

Friday, March 15, 2024



## This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Visit our Website

### Pastor's Note



Dear First Pres Friends,

The speaker portion of our Lent series “Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City 2.0” concluded Wednesday night, so now the fun part of talking about what we’ll do with all this information is upon us. If you’ve attended any of the series, or you watch any of the videos from the speakers (find those [here](#)-all videos will be uploaded by Monday) you’re welcome to attend our big brainstorming session this Wednesday, 6:30-8:00.

Brainstorming is exciting because there are only four “rules”:

1. Encourage wild ideas
2. Build on the ideas of others

3. Defer judgment
4. Focus on quantity

All of our speakers have given us food to think about as we discern where God is calling the church to be the heart of God in this city we call home. From giving budding artists a venue in our gallery, to serving as Grammys and Grampies at South Side High School, to filling food pantries with food, the possibilities of what we could do are endless.

The tricky part is deciding what “fits” First Pres. This is where the Session’s work on identity is crucial: Who is First Pres, and what aligns with who we are and what we want to become? My plan is to talk about this on Sunday, because while every idea may be a good idea, it doesn’t always mean it’s our idea to implement. So, I hope you’ll come on Sunday to listen and learn, and then I hope you’ll come on Wednesday to be a part of the brainstorming. (Watch the videos first if you couldn’t attend. They’re a necessary prerequisite!)

See you in church,  
*Annie*

Rev. Dr. Anne Bain Epling  
Pastor/Head of Staff



The Lent series “Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City 2.0” continues this Wednesday, March 20, when we will finish our series with our Brainstorming Session, “What Do We Do with What We’ve Heard?”.

Video recordings of the four sessions will be posted on our [YouTube channel](#) by Monday.

Childcare and refreshments will be available starting at 6:00 PM. The discussions begin promptly at 6:30 PM and will last until 8:00 PM. Find out what is going on in your community and lend your voice to the discussion!

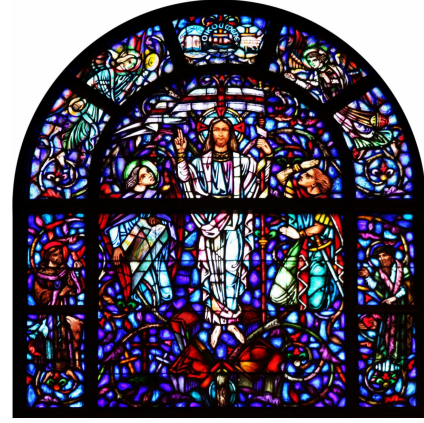
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## Sunday Worship

### English

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

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## News & Events

Event Calendar

Weekly Announcements

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## Lent 2024

### Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City Week Four:

FPC held the fourth event of our four-week series "Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City" Wednesday evening, hosting an arts panel moderated by Rev. Annie Epling, Pastor. She was joined by Charles Shepard, President and CEO of the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, John O'Connell, Professor of Theatre at PFW, and Brittany Hall, President and CEO of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic.



The panel shared their recent successes and exciting developments in their respective areas of the Fort Wayne arts community, as well as their future goals, needs, and suggestions for the arts ministries at First Pres. Thank you to the many who attended and lent their voice to the discussion!

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**Easter Music — Deadline is Sunday, March 24, 2024:** On Easter Sunday, the 11:00am Festival Service with choir and organ will be enhanced by five brass players and timpani as we celebrate the Resurrection. The cost for the brass and percussion players is funded solely by donations; we depend on your generosity to make this happen each year. Please consider giving any amount not only in memory of friends and loved ones but also in honor of those who mean the most to you. This is a wonderful tribute to those who continuously carry out the work of our great God and gives appreciation for their efforts, time, and talents during this important church season. Thank you for your generosity to make the Easter music beautiful, grand, and festive.

**Easter Flowers — Deadline is Sunday, March 24, 2024:** The flowers for Easter are made possible through monetary gifts given in loving memory of family and friends. Memorialized names, with the names of the donors, will appear in the Easter worship bulletin.

To donate to either the music, flowers or both, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (memo line: Chancel Guild – Easter Music or Easter Flowers) and mail to First Presbyterian Church, 300 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 or online at: [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org). Please have your contribution in by March 24, 2024, to be listed in the Easter bulletin. Thank you in advance for your generosity!



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**Faith Formation**

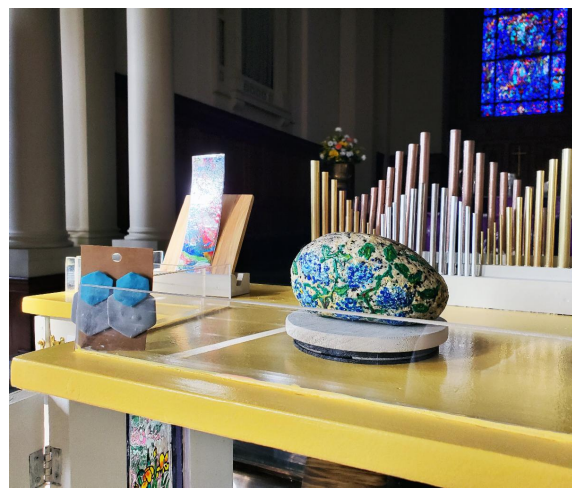
**New Small Group:** Rev. An and Rev. Annie Epling will hold their second gathering of the new small group meant to build a bridge between the English and Korean language congregation this Sunday, March 17. The group is discussing the PC(USA) study guide *Family Community: Service*, with the goal of helping the group to put their faith into action.

The group meets once a month on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 9:15 in McKay Foyer. Our next meeting will be Sunday, April 21. Please email [Rev. An](#) and/or [Annie](#) know if you'd like to take part, or contact them at the church office, 260-426-7421.

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## Fine Arts

**Free Little Art Gallery Dedicated:** A Free Little Art Gallery, or "FLAG" for short, has found a home at First Pres, and was dedicated during worship on March 10. The FLAG is similar to a Little Free Library, but for small artworks instead of books. If you see something in the gallery you like, take it home. Or create something you want to share and leave it for someone else to take away and love. Thank you to Angela Green and the Garrett Museum of Art for donating this welcome addition to the Arts at First Pres.







**THE PROM concludes this weekend:** Come join us at **THE PROM!** Our co-production with Fort Wayne Youtheatre will be on stage for their final three performances this weekend on Friday and Saturday @7:30 PM, and again

Sunday @2:00 PM! Paring satirical comedy with the high energy of a high school musical, **THE PROM** showcases the heart and humor of a classic musical comedy, with an inclusive message. Call the Arts Tix box office at 260-422-4226 or click the button below for tickets. See you at the theater!

Theater Tickets

# Legacy + Simplicity

April 5 - May 22 First Pres Art Gallery, Fort Wayne



Cara Wade



Angela Green



Jim Gabbard

**Music Madness:** We're down to sixteen

hymns! The March Music Madness Bracket in the Narthex has been updated, and you may vote for 8 of them. Our Sweet Sixteen Finalists are:



- Here I Am, Lord
- Be Thou My Vision
- For the Beauty of the Earth
- Lord of the Dance
- Great Is Thy Faithfulness
- In the Bulb, There is a Flower
- For All The Saints
- Holy, Holy. Holy
- Morning Has Broken
- How Great Thou Art
- Silent Night
- Be Still My Soul
- A Mighty Fortress
- All Things Bright and Beautiful
- Joyful, Joyful
- Blessed Assurance

Voting has been close!! Cast your votes for this round by Sunday, March 17! We will continue through Easter with the winner announced on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to everyone who entered hymns and now may the best hymns move forward!

## Missions



**Hands On Fort Wayne:** Sign-up sheets are now available in the small dining room for all volunteer activities! You may also sign up online at this link:

[Hands On Fort Wayne Project Sign Up](#)

We are still accepting books to restock the Little Libraries! Please drop off your books in the small dining room.

**HHH:** First Pres Hunger Relief will be collecting food for local food banks at the 11:00 service on Sunday, March 17th. Food items may also be left at the church office during the week. If you prefer to make a monetary donation, please specify it's for Hunger Relief.



In recent months, the three food banks we support have seen in increase in families and individuals needing help. Your support of the church's monthly food collection is an important contribution toward meeting that need.

The following items are especially needed this month:

- Canned fruit in juice (peaches, pears, or mandarin oranges)
- Spaghetti sauce (cans only, please)
- Spaghetti noodles
- Canned corn
- Corn flakes or crispy rice cereal
- Applesauce cups

Thank you for your support.

**Social Justice- PCUSA supports a woman's right to choose:** First Presbyterian and Plymouth Congregational Church are co-hosting a care package assembly event to assist women recovering from abortions. Please drop in any time to make a few packages, enjoy conversation, coffee, and refreshments.

**When:** March 23rd 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**Where:** Plymouth Church Folsom Room

If you have questions or not able to attend but would still like to help, please contact Beth Iserman at [bdiserman@gmail.com](mailto:bdiserman@gmail.com).

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## Prayer List

- Mark Chasse
- Bob and Coba Burton
- Betty Dew
- Jim Mergenthal

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