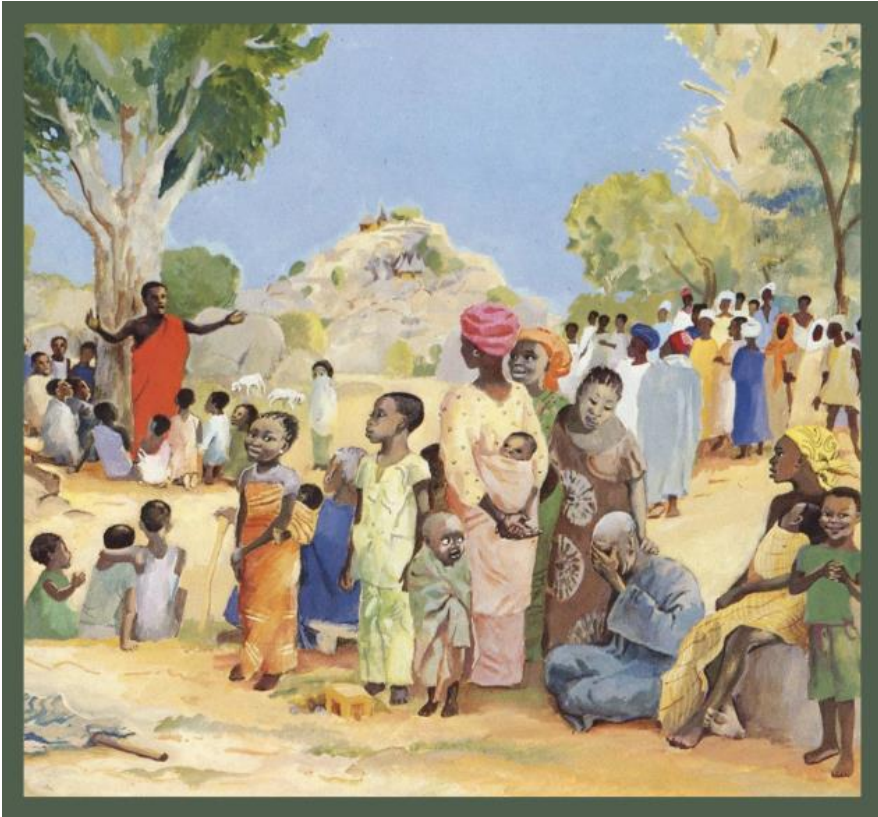


March 23, 2025  
Third Sunday in Lent  
11:00am — Sanctuary



"Sermon on the Mount", Jesus Mafa c.1973



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

*Congregation responds in bold*

## **GATHERING**

### **Prelude**

Ah, Holy Jesus

Ah, Holy Jesus

Organ Setting by David Schack

arr. Matthew Compton

### **Tolling of the Hour**

### **Call to Worship**

Come, all who seek to follow the way of Jesus.

**We come, ready to hear his words and embrace his teachings.**

The Sermon on the Mount offers us a road map for living in the light of God's realm.

**Though the path may be challenging, we are called to walk it with faith and trust.**

Let us gather with open hearts, ready to learn and grow in the ways of love, justice, and humility.

**We come to worship the One who calls us to live as citizens of God's beloved community.**

**\*Hymn No. 353**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

SOLID ROCK

### **\*Call to Confession**

Jesus calls us to a new way of living—one shaped by mercy, humility, and love.

Yet we confess that we struggle to follow his teachings. We choose comfort over sacrifice, self-interest over compassion, and judgment over grace. So let us come before God with honest hearts, trusting in the mercy that meets us here.

### **\*Prayer of Confession**

**Merciful God, we confess that we often struggle to live according to the teachings of Jesus. His words challenge us to love our enemies, to seek peace, and to live with humility and grace, yet we fall short. We cling to anger, hold grudges, and prioritize our own desires over Your call to righteousness. Forgive us for the ways we resist Your guidance. Help us to trust in Your wisdom and to follow the path laid out by Jesus, even when it is difficult. Shape our hearts and lives to reflect Your ways. Amen.**

### **\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. God's grace is abundant, and God's love is steadfast. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, renewed, and called again to walk in God's way.

**Thanks be to God! We are forgiven and set free to live as followers of Christ.  
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. 167    Forty Days and Forty Nights                      AUS DER TIEFE RUFE ICH**



## **HEARING THE WORD**

### **Time with Children**

*Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children.*

### **Prayer for Illumination**

### **Old Testament Reading**

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 119:1-2, 27, 29

**Anthem**

"Amen, Amen, It Shall Be So"

John Bell

**Gospel Reading**

Matthew 5:3-12

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon** "The Message of Jesus: The Sermon on the Mount" Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

### **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

**\*Affirmation of Faith** A Creed Based on the Beatitudes Africana Worship Book

**We believe in the One who lifts our poor and broken spirits, restores our souls and gives us new life in God's kingdom on earth.**

**We believe in the One who gives us peace that overshadows all woes.**

**We believe in the One who nourishes our bodies and keeps our souls healthy with the Bread and Water of life.**

**We believe in the One who gives us mercy to give as a gift to others and appoints peacemakers in the midst of war.**

**We believe in the One who keeps us standing on holy ground though surrounded by false gods, false teachings, and false doctrines.**

**We believe in the One who kept Moses and Miriam, Jacob and Rebecca, Martin Luther King Jr., Nelson Mandela, and Maya Angelou.**

**We believe in the One whose face we will see at the end of this journey in the fulfillment of God's realm.**

**We believe in the awesome power of the Holy Spirit.**

**We believe in Jesus.**

**We believe in God.**

**Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 175**

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY

**Announcements**

## Prayers of the People 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.

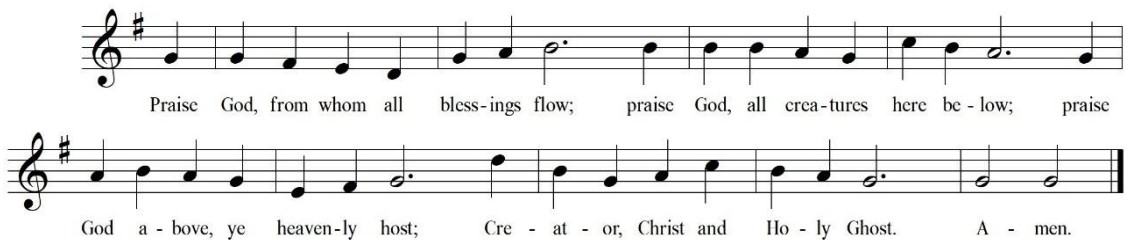
## Invitation to the Offering

### Offertory

"If Jesus Is Come"

Sallie Ann Morris

### \*Responsive Hymn No. 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow



### \*Prayer of Dedication

Holy and loving God, You have shown us what it means to live in Your Kingdom: to be peacemakers, to show mercy, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. May these gifts be used to build a world that reflects Your justice and grace. Bless what we offer today, and bless us, that we may live according to the way of Christ. Amen.

## SENDING

### \*Hymn No. 661

His Eye Is On the Sparrow

SPARROW

### \*Benediction

### \*Postlude

*Allegro Maestoso Vivace from Sonata I*

Felix Mendelssohn

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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**Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Anne Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

**Elders of the Month/Greeters:** Carolyn Krebs, Steve Weissner

**Ushers of the Month:** David Beer, Anne Barnett, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

**Interim Organist and Handbell Choir Director:** Irene Ator

**Interim Chancel Choir Director:** Jonathan Busarow

**Assistant Organist:** Kathryn Miller

**Chancel Choir**

**Handbell Choir**

**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Marj Sapp

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## Prayer List

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|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Mark Chasse             | • Jane Gastineau          |
| • John Ruble              | • Jeff Linville           |
| • Art & Lou Brickman      | • Barbara McCants         |
| • Bill Fish               | • Jim & Sondra Mergenthal |
| • Jacob Martin and Family | • Dana & Les Gurney       |
| • Scott & Joan Pattison   |                           |

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

## 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](http://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 five 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.

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## News and Events

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### **Listening Session Opportunity — Today**

After worship, the Drama Search Team and Music Search Team will host a deep listening session in McKay Hall. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on FPC's music and theater ministries—what you're noticing, experiencing, and envisioning for the future. The teams hope to identify the leadership skills and personal qualities that will best nurture and sustain these ministries as they begin the process of searching for our next Director of Music Ministries/Organist and Director of Performing Arts Ministry. Through guided conversations around tables, your voice will help shape the path forward. We encourage you to attend and be part of this important dialogue!

### **Final Showing of 26 Pebbles — Today**

Don't miss 26 Pebbles, running in the theater for one final performance today at 2:00pm. This story of resilience and hope isn't to be missed.

### **MAD2 Camp Registration Now Open!**

That's right! Our registration for this summer's MAD2 Camp is now open, and we are so, so excited to welcome you all back to camp! This summer, we'll be exploring the arts as we "Follow the Yellow Brick Road!" We hope you'll be joining us for First Pres MAD2 Camp, June 2-6, 2025!

Scholarships are available! Please email Pastor Carrie for details. Spaces are limited to the first 100 campers to register, so register soon by scanning the QR code!



Questions? Pastor Carrie is always eager to help! Email: [cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org) Office: 260-426-7421 x112.

### **Fish and Loaves — Today thru April 13th**

The Hunger Relief Committee will again sponsor our annual FISH and LOAVES food collection during Lent. Leave your donations on the Fish and Loaves table located next to the Church office. You can leave your donations anytime the church is open. We are requesting the following items:



- Canned tuna
- Tuna cups
- Packets of salmon
- Snack crackers
- Saltine or oyster crackers
- Tuna helper

This collection is in addition to our monthly food collection. We prayerfully hope that you will support both of these efforts during this special church season.

### **Music Series Concert: Luke Fitzpatrick, Flautist — March 30, 2pm**

Join us for the final concert of the 2024/25 FPC Music Series!

Lauded by the South Florida Classical Review for his “vivacious and buoyant” playing, flutist Luke Fitzpatrick is the principal flute of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic. During the summer, Luke also plays principal flute with the Des Moines Metropolitan Opera, and played principal flute with the Sarasota opera this past winter season.

Mr. Fitzpatrick will be accompanied on piano by Jonathan Young, lecturer in music at the Purdue University Fort Wayne School of Music. The concert is free and open to the public!

### **2025 Presbyterian Scholarship — Deadline 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](mailto: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.

## **Make Easter Unforgettable with Music & Flowers! — Deadline April 6th**

Easter is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal—and you can help make it even more special!

Easter Flowers – Deadline: Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Fill the sanctuary with the beauty of Easter flowers given in loving memory or honor of someone special. Your heartfelt tribute will be included in the Easter worship bulletin, creating a meaningful way to remember and celebrate loved ones.

Easter Music – Deadline: Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

Help bring the powerful sounds of brass and percussion to our Easter worship! These glorious musical additions are only possible through generous donations. If you're giving in memory or honor of someone, be sure to share their name so it can be recognized.

To donate to music, flowers, or both, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (memo: Music or Chancel Guild – Easter) and send them to: First Presbyterian Church, 300 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802  
Or donate online at: [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org)

Thank you for making this Easter a truly beautiful and joyful celebration!

## **Hands On Fort Wayne — April 27**

First Pres is going out into the community together to share the good news of Christ with our hands and feet in our second annual Hands On Fort Wayne day of service. We're serving hands-on in a variety of settings with many of our community partners.

In the next couple of weeks there will be more details about work sites and sign-up sheets will be available.

We're looking forward to another successful Hands On Fort Wayne! Come and be a part of making our community a better place for everyone.



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## GETTING CONNECTED

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### **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. We will be hosting Coffee with the Pastors on 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. Youngsoo An and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Rev. An at [ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto: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](mailto:apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org).

### **English and Korean Small Group Study — 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month, 9:15am**

The lessons are published in both Korean and English, and the study is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and Rev. Annie Epling. Email them for more information at [ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org) or [aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto: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 — 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> 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 — 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

## **FWCS Clothing Bank**

The Schools Team wishes to remind everyone that a designated bin is available in the Small Dining Room to deposit gently-used clothing for the Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank. Through school referrals, the Clothing Bank has provided clothing for thousands of students and families in need, sometimes enabling the attendance of students who have no appropriate clothing for

school. All types of gently-used clothing in all sizes (baby to adult) are needed, as well as shoes, coats, boots, gloves/mittens, and hats. (Socks and underwear must be new.) If you're paring down your wardrobe, please remember to bring in a bag of wearable items for the FWCS Clothing Bank bin. Thank you!

## **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 7-8:30pm and the Handbell Choir meets in Room 206 from 5:30-6:30pm, 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.

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.**—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Parlor

**11:00 am**

**Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream

**Korean Language Worship Service.**—Chapel & Livestream

**Sunday School.**—2<sup>nd</sup> floor classrooms and Youth Lounge

**12:15 pm**

**Listening Session.**—This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts on FPC's music and theater ministries.

**Blessings in a Backpack.**—McKay Hall

**2:00 pm**

**26 Pebbles Final Showing.**—Theater

This Week

**Mon Mar 24**

**1:30 pm**

**Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).** —McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for adults aged 50 and older.

**2:30 pm**

**Growing and Gaming.**—McKay Hall. Enjoy games like Uno, dominoes, and a variety of card games in a relaxed and friendly setting.

**3:00 pm**

**Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302. Bring your fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting with other women.

**5:00 pm**

**Serving a Meal at St Joseph Shelter.**—Offsite

**Wed Mar 26**

**1:30 pm**

**Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).** —McKay Hall. Lifetime fitness class for adults aged 50 and older.

**Thu Mar 27**

**6:15 pm**

**Lent Bible Study.**—Parlor.

**Fri Mar 28**

**10:00 am**

**Men's Bible Study.**—Zoom. Email Rev. Youngsoo An [ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org) for more information.

**1:00 pm**

**Women's Bible Study.**—Zoom. Email Rev. Ann Pitman [apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org](mailto:apitman@firstpresfortwayne.org) for more information.

Coming Soon

**Sat Mar 29**

**6:30 pm**

**An Evening with K-Pop.**—Theater. A Dance Showcase Fundraiser.