

Friday, August 23, 2024



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Note



Dear First Pres Friends,

As we turn the page from summer to fall, our focus also turns to the question “Who Is My Neighbor?” This is the question Jesus posed to the lawyer in the parable of the Good Samaritan and it’s incredibly relevant to the time in which we live.

It was last February when the idea for a Fall focus on “Who Is My Neighbor?” first came to my mind. I was watching the Grammys and listening to Luke Combs and Tracy Chapman sing “Fast Car”. Here were two people who seem incredibly different, but when they sang that song together we saw that our troubles and dreams can connect us and how much more we can accomplish

together. It was a powerful moment.

The Church, the Body of Christ, can be a model for coming together. Indeed, *we need* to be a model for coming together. Division and the stoking of division is at an all-time high. And it's easier to divide than to build. But in the face of a stranger we should see a neighbor; in the face of a stranger, our faith *requires* us to see a neighbor. But there's even more . . .

The Good Samaritan challenges us not only to be a neighbor to people we don't really like, it challenges us to see how the people or group we don't like has something to teach us about being a neighbor. Now that's hard. But our faith can equip us to survive, and even thrive, in our current atmosphere. Because the endless cycle of revenge, division, and retaliation can be broken by only one thing: a hand extended in mercy and a hand that accepts it.

My sermon series begins on September 8 and concludes on World Communion Sunday when we'll literally gather at Christ's table as one. On September 22 and 29 at 10:00am in the Parlor, I'm leading a book discussion on "The Book of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens". The parish art show, Hymn Fest in October, and the theater's production of Beauty and the Beast will all touch on this topic, and even our youth will be discussing it in their new Sunday morning class.

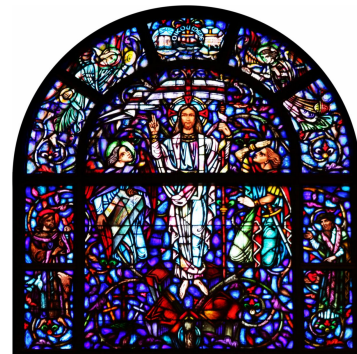
So let us, the church, the body of Christ, stand tall and show the world how it should be done. Let's work together. Let's organize together. Let's pray together. Let's stand together. Let's heal the land.*

Gratefully,
Annie Epling, Pastor

Sunday Worship

English

- 11:00 AM Service in the Sanctuary, Rev. Dr. Anne Epling preaching
- Watch livestream via [Website](#) and [YouTube](#)
- Public Access Channel 1 and Channel 25, Sun 4:30 PM & Mon 10:30 AM
- Public Access via [Digital Archive](#)



Korean

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

Bulletin

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

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

Please note that Labor Day weekend worship on Sunday, September 1, will be held in the Chapel at 9:30 AM.

News & Events

[Weekly Announcements](#)

[Event Calender](#)

Church in the Park

A big thank you to the many who joined us and contributed to FPC's Church in the Park on Sunday! We had a lively time of worship, food, and fellowship! What an amazing day! FPC students, teachers, and school staff were invited to bring their backpacks to receive a special blessing. Pastors and Elders prayed with the children and adults who came forward, along with the congregation.



If you missed Sunday, the recording of our joint worship service is available on our website [here!](#)





Touchy Topics Book Club

Touchy Topics Resumes in September:

The latest Touchy Topic Book Study will be held Sundays, September 22 and 29, at 10:00am in the Parlor. Join Annie Epling as she leads a book study on The Book of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens. In The Bill of Obligations, bestselling author Richard Haass argues that, to solve our climate

of division and safeguard our democracy, the very idea of citizenship must be revised and expanded. The Bill of Rights is at the center of our Constitution, yet the most intractable conflicts often emerge from cases that, as former Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer pointed out, “are not about right versus wrong. They are about right versus right.”

There is a way forward: to place obligations on the same footing as rights. The ten obligations that Haass introduces here re-envision what it means to be an American citizen, to commit to our fellow citizens and counter the growing apathy, anger, and



violence that threaten us all.

You can purchase a book at a local bookseller or online. We hope to see you there.

Children, Youth & Families

SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF - AUGUST 25

KINDERGARTEN THRU 5TH GRADES

Holy Moly!

Join Mrs. Rachel and Friends as we kick off another fun year of learning! Like last year, we will all go to church together, then head to Sunday School after the Time with Children!

A NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS FOR 6TH-9TH GRADES

LEVEL UP

TAUGHT BY PASTOR CARRIE AND OTHER GROWN-UPS IN THE CHURCH, WE WILL EXPLORE BIG QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR CHURCH, OUR FAITH, AND THE WORLD, SUCH AS SCIENCE, POLITICS, SOCIAL JUSTICE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT!

Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on Communion Sundays so that we may all participate in that sacrament as a family.

FOR 6TH-9TH GRADERS
IT'S BAAAAAACK!

YOUTH GROUP

KICKS OFF AUGUST 25TH 12:15-2:30PM
LUNCH IS PROVIDED, MEETS MONTHLY

Study Connection Tutors

FPC Study Connection Tutors: Is It Worthwhile? Recently I received a note from a former student who had been in my class several decades ago, and I brightened up with the expectation of

his belated appreciation for Latin. But no. He recounted a day when I stopped him in the hall after he had served detention for smoking, and I had apparently shared a very personal and tragic story about the perils of tobacco. He wrote that he had overcome the habit then and was still grateful to me. I had no memory of the brief encounter.



I share this only as an anecdotal example of the power of simply connecting with a young person, even for an hour a week. I have witnessed the lit-up faces, the hugs, the shy smiles of our students upon entering our Study Connection room. This may be the only time in the week when an adult is waiting to greet them with a warm welcome, a snack, a book to read, and a game to play. Are there frustrations? Yes. Do they all make visible progress? No. Is it worthwhile? As worthwhile as any endeavor forged from love and hope for the betterment of our community's children.

Please join our little cadre of tutors and substitute tutors for Study Connection. Donate one hour a week (Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30, October to May) with the conviction that a kind, caring adult can benefit students' lives in ways that s/he will probably never know. Questions? Call, text, or email Kathy Adair at 260-437-0584, steveandkathya@gmail.com.

Fine Arts



Drop Off Art for the Parish Art Exhibition: Collection of your beautiful work for the Parish Art Show has begun! Work received by 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 29, will be featured in the Sunday, September 8, Parish Art

Show, on display from 12:00-4:00 PM. Please complete the submission form and drop it off with your art at the church office Monday through Friday from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM or email [Beth Iserman](mailto:BethIserman) to make other arrangements.

Need more time to perfect your artistic vision? Good news! We will be accepting additional works to feature in our Sunday, October 13, Parish Art Show! A special invitation is extended to everyone who would like to submit poetry, short stories, spoken word, or any other lovely creative form of writing. At the Sunday,

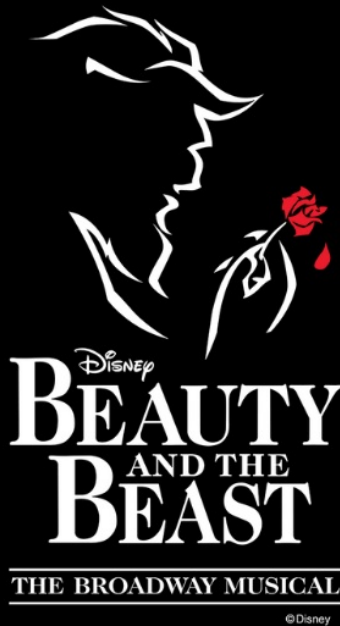
October 13, show, we would like to showcase these works by reading them live in the gallery. Please plan to submit your creative projects by Thursday, October 3, for inclusion in the October 13 show.

The Gallery committee is now planning special events for FPC's Artober, our month-long celebration of the arts! More details coming soon!

First Pres Theater: Step into the enchanted world of Broadway's classic, Disney's *Beauty and the Beast*, an international sensation that has been produced in 37 countries worldwide!



The classic story tells the tale of Belle, a young woman in a provincial town, and the Beast, who is really a young prince trapped under the spell of an enchantress. If the Beast can learn to love and be loved, the curse will end and he will be transformed into his former self. But time is running out. If the Beast does not learn his lesson soon, he and his household will be doomed for all eternity. Tickets are on sale now! Click the ticket button below to purchase online, or call the ArtsTix box office at 260-422-4226!



September 13-22, 2024

Tickets on Sale Now!



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

Tickets

Missions

MISSIONS

@First Pres

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

HHH: The date for August's food bank collection has changed. Please bring your contributions to church on *Sunday, August 25*. 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.

Summer is almost over and school is starting, but hundreds of local families still depend on help from the food banks we support—Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, East Wayne Street Center, and United Faith Presbyterian Church. Hunger Relief is an important part of First Presbyterian's mission in our community, and your generosity makes a real difference.

The following items are especially needed:

- Oatmeal packets
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned soup
- Canned peaches or pineapple chunks in juice
- Canned green beans
- Cereal
- Peanut butter

Thank you so much for your participation in this important church ministry.

Korea Festival 2024

FPC'S Korean Language Ministry invites you to the 2024 Korea Festival, being held this year on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne! Enjoy crafts, games, food, souvenirs, traditional performances, and more! The event is free and open to the public! Learn more at <https://www.koreafestival-fw.com/>.

SEP 7
2024
12:00pm
~ 5:30pm

한국축제

KOREA FESTIVAL

PURDUE Fort Wayne
Rhinehart
Music Center



Featuring

Korean Traditional Dance
Percussion Performance
Taekwondo Demo
Kpop Dance Showcase
Free Activities
Taste of Korea

Free Admission

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In Memoriam

Sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Jubilee Member, Joan Ruble, who died on August 20, 2024. Service information is still pending. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Prayer List

- Mark Chasse

- **Coba Burton**
- **Ron and Diane Gumbert**
- **Scott Pattison**
- **Ashley Lassiter**
- **John Ruble**

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

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