

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 1, 2026
11:00am — Sanctuary



He Qi, Calling Disciples, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, Tenn. Original source.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

Joyful Praise

Hal Hopson

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

The Lord is our light and our salvation!

Why should we be afraid?

The Lord is the stronghold of our life!

What have we to fear?

Let us shout with joy to God!

Let us sing and make music before our God.

***Hymn No. 721**

Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

***Call to Confession**

"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Only we know the sins that plague our hearts. But every day, God calls us to repent and be forgiven, calling us back to discipleship. Let us confess our shortcomings together.

***Prayer of Confession**

God of light, we live in the darkness of despair: worried about our lives, concerned for our health, and fearful that we are lost from you. Our burdens lie heavy upon us: our unwillingness to forgive, our fears of one another, our reluctance to share what we have, our divisions and quarrels. We long to turn from the dark and live in the light. We yearn to leave what is evil and follow the paths of righteousness. Shine the light of your love upon us and transform us with your love that your promised realm may draw near. Amen.

***Declaration of Forgiveness**

The light of God's love shines into the dark places of our world, healing its brokenness, and bringing hope to places of despair. The light of God's love makes us a forgiven people.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Passing the Peace of Christ

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

As you are comfortable, we invite you to take a moment to share the Peace of Christ with those around you with a smile, wave, or other signs of connection.

*Responsive Hymn No. 582 Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me

1. Glo - ry to God, _____ whose good-ness shines on me, and to the Son, _____ whose grace has
2. World with-out end, _____ with-out end. A - men. World with-out end, _____ with-out

par - doned me, and to the Spir - it, _____ whose love has set me free. As it
end. A - men. World with-out end, _____ with-out end. A - men.

was in the be - gin - ning, is now and ev - er shall be. A - men.

HEARING THE WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Anthem

Above All Praise and All Majesty

Felix Mendelssohn

Gospel Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Matthew 4:12-23

Sermon

“A Challenging Call”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

We trust in God the Holy Spirit,
everywhere the giver and renewer of life.

The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith,
sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor,
and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church.

The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles
rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture,
engages us through the Word proclaimed,
claims us in the waters of baptism,
feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church.

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage
to pray without ceasing,
to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior,
to unmask idolatries in Church and culture,
to hear the voices of peoples long silenced,
and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace.

In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit,
we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives,
even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth,
praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

***Hymn No. 720**

Jesus Calls Us

GALILEE

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Sounds of Joy

Susan Geschke

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Great Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Words of Institution

Sharing of the Elements

First Presbyterian Church believes the table is not ours, but God's. All who put their faith in Jesus Christ, regardless of church affiliation, are encouraged to participate in the great feast of faith.

Communion Music

Prayer at Notre-Dame

Leon Boellmann

SENDING

*Hymn No. 305

Come Sing, O Church, in Joy!

DARWALL'S 148TH

*Benediction

*Postlude

Prelude in D major BWV 532

Johann Sebastian Bach

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Beth Linville Powell by her family.

Last week's Chancel flowers were given in loving memory of Gertrude & Robert Keegan and Margaret Ann Keegan by Taff Silliman.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

Pastors: Rev. Dr. Annie Epling (she/her), Rev. Carrie Winebrenner (she/her)

Director of Music Ministries: Colin Andrews

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Carol Rhudy, Sandy Shearer

Ushers of the Month: Eric Evans, Penny Pulz, June Schwertfager, Anita Wolfe

Assistant Organist: Irene Ator

Chancel Choir: Richard Baughman, Edith Coplin, Quinton Davis, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, Liz Graham, DuWayne Hintz, Joan Kern, Jane McGeehan, Scott McMeen, Alli McQueen, Kemel Mitchell, Kip Ormerod, Ellis Pedersen, Carol Rhudy, Marj Sapp, Sandy Shearer, Jill Therrien, Mary Winters

Handbell Choir: Irene Ator, Richard Baughman, Kathy Beatty, Annie Epling, Charlotte Epling, Annie Joslin, Emma Keeling, Savannah Mooney, Joan Pattison, Marice Weissner

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Bill Patterson

Communion Servers/Preparers: Anne Barnett, Tim McKeachie, Meredith Palmison, Betsy Perry-Patton, Carol Rhudy, Jill Therrien, Marcie Weissner

Prayer List

- Kathy Miller
- Tina Hickman & Family
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Jim and Sondra Mergenthal

If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, let us know.

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. For more information, please contact Carolyn Krebs at 956-844-3890 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

Welcome to First Presbyterian Church!

Whether you are worshipping with us for the first time or you're a longtime member, we are thrilled to have you join us as we explore our shared journey with Christ. I hope you find the worship service uplifting and meaningful.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we hold our 193-year-old history in creative tension with 21st-century challenges. We honor traditions that have shaped generations before us while exploring how Jesus's message speaks to the complexities of life today. Our members come from different backgrounds, carry unique stories, and approach faith with a variety of perspectives. Some of us may have questions, others may have doubts, and many of us are navigating challenges—yet we come together as one body to worship and grow in faith.

You're welcome to visit our website at www.firstpresfortwayne.org for more information about the church, and I invite you to talk to any of the pastors, stop by the Welcome Table in the narthex (lobby) after church, and/or join us for coffee in McKay Hall following worship. We have many programs and community groups to feed your soul and expand your spirit. Try one out. And, if you are looking for a church home, we hope you'll get connected at First Presbyterian. It would be an honor to be your church family.

Blessings,
Annie Epling Pastor/Head of Staff

—> **Hearing Loops**

To use the "Hearing Loop" during the service, please switch your hearing aid or cochlear device to the "T", T-Coil or telephone position.

—> **Families with Children**

Jesus loves the little children, and we do too! But should you decide that today would be a good time to explore the nursery, your child, ages 6 months through five years, is always invited. Our nursery meets in the first-floor day school wing, so please ask an usher or the front office volunteer for assistance and a key fob.

NEWS AND EVENTS

First Pres Theater

Don't miss the chance to see *What the Constitution Means to Me* at FPT. Shows run Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm, and Sundays at 2pm through February 8th.

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 aching human, the play invites audiences to reflect on the Constitution's relevance today and imagine how it might shape the next generation.



Tickets are on sale now by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226, or purchase online by scanning the QR code! See you at the theater!

Annual Sustainable Chocolate Sale

Want to multiply your love with a gift for Valentine's Day? Purchase chocolate from the Green Team after church today and on February 8! You will support fair wages and sustainable farming practices, and surprise someone you care about with a yummy gift! All proceeds will be used to purchase food for the food banks we support! What a win! Thank you for helping to make an impact in our community and beyond!

FPC Dinner Groups

We love to eat! So why not eat with friends? Each month, on the second Monday, First Pres goes out for dinner. You are invited!

Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, February 9, 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. We look forward to seeing you!

Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

2026 FPC Chili Cook-Off

Save the date and bring the heat! The annual FPC Chili Cook Off will have a Mardi Gras Flair: Join the fun on Sunday, February 15, after worship! Please bring a large crock pot (and a list of ingredients for those with food sensitivities) of your famous chili to share. Bring your contributions to McKay Hall before the 11:00am service and we will set it up. This event is free, and the top three entries receive trophies and bragging rights! Please email Vicki Davis at vsrdavis46@gmail.com for more information!



Join us at
the Annual
**Chili
Cook-Off**

With a
**MARDI GRAS
Flair!**

Immediately after Worship
on February 15th

Ash Wednesday

Join us for a special Ash Wednesday Taizé Service on **February 18 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel** as we begin the season of Lent. This service will include the imposition of ashes (both traditional and sparkly), prayer, and space for reflection, inviting us to name both the fragility of our lives and the good news God is still writing in and among us. Come as you are, carrying both what is heavy and what is hopeful, as we enter Lent together with hearts open to grace, mercy, and love. All are welcome!

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study has officially resumed for the Winter/Spring season. This group meets on Fridays at 10am on Microsoft Teams. Using *The New Testament World* by Bruce J. Malina, 3rd Edition as a guide, they study the Word with weekly devotions from group members. For more information, email Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.

2026 Presbyterian Scholarship

The 2026 selection period for First Presbyterian Scholarship is now open. Scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 are made available to members of First Presbyterian Church Fort Wayne, and their families to provide financial assistance in pursuit of post-secondary education.

Scholarship recipients may be of any age if they are/will be full-time students taking degree-directed courses during the 2026-2027 school year. No one can receive the scholarship more than four times.

If interested, please email Sarah Kelley (skelley@firstpresfortwayne.org) in the Financial Office for more information and an application. Completed applications, along with a carefully edited essay, a listing of church participation and activities, and a cumulative high school or college transcript, must be received by **April 1, 2026**.

2024 Audit

The Finance Committee has great news to share! First Presbyterian Church has successfully completed its 2024 financial audit with Agresta, Storms & O'Leary, PC. The auditors offered strong affirmation of the progress the church has made in strengthening internal controls and financial approval processes. These improvements help ensure transparency, accountability, and faithful stewardship of the resources entrusted to us. We're grateful for the many people whose careful, behind-the-scenes work continues to build trust and stability for the future of our ministry.

2026 Giving

The 2026 giving envelopes are still available for pick up in the small dining room.

Join FPC's Choirs

Have you been looking for a musical community at FPC? Both our Handbell and Chancel Choirs love to welcome new faces! Every Thursday, the Handbell Choir practices at 5:30pm. The Chancel Choir practices at 7pm on Thursdays and 10am on Sundays before worship. For more information, please contact the Director of Music Ministries, Colin Andrews, at candrews@firstpresfortwayne.org.

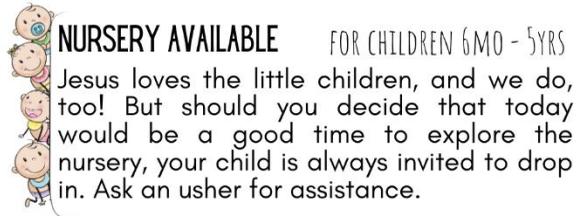
Resource Library

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 Marcie Weissner at marcie5073@gmail.com, or Carolyn Krebs at recakrebs@aol.com to arrange a time to look through the titles available.

MINISTRIES FOR OUR YOUNGER DISCIPLES



Because Communion is so important in the life of the church, we feel it's important that we all celebrate it together. But, be not afraid! Both Holy Moly and Level-Up will be back next Sunday!



Please return after church, so it's there next week!

Worship isn't always easy for little hands and minds to focus, so you are invited to "check out" a fidget toy-filled Busy Bag or a book from our Littles' Library, located in the narthex!

GETTING CONNECTED

MEMBERSHIP

Whether you live in the Fort Wayne area or worship with us online, we welcome you to join our family of faith. Through Coffee with the Pastors, you'll learn more about First Presbyterian Church, its history, and its current ministry in a relaxed atmosphere. Whether you're sure membership is right for you, or you're just beginning to wonder if this might be your spiritual home, we'd love to have you join us for coffee. Keep an eye out for our next date of Coffee with the Pastors. All are welcome.

ADULT EDUCATION

Wired Word — Sunday Mornings, 10am

Join us each week as we delve into a topic inspired by recent news and explore how the Bible speaks to the events shaping our world today. Each Sunday brings a fresh topic, making this group perfect for those with busy schedules who may not be able to attend every week. Topics are emailed each Friday, so please let Luci Gilpin at lucifoltz@gmail.com know if you'd like to receive that email. All are welcome — come as you are and join the conversation.

Women's Bible Study — Fridays, 1pm

This group is now led by Rev. Susan Keirn Kester and meets on Zoom. For more information, email Susan at keirnsusan@aol.com.

Table Talk for Women — Wednesdays, 10am

This group reads a book at their own pace and is led by members of the group on Zoom. ZOOM Meeting ID: 870 6712 2177. ZOOM Passcode: 260 426 7421. For more information, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

Men's Bible Study — Fridays, 10am

This group is led by Rev. Youngsoo An and meets on Teams. For more information, email Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

North and South Dinner Groups — 2nd Monday of the month, 5:30pm

A great way to get to know other First Pres members is through our local area Dinner Groups. These groups meet the 2nd Monday of every month at 5:30pm. The South Dinner Group meets at Hall's Coventry (5745 Coventry Lane). No need to RSVP, just ask for the First Pres tables. It's a big group, so you can't miss it! The North Dinner Group meets at Don Hall's Factory. Please RSVP to Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or by email at marj.sapp@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you!

Faith, Fiber, and Fellowship — Mondays, 3pm

This group meets weekly at 3pm on Mondays in Room 302 on the 3rd floor. Bring your latest fiber project for a time of fellowship and crafting.

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B) — Mondays and Wednesdays, 1:30PM in McKay Hall

Maintaining balance is essential as we age. A decline in stability increases the risk of falls, impacting independence and quality of life. Good balance helps prevent falls, supports daily activities, and reduces the risk of serious injuries.

Join us for 3B, a lifetime fitness class designed to improve balance, flexibility, and strength using chairs and other provided equipment. These free classes are open to all adults aged 50 and older and are filled with fun, fellowship, and fitness. Our holistic approach combines proven physical therapy exercises, healthy brain activities, and opportunities for spiritual, emotional, and social growth. Classes meet twice a week in McKay Hall. We'd love to have you join us!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES

Sunday School for Children and Youth

Two Sunday School classes for children and youth are offered during the worship hour. We all begin worship in the sanctuary, then the children head to Sunday School after Time with Children. Please note: Sunday School classes will not meet on Communion Sundays so that we may all participate in that sacrament as a family.

Holy Moly — for children in Kindergarten through 4th grade

Join us for another fun semester of learning from the Holy Moly curriculum from SparkHouse. Each class includes a Bible story, video, and craft time, with an opportunity to earn Bible Bucks for fun prizes and treats.

Level Up — for youth in 5th through 9th grades

Join us as we explore big questions about our church, our faith, and the world, such as science, politics, social justice, and environment.

Youth Group — 3rd Sunday of each month, 12:15-2PM, lunch provided

Building relationships while burning off some energy is important! Through service, games, food, and more, we have many events to decompress from school and extracurriculars throughout the year. All 6th-12th graders are encouraged to join this amazing group of young people! Keep an eye on the Family Ministry bulletin board (by the elevator) for schedules and plans.

MISSIONS

Through our **Missions Ministry**, many of our members and friends are engaged in volunteering and advocacy. Our programs include collecting, making, and serving meals for shelters, schools, food banks, and more. We also maintain mission partnerships with many local, national, and international partners including:

- Help Not Handcuffs
- Washington Elementary School
- South Wayne Elementary School
- South Side High School
- St. Josephs Mission
- Wellspring Interfaith Services
- East Wayne Street Food Bank
- United Faith Presbyterian Church Food Bank
- Amistad Presbyterian Church
- Matthew 25 Clinic
- Rescue Mission
- Reproductive Rights Action Committee with Plymouth UCC
- PC(USA) Mission Co-Workers in Costa Rica, Taiwan, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon

The **Schools Team** wishes to remind everyone that a designated bin is available in the Small Dining Room to deposit gently-used clothing for the Fort Wayne Community Schools Clothing Bank. Through school referrals, the Clothing Bank has provided clothing for thousands of students and families in need. All types of gently-used clothing in all sizes are needed. (Socks and underwear must be new.) If you're paring down your wardrobe, please remember to bring in a bag of wearable items for the FWCS Clothing Bank bin. Thank you!

Our **Green Team** is active throughout the year. In the winter, you can find them distributing the “Bag of Bags,” which are reusable grocery bags. In the spring, they have a booth at Eco Fest, sponsor a recycling drive at Hands ON Fort Wayne, and host our biennial Pet Blessing with a collection of items for local animal shelters. Throughout the year, they sell Fair Trade chocolate with proceeds supporting our food bank ministry.

FINE ARTS MINISTRY

The **Fine Arts Ministry** consists of the Art Gallery, Music Series, and the Theater. Throughout the year, the three art forms together present exhibits, concerts, and shows which seek to enhance our faith through visual art, music, and drama, all while highlighting themes and challenges within our world. The mission of the Fine Arts Ministry is to *Enrich Our Faith Through the Arts*. This important ministry seeks to create artistic beauty and to help us grow in our faith with God, right along with the mission of the church. A full listing of these events can be found at <https://firstpresfortwayne.org/arts/>.

Our **Theater**, established in 1968, creates entertaining, educational, and inclusive theatre productions to inspire and motivate our audiences. We produce comedies, musicals, and dramas that teach us about ourselves and the world we live in. Our engaging productions have something for everyone, including pertinent messages like love, compassion, and bravery, while focusing on the human condition which can be funny and traumatizing.

The **Chancel Choir** sings for all English Worship Services, and they welcome anyone who enjoys singing God’s praises. Chancel Choir rehearsal is on Thursdays 7pm-8:30pm, and Sundays at 10am. The **Handbell Choir** practices Thursdays 5:30pm-6:30pm and rings occasionally in Worship.

CALENDAR

Today

10:00 am

Wired Word.—2nd Floor Parlor.

Choir Rehearsal.—Music Room.

11:00 am

English Worship.—Sanctuary & Livestream.

Korean Language Worship Service.—Chapel & Livestream.

12:00 pm

Fellowship Time.—McKay Hall.

Blessings in a Backpack.—McKay Hall.

This Week

Mon Feb 2

1:30 pm

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).—McKay Hall.

3:00 pm

Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.—Room 302.

Wed Feb 4

1:30 pm

Body, Brain, and Belief (3B).—McKay Hall.

Fri Feb 6

10:00 am

Men's Bible Study.—Teams.

1:00 pm

Women's Bible Study.—Zoom.

Coming Soon

Mon Feb 9

5:30 pm

North and South Dinner Groups.—Offsite.

Sun Feb 15

12:00 pm

Annual Chili Cookoff.—McKay Hall, after worship.

Wed Feb 18

7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service.—Chapel.

Sun Feb 22

12:00 pm

Welcoming Reception for Jordan Plohr.—McKay Hall. Help us welcome our new Director of Dramatic Arts Ministries after worship.