

United Presbyterian Church

July 26, 2026 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome and Announcements Elder Allen Pease

Prelude Benjamin Watkins, piano



Today's Sanctuary Flowers are placed by Jim Haverstock
in loving memory of his wonderful wife Sue.

Call to Worship from Psalm 119 Elder Souheil Haddad, Liturgist

Liturgist: The decrees of the Lord are wonderful,

People: The unfolding of God's word gives light and understanding.

Liturgies: Turn to us, O God, and be gracious to us.

People: Make your face shine upon your servants.

Liturgist: We come together to worship the living God.

***Opening Hymn** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* #403

Call to Confession – Liturgist: If we say we have no sin, the truth is not in us. We admit that we need to begin again for we have fallen short of the glory of God. So we come to the baptismal font seeking a fresh start. With confidence that God hears our prayers, let us confess our sins:

Prayer of Confession – in unison with the Liturgist

God of grace, we want to understand what the kingdom of heaven is like, but our minds are clouded by cares and concerns of the world. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes in mysterious ways. We fail to be whole-hearted in our faith and discipleship. We fail to put our trust in the treasures of your kingdom instead of the treasures of the world. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, give us eyes to see and ears to hear your good news for the world even here and now. Transform our lives and our world by your grace. . .

Silent prayer of confession

Assurance of Pardon

Liturgist: Friends, hear these words, and listen to this good news; the empires of this world will rise and fall, but the mercy of the Lord will never end.

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, thanks be to God.

***Gloria Patri** #579

***Passing of the Peace**

Liturgist: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also, with you.

Liturgist: Let us share that peace with one another.

Prayer for Illumination – Liturgist

Inspire us by your Holy Spirit that the words we read on the page might become living words in our hearts and lives as we encounter the grace, love and peace of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Music for Meditation

Old Testament Lesson *I Kings 3: 5-12* – Liturgist

Gospel Lesson *Romans 8: 26-39* – Reverend

Reverend: The Word of the Lord **People:** Thanks be to God

Sermon: *The Mysteries of God* Reverend Mark McDaniel

***Hymn of Praise** *Every Time I Feel the Spirit* #315

***Affirmation of Faith** from *The Barmen Declaration* 8.14-8.16

Led by Reverend Mark McDaniel

As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his

creatures. We reject the false doctrine, as though there were areas of our life in which we would not belong to Jesus Christ, but to other lords — areas in which we would not need justification and sanctification through him.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer Deacon Michele Heitink
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 – Deacon Michelle Heitink
Offertory

**Doxology* #592

Prayer of Dedication – Reverend McDaniel

***Closing Hymn** *God of the Sparrow* #272

***Charge and Benediction** Rev. Mark McDaniel

POSTLUDE Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Roby Troy Virginia Kathleen Seth

His Eyes in Honduras Nyaka Global in Uganda

All people who are suffering from armed conflict

Monroe County's first-responders

First Avenue Presbyterian Church is serving the Evansville community and engaging and encouraging others through a life-changing journey in Evansville, Indiana. Our mission is to nurture a diverse and welcoming community, committed to following fearlessly wherever God is leading us and make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Evansville and the world!





Lights! Camera! Action!
The UPC Worship Team presents!
Movies with Purpose!

Wed. July 29 *Forever Strong* with Gary Cole, Sean Astin

Popcorn and Darian and Melanie's famous Walking Tacos

Also see a movie on Aug. 5 & 12!

6 p.m. Fellowship Hall. FREE! Donations accepted for UPC Music Program

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Music Director–Benjamin Watkins–864-980-7731

benjamintaylorwatkins@gmail.com

Christian Education – Melanie Mathis-McBride – susieq_msm@yahoo.com

UPC Celebrates the Life of Anita

Anita Louise Steverson was born May 10, 1965 in Shreveport, Louisiana to the Reverend Robert and Mrs. Sue Lorimer. She passed at 3:35 a.m., June 3, 2026 at home in Bloomington with her husband at her side.



She was preceded in death by her father. Surviving in addition to her husband Rell, are her mother Sue, beloved brothers and sisters and many nieces and nephews as well as daughter Nikki McDonald, son Elijah McDonald, grandchildren and step sons and step daughters.

Anita is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Bloomfield and attended United Presbyterian Church of Bloomington weekly the past six years with her mother. She is a graduate of Bloomfield High School

and attended Indiana University. She worked as an accountant by trade.

A Celebration of Life was held 2 p.m., Saturday, July 11 at United Presbyterian Church officiated by Pastor Alejandra Haddad, a dear friend as well as pastor. Music was provided by Dr. Benjamin Watkins, also a dear friend. Her life was celebrated by over 75 people.

The family is grateful for the loving assistance of all types from many, many friends, relatives, co-workers and the church family. The UPC Deacons hosted a buffet afterwards. Donations may be made in Anita's memory to United Presbyterian Church, 1701 E. Second Street, Bloomington, Indiana 47401 or to Anita's family by mailing a check to UPC made out to Rell Steverson.