

First Reports

First Presbyterian Church
Evansville, Indiana



www.firstpreesevansville.com
JUN/
JUL
2024

From the Pastor

Dear Friends,

Pentecost has passed. The Spirit of God has descended as a mighty wind and as tongues of fire. The Church has been born! But just as with anything that has been born, growth must now take place. The growing process happens in fits and starts. It's hard work, and we are an imperfect people, but the love of God reigns supreme as we learn and grow in faith, and our faith grows deeper as we give of ourselves in acts of compassion and love.

I have enjoyed hearing your stories of faith. Hearing how God has inspired you, comforted you, filled you with peace, motivated you in service. Just today I heard a story about a transformation that was so profound it could have come right from the pages of the Bible. God is at work in each of you and that is such a wonderful thing to see and to hear about.

When I first came here, I spoke about how churches should always be in transition, not just when they are without a pastor, for transition means that life is taking place - the church and the individual people within the church are growing and becoming stronger in faith and as witnesses of the faith and hope that is found in Jesus Christ. Transition. Growing. Becoming. That all leads to transformation.

Transformation. There has been a lot of change taking place at First Pres over the past year and a half. I hope that you can see it as I see it. Committees are working hard to help this congregation grow in knowledge and in witness - and we are! But there is always more to be done. The Generosity Committee recently sponsored a Time and Talent Sunday. While they received some cards expressing interest in becoming more involved, there is always need for more help in making this church become all that it can be. The fledgling Membership and Outreach Committee would be happy to have more members to plan fun fellowship activities and meals for the congregation. The Christian Education Committee would love to have more people to help in creating programs that would be of interest for members of all ages to learn and grow in faith. And the Social Justice and Mission Committees would benefit from new members who would help to organize more opportunities for the congregation to be involved with. People with ideas, with motivation, with organizational skills, with the simple interest in doing things together: we need you! There is never any deadline for joining in the work of a congregation. Wouldn't it be wonderful for the new pastor to come and find that the whole church was involved in the life and growth of the church? Look inside this issue for an article on how you can tell us what activity, interest, or particular project you'd like to be involved in at First Pres.



Pentecost is over. The Church is alive! May we continue to be faithful in nurturing both our own faith and that of our faith community so we can be fruitful in furthering the witness of Christ's Church in love, kindness, and compassion.

Blessings,

Pastor Anna
Pastor Anna

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper:

Sundays, June 2 and July 7

8:30 and 10:30 a.m. services



Pride Month

First Presbyterian Church will join in the 2024 River City Pride Parade! The parade walk will start at noon on Saturday, June 1. We welcome anyone from the congregation to join us in a group for the parade walk. Please email Skylin Parker at skylin@fpcevv.com for more information on how to join the First Pres group.



Feeding Our Neighbors



First Pres will help feed our neighbors at United Caring Services this Summer! On the second Monday of the month, volunteers are welcome to join Gail Riecken in preparing and serving lunch at UCS. Our next date is Monday, June 10. Gail has planned a meal of sloppy joes, corn, salad, and dessert. If you're interested in joining Gail sometime this summer in this simple but important offering of time, text her at 812-550-2328.

Pastor Nominating Committee

We are in the process of scheduling interviews for some of the candidates who have formally applied to be our next Solo Pastor. We have watched their sermons online and reviewed their profiles, so we hope to interview the candidates over the next few weeks. There are many steps to the process after the interviews, but we are excited to begin this phase! We appreciate your continued prayers and support, and I am always happy to answer specific questions you might have (within our confidentiality guidelines, of course).

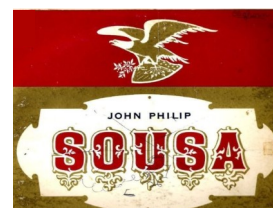


- Yours in Christ, Steve Wylie, PNC Chair

First Friday Recitals

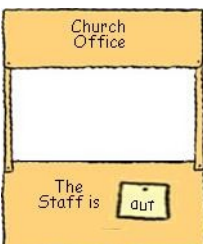
We welcome Matt Benkert, a DMA student at the IU Jacobs School of Music to play the First Friday recital on June 7 at 7:00 p.m. Matt's program includes music by JS Bach, Jeanne Demessieux, Louis Marchand, Nicolas de Grigny, Gervais-Francois Couperin, and the Variations on the *Huron Carol* by Brenda Portman (b. 1980).

On Friday, July 5, Robert Nicholls will play Sousa Marches and favorite tunes interspersed with the audience singing patriotic songs including *America the Beautiful* and *My Country, 'Tis of Thee*.



Plan to bring your friends downtown on both of these dates to start each month off with great music and fellowship!

Staff and Office Schedule



Summer has arrived, and that means vacation and camp time for many of us! During June, three of our staff members are taking vacation or are headed to camp experiences. Director of Music Robert Nicholls is headed to two different camps: RSCM Midwest Summer Choral Residency and the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conference in Montreat. Pastor Anna and Office Administrator Lora Blaylock will be away (in different locations!) in the latter half of the month.

Because of this, the church office will be closed June 18 through June 25. Elder of the Week Bonnie Rinks and a local pastor will be on call for pastoral needs while Pastor Anna is away, and phone messages and emails to the church will be responded to as soon as possible. The staff appreciates the congregation's flexibility and understanding as we all take a little time to recharge this summer!

Love in Action

This year, the stewardship committee has initiated a new type of stewardship campaign: the *Love in Action* campaign celebrates the diversity of talents, skills, interests, and passions within our congregation. First Pres is a congregation of big-hearted members and friends, and so many of us give our time and talents to the programs and dreams of the church. We are Deacons and Elders, teachers and planners, singers and players, cleaners, bakers, and creators. Still, needs and opportunities abound!

The committee extends an invitation to every member and friend of the to generously offer these gifts of time and talent - *Love in Action* - to support the life of our church. To help you respond, the committee has prepared an 'offering card' - which has some current and near-future activities looking for more hands. You can pick up one of these cards in the church office, by the bulletins on Sundays, or fill it out online by using the QR code on the right.



Let's come together and show our *Love in Action*!

Summer Music - Join In!

Summer Gathering Choir

Come to the balcony at 9:30 a.m. to learn a simple anthem or two on the following Sundays. June 30, July 21, and August 18. If you love to sing but can't make the weekly commitment through the academic year, this is the perfect opportunity to come and join your voice in song!



Come and Ring Handbells!

For the first time we will have a summer *Come and Ring Handbells* on Sunday, July 7. Come at 9:30 a.m. to rehearse easy selections for handbells for presentation in the 10:30 worship service! Participants should be able to read music at a basic level and know left from right.

Summer is a great time to try something new - so come and make a joyful noise!

RSCM Midwest Summer Choral Residency

We welcome the RSCM America Midwest Summer Choral Residency to First Pres and Evansville this June. This is one of only four intergenerational choir camps of its type across the US and has sixty participants this year. Children and adults are assembling from around the country to sing, worship, and play right here in Evansville. The conductor this year is Stephen Buzard, Director of Music at historic Saint James' Cathedral in downtown Chicago.

You are invited to attend public worship services with lots of choral music at the following times and locations:

- Wednesday, June 12, 5:00 p.m. in Neu Chapel on the UE Campus
- Friday, June 14, 5:00 p.m. at Saint Benedict Cathedral
- Saturday, June 15, 7:00 p.m. at Saint Benedict Cathedral
- Sunday, June 16, at 10:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church

We hope you'll attend many of these, and be sure to bring a friend and pack our Sanctuary for the Sunday service! For more information about the Residency, check out rscmmidwest.org.



Make a
joyful noise
unto the LORD

Children's Sunday School

We had a lot of fun in Sunday School this year learning about the Old Testament, making crafts, and eating snacks. Those who were present on Mother's Day even made their mothers a gift! May 26 is our last day to meet until the Fall. We hope everyone has a great summer!



We recognized all our volunteers on May 12 and thanked them for giving of themselves in service to our children so that they can learn about God and our faith. Starting in August, we will need volunteers to teach and assist in Sunday School for the 2024-25 School Year. If you are interested in being one of those volunteers, please contact Carrie Aiken at carrie@fpcevv.com.



First Light

First Light Youth Group has been busy this year. Along with our weekly Sunday Night meetings, we have collected items for Young and Established, served lunch at United Caring Shelter, attended a Fall Retreat at Camp Pyoca, and visited Mammoth Cave as well as the City Museum in St. Louis.

First Light Summer Schedule

June 2	5:30-7:30	Mini Golf and Arcade at Walther's
June 9	5:30-7:30	Cookout at the Aiken's - PLEASE RSVP
June 16	NO First Light	<i>Father's Day</i>
June 23, 30	NO First Light	
July 6	Time TBA	Movie: <i>Despicable Me 4</i>



Iona Pilgrimage



This summer, five First pres youth and two adults will make a pilgrimage to Iona, Scotland starting on July 11. Please keep Alaina Aiken, Micaiah Van Camp, Elena Nicholls, William Nicholls, Lynne Thissen, Emma Nicholls, and Carrie Aiken in your prayers as they have already begun their daily preparation and regular meetings leading to their physical pilgrimage to Iona. We will have a special time of blessing for the group during 10:30 worship on July 7.

Hooray and Congratulations!

With pride and prayer, we congratulate recent graduates in the congregation:

- Austin Boyle - Day School
- Jonathan Hruaia - Signature School
- Lynne Thissen - Signature School
- Jonah Wu - Signature School
- Jerusha Van Camp - University of Dubuque (Iowa) Theological Seminary - Master of Divinity
- Elliott Jones Boyle - Washington University in St. Louis, MO - Dual Masters Degrees in Architecture and Urban Design



The Longest Day

If you haven't known anyone with Alzheimer's disease you probably will. If you have, you may have used some of the services of the Alzheimer's Association - educational information, recommended resources and care options, and online and in-person caregiver support groups.

Throughout the month of June, the Alzheimer's Association invites people to participate in *The Longest Day*® on or near June 21. The Longest Day is timed to coincide with the summer solstice and invites participants to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's through fundraising events and community gatherings.

First Pres Mission Committee member Debbie Meyer and former member Nancy Erwin are members of the Evansville Duplicate Bridge Club that has, for a number of years, held an all-day bridge-playing marathon to benefit *The Longest Day*. They and the Mission Committee invite you to consider a contribution to the Alzheimer's Association in mid-June - and you don't have to play bridge! Of course, you can contribute directly to the Alzheimer's Association (<https://www.alz.org/>). But you could also make a check to the Alzheimer's Association and send it to the Evansville Duplicate Bridge Club (1551 S Green River Rd, Evansville, IN 47715) or give it to Nancy Erwin (treasurer of the Club). If you'd like, include a note with your check, mentioning Debbie or Nancy.



Happy June and July Birthdays!

JUNE

Don Qualls	2
Bailey Rankin	2
Dick Bernhardt	5
Katelin Hills	5
David Kunkle	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
Kaitlyn Patterson	15
Marla Kercher	16
Lynne Thissen	16
Jane Stalions	17
Nan Hardin	18
Katie Parker	18
Jacqueline Pennington	19
Wes Blalock	20
Tyler (Bronwyn) John	20
Lucas John	20
Mollie Foerster-Daniels	21
Tom Kohlmeyer	22
Bill Brubeck	23
Tom Boyle	24
Cydney Wathen	24
Paul Blaylock	25
Maxwell Carver	26
Sue Korb	26
Kathie Siegert	26
Tracy Shaw	30
Georgia Shaw-Pullen	30

JULY

Patrick Griffin	2	Shelby Whittler	20
Julie Williams	2	Steve Wylie	23
Lisa Calvert	4	Kathryn Nix	25
Abby Greenwell	4	Rich Siegert	26
Lisa Foerster-Daniels	7	Sam Wolf	26
Daniel Hein	11	Darrell Pennington	27
Jacob Murphy	11	Susi Canfield	28
Beth Tooke	13	Jeremy Montgomery	28
Nancy Bizal	15	Gary Morris	28
Douglass Korb	15	Bob Pope	29
Mandy Scurry	17	Emily Frasso	30
Pete Ruthenburg	18	John Strange	30
Ron Whittler	19		
Peter Rosenquist	20		





Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glowes world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
“Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!” cries she
With silent lips. “Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!”

- *Emma Lazarus*

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