

Church Calendar

Sunday
Sunday Worship 9:30 A.M.
Sunday School for Children 9:30 A.M.
Coffee Hour Fellowship 10:30 A.M.

Tuesday
Community Bible Study 10:00 A.M.

Wednesday
Session Meeting (3rd Wednesday) 5:15 P.M.

Thursday
Thursday Bible Study & Prayer
(Summer Break • Resumes in the Fall)
Outreach to Jail 12:30 P.M.
Grief Share Ministry 6:30 P.M.

Connect with Us

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Grace Howard
(812) 470-5294 | gracehoward0326@gmail.com

Organist: Dennis Carr Pianist: Monica Collins
Clerk of Session: Walt Brunton Treasurer: Jim Bartlett
Custodian: Prisco Sanchez

Session
Bob Bullard (2026) Chair of Nominations
Janet Johnson (2026) Chair of Christian Education
Sarah Maria (2027) Chair of Worship
Jim Bartlett (2027) Chair of Congregation Care
Charlie Hedges (2028) Chair of Buildings & Grounds
Bill Henderson (2028) Chair of Mission

Women’s Group Leaders
Peggy Luckhurst

Announcements

► You Are Welcome in This Place
We are so thrilled that you are here today! Whether this is your first visit or you’re a lifelong member, we hope that you will find God’s grace, welcome and love in this special place.

► Mt. Vernon River Day Outreach!
September 11-12, 2026, Donation collection for bottled water. Sign up for volunteer opportunities at the bulletin board. For questions, please contact Monica Collins.

► The River Bend Food Pantry for August
needs Toiletries. Thank you for your generosity.
More info: Pat Bartlett & Susan Zollers.

► Thursday Bible Study — Begins September 3 at 10 A.M.
Studying According to Plan by Graeme Goldsworthy, a clear guide to understanding the storyline of Scripture and God’s plan fulfilled in Christ. Contact: Bill or Gayle Henderson

► Adult Sunday School — Begins September 13 Sunday 9 A.M.
Led by Jim Bartlett A study of Paul’s New Testament letters in chronological order.

► Youth Sunday School — Walt Brunton,
This fall our youth begin The Mighty Acts of God, exploring God’s saving work throughout Scripture.

► Children’s Sunday School — Carol Devillez
We begin a new season of Sunday School using The Story curriculum. As we welcome more children, we are praying for additional volunteer parents and helpers.

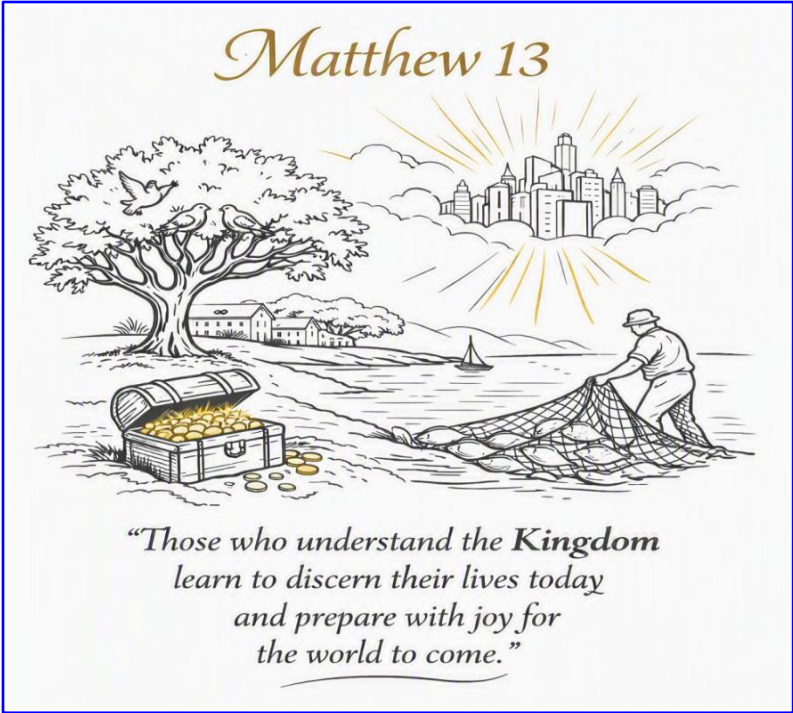
► Community Bible Study — Tuesdays at 10 A.M.
Led by Pat Bartlett Reading What Happens Next? by Max Lucado, an encouraging overview of biblical teaching on the end times.

Our Mission

Grow spiritually, both as individuals and as a congregation.
Share the good news with those around us.
Bring others into communion with Christ.
Act in fellowship, to reach out and support others.

First Presbyterian Church
of Mt. Vernon

August 23, 2026, 9:30 A.M.



website: www.fpcmtvernon.org

120 East Sixth Street, PO Box 507
Mount Vernon, Indiana, 47620

Phone: 812-838-2473

Email: pastor@fpcmtvernon.org

Office Hours: Mon-Fri. 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

13th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude “Jesus Loves Me” - David Paxton
Dennis Carr

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Grace Howard

Call To Worship Pat Barlett

Leader: Come, people of God. The Lord plants His Word
among us.

People: We come with open hearts.

Leader The Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure and a pearl of
great value.

People: We seek the life only God can give.

Leader: God gathers us, shapes us, and claims us in love.

People: With joy, we worship the Lord of the Kingdom.

***Opening Hymn** #15
“All Creatures of Our God and King”

Invitation to Confession Pat Barlett
Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Holy and gracious God, we confess that we often treasure
what cannot satisfy and cling to things that cannot give
life. You offer us the Kingdom of Heaven, yet our hearts
wander toward lesser hopes and smaller loves. Forgive us,
Lord. Turn us again to your grace. Plant your Word deep
within us, and shape us into people who seek your
Kingdom first. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Silent Personal Confession

Declaration of Pardon

Response to God’s Grace #581
“Glory Be to the Father”

Prayer for Illumination (Unison) Janis Black
Holy God, open our hearts by the power of your Spirit.
Let your Word shine like treasure before us, so that we
may see clearly, listen deeply, and be shaped by the truth
of your Kingdom. Speak to us now and make us ready to
follow Jesus. Amen.

First Scripture Reading Matthew 13:24–43
Second Scripture Reading Matthew 13:44–52

One: Remember, God always blesses the reading
and hearing of the Word.

All: Thanks be to God!

Special Music
Blessings for Children Pastor Grace Howard

Sermon: “The Parables of Jesus: Stories That Shape Us” III
The Kingdom of Heaven: The Treasure That Claims Us
Pastor Grace Howard

***Hymn of Response** #697
“Take My Life”

Affirmation of Faith Ten Commandments

Invitation The Offering of Tithes and Gifts
Music at the Offertory
“Jesus Loves Me” - David Paxton
Dennis Carr

***Response of Praise** #658 (v3)
“God Is So Good”

Prayer of Dedication

Prayer of The People & The Lord’s Prayer

***Closing Hymn** #716
“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

***Charge & Benediction**

***Benediction Response** #547 (v1)
“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”

Postlude “Diademata” - John B. Boast Dennis Carr



Table Host:

Join us after worship in the Fellowship Hall for Coffee
Fellowship, a warm time to connect, encourage one another,
and share life together as Christ welcomes us.

Scripture Reader
8/30 Janet Johnson

August Ushers
Jim & Pat Barlett

The Lord’s Supper 9/6/2026

Bill & Gayle Henderson



**Please, continue to pray for God’s healing
touch:** Diana Bullard, Janis Black, Jeanne &
Dennis Carr, Linda Kuykendall, Scott
Pretzsch, Monica and Kelly Collins, Donna
Hedges, Stephanie Rider, and others fighting
battles of illness.

Special Prayer For This Week

Maria, Tony* & Sarah* (Chair of Worship Committee)
Elena*, Jocelyn*
Kuykendall, Jerry & Linda* (Debbie)
Both Jerry and Linda had surgery recently
Carr, Dennis* & Jeanne* (Kevin* & Paula)
Laura (Micheil & Aaliyah – Alexander, Everett)



Online Giving (Now Available)

Thank you for your faithful support of God's
work in and through First Presbyterian
Church. There are many ways for you to
give, including giving of your time, talent,
and financial gifts. All gifts of any size
make a difference!

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZK8R/home>