

Friday, June 19, 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,

Several of you have asked about the church's plans for filling the Associate Pastor position following Carrie's departure. I'm pleased to share that Session has called a new Resident Pastor, Ian Clarke, who will begin his ministry with us on August 16. You'll find more information about Ian in the biography below.

Some of you may remember that Carrie also began her ministry at First Presbyterian as our Resident Pastor. For those who are less familiar with the program, our Residency is a two-year position designed for pastors who have recently graduated from seminary. During those two years, the Resident gains experience in every facet of congregational ministry while serving under the supervision and mentoring of experienced pastors. The Resident is ordained shortly after beginning the position and is prepared for a lifetime of pastoral leadership.

Session believes that calling a Resident Pastor is the most thoughtful and prudent way to navigate this transition for several reasons.

First, the process of calling an Associate Pastor typically takes 18 to 24 months. Having Ian on staff provides the pastoral leadership and continuity our congregation needs while we engage in that discernment.

Second, beginning this August, Session will undertake a long-range planning process to determine what gifts and areas of ministry are most needed in our next Associate Pastor. Rather than simply recreating the position Carrie held, we want to ask what our congregation needs today and into the future. First Presbyterian is a different church than it was in 2018, when that position was created, and we believe this is an opportunity to thoughtfully discern the next chapter of our ministry together.

Finally, should Ian prove to be an excellent fit for First Presbyterian—and should he also feel called to continue his ministry here—the Residency provides the possibility of calling him as our Associate Pastor at the conclusion of the two-year program. While there is no guarantee that this will happen, it is one of the strengths of having a Residency program.

Although our Residency is designed to provide broad experience across all areas of ministry, it is likely that Ian will devote significant attention to our children, youth, and family ministries. We are also continuing our search for a part-time Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator, although we recognize that this may be a challenging position to fill.

I hope this provides a clearer picture of the Session's plans. Please know that Session has approached this transition with great care, balancing the immediate needs of the congregation with thoughtful planning for our future. We are excited to welcome Ian in August and look forward to the gifts he will bring to our life together.

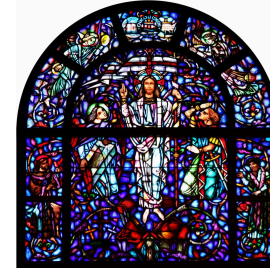
In partnership,

Annie Epling Pastor/Head of Staff

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, Ha Eun 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](#)

New Resident Pastor Announced



Welcome Ian Clarke!

We are delighted to announce that Ian Clarke will join First Presbyterian Church as a Resident Pastor, beginning August 16, 2026.

Ian is a Candidate for ordination in the PC(USA), and a graduate of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as of May 2026. He grew up in Indianapolis, IN, and attended Northminster Presbyterian Church until college. Ian has worked with young people for essentially his entire adult life, with experiences ranging from teaching preschool and elementary school to mentoring middle and high schoolers, and served as a Children, Youth, and Families Intern at Triumphant Love Lutheran Church in Austin, TX. His inclinations in ministry are toward liturgical theology and liturgical design, rest and renewal, and Reformed theology. Ian is a musician, coffee guy, sports fan, and chess novice. He otherwise enjoys playing Magic the Gathering, reading, watching

movies, eating good food, and hanging out with his partner Anna & their two cats, Remi & Marley.

Please join us in warmly welcoming Ian to our church family as he begins this new chapter of ministry us!

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!

Missions

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:

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



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
- Beth White
- Bob & Kathy Beatty

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

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