

Friday, May 9, 2025



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Letter



Dear First Pres Friends,
This Sunday we'll ordain and install new Elders and Deacons. I hope you'll be here to support them with your prayers as they begin their service. It's a special and meaningful day in the life of the church.

Our Music and Drama Search Teams have been working diligently since hosting the listening forums. They've taken to heart what you shared—your hopes and dreams, your concerns and convictions—and are now using that feedback to draft position descriptions for our next Director of Music Ministries/Organist and Director of Dramatic Arts Ministry. We hope to post the Music position by the end of the month, and the Drama position soon after.

The final question we asked at the forums was this: *"What is your heartfelt prayer for the church's music and drama ministries?"* Your answers were powerful. Among them:

- That our music and theater convey the spirit of our congregation

—thoughtful, inclusive worship and outreach—and reach the greater community

- That the music and drama ministries help others experience what a caring and wonderful church home we are
- That these ministries bring hearts together to reach a deep sense of unity that words alone cannot accomplish
- That people are drawn to the welcoming warmth of Christ's love through this faith community
- That our offerings in music and drama remain worshipful—whole and holy

I encourage you to pray these prayers regularly. Pray for the Search Teams, for the Elders and Deacons who guide these ministries, and for the people God is calling to lead us forward.

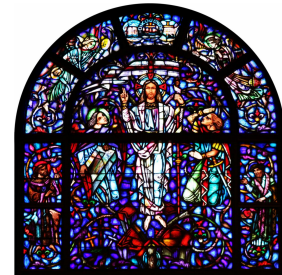
I hope to see you Sunday.

Blessings,
Annie

Sunday Worship

Joint English & Korean Service

- 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](#)



Bulletin

- The complete weekly bulletin may be found [here](#).
E-News submissions should be sent to [Jenny Conrad](#).
Bulletin submissions should be sent to [August Burger](#).

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](#)

Planning Ahead: May Worship Schedule

Join us for Worship in May:

- Sunday, May 11, Dr. Annie Epling, preaching- Installation and Ordination of Church Officers, Joint Worship Service with KLM
- Sunday, May 18, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner preaching
- Sunday, May 25, Dr. Annie Epling, preaching- 2025 Graduate Recognition

Ordination & Installation of New Officers

Ordination & Installation of New Officers May 11: Join us for worship on Sunday, May 11, as we joyfully ordain and install our newly elected deacons and elders. This is a sacred moment in the life of our church, when we recognize and bless those who have been called to serve Christ and this congregation with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

We give thanks for their willingness to lead and invite you to surround them with your prayers, encouragement, and gratitude as they take on this important responsibility. Their calling is not only an honor — it's a commitment to serve with faithfulness and humility.

Let's celebrate this exciting new chapter in the life of our church together!

Deacons:

- Connie Hintz
- Emily Caso
- Tim McKeachie
- Chuck Chapman
- Scott McMeen
- Virginia Lutz
- Bethany Carlson
- Clara Satter

Elders:

- Sherrie Steiner
- Bill Shassere
- Ina Carlson
- Andrew Kopec
- Brittney Bressler-Bodine
- Sandy Shearer
- Jeff Slater

KLM Revival Service

A Special Invitation to FPC Members & Friends: Rev. An and the Korean Language Congregation invite everyone to join in a special revival worship service with Rev. Kidong Kim, pastor, on Friday, May 16, at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. A time of singing, prayer, worship, and unity designed to uplift and remind all that everyone is precious and loved by God! All are welcome, come as you are!



Touchy Topics Book Club

Touchy Topic: *Evicted* - Wednesday, May 28 at 6:30 PM

Join us for a discussion of Matthew Desmond's Pulitzer Prize-winning book *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City*. We know it's a dense and emotionally challenging read, so if the full book feels like too much, consider listening to the audiobook—or even reading a summary or review online to get the key themes. However much you're able to engage, we hope you'll come. The conversation is what matters most.

Missions

Food Bank Donations: The date for the May Food Bank Collection will be May 18th. Please bring your contribution to the church on Sunday. Food items can be dropped off at the church office throughout the week. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated too. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief."

The following items are requested:

- Rice- white or brown (1-2 lbs. bags preferred)

- Cereal - Corn Flakes or Toasted Oats
- Canned Pineapple
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Vegetable - Corn or Peas
- Canned Chicken or Tuna

Thank you for your contributions and help with the Hunger Relief ministry. Hunger Relief is an important part of First Presbyterian's mission to our surrounding community. We support three food banks: Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, United Faith Presbyterian Church, and East Wayne Street Center.

Adult Fellowship

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 Friday. Contact [Luci Gilpin](#) if you would like to receive the email. All are welcome — come as you are and join the conversation.



North Dinner Group: Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, May 12, 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, May 12, 2025, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Table Talk Summer Hiatus: The Table Talk women's book study will have their last meeting before taking a summer break on Wednesday, May 28 at 10:00 am on Zoom. The group will resume on September 3.

Men's Bible Study Summer Hiatus: The Men's Bible study will have their last meeting before taking a summer break on Friday, May 9, at 10:00 am on Teams. The group will resume on September 5!

Green Team

Eco Fest 2025: Join us for Eco Fest Fort Wayne at Headwaters Park on Sunday, May 18! The FPC Green Team will have a booth to share information about their



work to promote sustainability and support our environment through reduce, reuse, and recycle programs. Eco Fest is a sustainability focused and family friendly event with workshops, music, food, and vendors.

MAD² Camp Volunteers Needed

Follow the Yellow Brick Road... to MAD2 Camp! June 2–6, 2025

Lions and tigers and *volunteers*, oh my! It's time to gear up for the fourth annual MAD2 Camp, our beloved week of Music, Art, Drama, and Dance for kids in Kindergarten through 5th grade—and this year, we're off to see the Wizard!



To bring this magical journey to life, we need a cast of committed volunteers to help make the week unforgettable. Whether you're a seasoned Glinda or just curious about life behind the curtain, there's a role for everyone. From guiding small groups to helping with sets, snacks, and smiles—your time and talents make all the difference. If you're available and excited to support creativity, community, and kids, we'd love to have you on the team!

A brief background check is required; a fillable PDF will be sent once you sign up at: <https://bit.ly/MAD2Help> . Please email the completed form and any questions to Carrie at cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Thank you for your heart, your hands, and your commitment to building a more colorful world through the arts. We can't wait to journey down the Yellow Brick Road with you!

Prayer List

- Mark Chasse
- John Ruble
- Art & Lou Brickman
- Jane Gastineau
- Barbara McCants
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Dana & Les Gurney
- Marcie Weissner
- Bob & Kathy Beatty

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

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