

Firelands Presbyterian Church

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Complete Joy
Lauren Wright Pittman

May 10, 2026

Welcome to Firelands Church, a community of believers gathered by the Holy Spirit, growing together in Christ, and committed to serving God. Everyone is encouraged to stay for fellowship following the worship service.

The Order Of The Liturgy

† Please stand in body or in spirit †

Prelude Surrender Weeden/Hayes
In My Life Lennon/McCartney/Keveren
Breathe on Me, Breath of God Jackson/Trentham

*Call to Worship (*Micah 6: 8, responsively*)

With what shall we come before the Holy One,
And bow ourselves before God on high?

God has shown us what is good.

What does the Holy One require of us,
**But to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with our God?**

† Hymn For the Beauty of the Earth #14

† Call to Confession: Have mercy, Christ, have mercy on all that trust in You, for You are God in glory to all eternity.

Prayer of Confession (*together*)

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in

your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Silent Meditation

Assurance of Pardon

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanks be to God! Amen!

Hymn 71, refrain only *(together)*

Surely it is God who saves me; I will trust and not be afraid. For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense, and God will be my Savior.

Prayer of Illumination *(together)*

Holy and gracious God, may your Holy Spirit give us a spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that, with the eyes of our hearts enlightened, we may live the hope to which Christ has called us, the riches of Christ's glorious inheritance among us, and the greatness of Christ's power for those who believe in him. Amen.

First Lesson: I Peter 3: 13 - 22

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Anthem Hymn of Promise Sleeth/Ferguson

The Gospel: John 14: 15 - 21

The Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon: The Challenge of Being Good

† Affirmation of Faith: **Apostles' 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 sits 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 O For a World #372

Presentation of Our Gifts, Offerings, and Thanksgiving

† Doxology - Hymn 606 (*tune*)

Praise God when face to face we see the one who died to set us free.

The one who rose in victory. Praise now forever Christ the King. Amen.

‡ Prayers of the Church and 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Communion Invitation

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ: The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body, broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup, saying: "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me." Every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the saving death of the risen Lord, until he comes. With thanksgiving, let us offer God our grateful praise.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Words of the Institution of the Lord's Supper

The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.

The cup of blessing which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.

Communion Meditation

Blessings

Brickman

Prayer after Communion.

↑ Hymn O Lord My God #625

Charge and Benediction

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

Benediction Response 248 *(together)* *Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna! (vs 2)*

Christ is risen! Raise your spirits from the caverns of despair.

Walk with gladness in the morning,

See what love can do and dare.

Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.

Jesus is our strong companion, Joy and peace shall never end.

Postlude Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart Messiter/Butler



Prayer Concerns

Family and Friends of Cindy Constien; Garrett Holcomb; Bill & Pat Sharp; Friends and Family of Pastor Mark Cooper; Gene Bailey; Karla Hoffman; Mason Fenton (improved after brain tumor surgery but loss of vision); Friends and Family of Harold Douglass; Flona & Eric Pott; Karen Dietz; Anne Trombatore; Linda Holcomb's sisters, Lois & Carol; Linda Holcomb's neighbor Matt Wammes; Betty Layton's

friend, Sue; Gerry, Gwen's like-a-cousin since childhood, recent ALS diagnosis plus brain aneurysms, Justine Torres family in their grief.

This Week at Firelands

Today 5/10	9:30 Adult Sunday School 10:30 Worship followed by Fellowship. Assisting in Worship are Don Dewald (reader), and Dave and Sally Wahlers (Communion servers)
Monday	10:00am - 1:00pm Sewing Group
Tuesday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours 3:30pm – Session Meeting 6:00pm - 8:30pm - Power Squadron Boating Course
Wednesday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours 10:30am – Exploring Our Faith Together 10:30am – 12:00pm – Stein Hospice Healing Hearts
Thursday	10:00am - 2:00pm Office Hours Cleaning Service 2:00pm – 3:30pm House of David – Video & Discussion
Friday	8:00am – Men's Breakfast Meeting at Fulton Cafe
Sunday 5/17	9:30am Adult Sunday School 10:30am Worship followed by Fellowship. Karen Dietz (reader); Dave and Janet Gray-Moore (Communion servers)