

Friday, October 17, 2025



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Letter



Dear Friends,

This Sunday we'll continue our series on *Spiritual Practices* with a focus on the practice of encountering others.

In her book *An Altar in the World*, Barbara Brown Taylor writes that the practice of encountering others is really the practice of recognizing the divine image in every person we meet. It's about seeing strangers not as interruptions, but as sacred opportunities for connection.

As I've reflected on my own journey of recovery, this practice has been deeply personal. I was reminded again and again that healing rarely happens alone, it happens through community. Through your prayers, cards, meals, and patience, I encountered the grace of God made visible in all of you.

It seems especially fitting, then, that this week we're also celebrating

the 100th anniversary of our church's Foundation—a ministry that has made possible so many encounters of grace across the decades. And as we dedicate our 2026 stewardship pledges, we're reminded that generosity, too, is a form of encounter: a way of extending ourselves to others in gratitude and hope.

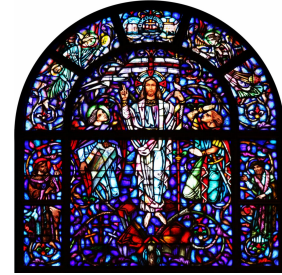
So come this Sunday ready to celebrate our past, our present community, and the living God who meets us in one another.

With gratitude,
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](#).

Please Note: Blessings in a Backpack will be packing this week at 10:15 am! We need an assembly line of volunteers to fill the bags! This is a fun and easy volunteer activity, so please stop by and lend a hand!

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

New Director of Music Ministries Announced

Welcome Colin Andrews, Director of Music Ministries & Organist

We are delighted to announce that Colin Andrews will join First Presbyterian Church as Director of Music Ministries and Organist, beginning November 6, 2025.



An award-winning performer, educator, and church musician, Colin brings exceptional artistry and leadership to this role. Born in Bristol, England, he studied at London's Royal Academy of Music under Professors Douglas Hawkrigde and Margaret MacDonald, in Geneva under Professor Lionel Rogg, and privately with the renowned Dame Gillian Weir. Colin's distinguished career has been recognized with numerous honors, including prizes at the 1980 and 1982 Dublin International Organ Competitions, and in 1993, an Associateship of the Royal Academy of Music in acknowledgment of his outstanding contributions to performance.

Colin has performed at leading halls and cathedrals across the United States, Europe, and Asia, inspiring audiences around the world. Most recently, in July 2025, he performed a concert at Westminster Abbey in London. A dedicated educator, he has served on the faculties of East Carolina University and Indiana University, and as a visiting professor at Florida State University. Most recently, Colin also served as Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Indiana.

"I am delighted to have been called to be the new Director of Music Ministries and Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne," Colin states. "I have been impressed by the wealth of musical resources that are available at the church and the warmth of the welcome that I received during the interview process. I have known about First Presbyterian ever since I moved to the United States and so this is an amazing full-circle event for me. By happy coincidence, my wife and two teenage daughters are from South Korea, so to have a built-in Korean community is also a wonderful added bonus. I am excited to launch into my role as Director of Music and to becoming a part of the church family."

Please join us in warmly welcoming Colin Andrews to our church family as he begins this new chapter of ministry and music with us!

Centennial Celebration Event

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!

Reception for Jonathan Busarow

Join us immediately after worship on Sunday, October 26, for a time of fellowship and gratitude as we celebrate Jonathan Busarow, our Interim Choir Director. We are deeply thankful for Jonathan's wonderful leadership and the joy, skill, and dedication he has brought to our music ministry over the past several months. All are invited to stop by, share your thanks, and enjoy this time together!



2025 Readers' Choice Awards



We're thrilled to share some amazing news! We have THREE Fort Wayne Newspapers Readers' Choice Award winners for 2025!

- First Presbyterian Day School #1 Child Care
- First Presbyterian Church #2 in Place of Worship
- First Presbyterian Theater #2 in Live Theater

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who voted and showed their support. Your encouragement means the world to us and inspires everything we do!

We're honored to serve our community in faith, the arts, and education, and we couldn't have done it without YOU!

New Sermon Series

Pastor Annie Epling continues "Practicing Our Faith" this Sunday, October 19: 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

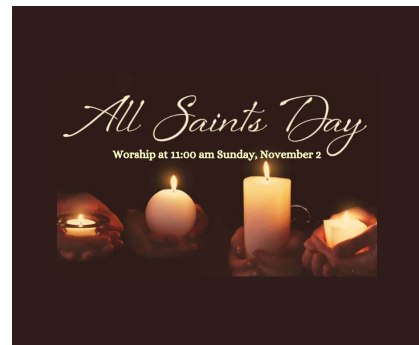
pastors, hear about the ministries of First Pres, and discover ways you can connect, serve, and grow. We'll even take a quick tour of the church so you can get to know our space and history.

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.

All Saints Remembrance

All Saints Worship Service: Submit Names for Remembrance

As we prepare for our All Saints worship service on Sunday, November 2, we invite you to submit the names of friends and loved ones you wish to have remembered during the service. Please submit names by Monday, October 27, by emailing the name(s) to aburger@firstpresfortwayne.org. Let us honor their memory together in this special time of reflection and gratitude.



Fine & Performing Arts

Yellow Frames Project: A Yellow Frames Project Workshop will be held on Thursday, October 30, from 5:30-6:30 pm in the FPC Parlor (artists may stay longer to finish their project if needed). Participants receive yellow



frames with canvas or board to make whatever art they would like to create during the workshop. Frames and art materials are provided!

Participants can take their art home or allow us to hang it in the Art of Hope show that opens in the Gallery on November 14.

Contact [Beth Iserman](#) to RSVP, and for more information! Learn more about the Yellow Frame Project [here](#).

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.

Stephen Ministry

About Stephen Ministry: Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. FPC is a Stephen Ministries congregation and has a dedicated group of Stephen Ministers.



The Stephen Ministry is completely confidential, and open to all FPC members. Please email [Rev. Ann Pitman](#), or call her at 260-426-7421, extension 150, for more information.

Resource Library: The Stephen Ministry maintains a resource library of books dealing with a range of issues, among them, dementia, grief,

end of life planning, aging, mental health issues, and gender issues. The books are available to be checked out to members of the congregation. Please contact [Rev Ann Pitman](#), [Marcie Weissner](#), or [Carolyn Krebs](#) to arrange a time to look through the titles available.

In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Julia Bain, mother of Rev. Annie Epling, who died on October 9. Her obituary can be found [here](#).

We also extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC member Dana Gurney, who died on October 9. A memorial service will be held in the Chapel at the Towne House Retirement Community on Sunday, November 9, at 3:00 PM.

A memorial service for Art Brickman will be held in the Chapel at the Towne House Retirement Community on Wednesday, October 29, at 11:00 am. Visitation begins at 10:00 am.

Please keep Annie, Dana, and Art's families and friends in your prayers.

Prayer List

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

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

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