



**First Presbyterian Church
August 23, 2026**

Mission Statement

As an inclusive community empowered by God's transforming love, we welcome all people through worship, compassionate service, care, and advocacy.

Proper 16

"Proper" Sundays refer to specific Sundays within the liturgical year, particularly those after Pentecost.

9:30 am

August 23, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

Congregational readings are in **bold** type.

+ indicates all are invited to stand.

Ringling of the Bell

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Passing of the Peace

The Peace of the Risen Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Prelude

“Vocalise”

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Public Domain

Carol Corbeels (cello) and Ellie Hartline (piano)

+ Call to Worship

Glinda Ellison

We gather to worship God,

Who made heaven and earth.

We gather to worship God,

Whom we find in surprising places.

We gather to worship God,

Who cares for all of creation.

We gather to worship God,

Who transforms and renews us through grace.

Let us worship our Holy God together!

+ Hymn 339

“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LIFT EVERY VOICE

Text: James Weldon Johnson. Music: J. Rosamond Johnson. Public Domain.

Prayer of Confession

God, you are loving and just.

**Forgive us when we do not care for all of creation
and when we do not care for one another.**

**Guide us when things are unfair
so we can learn what your justice means
and share your love on earth.**

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

Hear the Good news! God’s mercy frees us to act with courage and compassion. In Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Response Hymn 184

“Calm to the Waves”

CALM SEAS

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PROCLAIMING THE WORD

First Scripture Reading

Romans 12:4-8 (*The Message*)

+ Gospel Reading

Matthew 16:13-20

Time with Children

Jen Riddle

(Children under 5 may go to the nursery. Children K-6th are to go to the Rainbow Room.)

Sermon

“Body of Christ?”

Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+Hymn 737

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

LES PETITES SOEURS

Text & Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus and L’Arche Community © 1970 Les Petites Soeurs de Jesus, admin. Augsburg Fortress. English trans. Stephen Somerville

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Verse 1 solo - Jenny Heichelbech

Verses 2-4 - Congregation

Offertory

“For Everyone Born”

Lyrics: Shirley Erena Murray, Music: Brian Mann, arr. Tom Trenney

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Jenny Heichelbech (vocalist), Carol Corbeels (cello), Ellie Hartline (piano)

+ Doxology 609

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LASST UNS ERDREUEN

Text: Brian Wren © 1998 Hope Publishing Co. Music: Public Domain, harm.

Hal H. Hopson © 1998 Hope Publishing Co.

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Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia! (5x)

+ Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (pg. 35 in Hymnal)

(You may start the prayer with “Our Father”, “Mother”, “Creator”, “Holy One” as the Spirit leads you.)

GOING IN GOD’S NAME

+ Hymn 322

“We are One in Christ Jesus”

SOMOS UNO

Text: Anon; English trans. Alice Parker © 1996 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company).

Music: Anon; arr. Philip W. Blycker © 1992 Celebremos/Libros Alianza. Podcast/streamed with permission through One License #A-728197. All Rights Reserved.

Sing twice

Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Postlude on “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

arr. John G. Barr

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On Sunday, August 30 in the Laws Room after worship, we will learn about the terrible conditions for ICE detainees in Indiana and Kentucky. Pastor Felipe will lead the class and we will hear and read their first-hand accounts. We will then write letters of support to detainees, and advocacy letters to our elected representatives to demand the closing of these facilities in the state.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship! We are glad you are here and we are worshipping together. Please ask ushers for information about our nursery, large-print bulletins, hearing-aid assists, or current newsletters. Please sign the *Friendship Registration* pads and share your contact information, especially if you are worshipping here for the first time.

We strive toward the use of **inclusive language** in our church as it pertains to people and to God.

Restrooms are located in the Loggia/Franklin St. glass door entrance, Laws Room across from the kitchen (all-gender, handicap-accessible restroom), and the balcony of the Laws Room. **Wheelchairs** are available, please ask an usher if you need one.

We live stream our services. If you prefer not to appear in the streaming, please sit in the back six pews. Time with Children on the steps will not be streamed with video to protect the identity of the children.

THANK YOU to the liturgist, Glinda Ellison, Carol Corbeels (cello) and Ellie Hartline (piano).

Patio Parties Plus

Sunday, September 13, 4PM Danny and Sarah Sanders are hosting a pitch in at their river house near Madison, Indiana. Call office for details. Burgers and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share and possibly lawn chairs.



Sunday, September 20, 2PM Dale Nowlin and Eric Riddle will lead a hike at the Hitz-Rhodehamel Nature Preserve in Brown County. It is a 3-mile loop with beautiful woods and ravines. We will meet at church at 2:00 and carpool. We will bring food to share or stop for a meal in Nashville on the way back to Columbus. Rain date, September 27.

RSVP denowlin@gmail.com.

To see the complete list go to <https://tinyurl.com/2pw7ua5e> or use this QR code.





FOR THE WEEK AHEAD



MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SUNDAY
Shortened Office Hours 9 am - 3 pm 7:00 pm - Worship Committee meeting	Shortened Office Hours 2-4 pm 11:00 am - Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Livin' by Faith practice	Shortened Office Hours 9 am - 3 pm 6:00 pm Mission Support	7:00 pm - Sanctuary Choir Practice - Choir Room	7:30 am - Men's Group 9:00 am - Women's Group 10:30 am - Centering Prayer 4:00 pm - Hot Meals	9:30 am - Worship Service 10:45 am - Adult Fellowship and Education Coffee Hour 1:00 pm - Mega Youth Group 5:00 pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal

Open and Affirming Committee News



Everyone is welcome to come to learn more about the Open and Affirming Committee and be part of an open, thoughtful conversation about where we are headed next.

Our next meeting is **TODAY! August 23 at 11am** after service in the **Reeves Room (2nd Floor)**

Open & Affirming Committee Zoom Conversation

The Open & Affirming Committee is inviting members and friends of the congregation to participate in a special Zoom conversation **with Rev. Claudia Aguilar R. (She/Her/Hers), Director of Engagement for More Light Presbyterians on Tuesday August 25th at noon**. Anyone interested in participating should contact Jose Lopez at josegerardolopez1979@gmail.com

Volunteers for Columbus IN Pride

We are seeking volunteers to help set up, staff, and tear down our booth. Anyone interested in participating please contact Jose Lopez



August *Kid's Church Schedule*

2	INTERGEN SERVICE Nursery only
9	BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICE All Kids Class & Worship Arts
16	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class & Worship Arts
23	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class & Worship Arts
30	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class & Worship Arts

Meals for Youth Group

Are you someone who loves to cook for others? Do you want to contribute in a meaningful way to our youth, but don't feel equipped to work with them directly? Make us dinner! We are looking for some willing folks to **make dinner for Youth Meetings** this semester to ease the burden for our youth leaders. Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/YouthMeals2627> or through the QR code.

Kid's Church is BACK!

We are back to our regularly scheduled programming! Kiddos pre-K and younger are welcome in the nursery each week.

Following the Time with Children, elementary-aged kids are invited to follow teachers to Kid's Church for **Godly Play**. It's a Montessori-style way for kids to learn about stories from the Bible and their faith. This week's story is about Creation. This week, **Worship Arts** will meet following Kid's Church until 11:00am.

Please pick up your kids in the Rainbow Room following Kid's Church programming each week.

That way you can meet the teachers and see what they're learning. Don't forget to fill out a **new Safety Form for the 2026-2027 school year!**



Even if it's not your gift to be a youth volunteer, you can still help us!

Help us feed our hungry FPC teens for weekly youth group meetings.

REGISTER ONLINE AT :

<https://tinyurl.com/YouthMeals2627>



MORE INFO
jriddle@fpcolumbus.org



Sunday's Schedule for Children and Youth

Pre-K and Younger:

Parents: Each child needs a registration form for the 2025-2026 school year.

Please accompany your child to the Nursery and fill out a form before leaving them in our care. When picking up your children, please be sure to sign them out.

Thank you!

9:15-10:30am The Nursery is open all morning for our youngest in the family. Parents are welcome to drop off kids beginning at 9:15am, or keep them with you during worship, where we welcome the presence and sounds of children.

10:30-10:45am Joyful Noise in the Nursery.

10:45am Childcare continues in the Gym. Please sign children out before leaving.

Children (Kindergarten-6th Grade):

Parents: Each child needs a registration form for the 2026-2027 school year.

Forms are available from volunteers as you sign your child out, in the gym, on the bulletin board between the kitchen and church office, and on the church website. Thank you!

9:30am Worship in the Sanctuary with family and friends. Worship Bags with activities and toys are located by the Franklin Street entrances to the sanctuary.

9:45-10:45am After the "Time with Children" in worship, dismiss to Kids' Church. Kindergarten-6th Grade will be in Rainbow Room Classroom 1 for the All Kids Godly Play class.

10:45-11:00am Worship Arts in the Rainbow Room.

All K-6 children must be signed out from the Rainbow Room. Please sign them out promptly at the end of the service or after they finish Worship Arts. Thank you!

Youth (Grades 7-12):

9:30-10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary with family and friends

4:30-6:15pm OWL at FPC

6:30-8:30pm Youth Group in the Teen Dungeon

Scan the QR code to learn more about children and worship.





FPC Kids and FPC Youth Communication

Looking to keep up with important announcements for Kids and Youth Ministry? Join our GroupMe chats!

For families with kids, birth-6th grade:

<https://tinyurl.com/GMFPCKids>

For families with youth, 7th-12th grade:

<https://tinyurl.com/GMFPCYouth>

RSVP Needed for Mega Youth Group Road Rally

We're getting together with our MEGA Youth Group progressive congregation partners for a hilarious photo/video scavenger hunt! **RSVP REQUIRED BY SUNDAY, AUGUST 23** for teens and their friends—friends are welcome! Safety Forms for this new school year are required for teens and friends. After the fun of the hunt, we will celebrate with a deluxe sundae bar! Email Sunny Currier to RSVP: sunny.currier@gmail.com.



Check us out on the web at www.fpccolumbus.org Join our Facebook groups by going to “First Presbyterian Church Columbus Indiana” and “First Pres Columbus Prayer Page” (click on the button that says “Join group”).



You can now find us on Instagram at [first.pres.columbus.in](https://www.instagram.com/first.pres.columbus.in)

Church WiFi: FPC Guest, Password Guest123

Donate to FPC now
<http://bit.ly/4083lQw>

Ministers: The congregation of First Presbyterian Church

Staff:

Felipe Martinez, Pastor and Head of Staff felipem@fpccolumbus.org. Phone extension 223.

April Hemmerlein, FPC Preschool Director aprilh@fpccolumbus.org. Phone extension 231.

Jen Riddle, Director of Children, Youth and Young Adults Ministries. jriddle@fpccolumbus.org Phone extension 224.

Jordan Lewis, Organist jordanl@fpccolumbus.org. Phone extension 225.

Jenny Heichelbech, Choir Director jennyh@fpccolumbus.org. Phone extension 225.

Brook Brown, Church Administrative Assistant brookb@fpccolumbus.org. Phone extension 221.

Leigh Ann Figg, Interim Financial Assistant mburton@fpccolumbus.org. Phone extension 222.

Ellie Hartline, Sanctuary Choir Collaborative Pianist, (308) 765-2812

OFFICE HOURS are typically Monday & Wednesday - Friday **9:00 am - 5 pm** and Tuesday **9:00 am - 3 pm**, with the office closed from noon until 1 pm for lunch.

Want to sign up for the eblast? Email Brook Brown at brookb@fpccolumbus.org!

Want to privately speak with someone about your pledge? Email our Treasurer at promise@fpccolumbus.org.

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