

Friday, February 6, 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, February 8, we continue our Epiphany journey with a sermon on Jesus' call to be *salt and light* in the world—faith that doesn't stay hidden or bland, but shows up in how we live, speak, and care for others. Epiphany is a season of illumination, a time when we listen closely for how God is shaping us before we enter the season of Lent.

Looking ahead, we also want to share an important date: Sunday, March 1. On that morning, we will welcome Rev. Tony Larson, Moderator of the PC(USA) General Assembly, as our guest preacher. This is a significant honor for our congregation, and we hope you will plan now to be present in person for worship that day. If you are able to attend in person, we encourage you to do so rather than livestreaming from home—

your presence is part of how we extend hospitality and strengthen our shared life together.

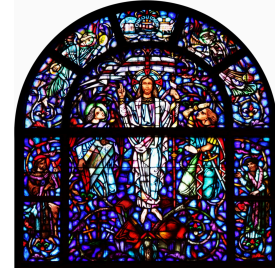
We look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday, and in the weeks ahead, as we continue to ask what truly matters and how we are called to live as people of Christ's light.

Grace and peace,
Annie Epling

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](#)

Welcome Reception for Jordan Plohr

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!

Save the Date- 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.

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 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](#)

Tell Me Something Good — Just for Fun Lent Series: Instead of a book or Bible study, this year, we're going "on the road" for the six weeks of Lent! Join us, as you are able, for weekly activities that build new relationships and reconnect with others!

- 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](#)

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!

Taizé 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!

Chili Cooks Needed!

Turn up the heat and claim your crown!

The annual FPC Chili Cook Off is back (with a Mardi Gras flair) and we want your chili in the lineup!



Join the fun on Sunday, February 15, after worship. Bring a large crock pot of your signature chili (plus a list of ingredients for those with food sensitivities) and drop it off in McKay Hall before the 11:00 AM service and we'll take care of the rest! Trophies, bragging rights, and serious chili glory await the top three entries! **And, as a special treat, we'll have an authentic King Cake, straight from New Orleans!** Sign up in the church office and show us what you've got!

Fine & Performing Arts



Upcoming Gallery Exhibit: 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! Please join us!

***What the Constitution Means to Me* is on stage for only one more weekend!** Playwright Heidi Schreck's boundary-breaking play breathes new life into the U.S. Constitution, weaving humor, heart, and personal history into a powerful, audience interactive theatrical experience.

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!

Theater Tickets





Missions

HHH: The date for the February Food Bank Collection will be February 15th. Please bring your contributions to the church on Sunday. Food items can also be dropped off at the church office during the week. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief."

The following items are requested:

- Canned Pineapple Chunks or Fruit Cocktail
- White or Brown Rice - 1 or 2 lb. bags
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Chili
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Chicken or Tuna
- Canned Soup

Thank you very much for your contributions and help for this ministry. Hunger Relief is an important part of First Presbyterian's mission to our surrounding community. We support three food banks: Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, United Faith Presbyterian Church, and East Wayne Street Center.

Fellowship Opportunities

North Dinner Group: Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, February 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, February 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Wired Word: In the Wired Word adult education class, we discuss current events viewed through the lens of our Christian faith. We are a diverse group who enjoy a rich exchange of ideas. Our discussions are educational, thought-provoking, and rewarding. All viewpoints are welcome. We meet in the parlor at 10:00 AM each Sunday. We encourage you to join us!

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.

Prayer List

- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Bob & Kathy Beatty
- Susan Bolinger

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

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