

Friday, December 6, 2024



## This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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### Pastor's Note



Dear First Pres Friends,

This Sunday we'll continue our Advent series "Walk In the Light" with the story of Joseph who yielded to God's will for his life. In a moment of uncertainty, Joseph yielded to God's guidance and opened his heart to the miracle unfolding around him. Like Joseph, may we learn to yield our own

ways, making room for God's peace to guide us. I hope you can be present for this time of worship.

If you're looking for a bit of respite in this busy season, I invite you to Advent by Candlelight on Wednesday, December 11 at 6:30pm. It will be a lovely evening of fellowship, food, and

worship for the women of the church and their friends. Please RSVP in the church office or email [Meredith Palmison](#) if you're coming. There is also space left for the Gingerbread House party tomorrow, Saturday, at 10:00am in McKay Hall. Everything is provided for you, and all ages are welcome.

And finally, do take note of our Christmas Eve worship schedule. The larger service with orchestra and choir will be at 5:30pm with music starting at 5:00pm. The smaller service will be at 10:00pm. Both include Silent Night and candle lighting.

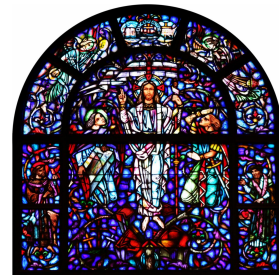
I'll see you in worship.

Blessings,  
Annie

PS: Terry and I are hosting our Open House this year on Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 3:00-5:00pm. More info to come but please mark your calendars!

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## Sunday Worship



### English

- 11:00 AM Sanctuary, Dr. Rev. 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 [Sarah Kelley](#).*

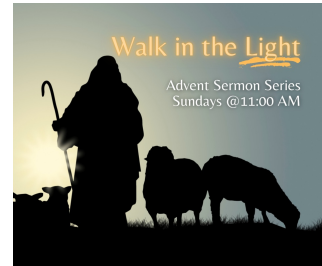
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## News & Events

Weekly Announcements

## Advent Series: Walk in the Light

This Advent, journey with us as we reflect on three characters in the Nativity story and their responses to God's call: Mary, who embraced her role with faith; Joseph, who yielded to the angel's command with trust; and Herod, who failed to learn and remained in darkness. Through their stories, we'll explore what it means to walk in the light and how their choices can inspire our own as we prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ.



Join us each Sunday at 11:00am during worship and discover how we, too, are called to walk in the light of God's love.

## Advent By Candlelight Service



**Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm in the Parlor. Music & Readings in the Chapel at 7:15pm**

An evening of fellowship, music and reflection in the midst of the season of preparation. Members are welcome to bring a dessert to share if you would like, but you do not need to! If you would like to share a treat, please sign up in the church office OR contact Meredith Palmison at [mrpalmison@gmail.com](mailto:mrpalmison@gmail.com) though you do not need to sign up to attend. We welcome you to invite friends and family to join us.

## Celebrate Christmas 2024

**Worship:** Join us as we celebrate Christmas 2024! We would love to see you at one of our Christmas Eve services! Come enjoy the full majesty of Lessons and Carols, with a festival prelude beginning at 5:00 pm, performed by our orchestra, featuring musicians from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and from around the region, plus organ, a brass quintet, and choir. Our traditional candle lighting during the singing of Silent Night will conclude the service. You're also welcome to join us at 10:00 pm for a

shorter Lessons and Carols service, featuring organ and soloist. May you experience the hope, peace, love, and joy that is yours this Advent and Christmas season! **Please note: Nursery and livestream will be offered for the 5:00 pm service only.**

**Fellowship:** You're invited to an Epiphany Open House at the home of Rev. Annie & Rev. Terry Epling (1927 Inverness Lakes Crossing) on Sunday, January 5, from 3:00pm-5:00pm. Stop by and celebrate the Epiphany and the New Year with finger food and festive fellowship. All are welcome!



Celebrate  
**Christmas**  
at First Presbyterian Church Fort Wayne

*Christmas Eve Worship*

*@5:00 PM* Orchestra with Musicians from the FW  
Philharmonic & the Region, Organ, Brass  
Quintet, and Choir

*@10:00 PM* Organ & Soloist

*Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City*

**300 West Wayne Street**  
**[www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org)**

## Advent and Christmas Sponsorships

**Advent/Christmas Eve Service Music:** The music of Christmas Eve is enhanced by members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic made possible through generous donations. We look forward to hosting an orchestra at the 5:30pm service. If you are giving in honor or memory of a loved one, please be sure to include that information with the donation. Please have your contribution in by December 15th to be listed in the Christmas Eve bulletin. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Music – Christmas or donate online at [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org). Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**Christmas Decorations:** Christmas decorations are made possible through monetary gifts given in loving memory of family and friends. Memorialized names, with the names of the donors, will appear with the Christmas Eve worship bulletin. Please have your donation to the church by December 15th. To donate, make check payable to First Presbyterian Church, memo line: Chancel Guild – Christmas or online at [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org).

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## Children's Choir



Hey kids! Join the FPC Children's Choir for a special time of singing! Music Director Brent Neuenschwander will lead rehearsals in preparation for singing in church on Sunday, December 22, as part of a special service! We practice this Sunday at 10:30am in Sunday School Room 2, on the Second Floor! We will also meet at the same time on December 15 and 22. All children are welcome to come sing! Contact [Brent Neuenschwander](mailto:Brent.Neuenschwander@firstpresfortwayne.org) with any questions!

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## End of the 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 2024 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](mailto:bhickle@firstpresfortwayne.org) or 260-426-7421 x102.



## Congratulations



Congratulations to FPC member Heidi Elyea-Schulenberg, ASN, RN, Ortho Trauma, Parkview Regional Medical Center, who was recently recognized with [The DAISY Award®](#) for extraordinary nursing.

The patient's loved one who submitted the nomination shared:

“It has taken me time to think exactly how I wanted to describe what Heidi did for me, my family, and my Opa. ... To say Heidi went above and beyond for my grandpa and family is an understatement. I will literally never forget her presence. The care she provided for my Opa on Ortho Trauma, the comfort she gave me the day my Opa passed, and the comfort she continues to give will never be forgotten.”

View the beautiful nomination in its entirety [here!](#)

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## Fellowship

**North Dinner Group:** Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 5:30 pm, location is Don Hall's Factory. 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:** Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

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## Missions



**HHH:** The date for the December Food Bank Collection will be December 15th. Please bring your contributions to the church on Sunday. Food items can also be left at the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation is for Hunger Relief.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! What a wonderful time of the year as we prepare for the holiday season with our families and friends. Many families in our community depend on the food banks that we support to get through the holiday season - Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, East Wayne Street Center, and United Faith Presbyterian Church. Hunger Relief is an important part of First Presbyterian's mission and your contributions are gratefully appreciated. Thank you!

The following items are needed for this month:

- Boxed Au Gratin or Scalloped Potatoes

- Canned Green Beans or Corn
- Canned Peaches or Pears
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal - Toasted Oats or Corn Flakes
- Canned Chicken or Tuna
- Cake Mixes and Canned Frosting

**St. Joseph's Mission:** The HHH mission committee is going to furnish the meal for the residents of the St. Joseph's Mission Home on Monday, December 23 providing a ham with all the fixings. We would like to top it off with home made Christmas cookies from our church members. If you would like to contribute, please sign up at the church office and bring the cookies to church by the 22nd and we will deliver them with the rest of the meal on the 23. Thank you in advance.

**Rescue Mission Meal:** The December sign-up for Cookies & Cornbread is now available in the church office. Please drop of your cookies (3 dozen) or cornbread (36 pieces) on December 15. Contact [Bill Patterson](#) with any questions!

**Schools Team:** The Schools Team is looking for people to lead the set-up of organizing the backpack food collection on Sunday mornings and/or delivery of the food to Washington Elementary on Thursdays. You can sign-up for any day that suits your schedule. Training is provided. Click the link to sign-up: [Blessings in a Backpack Sign-Up](#).

The Schools Team is also once again doing our sweatpants drive! At the beginning of each semester, the Schools Team asks the administrators of the two schools we support, South Wayne and Washington, what needs they have for the upcoming months. Both of the schools have asked for sweatpants (bottoms only) to have on hand when the kids have accidents and need a change of clothes. We ask your help in providing this for our schools. They need children's sweatpants sizes XS through XL. Preferably neutral colors such as blue, red, navy, black and gray. We will have a bin in the Narthex beginning in December where you can place your purchases. We thank you in advance for helping us support our schools.

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## 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 8 & 15! 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 Valentine's Day! Proceeds are used to purchase food for the Food Banks we support.



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## Bible & Book Study Holiday Schedules

**Men's Bible Study:** The men's group will hold its last meeting of 2024 on Friday, December 13. The class resumes on January 10, 2025. Please contact [Rev. An](#) with any questions.

**Women's Bible Study:** The women's bible study group will hold their last meeting of 2024 on Friday, December 20. The class resumes on January 10, 2025. Please contact [Rev. Ann Pitman](#) with any questions.

**Table Talk:** The women's book study will hold their last meeting of 2024 on Wednesday, December 18. The class resumes on Wednesday, January 8, 2025. Please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733 if you have any questions.

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## 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](#)



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## Prayer List

- Mark Chasse
- Coba Burton
- Ron Gumbert
- Joyce McGiffin
- John Ruble
- Jim Mergenthal
- Art & Lou Brickman
- Bill Fish
- Jane Gastineau
- Connie and DuWayne Hintz
- Jeff Linville

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

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