

Friday, February 27, 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, we welcome Rev. Tony Larson, co-moderator of the Presbyterian Church (USA). This is a big deal! Why, might you ask? Our General Assembly meets every other year, and the first item of business the commissioners (comprised equally of ruling elders and ministers) tackle is to elect a moderator. The moderator then leads the 4-day meeting of the General Assembly. But more importantly, for the next two years, the moderator is the chief ambassador of the Presbyterian Church (USA). He or she also spends a great deal of time traveling the country and sometimes the world, on behalf of the PC(USA). So, of the 10,000 some PC(USA) churches there are in the country, we are blessed that he is visiting us! This will be a joint worship with KLM. And please, if you can be here in person, it would mean a lot to me if you were. Our physical presence is one way we offer hospitality.

I hope to see you on Sunday at 11:00 am for worship. You may also want to attend Wired Word. Moderator Larson is leading Wired Word at 10:00 am in the Parlor where we will discuss current trends in the PC(USA).

By now, you should have read the email that was sent on Monday from Carrie, announcing that she has accepted a new call as the Associate Presbyterian/Associate Stated Clerk of Whitewater Valley Presbytery. Her last Sunday is June 7. The Personnel Committee and Session are meeting soon to address next steps and work through the transition. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Blessings,
Annie

Gallery Director's Letter



Throughout history, human beings have struggled with the temptation to divide the world into “us” and “them.” When we distance ourselves from others — by labeling, judging, or dismissing them — we risk forgetting a foundational truth: every person is created in the image of God.

Scripture reminds us of this again and again. In John 4, the story about the Samaritan woman, (which we'll hear during Lent), Jesus makes a point to go to Samaria (aka "enemy territory") because God so loves the world (John 3:16), no exceptions! We are called to display humility, compassion, and mercy to everyone, just like Jesus did with the Samaritan woman.

As a gallery housed within a church, our arts ministry seeks to reflect that sacred vision. If God is the ultimate artist, and we are God's beloved creations, then art becomes one way we remember one another's humanity. Art can help us process pain, confront injustice, extend forgiveness, and imagine hope.

People on Death Row making art is an unlikely thought line here, but a powerful one. The fruits of the Death Row Support Project (DRSP) will be hanging in the gallery this week. DRSP matches people on the inside with people on the outside to establish pen

pal relationships that provide healing (for both parties) through fine art, creative writing, and shared human experiences.

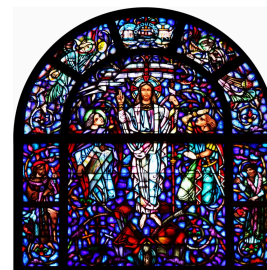
Please join us in the gallery on Friday, February 27 from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. for an exhibit of creative brightness and hopeful redemption in “Art Will Set You Free.” Enjoy music by Edith Coplin and friends, a conversation with former Death Row Support Project Executive Director, Rachel Gross, and guests, and delicious hors d’oeuvres and wine. I look forward to seeing you there!

Beth Iserman
Gallery Director

Sunday Worship

English/Korean Joint Worship & Communion

- 11:00 AM Sanctuary, Rev. Tony Larson 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](#)



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](#)

Welcome Rev. Tony Larson, Co-Moderator of the PC(USA)

Special Worship Service: We are honored to welcome Rev. Tony Larson, Co-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 to attend!

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.

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.

“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.

- 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 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

Your Theater Needs You!

Support the dramatic arts ministry by lending a hand with our spring cleaning! We have a list of projects to prepare the theatre for next season that includes everything from sorting costumes to hauling furniture. There's a job for you regardless of skill level or physical ability! Come for an hour or stay all day, every little bit helps! March 7 & 8, 12:00-5:00 pm.



Upcoming Gallery Exhibit: Join us tonight 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. Lunch will be available in McKay Hall starting at 12:45 pm for those staying to enjoy the recital.



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. The recital is free and open to the public! We hope you'll join us!

Missions



Mark your calendar for *Hands on Fort Wayne*, to be held on Sunday, April 12!

The FPC Missions Committee is thrilled to announce the kick-off of our second annual community service initiative, *Hands on Fort Wayne*! We are again organizing a series of service projects as part of a special day of service on the Sunday after Easter and we can't wait for you to be a part of it!

- **What is *Hands on Fort Wayne*?** It's a day that we as a congregation will go out into the community together and share the good news of Christ through our actions— sending members to multiple sites throughout the area to work on different community service projects.
- **Why are we doing this?** Because Jesus told the disciples after His Resurrection to “go” and announce His Word. And so, we are “going” out to serve in the name of Christ and announce our faith through our works.
- **How are we doing this?** On April 12, we will go out and serve "hands on" at various community partner organizations, or complete "hands on" service projects onsite at FPC. People of all ages and abilities can serve and are encouraged to serve! Our goal is to have at least 100 people serving on this day, and we encourage you to invite family and friends to participate with us, too. Sunday

worship will be very abbreviated and will include a commissioning of service prior to beginning our work.

Sign-up sheets are now available for each project in the small dining room. The deadline to sign-up is April 5. We're excited to begin our third year of *Hands On Fort Wayne*, and we can't wait to go out and serve with you and share the Good News with our hands and feet as we serve our neighbors!

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.

Fellowship & Adult Ed



Wired Word: 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!

North Dinner Group: Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm, location is 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!

South Dinner Group: Please join the South Dinner Group for dinner at Hall's Tavern at Coventry (5747 Coventry Lane) on Monday, March 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Prayer Requests & Updates

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or provide a prayer list update, please call the church office at 260-426-7421 and email [Rev. An](#). 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.

Funeral Notice

The memorial service for Bob Jesse will be held at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 21, at 11:00 am, in the Sanctuary.

Prayer List

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