

Friday, January 5, 2024



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Note



Dear Members and Friends of First Pres,

Happy New Year! I hope 2024 is off to a good start for you. In my house, we haven't quite settled into our normal routine. But, we have taken down our Christmas decorations. I'm one of those people who loves putting the decorations up, but I'm always ready to take them down as soon as Christmas is over. I like to start the New Year with a clean, clutter free house.

Here in the church, it's Baptism of the Lord Sunday. We'll hear the story of Jesus' baptism which marked a whole new way of life for him. In this New Year, is God calling you to something

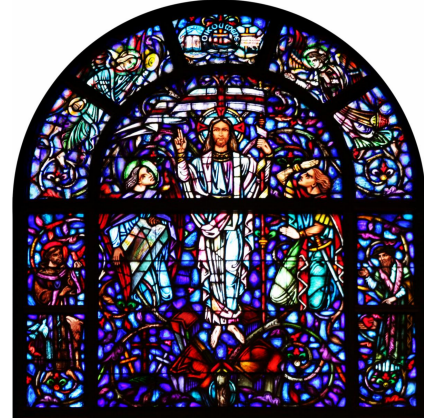
new? I hope you'll come on Sunday to listen and learn and ponder where God might be leading you, or leading us, in this New Year.

Blessings,
Annie

Sunday Worship

English

- 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary, Rev. Dr. Anne 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. Dr. 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 the church office will be closed on Wednesday, January 10 for staff professional development.

News & Events

[Event Calendar](#)

[Weekly Announcements](#)

Coffee with the Pastors

Coffee with the Pastors: January 21, 2024:
Trying to find your Spiritual home can be a lonely and daunting process. Like a



good pair of shoes, it takes time to try different churches on looking for that perfect fit. If you've found yourself wondering if First Pres may be that perfect fit for you, we'd love to invite you to Coffee with the Pastors to learn more about the church, our team of pastors, and some of our members. If you're curious about something we do in

worship, want to know more about how to get involved, or wonder what we believe, this is a wonderful chance to find out while getting to know others! Join us for "Coffee with the Pastors" on Sunday, January 21, 2024, at 9:30 AM in the Session Room (down the long hallway across from the Church Office.) We'll be there with coffee, ready to talk all things First Pres! Please let us know if you can come by emailing Annie (aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org) or Carrie (cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org) or by RSVP'ing in the office by January 18th.

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 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](#)

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



First Pres
THEATER

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

Green Team



Recycle & Reuse in 2024: This Sunday, January 7, the Green Team is handing out a bag of bags in support of anyone interested in making a New Year's Resolution to use recyclable bags in place of plastic bags (for grocery shopping, etc.). Feel free to take a set to give to a neighbor or friend who might be interested in making the shift. Did you

know that: Did you know that: Americans use 100 billion plastic bags a year? That is 365 bags per person per year! It takes the amount of gas to drive one mile to make 14 plastic bags. 87% of plastic bags are never recycled! Plastic bags take hundreds of years to break down. Plastic bags pose dangers to animals that ingest them. Plastic bags release toxins into the ground water from landfill sites. Please consider making a New Year's resolution to reduce your use of plastic bags. Thank you!

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. 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. We are having dinner at Mad Anthony's on the corner of Broadway and Taylor at 5:30pm. 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!

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!](#)