

UNRAVELED

SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART

Welcome to
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 12, 2025

MOSES' MOTHER GIVES MOSES UP



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—Sharon Campbell

MUSICIANS—Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus

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.

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WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sharon Campbell

PRELUDE

Andante | J. G. Herzog
Alejandro Alumbros

CALL TO WORSHIP

When you dream, what do you dream of?

We dream of children who know love and churches with open doors.

We dream of rest and sunny days.

When you dream, what do you dream of?

**We dream of peace without walls,
And equality for all people.**

When you dream, what do you dream of?

We dream of milk and honey, food on tables, and an end to suffering.

We dream of the Church of Jesus Christ serving all God's people.

Family of God,

This [morning], we dream together. This [morning], we worship together.

For there is nothing on heaven or on earth strong enough to unravel God's dreams for us.

Let us worship Holy God.

Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Be Still, My Soul
[GtG Hymn #819]

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/THE LORD'S PRAYER

[GtG p. 35]

*ACT OF PRAISE

The King of Love My Shepherd Is
[GtG Hymn #802, v. 1]

*The King of love my Shepherd is,
Whose goodness faileth never.
I nothing lack if I am His,
And He is mine forever.*

***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

Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10
[OT 49]

SERMON

Moses' Mother Gives Moses Up
Rev. Darren Utley

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Dreams of Reflection, No.3 | *James Michael Stevens*

***SONG OF RESPONSE**

God Is So Good
[GtG Hymn #658]

***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

Oceans (Where Feet May Fail) | Hillsong UNITED

*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

Why Should I Feel Discouraged?
[GtG Hymn #661]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

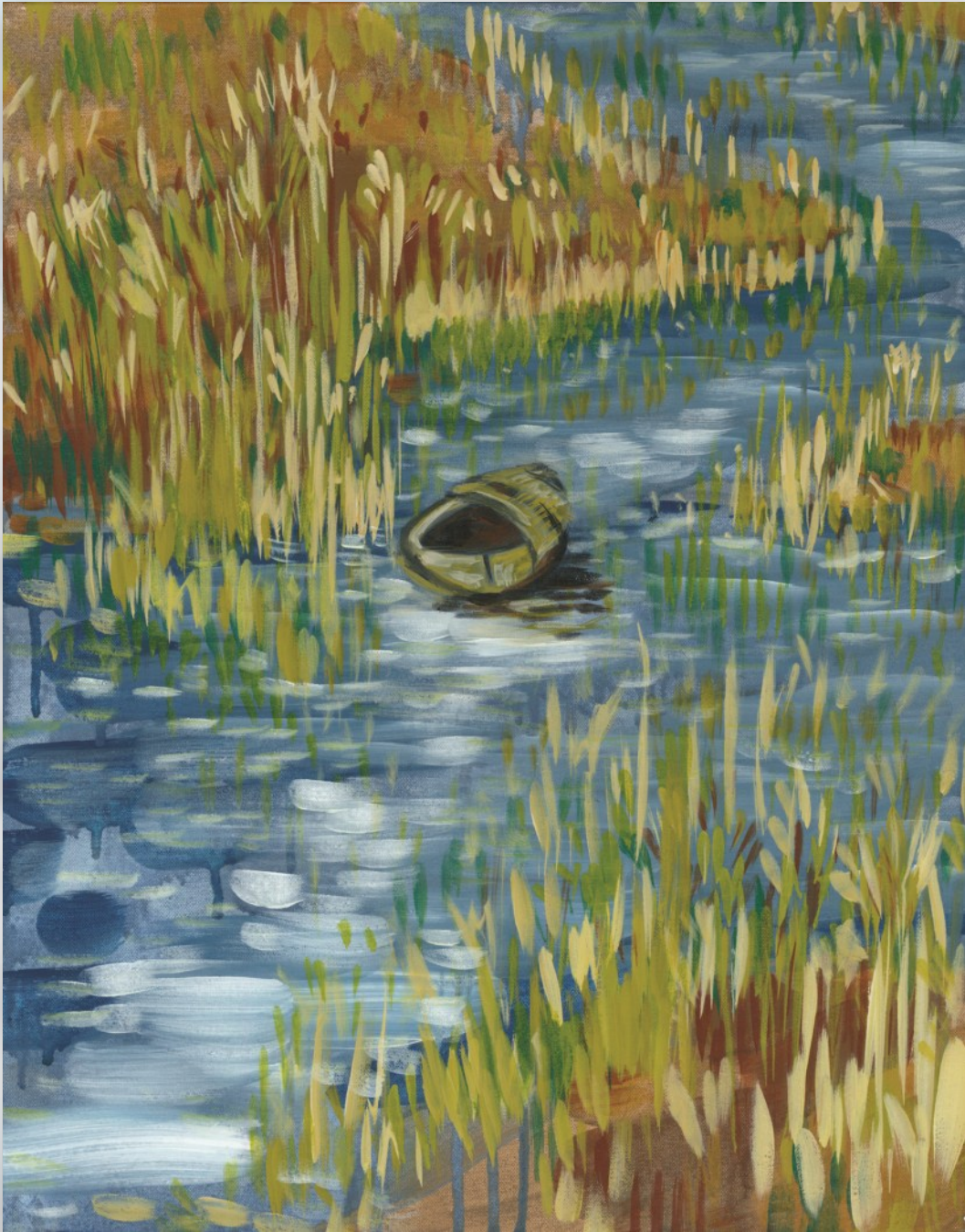
God Be with You Till We Meet Again
[GtG Hymn #541, v. 1]

***God be with you till we meet again;
Loving counsels guide, uphold you,
With a Shepherd's care enfold you:
God be with you till we meet again.***

POSTLUDE

Andante | A. Hesse

Prayer by Sarah Are | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org



 Sanctified Art | © A SANCTIFIED ART | SANCTIFIEDART.ORG

An Imperfect Ally | *Lisle Gwyn Garrity*



UNRAVELED

MOSES' MOTHER GIVES MOSES
UP SO HE CAN LIVE

When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel

READ // EXODUS 1:22; 2:1-10

FROM THE ARTIST // LISLE GWYNN GARRITY

Moses' mother and Miriam plot a clever plan, but it's far from foolproof. The risks far outweigh their chances for success. What if the basket they place him in leaks, drowning him instead of keeping baby Moses afloat? What if the current gets too strong, or the winds pick up, or he gets stuck in a tangle of reeds? What if the wrong person finds him and fulfils Pharaoh's command? What if Pharaoh's daughter is moved with disgust when she sees what floats into her private bathing quarters? Even if Pharaoh's daughter decides to keep the child as her own, what will keep Pharaoh from killing Moses when she's not looking?

Their plan is too perilous, too fraught with danger for any infant to endure. And yet, we know of mothers who risk desert heat, fatigue, illness, dehydration, criminalized border crossings, and facilities with cages to pursue the slight chance—the mere hope—of survival for their child. Why would they do this? Because to stay home and succumb to the sure threats of genocide—or gang violence, or civil war—is far more dangerous.

In this image, I gave the viewer the vantage point Pharaoh's daughter might have had. What melts her heart with mercy when she sees this Hebrew child float downstream? Was a well of rebellion rising up within her, making her eager to subvert her father's orders? Was she poisoned like most Egyptians with bias against the Israelites, but did the innocence and vulnerability of an infant shift her heart toward love? Had she desperately wanted a child of her own? Regardless of her motives, Pharaoh's daughter uses her power and privilege to act as an ally to Moses and his family in their worst unraveling. It's not a perfect solution, but God doesn't need perfection to achieve liberation.



RESPOND

MOSES' MOTHER GIVES MOSES
UP SO HE CAN LIVE

When Our Plans for Our Children Unravel



LOOK

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. If you were to place yourself in this scene, where would you be and how would you interact with what surrounds you?



REFLECT

- What has unraveled and/or is unraveling in this story?
- Imagine this story from the perspective of each character—Pharaoh, Moses' mother, Miriam, Pharaoh's daughter. Why does each character do what s/he does?
- What causes Pharaoh's daughter's heart to soften when she finds Moses in the river? Why does she choose to nurture and adopt Moses as her own? What can we learn from her actions?



PRAY

When necessary, unravel my attachment to power so that I can walk with others in the journey toward freedom. Amen.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Sunday, October 12th

9:30^{AM}—Sunday Worship

10:40^{AM}—Fellowship

Monday, October 13th

9:00^{AM}—Staff Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, October 14th

6:39^{PM}—Deacons Meeting

Wednesday, October 15th

2:00^{PM}—Investment Committee Meeting

4:00^{PM}—Food Pantry

7:00^{PM}—Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, October 19th

9:30^{AM}—Sunday Worship

10:40^{AM}—Fellowship

PRAYERS ARE POWERFUL

Heartfelt thoughts & prayers for Shelley and her family—with the recent passing of her husband Jeff, and 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 Peggy Wagner, 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 of Shelley Maurer; Richard—brother of Steve Comeau; Elena & Ezequiel Romero—parents of Deb Utey; Masako—mother of Fumi Nakayama; John—husband of Sandy Hawley; Mary Ann—mother of Cheryl Nitz; John—son of Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey; Nancy—mother of Gloria Zember; 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; Tim—family member of Sheila Lawrence; Meyer Schaal; Linda—daughter of Louise Shapley; 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!



To learn about the **First Pres Food Pantry**, and the many ways you can help, please visit our webpage at: <https://firstpresracine.org/living-our-faith/first-pres-food-pantry>.

We encourage any vegetable gardeners with an over-abundance of fresh produce to drop them off on Wednesdays by 3:30^{PM}. This is a wonderful seasonal extra which is greatly appreciated by food pantry guests.

What's needed?

We have a hard time keeping in stock are boxed dinners that include pasta (e.g., macaroni & cheese); shelf-stable proteins—including canned or foil pouches of tuna, chicken or ham; cans of hearty soups & stews.

Don't like to shop? Consider making a monetary donation!

- Drop a check in the offering basket. On the memo line, please indicate that it is for the food pantry.
- You can also make a secure, online donation, make a secure online donation at: <https://firstpresracine.org/donate>. Click on SECURE GIVING THROUGH PAYPAL. From the dropdown list, please select Food Pantry.
- Scan the QR code.



WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND CONTINUED SUPPORT!

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.





Save the dates for more
Music & More!

A CANDLELIGHT CONCERT

The Choral Arts Society and Music & More Collaboration

Saturday, December 6, 2025 at 7:00^{PM}

Tickets \$20 (adult) - \$10 (youth) purchase from CAS

2026 Dates for Season 33

SPRING SAMPLER

Saturday, May 9, 2026 at 7:00^{PM}

Early Bird Tickets are \$15; \$20 after May 2, 2026

NOONTIME CONCERTS

June 4, 2026 thru August 6, 2026

Thursdays—Noon to 1:00^{PM}

Ten FREE Noontime Concerts

SEASON FINALE

Friday, August 14, 2026 at 7:00^{PM}

Early Bird Tickets are \$15; \$20 after August 7, 2026