

to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.
In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks
and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"
With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving & Concern

The Lord's Prayer

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.

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.*

◆ Hymn for Commitment #14 *For the Beauty of the Earth*

◆ Charge and Benediction

◆ Congregational Sung Benediction #647 *Give Thanks*

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son.
And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say,
"We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us."
Give thanks. Give thanks.

◆ Postlude

◆ Please stand if able. Remain seated if need be.

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

September 8, 2024

16th 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 are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while our elevator is being replaced.

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 on the Hour of Tower Bell

Act of Friendship/Sharing of 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.

Greetings/Welcome/Announcements/Threshold Moment

Silent Centering

You are invited to a moment of quiet rest, a time of slowing the pace of your body and mind so that the spirit can settle.

♦**Call to Worship**

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of those who bring good news.

**Who publish peace, who bring good tidings,
who publish salvation, and proclaim,
"Your God reigns!"**

God will judge among many peoples,
**And they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and nation shall not lift up sword against nation:
neither shall they learn war any more.**

All: **Let us lift up our voices
and praise the God of peace and justice.**

♦**Hymn of Praise #697** *Take My Life* (vs. 1-3, 6)

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

God of light and darkness,
we have seen the glimmer of your star-light beckoning to us,
but we have turned away and followed other paths.

We confess that we have not loved you with all our heart,
with all our soul, with all our mind, and with all our strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

Forgive us, Holy One.

Strengthen our faltering steps

and guide us in your holy way of peace. Amen. *Silence is kept.*

Hymn of Reflection #703 *Thy Boundless Love to Me*

Assurance of Pardon

Lift up your eyes and see the grace of God poured out into your lives.

The light of God shines through the darkness.

Our hearts rejoice for Christ is in our midst.

Passing of the Peace

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

Offertory Sora Shepard

♦**Response of Gratitude #607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;

Praise Holy Spirit ever more; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

♦**Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving**

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 #654 *In the Lord I Will Be Ever Thankful*

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice!

Look to God; do not be afraid. Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Lift up your voices; the Lord is near.

Scripture *Isaiah 52:7-10*

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

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

Anthem *Make Me a Channel of Your Peace*

Message *Becoming Instruments of the Good!*

Beth Wagner

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.

Affirmation of Faith (A portion of the *Brief Statement of Faith* PCUSA)

In a broken and fearful world

the Spirit gives us courage

to pray without ceasing,

to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,

This Week

Sunday, September 8

- 9:00 AM Worship/Westminster Hall
- 10:10 AM 2nd Sunday Brunch/Centennial Hall

Monday, September 9

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM Grow/Family Library
- 4:00 PM HR Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM/Café
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer/Gym

Tuesday, September 10

- 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM DREAAM Board Meeting/Chapel & Zoom
- 4:30 PM Mission Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Dance/Gym
- 7:00 PM Worship Team/Parlor & Zoom

Wednesday, September 11

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes In-Person/CE Building & Café
- 9:30 AM Nurture/Parlor & Zoom
- 10:00 AM Coffee Shop Hours with Pastor Beth/Esspresso Royale
- 3:00 PM DREAAM Family Night/Centennial Hall & Kitchen
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Dance/Centennial Hall
- 7:30 PM Together on Tuesdays/Zoom

Thursday, September 12

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 4:30 PM Finance Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:00 PM DREAAM Elite Study Hall & Dinner/Centennial Hall & Kitchen
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer/Gym
- 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Friday, September 13 Church Office closes at noon

- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom

Saturday, September 14

- 6:00 PM French Worship Service/Chapel

Announcements

- We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **Associate Pastor Joe Lundy** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church). We are presently worshipping in Westminster Hall while our elevator to our historic Sanctuary is being replaced.
- Please wear your **nametag** to help our **staff** get acquainted.
- Pat Phillips** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve, contact **Carol Miles**.
- 2nd Sunday Brunch TODAY ...** Come, enjoy brunch immediately following worship in Centennial Hall.
- Replacement of the church roof** will begin Monday, September 9, weather permitting. Some of the parking lot will be blocked off during the work. We apologize for any disruption and noise.
- Coffeeshop Office Hours for Pastor Beth...** Pastor Beth is at **Espresso Royale** in the Village Green Plaza, 2401 Village Green Place (Windsor and Duncan) across from Walgreens on Wednesdays in September from 10 AM to 12 noon. Plenty of free parking and lovely drinks, snacks and ice cream.
- Together on Tuesdays Zoom Study is moving to Wednesday** for the next several weeks. Although still called *Together on Tuesdays* it will be on Wednesdays for a few weeks.
- Adult Discussions** begin September 15 in Mae Chapin Parlor Sundays from 10:15 - 11 AM. September 15—Rev. **Beth Wagner**; September 22—**Jim Berger**; September 29—TBA; October 6—**Vilmarie Cintrón Olivieri**; October 20—We start a series of discussions about the Minor Prophets, led by **Rev. Joseph Lundy** and the Adult Spiritual Formation Committee.
- Make a joyful noise!** All interested singers are invited to come experience singing in the Chancel Choir. We will be rehearsing on Thursday evenings at 7:15 PM. If you have questions, please email me at matthew@firstpres.church
- The **Children's Ministry Team** is compiling a list of people who might be able to volunteer for a Sunday, 8:45 to 11 AM, in the church nursery, in case one of the paid providers has an emergency. If you are willing to have your name on the list please contact the church office (217-356-7238), **Pastor Joe** (joseph@firstpres.church), or **Mary Gritten** (217-369-7016 or maryhg3@sbcglobal.net). Thank you!
- Presbyterian Women Bible Study books** are available at the Welcome Center, Westminster Hall today and September 22. Cost is \$10.00 and yearbooks (free) will also be available. The first circle meetings will be Thursday, September 19.
- It's **Game Time!** Tuesday, September 17, 4:30 PM Game Night in Centennial Hall. Relax – laugh – games for all ages – refreshments – meet new people from all over the world.
- Church Office hours have changed.** The church office is now open Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM-2 PM, Fridays 8:30 AM-noon. You can always leave a voice mail after hours or on weekends.
- 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.
- 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.