

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 takes care of us. **We have everything we need.**

God leads us beside still waters. **We have everything we need.**

God sets a table for us. **We have everything we need.**

We will live with God forever. **We have everything we need.**

Let us worship God!

*HYMN

"O God of All Creation"

Lancashire; Henry Thomas Smart
Jane Parker Huber

O God of all cre - a - tion, of sun and moon and star,
You call to peace and jus - tice, yet we op - press, di - vide.
Cre - a - tor of this pla - net (small speck in space and time!)
of con - tin - ent and na - tion, of peo - ple near and far:
Our sys - tems breed in - jus - tice. We mire in greed and pride.
No oth - er god can span it; You on - ly are sub - lime!
en fuse us with your Spi - rit, en - liv - en us, we pray,
Re claim and re - cre - ate us for u - ni - ty and grace,
We mar - vel at your pur - pose, Your prov - i - dence and care.
O speak and make us hear it, your word for this new day.
dis - card - ing rank and stat - us as val - ues to em - brace.
May we re - flect your love thus to peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.

Text© 1986 Jane Parker Huber

*OPENING PRAYER

...unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

*CALL TO CONFESSION

"Open Our Eyes, Lord"

Bob Cull

O - pen our eyes, Lord we want to see Je - sus to
O - pen our ears, Lord and help us to lis - ten

reach out and touch him
O - pen our eyes, him and say that we love him

Lord; we want to see Je - sus.

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*CONFESSION AND PARDON

Gracious God, you know us and you love us.

Forgive us when we do not love like Jesus.

Forgive us when we give our energy in the wrong places.

Help us to learn what it means to follow, that your love might grow in us

- small at first, like a seed, but full of your abundant grace.

- confession continues -

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

...growing and sharing in God's grace. **Thanks be to God!**

*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

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on a path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched, and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. If you have ears, hear!"

"Hear, then, the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, yet such a person has no root but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of this age and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another, thirty."

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

PSALM

"Thy Word"

Psalm 119:105-112

Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith

Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, Still you're there right be-side

me. And noth-ing will I fear as long as you are near,

please be near me to the end. Thy Word is a

lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

Thy Word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean.

Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife because she was barren, and the LORD granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other; the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle, so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel, so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau because he was fond of game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

Anything but Ordinary: Gripping or Grasping

- SILENCE FOR REFLECTION -

*HYMN

*Duke Street; attr. John Hatton
"Adapted from Local Churches"*

"The Birthright God Has Given to Us"

The birth-right God has giv'n to us must be our
A dou - ble por - tion of the land was Jo - seph's
The dou - ble por - tion we would seek, the priest - hood
The prom - ise, Lord was giv'n to us, Oh, let us
goal, our high - est prize, for we're the church of
birth - right, - and is ours if we our gar - ments
and the king - ship too; Make us so de - sp'rate
ne'er this right de - spise; En - flame us, Lord, to
the first - born - Let us our por - tion re - 'lize!
keep from sin, and stay pure in temp - ta - tion's hour.
Lord, for thee that thee, our birth - right, we'd pur - sue.
gain Thy - self, and thee, our birth - right, re - 'lize.

*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

...In Jesus' name we pray. 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

"God of Glory"

Handt Hanson

God of glo - ry, Lord of love; Praise we bring to of - fer you now.

God of glo - ry, Lord of love; Praise fills our sing - ing, our

heart's of - fer - ing of love. God of glo - ry, Lord of love;

Bless us with your pre - sence now. God of glo - ry, Lord of love;

Filled with thanks - giv - ing we wor - ship you Lord of love.

Praise fills our sing - ing, our heart's of - fer - ing of love.

‘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 -

...Praise, glory, and thanksgiving to you, our God, forever and ever. **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

Melita; John Bacchus Dykes

“O God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

Kevin Scott Fleming

O God, from whom all bless - ings flow, Your grace with - in our
No mat - ter where we call our home, or if from pole to
And though we come from ma - ny lands, none can ig - nore Your
O God, who's known by ma - ny names, let us all fear and
O God of peace and right - eous - ness, through us, O let the
lives You sow, You nur - ture love and peace with - in, and
pole we roam, In fields of green, or des - ert sands, none
great com - mand, To love our neigh - bor as our own, and
hate dis - claim. In har - mo - ny teach us to live, and
world be blessed. With ca - ring love and ac - tion bold may
yet for - give our ev - r'y sin. Your love is deep and
can es - cape Your car - ing hands. From moun - tain - tops to
by our lives Your love make known. Let peace and jus - tice
from all wrongs each one for - give. In tem - ple, mosque, and
we from none Your love with - hold. O stead - fast God of
broad and wide, and from that love no one can hide.
o - ceans deep, in love and peace all peo - ple keep.
be our aim, and so ex - alt Your ho - ly name.
chur - ches, too, teach us to live our lives in You.
truth and peace, through us, let peace and hope in - crease.

text ©2003 Kevin Scott Fleming

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 With God”

Isaiah Jones, Jr.



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Leading worship this morning:

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

Liturgy for worship has been adapted from the Presbyterian Association of Musicians *Child of Blessing* resource, the July 2026 *Illustrated Ministry* resource and the Presbyterian Church (USA) *Book of Common Worship*. Used with Permission. Some materials in this service bulletin are reprinted with permission under OneLicense.net #A-702939; others are under CCLI Licenses #1419649 and #20550012. All rights reserved.

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Parents, grandparents, guardians, friends, and teens are invited to **fill out a short survey** regarding **children's and youth programming** as we plan for this fall's new program year. An email with links was sent this week. Check your email or use these links ([children](#); [youth](#)) to take a few moments to help us shape the best experience for our community. Thank you!

This **fall**, we will begin our second journey through the book, ***We Make the Road by Walking***. For those who have been on this path since September 2025, the experience has been transformative. Together, the class has woven a rich tapestry of friendship and faith. Whether you are returning or joining the group for the very first time, you are invited to experience the spark of life that comes when we engage with our faith, wrestle with our doubts, and share our human stories. Please use the [this link](#) to **register today** for the 2026-2027 journey.

Presbyterian Women invite you to help those in need find “**A Soft Place to Land**”. Donate funds so the PW can supply the YWCA's Domestic Violence and Emergency Housing programs with new pillows. **PW will do all the shopping**, so donate today - mark your gift “pillow”!

Also in preparation for new fall educational programming, Jerusha is organizing two **Workdays** to help move organize, and clean in the Ed wing and the upstairs resource room. There are tasks for all abilities - contact Jerusha at 812-774-7402 or make a note on your yellow worship slip if you can help on **Thursday, July 23 between 3:00 and 7:00 p.m. and/or Saturday, July 25 between 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.** Thank you!

Book Group at First Pres meets next on Monday, July 13, 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. July's book is *Tom Lake* by Ann Pratchett. Set during Covid's first spring, the novel has been described as a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born.

The **RSCM America Midwest Summer Choral Residency**, is this week! Public worship services are held throughout the week with choral music sung by the Residency which is made up of children and adults from across North America. Make plans to attend one (or all!) of the services throughout the week, including 10:30 worship next Sunday here at First Pres!

Choral Evensong:

Tuesday, July 14, 5:00 p.m. in UE's Neu Chapel

Wednesday, July 15, 5:00 p.m. in UE's Neu Chapel

Friday, July 17, 7:00 p.m. in Saint Benedict Cathedral

Choral Mass:

Saturday, July 18, 4:15 p.m. in Saint Benedict Cathedral

Sunday Worship:

Sunday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. in First Presbyterian Church

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, July 12

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

Monday, July 13

10:00 a.m. Presbyterian Women Planning Team
10:30 a.m. Feeding Mission at UCS
6:30 p.m. Book Group

Tuesday, July 14

11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting

Wednesday, July 15

12:00 p.m. We Make the Road

Thursday, July 16

11:30 a.m. Little Lambs Fashion Show

Friday, July 17

Church Office Closed

Saturday, July 18