

Friday, December 15, 2023



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Note



Dear First Pres Friends,

This past week we had two joy-filled gatherings at the church. The first was the gingerbread party on Saturday. Many children and adults had a fun morning creating gingerbread houses and eating just a little bit of candy. The second gathering was Wednesday night at the Advent by Candlelight service. Many women came to worship and find respite from this hectic season.

This Sunday, Terry and I are hosting an Open House at our home from 3-5pm (1927 Inverness Lakes Crossing). I hope you'll join us for a time of fun, finger food, and fellowship. We'd love to see

you there.

As we get closer to Christmas, note that we'll have a morning service at 11:00am celebrating the 4th Sunday of Advent. The children's choir will sing and there will be a walk-on pageant. Afterwards, a special guest will join us for Christmas cookies. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Then at 5:00pm we'll enjoy our full Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service with orchestra at 5:00pm and worship beginning at 5:30pm. This is the same service as our traditional at 10:00pm but held earlier.

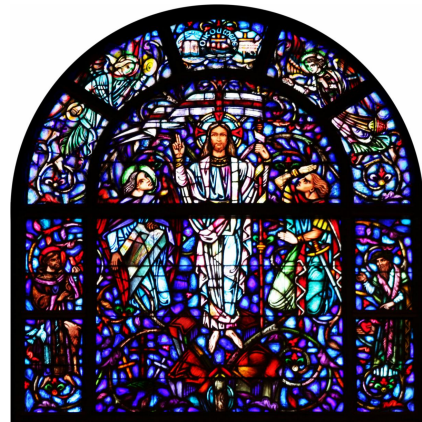
See you in Church!

Blessings,
Annie

Sunday Worship

English

- 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary, Rev. Annie Epling, Pastor, 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 [here](#).

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

News & Events

Event Calendar

Weekly Announcements

Celebrate Christmas 2023

Celebrations: You're invited to a Christmas Open House at the home of Rev. Annie & Rev. Terry Epling (1927 Inverness Lakes Crossing) on December 17, 3:00pm-5:00pm. Stop by and celebrate the season with finger food and festive fellowship. All are welcome!

Christmas Eve Worship: Join us as we celebrate Christmas 2023! We would love to see you for our Christmas Eve service, which begins with a festival prelude at 5:00 pm. Come enjoy the full majesty of Lessons and Carols with choir and orchestra, and a candle lighting during the singing of Silent Night.

The 4th Sunday of Advent happens to fall on December 24 this year. The 11:00 am service will be slightly shorter and more informal than usual but will be nice and joy-filled! You're encouraged to take some time out of the last-minute madness to enjoy some merriment. A special guest will visit us for fellowship time, too. Ho! Ho! Ho!



Church Officer Nominations

The Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for church officers (Deacons, Elders, or 2025 Nominating Committee Members). A member of the Officer Nominating Committee will be at a table in the Narthex after worship each Sunday through January 13. Forms will be available to complete in person, or you may complete the fillable form found at the link below and email it to info@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Please prayerfully consider nominating a member to serve the

church in one of these offices. The deadline for submissions is January 13, 2024, at noon. If you have any questions, please contact Dick Florea at 260-348-9750 or Vernell Fettig at 260-432-0144.

[Elder Deacon Nomination Form 2024](#)

Gingerbread House Party 2023

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the Gingerbread House Party last Saturday! A sweet and festive time was had by all!





Advent by Candlelight

A beautiful evening of worship, fellowship, and refreshment was enjoyed at this week's Advent by Candlelight gathering. Women of all ages joined us for an evening of fellowship, music, and scripture, away from the hustle and bustle of the season.





Fine & Performing Arts

Christmas Eve Music and Flower Donations:

The deadline to donate for the Christmas Eve Music And Flowers has been extended to this Sunday, December 17th. If you have someone that you would like to memorialize or honor, this is a wonderful way to do that and to make the beauty of Christmas Eve possible. All names will be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletins, and donations can be made through the church website, or by placing them in the offering on Sunday. Thank you for making Christmas extra special!

Give the gift of theater! First Pres Theater's Season Flex Ticket package is only \$60.00 and includes 7 tickets good at the three remaining shows in the season! Use all your tickets for one show or split them between shows! A great gift for the theater lover, or for anyone looking to gift a special night on the town! Click the

button below, and we'll see you at the theatre!

Season Tickets 50% Off

Give the Gift of Theatre!

50% off 7 Season Flex Tickets!



Missions

MISSIONS

@First Pres

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

HHH Team: Christmas is almost here and plans for special family festive meals are underway for many of us. The three food banks that First Presbyterian supports are prepping for the holidays as well, gathering the foods that the hundreds of people who depend on them will need for the holiday season. This month Hunger Relief asks you to contribute food

items geared to holiday needs. The following items are especially needed:

- Applesauce cups
- Boxed scalloped potatoes
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Gravy mix packets—brown or chicken
- Canned green beans or peas
- Long grain white or brown rice
- Canned sliced peaches or pear in juice
- Peanut butter
- Instant oatmeal—any flavor

This month we will be collecting food at the 11:00 service on Sunday, December 17th. Food items may also be left at the church office during the week. Monetary contributions to “hunger relief” are also gratefully accepted. Your generosity makes a real difference to our neighbors who depend on the food banks. Thank you so much for your participation in this important church ministry.

Schools Team (Updated): The congregation has been very generous with their gifts for which we are very grateful. **If you are still wishing to donate, we would like to request extra small and small sizes children's sweatpants.** We have very few and those are the sizes that are likely to be the ones most needed.

We have a bin in the Narthex where you can place your purchases. **We will be collecting until the end of the year.** We thank you in advance for helping us support our schools!

Green Team: The Green Team will be selling Fair Trade chocolate bars for \$5.00 each at the Green Team Cart, cash or check only, after worship on Sunday, December 3, 10 & 17! We support Fair Trade because the farmers are paid a fair wage and the chocolate is sustainably grown and harvested. Please consider giving a gift of Fair-Trade chocolate to celebrate the holidays! Proceeds are used to purchase food for the Food Banks we support.

PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

The offering will be taken until December 24. Special envelopes will be available in the pews, or you may give online at the link below.

[PCUSA Christmas Joy Online Giving](#)

End of Year Giving

As we approach the end of the year, please note that all donations to First Presbyterian Church need to be postmarked by December 31 to be included in your 2023 giving statements. Online donations can be made [here](#). If you have any questions about end of year giving, please contact Bill Hickle at bhickle@firstpresfortwayne.org or 260-426-7421 x102.

Scam Alert

We wanted to bring to your attention an important matter regarding recent incidents involving phishing attempts targeting some of our church members.



If you receive any text messages or emails requesting money on behalf of the church, especially if they claim to be from Rev. Epling or any other church official, please disregard them and **DO NOT** reply or provide any personal or financial information.

If you ever have doubts about the legitimacy of a request for donations or any other communication from the church, please do not hesitate to contact our church office directly via phone at (260-426-7421 or by emailing us at info@firstpresfortwayne.org We are here to assist you and provide guidance in such matters.

Prayer List

- Mark Chasse
- Bob and Coba Burton
- Nancy Adams
- Mac Parker
- Shannon Timmons
- Wendell Cree

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