

First Presbyterian Church

May 3, 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—*Sharon Campbell*

MUSICIANS—*Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger,
Dave Titus, Alan Galle, Chancel Choir, The Jovial Beggars*

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

Sharon Campbell

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

PRELUDE

Andante Alla Breve | *Christian H. Rinck*

POEM OF INVITATION

Don't tell me no.
I have seen you
feed the thousands,
seen miracles spill
from your hands
like water, like wine,
seen you with circles
and circles of crowds
pressed around you
and not one soul
turned away.
Don't start with me.
I am saying
you can close the door,
but I will keep knocking.
You can go silent,
but I will keep shouting.
You can tighten the circle,
but I will trace a bigger one
around you,
around the life of my child,

Stubborn Blessing | *Jan Richardson*

who will tell you
no one surpasses a mother
for stubbornness.
I am saying
I know what you
can do with crumbs
and I am claiming mine,
every morsel and scrap
you have up your sleeve.
Unclench your hand,
your heart.
Let the scraps fall
like manna,
like mercy
for the life
of my child,
the life of
the world.
Don't you tell me no.

*from The Cure for Sorrow: A Book
of Blessings for Times of Grief*

*OPENING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

[GtG Hymn #366]

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

*ACT OF PRAISE

Now the Green Blade Rises

[GtG Hymn #247, v. 3]

*Forth he came at Easter like the risen grain,
he that for three days in the grave had lain;
raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
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

The Time for Singing Has Come | *Natalie Sleeth*

Chancel Choir

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 7:1-11

[NT 6, 7]

SERMON

Pearls, Swine, Logs, Splinters and Doors

Rev. Darren Utley

Responding to the Word

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

You Are My Strength When I Am Weak

(You Are My All in All)

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

[GtG Hymn #498]

*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

The Lord's My Shepherd
The Jovial Beggars

*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!*

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you,
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts,
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God,
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SHARING THE BREAD & THE CUP

We Gather Here in Jesus' Name
(Come Share the Lord)

Please be assured that the communion bread will always be gluten-free.

Going Forth to Minister

*CLOSING HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness
[GtG Hymn #39]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

In the Bulb There Is a Flower
[GtG Hymn #250, v. 1]

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
In cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
Unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.*

POSTLUDE

May the Force Be with You | John Williams

This week...

Sun., May 3 rd	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship Fellowship
Mon., May 4 th	9:00 ^{AM}	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Wed., May 6 th	4:00 ^{PM}	Food Pantry
Sat., May 9 th	7:00 ^{PM}	Music & More Spring Sampler
Sun., May 10 th	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship Fellowship

Prayer Matters

Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for 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 Jennifer Humphreys, Ginny Holle, Don Tobias, Pam Simpson, Sheila Lawrence, Shelley Lawrence, Vi Shufelt, Peggy Taylor, Ed Lehmann, Austin Moulds, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Ellen Easley, Sandra Hopkins, Mary Johnson, Kay Mahl, Barb Stevenson, Leah Fisher, Evelyn Vanderheyden, 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 and Susan—sister of Sharon Campbell; the brother of Carol Lee Saffioti-Hughes; Baby Hazel—grandniece of Carrie & Kathi; Dan—father of Shelley Maurer; Nancy—mother of Gloria Zember; John—husband of Sandy Hawley; Johan—brother of Cecilia Anderson; Chad—son of Sheila Lawrence; Mary Ann—mother of Cheryl Nitz; Amy—daughter of Jim & Bonnie Eastman; Elena & Ezequiel Romero—parents of Deb Utey; Masako—mother of Fumi Nakayama; David—brother and Lynn—sister-in-law of Ed Lehmann; John—son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey; Chuck—husband of Sue Pehlivanian; Meyer Schaal; Jack Flynn and Mary—sister of Gretchen Hermann; Scott Mohn—friends of the Paffrath family; the paternal grandfather of Autumn Eifert; 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:

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