

Friday, January 16, 2026



## This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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## Gallery Director's Letter



Dear Friends,

When you look at a piece of art, the choices an artist has made are just as important as what you see on the wall in front of you.

For example, many of us are familiar with Jackson Pollock's action paintings. Jackson Pollock moved away from fine art-grade oils to commercial-grade enamel paint. And what did he do with it? He dribbled, flicked and splattered it. Enamel paint was an excellent catalyst for these movements. Why did he do this? He was making a statement. A big part of why he made those decisions was because of the weight of hundreds of years of painting that came before him. He didn't want to make two-dimensional space appear three dimensional. He didn't want to be realistic. The act of painting itself was the subject and star. He was using the language and history of painting to give meaning to his work.

Keeping this in mind, the fiber works you will see this Friday, in the gallery show, “Creative Resistance,” will appear to be pretty quilts and embroidered pieces. They have been composed and stitched together with precision by skilled hands, requiring many hours, and are informed by centuries of traditionally female craft. However, rebel artists Erin, Rachel, Emily, Tamara, Elysha, and Amber have decided to use the craft lexicon to imbue their art with meaning. This mashup is surprising, ironic, snarky, funny, rich, and lots of other things that you may think of or feel when you look at their work.

This is “craftivism.” Craft + activism.

So please join us in the gallery on Friday, January 16 from 5:30-7:00 p.m., to inspire you, and to listen to live folk harp, voice, and guitar music, performed by Edith Coplin and her friend, Zdenka. The work of several talented women artists, Rachel Ivy Clark, Tamara Michigan Dean, Erin Bauchan-Caprara, Emily Herbster, Elysha Ozanian, and Amber Elliot will be featured. There will also be hors d’oeuvres, wine, and maybe even a sing-along (although you have 100% permission to remain silent). Thank you for supporting our Gallery!

Beth Iserman  
Gallery Director

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## Sunday Worship

### English

- 11:00 AM Sanctuary, Rev. Dr. Annie 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, Pastor Lim 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](#).*

**Campus Closing: Please note the entire FPC Campus will be closed on Monday, January 20, in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.**

## 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](#)

## 2026 Chili Cook-Off with a Mardi Gras Flair

**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](#) for more information!



## FW 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!

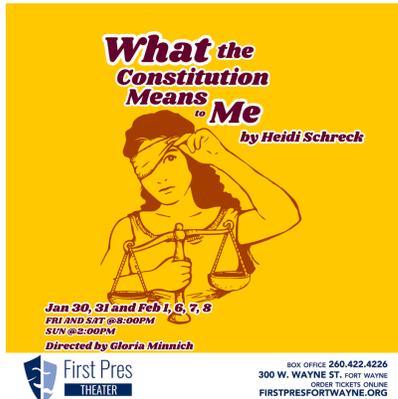
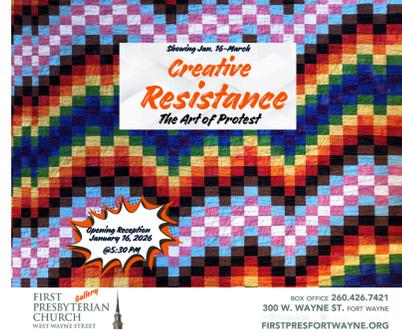
## Fine & Performing Arts

***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 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](#)

## 2026 Presbyterian Scholarship

**Applications Available:** The 2026 selection period for First Presbyterian scholarships is now open. Scholarships in the

amount of up to \$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. No one can receive the scholarship more than four times.

If interested, please email [Sarah Kelley](#) 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.

## Missions

**Helping the Hungry:** The date for the January Food Bank Collection will be this Sunday, January 18th. Please bring your contributions to the church on Sunday. Food items can also be dropped off at the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief."

The following items are requested:

- Canned Pineapple Chunks or Fruit Cocktail
- White or Brown Rice - 1 or 2 lb. bags
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chili
- Oatmeal in packets
- Canned Chicken or Tuna
- Applesauce cups

Thank you very much for your contributions and help for this ministry. Hunger Relief is an important part of First Presbyterian's mission to our surrounding community. We support three food banks: Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, United Faith Presbyterian Church, and East Wayne Street Center.

## 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.

## 2026 Per Capita

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!

## Stephen Ministry



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 [Marcie Weissner](#), or [Carolyn Krebs](#).

## In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC member Les Gurney, who died on December 16, 2025. A memorial service will be held in the Chapel at the Towne House Retirement Community on Saturday, January 17, at 2:00 PM, with visitation starting at 1:30 PM. His obituary can be found [here](#).

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

# Prayer List

- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Kathy Miller
- Family & friends of Les Gurney
- Tina Hickman & family

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

First Presbyterian Church | 300 W Wayne St | Fort Wayne, IN 46802 US

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