

A stylized, symmetrical leaf design in dark brown and black, centered behind the text. The leaves are arranged in a fan-like pattern, with some leaves pointing upwards and others downwards. The background is a dark, textured blue-green at the top, transitioning to a warm, orange-brown at the bottom, with a subtle diamond-shaped pattern.

Welcome to
First Presbyterian Church
September 27, 2026



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—Alan Galle

MUSICIANS—*Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus,
Kathi Wilson, 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

Alan Galle

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

PRELUDE

Moderato | Christian H. Rinck
Alejandro Alumbremos

POEM OF INVITATION

Now That We Have Tasted Hope | *Selected Verses*
Khaled Mattawa (1964 -)

Now that we have come out of hiding,
Why would we live again in the tombs we'd made out of our souls?
And the sundered bodies that we've reassembled
With prayers and consolations,
What would their torn parts be, other than flesh?...
Having dreamed the same dream,
Having found the water behind a thousand mirages,
Why would we hide from the sun again
Or fear the night sky after we've reached the ends of
darkness,
Live in death again after all the life our dead have given us?
I need not look far to imagine the nerves dying,
Rejecting the life that blood sends them.
I need not look deep into my past to seek a thousand hopeless vistas.
But now that I have tasted hope
I have fallen into the embrace of my own rugged innocence.
How long were my ancient days?
I no longer care to count.
I no longer care to measure.
How bitter was the bread of bitterness?
I no longer care to recall.
Now that we have tasted hope, this hard-earned crust,
We would sooner die than seek any other taste to life,
Any other way of being human.

*OPENING HYMN

Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken
[GtG Hymn #81]

Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE | THE LORD’S PRAYER

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

You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!
[GtG Hymn #437]

***You are the Lord, giver of mercy!
You are the Christ, giver of mercy!
You are the Lord, giver of mercy!***

*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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

How Great Thou Art | Stuart Hine, arr. Patricia Sanders Cota
Handbell Choir, directed by Fumi Nakayama

Proclaiming the Word

SCRIPTURE

Philippians 2:1-13
[NT 197]
Matthew 21:23-32
[NT 23, 24]

SERMON

Words and Work
Rev. Darren Utley

Responding to the Word

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

*SONG OF RESPONSE

Take My Life

[GtG Hymn # 697, vv. 1-4, 6]

*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."

OFFERTORY

God Weeps with Us Who Weep and Mourn

*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

Christ Be Beside Me

[GtG Hymn #702]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

[GtG Hymn #546, v. 3]

***Savior, when you love shall call us,
from our struggling pilgrim way,
Let no fear of death appall us,
Glad your summons to obey:
May we ever, may we ever
Reign with you in endless day.***

POSTLUDE

Andantino | Adolf Friedrich Hesse

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 Steve & Pam Simpson, Jen Seversen, John Brooke, Kay Mahl, Sheila and Shelley Lawrence, Jennifer Humphreys, Peggy Taylor, Vi Shufelt, Don Tobias, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Ed Lehmann, Leah Fisher and an unspoken prayer for a church member.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Shaun—friend of Patrick Herrera, family members of Sharon Campbell, Monica—daughter of Ben & Catherine Neal, Rudy—brother of Nancy Lechner, John—husband of Sandy Hawley, Bradley—brother of Shelley Maurer, 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, friends & family of the Galles.

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

First Presbyterian Food Pantry

*Haven't donated to the food pantry for a while?
Now's your chance!*

The food pantry needs macaroni & cheese, hearty soups & stews, and tuna. Next time you're out shopping, pick up an item or two to donate!

If you'd prefer, you can make a secure online donation by visiting our webpage: firstpresracine.org/donate. Select SECURE GIVING THROUGH PAYPAL and click on Food Pantry.

Choral
ARTS
Society

Celebrating
40
Seasons of Song

Honoring 250 Years of America

Saturday, October 17, 2026 • 7:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church
716 College Avenue, Racine, WI 53403



Paul Revere House
Paul Revere Memorial Association

REGIE GIBSON

Massachusetts Poet Laureate and author of "Dear, Paul Revere or Forge, Shape, Shine"

Regie Gibson's residency is supported in part by the Paul Revere House.

Pre-Concert Event included with Admission: 5:45-6:15PM

"Forging Beyond Iambic Pentameter" with Guest Artist-In-Residence Regie Gibson

TICKET PRICES

Adult \$25 • Senior \$25 • Student \$15



Advance tickets available at:

Personal Touch by Julie Florist in Racine – 5445 Spring Street – with cash or check,
online at www.choralartsonline.org, or by calling (262) 634-3250.

This season is supported in part by a grant from the Racine Community Foundation, a grant from the Racine Arts Council's ArtSeed Grant Program funded by the Racine Arts Council and the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin, and a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Sun., Sept. 27 th	9:30 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship
Mon., Sept. 28 th	9:00 ^{AM}	Staff Meeting via Zoom
Wed., Sept. 30 th	4:00 ^{PM}	Food Pantry
	7:00 ^{PM}	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sun., Oct. 4 th	9:30 ^{AM}	Sunday Worship

Save the Dates

Sunday, October 11, 2026

*World Communion & Homecoming Sunday and *Apple Fundraiser*

Sunday, October 18, 2026 - 10:00^{AM}

FPC/OBUUC Joint Service

Saturday, December 5, 2026 - 7:00^{PM}

Carols by Candlelight Concert

Sunday, January 17, 2027

**Cuban Sandwich Fundraiser*

Sunday, February 14, 2027

**Dennis Reeser Memorial Chili Event*

Saturday, May 8, 2027 - 7:00^{PM}

Music & More Spring Sampler

**These events will be directly following worship.*