



First  
Presbyterian  
Church



# Connect

news from First Presbyterian Church – Evansville, IN

March 7, 2025

## This Sunday

On this first Sunday of Lent, our learning prompt is the word *REVEAL*. The story for this week is of Jesus healing a blind man, Bartimaeus, who was sitting by the roadside begging as Jesus passed by. The story of Jesus' encounter with Bartimaeus is different from many other stories of miraculous healings in the gospels. In this story, Jesus does not presume what the man wants, but rather asks, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the man replied, "Rabbi, I want to see."

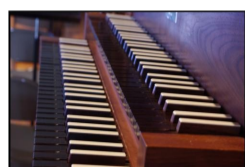


A first step in our journey of understanding power as Jesus did is to make the effort to see through the eyes of people on the margins. We can ask hard questions and learn the history we'd rather forget. We can discover our own blind spots and treat these discoveries as catalyzers for growth instead of something to be afraid of.

We can ask for the truth to be revealed to us. Will we? Join us Sunday, in person or online, and decide for yourself! Live Stream links and bulletins are available on the First Pres [website](#).

## First Friday - Tonight!

Join us tonight - Friday, March 7 - at 7:00 p.m. for another wonderful First Friday concert! We are pleased to welcome Hyeeyeon Ahn and Hansol Kim from the Jacobs School of Music at IU. Their program will include works from both JS and CPE Bach as well as Brahms and deGrigny.



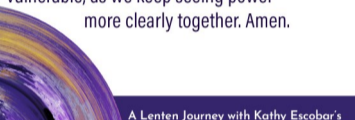
## This Weekend - Don't Be Late!



## 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.



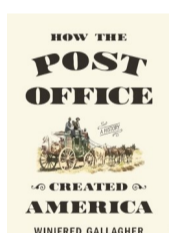
With keen insight and unwavering conviction, visionary pastor Kathy Escobar guides readers on a Lenten journey inspired by the ways of Jesus to dismantle the systems that perpetuate inequality and injustice. From flipping the moneychangers' tables in the temple to uplifting the poor and marginalized, 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. There are still a few copies of the book in the church office; 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 tomorrow, 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.

## Book Group

Book Group at First Pres meets next on Monday, March 10, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. A Zoom option is available; contact [Francie Hubbard](#) to learn how to sign in.

March's discussion is on *How the Post Office Created America*, a history of an institution we often take for granted. Author Winifred Gallagher makes an interesting and effective case that the Post Office contributed to most of the significant events and innovations in American history. As today's Postal Service faces new challenges in this century, Gallagher urges readers to know its history and imagine its possibilities as the nation decides its future.



## Office Hours



Please note: the church office will be closed this week on Thursday in addition to Friday (March 13 and 14). Pastor Mary Beth is reachable by cell or email (812-872-4882; [mb@fpcevv.com](mailto:mb@fpcevv.com)) in the case of emergencies.

## Memorial Gathering

Longtime First Pres choir member John Gibson passed away on January 3. Family and friends are gathering for a time of remembrance next Saturday, March 15 in Fellowship Hall. A brief, informal program including remembrances from family and friends will begin at 2:00 p.m., with a time of fellowship to follow. All are welcome.



## Deacon Retreat

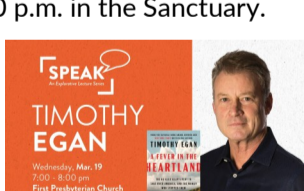
The Deacon Retreat is Sunday, March 16, from 1:00 to 5:30 p.m., gathering in Room 105 (the Bible Bunch Room). We will be getting to know each other, learning about the ministry of Deacons, clarifying the role of Deacon at First Pres, learning about best practices and more. If you have something specific you would like to have covered at our retreat, please contact [Pastor MB](#) or [Jake Kohlmeyer](#) by Thursday, March 13. Beverages and snacks will be provided.



## SPEAK: Timothy Egan

First Pres is pleased to host the first author event in the Evansville Vanderburgh Public Library's 2025 SPEAK series on Wednesday, March 19 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Timothy Egan's most recent book, *A Fever in the Heartland*, is a New York Times Bestseller. This book describes the rise of the KKK in Indiana (Evansville is featured many times), and how one brave woman brought about its downfall. He will discuss his work and research at this free event.



For more information on this and other events in EVPL's 2025 SPEAK series, please visit [evpl.org](http://evpl.org).

## Prayer Requests

Please be in prayer:

- for Shirley K, who is receiving hospital care for a brain bleed;
- for the family of Portia Cook, who died last week;
- for Jody Elston and his family, following his diagnosis of a rare brain cancer;
- for Mason, struggling to recover physically, emotionally, and financially following an accident;
- for the ladies, children, and staff at the VOA.
- for Jeremy and Erin;
- for peace;
- for those battling flu and other seasonal bugs;
- for our Country;
- for Pope Francis;
- for those who are scared;



- for Mark and Debbie Murtry, following Mark's hospitalization for a broken hip;
- for Nick and family, who received life-changing news last week;
- in gratitude for a loved pet returning to safety and eventually to home.

## Daily Readings

Sunday, March 9	<a href="#">Daniel 9:3-10</a>
Monday, March 10	<a href="#">Genesis 37:1-11</a>
Tuesday, March 11	<a href="#">Genesis 37:12-24</a>
Wednesday, March 12	<a href="#">Genesis 37:25-36</a>
Thursday, March 13	<a href="#">Genesis 39:1-23</a>
Friday, March 14	<a href="#">Genesis 40:1-23</a>
Saturday, March 15	<a href="#">Genesis 41:1-13</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.