

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

THE PRELUDE

"Sanctuary"

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true. With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

J. Thompson/R. Scruggs

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

One Just when life seems mundane and routine,
 All **God steps in and changes everything.**
 One Just when we accept things as inevitable,
 All **God breaks in with a grand surprise.**
 One Who knows what the next hour will bring?
 All **God knows and God will catch us unawares.**

THE MUSIC FOR GATHERING

"Gather Us In"

M. Haugen

*Here in this place new light is streaming, now is the darkness vanished away.
 See in this space our fears and our dreaming brought here to You in the light of this day.
 Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in, the blind and the lame;
 Call to us now and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of our name.
 We are the young, our lives our a mystery. We are the old who yearn for your face.
 We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.
 Gather us in, the rich and the haughty; gather us in, the proud and the strong.
 Give us a heart, so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.
 Here we will take the wine and the water, here we will take the bread of new birth.
 Here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.
 Give us to drink the wine of compassion; give us to eat the bread that is You;
 Nourish us well and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.
 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in some heaven, light years away;
 Here in this place the new light is shining; now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
 Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own;
 Gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.*

THE CALL TO CONFESSION

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

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

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Greetings Among the People of God
The Concerns of the Church

WE HEAR THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

THE FIRST LESSON

Psalm 103:1-5

One Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.
All Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits -
One who forgives all your iniquity,
who heals all your diseases,
All who redeems your life from the Pit,
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
One who satisfies you with good as long as you live
All so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC

“Be Thou My Vision”

Slane

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise; thou, mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, first in my heart, High King of Heaven, my treasure thou art.
High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, “O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the LORD said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the LORD said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

THE SERMON

the Rev. Molly DeWitt

“Longing for God”

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF NEW LIFE

A TIME OF INTENTIONAL SILENCE

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *(in unison)*

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

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

THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Invitation to the Table
The Prayer of Thanksgiving
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.

The Words of Institution
The Communion of the People of God
The Prayer After Communion *(in unison)*

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life.
May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you in each other.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord. Amen.

WE DISPERSE TO SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF NEW LIFE

THE MUSIC FOR DISPERSING

"Schmücke dich, o liebe Seele"

J. Brahms

*Soul, adorn yourself with gladness; leave the gloomy haunts of sadness.
Come into the daylight's splendor; there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heavenly, high, and holy, deigns to dwell with you most lowly.*

THE CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

THE MUSIC FOR DEPARTING

"Seek Ye First" (8:30 a.m.)

Lafferty

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. Alleluia!
Improvisation (10:30 a.m.)

Leading worship this morning:

Guest Preacher the Rev. Molly DeWitt
Liturgist John Strange (8:30), Michael Thissen (10:30)
Director of Music Robert Nicholls

We are pleased to welcome the Rev. Molly De Witt to lead our worship today. Molly began serving at Pyoca Camp and Retreat Center as the seminary intern in 2015 and came on full time as Program Director in early 2018. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public History from Ball State University ('13) and a Master of Divinity degree from Christian Theological Seminary ('18). Molly is ordained to her work at Pyoca, which is her first official call. Molly loves teaching campers about God and Creation care. In her spare time you'll find her working in the camp garden.

Happening at First Presbyterian Church

Service

Did you know that **SWIRCA**, a local public service organization that works to empower seniors and people with disabilities, **has a small food pantry**? And that its shelves are a bit bare? If **you can share** microwavable meals, canned goods, soups, vegetables, fruit, canned meat (tuna/chicken), spaghetti sauce, beans, canned juices, instant potatoes, rice, instant oatmeal, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, dried fruit, granola bars, powdered milk, and hand sanitizer, **drop off items at the Baker Street** entrance between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and call 812-464-7800 to let SWIRCA know it's there.

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@firstpresevanville.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*.

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 6	Psalm 117	Thursday, September 10	Matthew 2:13-23
Monday, September 7	Mark 15:40-47	Friday, September 11	Matthew 3:1-12
Tuesday, September 8	Mark 16:1-20	Saturday, September 12	Matthew 3:13-17
Wednesday, September 9	Matthew 2:1-12		

Join us in person or online **next Sunday, September 13**, when we welcome the Rev. Karen Fraser Moore to lead us in worship.