



# NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Seek, Serve, Embrace | Engaging with neighbors near and far in Christ's love*

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## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

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*Fourth Sunday After Pentecost | June 21, 2026 | 10:00 am*

*(\*For those who are able, please stand)*

### WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

#### WELCOME

#### PRELUDE

*"Prelude in F Major" | J. S. Bach (1685-1750)*

#### \* OPENING SENTENCES

Do not be afraid:

**God hears our cries when we are lost.**

Do not be afraid:

**God does not leave us abandoned.**

Do not be afraid:

**God is with us, now and always.**

**Let us worship God.**

#### \* HYMN NO. 39

*"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" | FAITHFULNESS*

#### \* CALL TO CONFESSION

#### \* PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of Hagar, Abraham, and Ishmael,**

**God of Sarah, Abraham, and Isaac,**

**send your Holy Spirit**

**to help us confess**

**and repent of our sin.**

**We turn against one another;**

**we fail to care for the weak and poor among us.**

**We pay no heed to the cries of the powerless;**

**we seek our own advantage.**

**Forgive us, merciful God.**

**Wipe sin from our lives**

**and let us find ourselves**

**wholly in Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

#### \* SILENT CONFESSION



## 39

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,



Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:



As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

\* **DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS**

Friends, God loves us  
and does not abandon or forsake us.

**Our Savior hears when we cry from the wastelands of sin.**

Hear the good news -  
**in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

\* **THE STEADFAST LOVE OF THE LORD**

The musical notation is written on four staves in a treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; God's mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are new ev - ery morn - ing, new ev - ery morn - ing; great is your faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness.'

The stead - fast love of the Lord nev - er ceas - es; God's  
mer - cies nev - er come to an end. They are  
new ev - ery morn - ing, new ev - ery morn - ing; great is your  
faith - ful - ness, O Lord, great is your faith - ful - ness.

\* **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all;

**And also with you.**

*Worshippers may greet one another with words of Christ's peace*

**WE PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

*Children are dismissed to Summer Playtime*

*Offerings added to the Joyful Noise Pail are for mission partner Heifer International*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**



## FIRST LESSON | PSALMS

Psalm 86: 1-10, 16-17

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me,  
for I am poor and needy.

**Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;  
save your servant who trusts in you.**

You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord,  
for to you do I cry all day long.

**Gladden the soul of your servant,  
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.**

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,  
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

**Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer;  
listen to my cry of supplication.**

In the day of my trouble I call on you,  
for you will answer me.

**There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,  
nor are there any works like yours.**

All the nations you have made shall come  
and bow down before you, O Lord,  
and shall glorify your name.

**For you are great and do wondrous things;  
you alone are God.**

Turn to me and be gracious to me;  
give your strength to your servant;  
save the child of your maidservant.

**Show me a sign of your favor,  
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,  
because you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me.**

## SECOND LESSON | TORAH

Genesis 21: 8-21 | OT p. 17

## SERMON

“A Story We Don’t Often Tell” | *Brian Shivers*



# WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## \* HYMN

"The God of Sarah Praise" | LEONI

1. The God of Sa - rah praise, the God of dreams long dead, who  
2. The God of A-br'ham praise, the God of all who roam, who  
3. The God of Ha - gar praise, the God of those op - pressed, who

brings forth un - ex - pect - ed life, dis - arm - ing dread. Though  
guides us in - to for - eign lands and makes our home. When  
sees the lost and o - ver - looked and calls them blessed. Though

grief lasts through the night, joy ris - es with the sun; God  
dark - ness shrouds our path, the stars, as pledg - es, shine; God's  
wan - der - ing a - lone through des - erts of de - spair, God

leaves us laugh - ing in sur - prise at death un - done.  
cov - e - nant will be ful - filled by love's de - sign.  
leads us to a well of hope and meets us there.

## PRAYERS 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.

### OFFERING

#### OFFERTORY

"Cathedral in Ruins" | *Václav Trojan (1907-1983)*

#### \* DOXOLOGY

*LASST UNS ERFREUEN*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below. Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

#### \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### WE ARE SENT INTO THE WORLD

#### \* HYMN NO. 450

"Be Thou My Vision" | *SLANE*

#### \* BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the God of all mercy,  
who answers the cries of the helpless  
keep us safe in Christ Jesus,  
now and forever.

Go with the God of Hagar and Sarah.

Let us live in the love of God,  
the peace of Christ,  
and the hope of the Spirit.

### POSTLUDE

"III. Allegro Vivacissimo" | *Vlasislav Zolotaryov (1942-1975)*



## 450

## Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true Word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise;  
 4 High King of Heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways;  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!



thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tower;  
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heaven - ward, O Power of my power.  
 High King of Heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## IN WORSHIP

The hymn in response to the sermon, “The God of Sarah Praise,” includes both today’s and last week’s Genesis lessons (Genesis 21: 1-7 and 18: 1-15). Writer David Bjorlin incorporates the story of both Sarah and Hagar and their integral role in God’s covenant. The hymn connects their ancient story to reminders for us today (v. 1 “God leaves us laughing in surprise at death undone”; verse 2 “God’s covenant will be fulfilled by love’s design”; verse 3 “God leads us to a well of hope and meets us there.”) Minnesota native David Bjorlin (born 1984) received the BA in History and Secondary Education, a Master of Divinity, and, in 2018, the PhD in History and Hermeneutics (Liturgical Studies) from Boston University School of Theology. He is currently an Assistant Professor of Worship at North Park Theological Seminary and the Pastor of Worship and Creative Arts at Resurrection Covenant Church in Chicago.

The tune of this morning’s final hymn, No. 454 “Be Thou My Vision,” is an Irish melody with ABCD form – all four lines are different. It is an ancient Irish ballad named for Slane, a hill near Tara, Ireland, associated with St. Patrick’s struggle against the Druid priests. The text, dating from the 8th century, is a prayer for the vision of God throughout life. We acknowledge God to be “my light, my treasure, Ruler of all.”

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## WORSHIP ART

The Worship Art installation for the summer features a mandala created by Pastor Brian Shivers. The artist shares, “The mandala is based on a mosaic floor in a French cathedral. The flowers are lily of the valley. In art, lily of the valley is often used to represent the beauty and tenderness of Christ. This flower, that only blooms for a short time, showers its visual beauty and fragrance to all who pass.” The worship art crew added a border to the mandala and placed it in a square frame so that it could be displayed as a papercut. Wanting to fill more space than one papercut would, seven identical papercuts backed with silk dyed in the seven colors of the rainbow were made. The rainbow holds two main meanings to the PCUSA: it represents the ancient biblical promise of God’s faithfulness and covenant, and it serves as a modern symbol of radical inclusivity.

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## TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Brian Shivers | *Pastor*  
Rev. Karen Herbst-Kim | *Pastor*  
Marko Petričić | *Organ and Bayan*

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# Events and Announcements

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## **Summer Fun: Do Justice | Wednesdays in June | 5:15 - 8:15 pm**

Dig into the concept of Justice this summer with Summer Fun! This free program is open to children aged 3 through 5th grade, with childcare available for volunteers and families. Learn more and register today!



## **Theology on Tap | June 25 | 6:30 - 8:30 pm**

Pull up a chair, grab a beverage, and enjoy some conversation with pastors Karen and Brian on four Thursdays this summer! Please RSVP using the QR code so we have a general count, but feel free to join us even if you don't!



## **Youth Group Lake Day | June 29 | 8:00 am - 5:30 pm**

Youth and their families are invited to join us for a day on the lake at The Roncos! This day is free, and lunch is provided. Learn more about what you need to bring and submit your RSVP today by scanning the QR code.



## **June Mission Team Collection: Pantry Items**

For the month of June, the Mission Team is collecting bottles of water, boxes of Hamburger Helper, canned tuna, Ritz crackers, and GoGo pouches for our partner, IYG! Donations can be made to the brown bin in The Gathering Place.

## **Youth Group x Indiana Diaper Bank | July 20 | 9:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Northminster Youth Group is volunteering at the Indiana Diaper Bank! We'll start at the church, head to the Diaper Bank to volunteer, and then have lunch before coming back. All ages welcome! Use the QR code to register!



## **Back to School Supply Sorting | July 21 | 10:00 am - 5:30 pm**

Join us as we prepare supplies and backpacks for Washington Township students returning next school year! Volunteers are needed to sort, organize, and pack supplies. Sign up through the QR code.



## **Northminster Labyrinth | Open Through Summer**

The Northminster Labyrinth is open for the summer! Located in the Chapel, the Labyrinth will be open during regular building hours and by special arrangement. Please contact Krista Wright for more info.

## **The Ecumenical Yogi Blog and Podcast**

A new episode is now available! Episode six, "Meet Your Fitness Professional with Susan Holewinski," can be found on our website or using the QR code. A new blog post, "Impermanence and Attachment," is also available.



# PERSEVERING Toward WHOLENESS

The 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) convenes June 22-July 2, 2026, with online committee meetings followed by in-person plenaries. While this year's gathering remains hybrid, GA will consider reinstating a fully in-person format, including the return of exhibit halls, beginning in 2028.

Saturday, June 27, will be a **community day of service** and witness in the Milwaukee area. A **mission fair** will be held on that day from 2-5 p.m. in response to calls to bring the exhibit hall back.

The **election for co-moderator** will be held at the end of the assembly, on July 2. The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, co-moderators of GA226, will preside over the GA227 plenaries.

*Eight pastors have announced they will stand for co-moderator:*

- The Rev. Dr. Barbara Barkley will stand with the Rev. Dr. William C. Myers.
- The Rev. Rebecca Luter will stand with the Rev. Chris Peters.
- The Rev. Dr. Frances Lin will stand with the Rev. Dr. Sean Chow.
- The Rev. Dr. Kristopher D. Schondelmeyer will stand with the Rev. Marta Pumroy-Cordero.

## Overtures on unification

The Unification Commission guided the formation of the **Presbyterian Life & Witness** (formerly the Interim Unified Agency), and GA227 will determine whether the current model becomes the denomination's permanent form of shared life.

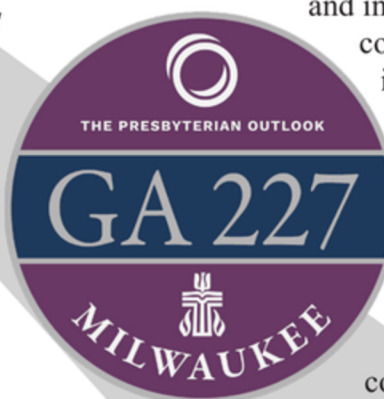
Commissioners will hear the UC's report and vote on the 2027-2028 budget. Overtures recommend a new introduction to the Manual of the General Assembly, the reinstatement of the Office of Theology and Witness, and the reinstatement of the immigration attorney position.

## 24-A and 24-C oversight

Clarification is sought regarding **Amendments 24-A and 24-C**, widely referred to as the Olympia Overture, which added "gender identity" and "sexual orientation" to the categories protected from discrimination in the *Book of Order*. The passage of 24-C requires councils of the church to determine a candidate's commitment to fulfill all requirements outlined in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. GA227 is asked to establish a committee to study 24-C to assess whether its implications impair freedom of conscience.

## Mission co-workers and missiology

Three overtures address interconnected questions following the **closure of World Mission** and the elimination of 54 co-worker positions: whether non-disclosure covenants silenced mission co-workers, whether the process violated the denomination's own policies, and what missiology will guide the PC(USA)'s global engagement going forward. A group of denominational leaders, former mission co-workers, and academics gathered in March to begin drafting a missiological statement to present if RIW-02 passes and directs staff to develop a new formal theology of mission.



## MRTI and fossil fuels

Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) has recommended **divesting from ConocoPhillips and Duke Energy**, citing a lack of meaningful policies and practices regarding greenhouse gas emissions and continued fossil fuel development. The recommendation would place both companies on the denomination's divestment/proscription list, prohibiting further investment until they meet the church's environmental standards. A separate business item (COM-001) would direct MRTI to continue engaging additional Climate Action 100+ companies, with possible further divestment recommendations to be considered by the 228th Assembly. Another item (CLJ-02) goes further, seeking full divestment as soon as 2030.

## LGBT+ advocacy

GEN-02, "On Access to Healthcare," calls on GA to declare that the PC(USA) supports all individuals, including minors, in accessing medically necessary, **evidence-based gender-affirming healthcare**. The overture builds on POL-01 from GA226, which added gender identity and sexual orientation to the denomination's non-discrimination language. The ongoing implementation of the Olympia Overture amendments continues to shape how the denomination approaches inclusion in ordination.

## Israel/Palestine

Commissioners are asked to condemn the **Israeli government's actions** in Gaza as violations of the United Nations Genocide Convention and to call on members of the church to contact Congress and

the president to block U.S. military sales to Israel until Israel complies with international human rights law. The stated clerk, the Office of Public Witness in Washington, D.C., and church members are called upon to urge the U.S. government to enact a trade embargo on Israel until certain humanitarian conditions are met.

## The new confession

A special committee has proposed a **new confession** for the PC(USA) addressing contemporary issues such as racism, intersectionality, colonialism and ecological justice. The four-part document is described as "both a declaration of our faith and a confession of our sins." If GA227 approves the draft, a separate committee would study and potentially amend it before a subsequent assembly votes on its inclusion in the Book of Confessions.

## Christian nationalism

COM-033 recommends that the assembly formally repudiate the ideology and practices of **White Christian nationalism** "in all its forms," distinguishing patriotism from nationalism and arguing that White Christian nationalism is fundamentally about power rather than genuine Christian faith. A companion overture would amend the *Book of Order* to prohibit the denomination from aligning with any theology that privileges a particular faith tradition in civic life.



## Stay informed on updates from GA:

Visit our website: [pres-outlook.org](http://pres-outlook.org) for stories and to **download** *The Presbyterian Outlook's Guide to GA227*

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# NORTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seek, Serve, Embrace | Engaging with neighbors near and far in Christ's love

Christ-Centered | Grounded in the Word | Relevant | Inclusive | Nurturing | Serving

**Brian Shivers**  
Pastor/Head of Staff

**Karen Herbst-Kim**  
Associate Pastor

**John Wright**  
Director of Music Ministries

**Carol McDonald**  
Parish Associate

**Marko Petričić**  
Music Associate/Organist

**Cheryl Plunkett**  
Office Administrator

**Melissa Hopkins**  
Director of Children's Ministry

**Timothy Foster**  
Director of Communications

**Denise Harrington**  
Director of Senior  
Ministries

**Emma Moore**  
Operations Administrator &  
Youth Ministry Coordinator

**Krista Wright**  
Spiritual Wholeness and  
Wellness Coordinator

**Elisabeth Kleinsmith Russ**  
Family Engagement  
Coordinator

**Ynfinity Taylor**  
Bookkeeper

**Steve Williams**  
Finance Administrator

**Shiloh O'Rourke**  
Director of Preschool

**Tim McElroy**  
Lead Custodian

**Jonathan McGee**  
Custodian

**Valerie Boak**  
Custodian

**Salima Lutumika**  
Custodian

**Rod Mail**  
Stephen Ministry Leader

**Tony Dzwonar**  
Stephen Ministry Leader

**Teri Thomas**  
Pastor Emerita

**Donald R. Durrett**  
Associate Pastor Emeritus

## Matthew 25

As a Matthew 25 congregation, we focus on building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty.

## Covenant Network of Presbyterians

As a member of the Covenant Network of Presbyterians, we seek equity for LGBTQIA2S+ people in church and society. We welcome, honor, celebrate, and include all.

## Parenting and Sensory Rooms

Behind the sanctuary in the Narthex are Parenting and Sensory Rooms.

The Parenting Room offers a private space for feeding, changing diapers, and calming children. Toys, games, and books are also available! The Sensory Room provides a quieter, darker space with tools for those with sensory needs. Both rooms have TVs for livestreaming the service via YouTube.

Fidgets and noise-dimming headphones are available outside the Sensory Room.

## Children in Worship

We rejoice in all ages worshipping together! There are red worship bags available with activities as well as a quiet activity table and rocking chairs available on the east side of the sanctuary. We also have nursery care and church school happening simultaneously to worship if that is preferred.

## Prayer Lists

The prayer list is available 24/7 online! Visit [northminster.church/prayer](http://northminster.church/prayer)

## Connect With Us



@Northminsterindy



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