

✚Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People

The Lord’s Prayer (pg. 35; *in the language and wording most familiar to you.*)

We Go Out In God’s Name

*Having gathered together in God’s name and been fed by God’s Holy Word,
we go out in God’s name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.*

Connecting with our Community

✚Hymn for Commitment #684 *Faith Begins by Letting Go*

✚Charge and Benediction

...We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

✚Congregational Sung Benediction #742 *We Will Walk With God* (repeat)

✚Postlude

✚Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

Service Material References ~ Adapted from Liturgy of Creation

●**We are glad you’re here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church).

●Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.

●**Large print bulletins** are available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.

●With our return to the sanctuary, we have access to our hearing assistant loop. This technology allows people with hearing aids equipped with **T-Coil technology** to hear the service through their hearing aids. If you know you have T-coil technology, plan to turn on the T-coil via your phone each Sunday morning. You may have to ask your audiologist if you have this technology and how to turn it on. Let Pastor Beth know about your experience.

●**Jeannie Snoeyink** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist, contact **Carol Miles**.

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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

August 24, 2025

11th Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

Welcome to worship!

When you enter the worship space, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you.

*We invite you to share your contact info in the Friendship Pad when passed,
then to stay after the service for coffee and fellowship.*

*Mingle with other friends and guests and learn more about this congregation’s ministry. **Welcome home!***

We Gather Together In God’s Holy Name

God calls us together as “children.” How wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour on Tower Bell

Greetings & Welcome/Act of Friendship & Prayer Concerns

Please pass the Friendship Pad, noting with whom you are sitting, and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pads.

✠**Call to Worship** (✠Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

Come to hear the Word.

Come to do the Word.

Come to experience Comfort.

Come to experience Challenge.

Come to find Cost.

Come to find Joy.

Come to find Humanity.

Come to find Community.

Come to find Church.

Come to find God.

✠**Opening Prayer**

✠**Hymn of Praise #399** *God Welcomes All*

Call to Confession *(Congregation may be seated.)*

If we say we are completely put together, the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our distractions, our errors, and our anxieties, God will meet us and
renew us.**

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power.

**We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the
cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities.**

**Help us to see your great generosity, hear your word of mercy, and feel your great love
for all who need your redemptive grace.**

**Strengthen us to reach out in service to those who are in need. Make us aware of those
outside our own communities, that we may see them as your precious children
and serve them in humility and joy.**

May we continue to grow in grace as we learn how to serve you in the name of the great Servant,
Jesus Christ. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

We Gather Around God’s Holy Word

*At the center of Christian life and worship is God’s Word incarnate in Christ and God’s Word as
recorded in scripture. We hear the story of God’s love in scripture and sacrament and we say, “Thanks be to God!”*

Word with Children

Prayer for Illumination #701 *Lord, Prepare Me*

Scripture in French *James 2:1-4*

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced “glow-ah ah dew”)

Scripture in English *Genesis 1:27*

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God!**

Message *Perception, Not Reality*

Beth Wagner

✠**Hymn for Reflection #315** *In the Midst of New Dimensions*

We Respond to God’s Word

*As God invites us to be disciples of his Son, we prayerfully respond to God
with affirmations of faith and acts of self-giving, commitment, and thanksgiving.*

✠**An Affirmation of Faith** *The Confession of 1967*

**The new life finds its direction in the life of Jesus, his deeds and words, his struggles
against temptation, his compassion, his anger, and his willingness to suffer death. The
teaching of apostles and prophets guides men in living this life, and the Christian
community nurtures and equips them for their ministries. The members of the church
are emissaries of peace and seek the good of man in cooperation with powers and
authorities in politics, culture, and economics. But they have to fight against pretensions
and injustices when these same powers endanger human welfare. Their strength is
in their confidence that God’s purpose rather than man’s schemes will finally prevail.**

Invitation to the Offering *(We are invited to return God’s tithes and give our offering.)*

Offertory

Response of Gratitude #822 *When We Are Living* (vs. 2)

This Week

Sunday, August 24

- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:10 AM Summer Youth Sunday School/2nd Floor CE Building
- 10:10 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rooms 204, 206, 207

Monday, August 25

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 1:00 PM GROW/Family Library
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, August 26

- 8:00 AM Men’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom
- 4:30 PM Taco Tuesday/Guido’s

Wednesday, August 27

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

Thursday, August 28

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 1:30 PM Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy

Friday, August 29 Church Office closes at 12 noon

- 8:15 AM Men’s Prayer/Zoom
- 10:00 AM Korean Choir Rehearsal/Chapel
- 12:00 PM New American Ministry/Chapel
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, August 30

- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Announcements

●**Flower donations** for use in the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings are always accepted. You can choose to honor family members, friends/loved ones or special events. If interested in participating, please contact **Nancy Dankle** 217.778.4088.

●We are collecting royalties each time we hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. Money we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. A donation box is on the Welcome Center.

●**Taco Tuesdays** continues August 26 at Guido’s in downtown Champaign. Join **Pastor Beth** for tacos and conversation 4:30 - 5:30 PM.

●On August 25, **Bill and Pat Metcalf** will celebrate their **70th wedding anniversary**. Their family is suggesting those who know them flood their day with emails, phone calls or send cards either via snail or email. (1713 Westhaven Drive, Champaign, IL 61820; cwm89md@gmail.com; patriciametcalf399@gmail.com).

●Plans are underway for the **175th Anniversary Celebration** of First Presbyterian Church. We are organizing various events on Sundays from September 14 through October 12. Please contact **Nancy Martin**, Chairman, at nemartin81@hotmail.com or text 217-359-0753 or contact **Carol Ann Green** at cadgreen@comcast.net or text 217-621-4933 if you are interested in helping with the celebration of our historical church.

●**First Pres Mission Study...**The small groups for this study will meet in October and the first week of November. We need everyone’s participation to help develop a plan for our church’s future. Participation will involve the opportunity to meet with your group four times during the study. To assist in the scheduling of these meetings, please stop by the Welcome Center after worship to talk to a Transition Team member and let us know when you would be available. **This study will provide valuable information in our journey toward our next pastor.**

●Our **English Language Learners** classes meet Monday through Thursday in the Education Building. They are in need of **magazines** for various learning activities. If you have any you can donate, drop them off at the church office.

●If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.

●Check out the **book cart** in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some.

●The **August newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.

●Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind Meyer/Capel Law office on Sundays.

●**If unable to attend church**, watch our 9 AM service live each Sunday at firstpres.church/live. The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.