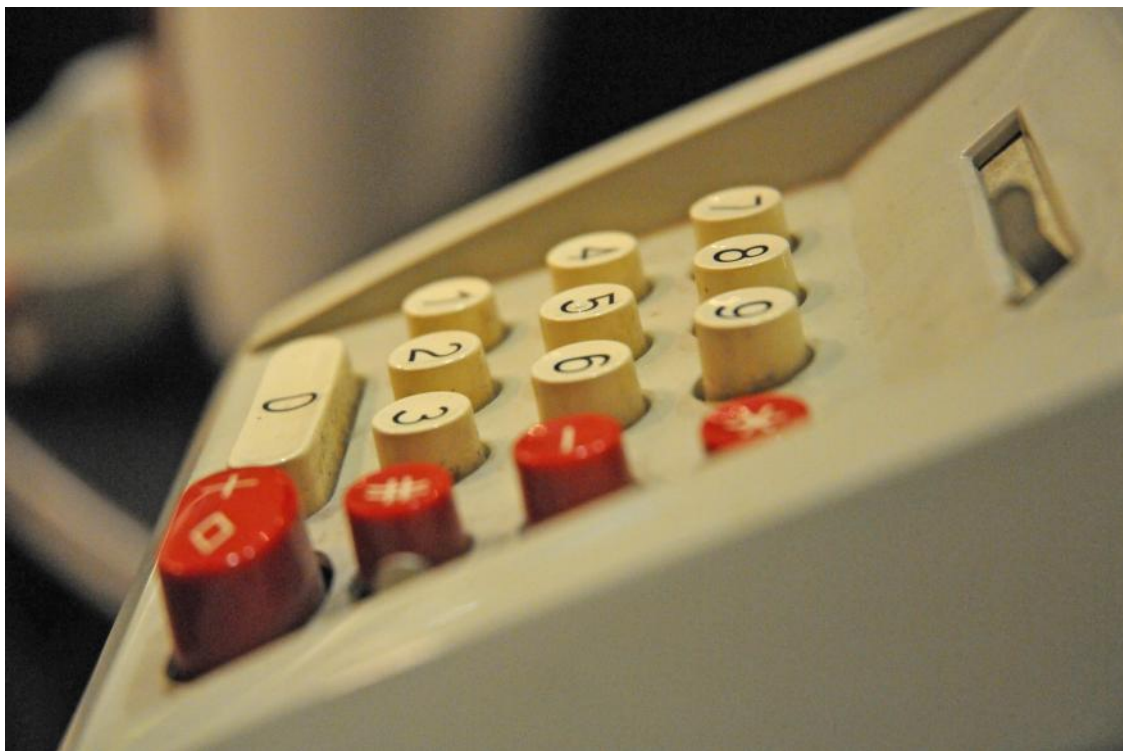




**First Presbyterian Church
September 13, 2026**

Mission Statement

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

Proper 19

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

9:30 am

September 13, 2026

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

The gathered community is invited to join in speaking the **bolded** responsive text.

+ indicates when to rise in body, in spirit, or in lifted hands

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

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

arr. Mitchell Eithun

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Bell Choir

+ Call to Worship

Izzie Nowlin

We rejoice together today.

We are in God’s house.

We rejoice together today.

We are united in God’s love.

We rejoice together today.

We sing God’s song of justice.

Let us worship together.

+ Hymn 436

“God of Compassion, in Mercy Befriend Us”

O QUANTA QUALIA

Text: John J. Moment. Music: Paris *Antiphoner*. Public Domain.

Prayer of Confession

**God of grace,
you are always helping us to grow through the Holy Spirit.
Sometimes we think we can grow all on our own.
Sometimes we think that growth looks like power
rather than love.
Forgive us.
Strengthen our faith
so that we are more loving, more kind, and more just,
in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

Silent Prayer

Words of Assurance

God is the soil for our growth, and God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of love.

In Christ, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

Response Hymn 183 (verse 4) “Come to Me, O Weary Traveler” AUSTIN
Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. Music: William P. Rowan © 1993 Selah
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Reserved.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

First Scripture Reading Romans 14:1-12

+ Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35

Time with Children *Jen Riddle*
(Children under 5 may go to the nursery. Children K-6th are to go to the Rainbow Room.)

“Take This Light”

Mark Patterson

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***Take this light into all the world,
Light that welcomes one and all.
Take God’s love into all the world
As you live, as you learn,
let’s share God’s gift of love.***

Sermon

“The Math of Forgiveness” Rev. Dr. Felipe Martinez

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

+Hymn 432

“How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord”

REPTON

Text: Fred Pratt Green © 1982 Hope Publishing Company. Podcast/streamed with permission through One License #A-728197. All Rights Reserved. Music: C. Hubert H. Parry. Public Domain.

Moment for Mission

Stewardship and Finance

Rich Stenner

Offertory

“Bell Prayer”

A. Steven Taranto

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Bell Choir

+ 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

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

GOING IN GOD’S NAME

+ Hymn 435 “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy” IN BABILONE
Text: Frederick Wiliam Faber. Music: Dutch melody, arr. Julius Röntgen. Public Domain.

Charge and Benediction

Postlude “Whate’er My God Ordains is Right” Johann Pachelbel
Public Domain.



FOR THE WEEK AHEAD

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SUNDAY
4:00 pm - Worship Planning	6:30 pm - Armory Birthday Party 7:00 pm - Livin by Faith practice	7:00 pm - Session meeting	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 5:30 pm - Friday Game Night	9:30 am - Worship Service 10:45 am - AFE Coffee Hour 2:00 pm - Patio Party (see bulletin) 4:30 pm - OWL 5:00 pm - Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm - Youth Group

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, Izzie Nowlin, and the Bell Choir.

AfE Class

We are having a conversation about the book “Queer and Christian” starting today. We will gather in the Laws Room after worship. Books are still available; it is not required to have read it.

Support the World Communion Offering

The World Communion Offering, previously called the Peace and Global Witness Offering, will be received at FPC through October 4th, World Communion Sunday. The World Communion Offering cultivates reconciliation by supporting racial and gender justice, peacemaking efforts, and global witness, and by nurturing the ecumenical and interfaith relations of the Presbyterian Church.

The need for reconciliation of all peoples is greater now than ever before. Please give generously. Offering envelopes are in the pews, or you can send a check marked World Communion Sunday to the church office.

Sunday's Schedule for Children and Youth

Pre-K and Younger:

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

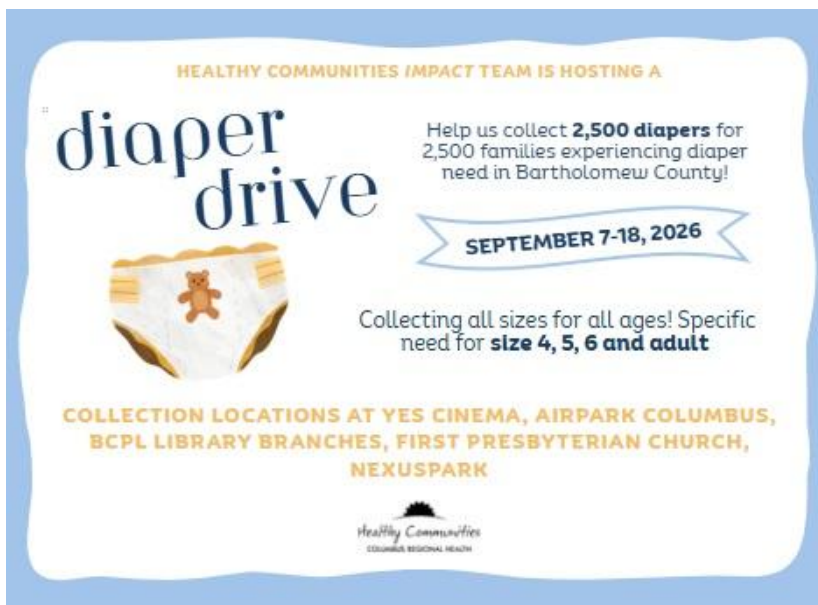
All K-6 children must be signed out from the Rainbow Room. Please sign them out promptly at the end of the service or after they finish Worship Arts. Thank you!

Youth (Grades 7-12):

- 9:30-10:30am Worship in the Sanctuary with family and friends
- 4:30-6:15pm OWL class at UUCCI
- 6:30-8:30pm Youth Group in the Teen Dungeon

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





Nominating Committee Note

The church's Nominating Committee is beginning its work to identify potential replacements for officers completing their terms as Deacons and Elders.

Here's a brief description of the role of Deacon: It is the duty of Deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. Working with the session, they have other duties including the ministry of hospitality.

For the role of Elder/Session member: Together with the pastor, they watch over the people in worship, nurture, and service. Share in government and discipline of the church, serving in councils and in the Session (our church board). Model the love and justice of Jesus Christ in ministry. Participate in discernment of God's will for the congregation and in safeguarding its faith and life.

If God is nudging you to consider one of these roles because they sound like they fit your skills and interests, and feel like a way in which you can participate more fully in the life of the congregation, please get in touch with a member of the Nominating Committee: Chip Orben, Leah Jackman-Wheitner, Brook Brown, Diana Holloway, Stephanie Cunningham or Chair Warren Ward.

We especially encourage those who regularly worship online to consider becoming a member of one of the boards. Whether worshiping online or on site, we are all the heart of this congregation! You must be a member to serve.



GROUNDING RESISTANCE

Join Faith in Place for the 2026

**Annual Environment
& Spirituality Summit**

Featuring Keynote Speaker
Bill McKibben

**First Presbyterian Church
Pitch-in Dinner and Watch Party:
Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM**



Scan the QR code or
go to our website to
register:

www.aes-summit.org

Contact: Eric Riddle 812.344.0185 | eric@faithinplace.org

Patio Parties Plus

TODAY, September 13, 4PM - Danny and Sarah Sanders are hosting a pitch in at their river house near Madison, Indiana. Burgers and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share and possibly lawn chairs. 233 Ashland Cove, Vevay, IN
Contact Sarah for directions (812)447-2503



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. You will have three options. Option 1 is hiking the whole 3-mile loop with 500 feet of total elevation gain. Option 2 is part of the loop and a shortcut back to the trailhead. It is a 2-mile hike with 300 feet of total elevation gain. Option 3 is to sit in a chair at the trailhead and enjoy great views and great conversation with zero feet of elevation gain. We will meet at Westhill Shopping Center parking lot at 2:00 and carpool. All participants are invited to meet for a meal in Nashville after the hike. Rain date, September 27. RSVP denowlin@gmail.com or 812-371-8403.



September

Kid's Church Schedule

6	INTERGEN SERVICE Nursery Only
13	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class & Worship Arts
20	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class & Worship Arts
27	REGULAR SERVICE All Kids Class & Worship Arts

Join us for Kids Church this week!

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 the Ark & Flood. This week, **Worship Arts** will meet following Kid's Church until 11:00am.

Please pick up your kids in the Rainbow Room following Godly Play & Worship Arts 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!**

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.



FPC YOUTH

MEAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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@fpccolumbus.org



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>

September FPC Youth Events

SATURDAY	SEPT 12	12:00-5:00 Teen Tent @ Pride
SUNDAY	SEPT 13	4:30-6:15 OWL @ UUCI 6:30-8:30 Youth Group
FRIDAY	SEPT 18	4:00-5:30 Hot Meals Serving
SUNDAY	SEPT 20	4:30-6:15 OWL @ FPC 6:30-8:30 Youth Group
SUNDAY	SEPT 27	4:30-6:15 OWL @ UUCI 6:30-8:30 Youth Group

A circular inset image showing a close-up of several ripe red apples hanging from a tree with green leaves. One apple has a small white tag attached to it with the text "Open to all students in 7th-12th grade!" written on it.

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.

Cover: The math of forgiveness. Felipe Martinez. Used by permission.

Sources: Liturgy from Child of Blessing by the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. Used by permission.

All scripture readings are New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition, unless otherwise noted.



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