

Friday, January 31, 2025



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastors Note



Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

Sometimes, the revised common lectionary, the 3-year schedule of scripture readings I generally follow, includes a scripture text that hits particularly close to home. This Sunday is one of those Sundays, when we will hear Jesus's inaugural address from Luke. In the story, Jesus names the values that will shape his ministry, and he speaks powerful words of love, acceptance, and grace. His words challenge his listeners and not everyone is pleased with his message. Given that we have just witnessed President Trump's inaugural address, and witnessed his reaction to a sermon preached for him the day after his inauguration, the scripture is timely. And challenging.

I hope I'll see you Sunday as we hear the Good News, discern our

role as messengers of it, and trust the Holy Spirit is at work in us this day.

Blessings,
Annie

Sunday Worship



English

- 11:00 AM 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 [Sarah Kelley](#).

News & Events

Click the buttons below to read past editions of the e-news and to see a calendar listing of upcoming events!

[Weekly Announcements](#)

[Event Calendar](#)

Annual Meeting Called

The Session has issued a call 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 committee report for church officers, and electing members to serve on the nominating committee.

For Church & Community Service

Wareham 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 by clicking the button below or in the church office.

Please submit your nominations (you can nominate more than one person or couple) by February 20, 2025.

[Nomination Form](#)

Fellowship

North Dinner Group: Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, February 10, 2025, 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. 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, February 10, 2025, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Reception for Brent Neuenschwander: Please join us immediately after worship on Sunday, February 16 in McKay Hall.

2025 Chili Cook Off: Save the date and bring the heat! The annual FPC Chili Cook

Off is Sunday, February 9, after worship!
Please bring a large crock pot (and a list of ingredients for those with food sensitivities) of your famous chili to share. If chili is not your thing, we are asking that you bring a side of cornbread or a dessert to share.



Bring your contributions to McKay Hall before the 11:00am service and we will set it up. This event is free, and the top three entries receive trophies and bragging rights! Please email Vicki Davis for more information!

Souper Bowl: February is time for " Souper Bowl!" On February 9th (Chili Cookoff Day), two tables set up and decorated to represent the Philadelphia Eagles and the Kansas City Chiefs, the two teams competing this year in the Super Bowl! 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.

Touchy Topics Book Club

Join Dr. Annie 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 here](#). The book can be ordered through Amazon, Barnes and Noble, www.bookshop.org, or Sunbound Books (a local bookstore). [Email Annie](#) with any questions.

Green Team



Annual Sustainable Chocolate Sale: 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!

New Church Directory

Attention FPC Members:

Realm is the church management software currently used by First Presbyterian Church to keep member information updated. We are excited to begin offering FPC members the opportunity to update their own *Realm* profile by creating an online account, and providing you access to an updated church directory! We have beta tested this to four different groups with good results.

Now, it's your turn as a congregation! The first step is to register/create an online profile and, once that is completed, it will enable a member to upload a picture, change addresses, etc., make pledges, search for other member's addresses (with their permission, of course) and much more.

Staff member Cheri Umphrey will be sending out a *Realm* invite email to register/create your profile. When you receive that email, you simply click on the link that is contained in the invite and from there, you would:

1. Get registered on *Realm*.
2. Once you are logged in, in the upper right corner you'll see your initials and name. Click on "My Account" after you click on your name at the top right. Go to "Privacy".
3. From there, you can give permission as to who can see what of

your profile or select “custom privacy”. NOTE: If you don’t allow “anyone in the church”, people will not be able to access your address, phone or email. They will only see your name in the Directory.

4. Please know that the only information members can see is your contact information, personal information (which appears as birthday with year), and groups you’re a member of (such as: choir, session, etc.)
5. If you have contact information to correct or want to upload a picture, you can do that.

Please be assured we won’t just throw you in the deep end! Cheri Umphrey, FPC Administrative Assistant, is available by phone at 260-426-7421, ext. 0, or email cumphrey@firstpresfortwayne.org. Cheri is in the office every Tuesday from 9:00am–3:00pm and will be more than happy to assist you in navigating this process. Thank you!

Fine and Performing Arts

Five Lesbians Eating a Quiche Final Weekend: 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 atom 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.” Don’t miss the amazing chemistry of this high-energy cast, directed by Reuben Albaugh, in an audience interactive show! All performances will take place in McKay Hall at First Presbyterian Church/Theater! Call ArtsTix at 260-422-4226 to purchase tickets, or click the button below to buy online!

Theater Tickets



2025 Presbyterian Scholarship

Applications Available: 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](mailto:sarah.kelley@firstpres.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.

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!](#)

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