

Friday, June 5, 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,**

**I know it's summer and some of you are out of town, but it would mean a lot to me and Carrie for you to be here on Sunday to say goodbye and wish her well. Endings are important! We will meet briefly following worship (in the sanctuary) to formally dissolve the congregation's call with her.**

**As luck (providence?) would have it, the lectionary gives us two stories this week about God's call. I'm concentrating on the story of God's call of Abraham. It's a good opportunity for us to consider how God calls all of us (and Carrie!) and how much trust it takes to follow.**

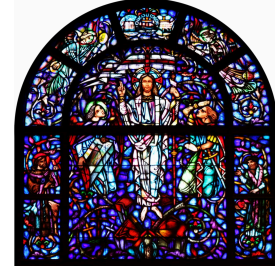
**It's been a great week here with 60 or so kids gathered for MAD2 Camp. A big thank you to Carrie and Jordan Plohr for organizing the week, and to the many volunteers needed to pull it off.**

See you Sunday,  
Annie

PS: Please take note of the fun activities offered this summer; sweet breeze and a soccer game at the new stadium. Note the deadlines for each! Hope to see you there.

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## 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, 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](#)

## Special Called Congregational Meeting

The Session has issued a call for a **congregational meeting on Sunday, June 7, immediately following worship**. The purpose of the meeting is to dissolve the pastoral relationship between First Presbyterian Church and Rev. Carrie Winebrenner. This brief meeting is required by the PC(USA) and is expected to last only

a few minutes. All active members are encouraged to remain following worship.

## 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!

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**North Dinner Group:** Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, June 8, 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](mailto: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, June 8, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

## Drama Ministry

**2026/27 Theater Season:** Director of Drama Ministries Jordan Plohr is pleased to announce the productions for the upcoming 2026/27 First Presbyterian Church Theater's season. The season opens Friday, August 21, 2026, and concludes Sunday, April 18, 2027. General admission tickets will be \$20.00, and Seniors and Church Members will be \$15.00. This season has something for everyone!

FPT's 2026/27 season opens with the delightful *Hay Fever*, by Noel Coward!



Step into the delightfully chaotic world of the Bliss family, where the drama never stops, and the guests never quite know what they've gotten themselves into. Hay Fever is a sparkling comedy of manners filled with sharp wit and larger-than-life personalities. With hosts this outrageous, escape may be the only option... but will the guests make it out with their dignity intact?

- **Dates:** August 21, 2026 – August 30, 2026 (Fri/Sat @7:30 pm, Sun @2:00 pm)
- **Auditions:** July 5-6, 2026; Rehearsals Begin: July 13, 2026
- **Tickets available through ArtsTix, on sale summer 2026**

Our second show is *Middletown*, by Dan Clancy, directed by John Tolley!

Experience the humor, heart, and honesty of *Middletown*, a powerful, cathartic journey of two couples that captures life's highs, lows, and everything in between. At once funny, poignant, and universal, *Middletown* is a celebration of friendship, love, and the connections that carry us through a lifetime.



- **Dates:** October 16, 2026 – October 25, 2026 (Fri/Sat @7:30pm, Sun @2:00 pm)
- **Auditions:** August 23-24, 2026; Rehearsals Begin: September 8, 2026
- **Tickets available through ArtsTix, on sale late summer 2026**



Next up is *Side by Side by Sondheim!* Laugh, cry, and fall in love with the music and lyrics of a true Broadway legend! This Tony Award-winning revue is both a perfect introduction to Stephen Sondheim's work and a must-see for devoted fans. Showcasing some of his most unforgettable songs, this elegant and unpretentious production highlights the timeless brilliance of a composer who has shaped musical theatre for over fifty years!

- **Dates:** January 29, 2027 – February 7, 2027 (Fri/Sat @7:30pm, Sun @2:00pm)
- **Auditions:** November 22-23, 2026; Rehearsals Begin: December 7, 2026
- **Tickets available through ArtsTix, on sale fall 2026**

Lastly, we close out our season with *District Merchants*, by Aaron Posner!



Step into a bold and thought-provoking world with *District Merchants*, a striking reimaging that feels both timeless and urgently contemporary. Set in a place where past and present collide, this compelling story explores love, loss, justice, and the actual cost of doing business. As relationships are tested and lines are drawn, questions of power, fairness, and mercy rise to the surface in ways that feel all too familiar today.

- Dates: April 9, 2027 – April 18, 2027 (Fri/Sat @7:30pm, Sun @2:00pm)
- Auditions: February 21-22, 2027; Rehearsals Begin: March 1, 2027
- Tickets available through ArtsTix, on sale early 2027

We are always looking for new volunteers! If you are interested in supporting our theater through volunteer work, or have an interest in auditioning for a show, please contact Jordan Plohr [here](#). We look forward to seeing you at the theater!

## Music Ministry



**2026 GermanFest Organ Recital Series:** Director of Music Ministries and Organist Colin Andrews will kick off the 2026 GermanFest Organ Recital Series with a free recital on Monday, June 8, from 12:15-12:45 pm at First Pres in the Sanctuary. The series is

sponsored by the Fort Wayne GermanFest Committee and the local American Guild of Organists. A complete schedule of the recitals may be found [here](#). All recitals are free and open to the public!

**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.

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/1FAIpQLScJHWLCSUBvNFKINDOBI2rNgovRBVpifof0YeOZOT\\_qpSVG/viewform?pli=1&authuser=0](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScJHWLCSUBvNFKINDOBI2rNgovRBVpifof0YeOZOT_qpSVG/viewform?pli=1&authuser=0) )



## Social Justice Team



### Support Healthier Moms and Babies' fifth Annual Community Wide Diaper Drive!

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](#)

## 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
- Lisa Keirn, sister-in-law of Susan Kester
- Mark Laughner

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



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