

Response of Gratitude #606 *Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

✚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 #836 *Abide with Me* (vs. 1-3)

✚Charge and Benediction

✚Congregational Sung Benediction #542 *God Be With You Till We Meet Again* (vs. 1 & refrain, see screens)

✚Postlude *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

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

**Service Material References**

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocC/C56sun27.htm>; <http://www.myredeemerlives.com/prayers.html>

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

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

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[info@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church) ♦ Rev. Beth Wagner ([beth@firstpres.church](mailto:beth@firstpres.church)) ♦ Rev. Joe Lundy ([joseph@firstpres.church](mailto:joseph@firstpres.church))  
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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

September 14, 2025      14<sup>th</sup> 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** *For the Beauty of the Earth*

**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.)

We are here together in the name of Christ Jesus,

**in the Presence of an awesome, Holy Love.**

A person without God is like a feather in a perpetual wind,  
blown all over the place without any control or choice in where to rest.

O come, let us return to the living God,

**Let us bow before the One who is our Maker.**

✙ **Opening Prayer**

✙ **Hymn of Praise #81** *Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

**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 and merciful God, forgive us for past faults and help us in the present and  
future to make ourselves more available to the hurting world that surrounds us —  
the world that begins on our doorsteps. Equip us to be patient and compassionate  
listeners, proclaiming the gospel not in overbearing ways but sensitively and lovingly.  
Strengthen us with the Holy Spirit to be fruitful and active witnesses to Jesus in all we do  
and say. *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** *Psalm 100:3-4*

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

**Anthem** *Deep River*

arr. Parker/Shaw

(Spiritual, tune popularized by Henry Burleigh in his 1916 collection *Jubilee Songs of the USA*)

**Scripture in English** *James 1:2-18*

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

**Message** *Happy Birthday, Church!*

Beth Wagner

✙ **Hymn for Reflection #275** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

## 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** (Westminster Catechism, shorter Catechism)

What is the chief end of man?

**Man’s chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.**

What rule hath God given to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him?

**The Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments  
is the only rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him.**

What do the Scriptures principally teach?

**The Scriptures principally teach what man is to believe concerning God, and what duty  
God requires of man.**

What is God?

**God is a Spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in his being, wisdom, power,  
holiness, justice, goodness, and truth.**

Are there more Gods than one?

**There is but one only, the living and true God.**

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

**Offertory** *Savior, Redeemer of My Soul*

Amber Phillips, soloist

Rob Gardner

# This Week

## Sunday, September 14

9:00	AM	Worship/Sanctuary
10:10	AM	Second Sunday Brunch/Centennial Hall
12:00	PM	Downtown Church Tour
5:00	PM	Confirmation Class

## Monday, September 15

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	Transition Team/Library
5:30	PM	AA/Centennial Hall

## Tuesday, September 16

8:00	AM	Men’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
9:15	AM	ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
10:30	AM	Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
12:00	PM	Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
1:00	PM	DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
3:30	PM	Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
4:30	PM	International Game Night/Centennial Hall, Patio & Alley

## Wednesday, September 17

9:15	AM	ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
10:00	AM	Coffee with Beth/Espresso Royale
11:00	AM	New American’s Ministry Meeting/Family Library
1:00	PM	DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
2:30	PM	PW Budget Planning/Library
4:30	PM	DREAAM Family STEM Night/Centennial Hall
5:30	PM	DREAAM Debutante Committee/Family Library
7:00	PM	Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room
7:30	PM	Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

## Thursday, September 18

9:00	AM	Women’s Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
9:15	AM	ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
12:30	PM	Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
1:00	PM	DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
7:00	PM	Session/Parlor & Zoom

## Friday, September 19

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’s Ministry/Chapel
1:00	PM	DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
7:00	PM	French Prayer/Zoom

## Saturday, September 20

1:00	PM	Joanne Kelly Memorial Service/Sanctuary & Mae Chapin Parlor
6:00	PM	Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

# Announcements

- Nancy and Casey Dankle** have donated the flowers for worship this morning in honor of FPC's 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- Anyone who is interested in **donating flowers in honor of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary**, please contact **Nancy Dankle @** 217-778-4088 or [nkdankle@icloud.com](mailto:nkdankle@icloud.com).
- Join us this morning immediately following worship for **Second Sunday Brunch** in Centennial Hall. Brunch is free but goodwill donations are always welcomed.
- We have **guest musicians** participating in worship in the upcoming weeks as part of our **175 Celebration**. September 21, **Gary Winder, clarinet**; September 28, **Trenna Thomas, flute**; October 5, **Jean Rene Balekita**; October 12, a bagpiper will participate in the service.
- This Sunday, September 14, at 5 PM we are beginning a **Confirmation Class** for our youth. This will be a 4-week class, and we really need anyone participating to be there for every session. we will try to be done by 7 PM each week.
- 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.
- Your **Nominating Committee** has begun their work to find church officers for those whose terms expire. Pick up a Nomination Form at the Welcome Center to submit your suggestion(s) for Elders and/or Deacons for the coming year. (You may also nominate yourself!)
- Pick up a **Fall/Winter Small Group Opportunity** flyer from the kiosk this morning. Join a small group this Fall!
- Join **Pastor Beth** for **Coffee and Conversation** at 10 AM Wednesdays in September at Espresso Royale (2401 Village Green Pl.-Champaign).
- Today kicks off the **175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** of First Presbyterian Church. We are organizing various events on Sundays from September 14 through October 12. See this morning’s insert on the special events planned for the month long celebration.
- 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. Check the September newsletter for dates and times. **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 **September newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at [firstpres.church/newsletter](http://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](http://firstpres.church/live). The Sunday **sermon** is available on-line anytime or on WDWS 1400AM the next Sunday at 10:30 AM.

## 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1850-2025

Join us as we celebrate 175 years of worship and service with gatherings five Sundays. Regular Sunday service is held at 9 AM each week.

**Sunday, September 14** - Coincides with West Side Arts organized by 40 North and the Champaign Park District. We along with First United Methodist and Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal will offer open house and tours from 12-3 Sunday afternoon. When the County History Museum was advised of our plan, **Director Will Best** and **Historian Rick Williams** arranged their own Historic Church Tour from 1-2:30 to include our buildings.

**Sunday, September 21** - Photo and Memorabilia Display with historic souvenirs (free will offering)

**Sunday, September 28** - Afternoon tours from 2-4 open to all but emphasizing our relationship with other local Presbyterian churches.

**Sunday, October 5** - World Communion Sunday with music from other cultures during our regular 9 AM service.

**Sunday, October 12** - Welcome former pastors and guests with bagpipes, mini tours, and refreshments after worship.

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Celebrate 175 yard signs are being placed in high traffic driving and walking areas.

Pick up yours today; check Westminster Hall for availability.

Plan to place your sign at least through October...preferably until the end of the year.



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