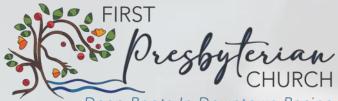
Welcome to FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

September 28, 2025

THE SAMARITAN WOMAN AT THE WELL





Deep Roots In Downtown Racine
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—Royce Earnest
MUSICIANS—Alejandro Alumbreros, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus,
Handbell Choir - directed by Fumi Nakayama
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

Royce Earnest

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

PRELUDE

Andante Cantabile | A. Alessio Alejandro Alumbreros

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come here to draw water—

Thirsty for new life.

We come here to draw water—

Bringing our past and our present, our messy truths and our deepest scars.

We come here to draw water—

Carrying shame, and in need of grace.

Fortunately for us, God always meets us at the well.

So breathe deeply and drink up.

God is here. The water is clean.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

[GtG Hymn #450]

Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus, Alejandro Álumbreros

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

[GtG p. 35]

*ACT OF PRAISE

Arise, Your Light Is Come! [GtG Hvmn #744, v. 3]

Arise, your light is come!
All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the brokenhearted ones
And comfort those who mourn.

*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

Fairest Lord Jesus | Crusaders' Hymn, arr. Joel Ramey Handbell Choir, directed by Fumi Nakayama

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

John 4:1-29 [NT 94-95]

SFRMON

The Samaritan Woman at the Well Rev. Darren Utlev

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Dreams of Reflection, No.2 | James Michael Stevens

*Song of Response

Ho. All Who Thirst [GtG Hymn #479]

*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

I Can Only Imagine | *Mercy Me*

*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

Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom [GtG Hymn #174]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

Weave Us Together | Rosemary Crow [Refrain, v. 2, refrain]

Weave, weave, weave us together, Weave us together in unity and love, Weave, weave, weave us together, Weave us together, together in love.

We are different instruments, playing our own melodies, Each one tuning to a different key. But we are all playing in harmony In one great symphony....

> Weave, weave, weave us together, Weave us together in unity and love, Weave, weave, weave us together, Weave us together, together in love.

POSTLUDE Allegretto | A. Hesse

Prayers by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | <u>sanctifiedart.org</u>



You Ask of Me? | Hannah Garrity



READ // JOHN 4:1-29

FROM THE ARTIST // HANNAH GARRITY

Why are you asking me? As a woman in a patriarchal society, I have been faced with subordination throughout my life. I mostly do not feel it. I have learned self control from a young age and I have been taught to appreciate what I have. These skills are the reasons that I have the extensive happiness and comfort that I enjoy on a daily basis. However, the patriarchy still exists. Along with the external blocks, the glass ceilings, I am finding that I stand in my own way, too. Despite the tireless efforts of my parents to teach us of a world of equality and opportunity, I have still imbibed the societal belief that I, as a woman, am lesser; that my skills do not measure up, that my salary should not be equal or more, that I work too much, that I spend too little time with my children, or that I will not succeed at the next challenge. None of these things are true, and yet I throw the roadblocks of patriarchy before myself anyway. The woman at the well had multiple levels of societal oppression standing like a wall between Jesus and her. She was not of the same race or gender as he, and she was unwed, unprotected. I can understand why she questioned God's call for water. Why would he address her as an equal? Are you asking me? Are you sure you meant to do that? Are you sure that I measure up?





Take a few moments to gaze upon the artwork. Breathe deeply in quiet meditation as you observe the visual qualities of what you see: color, line, texture, movement, shape, form.

Now take a deeper look. What parts of the image are your eyes most drawn to? What parts of the image did you overlook?

Now engage your imagination. What story do you imagine for the figure?

REFLECT

- What has unraveled and/or is unraveling in this story?
- What racial, cultural, gender, and religious barriers exist between Jesus and the Samaritan woman? How are these barriers broken down in their encounter?
- What do you imagine is the woman's story? What layers of shame does she carry and why?



Unravel my shame, O God, with the promises that I am always loved and forever worthy. Amen.

⁵ Learn more about Brené's work by visiting: https://brenebrown.com/

PRAYERS ARE POWERFILL

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 Ed Lehmann, Carter Nitz, Sandra Hopkins, Kay Mahl, Peggy Taylor, Kathy Wortley, Ellen Easley, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Mary Johnson, Leah Fisher, Barb Stevenson, Evelyn Vanderheyden, Louise Shapley.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for the family of Ruby Seeton, Autumn Eifert's paternal grandmother; Carol—sister of Ginny Holle; Bob—friend of Sharon Campbell; 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; John—son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey; Laurel - niece of the Vollmans; 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!

Benefit Concert for Gaza
Darlene Rivest, violin
Anna Kojovic- Frodl, piano
First Presbyterian Church, 716 College Ave- October 4 @ 6 p.m.

What to Expect:

Our concert will take you on an emotional journey with music inspired by *angst, hope, and peace*—Prokofiev Sonata No. 1, Schubert Sonatina No. 1 in D Major, and Arvo Pärt-Mirror in Mirror. Let the power of music unite us for a greater cause!

Who We're Supporting:

All proceeds go to the **International Rescue Committee (IRC)**, a highly trusted and transparent organization ensuring your contributions make a real difference. From now until **9/30**, every donation will be **matched dollar for dollar**, doubling your impact! Let's make sure no one goes hungry—your generosity is *tax-deductible* and twice as powerful. Give today: https://irc.donordrive.com/campaigns/Food-for-Gaza

Choral ARTS Society Gospel Fusion

Saturday, October 18, 2025 • 7:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church 716 College Avenue, Racine, WI 53403

Pre-Concert Event Included with Admission: 5:45-6:30PM "Harmonious Reunion" with Gospel Fusion Guest Artists





Greater Mount Eagle Praise Ensemble

D'AYCH & The Next Level Band

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.











WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Sunday, September 28th 9:30^{AM}—Sunday Worship 10:40^{AM}—Fellowship

Monday, September 29th 9:00^{AM}—Staff Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, October 1st

11:00^{AM}—Visitation for Myrna Kryger (The Covenant at Murray Mansion, 2219 Washington Ave., Racine) 12:00 PM—Celebration of Life for Myrna Kryger (see above)

4:00^{PM}—Food Pantry 7:00^{PM}—Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 5th 9:30^{AM}—World Communion **Sunday Worship** 10:40^{AM}—Homecoming Celebration— Family, Fun & Fall Favorites



The Mission Initiative is sponsoring their apple fundraiser on Sunday, October 5th, directly following the World Communion Sunday service. Enjoy freshly picked apples from Ela Orchard in Rochester, WI.

There will be a free-will offering to benefit the food banks at First Presbyterian Church.

To make a secure, online donation, please visit our website at https://firstpresracine.org/ donate. Click on "Secure Giving Through PayPal" and select Apple Fundraiser from the dropdown menu.



WELCOME HOME!

Reconnect with your church family as we celebrate together. Join us for inspiring music, meaningful message, and a chance to support our mission projects.

We look forward to seeing you!

Sunday, Oct 5th

9:30AM

Family, Fun, and Fall Favorites

- Music you don't want to miss!
- Mission fundraiser: Orchard fresh apple sale after service.



Fall favorites: Apple cider, cider donuts, and more.