips in the offering plate when it is passed later in the service.

Children are always welcome in worship with their people! Just outside the door, there is a cart with books, activities etc. for children - feel free to pick up anything that looks interesting - then return the books and crayons to the cart after worship.

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, make a joyful noise! Shout Alleluia!

Alleluia!

What does the Lord require of us?

to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

God calls us to take care of each other and to love our neighbors.

Then our light shall rise like the morning sun.

Let us worship God.

*SONG

"I Was Glad"

Jay Beech

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord."

*Called from ev-ry na-tion, called from ev-ry race,
Words that must be spo-ken, grace that must be heard,
Here the poor are wel-comed, here the lost are claimed.*

*gath-ered here for wor-ship in this ho-ly place;
mer-cy and for-give-ness from God's ho-ly word,
Bro-ken lives are mend-ed, deep-est fears are named.*

*God is here a-mong us, lift your hearts and sing,
here will be re-peat-ed; peace to all pro-claimed,
Here the wise are child-ren and the weak are strong.*

*make the walls and raf-ters ring.
shout-ed out in Je-sus' name.
Here, in Christ, we all be long.*

©1997 Jay Beech

*OPENING PRAYER

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

*CONFSSION 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. Thanks be to God.

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS . . . no. 441, v1

Nettleton; Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music

"Hear the Good News of Salvation"

Dakota; John B. Renville

*Hear the good news of salvation: Jesus died to show God's love.
Such great kindness! Such great mercy! Come to us from heaven above.
Jesus Christ, how much I love you! Jesus Christ, you save from sin!
How I love you! Look upon me. Love me still and cleanse within.*

*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.

- USHERS WILL COLLECT THE ORANGE PRAYER CARDS DURING THE SHARING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST. -

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. "Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?" Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high.

Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD? Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

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

Praise the LORD!

Happy are those who fear the LORD, who greatly delight in his commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

They rise in the darkness as a light for the upright; they are gracious, merciful, and righteous.

It is well with those who deal generously and lend, who conduct their affairs with justice.

For the righteous will never be moved; they will be remembered forever.

They are not afraid of evil tidings; their hearts are firm, secure in the LORD.

Their hearts are steady; they will not be afraid;

in the end they will look in triumph on their foes.

They have distributed freely; they have given to the poor;

their righteousness endures forever; their horn is exalted in honor.

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13:20

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. People do not light a lamp put it under the bushel basket; rather they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

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

SERMON

Seeking the Welfare of the City

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*HYMN . . . no. 727

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servant”

The Servant Song
Richard Gillard

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey; we're together on the road.

We are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear.

I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

*When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony. (Repeat vs. 1)*

*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, The United Church of Canada

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS IN OUR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

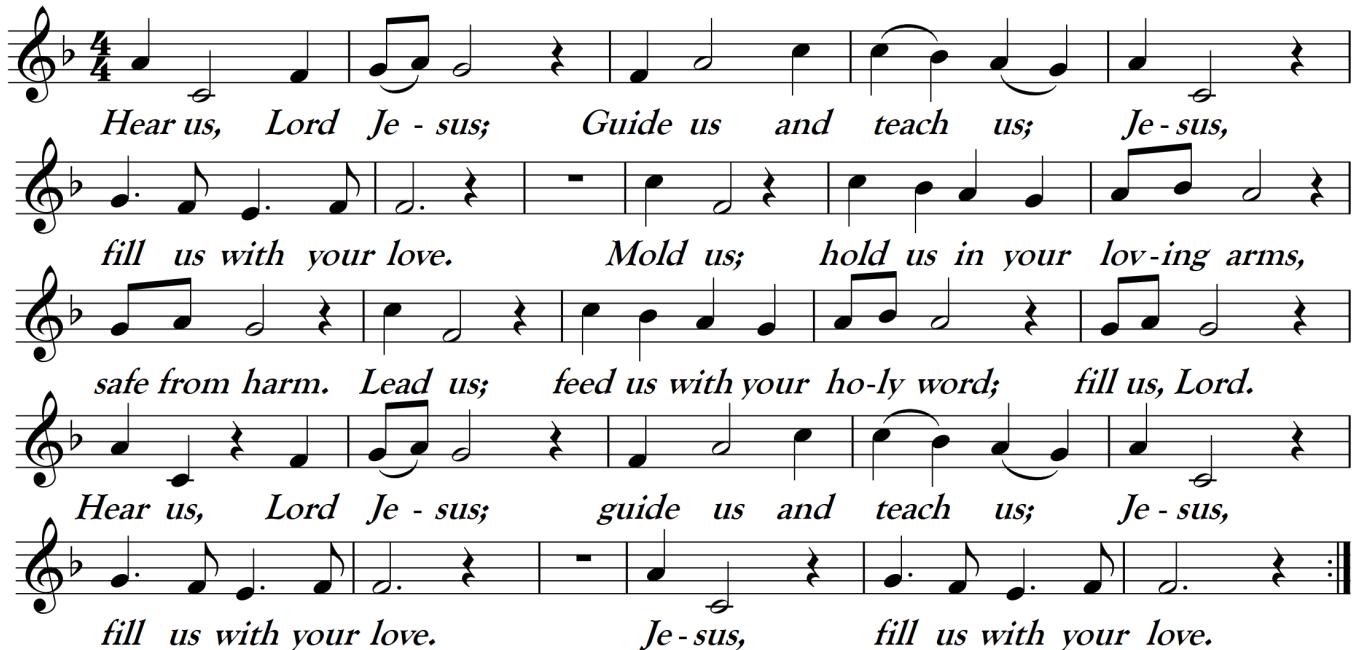
You may send a check to the church office, or give online at fpcevv.com/giving, or text "GIVE" to 833-921-6520.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY SONG OF DEDICATION

"Fill Us With Your Love"

Handt Hanson



Hear us, Lord Je-sus; Guide us and teach us; Je-sus,
fill us with your love. Mold us; hold us in your lov-ing arms,
safe from harm. Lead us; feed us with your ho-ly word; fill us, Lord.
Hear us, Lord Je-sus; guide us and teach us; Je-sus,
fill us with your love. Je-sus, fill us with your love.

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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

*SONG

“Send Down the Fire”

Marty Haugen

Send down the fire of your jus - tice, send down the rains of your love; Come, send down the Spir - it, breathe life in your peo - ple and we shall be peo - ple of God.

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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.**

*SENDING SONG

“I Will Be With You Always”

Handt Hanson and Paul Murakami

I will be with you al - ways; ev - en un - til the
close of the age, to give you pow - er and give you peace, to
give you com - fort all of your days. I will be with you al -
ways! I will be with you al - ways!
I will be with you through all of your days.

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Leading worship this morning:

Guest Preacher	Jean Beckman
Liturgist	Jingle Hagey
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
Wide Awake Band	Bri Alley, Tony Aiken, Mack Gramooré, Matt O'Neill, Don Qualls
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

We thank First Pres' own Jean Beckman for leading our worship today; Pastor Mary Beth McCandless is on vacation and 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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www.fpcevv.com

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



Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Thank you to everyone who brought items for the **Souper Bowl of Caring!** A special display is in Fellowship Hall where your team's (in today's big game) cans can be placed in their "end zone"! The real winners are our neighbors who use the food pantry at Patchwork Central - all the donations will fill their shelves. Go Team!

First Light, our group for Junior and Senior High aged youth, will gather **this evening from 5:30 to 7:00**. The group will prepare desserts for Feeding Mission's February lunch at UCS.

Evening Prayer continues into 2026! Join First Pres friends in the parlor **this evening starting at 6:15 p.m.** for fellowship followed by a short evening prayer service that finishes at 7:00 p.m. Bring a friend for a great way to wind down your weekend.

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.

The Mission Committee invites you to have **lunch and learn** with them! Bring your lunch (beverages provided) to **fellowship hall on Monday, February 16 starting at 11:30 a.m.** Our guests from Patchwork Central will tell us about what they do to serve our neighborhood.

The season of Lent begins with three (identical) services on **Ash Wednesday, February 18**. Join Pastor MB for a brief time of worship including the imposition of ashes at **7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., or 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary**. Our theme for the season is *Unbound: Longing for Wholeness*.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, February 8

7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
9:15 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
Choir Rehearsal
We Make the Road
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
Music Support Committee
5:30 p.m. First Light
6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer

4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 11

12:00 p.m. We Make the Road
5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, February 12

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

Friday, February 13

Church Office Closed

Saturday, February 14

Monday, February 9

6:30 p.m. Book Group

Tuesday, February 10

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
3:45 p.m. Teen Rehearsal