

Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 18, 2026
11:00am — Sanctuary



Martin Erspamer, OSB from Religious Clip Art for the Liturgical Year



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

**Those who are able, please stand*

Congregation responds in bold

GATHERING

Prelude

The Call

Ralph Vaughan-Williams

Chiming of the Hour

Call to Worship

God creates people from every race, tribe, tongue, and ethnic community.
God calls us to live in community marked by love, peace, justice, respect, and mutual support.

Yet we draw lines between peoples.

We raise barriers.

We treat one another with prejudice.

In every generation, God raises up prophets, speaking forth God's desire for all people to live together in love.

Today we live into the dream of all people living together in beloved community.

***Hymn No. 757**

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples

KINGSFOLD

***Prayer Litany**

May we dream of a world made new,

Where together we shout for justice,

And as one we fight against oppression.

May we dream of a world made new,

Where together we seek God's righteousness

And as one we sing God's praise.

May we dream of a world made new,

Where together we climb God's mountain,

And as one we enter the promised land.

May we dream of a world made new,

Where together we proclaim the good news of God's kingdom,

And as one we enjoy its peace, and abundance and love.

***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

Time with Children

Children and youth in kindergarten thru 9th grade are encouraged to head to Sunday School after the Time with Children.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 40:1-11

Anthem

O Thou whom Art the Truth and Light

Finn Videro

Gospel Reading

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

John 1:43-51

Sermon

“Algorithms”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

***Affirmation of Faith**

I refuse to believe that we are unable to influence the events around us.

I refuse to believe we are bound by racism, war, and injustice.

I believe those around me are my brother and my sister.

I believe in dignity every day and that our brokenness can be healed.

I believe we can overcome oppression and violence, without resorting to it.

This means I seek to reject revenge and retaliation.

I remember, “Hate cannot drive out hate: only love can.”

(Drawn from the writings of Martin Luther King, Jr. by Abigail Reichard, a student at Christian Theological Seminary. Posted on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Worship Resources, on the Disciples of Christ Council on Christian Unity website.)

***Hymn No. 769**

For Everyone Born

FOR EVERYONE BORN

Announcements

Prayers of the People 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.

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory

Allegro Maestoso

Cèsar Franck

***Responsive Hymn No. 606 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow'. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. Below the staff, the lyrics are written: 'Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; praise'. The second staff continues the melody with similar note values. Below it, the lyrics are: 'God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; Cre-at- or, Christ and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.' The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise God, all crea-tures here be-low; praise

God a-bove, ye heaven-ly host; Cre-at- or, Christ and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy God, like the first disciples, we have heard the call to follow Jesus! Yet too often, we have failed to introduce him to others, not willing to take the risks that go with true discipleship. As we bring our tithes and offerings to you this day, make us bold in following. May we give more readily, love more deeply, show mercy and compassion more extravagantly, and seek justice for others courageously. Help us to walk in the steps of the one we follow. In Christ's holy name, we pray. Amen.

SENDING

***Hymn No. 754**

Help Us Accept Each Other

BARONITA

***Benediction**

***Postlude**

Fugue in D major BWV 532

Johann Sebastian Bach

CHANCEL FLOWERS

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of Lorraine H. Davis
by the Philip R. Davis family.

We sincerely apologize for leaving out the Chancel Flowers from last week's Bulletin:

The Chancel flowers were given in loving memory of James Ator
by Irene Ator and Carole & Jeff Slater.

IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of Lester Hayes Gurney who passed away on Tuesday, December 16, 2025. Please keep Les' family and friends in your prayers.

The funeral service for Bob Jesse will be held in the sanctuary on Saturday, March 21,
at 11:00 am.

Assisting with Worship this Morning

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

Director of Music Ministries: Colin Andrews

Liturgist: Luci Foltz Gilpin

Reader: David McCants

Elders of the Month/Greeters: Betsy Perry-Patton, Carol Rhudy

Ushers of the Month: Anne Barnett, Dave Beer, Jack Patton, Dan Serban

Assistant Organist: Irene Ator

Chancel Choir: Richard Baughman, Edith Coplin, Quinton Davis, Susan Dorion, Andrew Graham, Liz Graham (soloist), 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

Live Stream Operator: Dick Florea

Sound Board Operator: Jeff Slater

Prayer List

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Kathy Miller | • Jennifer Kern Kelly |
| • Tina Hickman & Family | • 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 Art Gallery

Join us after worship in the gallery to view *Creative Resistance*, which features work by Rachel Ivy Clarke, Tamara Harper, Erin Bauchan-Caprara, Emily Herbster, Elysha Ozanian, and Amber Elliot.

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.

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Day School Program

Musicians from the Fort Wayne Philharmonic will be presenting a musical program for the children of the FPC Day School on Wednesday, January 21, in the Chapel! You may join us for one of two programs, the first at 10:00 AM or the second at 10:40 AM. If you have children or grandchildren who would benefit from this concert, please feel free to attend! A little bit of music will help to brighten a winter day!

Table Talk

This women's book study meets online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am, taking turns "reading around the table", so no homework is assigned. Participants should obtain their own copies of the book before the group begins on January 21.

The group will be reading *Separation of Church and Hate: A Sane Person's Guide to Taking Back the Bible from Fundamentalists, Fascists, and Flock-Fleeing 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.

First Pres Theater

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 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.

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!



Theater Volunteers Needed

Be part of the show, off stage! First Pres Theater's upcoming production of "What the Constitution Means to Me" opens soon, and we need your help to make it a success. We're looking for friendly volunteers to serve as:

- Ushers
- Ticket Takers
- Concessions Workers

It's a fun way to support live theater! Sign up by scanning the QR code.

Thank you for helping us bring great theater to our community!



Per Capita for 2026

FPC's annual per capita offering supports the ministry operations of the Whitewater Valley Presbytery, the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and the PC(USA) General Assembly. As a part of their membership, FPC asks that each member considers a donation for the 2026 assessed church per capita amount of \$46.02. Thank you for your generosity!

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!



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**.

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.

Closed for MLK Day

FPC Campus will be closed on Monday, January 19 in honor of MLK Day. No groups will be meeting.

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

Blessings in a Backpack.—McKay Hall.

Creative Resistance Congregational Opening.—Gallery after worship.

This Week

Mon Jan 19

FPC Campus Closed in honor of MLK Day.

Wed Jan 21

1:30 pm

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

Fri Jan 23

1:00 pm

Women's Bible Study.—Zoom.

Coming Soon

Fri Jan 30

8:00 pm

What the Constitution Means to Me Opening Night.—Theater.

Sun Feb 15

12:00 pm

Annual Chili Cookoff.—McKay Hall, after worship.

Wed Feb 18

7:00 pm

Ash Wednesday Service.—Chapel.