

Friday, January 30, 2026



## This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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## Director of Drama Ministry's Letter



**Warmest Greetings!**

**I hope this letter finds you well and in good spirits. It is a hope that extends to our city, state, county, and beyond! It is perhaps a rare thing to be in good spirits at a time when wars are being fought all over the world, violent enforcement actions are being carried out in our own cities, and the divisions in broader public life seem to be seeping into every aspect of our lives, but it is a hope.**

**There is a lot of despair at the state of the world, but I have often said, 'I have nothing if not for hope.' And when I find the state of the world overwhelming, it is in works like *What the Constitution Means to Me*, that gives me hope for the future. This show is not a pair of rose-tinted glasses, it is not a call to arms, it is an interrogation. An interrogation of the Constitution that asks how we got to where we are, and how do we get to where we want to be.**

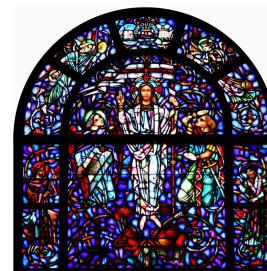
This show gives me hope because I hear some of my own frustrations in the words spoken on that stage. It is not the hope that everything is going to be ducky swell by morning, but that I'm not the only one who sees that there are cracks in the façade; and that it is our collective responsibility to do the deep restorative work of rebuilding stronger and better than we are today. If we each do what is in our power to call out and correct the injustices in our world, our voices and deeds will join like a great chorus above the din of division, and we can do our part to bend the arc of the moral universe toward justice.

I hope you will come see *What the Constitution Means to Me*, (January 30 – February 1 & February 6-8) and I hope it buoys you as it did me. It is as brilliant and funny as it is insightful and educational. And I am extremely proud of the work the cast and production team have put into this show to make it so special.

Jordan Plohr  
Director of Dramatic Arts Ministry

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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, 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!

## Ash Wednesday Service

**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!

## 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](mailto:sarah.kelley@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.

# 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.

## Finance Committee

**2024 Audit Report:** 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.

# 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
- Susan Bolinger

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

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