

Transfiguration of the Lord  
February 15, 2026  
11:00am — Sanctuary



Ethiopian depiction of the Transfiguration.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WEST WAYNE STREET

*\*Those who are able, please stand*

**Congregation responds in bold**

## **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

Wondrous Love

Southern Harmony/Dale Wood

**Chiming of the Hour**

**Call to Worship**

We gather as the faithful of God;  
we come to listen to what God has to say to us.

**God has invited us to this place:  
may our faces reflect our hopes and our hearts.**

We gather as the faithful of God,  
people of the new covenant of hope and of promise.

**We boldly enter into the presence of God,  
hoping to be transformed into new people.**

We gather as the faithful of God,  
our fears melting away in the heart of God.

**We come to share in the freedom of the Spirit,  
we come to praise God's holy name.**

**\*Hymn No. 11**

Source and Sovereign, Rock and Cloud

ABERYSTWYTH

**\*Call to Confession**

**\*Prayer of Confession**

*Soloist: Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.*

**We are yours, Lord, though we fight for control. Take our lives; make us yours.**

*Soloist: Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

**We are yours, Lord, though our busyness gets in the way. Take our days; make them yours.**

*Soloist: Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.*

**We are yours, Lord, though we are not always in service. Take our hands; make them yours.**

*Soloist: Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.*

**We are yours, Lord, even though our feet don't always move with your spirit.  
Take our feet; make them yours.**

### **\*Declaration of Forgiveness**

The Lord is taking your life, consecrating your time and your days, your hands, and your feet. For you ...we... are swift and beautiful in God's eyes. For it is in that love that we are forgiven.

**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**

### **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**

Exodus 24:12-18

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Anthem**

Praise Ye the Lord

John Rutter

## **Gospel Reading**

Matthew 17:1-9

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Sermon**

“Shiny”

Rev. Dr. Annie Epling

## **RESPONDING TO THE WORD**

### **\*Affirmation of Faith**

**Our hope is God, our holy Parent,  
who makes all things and from whom all blessings flow.  
God’s faithfulness is the anchor of our hope.**

**Our trust is in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
More than a teacher,  
His life, death, and resurrection give meaning to our existence.  
Christ’s faithfulness tethers us to holy mystery.**

**Our trust is in the Holy Spirit.  
Blowing over and through creation, unexpected and untamed,  
The Spirit stirs forgiveness, fruitfulness, and creates families.  
The Spirit’s faithfulness ties together past, present, and future.  
Holy Trinity, One God, we believe you transfigure our faith. Amen.**

**\*Hymn No. 189**

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

DEO GRACIAS

## **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.**

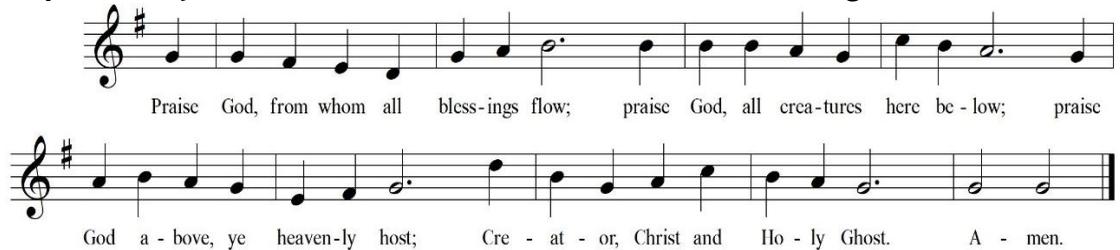
## **Invitation to the Offering**

Offertory

Our God Is Love

Hal Hopson

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



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**

**God of compassion, in Jesus Christ you reveal the light of your glory, made flesh for us and for the sake of the world. These gifts are a reflection of your grace and an offering of our love, for the healing and restoration of all people. We give ourselves to you for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

**SENDING**

**\*Hymn No. 190**

Swiftly Pass the Clouds of Glory

GENEVA

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**

Carillon de Westminster

Louis Vierne

**CHANCEL FLOWERS**

The Chancel flowers are given in loving memory of George E. and Marcella Smith by Anita Wolfe and family.

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## Assisting with Worship this Morning

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**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 (soloist), 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

**Live Stream Operator:** Dick Florea

**Sound Board Operator:** Jeff Slater

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## Prayer List

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- Kathy Miller
- Tina Hickman & Family
- Bob & Kathy Beatty
- Mary Winters
- Ember Carlson
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Jim and Sondra Mergenthal
- Susan Bolinger & Family
- Janice Roddy

**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](http://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.

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## NEWS AND EVENTS

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### 2026 FPC Chili Cook-Off

Join the fun **today** after worship! Come taste test the chilis and help us choose a favorite. This event is free and delicious!

### 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!

### Welcoming Reception

Join us immediately after worship on Sunday, February 22, for a time of fellowship as we welcome Jordan Plohr, our new Director of Drama Ministries. All are invited to stop by, meet Jordan, and enjoy this time together!

### First Pres Art Gallery

Join us at the First Presbyterian Art Gallery for "Art Will Set You Free: Portraits of Lives Affected by Incarceration. Featuring 4 decades of artwork created behind bars, this special exhibition explores creativity, humanity, resilience, and hope under confinement.

Showing: February 27-March 20, 2026

Opening Reception: February 27, 5:30-7:00 pm

The opening night reception includes art, music, refreshments, and conversation!

### Save the Date: Sunday, March 1

We are honored to welcome Rev. Tony Larson, Moderator of the PC(USA) General Assembly, as our guest preacher at First Presbyterian Church. This is a rare and meaningful moment in the life of our congregation, and we hope you will plan now to worship in person that morning. Your presence matters, and we would love a strong, welcoming congregation gathered to receive him.

## **Annual Meeting**

The Session has issued a call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to take place March 15 immediately following worship. The following business will be presented: annual reports, financial report for the preceding year, budget for the current year (information only), changes in the terms of call for the pastors, nominating committee report for church officers, and electing members to serve on the nominating committee.

## **“Tell Me Something Good” for Lent**

This year, our Lenten worship series is built around the theme “*Tell Me Something Good.*” Despite what we may traditionally think, Lent is not a death march to Good Friday—it’s a journey toward life and Easter. And honestly, we could all use some good news, yes? Join us this Lent to be inspired by stories of hope, to tell good news, and to become people of good news in a world that often pushes us to be otherwise.

## **“Good News Only” Facebook Group**

This Lent, we’re creating space to notice and share the good that so often goes unnamed. *Good News Only* is a dedicated Facebook group where each day you’ll receive a simple prompt to help you look for signs of hope all around you...from a favorite song on the radio, to a quiet act of kindness, to a recipe that unexpectedly delights. Daily prompts begin February 19 and continue through Maundy Thursday, April 2. All are welcome to participate, and you do not need to be a church member to join. Come as you are, scroll when you can, and help us tell the good news together. Find us by scanning the QR code.



## **“Good Times, Great Company” – Lenten Series**

To go along with our Lenten worship theme, Tell Me Something Good, we’re doing something a little different this year. Instead of a book study or traditional Bible study, we’re going on the road—just for fun—for the six weeks of Lent. Join us as you’re able for weekly, low-key activities that build new relationships, make new friends, and reconnect with one another. No prep, no pressure, just time together and a little good news along the way.

### **Feb. 21, 3-4:30PM Riverfront Lunar New Year**

In partnership with Fort Wayne Korea Festival! We’ll meet at the white sculpture at the corner of Harrison and Superior. This is a FREE event.

### **Feb. 26, 5-6:30PM Botanical Gardens**

Stroll through two different shows, the Sweetheart Orchid Display and Fern’s Fairytale Express (with a model train.) This event is \$1 per person.

### **Mar. 6, 11:30AM-1PM Lunch at Ducky’s**

Join us for lunch and a bit of duckpin bowling! This activity is accessible for all ages and abilities. Cost is only for your lunch order.

### **Mar. 12, 5-6:30PM 2nd Thursdays at FW Museum of Art**

Join us as we take a curated tour the latest gallery show, The Spellbound Spirit: Photographs by Kirsty Mitchell. This is a FREE event.

### **Mar. 21, 7:30-9PM Glo Wild at FW Zoo**

Don’t miss your opportunity to see the Zoo transform into a wild and wonderful nighttime lantern festival. This event is \$15 per adult and \$10 pr child. RSVP before March 14 by scanning the QR code.



### **Mar. 24, 5:30-7:30PM Mahjong at Two Bamboo**

Want to learn how to play American Mahjong? Are you already a pro? Join us for a fun night of learning and playing at the newest spot in town, Two Bamboo owned by a friend of our own, Betsy Perry Patton! For those who already know how to play, some tables will be designated for open play all evening. This event is \$15 per person, and RSVP is required by March 17. To RSVP scan the QR code.



## **Make Easter Unforgettable with Music & Flowers!**

Easter is a time of joy, celebration, and renewal—and you can help make it even more special!

Easter Flowers: Fill the sanctuary with the beauty of Easter flowers given in loving memory or honor of someone special. Your heartfelt tribute will be included in the Easter worship bulletin, creating a meaningful way to remember and celebrate loved ones.

Easter Music: Help bring the powerful sounds of brass and percussion to our Easter worship! These glorious musical additions are only possible through generous donations. If you're giving in memory or honor of someone, be sure to share their name so it can be recognized.

How to Contribute: To donate to music, flowers, or both, please make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church (memo: Music or Chancel Guild – Easter) and send them to: First Presbyterian Church, 300 West Wayne Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802 Or donate online at: [www.firstpresfortwayne.org](http://www.firstpresfortwayne.org) and click "giving" under the "get involved" menu on the website!

The deadline for contributions is **March 22, 2026** in order for dedications to be included in the Easter bulletin. Thank you for making this Easter a truly beautiful and joyful celebration!

## **2026 Presbyterian Scholarship**

The 2026 selection period for First Presbyterian Scholarship is now open.

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](mailto: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**.

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## GETTING CONNECTED

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### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org).

## **FELLOWSHIP GROUPS**

### **North and South Dinner Groups — 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> 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 — 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**—2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Parlor.

**Choir Rehearsal.**—Music Room.

10:15 am

**Blessings in a Backpack.**—McKay Hall.

11:00 am

**English Worship.**—Sanctuary & Livestream.

**Korean Language Worship Service.**—Chapel & Livestream.

12:00 pm

**Annual Chili Cookoff.**—McKay Hall, after worship.

This Week

**Mon Feb 6**

1:30 pm

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

3:00 pm

**Faith, Fibers, and Fellowship.**—Room 302.

**Wed Feb 18**

1:30 pm

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

7:00 pm

**Ash Wednesday Service.**—Chapel.

**Fri Feb 20**

10:00 am

**Men's Bible Study.**—Teams.

1:00 pm

**Women's Bible Study.**—Zoom.

**Sat Feb 21**

3:00 pm

**Riverfront Lunar New Year.**—Offsite. We'll meet at the white sculpture at the corner of Harrison and Superior.

*Coming Soon*

**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.

**Thurs Feb 26**

5:00 pm

**Botanical Gardens.**—Offsite. Stroll through two different shows, the Sweetheart Orchid Display and Fern's Fairytale Express.

**Sun Mar 1**

10:00 am

**Wired Word with Rev. Tony Larson.**—Parlor.

11:00 am

**Rev. Tony Larson, PC(USA) Co-Moderator, Preaching.**—Sanctuary.