



First Presbyterian Church

April 26, 2026

Welcome



Welcome to this sanctuary.
Welcome to this time of worship and wonder.
Welcome to this family of faith.

We're glad you're here today and pray that your experience
with us in worship is both challenging and uplifting!

Our ushers are available to assist you as needed.

For more information about First Presbyterian Church, we invite you
to visit our website. There you will find out the ways to keep in touch,
how we live our faith, our different partnerships and so much more.

Our website address is: www.firstpresracine.org

If you're interested in receiving news about the church,
please call 262.632.1686 or email: shelley@firstpresracine.org

Rev. Darren Utley—Church Pastor
pastordarren@firstpresracine.org

Today's Service

PASTOR—*Rev. Darren Utley*

LITURGIST—*Larry Dickerson*

MUSICIANS—*Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus,
Alan Galle, Handbell Choir - directed by Fumi Nakayama*

MEDIA TECH SPECIALIST—*Steve Comeau*

*Please stand as you are able.

[**Bold type**] indicates text to be spoken by the congregation.

[***Bold italic type***] indicates song to be sung by the congregation.



We Gather to Worship

As a courtesy to everyone, please mute your mobile device.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Larry Dickerson

Welcome! May you find God's love, peace, grace, and joy as we worship today.

PRELUDE

Andante Mosso | *Johann S. Bach*

POEM OF INVITATION

The Peace of Wild Things | *Wendell Berry*

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

*OPENING HYMN

All Things Bright and Beautiful

[GtG Hymn #20]

Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus, Alan Galle

THE LORD'S PRAYER/PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

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.

*ACT OF PRAISE

Now the Green Blade Rises

[GtG Hymn #247, v. 2]

*In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
thinking that he would never wake again,
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

*PASSING THE PEACE

In the Sermon on the Mount

Jesus offers this blessing:

“Blessed are the peacemakers

They will be called children of God.”

Jesus also encourages us to not worry about tomorrow

for God’s eye is on the lilies and the sparrow.

As children of God, let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

The Peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (Lobe den Herren) | arr. J. W. Krug
Handbell Choir

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 6:24-34

[NT 6]

SERMON

Seeking

Rev. Darren Utley

Responding to the Word

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Love | David Foster

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Sometimes a Light Surprises

[GtG Hymn #800]

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, whose love is the source of all life and the desire of our lives, whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth, whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all and whose love, defeating even death, is our glorious promise of freedom. Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and, in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and the company of the faithful so to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Gnossienne No. 1 | *Erik Satie*

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.
Amen!*

Going Forth to Minister

*CLOSING HYMN

His Eye Is on the Sparrow
[GtG Hymn #661]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

Because You Live, O Christ
[GtG Hymn #249, v. 3]

*Because you live, O Christ,
the rainbow of your peace will span creation,
the colors of your love
will draw all humankind to adoration.*

*The stone has rolled away and death cannot imprison!
O sing this Easter Day, for Jesus Christ has risen,
has risen, has risen, has risen!*

POSTLUDE

Sostenuto | *Wilhelm Volckmar*

Sun., Apr. 26 th	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM} 10:45 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship Fellowship Talk It Over
Mon., Apr. 27 th	9:00 ^{AM}	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Tues., Apr. 28 th	10:00 ^{AM} 12:00 ^{PM} 6:30 ^{PM}	Delivery for the Food Pantry Lunch & Learn Session Meeting
Wed., Apr. 29 th	4:00 ^{PM} 7:00 ^{PM}	Food Pantry Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sun., May 3 rd	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship Fellowship



Announcements

First Pres Food Pantry

The food pantry continues to provide much needed emergency food for individuals and families in need. Many of the folks who utilize the food pantry at our Church come on foot. We truly are serving the needs of our downtown neighbors with this vital mission.

Currently, the pantry is in need of hearty soups and canned meats!

As always, thank you for your continued generosity!

Prayer Matters

Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for Gloria Zember & family for the recent passing of her father - Joseph; for Mary & Steve Bernstein and family, with the death of Mary's mother - Sue Ann; and all who have recently experienced the loss of a friend or family member. May they know peace and comfort during these difficult times.

Prayers of comfort & healing for Ginny Holle, Sheila Lawrence, Jennifer Humphreys; Don Tobias, Pam Simpson, Shelley Lawrence, Evelyn Vanderheyden, Vi Shufelt, Peggy Taylor, Ed Lehmann, Austin Moulds, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Ellen Easley, Sandra Hopkins, Mary Johnson, Kay Mahl, Leah Fisher, Barb Stevenson, and an unspoken prayer for a church member.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Mark—son of Sharon Campbell; the brother of Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes; Kathy Wortley & her sister-as they help with the care for Richard—her elderly father; Baby Hazel—grandniece of Carrie & Kathi; Dan—father of Shelley Maurer; Ted—good friend of Theresa & Shelley; Nancy—mother of Gloria Zember; John—husband of Sandy Hawley; Johan—brother of Cecilia Andersson; Chad—son of Sheila Lawrence; David—brother and Lynn—sister-in-law of Ed Lehmann; Mary Ann—mother of Cheryl Nitz; Amy—daughter of Jim & Bonnie Eastman; Elena & Ezequiel Romero—parents of Deb Utle; Masako—mother of Fumi Nakayama; John—son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey; Chuck—husband of Sue Pehlivanian; Jack Flynn and Mary—sister of Gretchen Hermann; Meyer Schaal; the paternal grandfather of Autumn Eifert; Scott Mohn—friends of the Paffrath family; Ramona, Steve, Susan, Sandra, John, Liz and Gabby—friends & family of the Galles.

Prayers for those in the service — Evan Humphreys, Col. Jay Brooke, Jared Smith, Jordan Smith, Nicholas Hansen.

Thank you for your continued prayers for everyone. They are powerful!



Music & MORE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Spring Sampler

SATURDAY, MAY 9 – 7:00 P.M.

Early Bird Tickets – \$15 • Tickets After May 2 – \$20



"Caritas"
Greg & Kathy Berg
Kate Potter-Barrow



Jesse Gomez
Heather Lopp



Mark Paffrath &
Zachary Scot Johnson



FOR INFORMATION, CONTACT:

(262) 632-1686 | 716 College Avenue – Racine, WI | www.firstpresracine.org