

Friday, January 23, 2026



## This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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## Pastor's Letter



Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church,

I'm looking forward to Sunday and to leading you in worship. We are now in what the church calls Ordinary Time—a season when we hear stories about the calling of the disciples and the very beginnings of Christianity. I am always amazed by these stories, especially by how the disciples dropped absolutely everything to follow Jesus. They even left their families. I'm not sure I could do the same.

And yet, even if our call doesn't feel quite that urgent or dramatic, the reality is that every day we face choices. They may seem mundane in the moment, but those choices have consequences. Are we following Jesus? Are we making the right choices?

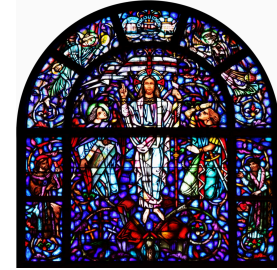
Which brings me to the weather! It looks like Sunday may be very snowy and cold in Fort Wayne. ***We have made the decision to move to online-only worship on Sunday.*** Making the decision now ensures that word gets out to everyone!! Thank you for understanding.

Please stay safe. I look forward to seeing you online on Sunday.

Blessings,  
Anne

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## Sunday Worship



### English

- 11:00 AM **Online Only**, 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 **Online Only**, 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](#).*

**Important: In the event of inclement weather, we will notify you of church building closures with an e-news email and on social media. Please keep an eye on your inbox, and on our social media pages!**

## 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! Sign-up for your spot in the church office!



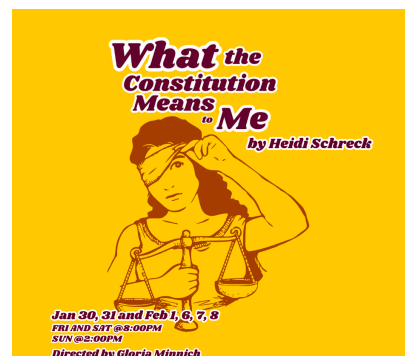
## Fine & Performing Arts



**Join the 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](mailto:candrews@firstpresfortwayne.org).

**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.



BOX OFFICE 260.422.4226  
300 W. WAYNE ST. FORT WAYNE  
ORDER TICKETS ONLINE  
FIRSTPRESFORTWAYNE.ORG

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.

## Green Team



**Valentine Sustainable Chocolate Sale:** Want to multiply your love with a gift for Valentine's Day? Purchase chocolate from the Green Team after church on February 1, and 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!

## 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](#).



## Prayer List

- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- 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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