

Friday, February 14, 2025



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Note



Dear First Presbyterian Family,

This Sunday in worship, we'll explore the story from Luke 5:1-11 where Jesus calls the disciples from their familiar lives as fishermen to something new and unknown. Just as they stepped out in faith, trusting where Christ was leading them, we, too, are often called from what is comfortable into seasons of uncertainty and transformation.

This theme feels especially relevant as we prepare to say farewell to Brent Neuenschwander, our Director of Music Ministries and Organist. Brent has prayerfully discerned that God is calling him away from First Presbyterian, though he does not yet know what comes next. Transitions like this can bring many emotions, but we trust that God's hand is guiding both Brent and our church in this time of change.

Following worship, we will gather for a reception in Brent's honor, offering our gratitude, love, and prayers as he steps into this next chapter of his journey. I hope you'll join us as we bless Brent and one another in this season of transition.

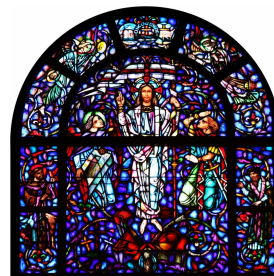
I look forward to worshipping together.

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](#).

Important Schedule Change:
The Holy Moly Sunday School class for children in grades K-4 will not be held this Sunday, February 16 during worship.

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 Calender

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.

[Award Criteria](#)

[Nomination Form](#)

Fellowship

Reception for Brent Neuenschwander: Please join us as we gather to say farewell and extend our heartfelt gratitude to Brent Neuenschwander, who has faithfully served as our Director of Music Ministries for the past 4 ½ years. While we are sad to see him go, we wish him God’s blessings on the journey ahead.

A special reception will be held in McKay Hall on February 16 after worship. This will be an opportunity to celebrate Brent's contributions to our music ministry and to express our appreciation for his dedication and service.

Fine and Performing Arts

FPC Music Series: Join us on Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 4:00 PM for the third concert in the 2024/25 Music Series! Known as Indiana University's Ambassadors of Song, the Singing Hoosiers combine singing and choreography throughout their programs. They will perform numerous pieces from the jazz and Broadway traditions as well as current pop tunes and The Great American Songbook. The concert is free and open to the public!

A group photo of the Indiana University Singing Hoosiers. The group consists of many young men and women, mostly in formal attire. The women are wearing red sequined dresses, and the men are in dark suits. They are standing in several rows in front of a building. A conductor in a dark suit is visible on the right side of the group, gesturing with his hands. The background shows a building with large windows and a doorway.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY Ψ
SINGING HOOSIERS

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 @4:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WEST WAYNE STREET

OFFICE 260.426.7421
300 W. WAYNE ST. FORT WAYNE
FIRSTPRESFORTWAYNE.ORG

Touchy Topics Book Club

The next Touchy Topics Book Club is February 26 at 6:30pm. We're reading "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. Childcare can be offered, and you can RSVP by [emailing Annie](#).

Lent 2025

Join us for our special Lent Bible Study Series, "The Message of Jesus," where we will delve into six of the most significant themes in Jesus's teachings and explore their relevance and impact on our lives

today. With over 3 billion people claiming to follow Jesus, it's crucial to understand what he truly taught, as much of what is commonly believed may not reflect his actual words.

When: Thursdays, March 6- April 10, 6:15pm-7:15pm in the Parlor.
Don't miss this opportunity for meaningful discussion and spiritual growth!

Missions

Schools Team: The Schools Team would like to thank the congregation for their MOST GENEROUS contributions of sweatpants for the students at Washington and South Wayne elementary schools. Over 100 pairs of sweatpants were donated! It is an item that both schools urgently need for those times when kids have accidents - which we all know can easily happen. Thank you First Presbyterian Church for being there when our schools need our assistance!

St. Joseph's Mission: Here is something you can do right here in Fort Wayne to show we care! On Monday, February 24th we can provide the most sumptuous meal ever for the women living at the St. Joseph's Mission Home. On Sunday the 16th you can sign up in the Small Dining Room to fix a dish worthy of a President's Day meal - perhaps cherry pie or cherries jubilee or Lincoln meatloaf in a log shape! Whatever you can come up with, we will thankfully accept!

Social Justice: First Presbyterian Church is participating with Plymouth Congregational Church to host Our Whole Lives teacher training (OWL) over the weekend of March 7-9 at Plymouth Congregational Church.

Our Whole Lives is comprehensive, age appropriate sex education for youth in grades K-1; 4-6; 7-9; 10-12. With training, participants can make informed, responsible decisions about their relationships, sexual health, behavior, gender identity, expression, orientation, cultural influences, and reproduction.

In the current environment of misinformation and ignorance, honest and accurate information about sexuality dismantles stereotypes and assumptions and may even save lives.

Please email [Beth Iserman](#) for more information about cost and scheduling details. Scholarships are available.

New Church Directory

Attention FPC Members:

Email invitations to join our church directory in *Realm* are now being sent! If your email address has changed in the last 2 years, please email [Cheri Umphrey](#) or call the church office so you do not miss your invitation!

When you receive your email invitation from *Realm*, 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 email any questions to [Cheri Umphrey](#), or call her in the office at 260-426-7421 on Tuesday from 9:00am–3:00pm, and she will be more than happy to assist you in navigating this process. Thank you!

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](#) 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!](#)

First Presbyterian Church | 300 W Wayne St | Fort Wayne, IN 46802 US

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