

Friday, June 12, 2026



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Director of Drama Ministry's Letter



There is something remarkable about watching a group of young people discover they are capable of more than they imagined. Whether it is learning a new dance, stepping onto a stage, creating a work of art, or simply finding the courage to make a new friend, the transformation that takes place over the course of a week at MAD2 Camp is a joy to witness.

This year, our campers spent the week immersed in the vibrant world of K-POP and Korean culture. Along the way, they explored music, art, drama, and dance, challenged their creative comfort zones, and discovered new ways to express themselves. The result was not merely a showcase of artistic talent, but a celebration of confidence, curiosity, collaboration, and joy.

What makes MAD2 Camp so special, however, is not simply the programming. It is the community that forms around it. Each year, volunteers arrive morning after morning, offering their time,

energy, patience, and encouragement. Families entrust us with their children. Donors help ensure that financial barriers do not stand in the way of participation. And countless prayers, acts of support, and behind-the-scenes efforts create the foundation upon which the entire week is built.

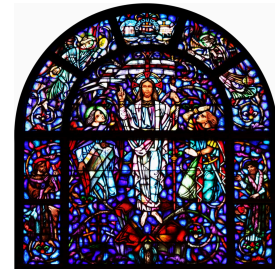
It is often said that it takes a village to raise a child. If that is true, then MAD2 Camp is a wonderful reminder of what can happen when a village comes together around creativity, learning, and care for one another. The friendships formed, the memories made, and the confidence nurtured throughout the week are possible because so many people choose to invest in the lives of our young people.

On behalf of everyone involved with MAD2 Camp, thank you. Thank you for your generosity, your support, your encouragement, and your belief in the power of the arts to help young people grow into the people they are meant to be. We are deeply grateful, and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

With gratitude,

Jordan Plohr and the MAD2 Camp Steering Team
(Marcie Weissner, Joyce Sines, Carol Kettler, Beth Iserman, and Alora Fuchs)

Sunday Worship



English

- 11:00 AM Sanctuary, Rev. Dr. Anne 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, Parkview Chaplain HaEun (Sam) Cho, 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

MAD2 CAMP 2026 Recap

The church welcomed children from kindergarten through fifth grade to our campus last week for our fifth annual MAD2 Camp! Music, Art, Drama, and Dance skills were taught to the children daily, culminating in the MAD2 Camp Showcase Friday evening. Hundreds of visitors joined us for the showcase of talent finale, held in the Theater, and concluded their evening in McKay Hall viewing student art projects.

Highlights from MAD2 Camp 2026 are below! Thank you to all who attended, volunteered, and sponsored this event!





Fellowship Opportunities

Just for Fun—Summer Edition: Following the success of our Lenten “just for the fun of it” events, we’ve planned two more for this summer (because not all of us go to the lake!). Both events require a reservation and payment in advance.

On Sunday, June 28, at 2:30 pm, join your friends and make new ones as we go for a ride on the Sweet Breeze. Explore our natural river wonder on a replica of an original canal boat which is fully accessible for wheelchairs. The cost is \$23.00 per person. Please register [here](#) by June 21.

Next up, watch a game with us at the new soccer stadium! Fort Wayne Football Club will play Detroit City on Saturday, July 11, at 7:30pm in their new stadium located at 6411 Bass Road in Fort Wayne! The cost is \$25.00 per person. Please register [here](#) by July 1.

We are looking forward to seeing you at one or both events!

Vote for Readers' Choice Awards 2026



Let's make our voices heard! 🥳 The first round of Fort Wayne Newspaper's Readers' Choice Awards voting is open **through June 14!** We need your daily support to shine a spotlight on the incredible work of First Pres, First Pres Theater, and the Day School! **Cast your vote daily** for First Pres, First Pres Theater, and the FPC Day School at the links below:

 **FPC:**

<https://www.fortwayne.com/promo/?id=4314#/gallery/545411695/>

 **FPT:**

<https://www.fortwayne.com/promo/?id=4314#/gallery/545411567/>

 **FPCDS:**

<https://www.fortwayne.com/promo/?id=4314#/gallery/545412250/>

Music Ministry

An Invitation to Sing in the Summer Choir: If you have ever wanted to sing in the choir but not wanted to make the yearlong commitment, this choir is for you! No experience necessary, and you can come and go as your schedule allows. We are planning to have an informal summer choir each Sunday in June, whereby ANY member of the congregation can join Music Director Colin Andrews in the choir loft at 10:00 a.m. and form a volunteer, ad hoc choir. We will sing familiar and easy hymn each week and make joyful music together! All are welcome!

Missions



St. Joseph's Mission Summer Meals:

"Summertime and the living is easy" and cooking meals should be too! So, when it comes to preparing meals for St. Joseph's Mission for Women during the summer months, let's think about what we all like to eat during the lazy days of summer. Think crispy and cold salads, fresh veggies from our gardens, casual meats, sandwiches, chips, fresh berries, homemade jams, frozen drinks and desserts, ice cream cones. You love them and so will the ladies at St. Joseph's. So let your creative juices flow as you sign up in the office to provide meals for June, July, and August!

Enjoy the summer and thanks for all you do for the missions at First Pres.

Food Bank Collection: The date for the June Food Bank Collection will be June 21st. Please bring your contributions to the church on Sunday. 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. bags preferred)
- Peanut Butter
- Applesauce Cups
- Cereal - Corn Flakes or Crispy Rice
- Canned Chicken or Tuna
- Baked Beans
- Canned Vegetables - Green Beans 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.

Green Team members Jessi and Josh Spencer hosted a native plants fundraiser at their home on Saturday May 30th. They donated 100% of their sales to ecological non-profits and raised \$1,200.



Way to go, Jessi and Josh! Also, if anyone is looking for environmentally friendly summer work, EcoFest is providing zero waste stations for several of the festivals this summer and they are hiring help at \$15 an hour. If you know of anyone in the church that would be interested, apply here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJHWLcSeUBvNFKINDOBI2rNgovRBVpifof0YeOZOT_qpSVGA/viewform?pli=1&authuser=0)

Drama Ministry



Auditions: Open auditions for FPT's production of *Hay Fever* will be held on Sunday, July 5, and Monday, July 6, from 7:00-10:00 pm. No advance sign-up required! The production will be directed by Jordan Plohr. Click the button below for all the details!

[Audition Info](#)

Social Justice Team

Last Weekend to Support Healthier Moms and Babies' fifth Annual Community Wide Diaper Drive!



Healthier
Moms &
Babies

Did you know that 50% of U.S. families experience diaper need? *Between June 1-15, 2026*, donations of diapers and wipes for families in our community will be accepted at FPC! Please place the items in the bin located in the Narthex. Last year, over 150,000 diapers, wipes, and baby items were donated! Please consider helping with the effort in 2026!



Pride Fest 2026: Come be a part of God's vibrant mosaic!

What: Fort Wayne Pride Festival 2026
When: Saturday, July 25, 12:00 noon – 7:00 p.m.

Show your love and represent First Presbyterian at the Fort Wayne Pride

Festival this year by volunteering for a 1.5 hour shift at our booth.

Volunteers will help visitors to create small pieces of art that will become a big mosaic over the course of the day. The mosaic will join an exhibition of art created by the Queer Art Club of Fort Wayne, showcased at the First Presbyterian booth.

Three to four volunteers will cover each shift so there will be plenty of time to talk, laugh, hug, and make art together.

Click the button below to sign-up for a slot! Contact [Beth Iserman](#) with any questions.

[Pride Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

Stephen Ministry

Honoring Life, Planning Ahead: Extra copies of the materials from our recent event with speaker Guy Dupuis, a licensed Pre-Planning Advisor, are now available in the church office. Please stop by to get a copy.

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. Please contact Carolyn Krebs at 956-844-3890 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733 for more information.

Prayer List

- Sam Shepherd, staff member
- Sarah Kelley, staff member
- Tanner Hisey, nephew of Jennifer Stone
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Kathy Miller
- Jim & Sondra Mergenthal
- Janice Roddy
- Ashley & Marilyn Lassiter
- Joyce McGiffin
- Lisa Keirn, sister-in-law of Susan Kester
- Mark Laughner
- Beth White

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

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