



First Presbyterian Church



news from First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, IN  
December 13, 2024

## This Sunday at First Pres

This week our focus is *Boundless Joy*. As we anticipate remembering the coming of Christ as a baby and as we watch for the coming of Christ in our daily lives, we also look forward to that time when all will be one in Christ. Come, Lord Jesus! The gospel text this week doesn't seem particularly joyful upon a cursory glance but when we get behind John the Baptizer's words we can see the hope for which he is preparing: new ways of being people - of sharing what we have, of doing the jobs we are called to do with responsibility, generosity and care. Truly good news if the hearers apply his words to their lives.



We hope to see you on Sunday! Come worship with your First Pres family either in-person or online at 8:30 or 10:30 a.m. this Sunday! You'll be glad you did and so will we! Live Stream links and bulletins are available on the First Pres [website](#).

## "Green" Tea

Presbyterian Women invite all to the Green Tea this Sunday after both services! Tea, punch, and a variety of snacks will be served in hopes that you will contribute some "folding green" to the Independent Living Program of the United Methodist Youth Home. The UMYH serves at-risk youth who have experienced abuse, neglect, truancy, lack of stability or guidance at home, or court-ordered placement. The Independent Living Program prepares young people to live on their own as successful community members. Join us for fellowship, sweet treats, and an opportunity to nurture our community's youth.



## Longest Night



Pastor Mary Beth will lead a service of worship for the Longest Night on Saturday, December 21 at 4:30 p.m. All are welcome to be present at this service of healing and hope for those experiencing pain, loss, or disconnection during this season of Advent and Christmas.

## Meal Train

We recently learned that Jeff Haywood has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Please hold Jeff in prayer, as well as Michelle and their daughter, Laura. He is currently recovering from surgery, and Michelle is taking leave from the library through the Christmas holidays to be with him and provide more care. To show our love and support, a [meal train](#) has been set up for the First Pres family and Michelle's EVPL North Park family to provide support. Thank you for helping care for one another!



## Do you have Questions?



Pastor Mary Beth McCandless will host a new member inquiry meeting on Sunday, December 22 from 9:45 to 10:15 in the Parlor. If you have questions - about becoming a member, about First Pres, about the Presbyterian Church in general - join Pastor McCandless for a warm beverage and conversation.

## Rooted and Growing

The Generosity Committee is still working to reach our 2025 *Rooted in Faith - Growing to Serve* Stewardship campaign goal of \$431,200. Thank you to everyone who has returned a pledge! If you haven't had time to turn in a pledge card - *there's still time!* Pick one up in worship and put it in the offering plate or send it to the church office, or fill one out [online!](#) If you have questions, or need a card, please contact [Lora](#) in the church office. Thank you for helping bring *God's impossible Promises* to life!



## Dishes!!



Are you missing a favorite serving dish? Does anything in the picture on the left look familiar? A number of items have accumulated in the church kitchen following recent congregational meals and events. If you can't find your favorite drinking vessel, have a look in the box when you're at church this week. Unclaimed items will go to a recycle/thrift organization at the end of the year.

## Christmas Joy Offering - December 22

If tears are a gift of the Spirit, then the Rev. Dr. Judi McMillan has been blessed, even if some of those tears have been other than joyful. What began 20 years ago with tears of happiness when she accepted a call as an associate minister didn't end as auspiciously as it had started. However, with the caring ear of a fellow Pastor and the support of the Christmas Joy Offering, joyful tears have outnumbered the fearful ones. Read Rev. McMillan's story [HERE](#), and join fellow Presbyterians in giving joyfully and generously to the Joy offering this year on December 22.



## Special Worship Services



Mark your calendars for these special worship opportunities:

- Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.  
Come 'early' to hear the Flute Choir's prelude at 4:40.
- One Worship, Sunday, December 29, 10:30 a.m.  
Join the First Pres family in Fellowship Hall for an informal, laid-back morning of worship, coffee, donuts, and *bacon!*

## Daily Readings

Sunday, December 15	<a href="#">Amos 9:11-15</a>
Monday, December 16	<a href="#">Zechariah 1:7-17</a>
Tuesday, December 17	<a href="#">Zechariah 2:1-13</a>
Wednesday, December 18	<a href="#">Zechariah 3:1-10</a>
Thursday, December 19	<a href="#">Zechariah 4:1-14</a>
Friday, December 20	<a href="#">Zechariah 7:8-8:8</a>
Saturday, December 21	<a href="#">Zechariah 8:9-17</a>



All the links in this article direct you to [biblegateway.com](http://biblegateway.com), which is not affiliated with First Pres Evansville.

Items to be considered for inclusion in *Connect* should be submitted to the church office by the Wednesday prior to publication. Please contact the church office at 812-423-6297 or [firstpres@fpcevv.com](mailto:firstpres@fpcevv.com) with comments, questions, or to unsubscribe.