

Friday, May 8, 2026



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Music Director's Letter



Dear Friends,

Upon reading the psalms of David one instantly notices that since earliest records of Christian worship, music and singing in particular have been fervent expressions of human faith in their creator. The chanting of psalms and the singing of texts reflecting the life, struggles and joys of our distant ancestors and brothers-and-sisters in Christ has been a cornerstone in corporate worship.

This Sunday, we echo the traditions of the past by engaging our hearts and souls in our own script of faith and joy as we sing ten hymns chosen from the "March Music Madness" survey of a while back. Just like the Psalms of David and the corporate singing of the centuries, we lift our hearts and voices in praise of our creator and in parallel, sing the texts that speak most to our souls.

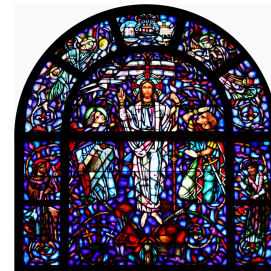
It is always spiritually uplifting for me to play hymns; I can sit for hours joyfully playing them. I sincerely hope that in participating in this hymn festival you will reach the same level of nirvana.

Faithfully.

Colin

PS: Picking up on the theme of joyfully singing hymns together, I am planning to have an informal summer choir each Sunday in June, whereby ANY member of the congregation can join me in the choir loft at 10:00 a.m. and form a volunteer, ad hoc choir. We would sing a familiar and easy hymn each week and make joyful music together...please give this some thought!

Sunday Worship



English

- 11:00 AM Sanctuary, Hymn Festival
- 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](#).
The deadline for submission is Wednesday at 10:00 am.

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](#)

Hymn Festival



Hymn Festival on May 10: Join us for this year's hymn festival, *Praise with Us the God of Grace*. This year, once again, the hymns will be made up entirely of hymns submitted by the congregation during the 2024 March

Music Madness. The hymns were selected with the idea of singing through the many aspects of life. Whether that is a high moment or a low moment such as Paul and Silas singing inside their jail cell, God's gift of music is how we express our emotions, praise, and love for God.

When we have so much joy that we do not know how to express it in words, we sing. When life is so difficult that we have no idea how to even pray, God calls us to sing. So come sing with all your might, as we praise the Creator of music and the Author of our songs.

Reception for Pastor Carrie

Please join us as we gather to say farewell and extend our heartfelt gratitude to Reverend Carrie Winebrenner, who has faithfully served as our Associate Pastor for the past 6 years. While we are sad to see her go, we wish her God's blessings on the journey ahead.



A special reception will be held in McKay Hall on May 17, after worship. This will be an opportunity to celebrate Carrie's contributions to our ministry and to express our appreciation for her dedication and service.

PCUSA Joint Service



PCUSA Joint Service: Join us Sunday, May 24th, 2026, 10:30am, when all the Fort Wayne area PCUSA Churches will come together for a joint worship service at Grace Presbyterian Church, located at 1811 Fairhill Rd in Fort Wayne.

This special service will feature prayers in three languages: English, Korean, and Spanish. Following the service, a food truck will be available for lunch! Please note there will be no worship service here at First Pres on that Sunday.

Green Team

Eco Fest 2026: Join us for Eco Fest Fort Wayne at Headwaters Park on Sunday, May 17, from 12:00-5:00 pm! Eco Fest is a sustainability focused and family friendly event with workshops, music, food, and vendors.

The Green Team will have a booth to distribute tote bags made of recycled material! Stop by and see the Team!



Honoring Life, Planning Ahead



Stephen Ministry: Join us for an informative and thoughtful evening on Tuesday, May 26, at 6:30 PM in the Parlor. Sponsored by Stephen Ministry, this program will be led

by guest speaker Guy Dupuis, a licensed Pre-Planning Advisor. This 45-minute session will explore the benefits of planning ahead for a funeral, including an overview of service options and current trends such as green burial, water cremation, celebrations of life, and more. Time for questions will follow.

While this can be a difficult topic, it's also a meaningful step toward clarity, care, and peace of mind for you and your loved ones. All are welcome. No RSVP needed. Please contact Carolyn Krebs or Marcie Weissner through the church office with any questions.

Fellowship Opportunities

North Dinner Group: Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, May 11, 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, May 11, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Missions

Food Bank Collection: The date for the May Food Bank Collection will be May 17th. Please bring your contributions to the church. Food items can also be dropped at the church office throughout the week. Monetary donations are also greatly appreciated. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief."

The following items are requested:

- Rice - white or brown (1-2 lb. preferred)
- Peanut Butter
- Fruit Cocktail or Pineapple Chunk
- Cereal - Corn Flakes or Crispy Rice
- Canned Chicken or Tuna
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Vegetables - Peas or Corn

Thank you for your contributions and help with 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.

MAD² Camp Needs Your Shoeboxes!



We're collecting empty shoeboxes for a fun art project at this year's MAD² Camp! If you have any to spare, please bring them to church or drop them off at the church office anytime between now and May 31. Thank you for helping us bring creativity to life!

Prayer List

- Sam Shepherd, staff member
- Tanner Hisey, nephew of Jennifer Stone
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Janice Roddy
- Ashley & Marilyn Lassiter
- Joyce McGiffin

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



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