



First
Presbyterian
Church



Connect

news from First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, IN
February 21, 2025

Worship

This Sunday we, once again, have the second part of a longer passage. Last week we talked about Fullness and Emptiness and this week we go further into Jesus' teaching as we learn about "Unlimited Love." This passage has some words that may be difficult to hear and practice in this current moment, but that makes them all the more important:

In Luke 6:27-31 Jesus says, "But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

Wow.

Some time ago I wrote the following (and it seems timely):

Some people are amazing.
Some people are mean.
Some people are both.
You have the potential to be both.

Be amazing.
And love first.

When people seem amazing...love first.
When people seem mean...love first.
When people are amazingly mean...love first.

Try to temper all of your reactions and responses through love.



- MB McCandless

See you in person or online this Sunday morning at 8:30 or 10:30 a.m.! You'll be glad you did and so will we! Live Stream links and bulletins are available on the First Pres [website](#).

Coldest Night



Thanks to those who have volunteered to help out with the Coldest Night of the Year Walk for United Caring Services here at First Presbyterian Church, tomorrow, Saturday, February 22. Pastor MB will be at the church starting at noon and some of the volunteers from the planning group will arrive as early as 2:00 or 3:00 p.m. to work on setting things up. The walkers will start to gather at 4:00 p.m. and will walk at 5:00 p.m. When they return, there will be a simple meal (that has been donated) that we will need

volunteers to help serve. Most people should be gone by 7:00 p.m. and we'll hopefully be straightened up and out of the building by 8:00 p.m. [Email](mailto:mb@fpcevu.com) (mb@fpcevu.com) or text (812-872-4882 [if you text, please say who you are in case your number isn't in her phone yet!]) Pastor MB if you can help (and let her know when you can arrive and how long you can stay - even an hour around 5:30 would help!)

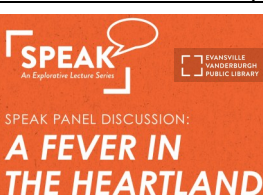
Silent Movie

On Saturday, March 1 at 7:00 p.m., Director of Music Robert Nicholls will accompany the 1928 silent film *The Passion of Joan of Arc* on the Fisk organ in the First Pres Sanctuary. The movie chronicles the trial of 19 year old Joan of Arc in the hours leading up to her martyrdom and is considered one of the greatest masterpieces of 1920s cinema. Maria Falconetti's portrayal of Joan, often in unforgettable close-ups, the minimalist direction of Carl Paul Dreyer, and the reliance of the screenplay on the original court manuscripts from 1421 make this an unmissable evening. The event is free and open to the public, and donations will be gratefully accepted to help send First Pres musicians to summer camp and other special musical experiences.



Panel Discussion - Rescheduled

Due to this week's snow, the panel discussion for *A Fever in the Heartland* has been rescheduled to Tuesday, March 4 at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. This exploration of the impact of the KKK, racism, and faith in Evansville will be facilitated by Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library, and feature faces familiar to First Pres: Pastor McCandless, Dr. MT Hallock Morris from USI, Dr. Daniel Byrne from UE, and Gerald Summers. Moderated by Watez G. Phelps, Sr., past president of the UE African American Alumni Association, this event is free and open to the public.



Ash Wednesday Worship

No, we haven't missed Ash Wednesday - Lent is "late" this year. We will observe the day with three identical brief services including the imposition of ashes. Join Pastor Mary Beth in Kerr Chapel at 7:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., or 5:15 p.m. on Wednesday, March 5 as we mark the beginning of this holy time of the year.



Lenten Study

God, Spirit, Advocate,
keep revealing truths where we are blind; keep healing us where we are wounded; keep moving us forward when we are afraid. May we remain humble, open, vulnerable, as we keep seeing power more clearly together. Amen.

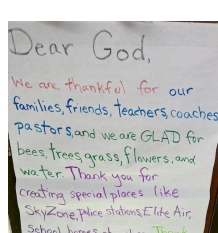


Are you ready for Lent? This year (beginning with Ash Wednesday, March 5) we will participate in **A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power: TURNING OVER TABLES** by Kathy Escobar. You can pick up a book this Sunday or next. This daily devotional guide has questions for reflection and action at the end of each week and there will be several opportunities to gather in person or online to talk about it. Watch for more information next week.

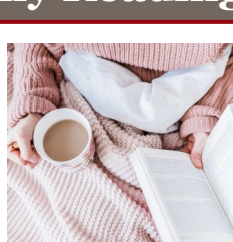
Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer:

- for Bruce and Faye, as Faye begins chemotherapy;
- in gratitude for technology that brings people together;
- for those who are fearful;
- in thanksgiving for a healed knee;
- for the VanCamp family, whose Grandma Westburgh has been in and out of the hospital during the past week;
- for all those involved in Sunday's wreck that included buses and students from the EVSC;
- in gratitude for good results of treatment for a chronic disease and prayers for continued improvement;
- for Judy, who recently moved to assisted living;
- for Jody, dealing with serious brain swelling following an illness;
- for the homeless in this dangerously cold weather;
- for those traveling in the extreme weather;
- in gratitude for happy childhood memories and those who helped create them.



Daily Readings



Sunday, February 23
Monday, February 24
Tuesday, February 25
Wednesday, February 26
Thursday, February 27
Friday, February 28
Saturday, March 1

[Proverbs 1:20-33](#)
[Proverbs 3:11-20](#)
[Proverbs 4:1-27](#)
[Proverbs 6:1-19](#)
[Proverbs 7:1-27](#)
[Proverbs 8:1-21](#)
[Proverbs 8:22-36](#)

All the links in this article direct you to 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@fpcevu.com with comments, questions, or to unsubscribe.