

Friday, August 8, 2025



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Letter



A Season of Gratitude and Hope

In Ruth 1:22, Naomi returns to Bethlehem with Ruth after losing everything. It was a painful time, and it seemed like the end. But the verse ends by saying: *"It was the beginning of the barley harvest."*

Even when Naomi couldn't see it, God was already preparing something new. Through that season, Ruth would meet Boaz, and God's plan of hope would begin to grow.

As I reflect on this, I think of my own journey. This August 8 marks 15 years since I began ministry at First Presbyterian Church. When I first came, everything felt new—new people, new culture, new language. But from the very beginning, you welcomed me with open hearts.

Because of your kindness and support, I have grown. I've learned to listen more deeply, to understand across cultures, and to see how beautiful it is when we share faith across differences. These years have been full of grace.

What we share as a church is very special. In a world that often separates people, our church shows another way—a place where God brings us together in love. I believe this is a sign of God's kingdom growing among us.

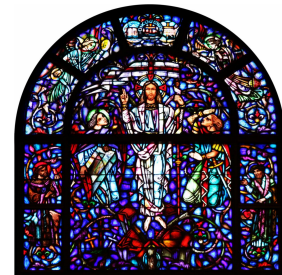
Thank you for walking with me for these 15 years. And I look forward to many more seasons together, as God continues to lead us forward with hope.

With deep gratitude,
Rev. An

Sunday Worship

English

- 11:00 AM Sanctuary, *Ponderings on the Passages*, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner with Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager & Bill Shassere
- 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 [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

Church in the Park 2025



Church in the Park returns! Join us as we kick off our program year this Sunday, August 17, at 11:00 am with Worship in the Conklin Pavilion at Shoaff Park! A jazz ensemble will provide the music, and we'll bless the backpacks! We'll have a potluck lunch after church, so please

bring a salad, side dish, or dessert.

The pavilion is covered and completely accessible with parking and sidewalks leading to the pavilion, and we will have a golf cart available for anyone needing a lift!

Wear your Hands-On Fort Wayne t-shirt or other First Pres swag! There is plenty to do at Shoaff Park after lunch. So, gather some fellow church friends for Frisbee golf, the splash pad, or golf! You won't want to miss this fun day!

Please note: there will be no livestream for this worship service.



Missions

Monthly Food Collection: The date for the August Food Bank Collection will be **August 24th**. This is a week later than normal since the 3rd Sunday service will

MISSIONS

@First Pres

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

be at the park! 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 is for "Hunger Relief."

The following items are requested:

- Rice- white or brown (1-2 lbs. bags preferred)
- Canned Soup
- Canned Fruit - Pears or Peaches
- Cereal - Toasted Oats or Corn Flakes
- Peanut Butter
- Scalloped or Au Gratin Potatoes
- Canned Tuna or Chicken

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. Thank you for your contributions and help with the Hunger Relief ministry.

Schools Team: FPC is once again partnering with Blessings in a Backpack to provide weekend food for the children at Washington Elementary School. Seventy percent of the children in Fort Wayne Community Schools struggle with food insecurity. Blessings in a Backpack, a nonprofit organization, combats this by providing children in our schools with a nutritious bag of food in their backpacks every Friday during the school year, ensuring that children not endure an entire weekend before being fed again.

Starting Sunday, August 24, during fellowship time, we need an assembly line of volunteers to fill the bags! This is a fun and easy volunteer activity! Please contact Taff Silliman at 260-402-2194 if you are interested in volunteering as a team leader - or as a food deliverer – or would like to have more information!

Centennial Fund

FPC Foundation Centennial Fund: The Foundation was established on May 10, 1925, and this year marks its 100th anniversary! Its mission is to support religious, educational, and charitable efforts that benefit both current and future members of this Church, their

families, and their communities. In pursuit of these goals, the Foundation is dedicated to advancing the cause of Christianity in Fort Wayne and the surrounding area.

Every member of First Presbyterian Church is also a member of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation. So if First Presbyterian is your church, you can truly consider this Foundation your own.



The Foundation Board is excited to launch a new Centennial Fund as we look ahead to the next 100 years. Established in honor of the First Presbyterian Foundation, Inc.'s 100th birthday, this special fund invites individuals to commemorate the milestone with a gift of \$100. You may give online by clicking the button below, or by cash/check at the church office.

Join us in celebrating our past and investing in our future!

Centennial Fund

Adult Fellowship



Wired Word: Looking for a place to connect current events with your faith? Wired Word dives into trending topics, while exploring how Scripture speaks to the issues shaping our world today. Each week is a fresh, stand-alone topic, so you

can jump in anytime! Come join the conversation on Sundays at 10:00 am!

North Dinner Group: Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, August 11, 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, August 11, 2025, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of

William (Bill) Fish, who died on August 1, 2025. The funeral service will be held at 11:00 am on Tuesday, August 12, in the Chapel at First Presbyterian Church. His obituary may be found [here](#).

Please keep Bill's family and friends in your prayers.

Prayer List

- Rev. Dr. Annie Epling & Family
- Family of Bill Fish
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Dana & Les Gurney
- Virginia Coats
- Jane Gastineau for safe travels
- Bob & Kathy Beatty

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

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