

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

God calls us forward **even when we do not know the way.**

God calls us to trust, **even when we do not understand.**

God calls us beloved, **even before we believe it.**

Let us worship God.

*HYMN

"Opening the Door"

Duke Street; Leonard Bacon
Kevin Scott Fleming



Through o - pen doors we have en - tered here,
Out - side our doors are those who need
When, in our pride, we close tight the door,
So, we will o - pen wide the door,
To sing the praise of God a - bove.
A friend, a home, a fam - i - ly,
And turn our backs on those out - side,
And wel - come rich, poor, young, and old,
Here we have ga - thered to pro - claim God's Word,
They long to know that there are those who care,
We fail the call - ing we have all re - ceived
Shar - ing the love we our - selves have known,
And pledge our - selves to share God's love.
And find a life that's new and free.
And show the world the sin of pride.
And make a diff - erence in our world.

***OPENING PRAYER**

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

***CONFESSION AND PARDON**

God does not require perfect understanding;
God meets us in our rebelliousness and gives us love.
Let us confess our sin and place it in the hands of grace.
(The sound of paper or cloth being torn is our reminder that sin tears or separates us from God.)

- silence is kept -
Companion God,
You call us forward, **but we hold back.**
You offer a new birth, **but we cling to the familiar.**
You promise light, **but we close our eyes.**
Forgive us. **Free us and fill us with your Spirit.**
In Jesus' name,

Lift up your eyes, not to shame or fear, but to the One who keeps you,
who guards your going out and your coming in.
In Jesus Christ, we are known. We are forgiven. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

***RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

"Oh The Life of the World" v. 3

Ian Galloway, Kathy Galloway

*Oh the life of the world is the source of our heal - ing. It ris - es in
laugh - ter and wells up in song; it springs from the care of the
poor and the bro - ken and re - fresh - es where jus - tice is strong.*

© Panel on Worship

***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

God, you whisper in the wilderness.
Touch our ears to listen, open our minds to wonder,
soften our hearts to receive, and steady our feet to follow. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

*SONG

“Jesus Calls Us Here to Meet Him”

arr. John L. Bell

John L. Bell and Graham Maule



Je - sus calls us here to meet him as, through word and song and
prayer, we af - firm God's pro - mised pres - ence where his
peo - ple live and care. Praise the God who keeps his
pro - mise; praise the Son who calls us friends; praise the Spi - rit
who, a - mong us, to our hopes and fears at - tends.

©WGRG, Iona Community

PSALM

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot be moved; God who keeps you will not slumber.
God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.
The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.
The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.
The LORD will keep you from all evil; The LORD will keep your life.
**The LORD will keep your going out and your coming
in from this time on and forevermore.**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished.

The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

SERMON

Longing for Wholeness

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*HYMN . . . no. 533
"In the Singing"

Bread of Peace; Carlton R. Young
Shirley Erena Murray

*In the singing, in the silence, in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking, in the Presence at this table
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.*

*In the question, in the answer, in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing, in the circle of your people
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the wine of grace:
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ, be the bread of peace.*

© 1996 Hope Publishing Company

*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

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...Your kingdom come, your will be done.

- the prayer continues -

...In his holy name we pray. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

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

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY SONG OF DEDICATION

Gratitud

"O What Shall I Render?"

Latin American Folksong



O what shall I ren - der for love so un-bound - ed
And when the night draw - eth its cur-tains of dark - ness,
I ne'er can re - pay Thee with gold or with sil - ver
that led Thee, dear Sav - ior, for sin-ners to die?
my eyes view Thy glo - ries the heav-ens de-clare;
for all Thou didst suf - fer, dear Sav-ior, for me;
Re - ceive, I be - seech Thee, my heart's hum - ble of -
and back of the star - light I know God my Fa -
there's nought I can give Thee for Thy love so bound -
fring: Thanks - giv - ing and prais - es my glad heart up - rais - es to
ther, Or wak - ing or sleep - ing, is lov - ing - ly keep - ing me
less. For joy I am sing - ing, my gra - ti - tude bring - ing an
Thee, Lord on high. Thanks - giv - ing and prais - es my
in His dear care. Or wak - ing or sleep - ing, is
of - fring to Thee. For joy I am sing - ing, my
glad heart up - rais - es to Thee, Lord on high.
lov - ing - ly keep - ing me in His dear care.
gra - ti - tude bring - ing an of - fring to Thee.

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 -

...O God, through Jesus, in the Spirit, now and always. **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

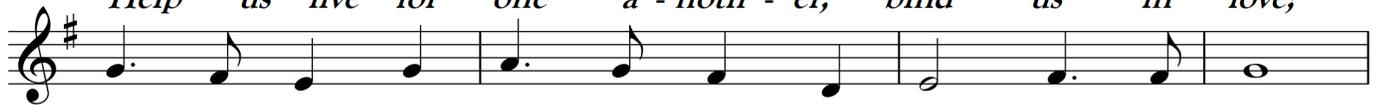
*HYMN

"Lord, We Come to Ask Your Healing"

Ar hyd y nos; Welsh Melody
Jean Holloway



*Lord, we come to ask your heal - ing, teach us of love;
Soothe a - way our pain and sor - row, hold us in love;
Help us live for one a - noth - er, bind us in love;*



*all un - spo - ken shame re - veal - ing, teach us of love.
grace we can - not buy or bor - row, hold us in love.
strang - er, neigh - bor, fath - er, moth - er - bind us in love.*



*Take our self - ish thoughts and ac - tions, pet - ty feuds, di -
Though we see but dark and dan - ger, though we spurn both
All are eq - ual at your ta - ble, though your Spir - it*



*vi - sive fac - tions, hear us now to you ap - peal - ing, teach us of love.
friend and stran - ger, though we of - ten dread to - mo - row, hold us in love.
make us a - ble to em - brace as sis - ter bro - ther, bind us in love.*

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INVITATION TO MINISTRY AND MISSION

BLESSING AND CHARGE

...free from every fault at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

...rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

*SENDING SONG . . . no. 543, vs.1, 5
“God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me”

Green Tyler
Richard Bruxvoort Colligan

*God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to move my voice;
God, be the strength to now uphold me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

*Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that hear my voice,
Christ in the hearts of all who know me:
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.
O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.*

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Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	John Strange
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
Wide Awake Band	Carrie Aiken, Tony Aiken, Mack Gramooré, Matt O’Neill, Don Qualls
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Finch Parker

Liturgy for worship has been adapted from the following: Presbyterian Association of Musicians *Child of Blessing*, the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Common Worship*, and *Unbound: Longing for Wholeness* ©2026 Church Anew. Used with Permission.

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



Happening at First Presbyterian Church

First Light, our youth group, will meet at 5:30 p.m. this evening. Bring a friend - snacks will be provided!

Justice/protest singing has been used throughout history as a form of peaceful protest or resistance, and recently a movement has grown out of community resistance to authoritarianism. **Singing Resistance Evansville** is gathering in the First Pres sanctuary on **Sunday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** These practices will lead up to a community sing and concert at the end of March. The nonpartisan gatherings are open to all. Questions? See the article in this week's [Connect](#) or ask Pastor MB.

Each **Lenten Wednesday** will see **extra opportunities** to explore the themes of the season. Join Pastor MB on Wednesday mornings and/or evenings for a brief prayer service. The evening service will be followed by a simple soup supper, after which a group will explore Contemplative Practices and the *We Make the Road* ongoing study continues. See the weekly calendar, online newsletter [Connect](#), or the printed newsletter [First Reports](#), for details and try one or many of these opportunities to deepen your Lenten journey.

Get your pantry and freezer ready for your purchases at the Music Department's semi-annual **Soup and More sale after both worship services next Sunday, March 8**. Proceeds from the sale of the delicious items help send young musicians to church music camps. Thank you for your support!

Book Group at First Pres meets next on **Monday, March 9**, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 105. A Zoom option is available; contact [Francie Hubbard](#) to learn how to sign in. March's book is *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats* by Jan-Philipp Sendker. It is a poignant love story set in Burma (Myanmar) that spans decades, following a New York lawyer's daughter, Julia, as she travels to her father's homeland to uncover the mystery of his past after he disappears.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 1

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
We Make the Road
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
5:30 p.m. First Light
7:00 p.m. Singing Resistance Evansville

Monday, March 2

Tuesday, March 3

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, March 4

7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
12:00 p.m. We Make the Road
5:30 p.m. Evening Prayer
6:00 p.m. Soup Supper
6:15 p.m. Contemplative Practice
7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, March 5

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

Friday, March 6

Church Office Closed

Saturday, March 7