



Worship in the Park & Picnic

July 12, 2026

First Presbyterian Church

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—Katie Humphrey

MUSICIANS—Mark Paffrath, Jim Sodke

MEDIA TECH SPECIALIST—Sam Peters

*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

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

PRELUDE

Here I Am, Lord | Schutte, arr. David

POEM OF INVITATION

The Seedling | Paul Laurence Dunbar

As a quiet little seedling
Lay within its darksome bed,
To itself it fell a-talking,
And this is what it said:

"I am not so very robust,
But I'll do the best I can;"
And the seedling from that moment
Its work of life began.

So it pushed a little leaflet
Up into the light of day,
To examine the surroundings
And show the rest the way.

The leaflet liked the prospect,
So it called its brother, Stem;
Then two other leaflets heard it,
And quickly followed them.

To be sure, the haste and hurry
Made the seedling sweat and pant;
But almost before it knew it
It found itself a plant.

The sunshine poured upon it,
And the clouds they gave a shower;
And the little plant kept growing
Till it found itself a flower.

Little folks, be like the seedling,
Always do the best you can;
Every child must share life's labor
Just as well as every man.

And the sun and showers will help you
Through the lonesome, struggling hours,
Till you raise to light and beauty
Virtue's fair, unfading flowers.

*OPENING HYMN

***Morning has broken like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!***

***Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
Like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where
God's feet pass.***

Morning Has Broken [GtG Hymn #664]

***Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
Born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!***

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.

*PASSING THE PEACE

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit enabled people from different nations and languages to not only speak to one another, but to understand each other. Friends, in many ways, celebrating Pentecost is celebrating God's ability to forge connection and peace among diverse people and nations. As renewed, forgiven people, let us share the radical and unifying peace of God with one another now, saying, "The peace of Christ be with you."

And also, with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing | arr. David

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

SERMON

Sower

Rev. Darren Utley

Responding to the Word

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

A Sower Came From Ancient Hills

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Seek Ye First [GtG Hymn #175]

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

**Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and you shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!**

**You shall not live by bread alone, but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia!**

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Brief Confession of Faith '91

"We trust in the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through scripture, engages us in the world to proclaim good news and to work for justice and peace, and prays in us when our own words fail. In a broken and fearful world the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives."

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

Seeds Scattered and Sown

*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

***Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands, and let them move
At the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee,
Swift and beautiful for Thee.***

***Take my voice, and let me sing,
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee,
Filled with messages from Thee.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour
At thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee,
Ever, only, all for Thee.***

*CLOSING HYMN

Take My Life [GtG Hymn #687, v. 1-3, 6]

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

The Blessing | Furtick, Carnes, Brown; arr. Snyder

Please review the prayer list to see if there is anyone who can be removed from the list or should someone be added. If there are changes to be made, please reach out to Theresa or Shelley. Thank you!

Prayer Matters

Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for all who have recently lost a friend or family member. May they know peace and comfort during these difficult times.

Prayers of comfort & healing for an unspoken prayer for a church member, John Brooke, Kay Mahl, Jennifer Humphreys, Peggy Taylor, Don Tobias, Sheila and Shelley Lawrence, Pam Simpson, Vi Shufelt, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Ed Lehmann, Leah Fisher, Barb Stevenson, Evelyn Vanderheyden, Sandra Hopkins.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Shaun—friend of Patrick Herrera, Monica—daughter of Ben & Catherine Neal, Rudy—brother of Nancy Lechner, John—husband of Sandy Hawley, family members of Sharon Campbell, John—son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Nancy—mother of Gloria Zember, paternal grand-father of Autumn Eifert, Baby Hazel—grandniece of Carrie & Kathi, Chad—son of Sheila Lawrence, Masako—mother of Fumi Nakayama, Johan—brother of Cecilia Andersson, Elena & Ezequiel Romero—parents of Deb Utley, Mary Ann—mother of Cheryl Nitz, Amy—daughter of Jim & Bonnie Eastman, Chuck—husband of Sue Pehlivanian, Austin Moulds, Meyer Schaal, friends & family of the Lehmanns, Jack Flynn and Mary—sister of Gretchen Hermann, Scott Mohn—friends of the Paffrath family, friends & family of the Galles.

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

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

This week...

Sun., July 12 th	10:00AM	Worship in the Park & Picnic
Mon., July 13 th	9:00AM	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Tues., July 14 th	6:30PM	Meeting of the Deacons
Wed., July 16 th	4:00PM	Food Pantry
Thurs., July 17 th	12:00PM	Music & More Concert
Sun., July 19 th	9:30AM 10:40AM	Sunday Worship Fellowship

First Pres Food Pantry

Not a fan of grocery shopping?
Consider making a monetary donation—with cash, check,
or an online donation (<https://firstpresracine.org/donate>).

As always, thank you for your continued generosity!

CELEBRATING 33 YEARS!

Music & MORE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please join us at noon on Thursdays!

July 16

Lynda Schlitz Ensemble -
vocal, bass, piano, drums

Zachary Scot Johnson - *piano*

Corporate Downsizing Quartet -
vocal, guitar, accordion

July 23

Flute Choir - *flutes*

Sharon Adel - *organ*

Amy Maack & Band - *vocal, bass, piano, drums*

July 30

Alexander VanDeLoo - *vocal*

Fumi Nakayama - *piano*

Doug Clum Ensemble