

Friday, July 10, 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 Pres,

I want to thank Rev. Susan Kester, who preached for me while I was away with family in Gatlinburg, TN. We had a great time! The Smoky Mountains are beautiful, and we saw lots of bears. While it's good to be gone, it's also good to be back.

This year, the lectionary readings cycle through Genesis, and I'll be following that thread through the summer. We've heard the Abraham and Sarah cycle over the past four weeks, and this week we'll meet Jacob, Isaac's son. I love these stories! They're so very real. The families are not perfect, and the drama is real—they could rival any old-time soap opera! What's so heartening about these stories, though, is that God keeps showing up even when the people are less than perfect (which is putting it mildly).

One of the themes that carried us through Lent was *Tell Me Something Good*—an invitation to look for God’s grace in a world that often seems filled with anything but good news. This Sunday, we’ll pick up that thread as we begin a new summer sermon series, *Stories That Shape Us: God Keeps Showing Up*. We turn now to Jacob’s dream at Bethel (Genesis 28:10–19a), where God meets him in a place of uncertainty and promises, “I am with you.” The stories of Genesis are full of imperfect people, unexpected twists, and surprising grace. They continue to shape us because, again and again, they remind us that wherever life takes us, God keeps showing up.

I hope you’ll join us as we discover what these ancient stories still have to say to our lives today.

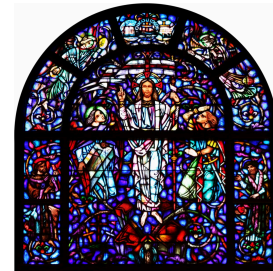
I hope to see you Sunday!

Gratefully,
Annie Epling

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

2026/27 Gallery Season

FPC Gallery Director Beth Iserman invites you to join us in the Gallery for art, music, and conversation! Our upcoming 2026/27 Gallery Season is featured below:



The Female Gaze: The Art of Bayan Yunis, Christy Scott Arbogast & Emily Whisman

Showing: September 11-October 30, 2026
Opening Receptions: Sept. 11, 5:30-7:00 pm & Sept. 13, 12:15-1:00 pm

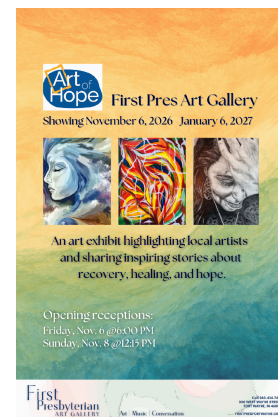
Experience three distinctive artistic voices as First Presbyterian Church Art Gallery presents ***The Female Gaze***, featuring the work of Bayan

Yunis, Christy Scott Arbogast, and Emily Whisman. Through photography, mixed media, and ceramic sculpture, these Midwest artists offer fresh perspectives on emotional experience, intimacy, introspection, and the complexities of the human condition from a female perspective.

Mental Health America of NE Indiana's Art of Hope

Showing: November 6, 2026 - January 6, 2027
Opening Receptions: Nov. 6, 6:00-7:30 pm & Nov. 8, 12:15-1:00 pm

Mental Health America of Northeast Indiana's ***Art of Hope*** is an art exhibit highlighting local artists and sharing inspiring stories about recovery, healing, and hope. Art of Hope features local artists of all ages, skills, and backgrounds who use the creative process as a tool for mental and emotional well-being.



One Community, Diverse Artists: The First Presbyterian Parish Show

Showing: January 15 – March 5, 2027



Opening Reception: January 15, 5:30-7:00 pm & January 17, 12:15-1:00 pm

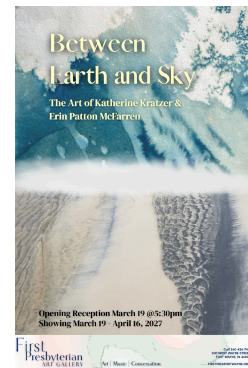
Art has a unique way of bringing people together, telling our stories, and strengthening the bonds that connect us. *One Community, Diverse Artists* celebrates the creativity of the First Presbyterian Church family and the wider community we serve.

Featuring artwork by members of First Presbyterian Church alongside works by South Side High School art teachers, this exhibition reflects the many perspectives, talents, and experiences that enrich our congregation and our city. United by themes of community, togetherness, and fellowship, the collection showcases how art can inspire connection, spark conversation, and build relationships across generations.

Between Earth & Sky: The Art of Katherine Kratzer & Erin Patton McFarren

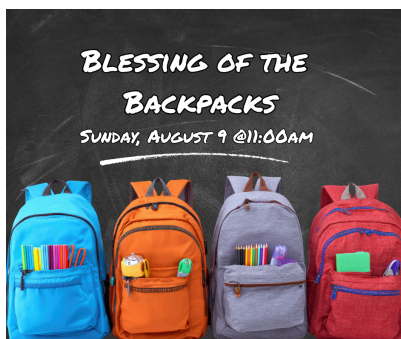
Showing: March 19-April 16, 2027

Opening Reception: March 19, 5:30-7:00 pm & March 21, 12:15-1:00 pm



Through their artwork, Katherine Kratzer and Erin Patton McFarren explore the liminal space between cherished childhood experiences in nature and today's growing concern for preserving the blue spaces that nourish both our planet and our well-being. The exhibition celebrates the beauty of water and landscape while encouraging thoughtful reflection on the role these places play in our lives.

Backpack Blessing



Start the school year with a special blessing!

Join us for our annual Blessing of the Backpacks during 11:00 AM Worship on Sunday, August 9, as we pray for a year filled with learning, growth, and courage.

Whether you're heading to preschool, college, the classroom, or the school office, we'd love to send you with a blessing for the year ahead. Students of all ages, teachers, administrators, and school staff are invited to

participate! Bring your backpack, tote, briefcase, or whatever accompanies you each day! Everyone is welcome!

Missions

Helping the Homeless and Hungry: The date for the July Food Bank Collection will be July 19th. 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
- Canned Fruit: Fruit Cocktail or Peaches
- 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.

Building and Grounds

SAVE THE DATE: Get ready for two days of treasure hunting at the First Pres Rummage Sale! Here are the details:



- August 14 & 15
- First Presbyterian Church in McKay Hall
- Friday, August 14 | 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
- Saturday, August 15 | 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Discover hidden gems, browse unique finds, and enjoy delicious treats from our bake sale and concession stand! Whether you're searching for bargains or just love the thrill of the hunt, there's something for everyone!

Volunteers Needed! It takes many hands to set-up and run the rummage sale! Volunteer for the 2026 First Pres Rummage Sale, to be held on August 14-15! We need greeters, cash register

attendants, and food sales attendants! We also need donated baked goods! Sign-up today by clicking the button below. Contact Bill Patterson with any questions at bpatterson@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Volunteer Sign-Up

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

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.

In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC member Marilyn Lassiter, who died on July 6, 2026.

A memorial service will be held in the Chapel at First Presbyterian Church on Thursday, July 23, at 11:00 am, with calling starting at 10:00 am. A reception will immediately follow. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Prayer List

- Ashley Lassiter & Family
- Sondra Mergenthal & Family
- Sam Shepherd, staff member
- Sarah Kelley, staff member
- Tanner Hisey, nephew of Jennifer Stone
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Barbara Kerch
- Janice Roddy
- Joyce McGiffin
- Lisa Keirn, sister-in-law of Susan Kester
- Beth White

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

First Presbyterian Church | 300 W Wayne St | Fort Wayne, IN 46802 US

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