

Friday, August 28, 2026



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Message



Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

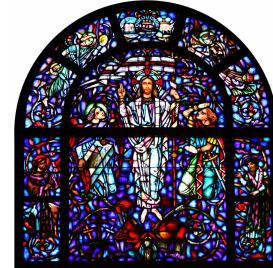
This Sunday, I conclude my sermon series “Christian Nationalism: A Theological Error” and the subject will be white Christian nationalism. The PC(USA) labeled white Christian nationalism an error, not just Christian nationalism. This is the hardest topic yet, which is why I saved it until last. The explicit racism of Christian nationalism is often coded, and therefore flies under the radar. But it’s hard to escape the fact that Christian nationalism provides cover for white supremacy. The KKK confessed to be Christian.

Thank you for the enthusiasm you’ve shown for the series, and your willingness to engage this very timely and important subject. I hope you will come Sunday with a willingness to listen and learn; and with an open mind and heart.

If you're looking to advance your knowledge further, I suggest Amanda Tyler's book "How to End Christian Nationalism", Brian Kaylor's "The Bible According to Christian Nationalism" and the soon to be published "In God We Trust: The Origins of Christian Nationalism" by the PC(USA)'s own Rev. Jimmie Hawkins. Anything by Andrew Whitehead is also good.

See you Sunday,
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 and bulletin submissions should be
sent to [Jenny Conrad](#).

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](#)

Sermon Series Continues August 23–30

Christian Nationalism: A Theological Error

Join us this Sunday, August 30, as Rev. Annie Epling leads her third and final week of her current sermon series, "Christian

Nationalism: A Theological Error."

In July, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) declared Christian nationalism to be a "theological error." This series will explore the theological foundations of that statement, examining how Christians read and interpret Scripture, how those interpretations differ from those associated with Christian nationalism, and concluding with a discussion of white Christian nationalism.

Grounded in theology and the Bible, this series invites thoughtful reflection and faithful conversation as we consider what it means to follow Christ in today's world.

Stewardship 2027



Tell me something

GOOD

AND BE A PART OF IT!

Tell Me Something Good... And Be Part of It

This fall, we're celebrating all the good things happening at First Pres—and the people who make them possible. From worship and music to children and youth, mission and outreach, Christian education, and the many ways we care for one another and our city, God is at work among us.

Our stewardship season, "Tell Me Something Good... And Be Part of It," is an invitation to notice the good, give thanks for it, and consider how each of us can be part of what God is doing through First Pres. In the weeks ahead, we'll be sharing stories of ministry and mission from our congregation and our community.

There is good news to tell. And there is good work to be part of. Thank you for helping make it possible.

Children, Youth, and Families



CYF Picnic at the Pavilion, Sept. 18th!

Help to welcome our new Resident Pastor, Ian Clarke, by joining us for a picnic at Lakeside Pavilion on September 18, from 6:00p-8:00p. This is for all families with young folks in the church to get to know Pastor Ian and one another a little bit better. The Pavilion is close to a playground & there will be yard games as well, so it should be a ton of fun!

This will be a potluck, so bring your favorite side dish, dessert, or drink! The church will provide sandwiches, dishes, and cutlery.

If you'd like to join us, please email [Virginia Kreamer-Lutz](#), or [Pastor Ian](#) for more details! Sign up by clicking the button below! We look forward to seeing you there for fun & fellowship!

CYF Picnic SignUp

Missions



Schools Team's Blessings in a Backpack:

Please join us every Sunday, usually after worship, as we gather in McKay Hall to pack bags of food for the children at Washington Elementary School to put in their backpacks and have over the weekend.

This is a relatively quick volunteer activity that allows us to help bridge the food insecurity gap that children face when they are not in school. With enough volunteers, it should only take us 15 to 20 minutes to fill these bags and know that we are providing a valuable service!

Gallery



Open call for parish artwork!

Our biennial parish show, “Diverse Artists, One Community” is coming up in January 2027 and the gallery should be filled with your work! We are looking for any craft, art, poetry, writing, spoken word, anything creative, that has been made entirely by you (not from a kit or paint-by-number, etc.).

To give everyone's work enough breathing room, we ask that larger items (like quilts or installations) be on the smaller side. There will be a section of the gallery devoted to tiny art. Small canvasses will be available for you to draw, paint, glue, stitch and alter, as you see fit, but certainly submit anything else tiny as well. And we would love to show work made by our youngest members!

The gallery will accept work starting now until the deadline of Friday, January 8, 2027. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email [Beth Iserman](#).

Final Weekend for *Hay Fever*



Last Chance to see *Hay Fever* at First Pres Theater:

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? Directed by Jordan Plohr.

Dates: August 28, 29, 30

Times: FRI/SAT @7:30pm, SUN @2:00pm

Tickets are available by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226 or purchase online by clicking the button below!

[Theater Tickets](#)

Fellowship Opportunities

Men's Bible Study Resumes

Beginning Friday, August 21, the Men's Bible Study will resume meeting online every Friday from 10:00 AM to 11:15 AM via Microsoft Teams.

Started in 2019, this ongoing Bible study takes us on a journey through the history of Israel through the reading of Scripture. Having covered the entire Old Testament—beginning from the Book of Exodus—we will now explore the history of the New Testament through the Gospel of John starting this August. In addition, we will use *The Bible in the Early Church* by Justo L. Gonzalez as a supplementary text to learn about how the Bible came to be formed.

Currently, about 9 to 11 participants attend each week, and everyone is warmly welcomed! If you are interested in joining, please contact Rev. An at ysan@firstpresfortwayne.org or our group communicator, Steve Weissner, at stevewwmew@gmail.com.

Women's Bible Study

This Zoom group will be resuming on Friday, September 11, at 1pm. During the the 2026-2027 season, the group will be reading: *United through Christ, Bound to Each Other, a study of Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians* by Rhonda Mawhood Lee. There is no preparation required as the group reads through the study together. All women interested in studying the Bible as a group are welcome. For more information, please contact Susan at keirnsusan@aol.com or at (260)445-5475.

Table Talk (Women's Book Study) meets online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We take turns "reading around the table", so no homework is assigned. Participants obtain their own copies of the book. The group will begin a new book on September 9.

We will be reading *Braving the Truth* by Rachel Held Evans. It is a compilation of more than 10 years of Evans' posts, which are as honest, brilliant, funny, and timely as she was. It offers a courageous faith that addresses contemporary faith issues.

Zoom Meeting ID: 870 6712 2177
Zoom Passcode: 260 426 7421

If you have any questions, please contact Marj Sapp at 260-413-2639 or Marcie Weissner at 260-312-5733.

Wired Word: Looking for a place to connect current events with your faith? Wired Word dives into trending topics, while exploring how Scripture speaks to the issues shaping our world today. Each week is a fresh, stand-alone topic, so you can jump in anytime! Come join the conversation on Sundays at 10:00 am!

Pastoral Care & Prayer Requests

Prayer and Care: We want to be there for you when you need us. If you or someone in your family is in the hospital, moving to a rehabilitation facility or nursing home, would like a pastoral visit, or simply needs someone to talk with, please let us know.

We don't always know when someone is experiencing a difficult time or has been hospitalized. Hospitals, nursing homes, and rehabilitation facilities do not notify the church when one of our members is admitted or transferred, even if you've told them you're a member of First Pres. (HIPAA laws and all!) So please don't assume that we know.

If you would like a pastor to visit, pray with you, talk with you, or simply be present, please reach out and let us know. For pastoral care, please contact Rev. Dr. YoungSoo An, Associate Pastor, at 260-426-7421. We want to walk with you through life's joys and challenges. Let us know how we can be there for you.

In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC Jubilee member Donna Jesse, who died on August 14, 2026.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, September 5, at 11:00 am, in the Chapel. Please keep the family in your prayers.

Prayer List

- The Family of Donna Jesse
- Penny Pulz
- Wendell Cree
- Jennifer Kern Kelly
- Janice Roddy
- Joyce McGiffin
- Lisa Keirn Kelly
- Beth White
- Carolyn Krebs
- Bob & Kathy Beatty

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

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