

Friday, February 20, 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,

This Sunday is the First Sunday of Lent, and I'm looking forward to beginning our new series, "Tell Me Something Good." I don't know about you, but I am in real need of some good news.

So often we think of Lent as a long, slow funeral march toward Good Friday. But this year, we're giving that up. Instead, we're setting our faces toward new life, toward hope, toward Easter. I hope you'll join us as we begin this journey by listening for — and sharing — something good.

On Saturday, as part of the spirit of this series, we'll also kick off "Good Times, Good Company" at 3:00 p.m. at Promenade Park as we celebrate Lunar New Year. Meet me by the white sculpture at 3:00 — just come for the fun of it! It's a free event, and a wonderful excuse to beat the winter doldrums, meet new people, and enjoy some fresh air and joy together.

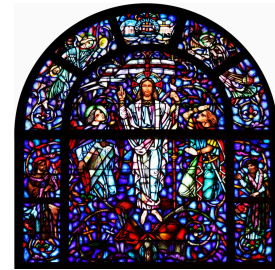
And finally, please mark your calendars for March 1, when we will welcome the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This is a significant occasion in the life of our congregation. If you are able to be present in person, I hope you will make every effort to do so. One of the best ways we can offer hospitality is through our physical presence.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday.

Grace and peace,  
Annie

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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!

[Weekly Announcements](#)

## Annual Meeting

The Session has issued a call for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to take place on Sunday, 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 Session, Board of Deacons, and nominating committee.

## Welcome Reception for Jordan Plohr

**Welcome Jordan:** Join us immediately after worship this 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!



## Save the Date- March 1



**Special Worship Service:** 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.

Rev. Larson will also be attending Wired Word at 10:00 am on March 1 and will speak on the current season of the PC(USA). Please plan attend!

## Lent at First Pres

**“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.

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**"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 here: [Good News Only FB Group](#)

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**"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, 11:30-1PM 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 @ FW Zoo  
Don't miss your opportunity to see the Zoo transform into a wild and wonderful nighttime lantern festival. This event requires an RSVP at the link: [Sign Up for Glo Wild](#)
- 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 at the link: [Sign Up for Mahjong at Two Bamboo](#)

## Lenten Food Collection

**Fish and Loaves:** The Hunger Relief Team will again sponsor our annual *FISH and LOAVES* food collection during Lent.

Leave your donations on the Fish and Loaves table located next to the Church office. You can leave your donations *anytime* the church is open. We are requesting the following items:

- Canned tuna
- Tuna in pre-packaged cups or packets
- Canned salmon
- Snack crackers
- Saltine or oyster crackers
- Tuna Helper

This collection is in addition to our monthly food collection. We prayerfully hope that you will support both of these efforts during this special church season.

## Easter Music & Flowers

**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 – Deadline Sunday, March 22:**

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 – Deadline Sunday, March 22:** 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 to be included in the Easter bulletin. Thank you for making this Easter a truly beautiful and joyful celebration!

## Fine & Performing Arts



**Upcoming Gallery Exhibit:** Join us at the First Presbyterian Art Galley 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! Please join us!

**Upcoming Music Series Concert:** Join us for an afternoon of extraordinary music! Internationally acclaimed artist Jeremy Filsell, hailed as one of the few virtuoso performers on both piano and organ, will present a piano recital as part of the 2025/26 FPC Music Series on Sunday, March 22, at 2:00 PM. The recital is free and open to the public!

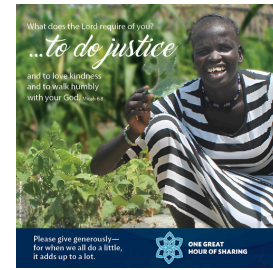


Jeremy has toured extensively around the world and has served at the Royal Academy of Music in London, Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue in New York City, and currently serves at Christ Episcopal Church in Florida. This recital promises to be a delightful musical experience showcasing an exceptional, world-class musician. We hope you'll join us!

## Missions

**Save the Date:** Hands On Fort Wayne 2026 will be held on Sunday, April 12! More information coming soon!

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The work done in support of the causes supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — disaster, hunger, poverty, climate change, and immigration/migration and refugees — serves individuals and communities in need. This work provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Typically received during the season of Lent, this Offering helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations.



Please support One Great Hour of Sharing, and serve the most vulnerable around the world, offering aid to people lacking access to life's basic necessities. To learn more about how your gift makes a difference, visit [pcusa.org/oghs](http://pcusa.org/oghs).

## Wired Word



**Special Guest:** We will welcome the Co-Moderator of the PC(USA), Rev. Tony Larson, on Sunday, March 1, to Wired Word! Rev. Larson will share updates on the PC(USA) during this season. We meet in the parlor at 10:00 AM each

Sunday. We encourage you to join us!

## Pastoral Care

**Prayer and Care:** You are not alone. If you're carrying a worry, facing a hard season, or simply need someone to listen, our pastors are here for you. Please don't hesitate to reach out to the church for prayer and pastoral care. We would be honored to walk alongside you, hold your concerns in prayer, and offer support and hope along the way.

The pastors also frequently visit local hospitals, rehab communities, and nursing home facilities. If you are admitted to the hospital, please call the church office at 260-426-7421 and provide the member's name, hospital, and room number, and a brief update as to the situation so appropriate pastoral care may be provided as soon as possible. The hospital cannot release information regarding your room number or status, so please

contact the church directly with the information so we can be there for you as soon as possible. A pastor is always on call for emergencies.

## In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC Jubilee member John Ruble, who died on February 14, 2026. Funeral arrangements are pending. Please keep John's family and friends in your prayers.

## Prayer List

- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Ember Carlson
- Mary Winters
- Janice Roddy
- The Family & Friends of John Ruble

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

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