Friday, November 6, 2026




# This Week @FirstPresFW

**A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana**

Visit our Website

## Pastor's Letter



**Dear Friends of First Presbyterian Church,**

**As we move through November, Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and Advent is not far behind. It's a busy time of year, but also an opportunity to slow down, reconnect, and remember what matters most.**

**There is a lot happening at First Presbyterian in the weeks ahead. We'll serve our neighbors through a citywide food drive, celebrate the completion of our solar project, share a Thanksgiving meal with our Korean Language Ministry, and find plenty of opportunities for fellowship, learning, and connection. There's even a gingerbread house party on the calendar!**

**And then, before long, we'll enter the season of Advent—a time of waiting, watching, preparing, and looking for the light. In a world that often feels hurried and uncertain, Advent reminds us that hope is worth waiting for, that light still finds its way into the**

**darkness, and that God's love continues to take shape among us.**

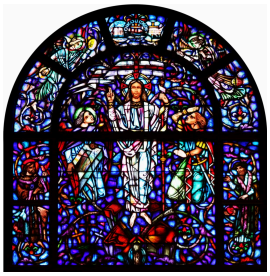
**My hope is that First Presbyterian will be a place where you find that light. A place to worship and ask questions, to serve and learn, to share a meal and make a friend, and to find community along the way. You don't have to do everything, and you don't have to be here every Sunday. But I hope you'll find something that draws you in and reminds you that you belong.**

**I'm grateful for this community and for the many ways you make it what it is. I look forward to sharing the weeks ahead with you.**

**With gratitude,**
**Annie**

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## Sunday Worship



**English**

- **11:00 AM Sanctuary, Rev. Dr. Annie Epling, Pastor, 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, Resident Pastor Ian Clarke 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: In the Home Stretch!




**Tell Me Something Good — and Be Part of It**

**We're getting close to the finish line of our 2027 stewardship campaign! While our numbers haven't changed dramatically this week, we're still hoping to hear from those who haven't yet had an opportunity to make their pledge.**

**Every pledge matters. These commitments help us plan for the year ahead and continue the ministry that happens in and through First Presbyterian Church.**

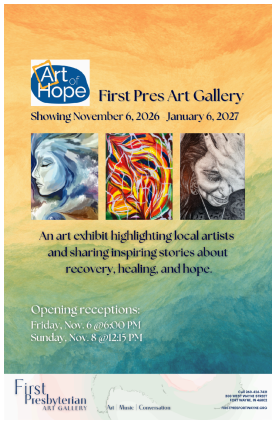
**If you haven't turned in your pledge, there's still time! You can complete a pledge card, submit one online below, or contact Sarah Kelley in the church office. We'd love to have your commitment as we look ahead to another year of ministry together.**

**Thank you for being part of the good things God is doing here!**

Stewardship 2027 Pledge

Online Gift Portal

# The Gallery at FPC




**Art of Hope: Join us for the opening of the new FPC Gallery exhibit, Art of Hope, TONIGHT, Friday, November 6, from 6:00-7:30 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. Enjoy light refreshments while viewing the art and meet the artists behind the work. The event is free and open to the public!**

# Wired Word Special Discussion

**Proposed Anchor Resource Center for the Unhoused**

**Wired Word will host a special class on Sunday, November 8, to discuss possible ways we can support the proposed Anchor Resource Center for the unhoused. After its defeat in September, this issue will come up again before City Council in about 10 months. Please join us this Sunday if you are interested in the creation of a program that offers basic services, including just a place to go, to our local unhoused population. We will see what we can do to help out.**

**We meet at 10:00 AM in the parlor. Please come take part in the discussion!**

## Interfaith Food Drive



**FWAIC-PFW Fall Food Drive: With the support of the Fort Wayne Area Interfaith Cooperative, we're joining other faith communities to help reduce food insecurity in our city.**

**On Sunday, November 8, PFW students will join us in worship to speak about the project and distribute paper bags with lists of needed items. Please fill your bag and return it the following Sunday, November 15. Most donations will go toward feeding people in need, but we're also collecting food for animals cared for by Fort Wayne Animal Care and Control. The students will return to collect, weigh, and deliver all donations.**

**This effort reflects the shared values of the diverse faith communities within FWAIC, and we believe we are better together! From September through November, our community-wide food drive aims to fill 18 barrier-free Forward Indiana food pantries across Fort Wayne. Each pantry takes about 250 pounds to fill for one day. Together, we hope to collect 4,500 pounds of food to meet that goal.**

**Join us in making a real difference! Pick up a bag, fill it generously, and help feed our neighbors in need!**

## Blessing and Dedication of Our New Solar Panels

**Save the Date: Join us immediately after worship on Sunday, November 15, for a blessing and dedication of our new solar panel! We'll gather in McKay Hall, then proceed out the side door**

by the kitchen to "flip the switch" on our new green energy system! This project has been many years in the making, and we are grateful for everyone who has worked to make this project a reality! Come celebrate with us!

## Church Directory Updates

**TIME TO UPDATE!**

**Does First Presbyterian have your family's membership record correct? It's time to update our member database with any changes that may have occurred in your family over the past year.**

**Please let FPC know the following:**

- **Have you changed your phone number?**
- **Have you moved?**
- **Do you have a new email address?**
- **Are you preparing to move soon?**
- **Are your children still living at home and still attending First Pres?**

**Please let the church office know of any updates you have by emailing the office at cumphrey@firstpresfortwayne.org or call us at 260-426-7421, ext. 100.**

**Thank you for helping us keep our records updated!**

## Korean Language Ministry's Annual Thanksgiving Meal



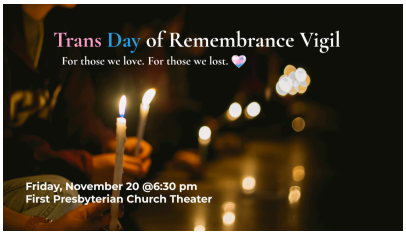
**Join Us for a Bountiful Thanksgiving Meal on Sunday, Nov. 22!**

**As we approach the season of gratitude and reflection, we invite you to come together in the spirit of Thanksgiving. We are delighted to extend a warm invitation to our annual KLM/English Thanksgiving Meal, which will take place on November 22 in McKay Hall, immediately following the 11:00 AM worship service. The meal will be catered, and we are all encouraged to bring a dessert to share!**

**This annual tradition is a special occasion for our church family to gather, share blessings, and create cherished memories. We encourage you to be part of this wonderful time of food and**

**fellowship, as we express our thanks for the abundance of love, faith, and togetherness that enrich our lives and our church!**

## Trans Day of Remembrance Education Session & Vigil




**Transgender Day of Remembrance Service Education Session!**

**Prior to the vigil service on the 20th, there will be an education session following the Solar Panel Dedication on the 15th, upstairs in the parlor. If you have curiosities, questions, or simply want to do your part to be an informed ally, please join us for this session about Gender identity and how this topic is situated within the framework of our faith practice. Contact Ian Clarke (iclarke@firstpresfortwayne.org) for questions or details.**

**Save the Date: Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is an annual observance on November 20 that honors the memory of the transgender people whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. TDOR was started in 1999 by transgender advocate Gwendolyn Ann Smith as a vigil to honor the memory of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was killed in 1998.**

**In honor of those in our community and the world who have suffered violence or death, several local congregations and community organizations will join us for a special spoken-word and candle-lighting vigil held on Friday, November 20, at 6:30 PM in the Theater. All are welcome.**

## Gingerbread Party



**Get into the holiday spirit with a little creativity, frosting, and fun!**

**Join us for our Gingerbread Party on Saturday, December 5, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Church Parlor.**

**Open to all ages, this is a fun way to celebrate the season together. We'll provide everything you need to build and decorate your very own gingerbread house!**

**Cost: $15 per house.**
**REGISTER HERE**

**Space is limited to just 20 houses, so it's first come, first served. Reserve your spot today! We can't wait to see what you create!**

## Christmas Eve Music & Flowers



**Christmas Eve Music and Flowers are made possible through donations in memory or in honor of loved ones, as we adorn the Christmas Eve service with music from our friends at the Fort Wayne Philharmonic and flowers for the Chancel.**

**If you would like to contribute to this beautiful service, please make the check payable to First Presbyterian Church and include "Christmas Eve music or flowers" on the memo line. Additionally, *please include a note with your name and the names of the loved ones you would like included in the bulletin.***

**Please have your donation in by *Monday, December 7*, to be included in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Thank you in advance for your generosity!**

## Join a Dinner Group!

**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, November 21, 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, November 9, 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, November 9, 2026, at 5:30 pm. We look forward to fellowship with you!**

## 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!**

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### 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.**

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### Women's Bible Study

**The annual Bible study for women is Horizons Bible Study for 2026-2027 *United Through Christ, Bound to Each Other*. This is a study of the Apostle Paul's first letter to the Church he founded in Corinth. It is Paul's beginning effort at defining the theology of the nascent Christian Church. We are learning and remembering our roots in the early Church. We meet by ZOOM weekly from 1:00-2:30 pm each Friday. We will take a break for the Christmas holidays and resume on January 8th, continuing until we finish the study. We read the Scriptures and Lessons together in our**

**sessions each week so there is no assigned reading before classes.**

**All women are welcome to participate in the group. If you have never done a ZOOM event, please contact Susan for information and instructions. Anyone can quickly and easily learn how to attend a Zoom meeting on their phone or computer. The Church Office usually has an extra copy of the study available for purchase. For more information contact Rev. Susan Keirn Kester at keirnsusan@aol.com or 260.445.5475.**

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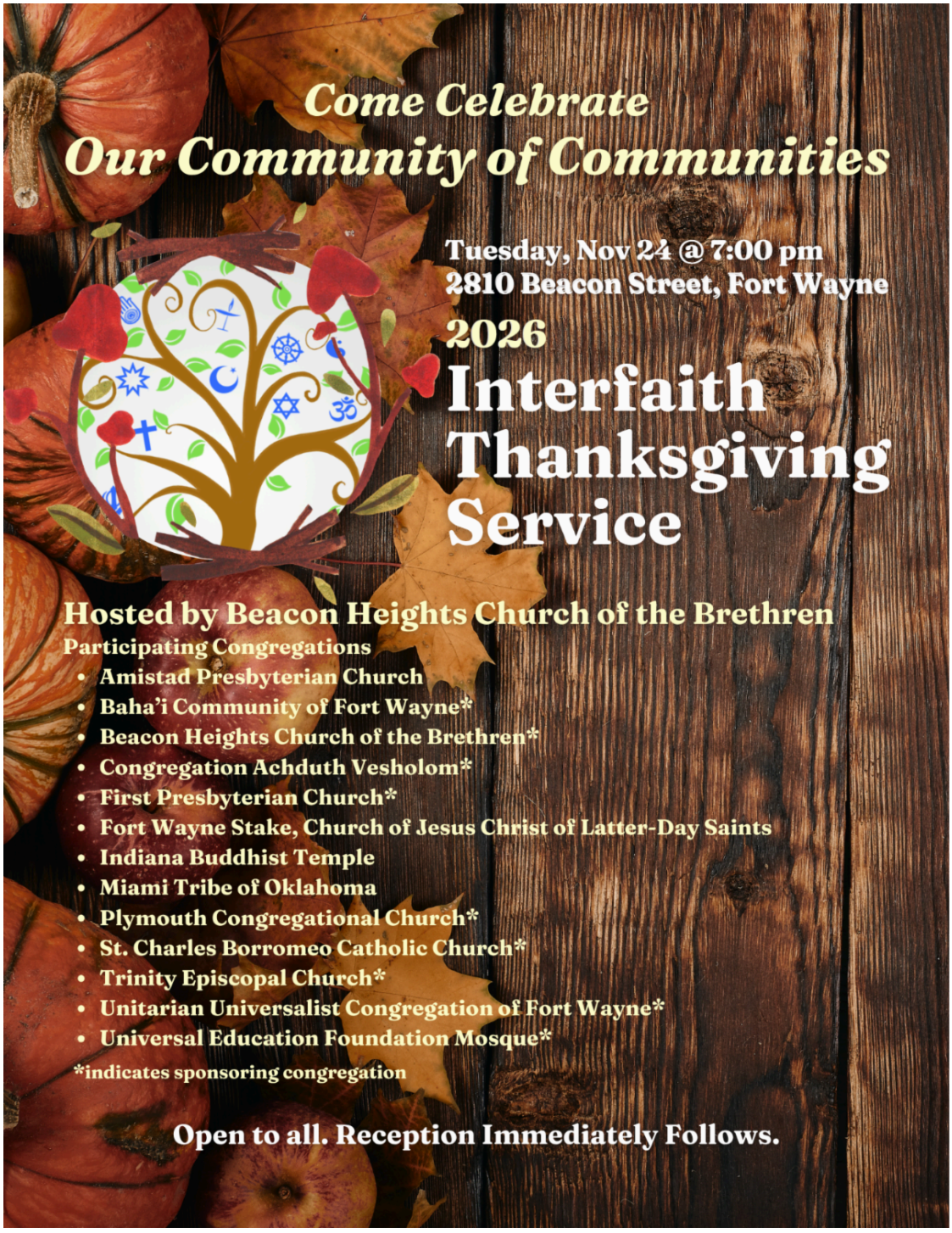
**Table Talk (Women's Book Study) meets online on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. We take turns "reading around the table", so no homework is assigned. Participants obtain their own copies of the book.**

**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.**

## Interfaith Thanksgiving Service




## 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 member Adeline Brenizer (Ady), who died on October 28. The funeral will be held on Saturday, November 14, at 11:00 am in the FPC Chapel, with visitation from 10:15-11:00 am. A reception will immediately follow the funeral service.**

**Ady's obituary can be found here. Please keep the family in your prayers.**

## Prayer List

- **The Family of Ady Brenizer**
- **Nancy Sites & Family**
- **Barbara McCants & Family**
- **Judy Ruoff**
- **Kathy Miller**
- **Penny Pulz**
- **Janice Roddy**
- **Wendell Cree**
- **Jennifer Kern Kelly**
- **Joyce McGiffin**
- **Lisa Keirn**
- **Beth White**
- **Carolyn Krebs**
- **Bob & Kathy Beatty**
- **Ashley Lassiter**
- **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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