

February 2, 2025
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
11:00am — Sanctuary



Christ in the synagogue of Nazareth, ca 1350. Artist: Anonymous

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or you're a longtime member, we are thrilled to have you join us as we explore our shared journey with Christ. I hope you find the worship service uplifting and meaningful.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we hold our 193-year-old history in creative tension with 21st-century challenges. We honor traditions that have shaped generations before us while exploring how Jesus's message speaks to the complexities of life today. Our members come from different backgrounds, carry unique stories, and approach faith with a variety of perspectives. Some of us may have questions, others may have doubts, and many of us are navigating challenges—yet we come together as one body to worship and grow in faith.

You're welcome to visit our website at www.firstpresfortwayne.org for more information about the church, and I invite you to talk to any of the pastors, stop by the Welcome Table in the narthex (lobby) after church, and/or join us for coffee in McKay Hall following worship. We have many programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. And, if you are looking for a church home, we hope you'll get connected at First Presbyterian. It would be an honor to be your church family.

Blessings,
Annie Epling
Pastor/Head of Staff

—> **Hearing Loops**

To use the “Hearing Loop” during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the “T”, T-Coil or telephone position.

—> **Families with Children**

Jesus loves the little children, and we do too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child, ages 6 months thru 5 years is always invited. Our nursery meets in the first-floor day school wing, so please ask an usher or the front office volunteer for assistance and a key fob.

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Cantilena

Josef Rheinberger

Tolling of the Hour

Greeting

Call to Worship

Jesus comes to proclaim good news to us all!

Jesus releases those who are captive, gives sight to the blind, helps the oppressed, and declares the year of the Lord's favor!

May we go and do likewise, offering hope to a hurting world.

And may it all begin with our worship of God.

***Hymn No. 744** Arise, Your Light Is Come!

FESTAL SONG

***Call To Confession**

In our day-to-day lives, we sin in a multitude of ways — by what we have done and what we have left undone. Confession allows us to unburden ourselves and lay before God our stark humanity. Let us offer our prayer, knowing that God is merciful and offers forgiveness to all who turn to God.

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, we are far from the people you have called us to be. We are mired in self-centeredness, seeing things only in terms of how they relate to us and our happiness. Turn our hearts, bent as they are towards ourselves, out to the world around us. Make us more concerned with others, and with their welfare and happiness, leaving our concerns with you. Forgive us for our many mistakes and make us anew we pray. Amen.

***Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! God's promise to forgive is sure and everlasting. Know you are forgiven and be at peace. Amen.

***Passing the Peace of Christ**

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

***Responsive Hymn No. 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me**

1. Glo - ry to God, _____ whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, _____ whose grace has
2. World with-out end, _____ with - out end. A - men. World with-out end, _____ with - out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, _____ whose love has set me free. As it
end. A - men. World with - out end, _____ with - out end. A - men.

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Nehemiah 8:1-10

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Anthem Hear My Prayer

Moses Hogan

O Lord, please hear my prayer, in the morning when I rise. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. O Lord, please hear my prayer, keep me safe within your arms. It's your servant bound for glory. O dear Lord, please hear my prayer. When my work on Earth is done, and you come to take me home. Just to know I'm bound for glory. And to hear you say well done. Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy, mercy. Amen.

New Testament Reading

Luke 4:14-21

Sermon “Jesus’s Inaugural Address”

Rev. Dr. Anne Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

Without any doubt, the mystery of our religion is great: Jesus was revealed in flesh, vindicated in spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among Gentiles, believed in throughout the world, and taken up in glory. This is the story of our faith, and it fills us with hope. Thanks be to God! Amen.

***Hymn No. 463** How Firm a Foundation

FOUNDATION

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory The Water is Wide

Dale R. Edwards

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

First Presbyterian Church believes the table is not ours, but God’s. All who put their faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of church affiliation, are encouraged to participate in the great feast of faith.

Communion Music Improvisation on *He's Got the Whole World In His Hands*

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

***Hymn No. 722** Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak

CANONBURY

***Benediction**

***Postlude** Postlude in D

Healey Willan

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of
Beth Linville Powell by her family

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Anne Epling, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Carol Rhudy, Tom Swihart

Ushers: David Beer, Eric Evans, Ashley Lassiter, Linda Yount, Anita Wolfe

Communion Servers: Vernell Fettig, Scott McMeen, Matt Morley, Clara Satter,
Heidi Schulenberg, Linda Yount

Communion Preparers: Anne Barnett, Beth Hague, Anita Wolfe

Director of Music Ministries & Organist: Brent Neuenschwander

Assistant Organist: Kathryn Miller

Chancel Choir

Handbell Choir

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Marj Sapp

Prayer List

- Mark Chasse
- John Ruble
- Art & Lou Brickman
- Bill Fish
- Jane Gastineau
- Jeff Linville
- Barbara McCants
- Carol Kettler

If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, let us know.

NEWS & EVENTS

Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche — today, in McKay Hall

It is the 1956 Susan B. Anthony Society for the Sisters of Gertrude Stein's annual quiche breakfast. The normally idyllic gathering, where the motto is "no men, no meat, all manners," is upended when the Society's matriarchs must confront the startling revelation that an atomic bomb may be falling on their fair city. As fears are confronted and confessions fly, the chipper ladies stay firm in their commitment that the quiche is a mighty thing and that one must "respect the egg." Today is the last chance to watch the amazing chemistry of this high-energy cast, directed by Reuben Albaugh, in an audience interactive show! Show time is 2:00pm in McKay Hall. Tickets may be purchased at the door.

Sustainable Chocolate Sale — February 2 and 9, after worship in McKay Hall

Want to multiply your love with a gift for Valentine's Day? Purchase chocolate from the Green Team after church on February 2 and February 9! You will support fair wages and sustainable farming practices, and surprise someone you care about with a yummy gift, and all of the proceeds will be used to purchase food for the food banks we support! What a win!

Coffee with the Pastors — February 9, Session Room

Are you new to First Presbyterian Church and wanting to know more about the church? Are you interested in becoming a member? If so, join us for our next Coffee with the Pastors on Sunday, February 9 at 9:15am in the Session Room. Coffee with the Pastors is a casual gathering where you learn about the ministries of First Pres and discover opportunities to serve, connect and grow. We will also take a tour of the building and learn about the church's history along the way.

Chili Cookoff! — February 9, after worship in McKay Hall

Join us after worship on February 9 as we warm up from the inside out with a friendly **Chili Cook-Off!** Prizes will be awarded to the top three chilis, but the real win is coming together in fellowship.

How to Participate:

- Bring a **large crockpot** of your famous chili, along with a **list of ingredients** for those with food sensitivities.
- Not a chili fan? No problem! We'd love for you to bring **cornbread or a dessert** to share.
- Drop off your contributions in **McKay Hall before the 11:00 AM service**, and we'll take care of the setup.

For more information, contact **Vicki (vsrdavis46@gmail.com)** or **Carrie (cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org)** Please scan the QR code or sign up in the office. Come hungry and ready for fun!



February Souper Bowl — February 9, Narthex

February is time for "Souper Bowl!" On February 9th (Chili Cookoff Day), there will be two tables in the Narthex set-up and decorated to represent the Philadelphia Eagles and Kansas City Chiefs who are in the Superbowl! Please place your food bank contributions on the table of the team you want to win and let's find out who the favorite team is for the Souper Bowl 2025! Each can dropped off is a vote; you can vote as much as you want!

The following items are requested:

- Canned soup
- Canned Chili
- Canned Chicken
- Canned Beef Stew

- Canned Peaches
- Canned Pasta - such as Chef Boyardee

Monetary donations are also appreciated. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief." Thank you for contributions and help for this ministry.

Indiana University Singing Hoosiers — February 23, Sanctuary

Join us at 4pm on February 23rd for the return of the Indiana University Singing Hoosiers. One of the premier college show choirs of our time, they will sing pieces you will recognize, music from the Great American Song Book, and music that will inspire you through your week. Bring a friend, come early to get a seat, and we hope to see you there!

Touchy Topics Book Club — February 26, Parlor

Join Dr. Anne Epling for the next Touchy Topics Book Club on February 26 at 6:30pm. We will read "A Father's Fight: Taking on Alex Jones and Reclaiming the Truth About Sandy Hook" by Robbie Parker. Parker's daughter was killed in the Sandy Hook Elementary School mass shooting in Newtown, CT in December 2012.

This book is about the aftermath of that tragic event, Parker's and his family's grief journey, and Alex Jones's lies that it never happened and how that affected Parker. The book is emotional and hopeful. The book is also timely with the play "26 Pebbles" opening in the theater on March 14, since the play is about the ripple effects of Newtown.

Childcare can be offered, and you can register for the event through Realm. The book can be ordered through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, www.bookshop.org, or Sunbound Books (a local bookstore). Email aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org with any questions.

Annual Meeting — March 2, Sanctuary

The Session has called for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to take place March 2 immediately following worship. The following business will be presented: annual reports, financial report for the preceding year, budget for the current year (information only), changes in the terms of call for the pastors, Nominating Committees report for church officers, and electing members to serve on the nominating committee.

Distinguished Service Award

Each year First Presbyterian Church awards the Church and Society Distinguished Service Award to a member of our congregation who has been an active participant in church activities and an active volunteer in the community at large. The award is given in memory of Elaine and Bill Wareham and was first established by Bill Wareham in memory of Elaine, who was involved in many church committees and activities and served on the boards of several Fort Wayne charities.

This service award is to be given “on an annual basis to the individual who best represents Christian leadership and service in the church and community”. The award recipient is chosen from all of the nominations received from individuals within the church. The nomination form is available online, in the Friday e-news, or in the church office. Please submit your nominations (you can nominate more than one person or couple) by February 20, 2025.

2025 Presbyterian Scholarship — April 1, 2025

The 2025 selection period for First Presbyterian scholarships is now open. Scholarships in the amount of up to \$1,000 are made available to members of First Presbyterian Church Fort Wayne, and their families to provide financial assistance in pursuit of post-secondary education.

Scholarship recipients may be of any age if they are/will be full-time students taking degree-directed courses. No one can receive the scholarship more than four times.

If interested, please email Sarah Kelley (skelley@firstpresfortwayne.org) in the Financial Office for more information and an application. Completed applications, along with a carefully edited essay, a listing of church participation and activities, and a cumulative high school or college transcript, must be received by April 1, 2025.

GETTING CONNECTED

MEMBERSHIP

Whether you live in the Fort Wayne area or worship with us online, we welcome you to join our family of faith. Through Coffee with the Pastors, you'll learn more about First Presbyterian Church, its history, and its current ministry in a relaxed

atmosphere. Whether you're sure membership is right for you, or you're just beginning to wonder if this might be your spiritual home, we'd love to have you join us for coffee. Coffees are scheduled for February 9 and May 4 at 9:15am in the Session Room. All are welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION

Wired Word — Sunday mornings, 10am

Join us each week as we delve into a topic inspired by recent news and explore how the Bible speaks to the events shaping our world today. Each Sunday brings a fresh topic, making this group perfect for those with busy schedules who may not be able to attend every week. Topics are emailed each Thursday, so please let Pastor Carrie know if you'd like to receive that email. All are welcome — come as you are and join the conversation.

Touchy Topics — quarterly meetings

This group reads a book (religious or not) about a touchy topic and then comes together to talk about it. Previous books include *Fever in the Heartland*, *Canary in the Coalmine*, and *This is How It Is*. Information on upcoming books can be found in the Friday e-news and News & Events section of the bulletin.

Men's Bible Study — Fridays, 10am

This group is led by Rev. An and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Women's Bible Study — Fridays, 1pm

This group is led by Rev. Ann Pitman and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Rev. Pitman at apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org.

English and Korean Small Group Study — 3rd Sunday of the month, 9:15am

The lessons are published in both Korean and English, and the study is led by Rev. An and Rev. Annie Epling. Email them for more information at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org or aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Table Talk for Women — Wednesdays, 10am

This group reads a book at their own pace and is led by members of the group on Zoom. Look for more information about the group in the Friday e-news or New & Events section of the bulletin when they begin a new book.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

North and South Dinner Groups — 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30pm

A great way to get to know other First Pres members is through our local area Dinner Groups. These groups meet the 2nd Monday of every month. The South Dinner Group meets at Hall's Coventry (5745 Coventry Lane) at 5:30pm. No need to RSVP, just ask for the First Pres tables. It's a big group, so you can't miss it! The North Dinner Group meets at 5:30pm at Don Hall's Factory. Please RSVP to Sondra Mergenthal at (260) 437-9892 or by email at lisoninc@aol.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Faith, Fiber, and Fellowship — Mondays, 3pm

This group meets weekly at 3pm on Mondays in Room 302 on the 3rd floor. Bring your latest fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting.

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B) — Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30PM in McKay Hall

Maintaining balance is essential as we age. A decline in stability increases the risk of falls, impacting independence and quality of life. Good balance helps prevent falls, supports daily activities, and reduces the risk of serious injuries.

Join us for 3B, a lifetime fitness class designed to improve balance, flexibility, and strength using chairs and other provided equipment. These free classes are open to all adults aged 50 and older and are filled with fun, fellowship, and fitness. Our holistic approach combines proven physical therapy exercises, healthy brain activities, and opportunities for spiritual, emotional, and social growth. Classes meet twice a week in McKay Hall. We'd love to have you join us!

Growing and Gaming — Second and Fourth Mondays, 2:30PM in McKay Hall

Research shows that playing games together promotes growth in many areas — intellectual, social, relational, and emotional.

Games challenge us in the moment, teach us to handle both losses and victories, and encourage us to think, act, and interact with others in new and engaging ways.

If you're retired or simply available for a bit of fun and growth, we'd love for you to join us! Enjoy games like Uno, dominoes, and a variety of card games in a relaxed and friendly setting. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month at 2:30PM. Come for games, stay for the friendships!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday Morning Childcare

Jesus loves the little children, and we do too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child is always invited. Our nursery meets in the first-floor day school wing, so please ask an usher or the front office volunteer for assistance and a key fob.

Sunday School for Children and Youth

Two Sunday School classes for children and youth are offered during the worship hour. We all begin worship in the sanctuary, then the children head to Sunday School after Time with Children. **Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on Communion Sundays so that we may all participate in that sacrament as a family.**

Holy Moly — for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade

Join Mrs. Rachel and Friends for another fun semester of learning from the Holy Moly curriculum from SparkHouse. Each class includes a Bible story, video, and craft time, with an opportunity to earn Bible Bucks for fun prizes and treats.

Level Up — for youth in 5th through 9th grades

Taught by Pastor Carrie and other members of the church, we explore big questions about our church, our faith, and the world, such as science, politics, social justice, and environment.

Youth Group — 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:15-2PM, lunch provided

Building relationships while burning off some energy is important! Through service, games, food, and more, we have many events to decompress from school and extracurriculars throughout the year. All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to join this amazing group of young people!

MISSIONS

Through our Missions Ministry, many of our members and friends are engaged in volunteering and advocacy. Our programs include making and serving dinner at the Rescue Mission on the 3rd Sundays of the month, providing a meal for the residents of St. Joseph Missions monthly, packing weekend meals for Washington Elementary students on Sundays after worship in McKay Hall, and our annual Hands On Fort Wayne day of service. On the 3rd Sundays of the month we collect food for local food banks. We also maintain mission partnerships with many local, national, and international partners. They include:

- Help Not Handcuffs
- Washington Elementary School
- South Wayne Elementary School
- South Side High School
- St. Josephs Mission
- Wellspring Interfaith Services
- East Wayne Street Food Bank
- United Faith Presbyterian Church Food Bank
- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Matthew 25 Clinic
- Rescue Mission
- Reproductive Rights Action Committee with Plymouth UCC
- PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Costa Rica, Taiwan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon

Green Team

Our Green Team is active throughout the year. In the winter, you can find them distributing the “Bag of Bags,” which are reusable grocery bags. In the spring, they have a booth at Eco Fest, sponsor a recycling drive at Hands ON Fort Wayne, and host our biennial Pet Blessing with a collection of items for local animal shelters. Throughout the year, they sell Fair Trade chocolate with proceeds supporting our food bank ministry.

FINE ARTS MINISTRY

The **Fine Arts Ministry** consists of the Art Gallery, Music Series, and the Theater. Throughout the year, the three art forms together present exhibits, concerts and shows which seek to enhance our faith through visual art, music, and drama all while highlighting themes and challenges within our world. The mission of the Fine Arts Ministry is to *Enrich Our Faith Through the Arts*. This important ministry seeks to create artistic beauty and to help us grow in our faith with God right along with the mission of the church. A full listing of these events can be found at <https://firstpresfortwayne.org/arts/>.

The **Music Ministry** at First Pres has several ensembles open to anyone who loves to make music with others. From Labor Day through Memorial Day, the Chancel Choir meets in the Music Room on the second floor from 7-830pm and the Handbell Choir meets in Room 206 from 530-630pm, both on Thursday evenings. The Children's Choir rehearses for three-week periods throughout the year and sings in the 11am Worship Service at the end of those rehearsal times. Anyone is welcome to join with no experience necessary. If you would like to participate or have questions, contact Director of Music Ministries & Organist, Brent Neuenschwander at bneuenschwander@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Our **theater**, established in 1968, creates entertaining, educational, and inclusive theatre productions to inspire and motivate our audiences. We produce comedies, musicals, and dramas that teach us about ourselves and the world we live in. Our engaging productions have something for everyone, including pertinent messages like love, compassion, and bravery, while focusing on the human condition which can be funny and traumatizing.

CALENDAR

Today

- 10:00 am** **Wired Word.** 2nd Floor Parlor.
11:00 am **Worship.** Sanctuary & Livestream.
Korean Language Worship Service. Chapel & Livestream.
12:00 pm **Coffee Hour.** McKay Hall. Join us after church for a cup of coffee and an opportunity to chat with clergy and members.
12:15pm **Blessings in a Backpack.** McKay Hall. Help pack bags of food for the students of Washington Elementary School.
2:00pm **5 Lesbians Eating a Quiche.** McKay Hall.

This Week

- Mon Feb 03** **Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).** 1:30pm — McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class designed to improve balance, flexibility, and strength for adults aged 50 and older.
Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship. 3:00pm — Room 302. Bring your fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting with other women.
- Wed Feb 05** **Table Talk.** 10:00am — Zoom.
Body, Brain, and Belief (3B). 1:30pm — McKay Hall. See description above.
- Fri Feb 07** **Men's Bible Study.** 10:00am — Zoom. Email Rev. Youngsoo An ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org for more information.
Women's Bible Study. 1:00 pm — Zoom. Email Rev. Ann Pitman apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org for more information.
- Sat Feb 08** **Jesus Christ Superstar Auditions.** 1:00pm—Theater

Coming Up

- Sun Feb 9** **Chili Cookoff.** 12:00pm—McKay Hall
Coffee with the Pastors. 9:30am—Session Room
Jesus Christ Superstar Auditions. 2:00pm—Theater
- Mon Feb 10** **North Dinner Group.** 5:30pm at Don Hall's Factory.
South Dinner Group. 5:30pm Hall's Coventry
- Sun Feb 16** **Reception for Brent Neuenschwander.** 12:00pm—McKay Hall
- Sun Feb 23** **Indiana University Singing Hoosiers.** 4:00pm—Sanctuary