Welcome

We are an inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith, passionately committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ in practical ways. Please let us know of your interests and concerns.

Pastors:
Matt Matthews matt@firstpres.church
Eric Corbin eric@firstpres.church

We want to get to know you!

- If you would like to hear the service in French, please pick up headphones and a receiver at the back of the Sanctuary. Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français, procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l’arrière du sanctuaire.
- Fill in the Friendship Pads; please use a name tag.
- Introduce yourself to your pew mates and one of the pastors.
- Join us for coffee and conversation in Westminster Hall.
- Trouble hearing? Try a hearing device at the back of the Sanctuary.
- Large-print hymnals are in the back.
- Wheelchairs are available for in-church use.
- Printed sermons are available the following week; video is available at www.firstpres.live

Children, Youth & Families

Child care is available for children 4 years and younger in the education building 8:45 AM-12:15 PM. Parents must sign children in and out of the child care rooms directly. Please sign your children in for Sunday School at the Welcome Center in Westminster Hall (main level). You will receive a name tag for your children and a matching identification label to be used by the adult responsible for them at pick up. Children meet their teachers in the south east children's corner of Westminster Hall. Teachers will lead children to their classrooms in the Education Building across the alley. Education hour is 10:15-11:05 AM. Children's Choir is in the chapel 11-11:30 AM. Children are to be picked up from their classrooms or from choir practice. Nursery-Kindergarten–first floor, 1st–High School–second floor. The 6-7th grade meet in the family library on the first floor.

Schedule

8:45-9 Check-in at the Welcome Center desk and gather in the children’s corner
9-10 Children may attend traditional worship with a special children’s sermon
10-10:15 Children meet their teachers in the children's corner and walk over to the classroom in the education building
10:15-11:05 Faith Education lessons in the classrooms
11:05 Children dismissed
11-11:30 Children’s choir rehearsal in the chapel
11:15-12:15 Children may attend The Gathering worship service

Contact our Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Mindy Watts-Ellis (mindy@firstpres.church) for more information.
Service for the Lord’s Day
A special welcome to those at our church for the first time.
We’d love to connect with you this morning. Fill out the Friendship Pad when passed, then stop by our Welcome Center after the service to receive a small gift. Enjoy some coffee, meet new people, and learn how our church can become your home.

Prelude
Richard Rossi
Preparation for Worship – Tower Bell
Greeting & Announcements

Introit Come, Let Us Praise the Lord
Byrd/Hopson

❖ Call to Worship (from Feasting on the Word, Psalm 119:1-2)
Happy are those who walk in the way of the Lord, who seek God with their whole hearts.

❖ Hymn #321 The Church’s One Foundation

Call to Confession (from Feasting on the Word, Deut. 30:15-20)
Remembering our baptism, we affirm that God is a loving God. Therefore, let us confess our sins that we may choose life and live.

Prayer of Confession (from Feasting on the Word, Deut. 30:15-20)
Holy God, we confess that we bow down before other gods; we have turned our hearts away from you. Our worship of work and devotion to consumerism disorders our love of you and each other. Forgive us, God, and mend what is broken, that we may be one with you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (from Feasting on the Word, Psalm 119:7-8)
Sisters and brothers, by the mercy of Christ, our sins are forgiven. Sing praises with an upright heart as we learn the ways of God.

❖ Passing of the Peace
The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.
Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Response of Gratitude #582
Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me (See screens)

❖ Hymn #808 When Memory Fades

Act of Friendship and Sharing Prayer Concerns
(Learn the names of your pew mates. Please complete Prayer Request Card.)

Children’s Time

Offering of Gifts and Tithes
Jean René Balekita

Sung Response #619 (vs. 1)
Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven (See screens)

Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination #474 As a Child Rests (refrain)
As a child rests in its mother’s arms, so will I rest in you. As a child rests in its mother’s arms, so will I rest in you.

A Reading from the Old Testament
Deuteronomy 30:15-20 (OT pg. 186)

Anthem The Size of Your Heart
Eleanor Daley

A Reading from the New Testament
1 Corinthians 3:5-9b (NT pg. 167)
This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

Message A Pastor’s Last Sermon
Pastor Matt Matthews

Response to the Sermon #630 Fairest Lord Jesus

Call to Prayer Bow Down Your Ear, O Lord
Fatyeff/Hopson

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Concern
The Lord’s Prayer (Hymnal pg. 35)

❖ Hymn #838 Standing on the Promises

❖ Charge and Benediction
What does the Lord require of us?
To seek justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. (Micah 6:8)
May God help us live this high calling faithfully, as we strive to be good stewards of all our gifts.
Thanks be to God! Use us, God.
God has richly blessed us to be a blessing to the world in Christ’s name.
Thanks be to God! Guide our steps.

❖ Congregational Choral Benediction #772 (vs. 4)
Live Into Hope (See screens)

❖ Postlude
(If you wish to be seated for the postlude, you may.)

Richard Rossi

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

Hymn notes: The Church’s One Foundation is our sturdy opening hymn; expect a wide-open, dynamic organ and (I hope) lots of strong singing. Written in England at the close of the American Civil War, the lyric serves as a needed reminder of what is at the center of the Christian faith: Jesus Christ. This sentiment is echoed in our closing hymn, the gospel favorite Standing on the Promises. Former Baptists and southerners-at-heart may especially resonate with this robust song. We are singing a fourth hymn this Sunday, Fairest Lord Jesus (known in other circles as Beautiful Savior) as the response to the sermon. Our middle hymn lyric is the refreshingly newest of the standard (and old) others, When Memory Fades; as we gather for our annual congregational meeting, we remember our past. This hymn makes note of brothers and sisters for whom memory has betrayed them. The tune is a memorable, old chestnut.
This Week

Sunday, February 16
9:00 AM  Worship/Sanctuary
10:00 AM  Congregational Annual Meeting/Sanctuary
10:00 AM  Easy English Fellowship/Room 204, 212
10:15 AM  Sunday School/Education Building
10:15 AM  Adult Ed/Sanctuary
11:00 AM  Children’s Choir/Café
11:15 AM  The Gathering/Chapel
5:30 PM  Youth Group/Café

Monday, February 17
1:00 PM  GROW/Family Library
3:30 PM  Environmental Team/Library
5:30 PM  AA/Chapel
6:00 PM  Bible Study (Rempe)/Parlor

Tuesday, February 18
7:00 AM  Men’s Breakfast Study/Parlor
9:00 AM  ESL Classes/Rooms 201,204,205,206, Café
10:30 AM  Staff Meeting/Parlor
12:00 PM  Classic Book Study/Atkins Bldg, S. First Street-C.
4:30 PM  World Mission Team/Parlor

Wednesday, February 19
9:00 AM  ESL Classes/Rooms 201,204,205,206, Café, Library
1:30 PM  Pakistan Study/Parlor
3:00 PM  DREAAM/Café, Gym
6:00 PM  Bell Choir Rehearsal/Bell Room
7:00 PM  Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal/Choir Room

Thursday, February 20
7:30 AM  Men’s Breakfast Study/Library
9:00 AM  ESL Classes/Rooms 201,204,205,206, Café
9:00 AM  Women’s Bible Study/Chapel
11:00 AM  Bertha Berger Memorial/Sanctuary
6:00 PM  YoungLives/Café
7:00 PM  Session/Westminster Hall

Friday, February 21 Church office closes at noon
8:30 AM  Men’s Prayer/Chapel
9:00 AM  ESL Informational Mtg/Cafe

Saturday, February 22

The church office will close at noon on Fridays.

Worship
• Liturgist this morning is Bob Kirby. Contact Judi Geistlinger judgeistlinger@outlook.com or visit firstpres.church/liturgist to serve as a liturgist.
• We welcome children of all ages to worship. The CYF committee has provided green pew cards with tips on the back for guiding children in worship.
• Today, the congregation is invited to stay for our annual Congregational Meeting immediately following the 9 AM service of worship. The purpose of the meeting will be to hear reports from our committees, celebrate the saints who have entered the church triumphant in 2019, and to approve the pastors’ terms of call. For a copy of the Annual Report please go to firstpres.church/annual-report. If you are unable to download a copy, printed copies are available in the kiosks or at the Welcome Center.

Connect
• We are glad you’re here! If you want to learn more about becoming a member of First Pres, contact Pastor Matt or Pastor Eric or call the church office.
• Stick around after the Annual Meeting this morning for Faith in the Real World in the Sanctuary. Leland Andrews is our guest speaker.
• Join us beginning Sunday, March 1, for the Lenten Study Lent In Plain Sight, a devotion through Ten Objects by Jill Duffield. Books are on sale this morning for $10 each.
• Keep up with the latest news...pick up a copy of the February newsletter from one of the kiosks or view at firstpres.church/newsletter.
• The Winter/Spring Small Group & Adult Education Opportunities is now available in the kiosks. Pick up your copy and join a small group this Spring!
• Housing hosts needed! At 7 PM Tuesday evening, March 17, the College of Wooster Chorus will be presenting a concert in our sanctuary. We have agreed to house the singers following this concert and we need you to help! The students will need a bed to sleep in, breakfast on Wednesday morning and a ride back to the church. If you can house one or more of the singers please call Patty at the church office (356-7238) to give her your name and how many people you can take. Thank you in advance for making the concert possible.
• The 23rd Annual Safehouse Winter Benefit Concert, featuring Dr. Ollie Watts Davis and the University of Illinois Black Chorus Ensemble, is Sunday, February 23, at 4 PM. The host church is First United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church St. in Champaign.
• FREE one-hour Computer Basics Class...February 27, 6:30 PM at Salt & Light, Urbana. Sign up at www.saltandlightministry.org/sign-up-for-classes.
• The Refugee Center (formerly ECIRMAC) will hold its thirteenth Annual Fundraising Banquet on Saturday, March 7, 2020 at 6 PM at the I-Hotel. Ticket pricing: $80 per person or $600 per Table of Eight. Contact the Center at 344-8455 or John Muirhead at 398-1048.