

Friday, August 11, 2023



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Note



Dear First Pres Friends,

I'm looking forward to preaching this Sunday! During my time off I planned a whole year's worth of sermon series; it felt great to get that done! This Sunday I'll begin the series "The Legacy We Leave", looking at how we "spend" our time, talents and treasures. This week the subtitle of my sermon is "Values or Valuables?" We'll look at the touching story of the prophet Elijah passing the mantle to his protégée Elisha. As you approach Sunday, I encourage you to think about who has been a mentor to you, and the values you are leaving to others. What is your legacy?

I'll see you Sunday!

Gratefully,

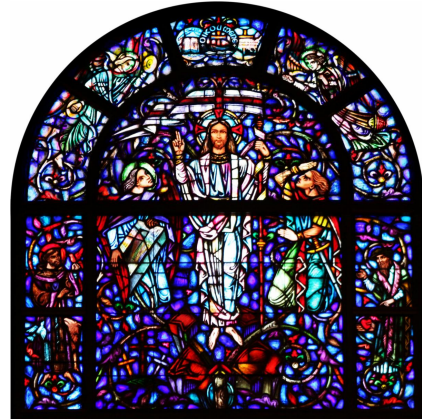
Annie Epling

PS: Don't forget the blessing of the backpacks this Sunday!

Sunday Worship

English

- 11:00 AM Service in the Sanctuary, Rev. Annie Epling preaching
- Watch livestream via [Website](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Public Access Channel 1 and Channel 25, Wed 7:00 PM & Thurs 11:00 AM
- Public Access via [Digital Archive](#)



Korean

- 11:00 AM Chapel Rev. Youngsoo An preaching
- Live Stream via [Website](#), and [YouTube](#)

Bulletin

- The complete weekly bulletin may be found at [here](#).

E-News submissions should be sent to [Jenny Conrad](#).

News & Events

[Event Calendar](#)

[Weekly Announcements](#)

GOOD NEWS FAIR



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 20
AFTER WORSHIP!**

Join us after Worship on Sunday, August 20, for the Good News Fair and Ice Cream Social! Members of each First Pres Committee will be available to share information and talk about their ministries and the work they do! Get to know the Faces of First working to make a difference in our church and community!

Faces of First- Scott McMeen

Scott McMeen has been a member of FPC since February 1996, when he joined with his late wife, Debra. He's been involved in many ministries, lending a hand in both the church and the theater. Scott has served as an Elder, Deacon, and member of the Pastor Nominating Committee (Minister of Music), and on the Building & Grounds Committee. He takes an avid interest in the arts, performing in the choir and various Theater productions, beginning with "The Mikado" in 2002.



Scott's work as a Stephen Minister, lay congregation members

trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation, is an important way in which he gives back to the church. He states, "I witnessed the positive impact of the Stephen Ministry Program right away after joining the church. My first wife Debra was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1996 and had to undergo a mastectomy. She asked for support and received wonderful assistance from her assigned Stephen Minister (Louise Magoon). When Rev Pitman approached me about becoming a Stephen Minister, I felt I had an opportunity to help others as Debra had been helped. I signed up right away and never regretted the decision."

Scott has many favorite memories from his years at First Pres, including every Christmas Eve Service, performing St. Matthew's Passion in 1987 as part of the combined choirs directed by Bob Nance, and performing as "chorus member #4" in his first theater production. He also shared a very personal memory: "I mentioned that Debra passed away in 2007. She suffered an aneurysm and went into a coma that lasted about two weeks. Many church members came to see her and grieve with us. Perhaps the most moving moment was when my fellow choir members visited and sang our standard closing benediction, 'The Lord Bless You and Keep You', to her at Stillwater (then Visiting Nurse) Hospice. It is something the choir has always done for members about to depart and join the Choir Invisible. It is perhaps my most beloved church tradition."

When asked what he loves the most about First Pres, Scott is ready with an answer: "The thing I love most about FPC is the sense of love, community, and inclusion that I feel whenever I am interacting with other church members. To my mind, that is what a community of faith is all about: providing a supportive, loving environment for people where they can worship, grow, learn from, and support their fellow congregants."

Thank you, Scott, for your love and service to First Pres!



Stephen Ministry Library

Book Review: Recently, Paula Neuman recommended “The Invisible Kingdom: Reimagining Chronic Illness” by Meghan O’Rourke as an addition to the Stephen Ministry book collection. Diane Heffner offers the following book review:



The author explores the circuitous, daunting, and challenging experience of having diagnoses and treatment for an “invisible illness” which include autoimmune diseases, post-treatment Lyme disease syndrome, and long Covid. The author shares her personal struggle and interviews with researchers, doctors, public health specialists and other patients. This is a book that walks the reader through her search for answers and wellness. Anyone who lives with one of these invisible illnesses would relate to O’Rourke’s story and benefit from the information she has compiled from experts. O’Rourke states what she sees as needed to treat these illnesses. “We need a restorative whole-being approach that goes beyond what the current medical system typically offers the chronically ill patient. And we also need structural reform and a commitment to research.” I found the book eye-opening and informative.

If any of the Stephen Ministry books sound interesting to you and you would like to borrow it, please contact Rev. Ann Pitman to check the book out.

Fine & Performing Arts

FPT presents Bedroom Farce! Reuben Albaugh directs this classic British Farce, set in a trio of side-by-side bedrooms to reveal the characters' lives behind closed doors. Written by British playwright Alan Ayckbourn, the clever uses of time and space makes this a very intricate and sophisticated comedy while also portraying the deteriorating and rebuilding of relationships among 4 couples.

Bedroom Farce will be performed August 18 & 19 at 7:30 PM, August 20 at 2:00 PM, and again August 25 & 26 at 7:30 PM and August 27 at 2:00 PM! Tickets may be purchased by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226, click the button below! See you at the theater!

Theater
Tickets



AUGUST 18, 19, 20 AND 25, 26, 27
FRI AND SAT @ 7:30PM
SUNDAYS @ 2PM
DIRECTED BY REUBEN ALBAUGH

BOX OFFICE **260.422.4226**
300 W. WAYNE ST. FORT WAYNE
ORDER TICKETS ONLINE
FIRSTPRESFORTWAYNE.ORG

ALMOST MAINE is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York

Touchy Topics Book Club

Join Dr. Annie Epling and Rev. Max Michaels for a new faith formation offering called Touchy Topics Book Club. The idea is to read a book (religious or not) about a



touchy topic and then come together to talk about it. You can hop in and out of the group as your interest and schedule allows. Childcare can be offered, just let us know in advance if you need it. Dinner is from 6:00-6:30; discussion is from 6:30-7:30 (both in the Parlor). Participants should read the book prior to the

discussion (or at least as much as they can).

September 13: A Fever in the Heartland: The Ku Klux Klan's Plot to Take Over America, and the Woman Who Stopped Them. A New York Times bestseller, this book covers the history of the Grand Dragon of the KKK in Indiana and the woman who brought the Klan to their knees. This book can be purchased through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, or is available at the library.

RSVP to [Annie](#) or [Max](#) for September, or sign-up in the church office!

Missions

Hunger Relief: Each month Hunger Relief asks you to contribute non-perishable food items to add to the church's purchased contribution to three local food banks. Each month your generosity makes a real difference to hundreds of people who depend on the food banks at Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, East Wayne Street Center, and United Faith Presbyterian Church. Thank you so much for your participation in this important church ministry.

This month we will be collecting food at the 11:00 service on Sunday, August 20th. Food items may also be left at the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation is for Hunger Relief.

The following items are especially needed:

- Peanut butter
- Chicken noodle soup—any size
- Canned sliced peaches or pears in juice
- Boxed or bagged instant mashed potatoes
- Egg noodles
- White or brown rice—1 lb. bags
- Manwich
- Spaghetti sauce—any variety (cans only)

Thank you for your support!

Fellowship

South Dinner Group: Do you hear that? It's the sound of the dinner bell! Please join us for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Downtown Dinner Group: It's that time again! Dinner Time! The Downtown Dinner Group will meet on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Henry's (536 W. Main St.). Please RSVP to Joyce McGiffin at (260) 409-2426 or by email at krinks52@hotmail.com. All are welcome, and we hope to see you there!

North Dinner Group: Call me, but don't call me late for dinner! Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, July 10, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. for dinner at The Factory Restaurant (5811 Coldwater Road). Please RSVP to Sondra Mergenthal at (260)437-9892 or by email at lisoninc@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you!

**WHO'S READY FOR
SUNDAY SCHOOL??**

**FOR KIDS IN KINDER-5TH GRADE
BEGINS AUGUST 20TH**



Prayer List

- Cheryl Kirchner
- Mark Carbaugh
- Mark Chasse
- Bob Jesse
- Bob and Coba Burton
- Nancy Adams

- **Jim & Sondra Mergenthal**
- **Lou Brinkman**
- **Barbara McCants**
- **Kip & Mary Jane Ormerod**

If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, [let us know!](#)