

Friday, September 11, 2026



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Message



Dear Members and Friends,

This Sunday, I'm beginning a new sermon series on the parables: "Jesus was A subversive Storyteller – Stories that Won't Behave". John Dominic Crossan famously noted that a true parable is unnerving, prompting the reaction, "I don't know what you mean by that story, but I'm certain I don't like it". Similarly, biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine argues that parables are meant to "afflict the comfortable," challenging listeners rather than merely offering reassurance. Both scholars emphasize that if a parable feels too cozy or easy, we may be missing its radical and intended sting. This Sunday's parable is from Matthew 18:21-35, the parable of the unforgiving servant.

Tonight, the gallery opens its season with "The Female Gaze". There's live music, food, and an opportunity to look at art and meet people. I encourage you to attend! On Saturday, the Korea

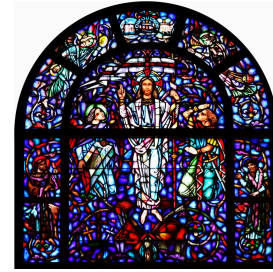
Fest is happening at PFW. First Pres is a proud sponsor of Korea Fest.

I hope to see you Sunday.
Annie

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](#)

Stewardship 2027



Tell me something

GOOD

AND BE A PART OF IT!

Good News: We Show Up

One of the things that makes First Presbyterian a great church is the way we show up for our community.

Through our mission ministries, we support local food banks, Blessings in a Backpack, Pride Fest,

and other efforts that make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

Being the church means being the hands and feet of Christ. Sometimes it means filling a backpack, stocking a food pantry, or simply showing up. We are a church that cares about our city. And through Stewardship 2027, you can be a part of this caring ministry. And through Stewardship 2027, you can be a part of this caring ministry.

Your generosity helps us be the body of Christ in our city. And through Stewardship 2027, you can be a part of making that ministry possible.

Next week, you'll receive a mailing from the Stewardship Team with more information about Stewardship 2027. We'll receive our pledges on October 4. We hope you'll prayerfully consider how you can be a part of the good news happening here and around our city- all week long.

Your generosity helps us be the body of Christ in our city. And you are a part of it.

Coffee with the Pastors



New to First Pres? We'd love to meet you at Coffee with the Pastors on Sunday, September 27, at 9:30 AM in the Session Room. This relaxed gathering is a chance to share coffee and conversation with

our pastors, hear about the ministries of First Pres, and discover ways you can connect, serve, and grow. We'll even take a quick tour of the church so you can get to know our space and history.

If you're ready to take the next step, we'll walk you through the process following the gathering. Questions? Ready to RSVP? Reach out to Rev. Annie Epling, Pastor, at aepling@firstpresfortwayne.org.

Music Series Season Opens September 19

Saturday, September 19 2:00 PM: Four internationally acclaimed artists. One unforgettable afternoon of music!

Join us for "Sing Unto Him a New Song", a showcase concert featuring organ masterworks and gems from the vocal repertoire, as FPC kicks off the 2027/27 Music Series!

This special concert brings together four exceptional artists from the United States, Poland, Belgium, and Ukraine - David C. Jonies, Jan Bokszczanin, Peter Van de Velde, and Anastasiia Staroselska - celebrating the beauty, power, and artistry of the pipe organ and the human voice.



Whether you're a lifelong lover of classical music or simply looking to experience something inspiring, you'll enjoy an afternoon of extraordinary music in the beautiful acoustics of First Presbyterian Church. Admission is free, and all are welcome!

Children, Youth, and Families

Confirmation Class: We will be having a "Confirmation 101" Class, for both confirmands and their families to attend, to get a sense of "what it's all about" on Sunday Sept. 20th, following worship, in the youth room.



If you or your child(ren) have even vague interest, you are encouraged to attend this meeting to get a sense for what it will be. We would hate for folks to miss the opportunity to grow in faith and relationship together for fear of the unknown! So, come have your anxieties quelled and get excited about confirmation!

If you have questions or would like to know a bit more, please email Pastor Ian Clarke at iclarke@firstpresfortwayne.org.

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



Monthly Food Donations for Food Banks: The date for the September Food Bank Collection will be September 20th. 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:

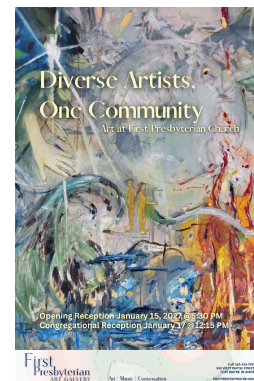
- Rice - white or brown (1-2 lb. bags preferred)
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Fruit: Pineapple or Mixed Fruit
- Cereal - Oatmeal Packets
- Canned Vegetable - Corn or Peas
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Canned Soup

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.

The Arts at FPC

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](#).



Interstellar: An Evening with Roger Sayer on Sunday, October 11 @7:00 pm

Experience the music of Christopher Nolan's iconic movie, *Interstellar*, as never before. Roger Sayer, the organist featured on the original soundtrack, will perform Hans Zimmer's celebrated score live on the organ in the

beautiful First Presbyterian Church sanctuary. The performance will be accompanied by a video presentation featuring Sayer working with Zimmer on the score in London, offering a rare behind-the-scenes glimpse into the creation of this iconic music.

Tickets are \$20.00 each, and are general admission. Call ArtsTix at 260-422-4226 to purchase, or click the button below to by online.

Sensory Notice: This performance will feature lighting and visual effects that may affect guests with sensory sensitivities.

[Tickets](#)

Get Connected: Dinner Groups

College & Career Dinner Group: This new dinner group, created for the college and career members and friends of First Pres, is meeting on Saturday, September 19, for dinner and relaxed conversation, and we would love for you to join us!

We'll meet at the church at 6:30 PM to gather and introduce ourselves, and then we'll either walk or carpool together to dinner at a nearby restaurant. It's a relaxed way to share a meal, meet some new faces, and enjoy a little time together outside of Sunday morning. No agenda, no program... just good food and great company!

If you're able to join us, or would like more information, please email [Esther Coplin](#) so we know how many seats to plan for. And a plus one is absolutely invited!

Hope to see you there!

North Dinner Group: Be sure to join the North Dinner Group on Monday, September 14, 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. 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, September 14, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!

Fellowship Opportunities

Men's Bible Study

Men's Bible Study meets 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. 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.

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.

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.

Korea Fest 2026



Prayer List

- Penny Pulz
- Tom Sites
- Janice Roddy
- Wendell Cree

- **Linda St. George**
- **Jennifer Kern Kelly**
- **Joyce McGiffin**
- **Lisa Keirn**
- **Beth White**
- **Carolyn Krebs**
- **Bob & Kathy Beatty**
- **Ashley Lassiter**

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

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