

Friday, November 7, 2025



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Associate Pastor's Letter



Dear Friends,

By now, you know that I love, love, love musical theater, and one of my favorites is *Oliver!* This musical “twist” on Charles Dickens’ classic is not only full of catchy songs, but also a heartfelt message about our human need for food, love, and community. This Sunday, we’ll find these same themes woven through our Scriptures as we reflect on what it means to be people who not only enjoy God’s abundance but are called to share it freely with others.

In partnership with the Fort Wayne Area Interfaith Cooperative and students from Purdue Fort Wayne, we’re joining hands to help reduce food insecurity right here in our city. These collaborations remind us that the call of Jesus in Matthew 25... *“I was hungry, and you gave me food”*...is not a metaphor but a mission. Each can collected, each meal packed, each act of generosity nourishes both the body and soul of the giver *and* receiver.

We'll also have the joy of welcoming Colin Andrews, our new Director of Music Ministries, as he leads the choir and our musical worship for the first time! Colin brings deep artistry and heart to our music program, and Sunday will be a wonderful opportunity to experience the gifts he brings to our community.

So, come hungry for community that nourishes, music that uplifts, and a faith that feeds.

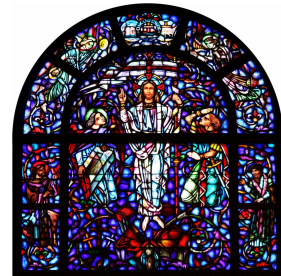
**With gratitude and anticipation,
Rev. Carrie Winebrenner**

P.S. Speaking of being hungry...if you are being affected by the lack of SNAP funds or the government shutdown, please reach out to me. We will work with you, confidentially, to find help.

Sunday Worship

English

- 11:00 AM Sanctuary, Rev. Carrie Winebrenner 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](#)

Interfaith Food Drive

FWAIC-PFW Fall Food Drive: With the support of the Fort Wayne Area Interfaith Cooperative, we're joining other faith communities to help reduce food insecurity in our city.

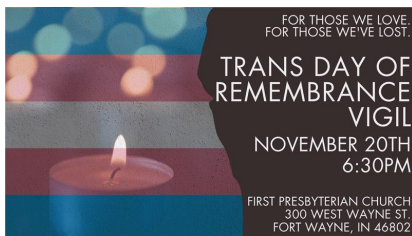


On Sunday, November 9, PFW students will join us in worship to speak about the project and distribute paper bags with lists of needed items. Please fill your bag and return it the following Sunday, November 16. Most donations will go toward feeding people in need, but we're also collecting food for animals cared for by Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control. The students will return to collect, weigh, and deliver all donations.

This effort reflects the shared values of the diverse faith communities within FWAIC, and we believe we are better together! From September through November, our community-wide food drive aims to fill 18 barrier-free Forward Indiana food pantries across Fort Wayne. Each pantry takes about 250 pounds to fill for one day. Together, we hope to collect 4,500 pounds of food to meet that goal.

Join us in making a real difference! Pick up a bag, fill it generously, and help feed our neighbors in need!

Trans Day of Remembrance



Save the Date: Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. TDOR was started

in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.

In honor of those in our community and the world who have suffered violence or death, several local congregations and community organizations will join us for a special spoken-word and candle-lighting vigil held on November 20, at 6:30 PM in the McKay Hall Foyer. All are welcome.

KLM Thanksgiving Dinner

A Special Invitation to Veterans: KLM's annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on Sunday, November 23, after worship in McKay Hall.

This year, we will especially take time to express our gratitude for the service and dedication of veterans within our church community.

We plan to send invitations not only to Korean War veterans but also to all veterans connected to our church. If you would like to receive an invitation, please send your mailing address and preferred email contact to Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Green Team

Green Team Supports Community Effort to Offset Immediate Needs of SNAP

Recipients: The Green Team was recently contacted by Greg Bosk of The Phenie Street Pantry. Greg had received our green reusable bags at Eco Fest and asked if we could help him distribute food at Study Elementary in the Southeast sector of Fort Wayne. He was trying to put together food bags for the children, but the bags he had available kept bursting. Our bags were a great option for the food packing and gave each family a reusable bag for their home.



Greg thought of us because of those bags, and as a result, we were able to assist him! This annual meal bag distribution impacts more than 50 families. Greg (and the children) are deeply appreciative of our support.

The Green Team are thrilled we were able to accommodate his immediate request and build a positive relationship between our church, the families of Study Elementary, and The Phenie Street Pantry. Thank you for your support!

Fine & Performing Arts



Art of Hope: Join us for the opening of the new FPC Gallery exhibit, Art of Hope, this evening, Friday, November 14, from 6:00-7:30 PM. Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana's Art of Hope is an art exhibit highlighting local

artists and sharing inspiring stories about recovery, healing, and hope. Enjoy light refreshments while viewing the art and meet the artists behind the work. The event is free and open to the public!

**Opening Tonight at First Presbyterian
Theater: *The Gift of the Magi***

Experience the warmth and wonder of the season with *The Gift of the Magi*, a touching operatic retelling of O. Henry's beloved Christmas story. Running for one weekend only, November 14–16, this intimate production follows Jim and Della, a poor married couple who long to give each other meaningful Christmas gifts, only to discover that love itself is the greatest gift of all.



Directed by Maestro Robert Nance and featuring talented singers from Heartland Sings, this cherished American chamber opera captures the humor, tenderness, and timeless beauty of selfless devotion.

Join us for *The Gift of the Magi*, a heartfelt celebration of love, generosity, and the true spirit of Christmas! Tickets are available by clicking the button below, or by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226. See you at the theater!

Theater Tickets

Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Come Celebrate Our Community of Communities

Tuesday, Nov 25 @ 7:00 pm
5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne

2025 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Hosted by Congregation Achduth Vesholom

Participating Congregations

- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Baha'i Community of Fort Wayne*
- Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren*
- Congregation Achduth Vesholom*
- First Presbyterian Church*
- Fort Wayne Stake, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
- Indiana Buddhist Temple
- Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
- Plymouth Congregational Church*
- St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church*
- Trinity Episcopal Church*
- Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne*
- Universal Education Foundation Mosque*

*indicates sponsoring congregation

**Open to all. Reception Immediately Follows.
Freewill Offering for Alive Community Outreach.**

In Memoriam

A memorial service for William (Bill) Shassere is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in the Chapel. His obituary can be found [here](#).

Prayer List

- Family of Bill Shassere
- Family of Dana Gurney
- Cormac Wallace
- Kelly Leach

- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal

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

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