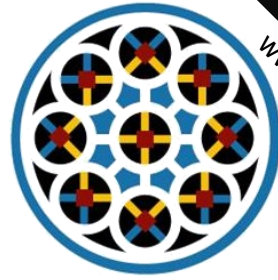


First Reports

First Presbyterian Church
Evansville, Indiana



MAY/
JUN
2023
www.firstpres.evansville.com

From the Pastor

We are finally getting the newsletter started again! (My apologies for not getting to it before now.) The Session and I have been busy getting reorganized and you will be updated on all that's going on through articles in this and future newsletters as well as periodic Minutes for Mission during worship. This phrase, *Minutes for Mission*, refers to all activities in the church, as all of Session's committees work together to accomplish the Mission of the church. Everyone has been hard at work and things are moving along well.

I'd like to take a moment to tell you about a newly formed committee: Membership and Outreach. This committee will support the Parish Visitor (Jerusha Van Camp) in reaching out to visitors, coordinate new member classes, and help new members become integrated into the life of the congregation. They will also partner with the Deacons on fellowship activities. Elder Bonnie Rinks is the chair of the committee, and we are looking for people who enjoy sharing hospitality and getting to know people. Please let [Bonnie](#) or myself know if you would like to get involved by joining this committee.

The Education Committee continues to do good work, especially with the youth. Be sure to read the article about First Light and what the youth have been doing and studying. The Education Committee could also use more members, so please reach out to [Michelle Haywood](#) or myself if this is a committee you might be interested in. I am hoping that in the fall, besides a congregation-wide book study, we will be able to have other adult education/fellowship activities up and running. I hope you will consider joining this committee as they expand their work.

Another new committee that is hard at work is the Finance Committee. As is true with most churches, we are facing our own financial challenges. Please take a moment to read Susie Hartig, our Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair's article in this newsletter. It explains where we are financially and what the church's needs are. We continue to look for people with gifts in the financial world to join this committee.

We have scheduled a Congregational Meeting on June 4 following 10:30 worship, focused on Finance. The budget will be presented for the congregation's approval. Please plan to stay after worship for this brief, but important meeting. It will be a time for people to understand where we are financially and to ask questions. In the future, the budget will be ready to present at the annual congregational meeting at the start of the year when we elect officers.

I'd like to also address where we are in the transitional process. The Session is studying *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* by Robert Schnase, in preparation for leading small discussion groups with you. This fall, the congregation will be asked to read the book and join a small group. The responses gained in these discussion groups will be used to put together the new goals of the church. The Pastor Nominating Committee, which will be formed this fall, will use these goals when writing the Ministry Information Form, the document potential new pastors will read to get to know who the congregation is and how First Pres is called to serve God. Upon completion, the MIF will go to Presbytery for approval and then the search is on. At that point, the process is mostly dependent on the search committee and the applications they receive. As I mentioned when I first came, when a congregation knows who they are and to what they are called to, it serves as a good foundation for finding a pastor who is a good fit for the congregation.

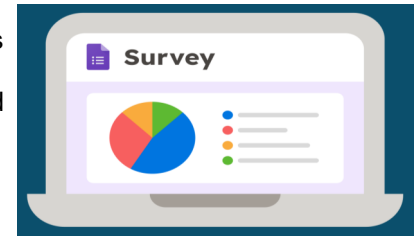
I know for some of you it may seem like this process is taking a long time, but the work you did with the VanderZees was an extra step that the average congregation wouldn't normally go through. You really weren't ready - before the work the VanderZees did with you - to move forward as we are doing now. I hope that you can see how God blessed you through their work and how the blessings continue to come as the Session and its Committees lead the congregation.

Finally, I want to thank you again for the warm welcome given to me upon my arrival. I have had many take me up on the offer to visit over coffee or a meal. I would still love to get to know more of you and so my invitation stands: please feel free to drop by to talk or to arrange a time for coffee, a shared meal, or a walk enjoying this beautiful weather.

Blessings,
Pastor Anna

Changing Families Survey

The General Assembly, our governing body made up of representatives from all across the Presbyterian Church (USA), is studying several topics this summer via a series of online surveys. The first topic to be studied is about Changing Families. Members and friends of First Pres are invited to complete an online, completely confidential, survey during the month of May. Click [HERE](#) to take the survey. Thanks in advance for your participation!



Children and Adult Education

The elementary children have been steadily meeting after the children's moment for Sunday School. It has been a blessing to help them learn God's Word through story, song, video, and craft. Though the bulk of the curriculum used this year has been the *Growing in God's Love Story Book*, it has been fun to occasionally supplement with our favorite *Holy Moly* videos and crafts, as well as small rhythm instruments and special songs.



Thank you to all of the classroom teachers, assistants, and nursery volunteers who sacrificed your time in worship to nurture our children in the way of God's word. Teachers, assistants, and nursery workers this year include:

Alaina Aiken, Erin Carver, Michelle Haywood, Francie Hubbard, May Hubbard, Kate McKinney, Bonnie Rinks, Jenny Singleton, Jerusha VanCamp, Anne Whinrey, Evie Wu

Sunday School doesn't happen without you! If you'd like to join this group of volunteers, please contact [Carrie Aiken](mailto:carrie@fpcev.com) (carrie@fpcev.com).

Our long-running adult Sunday School class, the Bible Bunch, has persevered through the many changes brought about by the pandemic. While it was not advisable to meet in person, the group meet regularly via Zoom, and even now, when a majority of regular attendees are in-person, the Zoom option remains, so the class is available when one is under the weather or even on vacation! Thank you to the class for your faithful studies, and especially to Jean Beckman, Pete Ruthenburg, Jack Schriber, and John Whinrey for leading the group week-in and week-out.

Safe and Secure

Session's Safety and Security Committee has been busy lately! Have you noticed:

- Signs inside the building telling you what doors are and are not exits and what areas are storm shelters.
- Numbers on the inside and outside of the exterior doors. These help us communicate clearly with first responders and others in case of an emergency.
- New and upgraded cameras in- and out- side the building. Storage of security footage has also been improved.
- The courtyard video doorbell! If Office Administrator Lora Blaylock is away, or the door is locked after hours, you can ring the bell, and staff who are in the building, but not near the door, can talk to you and let you in.

A procedure for having the courtyard doors locked during worship, which will provide better building security for all, is in the planning stages.



Last fall, about 60 people attended safety training sessions led by Safety and Security chair Gerald Summers. Additional sessions will be scheduled later this year. If you have safety questions or comments, please contact [Gerald Summers](mailto:geraldsmr@gmail.com) (geraldsmr@gmail.com; 812-480-2694) or [Susie Hartig Summers](mailto:hartigsue79@gmail.com) (hartigsue79@gmail.com; 812-480-9987).



Did you know that our choir robes cost \$150 each?

Your Help Needed to Remain Connectional

Did you know the PC(USA) is known as a connectional church? This is demonstrated by its layers of government and the work and ministry that each layer does. Beyond the local church is the Presbytery, which supports the work of local congregations in its region. Then there is the Synod and the General Assembly. There are 173 Presbyteries, which support the Sessions and Ministers in their district. There are 16 Synods, which govern groups of at least 3 Presbyteries. The General Assembly, made up of a board of Ministers, Elders, and Advisory Delegates for Youth, Ecumenical, Theological, and Mission, govern the Synods. The important work of these branches of the PC (USA) is supported through the congregational apportionment known as Per Capita.



In the past, churches were able to pay the apportionment from the general budget. This amount is based on the number of members in a congregation and the individual per capita designation. This year, per capita in the Presbytery of Ohio Valley is \$50.14 per member. This includes every confirmed member: adults of all ages and confirmed youth. First Pres' total to be paid in 2023 is \$14,891.58. Like most churches throughout the country, we are now facing more financial challenges as society has changed: discretionary incomes have decreased, and more older congregants live on fixed incomes and are unable to give as they have in the past.

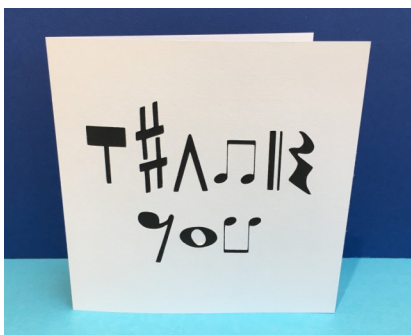
What churches have begun doing is asking their members to make a once-yearly donation over and above their pledge to cover per capita. With the pandemic, Kevin's death, and others we have lost, we are no longer able to make the apportionment payment without it affecting our overall budget. In the recent past, ten First Pres members, who have since joined the church triumphant, contributed 21% of the annual budget, or approximately \$121,000, each year. We must make up for that shortfall somehow or cut the budget. For the 2023 budget, the Trustees allotted \$85,839 of endowment income, and members will provide \$350,000 in stewardship pledges. While endowment income for this year is up, (due to robust stock market years) pledges are down from 2022's total of \$404,000. The Session asked the Trustees for a one time only special endowment allotment for 2023, and the Trustees approved an additional \$94,875. Even with this amount, we project to have a budget shortfall of \$16,066. If individuals can cover their per capita apportionment of \$50.14 each, we will almost eliminate the shortfall.

We understand that some families have youth who are members that may not be able to give the \$50.14 for every member in their household as it would put a strain on the household budget. We also ask that if you are able to give more than your \$50.14, please do. The extra will help to cover those who cannot cover their entire family. Your generosity is appreciated.

In an effort to be transparent and better educate the congregation about its finances, you will begin to see "Did you know..." segments in this newsletter, *Connect*, and Sunday worship bulletins, providing you specific information about the budget, income, and expenses. The congregational meeting led by Pastor Anna, with me present as Treasurer, on June 4 after 10:30 service will provide another opportunity to explain the budget process, answer any questions you may have, and vote on the 2023 budget. Financial information is available to upon request. If you have specific questions, please feel free to [contact me](mailto:hartigsue79@gmail.com) (812-480-9987; hartigsue79@gmail.com) and I will get you an answer. In the meantime, please help us completely fund staff salaries, mission work, music, youth, and adult programming, building and grounds upkeep and repair, safety and security, and childcare for the rest of this year by remitting your family apportionment.

Thank you!
Susie Hartig, Treasurer

Thank you, Musicians!



On May 14, Mothering Sunday, we recognize the extraordinary work and commitment that our choir and church musicians have put into enhancing our Worship for the past academic year. We also promote a Choir School Beginner, Vivien Plant, to being a full Chorister, and recognize the completion of requirements for promotion to new ribbons. Light Blue is the initial level, followed by Dark Blue, with Red the most advanced. Some choristers and adults also have special medals and ribbons following examination for the RSCM Bronze (green ribbon), Silver (purple), and Gold (Yellow) awards. You may also notice that the choir has new black music folders. They have been purchased using part of a gift to the music program from the McDaniel family. Thank you, Earl and Bridget McDaniel!

Let's Go to Montreat!

Every year, First Pres joins with Presbyterians (and other denominations) from around the country at the Presbyterian Association of Musicians' (PAM) Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, North Carolina. From June 25-July 1, our base is Hickory Lodge, which sleeps twenty (ten double rooms with twin beds). It sits in the heart of that beautiful small town, nestled up in the mountains east of Asheville. This year, we have some spare beds and are inviting members of the congregation to join us in a week of communal living, attending inspiring worship services, and taking in the tree-covered mountains.



If you're interested in spending the last week in June with First Pres friends, contact [Robert Nicholls](mailto:robert@fpcevv.com) (robert@fpcevv.com) for more information and to see if it's a good fit for you. Hickory Lodge is at 2,900 ft. and is neither disabled nor mobility accessible, and every movement around town involves walking on steep hills and stairs. You don't have to be a musician or attend the conference as a paying participant to go, and more information is available at presbysmusic.org/2023conference. Cost per adult for the week is approximately \$300.

Your Congregational Leaders

First Presbyterian Church Officers

2023 Session – First Presbyterian Church

As in all Presbyterian congregations, the Session is the leadership team or governing board of the church, responsible for all areas of the church's life and ministry. It includes the pastor and three classes of elders serving three-year terms of service, all elected by the congregation.

Class of 2023

Mark Fox
Sue Hartig
Michelle Haywood
Gerald Summers

Class of 2024

Casey Calvert
Ronda Hurt
Gary Morris
Steve Wylie

Class of 2025

Jill Griffin
Dan Korb
Bonnie Rinks
Sue Schriber

The Reverend Anna von Winckler serves as Moderator.

2023 Board of Deacons – First Presbyterian Church

In Presbyterian congregations, Deacons are ministers of sympathy, witness, and service, after the example of Jesus. At First Pres, they are involved in congregational care, hospitality and fellowship, and bereavement.

Deacons also serve in three classes for terms of three years each.

Deacons are elected by the congregation and accountable to the Session.

Class of 2023

Tony Aiken
Lisa Foerster-Daniels
Abby Greenwell
Jake Kohlmeyer
Jessica Montgomery
Tracy Shaw

Class of 2024

Dick Bernhardt
Jane Bernhardt
Nancy Bizal
Lisa Calvert
MT Hallock Morris
Glen Killion

Class of 2025

Sue Korb
Suzanne Kohlmeyer
Marilyn Kunkle
Sarah Pearce
Kathryn Van Camp
vacancy

2023 Board of Trustees – First Presbyterian Church

The Trustees at this church are responsible for managing and investing the church's endowment and trust funds and providing for the church's appropriate insurance coverage. They serve in three classes for three-year terms.

Trustees are elected by the congregation and accountable to the Session.

Class of 2023

Roger Colman
Jingle Hagey

Class of 2024

Anne Asbury
Dick Mahrenholz

Class of 2025

Joan Fedor-Bassemier
Wayne Rinks

First Pres Feeds Hungry People

In the stories of our faith, God fed the Israelites for forty years as they wandered in the desert, and in the only miracle described in all four gospels, Jesus fed five thousand people rather than send them away hungry. In a well-known passage in Matthew 25, Jesus tells his followers that whenever they give food to people who are hungry, they are giving it to him.

The example of God and the words of Jesus should inspire followers to provide food for hungry people. This is often hard to do as an individual, but it can become easy for members of the First Pres family.

Part of the role and responsibility of the Mission Committee at First Presbyterian is to provide opportunities for church members and friends to offer active, hands-on service in the community. To help meet this goal, the Mission Committee, on behalf of the congregation, supports United Caring Services (UCS) in downtown Evansville. UCS is a homeless shelter and services agency which provides a drop-in day shelter for men, women, and children and emergency night shelters for single men and women. As part of this sheltering, they serve three meals a day, seven days a week, for people who are hungry. The Mission Committee has arranged for the church to prepare and serve lunch once a month at UCS.

If you would like to make hands-on service to hungry people part of your Christian life, there are a number of ways the Mission Committee can help you do that. It can be as simple as providing cookies or another dessert for the lunch. If you like to cook, you can join a team that prepares the lunch meal in the kitchen at UCS. If you like to meet and greet people, you can help serve the meal. If you like to plan meals and do grocery shopping, you can organize one of the lunches. The great thing is that you don't need to do any of this on your own or every month. You can be a helper on an existing team. Or the Mission Committee can help with meal suggestions, recruiting volunteers, and creating opportunities for you to donate food.



Of course, everyone who contributes to the church is already supporting this work financially. The Committee has a budget from the church to buy and reimburse the expenses of a meal. However, if you hear the call of Jesus asking you to give time and talent in addition to treasure, if you want to see the faces (and thankful smiles) of people you help, if you want to do something with your own hands to address hunger in Evansville, helping with the monthly lunch at UCS offers a way.

Watch the Sunday worship bulletin and *Connect* for invitations to contribute. Talk with anyone on the Mission Committee (Ronda Hurt is the chair; others are Debbie Meyer, Francie Hubbard, Janet Cash, Jean Beckman, Jim Edrington, and Sandra Mants) to learn more about the project. You can call Debbie Meyer (812-568-6102) or Janet Cash (812-629-3102) to volunteer.

CAJE Meeting

First Presbyterian Church is a member of the local group, Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment (CAJE). On Monday, May 1, members of all the congregations involved met at All Saints' Church on First Avenue for the annual Nehemiah Action meeting. At this meeting, issues to be focused on by the group are announced and commitments for action are sought from community leaders.



This year, CAJE looks to make positive change to the following issues: Gas & Electric Costs, Crisis Care and Intervention/Jail Diversion, Gun Violence and Unsafe Neighborhoods, Affordable Housing Crises in Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties, and the Dually Diagnosed Child (autism with co-occurring mental health need). If you'd like more information or to join First Pres' CAJE group, contact FPC Member [Gina Ungar](mailto:gina.robinson.ungar@gmail.com) (gina.robinson.ungar@gmail.com).

Did you know that the Mission Committee uses \$5,000 of its budget to respond to disasters through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance?



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

Our Treasurer wants You!

Are you a C.P.A.? An accountant? Can you balance your checkbook? Count the change in your piggy bank? If so, First Pres needs you to join the finance committee. Duties including reviewing the monthly budget, making sure we do not overspend, and setting the 2024 budget.

Are you an expert in philanthropy? Gift planning? Do you have experience with a foundation? Have you raised funds for a not-for-profit? Sold Girl Scout Cookies? Gift Wrap? Cheese Balls? World's Finest Chocolate? Have you had a lemonade stand? Do you know how to sell on eBay and Facebook marketplace? If so, First Pres needs you as a member of the Stewardship Committee. Duties include working with the finance committee to set a 2024 budget, presenting a stewardship campaign to the congregation in the fall, and contacting individual members of the congregation to request financial support.



Contact [Pastor Anna](#) if you're interested in helping First Pres be good stewards of our financial gifts.

First Light Summer Trip

First Light, our Jr- and Sr- High School group, has been busy preparing for a summer trip to Memphis, TN. The main objective of the trip is to visit the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel. This spring, our teenagers have been discussing discrimination in its many forms: bias (implicit and explicit), white privilege, our American History through the eyes of the oppressed as well as the oppressors, and how as a church we should promote justice. One lens we are using to learn about the civil rights era is blues music. We are connecting the importance of blues music in the time to civil rights and will visit the Stax Records Museum during the trip. In observance of Holocaust Remembrance Day, we visited the C.A.N.D.L.E. Holocaust Museum located in Terre Haute on April 15.

I would like to extend a big "THANK YOU" to all of those who have contributed to our Youth this year by helping provide snacks, rides, and support. A "THANK YOU" to parents and volunteers that meet with us weekly: Tony Aiken, Paul Blaylock, and Lisa Foerster-Daniels. A special thank you to Gina Robertson-Ungar, who has given much of her spare time helping to plan lessons and facilitate conversations with our youth in preparation for our trip to Memphis.

- Carrie Aiken, Coordinator for Children and Youth

Little Lambs

Mothering Sunday will soon be here, and First Pres is pleased to honor mothers and support Little Lambs by hosting a diaper drive on May 14. There will be play-yards in the entrances that morning to receive new diapers, wipes, and other baby necessities.

If you're not a shopper, your monetary donations (made to Little Lambs, please) are most welcome and will support Little Lambs' spring fundraiser: Walking for Dreams. Their goal is \$15,000, which if reached, will earn them an extra \$2,500 to help local families in need! Walking for Dreams is Sunday, May 21 on the Evansville Riverfront. For more information or to join the walk, see walkingfordreams.org and look for Little Lambs under charities or contact [Little Lambs](#) (812-425-5262 or amysoellner.littlelambs@gmail.com).



Little Lambs thanks First Pres for its continuing support of the organization's mission to *Build a Community of Healthy and Safe Children*.



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:

Sunday, May 7
Pentecost Sunday, May 28
8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services

Congratulations to our First Pres 2023 Graduates

Your church is proud of you!

Elena Nicholls



EJ Reitz High School

Abby Greenwell



Signature School

*We remember Michael Thissen,
who earned his MS in Organizational Leadership
from Colorado State University.*



www.firstpresevansville.com

Happy May and June Birthday!

MAY

Tamara Labhart	1
Becky Sparks-Thissen	2
Dan Wagemann	3
Calvin Josenhans	3
Scott Wylie	5
Robert Nicholls	5
Travis Dickison	6
Alice McKinney	7
Helen Sponseller	9
Jon Fuchs	9
Cameron Cross	11
Debbie Meyer	12
Erin Carver	15
Landon Whitler	16
Kate McKinney	19
Ashley McReynolds	21
Melissa Whitler	22
Eli Underwood	22
Jackie Aldridge	22
Ryan Bassemier	24
Avery McDaniel	24
Cindy Shelton	26
Eleanor Legate	26

Winston Murphy	26
Sarah Groves	27
Matt Qualls	28
Julie Langerak	30
Karla Uhde	31
Carolyn Jones	31



JUNE

Don Qualls	2
David Kunkle	5
Katelin Hills	5
Dick Bernhardt	5
Joy Pullen	7
Terri Dunsterville	9
Cathy Edrington	10
Andrew Korb	10

Sophia Henson	13
Max Haynie	14
Alex Ward	14
Douglas Kirk	15
Marla Kercher	16
Lynne Thissen	16
Jane Stalions	17
Nan Hardin	18
Katie Parker	18
Jacqueline Pennington	19
Tyler John	20
Lucas John	20
Wes Blalock	20
Mollie Foerster-Daniels	21
Tom Kohlmeyer	22
Bill Brubeck	23
Tom Boyle	24
Cydney Wathen	24
Paul Blaylock	25
Kathie Siegert	26
Sue Korb	26
Maxwell Carver	26
Tracy Shaw	30
Georgia Shaw-Pullen	30

Spring Concert!

On Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m. the choir of First Pres presents its annual Spring Concert with Taco Bar Fundraiser. The choral music this year features two works written nearly four hundred years apart, Monteverdi's *Beatus Vir* and John Rutter's *Requiem*. *Beatus Vir* is an energetic setting in Latin of verses from Psalm 112 with choral writing in six parts and two solo violins engaging in the conversation. This anthem has become a choir favorite and ends with one of the best *Amens* ever!

The Rutter *Requiem* is a beautiful and poignant work in seven movements with memorable melodies and expressive harmonies. The congregation heard many of the movements during the season of Lent at 10:30 worship, capped by the joyful setting of the *Sanctus* on Easter morning here at First Pres. The choir is joined by organ and a small chamber orchestra including harp, flute, oboe, cello, and timpani.

Mark your family calendars and invite your friends, neighbors, and co-workers to join you for a beautiful afternoon of music in the First Pres Sanctuary on May 7, and plan to stay for dinner - tickets for the Taco Bar are only \$15 at the door, and all proceeds help send First Pres Musicians to summer camp experiences.



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First Presbyterian Church

