

Friday, October 10, 2025



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Letter



Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

It feels *so good* to be back! I've missed all your faces, your laughter, your faithfulness, and I can't wait to be back in worship with you this Sunday. Thank you for all the ways you cared for me while I was away. Your prayers, cards, meals, and messages meant the world.

This week I'm kicking off a new sermon series on spiritual practices: simple, grounded ways we can stay centered and connected to God in the middle of all the craziness around us. And we're starting with one that feels especially timely: keeping Sabbath.

Let's be honest — life feels like a lot right now. The news is overwhelming, our calendars are full, and we wear “busy” like a badge of honor. But Sabbath invites us to do something totally countercultural: to *stop*, to rest, and to remember that we are more than our to-do lists.

Sabbath isn't just a day off; it's a way of saying, "The world will keep spinning even if I don't check my email." It's a reminder that God's in charge — and that rest is holy, too.

So this Sunday, we'll talk about what it means to keep Sabbath in a world that never seems to slow down, and how rest might just be the most faithful (and rebellious!) thing we can do.

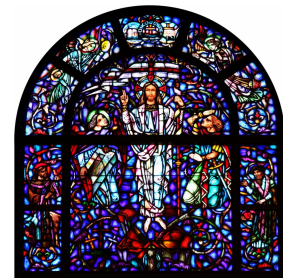
See you Sunday — and maybe take a deep breath between now and then.

Grace and peace,
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 [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!

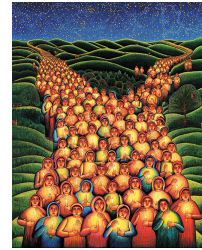
[Weekly Announcements](#)

Dinner Groups Cancelled

Important Update: The October 13 dinner groups are cancelled this month, as both Don Hall's locations are closed for the funeral of Don "Bud" Hall II. The groups will meet again on November 10.

New Sermon Series

Pastor Annie Epling begins *Practicing Our Faith* this Sunday, October 12: Life brings both extraordinary challenges and everyday stresses—and in a world marked by uncertainty, conflict, and constant noise, it can be hard to stay grounded. How do we live with hope and faith in the midst of it all?



This three-part sermon series, inspired by *Practicing Our Faith* by Dorothy Bass, explores spiritual practices that root us in God's love and help us live with intention, courage, and grace. We'll begin by exploring Sabbath as a gift of rest and renewal, then turn to the importance of community in sustaining our faith and finally reflect on honoring the body as a sacred part of our spiritual life. These practices guide our choices, deepen our connection to God and others, and remind us that we do not walk alone.

Coffee with the Pastors



New to First Pres? We'd love to meet you at Coffee with the Pastors on Sunday, October 26, at 9:30 AM in the Session Room. This relaxed gathering is a chance to share coffee and conversation with our

pastors, hear about the ministries of First Pres, and discover ways you can connect, serve, and grow. We'll even take a quick tour of the church so you can get to know our space and history.

If you're ready to take the next step, we'll walk you through the process following the gathering. Questions? Ready to RSVP? Reach out to Rev. Carrie Winebrenner, Associate Pastor at cwinebrenner@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Children, Youth, and Families

Pumpkin Patch Family Fun: Join us at First Pres at noon on Saturday, October 18 as we caravan together to the North Folk Farms Pumpkin Patch and Minecraft-themed Corn Maze! We'll spend the afternoon enjoying hayrides, games, and seasonal treats, returning by 6 PM. The cost is \$14 per person,

and we ask that you RSVP to Carrie by October 15 so we can plan transportation and tickets. Don't miss this festive fall field trip!



Pumpkin Patch Tickets

Centennial Celebration Event



Save the Date Sunday, October 19: Join us for a centennial celebration of the First Presbyterian Church Foundation in McKay Hall after worship on Sunday, October 19, for light hors d'oeuvres, coffee, punch, and cake.

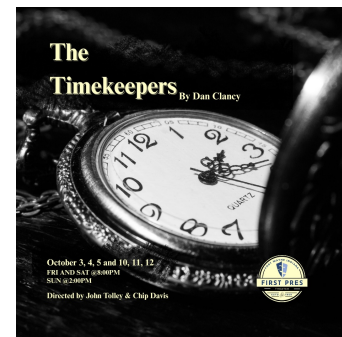
For the past 100 of the church's 194-year existence, the Foundation has served many key purposes, programs. We'll also pay tribute to members who helped make the foundation a cornerstone of First Presbyterian Church. Please join us in celebrating the past and looking forward to the future!

Fine & Performing Arts

FPC Theater: *The Timekeepers* by Dan Clancy is back on stage this weekend!

A world in chaos. Two men, one bold, young, and flamboyant; the other old, conservative, and guarded, thrown together by fate. What could they possibly have in common? Dark humor, a love of opera... and something deeper.

This powerful, unexpected friendship will make you laugh, cry, and think twice about the walls we build, and how music, wit, and heart can break them down. Directed by John Tolley and Chip Davis. Please note this production is for mature audiences for language and sexual content.



Tickets are available at the button below! See you at the theater!

Missions

Hunger Relief: The date for the October Food Bank Collection will be October 19th. 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:

- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Gravy Mix Packets
- Stuffing Mix (Boxed)
- Canned Sweet Potatoes
- Oatmeal in packets or Toasted Oat Cereal
- Canned Pie Filling, Apple or Cherry

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.

Building & Grounds

New Boiler Installation Complete: If you noticed cranes, dumpsters, and mysterious metal cylinders around the church this summer, here's the reason: a major upgrade to the church's heating system is now complete! The old single boiler has been replaced with a state-of-the-art twin boiler system.



The new system boosts efficiency, provides automatic backup, and protects the building from potential winter damage. Installed by Core Mechanical Services, with coordination assistance from Bill Patterson, the project was completed on time and ready for the season ahead.

As winter approaches, the congregation can look forward to a warm, comfortable space and a system built to last well into our third century of serving God here in Northeast Indiana.

In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of long-time FPC member Josué Njock Libii, who died on October 2. His obituary may be found [here](#).

We also extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC Jubilee member Art Brickman, who died on October 4. His funeral arrangements are pending.

Please keep Josué and Art's families and friends in your prayers.

Prayer List

- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Dana & Les Gurney
- Kathy Miller
- Family of Josué Njock Libii
- Family of Art Brickman

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

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