



First
Presbyterian
Church



Connect

news from First Presbyterian Church – Evansville, IN
February 28, 2025

This Sunday

This Sunday is Transfiguration Sunday! We get to talk about that time Jesus went up on a mountain and the disciples fell asleep and then woke up and then Peter wanted to set up tents. here's a lot more to this story but you'll have to come in person or online to hear it (or you can read [Luke 9:28-36](#) for yourself). It is also a Communion Sunday. And the *Purple Aces in the Hole* will be playing in the 10:30 service. Session will gather for a called meeting at 1:00 p.m. to be followed by a Retreat until 5:30 p.m.

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](#).



Silent Movie - Tomorrow Night!

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.



First Light Family Night



First Light's Family Night for FPC Youth and their families (siblings too) is this Sunday, March 2 at 5:30 p.m. Pastor MB will meet with parents while other adults are supervising the youth cooks and any siblings who come too. We're having pancakes, sausage, bacon, eggs, and fruit. [Email Pastor MB](#) if you have questions.

Panel Discussion - Rescheduled

Due to February's snow, the panel discussion for *A Fever in the Heartland* has been rescheduled to this 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.



SPEAK
An Evangelical Learning Series

EVANSVILLE VANDERBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

SPEAK PANEL DISCUSSION:
A FEVER IN THE HEARTLAND

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. this Wednesday, March 5, as we mark the beginning of this holy time of the year.



Lenten Study

TURNING OVER TABLES - A Lenten Call for Disrupting Power

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.



With keen insight and unwavering conviction, visionary pastor Kathy Escobar guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice. From flipping the moneychangers' tables in the temple to uplifting the poor and marginalized, Jesus' actions and words turn the world's idea of power on its head. With each week of Lent, readers will dig deeper into Jesus' challenge to the pervasive influence of privilege and oppression that have dominated since ancient times.

This year our church will use the season of Lent to facilitate conversation, navigating how, together, we can turn the tables and build a world where justice, healing, and equity reigns supreme. You can pick up a book this Sunday, March 2 (the readings start Ash Wednesday, March 5) and you can read it as an individual, with your family (adults and older teens in particular), or with a group of your own gathering. Pastor MB will lead a [Saturday morning Zoom](#) discussion starting March 8 at 8:00 a.m. and a hybrid (in person and on [Zoom](#)) group on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. starting March 10.

Some Things I've Been Thinking...

from Rev. MB McCandless, your pastor

As we have new folks connecting with us in worship - both in person and online - on an almost weekly basis, I think it's important that we (and they) know who we are! In that spirit, here is this congregation's Vision Statement that was revised in March of 2016:

First Presbyterian Church in Evansville, Indiana, is called to embody God's love, made known in Jesus Christ, in life-giving ways, and to engage with God in transforming lives, communities, and institutions to reflect God's goodness. As a community of open-hearted disciples, we covenant to support and encourage one another as we explore God's grace on our journey of faith.

And this is our congregation's Statement on Inclusivity:

Convinced of God's Grace and Love, we affirm that there can be no exclusiveness in the worship of Christ. We welcome all regardless of race, ethnic heritage, national origin, age, gender, marital status, sexual orientation, or socio-economic standing. We encourage the full participation of all in the life of our congregation.

It is important in this moment (perhaps even more so now than in the past) that we are clear about who we are as a Presbyterian Church (USA) congregation who has chosen to fully embrace the rich tapestry of diversity among God's children (this pastor believes we are ALL God's children - even those among us who don't or can't believe) while working for equitable opportunities and experiences in the church, community, and world. It is important that folks know we have chosen to privilege being a community whose hope is to **fully include all people** in this community of faith.

Friends, we have folks who are on the journey with us who aren't altogether sure about God (much less, Presbyterians or Reformed Theology!) and that is 100% good. We will never all be at the same point on life's journey. But we can journey together. That said, it is important for people to know that we are a community who chooses to love God and love others. We don't (and won't) do this perfectly, but we will strive to live into this congregation's vision for ministry and mission and this congregation's convictions about inclusion.

If you have questions (about anything), let's have a conversation over a cup of coffee or tea. You may:

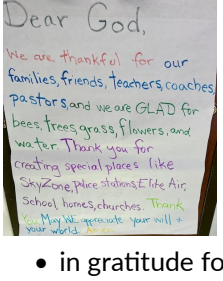
- email me at mb@fpcevv.com,
- or text me at 812-872-4882,
- or call me at the church (please leave me a message) at 812-423-6297 ext. 110.

Peace and Presence,
MB

Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer:

- for Ellie, Tom Kohlmeyer's aunt, who is receiving hospice care;
- for the Heck family, as they mark one year without their beloved Peggy;
- for Nick, George, their families, and all those dealing with cancer;
- for the recovery of Pope Francis;
- for the families and friends of those battling substance abuse;
- for those who mourn;
- in gratitude for the acceptance of the church community;
- for Judy, as she acclimates to assisted living;
- for Kelsie, recovering from pneumonia while pregnant;
- for Jody, diagnosed with encephalitis;
- for Mary, dealing with issues that are making anxiety and depression management difficult;
- for families whose livelihoods are threatened by the purge of government-related jobs;
- in gratitude for the return of warmer temperatures and the promise of spring.



Daily Readings

- Sunday, March 2 [Malachi 4:1-6](#)
- Monday, March 3 [Proverbs 27:1-6, 10-12](#)
- Tuesday, March 4 [Proverbs 30:1-4, 24-33](#)
- Wednesday, March 5 [Amos 5:6-15](#)
- Thursday, March 6 [Habakkuk 3:1-10, 16-18](#)
- Friday, March 7 [Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32](#)
- Saturday, March 8 [Ezekiel 39:21-29](#)



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@fpcevv.com with comments, questions, or to unsubscribe.