

Welcome to Worship from First Presbyterian Church

We are grateful for your presence and invite you to participate in the worship, service, and program life of First Pres!

- Please visit the church website: www.firstpresevansville.com to stay up-to-date on our ministry and service opportunities.
- Please visit our Facebook page - First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, Indiana. We hope you'll "like" us!

THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY

WE GATHER TO CELEBRATE NEW LIFE

**Let those who are able stand at this sign.*

THE PRELUDE

[8:30 LITURGISTS: PLEASE LIGHT CANDLES; 10:30: LIGHT CANDLES IF NO ACOLYTE PRESENT]

“The Servant Song”

R. Gilliard

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

THE CALL TO WORSHIP — JOHN AND BECKY *[READ “ONE” AND “ALL” PARTS AT EQUAL VOLUME]*

Gathered together as God’s people to celebrate and worship our God,
I invite you to join me in the call to worship:

- One Rise up in heart and mind to bless God’s holy name.
Open your arms and your souls to receive the covenant.
- All We are here to praise God and to receive mercy.**
We have come in response to God’s steadfast love.
- One God welcomes you and offers renewal.
Compassion and competence are God’s gifts to you.
- All God is merciful, gracious, and slow to anger.**
God protects us and allows us to lie down in safety.
- One God calls you to use your gifts for the sake of justice.
God seeks to equip you here to make a difference.
- All God raises us up as followers of Christ.**
God equips us as ministers of the new covenant.

THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

“I Will Serve Thee”

Gloria and Bill Gaither

*I will serve Thee because I love Thee, You have given life to me;
I was nothing before You found me, You have given life to me.
Heartaches, broken pieces, ruined lives are why You died on Calvary;
Your touch was what I longed for, You have given life to me.*

THE CALL TO CONFESSION — JOHN AND BECKY

Friends in Christ, God knows our needs before we ask,
and in our asking prepares us to receive the gift of grace.
I invite you to stand, if that is comfortable for you,
and let us, together, open our lives to God's healing presence:

***THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(in unison)* — JOHN AND BECKY**

**Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.
We have failed to be an obedient church.
We have not done your will,
we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love.
We have not loved our neighbors, and we have refused to hear the cry of the needy.
Forgive us, we pray.
Free us for joyful obedience; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

***THE SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION [WAIT 30-60 SECONDS BEFORE PROCEEDING]**

***THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS — JOHN AND BECKY**

Happy are those who trust in God, who sincerely and truthfully seek to serve where God needs. The Good news is this: God redeems us and lifts our spirits. Forgiven and freed, may we serve boldly as ambassadors for the living God.

THE WORDS OF WELCOME — JOHN AND BECKY

The Greetings Among the People of God
[INVITE ALL TO SIT AND INTRODUCE YOURSELF (NAME, ROLE AT FPC)
AND GUEST PREACHER]

The Concerns of the Church
[FROM LAST PAGE: esp. ELDER OF WEEK, YOUTH PROGRAMS, AND BLESSING OF ANIMALS]

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING — JOHN AND BECKY

As our worship leads us into hearing the good news of new life, let us pray that God the Holy Spirit will open our eyes and ears, our hearts and minds, to receive the fullness of the word:

God our helper, by your Holy Spirit, open our minds, that as the scriptures are read and your word is proclaimed, we may be led into your truth and taught your will, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please join me in reciting our first lesson for today, a responsive reading of Psalm 19:

- One The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows forth the work of God's hands.
- All One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**
- One Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,
All their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.
- One In the deep has God set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- All It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**
- One The law of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.
- All The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**
- One The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- All More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**
- One By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.
- All Can people tell how often they offend? cleanse me from my secret faults.**
- One Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.
- All Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

"Make Me a Servant"

Kelly Willard

*Make me a servant, humble and meek; Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be: make me a servant today.*

THE SECOND LESSON — REV KAREN FRASER MOORE

John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

THE SERMON

the Rev. Karen Fraser Moore

"The Miracle Workers"

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE [WAIT 30-60 SECONDS BEFORE PROCEEDING]

***THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *(in unison)* — **JOHN AND BECKY**

As disciples of Jesus Christ, I invite you to stand if that is comfortable for you,
and affirm our faith and trust in him:

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba Father.

**In sovereign love God created the world good
and makes everyone equally in God's image,
male and female, of every race and people,
to live as one community.**

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

**Ignoring God's commandments,
we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,
accept lies as truth,
exploit neighbor and nature,
and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.**

We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

**In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.**

Hearing their cry,

God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.

**Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still.**

- from *A Brief Statement of Faith* Presbyterian Church (USA)

THE MORNING OFFERING — JOHN AND BECKY

You may place your offering in the plate as you exit after worship, or give online at <http://firstpresevansville.com/giving/>

Please be seated.

In many churches, pastors exhort their people to "give until it hurts." All we have found is that Presbyterians have a "very low pain threshold." It is our hope that we will give until it feels "good." What we provide each week enables First Pres to be a giving, godly force in our community and our world. We are grateful for your faithfulness and generosity. *[PAUSE]*

Holy One, your heart abounds with gifts.

Receive our offerings as signs of our intention to live
surrounded by your mercy,
inspired by your Spirit,
open to the joy of your presence,
hospitable to one another,
and generous to your world. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — REV KAREN FRASER MOORE

The Sharing of Joys and Concerns

[ASK FOR PRAYER REQUESTS FROM CONGREGATION –

A LIST OF ONLINE REQUESTS WILL BE HANDED TO YOU DURING THIS TIME]

The Spoken Prayers

The Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer (*in unison*)

**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.**

WE DISPERSE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE MUSIC FOR DISPERSING

O Jesus, I Have Promised”

*O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend;
I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.*

*O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
My foes are ever near me, around me and within; But Jesus, draw Thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.*

*O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; O speak, and make me listen, thou guardian of my soul.*

*O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee that where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be;
And, Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Master and my friend.*

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION — REV KAREN FRASER MOORE

THE MUSIC FOR DEPARTING

“Since Jesus Came Into My Heart” (8:30 a.m.)

C. Gabriel

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought since Jesus came into my heart!

I have light in my soul for which long I have sought, since Jesus came into my heart!

Since Jesus came into my heart, floods of joy o'er my soul like seal billows roll, since Jesus came into my heart!

“Trumpet Voluntary” (10:30 a.m.)

F. Linley

Leading worship this morning:

Guest Preacher	the Rev. Karen Fraser Moore
Liturgist	John Strange(8:30), Becky Sparks-Thissen (10:30)
Director of Music	Robert Nicholls

We are happy to welcome the Rev. Karen Fraser Moore to First Pres. Karen is a trained Transitional Pastoral Specialist ordained by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in 1983. She holds Qualified Ordained Ministerial Partner standing in the United Church of Christ. She has been in professional ministry since 1977 and has served in a variety of positions (including Senior Pastor, Co-Pastor, Associate Pastor, Educational Associate, Children's Pastor, Minister of Spiritual Discernment, Transitional Director of Children and Youth Ministries, Designated Term Pastor and Intentional Interim/Transitional Pastor) in Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana. Karen is a Certified Christian Life Coach (through Coach Approach Ministries) and the Founder of “Prayer-Full Partnerships.” She coaches pastors and other leaders through organizational transitions. She is married to the Rev. Paul S. Fraser, who serves as Pastor of Zion United Church of Christ in Elberfeld, IN. Between them, Karen and Paul have six adult children and nine grandchildren.

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Education

Fall programming for children and youth at First Presbyterian church began August 30 with First Light Youth Group and will be followed by Presbyterian Youth Explosion on September 10. This year's programming will be a mix of on-line gatherings and a few small outdoor gatherings. A comprehensive calendar for all of our children and youth programs will be available in *First Web*. Look for emails, snail mail, and social media posts announcing details for your student's group. We are excited to welcome your children and youth under these unique circumstances. If you have any questions, please contact Jerusha by email at jerusha@firstpresevansville.com or you may call and text Jerusha at 812-774-7402.

The **Bible Bunch continues to gather each Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.** for fellowship and a Sunday School lesson **via Zoom**. The group welcomes visitors and potential new members to the class. If you'd like to give it a try, send a note with your email address to Jean Beckman (jb37@evansville.edu) and she will add you to the weekly mailing list. NOTE: Asking to be put on the list does not require you to attend; attending once does not require you to attend again. The summer theme is *Wisdom*, and beginning on August 2 the lessons will come from the book of *James*.

Worship

Even in this not-so-ordinary season, there are things that we can't miss! On **Sunday, September 27**, we will celebrate our annual **Blessing of the Animals** service. Your feathered, scaled, or furry friends (or pictures of) are invited to join us - in person or online. Former First Pres Pastor Wendy McCormick will be here to lead worship on this special day.

Weekly Offerings

We continue to offer thirty minutes of **music on Thursdays at 12:00 p.m.** Robert and occasional guests will use the various instruments in the sanctuary to provide you with music at the midday.

Each week of Kevin's sabbatical, an Elder from Session is "on call." The **Elder of the Week** is available to respond to those with special needs, and may be reached directly or by calling the church office. This week's Elder is **Michael Thissen**.

An important part of **Kevin's sabbatical** is a complete leave taking from the rigors and responsibilities of serving our congregation. While he is away, please help him accomplish this! If you find yourself wondering "what's Kevin up to," check out his personal Facebook page (facebook.com/kevin.s.fleming) where he will share photographs and video blogs or the September/October issue of *First Reports*.

Next week's **daily reading schedule** includes:

Sunday, September 13	Psalm 81	Thursday, September 17	Matthew 5:1-10
Monday, September 14	Matthew 4:1-11	Friday, September 18	Matthew 5:11-16
Tuesday, September 15	Matthew 4:12-17	Saturday, September 19	Matthew 5:17-20
Wednesday, September 16	Matthew 4:18-25		

Join us in person or online **next Sunday, September 20**, when we welcome Cindy Bernardin to lead us in worship.