

First Presbyterian Church
Fine Arts Ministry
Final Draft, adopted January 19, 2021

“Whatever you do, do all things for the Glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

This is the foundation of the First Presbyterian Church Fort Wayne Fine Arts Ministry.

Whatever we do, whether it is done with paint or yarn, piano or voice, prop or costume, we do for the artistic and creative Glory of God.

First Presbyterian Church believes that the arts are a window to and an outlet for the soul. Spanning the spectrum of art mediums, the Fine Arts Ministry intentionally and creatively bridges the sacred and secular. Born in the nineteen fifties, this ministry was inspired by the intricate balance of creating and adapting to the new opportunities and limitations imposed by a modern and growing downtown, city, and state. Over the past seven decades, we have made great strides through our three primary foci; our rich and storied Music Ministry, our well known and thoughtfully curated Visual Arts Ministry, and our engaging Performing Arts Ministry.

“You shall have a song as in the night when the holy festival is kept, and gladness of heart, as one sets out to the sound of the flute...” (Isaiah 30:29) The heart of our *Music Ministry*, under the inspiring leadership of our Director of Music Ministries and Organist, is that song in the night, rooting itself in the music of our history and traditions and at the same time encouraging and enfolding future generations. While this ministry is essential to our worship, it also includes special recitals, concerts, and community involvement, all with gladness of heart.

“God filled them with skill to do every kind of work done by an artisan or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and in fine linen, or by a weaver....”

(Exodus 35:35) Our *Visual Arts Ministry* maintains the church’s extensive in-house art

collection, and throughout the year, our onsite Art Gallery features works from both emerging and established artists. We seek to be a place where people can come together to deepen their creativity and to make the wonder of God visible.

And like the power of the parables, theater tells a story. It creates an experience, giving us the devices to be entertained and intertwined with the deeper, hidden meanings of the words and the movements. Like seeds fallen on fertile soil, our *Performing Arts Ministry* seeks to create intentional moments for thoughts, emotions, and feelings to spring up from the ground. Whether it is a comedy, tragedy, dance, or musical, whether it is in our 300-seat proscenium auditorium or an alleyway in downtown Fort Wayne, this ministry is committed to creating sacred space within an often-secular stage.

First Presbyterian Church Fort Wayne has been blessed by God and its members to support, sustain, and inspire all, whether churched or unchurched, believer or skeptic, through the Spiritual gifts of music, visual and performing arts. We are committed to growing a Fine Arts Ministry that is collaborative, inclusive, and interactive. Through this ministry, First Presbyterian Church seeks to honor and glorify God the Creator. Made in the image of God, we affirm and commit to being co-creators, celebrating creativity and inspiration as we work towards Shalom. For we believe: “Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things” (Philippians 4:8) and do them all for the Glory of God.