

Friday, July 24, 2026



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Letter



Dear First Presbyterian Church Friends and Members,

Can you believe August is almost here? Summer has a way of slipping by. Soon school buses will be back on the roads, vacations will become memories, and many of us will be settling back into familiar routines.

I've always felt that August has a kind of "new year" energy. While January gives us fresh calendars, August invites us back into the rhythms that sustain us—learning, friendship, service, and worship. It's a wonderful time to reconnect with one another and to begin a new season together as a church family.

We've planned a joyful month at First Presbyterian! On August 2, stay after worship for fellowship while the children enjoy a bounce house on the lawn. On August 9, we'll celebrate our annual Blessing of the Backpacks, praying for students,

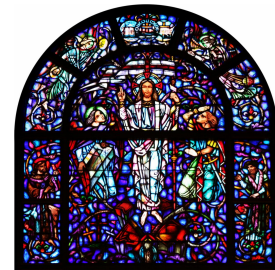
teachers, school staff, and everyone beginning a new school year. On August 16, we'll kick off Sunday School for our children and warmly welcome our new Resident Pastor, Rev. Ian Clarke, as he begins his ministry with us. Then, on August 23, we'll gather for our annual Ice Cream Social—a favorite tradition and a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to First Pres.

If you've been away this summer, we've missed you. There's no better time to come back. Whether you've been gone for one Sunday or several, you'll find a warm welcome, meaningful worship, and a community eager to walk together in faith.

As this new season begins, I hope you'll make worship a part of your weekly rhythm once again. I can't wait to see what God has in store for us this fall.

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!

Get Connected! Ice Cream Social

Save the Date! August 23 | 12:15 pm

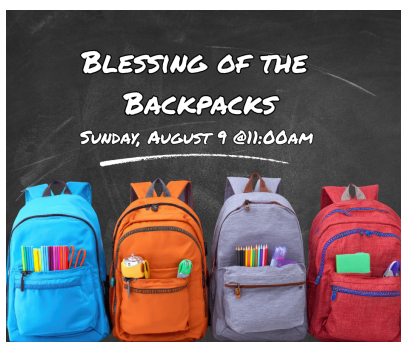
Looking for ways to connect with others, serve your community, or discover a new opportunity to get involved? Join us for our Get Connected! Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 23, at 12:15 PM, immediately following worship.

Enjoy an ice cream treat while exploring the many ministries, programs, and volunteer opportunities that make First Presbyterian such a vibrant community. From serving our neighbors and supporting local outreach to music, theater, art, education, and fellowship, you'll have the opportunity to meet the people who make these ministries happen, ask questions, and discover where your interests and gifts can make a difference.

Whether you've attended First Pres for years, you're new to the area, or you're simply looking for a welcoming community where you can connect and serve, we'd love to meet you.

Everyone is welcome!

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!

Sunday School Resuming

We're excited to welcome children back to Sunday School beginning Sunday, August 16!

Following the Children's Message in worship, children (Pre-K through 5th grade) are invited to join us for a fun and engaging time of Bible stories, hands-on activities, and growing together in faith. Whether your family has been with us for years or you're joining us for the first time, there's a place for every child.

As a new school year begins, we look forward to learning, laughing, asking big questions, and discovering God's love together. We can't wait to see you on August 16!

Help Shape a Child's Faith This Year

One hour. A few Sundays. A lasting difference.
As we prepare to begin Sunday School on August 16, we're looking for a few more volunteers to serve with our Kindergarten–5th Grade and LEVEL UP (Middle School) classes.

Teaching K–5 is easy! Everything you need is provided—lesson plans, activities, and supplies. You don't have to be a Bible scholar or a professional teacher. Just bring a caring heart and a willingness to spend time with our children.

And what about middle schoolers? Despite their reputation, they're actually one of the most rewarding groups to teach. They're thoughtful, funny, full of questions, and eager for adults who will listen, encourage, and help them explore their faith. Whether you can teach once a month or a few times during the year, we'd love to have you on the team. Investing in the next generation is one of the most important ministries of our church.

Sign up here: [Sunday School Volunteer Sign-Up](#)

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

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 Jubilee member Barbara Kerch, who died on July 19, 2026.

Funeral arrangements are pending. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Prayer List

- The Family of Barbara Kerch
- 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**
- **Carolyn Krebs**
- **Donna Jesse**

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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