

Welcome to
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S
WORSHIP IN THE PARK

August 10, 2025

SARAH LAUGHS





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
MUSICIANS—Alejandro Alumbremos
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.



The Heir | Hannah Garrity



UNRAVELED

SARAH LAUGHS

Unexpected Joy & Surprise

READ // GENESIS 18:1-15; 21:1-7

FROM THE ARTIST // HANNAH GARRITY

Sarah, mother of Isaac, joyfully nurses her newborn son, giving him the nutrients he needs to grow and thrive. Abounding liquid—as a mother, I know what that is like. The feeling of a pouring out; a pouring out of milk, of blood, of tears, of joy; a pouring out of depression, of fear, of baby blues, of awe.

In this image, I have expressed the feeling of pouring out. The flow throughout the background relates directly to the pain and joy that Sarah and Hagar have struggled through in their discordant parallel lives. Expressed in shades of milk, blood, and water, this image is deeply feminine. The blood that delivers life is the same blood that is shed in sexual abuse. The milk that sustains life is produced by the body whether a child is conceived by choice or by force. A new mother's emotions run the wide gamut from overwhelming joy, to emotional pain, to previously unmet fear, and to lack of control. They extend from postpartum depression to baby blues. The experience is nothing like anything I have ever felt before or after, a paradigm shift in life. The deep and painful multiplicity of new motherhood is often summed up in perfectly constructed highlight reel photographs on baby announcements. In this painting, I depict Sarah putting up a front of pure joy. It's honest, but it's only one small sliver of the real story.

As women we stand at once in vulnerability and beauty, in strength and love, in pain and joy. The moments of our lives envision God's grace in deep complexity.

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Mattinatta | *Ruggero Leoncavallo*
Alejandro Alumbremos

CALL TO WORSHIP

In worship,

**May we be as welcoming as Sarah and Abraham,
who were quick to serve the stranger.**

In faith,

May we proclaim that nothing is too big for God.

In moments of holy surprise,

May we laugh with deep abiding joy.

For God is in the holy surprise.

God is in the winding path.

And God is in our presence today.

Let us worship Holy God.

*OPENING HYMN

Morning Has Broken

*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.*

*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!*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*PASSING THE PEACE

As Christ welcomed everyone, no matter what their background or social standing;
as Christ welcomed enemies & friends, outcasts & leaders,
foreigners & neighbors, let us open our hearts and homes and lives.

Let us be like Christ to everyone we meet.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

"Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

SERMON

Sarah Laughs
Rev. Darren Utley

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Serenade | Riccardo Drigo

*SONG OF RESPONSE

I Danced in the Morning

*I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had My birth.*

Refrain:

*Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
And I'll lead you all wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the dance, said He.*

*I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they would not follow Me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with Me and the dance went on. [Refrain]*

*I danced on the sabbath and I cured the lame,
The holy people said it was a shame;
They whipped and they stripped and they hung Me high;
And they left Me there on a cross to die. [Refrain]*

*I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
They buried My body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the dance and I still go on. [Refrain]*

*They cut me down and I leap up high,
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in Me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He. [Refrain]*

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in God, the Great Sewer—
Who weaves us together in community,
Collecting our loose ends and turning them into belonging.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit—
Who hems us in before and behind,
Catching us when we fall and writing us into God's holy narrative.**

And I believe in Jesus Christ—

**Who loved and claimed the people society had thrown out,
refusing to disregard anyone as scrap.**

**I believe God has woven part of God's self into the fiber of our being,
Making us inherently worthy of love and belonging.**

**I believe the fabric of my life is weak,
That I am prone to error and need God's handiwork to remind me of love.**

**I believe in the Church, and that like a quilt of different fabrics,
She is designed to be as diverse and beautiful as God's creation.**

**And I believe that when life unravels,
God is there to stitch my wounds together,
To hold me in the palm of God's hand, to tell me of love,
And to invite me into a new journey.
Amen.**

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

The Lord's Prayer | *Albert Hay Malotte*

*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

Lead Me, Guide Me

***Lead me, guide me, along the way,
For if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.***

***I am weak and I need your strength
And power to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness your face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.***

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Sunday, August 10 th	10:00 ^{AM} 10:50 ^{AM}	Worship in the Park Church Picnic
Monday, August 11 th	9:00 ^{AM}	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, August 12 th	6:30 ^{PM}	Deacons Meeting
Wednesday, August 13 th	4:00 ^{PM}	Food Pantry
Friday, August 15 th	7:00 ^{PM}	Music & More Finale Concert
Sunday, August 17 th	9:30 ^{AM} 10:40 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship Fellowship

PRAYERS ARE POWERFUL

Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for the family of Mary Lee 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 Myrna Kryger, Carter Nitz, Kathy Wortley, Peggy Taylor, Ellen Easley, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Mary Johnson, Barb Stevenson, Kay Mahl, Louise Shapley, Evelyn Vanderheyden, Leah Fisher.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Autumn Eifert's paternal grandmother; Bob—friend of Sharon Campbell; Carol—sister of Ginny Holle, Dan & Joyce—parents and 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 Paffrath family; 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!



ARTIST'S GALLERY POP-UP EXHIBIT

The Artists Gallery, located in downtown Racine, has brought some paintings, sculpture, and ceramics by local artists. We invite you to visit the gallery, after today's concert. Items on the north wall are marked for sale. See below for information regarding how to purchase the pieces.



ARTISTS GALLERY

Presents a
POP-UP EXHIBITION
at First Presbyterian Church

July 3 - Aug 17

Support Local Artists

Reach out to Artists Gallery to make purchases:
Call 262-635-9332 or email: ArtistsGalleryRacine@outlook.com
Visit us at 401 Main St. | Downtown Racine



CELEBRATING 32 YEARS!

Music & MORE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEASON FINALE

Friday, August 15 – 7-9 PM

Doors Open at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets \$15 at the door
Purchase online at
www.firstpresracine.org/donate

Performers: Nancy Maio & Friends, and Lynda Schlitz Ensemble

CELEBRATING 32 YEARS!

Music & MORE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

BONUS CONCERT

Zachary Scot Johnson & Friends

Friday, September 12 – 7 PM

Doors Open at 6:15 p.m.

Tickets \$15 at the door
Purchase online at
www.firstpresracine.org/donate