

A close-up photograph of a lantern with a glowing orange flame. The lantern has a metal frame and a glass chimney. The background is dark, and the light from the flame creates a warm, inviting atmosphere. The text is overlaid on the lower part of the image.

Welcome to

First Presbyterian Church

July 20, 2025



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—Jim Sodke, Mark Paffrath, Dave Titus,
Rusty Horse - featuring Pete Mulligan and Jamie Fulton

BULLETIN & GRAPHICS—Shelley Maurer

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

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Larry Dickerson

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

PRELUDE

Praise His Greatness | Mark Hayes

POEM OF INVITATION

from Colossians Remixed: Subverting the Empire |
Sylvia Keesmaat and Brian Walsh

In the face of a culture of death
a world of killing fields
a world of the walking dead
Christ is at the head of the resurrection parade
transforming our tears of betrayal into tears of joy
giving us dancing shoes for the resurrection party

And this glittering joker
who has danced in the dragon's jaws of death
now dances with a dance that is full
of nothing less than the fullness of God

this is the dance of the new creation

this is the dance of life out of death

and in this dance all that was broken
all that was estranged
all that was alienated
all that was dislocated and disconnected
is reconciled

comes home

is healed

and is made whole

*OPENING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

[GtG Hymn #12]

Jim Sodke, Mark Paffrath, Dave Titus

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

**Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness
(Christ, Be Our Light)**

[GtG Hymn #314, v. 1 & refrain]

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.

Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people,

Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

*PASSING THE PEACE

Since God has made us the blessed community, the Church,
let us greet one another,
in whatever way we can, with the peace and joy of Christ.
Peace and joy be with you.

And also with you.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

Rusty Horse

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE

Colossians 1:15-28

[NT 200]

SERMON

Subversive Poetry

Rev. Darren Utley

Responding to the Word

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

1st Gymnopédie | *Erik Satie*

*SONG OF RESPONSE

May the Love of the Lord
[GtG Hymn #549]

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**We give thanks to the Creator,
who has enabled us to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light.
God has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us
into the kingdom of the beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
This Son is the visible representation of our invisible Creator.
All that the Father has belongs to this Son.
The Son existed before creation and is above all created things,
whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers.
For it was in him that all things in the spirit-world above and
on the earth below were created, all things seen and unseen.
It made our Great Father's heart glad to have all that he is living in his Son.
Through his Son he brought together everything in the spirit-world above and on
the earth below into harmony with himself,
making peace through his lifeblood poured out on the cross.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

All Things Bright and Beautiful | *arr. Larry Shockley*

*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

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me
[GtG Hymn #700]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

**Longing for Light, We Wait in the Darkness
(Christ, Be Our Light)**

[GtG Hymn #314, v. 2 & refrain]

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

POSTLUDE

Be Thou My Vision | arr. Mark Hayes

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday, July 20 th	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship Fellowship
Monday, July 21 st	9:00 ^{AM}	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, July 22 nd	4:00 ^{PM}	Delivery for Food Pantry
Wednesday, July 23 rd	4:00 ^{PM}	Food Pantry
Thursday, July 24 th	12:00 ^{PM}	Music & More Concert
Sunday, July 27 th	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship Fellowship

Prayers Are Powerful

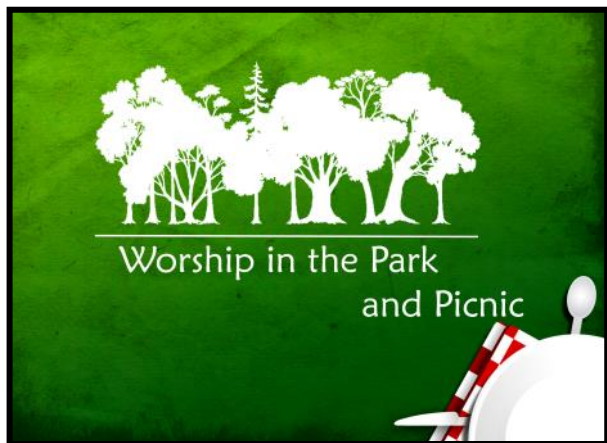
Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for Steve & Mary Bernstein and family, and all who have recently experienced the loss of a family member or friend. May they know peace and comfort during these difficult times.

Prayers of comfort & healing for Kathy Wortley, Myrna Kryger, Peggy Taylor, Mary Lee, Ellen Easley, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Mary Johnson, Barb Stevenson, Louise Shapley, Kay Mahl, Evelyn Vanderheyden, Leah Fisher, Sandra Hopkins.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Jeff—husband of Shelley Maurer, Richard - brother of Steve Comeau; Elena & Ezequiel Romero - parents of Deb Utley; Masako - mother of Fumi Nakayama; John - husband of Sandy Hawley; Mary Ann - mother of Cheryl Nitz; Laurel - niece of the Vollmans; John - son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey; Rudy - Nancy Lechner's brother; the Moes' family and Scott Mohn—friends of the Paffraths; Zane - friend of Logan Lehmann; Steve, Susan, Sandra, John, Liz and Gabby - friends & family of the Galles; Chuck Pehlivanian - Sue's husband; Nancy - mother of Gloria Zember; Meyer Schaal; Linda - daughter of Louise Shapley; Tim - family member of Sheila Lawrence; and friends & family of the Lehmanns.

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

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



You are invited to join us!

Sunday, August 10th

Worship will begin at 10:00^{AM}

Picnic will be directly after worship

DeKoven Bishop's Garden

2000 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine

The Deacons will be hosting the picnic.
Bring a dish to share and your lawn chairs!



Music & MORE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Please join us at noon this Thursday, July 24th
for our FREE noontime concerts!

Sweet Melody Strings
hammer dulcimer group

Victoria Rivera
vocal

Sharon Adel Ensemble
piano & flute



Save the Dates!

July 24

Sweet Melody Strings -
hammer dulcimer group
Victoria Rivera - vocal
Sharon Adel Ensemble - piano & flute

July 31

Suzanne Geoffrey - oboe
Fumi Nakayama - piano
Tabetha Steege - vocal

August 7

Mary Skop - piano
Jesse Gomez - violin
Ami Bouterse, Alejandro, Evelyn & Lucas
Alumbreros - vocal & piano

Season Finale Concert

Friday, August 15 at 7:00^{PM} - Tickets \$15
Voces de America Mariachi -
vocal & guitar trio
Lynda Schlitz Ensemble -
vocal, bass, drums, piano