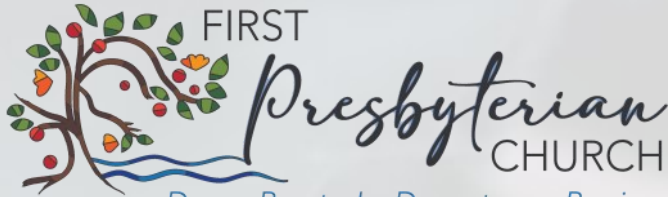


Welcome to
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

October 26, 2025

**JESUS HEALS LEGION, A MAN
POSSESSED BY DEMONS**

UNRAVELED
SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART



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—Georgia Herrera

MUSICIANS—Alejandro Alumbremos, 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.

UNRAVELED

SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

As a courtesy to everyone, please mute your mobile device.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Georgia Herrera

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

PRELUDE

I Know That My Redeemer Liveth | *G.F. Handel, arr. Waldemar Scholtes
Alejandro Alumbremos*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself,

For God loves us just as we are.

Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself,

For all of us is welcome here—

scars and fears,

depression and doubt,

hope and joy,

light and laughter.

Don't hold back. Bring all of yourself.

For God longs to be with us, so let us worship the God of love.

*OPENING HYMN

We Come to You for Healing, Lord

[GtG Hymn #796]

Alejandro Alumbremos, Mark Paffrath, Pat Badger, Dave Titus

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. 6]

And so through all the length of days,

Thy goodness faileth never;

Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise

Within Thy house 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.

CHORAL ANTHEM

Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God | *Karen Lafferty,*
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson
Handbell Choir, directed by Fumi Nakayama

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

SCRIPTURE

Mark 5:1-20
[NT 39]

SERMON

Jesus Heals Legion, a Man Possessed
Rev. Darren Utley

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

Dreams of Reflection, No.4 | *James Michael Stevens*

*SONG OF RESPONSE

There Is a Balm in Gilead
[GtG Hymn #792]

*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

What The World Needs Now Is Love | *Burt Bacharach*

*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

Healer of Our Every Ill
[GtG Hymn #795]

*BENEDICTION

*SUNG BLESSING

God Be with You Till We Meet Again
[GtG Hymn #541, v. 4]
***God be with you till we meet again;
Keep loves' banner floating o'er you,
Smite death's threatening wave before you:
God be with you till we meet again.***

POSTLUDE

Postlude | *James Thomas Bersey*

Prayers by Sarah Are | *A Sanctified Art LLC* | sanctifiedart.org



Begged to Leave | *Hannah Garrity*



UNRAVELED

JESUS HEALS LEGION,
A MAN POSSESSED BY DEMONS
The Unraveling of the Mind

READ // MARK 5:1-20

FROM THE ARTIST // HANNAH GARRITY

Have you ever seen the illustration of equity vs. equality? There is a young child standing next to a young teenager and an adult. They all wish to see over a fence. In the description of equality, they each get a box that is the same size. The adult now towers over the fence, the teenager can see, but the child is still unable to see what's on the other side. In the depiction of equity, they each get a different sized box. Now, all of their heads are peering comfortably over the fence. Why are we afraid of equity?

In the land of the Gerasenes, Jesus shows us what it looks like. He provides healing for an outcast of society, the man shows gratitude, and he evangelizes. This sounds like a moment we would rejoice in. Instead the townspeople beg Jesus to leave. Do they fear scarcity? But we know that God provides in abundance. Do they fear grace? But we yearn for God's grace. Do they fear for their safety?

Why do humans fear the radical grace of God? Why did the people of Gerasene fear Jesus? We laud Jesus' work in the gospel as the work we must replicate. We teach our children to think of what Jesus would do. However, time and again history shows us that when we truly work toward the embodiment of the gospel, humans interrupt the work. Humans killed Jesus.



RESPOND

JESUS HEALS LEGION,
A MAN POSSESSED BY DEMONS

The Unraveling of the Mind



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. What story do you imagine for each of the figures?



REFLECT

- What has unraveled and/or is unraveling in this story?
- Imagine this story through the lens of fear. How does fear impact each of the characters and their actions?
- Whom do you identify with the most in this story and why?



PRAY

Unravel my temptation to marginalize those I fear or do not understand so that all may be welcomed home.
Amen.

PRAYER MATTERS

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 Peggy Wagner, Sheila Lawrence, Austin Moulds, Peggy Taylor, Ed Lehmann, Sandra Hopkins, Ellen Easley, Kay Mahl, Mac & Marilyn MacCaughey, Mary Johnson, Leah Fisher, Barb Stevenson, Evelyn Vanderheyden.

As they deal with physical, emotional and/or spiritual issues, please pray for Nancy—girlfriend of Ken Schacht; Ramona, Steve, Susan, Sandra, John, Liz and Gabby—friends & family of the Galles; Carol—sister of Ginny Holle; Autumn Eifert's paternal grandmother; Bob—friend of Sharon Campbell; Dan & Joyce—parents of Shelley Maurer; Richard—brother of Steve Comeau; Elena & Ezequiel Romero—parents of Deb Utle; 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 Curt & Victoria Vollman; Rudy—Nancy Lechner's brother; Meyer Schaal; the Moes' family and Scott Mohn—friends of the Paffrath family; Chuck Pehlivanian—Sue's husband; Tim—family member of Sheila Lawrence.

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!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Sunday, October 26th

9:30^{AM}—Sunday Worship

10:40^{AM}—Fellowship

Monday, October 27th

9:00^{AM}—Staff Meeting via Zoom

Tuesday, October 28th

4:00^{PM}—Delivery for the Food Pantry

6:30^{PM}—Session Meeting

Wednesday, October 29th

4:00^{PM}—Food Pantry

Sunday, November 2nd

9:30^{AM}—All Saints' Sunday Worship

10:40^{AM}—Fellowship

SAVE THE DATES...

All Saints Sunday

Sunday, November 2nd

Advent Begins

Sunday, November 30th

“A Candlelight Concert”

The Choral Arts Society and Music & More Collaboration

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

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

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday, December 24th at 6:30^{PM}

Candlelight

CONCERT

A Music & More and Choral Arts Society collaboration

Saturday, December 6

7:00 p.m. • 716 College Avenue • Racine, WI

Performers: Mark Paffrath, Choral Arts Society, The Studio of Classical Dance Arts, and More!

Tickets: \$20 Adults • \$10 Students



Boxes of Homemade Christmas
cookies for sale \$10/box

Music & MORE
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Choral
ARTS
Society

FOR TICKETS: choralartsonline.org | (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.

