

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

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy.
For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth.
God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises.
For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.
God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne.

Let us worship God.

**HYMN . . . no. 401*
"Here in This Place"

Gather Us In
Marty Haugen

**Here in this place the new light is streaming; now is the darkness vanished away;
see in this space our fears and our dreamings brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.**

**We are the young, our lives are a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.**

**Here we will take the wine and the water; here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Gather us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.**

**Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away;
here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
Gather us in, and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own.
gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.**

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*OPENING PRAYER

...and in the age to come. **Amen.**

*CONFESSION AND PARDON

...God understands us and forgives our sin:

Loving God,

like your first disciples, we need your blessing.

We need to hear that you love us.

**We need reminding that you want us to love you
and you want us to love each other.**

Forgive us when we do not love everyone as you have showed us.

- confession continues -

...We are forgiven in the name of Jesus Christ! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS . . . no. 582

Glory to God

“Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me”

Paul M. Vasile

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son,
whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

World without end, without end. Amen. *(sing three times)*

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

Text adapt. © 2008 Paul M. Vasile

*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

**Risen Christ, break open our silence, speak peace to our fear,
and help us trust your good news. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE**FIRST READING**

Acts 1:1-11

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

This is the Word of new life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-23

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

This is the Word of new life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53

Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you - that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

This is the Word of new life. **Thanks be to God.**

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*SONG

“My Love Colors Outside the Lines”

Gordon Light; arr. Andrew Donaldson

My love _____ col - ors out - side the lines, ex -
 My Lord _____ col - ors out - side the lines, turns
 My soul longs to col - or out - side the lines, tear

plor - ing paths that few could ev - er find; and
 wounds to bless - ings, wa - ter in - to wine; and
 back the cur - tains, sun, come in and shine; I want to

takes me in - to pla - ces where I've nev - er been be - fore,
 takes me in - to pla - ces where I've nev - er been be - fore,
 walk be - yond the boun - daries where I've nev - er been be - fore,

— and o - pens doors to worlds out - side the lines.
 — and o - pens doors to worlds out - side the lines. (solo)
 — throw o - pen doors to worlds out - side the lines. (solo; repeat v. 3)

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*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
 we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of Israel,
 whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God.
 We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father.
 We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

With believers in every time and place,
 we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
 can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
 Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

- from A Brief Statement of Faith, PCUSA

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

...by the witness of our faith, our worship, and our life. Amen.

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

CALL TO GIVING

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

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

OFFERTORY SONG OF DEDICATION

"We are an Offering"

Dwight Liles

We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of - fer - ing. Lord, use our voic - es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of - fer - ing. All that we have,
all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic - es, we lift our hands, we lift our
lives up to you: we are an of - fer - ing, we are an of - fer - ing.

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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 -

...Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God, forever.

Gracious God, who called us from death to life, we give ourselves to you; and with the church through all ages we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

"Sing of the Lord's Goodness"

Ernest Sands; arr. Paul Inwood

Sing of the Lord's good - ness, foun - tain of all wis - dom,
Pow - er has been wield - ed, hon - or is Christ's gar - ment,
Cour - age in our dark - ness, com - fort in our sor - row,
Praise God with your sing - ing! Praise God with the trum - pet!

come to God and bless the name. Mer - cy has been shown us,
ris - en from the snares of death. True words he has spo - ken,
Spir - it of our God most high; sol - ace for the wea - ry,
Praise God with the lute and harp! Praise God with the cym - bals!

God's love is for - ev - er, faith - ful to the end of days.
one bread he has bro - ken, new life he now gives to all.
par - don for the sin - ner, splen - dor of the liv - ing God:
Praise God with your danc - ing! Praise God till the end of days!

Come, then, all you na - tions, sing of the Lord's good - ness, me - lo - dies of praise and
thanks to God. Ring out the Lord's glo - ry,
praise God with your mu - sic, wor - ship, now, and bless God's name.

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! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*SENDING SONG

“Go and Do”

Handt Hanson

Go and do as I have done for you. Go and do
as I have said! Go and do as I have done for you.
And they will know you by your love, they will know you
by your love, they will know you by the things you go and do!

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Leading worship this morning:

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

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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

Bring your friends, coworkers and neighbors to the choir's annual spring concert **this afternoon, May 17 at 4:00 p.m.** Join Director of Music Robert Nicholls for a pre-concert talk at 3:30 p.m. Donations to help our young musicians attend summer camps and other special experiences will be gratefully received. *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* is a remarkably timely work by Karl Jenkins not to be missed.

In honor of all parent figures, from mothers to fathers and all other caring folks, you are invited to **donate diapers and wipes** (or funds) for **Little Lambs** between Mother's Day, today, May 10, and Father's Day, June 21. See [Connect](#) or [First Reports](#) for examples of store brand diapers and wipes, and bring your donations to the lobby the next time you come to church! Thank you!

Book Group at First Pres meets next on **Monday, May 18, 6:30-8:00 p.m.** in room 105. Contact [Francie Hubbard](#) for a Zoom attendance option. The Group will discuss *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan. This sweeping novel is a story of love, loyalty, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Next Sunday, May 24, is your first opportunity of the summer to join the **Gathering Choir!** There are no weeknight or regular commitments - simply join Director of Music Robert Nicholls in the balcony **next Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.** to prepare a few simple pieces for 10:30 worship that morning. Come and sing!

Join your First Pres friends in showing your love and support for the LGBTQIA+ community at the **2026 River City Pride Festival** downtown on **Saturday, June 6.** Although the signup deadline to walk in the parade has passed, there are other ways to participate - from sitting at the First Pres information table to pre-preparing items to be shared at the Festival. Contact Rev. Jerusha (jerusha@fpcevv.com) for more information, or fill out the form by using the QR code to let us know you'll help!



It's back! Join Robert Nicholls for **Beer Choir at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 30** at Haynie's Corner Brewing Company (56 Adams Ave). The only requirement (besides age 21+) is to have a good time! So, bring your friends, have a tasty beverage, and let's sing!

If you enjoyed **Morning Prayer** with Pastor MB during Lent, or maybe you wanted to, but your Lenten calendar was too full, you're in luck! Pastor MB is hosting another morning prayer series on **Wednesdays through May 27 at 7:00 a.m.** Join Pastor MB on Zoom (link available in [Connect](#) and on the [Church Calendar](#)).

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, May 17

- 7:30 a.m. Band Rehearsal
- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:00 a.m. Flute Choir Rehearsal
- 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
- 3:30 p.m. Pre-Concert Talk
- 4:00 p.m. "The Armed Man"
- 7:00 p.m. *Singing Resistance Evansville*

Monday, May 18

- 10:00 a.m. Mission Committee
- 6:30 p.m. *Book Group*

Tuesday, May 19

- 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, May 20

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer
- 12:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, May 21

Friday, May 22

Church Office Closed

Saturday, May 23