

Friday, January 2, 2026



## This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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## Director of Music Ministry's Letter



Dear Friends,

Olivier Messiaen is one of the most original, creative and imaginative musical voices in the entire history of classical music. He was born in Avignon, France and studied at the Paris Conservatory under such legendary names as Maurice Emmanuel & Paul Dukas for composition and Marcel Dupré for organ.

He was organist to the church of “La Trinité in Paris for 61 years and the daily round of liturgical music not only inspired his music but cemented his fervent Catholic faith. Every act of music making for Messiaen was an act of faith, reflected by the fact that almost all of his music for all genres is inspired by scripture.

Messiaen was not content with the traditional mode of musical expression or “standard harmony”, he instead invented scales

and harmonies of his own invention. He also eschewed standard musical forms and created new ones. The list of “ingredients” that go into his musical creations are fascinating...the music of French composers Debussy and Ravel, Gregorian chant, Norwegian and Russian folk songs, rhythmic patterns and improvisatory melismas in Indian music, birdsongs (which he writes down and quotes in his music) and of course, the massive tonal palette of the organ and the orchestra. Messiaen is a true visionary and mystic.

I am thrilled to be playing Messiaen’s Christmas cycle “La Nativité du Seigneur” (“The birth of the Savior”) for you as the worship service on Sunday January 4 2026 at 11:00 a.m. We hope this will help extend the all-too-brief Christmas season as this music conjures visions of the events, places and persons centered around the oldest story ever told. This is a multi media event which includes a presentation of art work and scripture to add a further dimension to this magnificent work. It sounds spectacular on our wonderful Aeolian Skinner organ and I can’t wait to share it with you!

Peace,

Colin

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## Sunday Worship



### English

- 11:00 AM McKay Hall, “La Nativité du Seigneur” (“The birth of the Savior”)
- 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

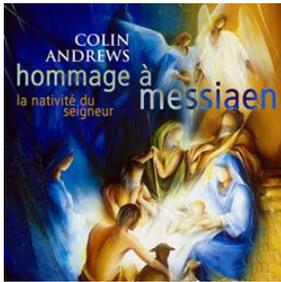
- The complete weekly bulletin may be found [here](#).  
*E-News submissions should be sent to [Jenny Conrad](#).  
Bulletin submissions should be sent to [August Burger](#).*

# 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 Epiphany with Special Music



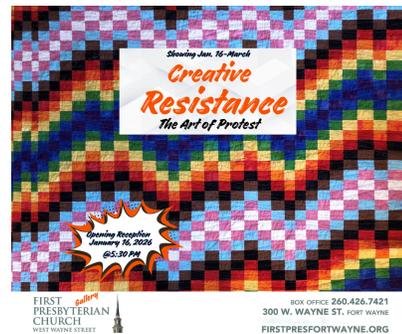
**Special Worship Service January 4:** FPC's Director of Music Ministries, Colin Andrews, will be playing Messiaen's Christmas cycle "La Nativité du Seigneur" ("The birth of the Savior") for you at the worship service on Sunday, January 4, 2026, at 11:00 a.m. This is a multi-media event which includes 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!

## Fine & Performing Arts

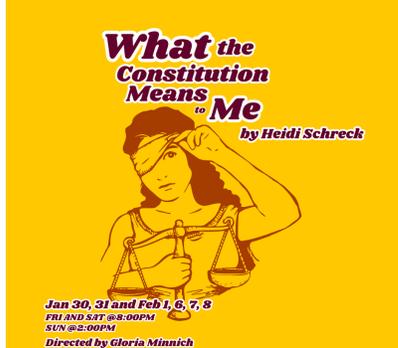
**Creative Resistance Opens January 16 in the Gallery:** Featuring work by Rachel Ivy Clarke, Tamara Harper, Erin Bauchan-Caprara, Emily Herbster, Elysha Ozanian, Amber Elliot

Showing: January 16-March 9, 2026  
Reception: January 16, 5:30-7:00 pm,  
January 18, 12:15-1:00 pm



Craftivism, the intersection of craft and activism, brings a slower, more reflective approach to protest. It seeks to show that while bold action and loud voices have their place, change can also come through quiet, intentional acts. The exhibit will feature art done in traditional craft forms.

**What the Constitution Means to Me opens January 30 in the Theater:** Playwright Heidi Schreck's boundary-breaking play breathes new life into the U.S. Constitution, weaving humor, heart, and personal history into a powerful theatrical experience. As a teenager, Schreck paid her college tuition by competing in Constitutional debate competitions across the country. In this Tony-nominated and Pulitzer Prize finalist, she resurrects her



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fifteen-year-old self to explore how the Constitution has shaped four generations of women in her family.

By blending storytelling, wit, and political insight, *What the Constitution Means to Me* examines the document's lasting impact on individual lives and on contemporary America. Hilarious, hopeful, and achingly human, the play

invites audiences to reflect on the Constitution's relevance today and imagine how it might shape the next generation. Directed by Gloria Minnich.

Tickets are on sale now by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226, or purchase online by clicking the button below! See you at the theater!

Content Advisory: This production contains mature language and themes.

[Theater Tickets](#)

## Church Officer Nominations

### Help Shape the Future of Our Church!

The Officer Nominating Committee is now receiving nominations for elders and deacons. Who do you know who would be a faithful, compassionate leader in our church? Your voice matters—your nominations make a real difference! This is *your* church, and God is still calling leaders from among us. Deadline: January 15.

Nominations (via the fillable PDF linked below) may be emailed to Ina Carlson at [iscarlson1@gmail.com](mailto:iscarlson1@gmail.com) or Carol Rhudy at [cmrhudy@gmail.com](mailto:cmrhudy@gmail.com). Printed forms will be available in the Narthex and in the church office. Completed forms may be returned in the box located in the church office.

[Elder Deacon Nomination Form 2026](#)

## PCUSA Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

The offering will be taken until January 4. Special envelopes will be available in the pews, or you may give online at the link below:

[Christmas Joy Offering](#)

Thank you for your generosity!

## Adult Ed and Fellowship Opportunities

**Table Talk 1 (Women's Book Study) meets** online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We take turns "reading around the table", so no homework is assigned. Participants obtain their own copies of the book. The group will begin a new book on January 21.

We will be reading *Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleecing Frauds (2025)* by John Fugelsang. Description: A humorous yet informative guide that challenges far-right Christian fundamentalism by using biblical scripture to expose hypocrisy and advocate for love, mercy, and religious clarity.

ZOOM Meeting ID: 870 6712 2177

ZOOM Passcode: 260 426 7421

If you have any questions, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

**North Dinner Group:** Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:30 pm, location is Don Hall's Factory. Please RSVP to Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or by email at [marj.sapp@gmail.com](mailto:marj.sapp@gmail.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, January 12, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

## Prayer List

- Cormac Wallace
- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Donna Jesse & family
- Mary Winters

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

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