

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 fpcew.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

INTROIT

"A Kenyan Prayer for Truth"

Carolyn Craig

*Deliver me from the cowardice that dares not face the truth,
from the laziness that is contented with half-truth,
from the arrogance that thinks it knows all truth. Deliver me.*

GREETING AND WELCOME

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Awake, come into the newness of the day. **Awake, come into the newness of the day.**
God welcomes us as we are. **God welcomes us as we are.**
We are alert; **We are alert;**
Our hearts are ready to receive. **Our hearts are ready to receive.**
Let us worship God.

*HYMN . . . no. 691

Land of Rest; American folk melody
Fred Kaan

"Lord, When I Came into This Life"

*Lord, when I came into this life you called me by my name;
today I come, commit myself, responding to your claim.*

*Within the circle of the faith, as member of your cast,
I take my place with all the saints of future, present, past.*

*In all the tensions of my life, between my faith and doubt,
let your great Spirit give me hope, sustain me, lead me out.*

*So help me in my unbelief and let my life be true:
feet firmly planted on the earth, my sights set high on you.*

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*OPENING PRAYER

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

CONFESSION AND PARDON

...Let us return to God, whose mercy meets us where we are.
(*The sound of paper or cloth being torn is our reminder that sin tears or separates us from God.*)
- silence is kept -
...In Jesus Christ, 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

Ephesians 5:6-14

Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes on those who are disobedient. Therefore do not be associated with them, for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,
"Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.**

He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.**

ANTHEM

“Agnus Dei” from *The Armed Man*

Karl Jenkins

*Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi
misere nobis dona nobis pacem.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us; grant us peace.

CALL TO LIVE, LOVE, PRAY, GROW

Tallis' Cannon

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 once 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.*

GOSPEL READING

John 9:1-41

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

SERMON

Longing for Community

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*HYMN . . . no. 319

“You of Faith, Rise Up and Sing”

You of faith, rise up and sing of the great and glorious King.
You are strong when you feel weak; in your brokenness, complete.
Shout to the north and the south; sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up, people of the truth. Stand and sing to broken hearts
who can know the healing power of our awesome King of love.
Shout to the north and the south; sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.

You’ve been through fire; we’ve been through rain;
we’ve been refined by the power of your name.
We’ve fallen deeper in love with you. You’ve burned this truth on our lips.
Shout to the north and the south; sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.

Rise up, church, with broken wings; fill the place with songs again
of our God who reigns on high; by God’s grace again we’ll fly.
Shout to the north and the south; sing to the east and the west.
Jesus is Savior to all, Lord of heaven and earth.
He is Lord of heaven and earth.
He is Lord of heaven and earth.
He is Lord of heaven and earth.

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God’s purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

- Romans 8:1, 28, 38, 39

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
- prayer continues -
...who died in weakness and reigns in glory. **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

"Pie Jesu" from *Requiem*

Gabriel Fauré; arr. Bruce Behnke

*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 -

...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 . . . no. 732

Old 104th; Ravencroft's Whole Booke of Psalms

"Rejoice in God's Saints"

Fred Pratt Green

*Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
Their faith in acquiring the habit of prayer,
their depth of adoring, Lord, help us to share.*

*Some march with events to turn them God's way;
some need to withdraw, the better to pray;
some carry the gospel through fire and through flood:
our world is their parish; their purpose is God.*

*Rejoice in those saints, unpraised and unknown,
who bear someone's cross, or shoulder their own;
they share our complaining, our comforts, our cares:
what patience in caring, what courage, is theirs!*

*Rejoice in God's saints, today and all days!
A world without saints forgets how to praise.
In loving, in living, they prove it is true:
their way of self-giving, Lord, leads us to you.*

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.**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“The Lord Shall Preserve”

Robert Nicholls

The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even forevermore. Amen.

- Psalm 121:8

POSTLUDE

“Beautiful Savior”

Victor Freudenburg

Leading worship this morning:

Pastor	Mary Beth McCandless
Liturgist	Andrew Singleton
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls
The Choir of First Presbyterian Church	
The Flute Choir of First Presbyterian Church, Dick Bernhardt, Director	
Audio	Blake Foerster-Daniels
Visual	Jake Kohlmeyer

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 this Sunday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Bring something (a thing, a thought, or an idea) that helps describe what career(s) you think you might want as an adult. Snacks provided!

We're looking for a **welcoming** face or two for the **Sunday evening** Singing Resistance gatherings. Greeters would arrive by 6:45 p.m. to welcome singers and direct them to the sanctuary and to stay in the lobby to greet latecomers until 7:30 (we lock the doors at 7:15). Contact Rev. MB (mb@fpcevv.com) if you can help this Sunday or next (March 15, 22).

Presbyterian Women invite all to **lunch...and learn** with them this **Saturday, March 21, 11:00 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. The Women are preparing a lovely soup and salad luncheon as the welcome the Director of Meals on Wheels. Bring a friend, enjoy a (free!) lovely meal, and learn more about this longtime Evansville program with historic ties to First Pres.

Next Sunday, **March 22** is our next **4th Sundays at 1st Pres** from 5:30- 7:00 p.m. This month's theme, "Draw Near to God" connects with the Lenten Season. Come to find more ways to connect with God, to enjoy being in community, to share an easy soup supper, and to close with a simple time of worship including communion. If you'd like to help with supper, use this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084BA8A72FA5FEC61-62930918-soups> Thank You!

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.** The nonpartisan gatherings are open to all. Questions? See the article in this week's [Connect](#) or ask Pastor MB.

All are welcome to attend the **We the People Community Concert** on **Friday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. This event will feature the participants from the Singing Resistance Evansville gatherings that have been taking place in the First Pres Sanctuary on Sunday evenings. Come, bring a neighbor or two and have your spirits lifted by joyful music.

There are many opportunities on Wednesdays this Lent 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.

Holy Week will soon be here, beginning with **Palm Sunday** on March 29. Weather permitting, the 10:30 service will begin outdoors in the courtyard, with the congregation parading into the sanctuary. Pastor MB will lead **morning prayer at 7:00 a.m. each day**, we'll mark **Maundy Thursday** with a service in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m., and the building will be open for contemplation on **Good Friday** from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We will complete this year's Lenten journey on **Easter Sunday** with identical services in the Sanctuary at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, March 15

- 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 16

- 10:00 a.m. Mission Committee

Tuesday, March 17

- 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 3:45 p.m. Teen Rehearsal
- 4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal
- 6:00 pm. Session Meeting

Wednesday, March 18

- 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 19

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

Friday, March 20

Church Office Closed

Saturday, March 21

- 11:00 a.m. PW Lunch and Learn



February 18–April 5, 2026

Join with Presbyterians worldwide in responding to Christ's call to ministries of compassion for the most vulnerable around the world.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing.

WAYS TO GIVE —

- + Through your congregation
- + Online at pcusa.org/give-oghs
- + Text OGHS to 91999 to give
- + Scan this QR code



-or-

You can help sustain these important ministries that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing by making an online gift at any time throughout the year. Checks may be sent to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); P.O. Box 643700; Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700.

Thanks to your heartfelt gifts, One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in over 100 countries.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

To learn more about how your gift to One Great Hour of Sharing makes a difference, visit pcusa.org/oghs



One Great Hour of Sharing is one of three annual Churchwide Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). These Special Offerings play an important role in defining what it means to be a congregational church in the 21st century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns. The Offerings offer opportunities for partnership, learning, and witness and profoundly affect the life of the church as a collective witness to Jesus Christ's love for the whole church.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

What does the Lord require of you?

...to do justice

and to love kindness
and to walk humbly
with your God. Micah 6:8



When we participate in One Great Hour of Sharing...

We create possibility for people forced to flee their homes in search of safety.

We support recovery efforts when disasters devastate communities.

We empower partners to build sustainable futures.

We walk alongside our siblings to work for more just immigration laws and processes.

Our gifts show people they are not alone and that people they don't know see them and care enough to respond.



Following the prophet Micah's call to do justice

A group of young adults from First Presbyterian Church of Salem, New Jersey, volunteered at a disaster recovery host site at New Hope Presbyterian Church in Asheville, North Carolina, after the devastation left behind by Hurricane Helene.

SMASH (Struggle for Miami's Affordable and Sustainable Housing) is the first community land trust and affordable housing cooperative that uses a community land trust model, providing sustainable and preserved land that the community controls and builds power to make housing a human right.

Years of war and natural disasters have culminated in severe famine in South Sudan. An agricultural project with Hope Restoration South Sudan focuses on vegetable farming, giving women refugees vegetable kits comprised of assorted seeds like okra, onions, tomatoes, kudhura, sukuma and other types of vegetables, which they can grow and sell.



ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING

*Please give generously.
If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!*