Friday, October 16, 2026



This Week @FirstPresFW

A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana

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Pastor's Message



Dear First Presbyterian Friends,

My parable series is done, so I'm circling back to a couple of foundational stories from Exodus that the lectionary includes but we missed. This Sunday: the golden calf!

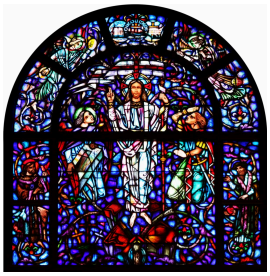
Thank you very much to everyone who has pledged to the 2027 stewardship campaign "Tell Me Something Good – And Be a Part of It." I'm very grateful for your response and support of the church. If you have not yet pledged, you may do so using the link below in this email.

In other good news, our solar project is almost done. When it's officially done, we'll dedicate our solar panels (from afar!). This project has been years in the making. Thank you to all who persevered and made it possible.

I hope to see you Sunday.

Annie

Sunday Worship



English

- **11:00 AM Sanctuary, Rev. Dr. Annie 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!

Tell Me Something Good — and Be Part of It

What a wonderful start to our stewardship season! As of October 9, we have received 83 pledges for 2027, totaling $350,455. That's $40,775 more than we had pledged at this point last year—a 13% increase! We're grateful to everyone who has already made a commitment to the ministry and mission of First Pres.

But this is just the beginning! Many households who pledged last year have not yet made their pledge for 2027. If you haven't had a chance to respond, we invite you to prayerfully consider how you can be part of the good things God is doing through First Pres. Your pledge helps sustain our worship, music, children and youth ministries, mission and outreach, and the many ways we care for one another and our city.

There is good news to tell—and good work to be part of! Thank you for being part of it.

Make your pledge or set up your gift now using the buttons below!

Stewardship 2027 Pledge

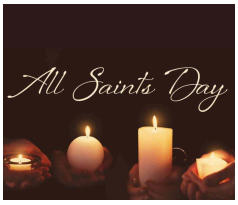
Online Gift Portal

KLM Anniversary Fellowship



The Korean Language Ministry will celebrate their 48th anniversary with a special fellowship time on Sunday, October 18, immediately following worship. You are invited to join us for this special celebration! Please RSVP to Rev. An by October 16, if you plan to attend!

All Saints Remembrance



All Saints Worship Service - Submit Names for Remembrance

As we prepare for our All Saints worship service on Sunday, November 1, we invite you to submit the names of friends and loved ones you wish to have remembered during the service. Please submit names by Monday, October 26. You can do so by emailing Julia Epling or turning in your name(s) to the office on Sunday morning. Let us honor their memory together in this special time of reflection and gratitude.

Green Team

Volunteer Opportunity: Join the Green Team on Wednesday, November 4, from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM at Hop River Brewing

Company for an evening of stewardship and volunteering! We'll be working on a volunteer project in support of the Little River Wetlands Project to grow native seeds for planting on Eagle Marsh!

This project is a great way to support the Little River Wetlands Project and a local brewery. Hop River is an all-ages venue, so children are welcome. If you don't enjoy beer, that's okay, they have plenty of great food (especially the wings!) and non-alcoholic beverages too. Please contact Josh Spencer if you are interested in participating!

FPC Solar Project: Panels Installed

The team from Renewable Energy Systems has officially installed our solar panels! Over the next few weeks, our contractors will be working behind the scenes to hook the panels into our building's main electrical system. This involves wiring them through high-capacity commercial inverters and a transformer to safely convert the sun's energy into the specific voltage our facility uses.

Once the wiring is complete, we cannot flip the switch just yet. We must pass formal inspections by the city and receive Permission to Operate (PTO) from our utility provider to safely back feed power into the local grid. We expect the entire system to be fully operational and quietly lowering our energy costs within the next 4 to 6 weeks! ☀️









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 the third Saturday of the month for dinner and relaxed conversation, and we would love for you to join us!

We'll meet at the church at 6:30 PM on Saturday, October 17, 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!

Missions



Monthly Food Bank Collection: The date for the October Food Bank Collection will be October 18th. Please bring your contribution to the church on Sunday. Food items can be dropped off at the church office throughout the week. Monetary donations are greatly appreciated too. Please specify your donation for "Hunger Relief."

The following items are requested:

- **Instant Mashed Potatoes**
- **Gravy Mix Packets**
- **Stuffing Mix (Boxed)**
- **Canned Vegetable - Peas or Green Beans**

- Oatmeal in packets
- Canned Chicken or Tuna

Thank you for your contributions and help with the Hunger Relief 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.

Stephen Ministry Resource Library

Easy Access Resource Library Now Available!

The Stephen Ministry resource library is open to browse in the small dining room! The books deal with a range of issues, including grief, mental health, aging, dementia, and end of life planning. The full list of books available below, or simply browse through the bookshelf at your convenience and borrow the books of interest to you!

A clipboard is available for signing out books. Borrowers are requested to return the books to the small dining room and reshelve the books alphabetically by the author's last name. Additional books are available in the Stephen Ministry office, and can be accessed by contacting Marcie Weissner or Carolyn Krebs.

Book List

The Arts at FPC

***Middletown* opens Tonight, Friday, October 16, at 7:00 pm at First Pres Theater**



Experience the humor, heart, and honesty of Middletown, a moving and deeply relatable story about life, love, and lasting friendship.

This comedy-drama follows two couples, the Hogans and the Abrams, as they reflect on 33 years of shared experiences, recounting the moments that shaped their lives and their bond. Through witty, fast-paced dialogue filled with sharp one-liners and familiar truths, their story unfolds with both humor and emotional depth.

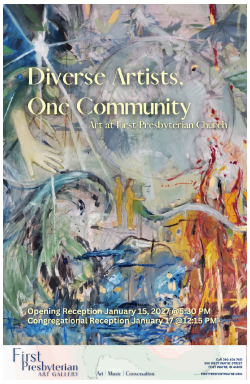
Told in a unique style, the couples turn the pages of their own lives, and perhaps our own as well. What emerges is a powerful, cathartic journey that captures life's highs, the lows, and everything in between.

At once funny, poignant, and universal, Middletown is a celebration of friendship, love, and the connections that carry us through a lifetime. Directed by John Tolley.

The show runs October 16-October 25. Performances on Fri/Sat at 7:30pm, and Sunday at 2:00pm.Tickets are $20.00, and are available by calling ArtsTix at 260-422-4226, or click the button below to buy online!

Middletown Tickets

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. Please drop off your artwork in the front office. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email Beth Iserman.

Small Groups

Wired Word Adult Group

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!

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.

In Memoriam

We extend our sincerest condolences to the family and friends of FPC Jubilee member Dave McCants, who died on October 12. The funeral service will be held on Tuesday, October 20, at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Please keep the family in your prayers.

The funeral service for Tom Sites will be held on Thursday, October 22, at 1:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Please continue to keep the family in your prayers.

Prayer List

- **Nancy Sites & Family**
- **Barbara McCants & Family**
- **Judy Ruoff**
- **Penny Pulz**
- **Janice Roddy**
- **Wendell Cree**
- **Linda St. George**

- **Jennifer Kern Kelly**
- **Joyce McGiffin**
- **Lisa Keirn**
- **Beth White**
- **Carolyn Krebs**
- **Bob & Kathy Beatty**
- **Ashley Lassiter**
- **Tom & Dawn Blessing**
- **Scott & Joan Pattison**
- **Kip & Mary Jane Ormerod**

If you are in need of prayer or an encouraging word, let us know!

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