

Friday, December 12, 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 past week we had two joy-filled gatherings at the church. The first was Wednesday night at the Advent by Candlelight service. Many women came to worship and find respite from this hectic season. The second was Ann Pitman's retirement party on

Sunday. There is still time to write a note to Ann for her retirement book. You can [email that to August](#) and she'll get it in the book.

Some you might be wondering who will cover Ann's duties? Rev. An will serve as the primary pastoral care pastor. Each pastor will continue to rotate days for making hospital calls, but he will serve as the "on-call" pastor on weekends and evenings. If you have a pastoral need, please contact [Rev. An](#). Rev. An will also serve as staff liaison to the Deacons. Susan Kester will lead the Women's Bible Study, and Marcie Weissner and Carolyn Krebs will continue as Stephen Ministry leaders and begin matching care receivers with care recipients.

As we get closer to Christmas, note that on Christmas Eve at 5:00 we'll enjoy our full Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service with orchestra at 5:00pm and worship beginning at 5:30pm. This service will be livestreamed.

Finally, this Sunday we're looking at Herod and pondering John the Baptist's question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" If you have not attended worship in person during Advent, I encourage you to do so, if you are able. The church never looks better than it does during Advent and Christmas, and the music is always a treat (and better in-person than on the computer).

See you in Church!

Blessings,  
Annie

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## 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

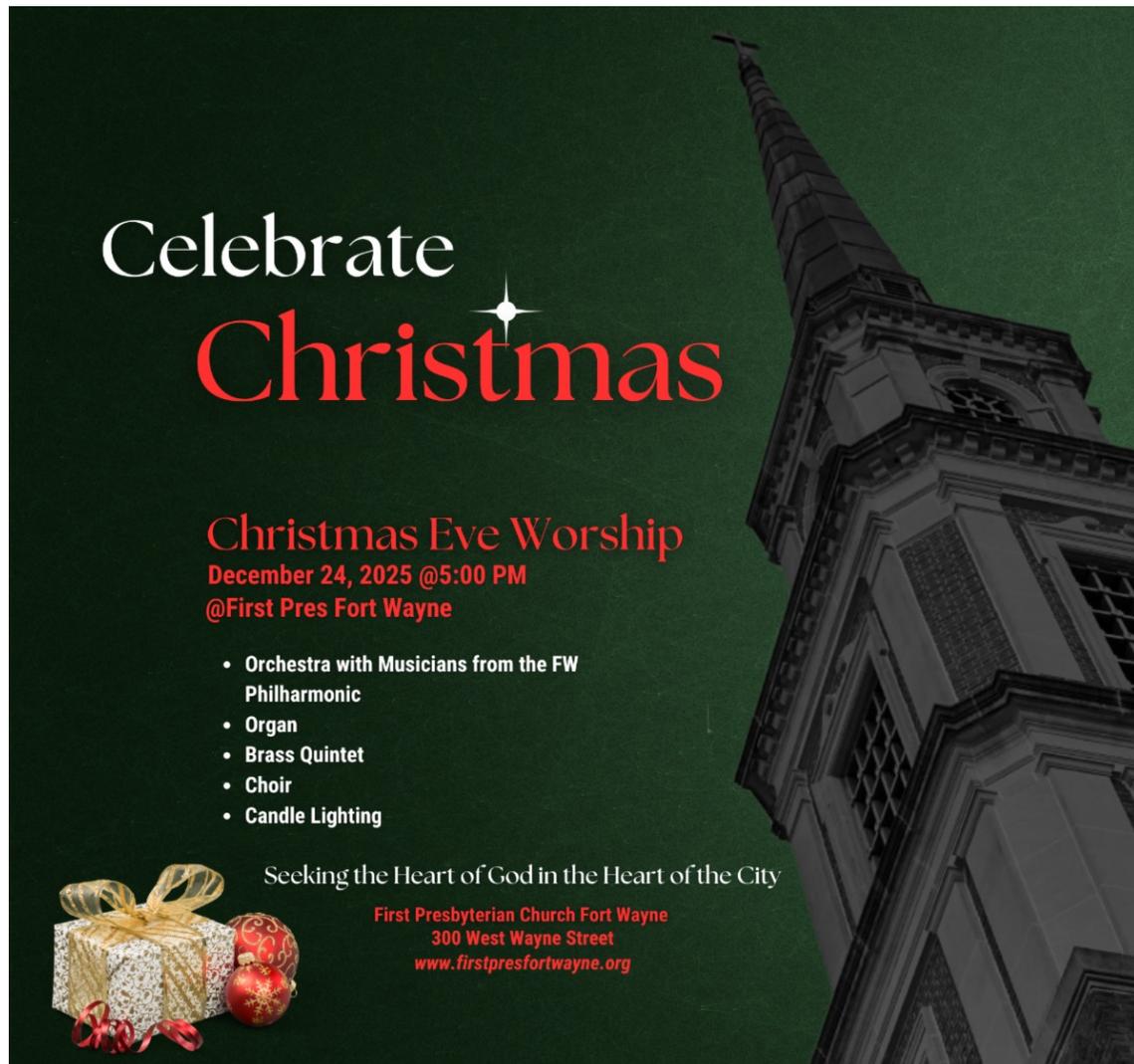
Click the buttons below to read past editions of the e-news and to see a calendar listing of upcoming events!

[Weekly Announcements](#)

**Celebrate Christmas**

**Christmas Eve Worship:** Celebrate the wonder of Christmas with us! Gather with family and friends for the beauty of Lessons and Carols, on Wednesday, December 24, at 5:00 PM! We'll begin with a festive prelude featuring orchestra players from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic, along with organ, brass, and choir.

Together, we'll end the evening by filling the sanctuary with candlelight as we sing Silent Night, a beloved tradition for all generations. May the hope, peace, love, and joy of this Advent and Christmas season surround you and those you cherish.



Celebrate  
**Christmas**

**Christmas Eve Worship**  
December 24, 2025 @5:00 PM  
@First Pres Fort Wayne

- Orchestra with Musicians from the FW Philharmonic
- Organ
- Brass Quintet
- Choir
- Candle Lighting

Seeking the Heart of God in the Heart of the City

First Presbyterian Church Fort Wayne  
300 West Wayne Street  
[www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org)



## Christmas Eve Music & Flowers



Christmas Eve Music and Flowers are made possible through donations in memory or in honor of loved ones, as we adorn the Christmas Eve service with music from our friends at the Fort Wayne

Philharmonic and flowers for the Chancel. If you would like to contribute to this beautiful service, please make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church and include "Christmas Eve music or flowers" on the memo line. Additionally, please include a note with

your name and the names of the loved ones you would like included in the bulletin. You may also contribute online by clicking this link: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri78353/give/Christmas>

Please have your donation in by Sunday, December 14 to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

## Green Team Chocolate Sale

**Fair Trade Chocolate Sale:** The Green Team will be offering delicious Fair Trade chocolate bars for \$5 each at the Green Team Cart after worship on Sundays, December 7, 14, and 21, cash or check only. Why Fair Trade? Because it ensures farmers receive fair wages and supports sustainable growing and harvesting practices.



This season, consider giving the sweet gift of Fair Trade chocolate! All proceeds help us purchase food for local food banks!

## Missions



**HHH:** The date for the December Food Bank Collection will be December 21st. Please bring your contributions to the church on Sunday. Food items can also be left at the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation is for

Hunger Relief.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! What a wonderful time of the year as we prepare for the holiday season with our families and friends. Many families in our community depend on the food banks that we support to get through the holiday season - Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, East Wayne Street Center, and United Faith Presbyterian Church.

The following items are needed for this month:

- Boxed Au Gratin or Scalloped Potatoes
- Canned Green Beans or Corn
- Canned Peaches or Pears
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal - Toasted Oats or Corn Flakes
- Canned Chicken or Tuna

- Cake Mixes and Canned Frosting

Hunger Relief is an important part of First Presbyterian's mission, and your contributions are gratefully appreciated. Thank you!

**Annual Sweatpants Drive:** The Schools Team needs your help! At the beginning of each semester, the Schools Team asks the administrators of the two schools we support, South Wayne and Washington Elementary, what needs they have for the upcoming months. Both of the schools have asked for sweatpants (bottoms only) to have on hand when the kids have accidents and need a change of clothes. We ask your help in providing this for our schools. They need children's sweatpants sizes XS through XL. Preferably neutral colors such as blue, red, navy, black and gray. We will have a bin in the Narthex beginning in December where you can place your purchases. We thank you in advance for helping us support our schools.

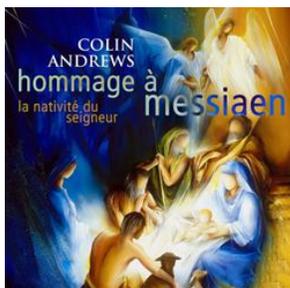
## Farewell 2025, Welcome 2026

**Special Time of Worship and Fellowship:** Join us on December 28 at 11:00 a.m. in McKay Hall for a special, informal worship service as we reflect on the year past and look forward to the year ahead. This service centers on the theme of the New Year, with meaningful rituals and reflections to mark the passage of time.

We'll worship and eat together around tables, sharing stories, prayer, and conversation. Please bring a favorite Christmas dish—or any dish—to share.

Come say goodbye to 2025 in a thoughtful, meaningful way and step into 2026 with intention, community, and hope.

## Celebrate Epiphany with Special Music



**Special Worship Service January 4:** FPC's Director of Music Ministries, Colin Andrews, will be playing Messiaen's Christmas cycle "La Nativité du Seigneur" ("The birth of the Savior") for you at the worship service on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. This is a multi-media event which includes a presentation of artwork and scripture to add a further dimension to this magnificent work. It sounds spectacular on our wonderful Aeolian Skinner organ and will be a beautiful way to celebrate Epiphany!

## Ministry Holiday Schedules

**Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship Holiday Break:** FFF will hold its last meeting of 2025 on Monday, December 22. The group will not meet on December 29 and will resume on January 7, 2026.

**Men's Bible Study:** The men's group will hold its last meeting of 2025 on Friday, December 19. The class resumes on January 9, 2026. Please contact [Rev. An](#) with any questions.

**Women's Bible Study:** The women's bible study group is currently on a break for the remainder of December. The class resumes on January 9, 2026. Please contact [Rev. Susan Keirn Kester](#) with any questions.

**Table Talk:** The women's book study will hold their last meeting of 2025 on Wednesday, December 17. The class resumes on Wednesday, January 7, 2026. Please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733 if you have any questions.

**Wired Word:** Wired Word will hold their last meeting of 2025 on Sunday, December 21. The class resumes on January 4, 2026.

## Stephen Ministry



**Care & Support:** FPC is a Stephen Ministries congregation and has a dedicated group of Stephen Ministers. 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.

The Stephen Ministry is completely confidential, and open to all FPC members. Please contact Carolyn Krebs at 956-844-3890 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733 for more information.

## Prayer List

- Cormac Wallace
- Kelly Leach
- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Donna Jesse
- Mary Winters
- Virginia Kreamer-Lutz & family on the passing of her father
- Richard Baughman & family on the passing of his father

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

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