

Friday, December 29, 2023



## This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Visit our Website

### Pastor's Note



Dear Members and Friends of First,

If you have not had a chance to view the services from last Sunday, I encourage you to take time to do so. They are both available on our [website](#). What a wonderful way to prepare and celebrate Christmas! The morning service included the retelling of the birth story. It was fantastic! I especially loved the fact that only one or two people, both adults, had any lines to learn. We were able to witness just some of the gifts our members have to bring our worship alive.

We began advent with a hymn sing, and we will close our year

with something similar – reflections and lots of singing. St. Augustine was quoted as having said that when we sing, we pray twice. If you are looking for a devotion for yourself or for a group, consider using the hymnal. My only problem with using the hymnal is that I find myself singing the entire hymn, especially if it is one I know well. Hymns I don't know well, I read the verses. There are always messages in the hymns that can challenge us, sustain us, comfort us, and bring us closer to God. If we are singing a hymn that you aren't familiar with, I encourage you to pick up the hymnal (or bulletin) and read along as others sing. Learning a new hymn will help you build muscle memory that you can share when you or someone else's world falls apart.

Peace be with us all in 2024!

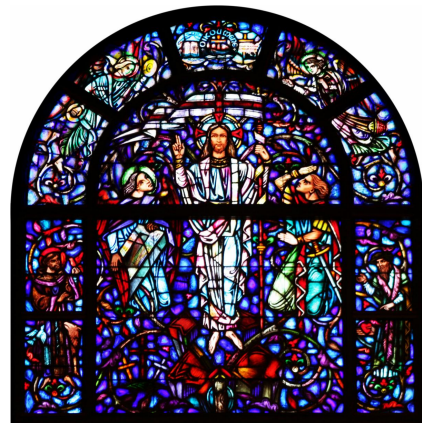
Rev. Ann

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## Sunday Worship

### English

- 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary, Rev. Ann Pitman 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](#).*

**Please note all church facilities will be closed on January 1, 2024**

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## News & Events

Event Calendar



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## 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](mailto:info@firstpresfortwayne.org).

Please prayerfully consider nominating a member to serve the church in one of these offices. The deadline for submissions is January 14, 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](#)

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## Fine & Performing Arts

**Tickets for ALMOST MAINE on sale now!** A woman carries her heart, broken into nineteen pieces, in a small paper bag. After losing hope in love, a man shrinks to half his former size. A couple keep the love they have given each other in large red bags or compress the mass into the size of a diamond. These playful and surreal experiences are commonplace in the world of John Cariani's *Almost, Maine*, where on one deeply cold and magical Midwinter Night, the citizens of Almost — not organized enough for a town, too populated for a wilderness — experience the life-altering power of the human heart. Relationships end, begin, or change beyond recognition, as strangers become friends, friends become lovers, and lovers turn into strangers. Propelled by the mystical energy of the aurora borealis and populated with characters who are humorous, plain-spoken, thoughtful, and sincere, *Almost, Maine* is a series of loosely connected tales about love, each with a compelling couple at its center, each with its own touch of sorcery.

This delightful show will warm and brighten your winter and is perfect for a Valentine date night! **ALMOST MAINE** opens Friday, January 26, at 7:30 PM! Showtimes and tickets available now by clicking the button below!

[Theater Tickets](#)



*Opens January 26, 2024*

# ALMOST MAINE

A REAL ROMANTIC COMEDY

BY JOHN CARIANI

*Directed by Todd Sandman Cruz*



**New Gallery Exhibit Opens January 12:** Local artist Lee Rainboth will exhibit his Haitian inspired collection "Of Light and Liberty" in the FPC Gallery beginning January 12 with an opening reception from 5:30-7:00 PM. His work focuses on a visual interrogation of how we can see more than the body when we look upon another person and experience the universal truths that connect us to one another across racial, ethnic, and cultural boundaries.

# Lee Rainboth

Of Light and Liberty  
Haitian Inspired Art



Exhibit Opens January 12 at  
5:30pm with Artist Reception

FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
WEST WAYNE STREET

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## Fellowship

**North Dinner Group:** Call me, but don't call me late for dinner! Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, January 18, 2024, at 5:30 pm, location to be determined. Please RSVP to Sondra Mergenthal at (260)437-9892 or by email at [lisoninc@aol.com](mailto:lisoninc@aol.com). We look forward to seeing you!

**South Dinner Group:** Do you hear that? It's the sound of the dinner bell! Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 5:30pm. 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, January 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. location to be determined. Please RSVP to Joyce McGiffin at (260) 409-2426 or by email at [krinks52@hotmail.com](mailto:krinks52@hotmail.com). All are welcome, and we hope to see you there!

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## 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!](#)