

Grace Presbyterian Church
Fort Wayne, IN – Sept. 13, 2026
16th Sunday After Pentecost



*Service Notes: Prayer cards are available in your pews for the sharing of Joys and Concerns. You can give them to Sandy Garcia. We invite you to join in the liturgy by speaking the parts in **BOLD**. *Indicates when to stand in body or spirit.*

Worship Volunteers: Worship Leader: Pastor Sandy Garcia – Lay Leader: Tom Monnier – Children’s Message: Holly Bouthot – Ushers: Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler – Tech: John Current & Jen Mahoney – Counters: Tyler Bowers & Jon Wolf – Pianist: Sue Creager – Choir Director: Tom Callahan.

Prelude — *His Eye Is on the Sparrow* by Gabriel

Welcome — Rev. Sandy Garcia

God calls us together—young and old, lifelong learners and those just beginning.

We come ready to learn, to grow, and to follow.

God made a way through the sea and led the people toward freedom.

God goes with us wherever the journey leads.

Jesus teaches us the way of mercy and forgiveness.

Root us in your grace and grow us together in love.

Come, people of God, let us worship!

We come to worship the God who never stops leading us.

***Opening Hymn — #434 “Restore in Us, O God”**

***Call to Confession —**

Jesus teaches us that forgiveness is at the heart of life together. Yet we know how difficult it can be to forgive, to ask forgiveness, and to trust God’s grace when relationships are wounded. Confident in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin together.

***Prayer of Confession —**

Merciful God, you have shown us grace beyond measure, yet we struggle to offer that same grace to others. We hold tightly to old hurts, keep count of offenses, and sometimes choose resentment over reconciliation. Forgive us when we forget how much we have been forgiven. Soften our hearts, teach us the way of mercy, and help us grow together in the love of Christ. Amen.

Time for silent confession

***Assurance of Pardon —**

Hear the good news: God's mercy is greater than our failures, and God's grace is never exhausted. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song of Assurance #583 "Glory to God"

***Passing the Peace**

Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Please take a moment to greet your neighbor and others with the peace of Christ.

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

God who leads your people through every wilderness, open our hearts to your Word. Teach us your ways, deepen us in grace, and give us courage to follow where you lead; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Psalm Reading — Psalm 114

p.953

1 When Israel came out of Egypt, Jacob from a people of foreign tongue,

2 Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.

3 The sea looked and fled, the Jordan turned back;
4 the mountains leaped like rams, the hills like lambs.
5 Why was it, sea, that you fled? Why, Jordan, did you turn back?
6 Why, mountains, did you leap like rams, you hills, like lambs?
7 Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the
God of Jacob, 8 who turned the rock into a pool, the hard rock into
springs of water.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matt. 18:21-35

p.1527

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall
I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

22 Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven
times.

23 “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to
settle accounts with his servants. 24 As he began the settlement, a
man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him.
25 Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his
wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

26 “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with
me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ 27 The servant’s
master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go.

28 “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded. 29 “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

30 “But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. 31 When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

32 “Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. 33 Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ 34 In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

35 “This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Can you say “Worcestershire sauce”?

***Affirmation of Faith:** *The Apostle’s Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius**

Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Hymn of Response — #616 “Our God Is an Awesome God”**

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

God who makes a way where there seems to be no way, we pray for your church. Teach us to be a people of mercy, forgiveness, and grace.

God of grace, teach us your way.

We pray especially for our children, students, teachers, and Sunday School leaders as a new year of learning begins. Give them curiosity, patience, joy, and wisdom. May our church always be a place where questions are welcomed and faith can grow.

God of grace, teach us your way.

We pray for our neighbors and our world, especially where violence, division, resentment, and fear have taken root. Make pathways toward justice, reconciliation, and peace.

God of grace, teach us your way.

We pray for those who are sick, grieving, lonely, anxious, or carrying burdens we cannot see. Surround them with your presence and with people who will walk beside them.

God of grace, teach us your way.

[Invite prayers from the congregation.]

For all the prayers we carry silently in our hearts...

Holy God, receive the prayers we have spoken and those known only to you. Keep leading us, forgiving us, and teaching us to walk in the way of Christ.

Gathering our prayers into one, we pray as Christ taught us, saying:
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.

Call to Offering

God has given us mercy we could never earn and grace we could never repay. In gratitude, let us offer our gifts, our lives, and ourselves for the work of Christ and the good of our neighbors.

Offertory — *Blessed Assurance* by Knapp

***Doxology** — #606 “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

***Prayer of Dedication** —

Let us pray: Generous God, you have given us more grace than we could ever repay. Receive these gifts and use them to teach, serve, welcome, and love. Root us in generosity and grow us together in faith, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

***Closing Hymn — #306 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**

***Charge & Benediction**

Postlude — *Italian Hymn* by de Giardini

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Sister in Christ, Laura Fuller Has Gone Home to Christ: Her funeral service will be held on Monday, September 14, 2026, at Sheets & Childs Funeral Home, Huntertown Chapel. Calling begins at 11:00 AM, with the service at 1:00 PM.

Sunday School Kick-off & Cookout: We are celebrating our new year of Christian Education during the service this Sunday, September 13th. After the service we'll be adding to the festivities with hotdogs (provided).

Members are invited to bring sides and desserts to share.

A Special Thank You:

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the details and supporting the baptisms of Rosalind and Myles. Special thanks to Betsy, Pam, Nancy, Bill and Jen for helping with the specific details. All I had to do was ask and they basically did all the work. Can't forget Pastor Sandy who did an excellent service. So thank you to all. Tammy

Session Meets Next Sunday: If you are responsible for a report, please get it to the office by Wednesday, September 16th.

Fox Island Hike: Grace is invited to join Amistad for a fun hike and Fellowship at Fox Island next Saturday, September 19th. The lunch and fee to enter the park will be provided, you just need to sign up (form in

the narthex) or talk to Sandy.

Sandy Will Be Out of the Office: Sandy will be at a Discerning Leadership Conference August 21st-25th. No worries, she'll be back in time for worship on the 27th.

First day of Sunday School Classes: The first day of our classes will be on Sunday,

September 20th. Here is an abridged list of what's being offered:

Adult Bible Study - Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Cindy Bowers

We will be using a new curriculum starting with a study of the parables of the Bible.

Youth Group – Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Tammy Menkes

Fellowship and studies cover a wide series of lessons following the lectionary, familiarizing ourselves with the Bible, and projects like “Remembrance Boxes.”

Children's Sunday School – Sundays at 9:00 AM – Led by Cathy German

We'll be using the Presbyterian curriculum call “Welcome All” as a starting point. The class will also include crafts, memory verses, a charity project, and a time for music (each Sunday at 9:50 AM).

Thursdays at 2:30 PM – Led by Peggy Mahoney

A weekly study and discussion on, “Praying the Names of God.” The class is open to everyone.

New Women's Evening Bible Study – A monthly with a rotating leaders and location.

Hospitality and fellowship as we come together for a variety of individual studies. These rotating locations (member's homes) and that evening's study will be provided by its host.

Lenten study – Stay tuned for more information.

Prayer Requests

- Prayers of comfort for the Family of Laura Fuller.
- Prayers for peace for the family of Jonathon.
- Peace and strength for Bruce Barnet during his cancer treatment.
- Patience for Pam and direction for her doctors.
- Your continued presence and healing for Sue.
- Healing for Jenny, JoAnn's niece, in her cancer treatment.

Birthdays

Anne Courtney - September 14

Josie Palmer - September 14

Linda Haller - September 16

Audra Widmann - September 16

Laurie Howard - September 18

Kevin Mahoney - September 19

Landon Seitz - September 20

Anniversaries

-

Worship Volunteers for September 20, 2026

Lay Leader – Cindy Bowers

Children's Message – Rachel Lilly

Ushers – Stacey Monnier, Katelyn Monnier, & Grace Hochstetler

Technology – John Current & Jen Mahoney

Counters – Tyler Bowers & Jon Wold

Restore in Us, O God

434

Capo 1: (Em) (Bm7) (Em) (Bm7) (Em) (C) (Bm)
Fm Cm7 Fm Cm7 Fm D^b Cm

1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen-dor of your love;
2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your power;
3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy;
4 Three - per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace,

(Am7) (Em) (Am) (Bm) (Em) (Bm7) (Em)
B^bm7 Fm B^bm Cm Fm Cm7 Fm

re - new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
from fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flower.
bap - tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
that we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

This text reflects the historic understanding of Lent as a time to prepare catechumens for Baptism and penitents for reconciliation at the Easter Vigil. The first three stanzas address one of the three divine Persons, while the fourth stanza implores the help of the full Trinity.

TEXT: Carl P. Daw Jr., 1987
MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson, 1985
Text © 1989 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1985 Hope Publishing Company

BAYLOR
SM

ADORATION

Our God Is an Awesome God 616

Awesome God

Our God is an awe - some God who reigns from heav - en a - bove

with wis - dom, power, and love; our God is an awe - some God!

This is a contemporary worship song that first gained recognition on Christian radio and later became a popular congregational song. "Awesome" here is not a trivial expression but carries the meaning of "awe-inspiring" and is based on Scripture (e.g., Daniel 9:4).

TEXT: Rich Mullins, 1988, alt.
MUSIC: Rich Mullins, 1988
Text and Music © 1988 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing

AWESOME GOD
Irregular

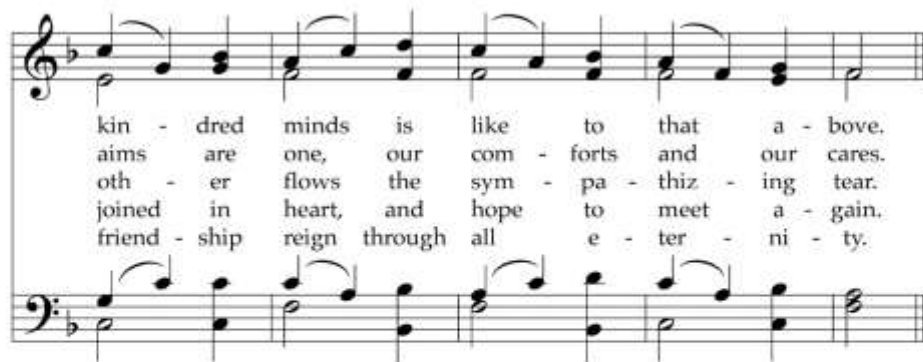
Blest Be the Tie That Binds 306



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2 Be - fore our *Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3 We share our mu - tual woes; our mu - tual
 4 When we are called to part, it gives us
 5 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we



Chris - tian love. The fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers. Our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear. And of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 shall be free; and per - fect love and



kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*Or "Maker's"

Written to express a pastor's unwillingness to leave a beloved congregation, this hymn is frequently used as an expression of Christian fellowship, especially at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper. The tune is attributed to an influential Swiss musician and publisher.

TEXT: John Fawcett, 1782
 MUSIC: Johann Georg Nägeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
 SM

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