

# First Reports

First Presbyterian Church  
Evansville, Indiana



MAR/  
APR  
2025

[www.fpcev.org](http://www.fpcev.org)

## Some Things I've Been Thinking

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@fpcev.org](mailto:mb@fpcev.org),  
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 *Mary Beth*

## Lenten Study Series

Join your First Pres friends for a Lenten Study Series based on the book on ***Turning Over Tables*** by Kathy Escobar. Copies of the book are available in the church office.

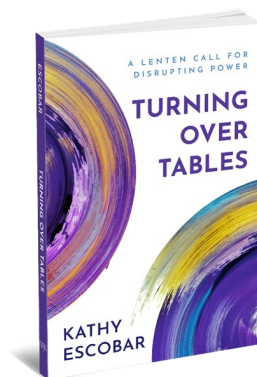
You can read the daily readings on your own; you can gather your own conversation group (among family or friends); you can join with one of two conversation groups that are currently scheduled:

Saturday Mornings beginning March 8 at 8:00 a.m. on [Zoom](#)

Monday Mornings beginning March 10 at 11:00 a.m. in person and on [Zoom](#)

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.



## Calling All Readers...

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.

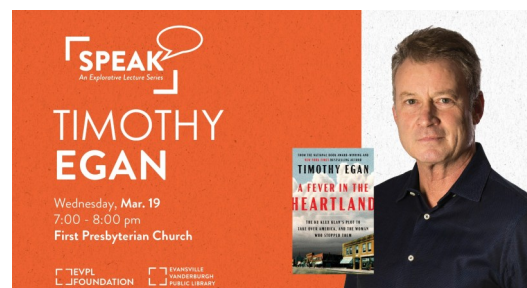
On April 14, the book will be *The Enchanted April* by Elizabeth von Arnim, a 1921 classic novel set in an Italian castle in Portofino.

## SPEAK: Timothy Egan

First Pres is pleased to host the first 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).



## First Fridays!



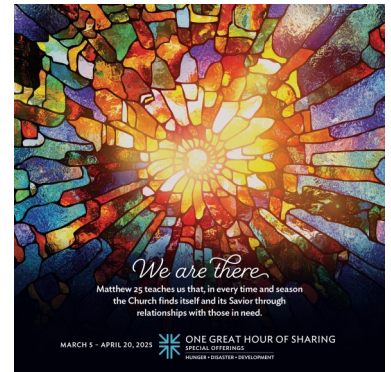
Join us Friday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. for another wonderful First Friday concert! We are pleased to welcome Hyeyeon Ahn and Hansol Kim from the Jacobs School of Music at IU. Their program will include works from both JS and CPE Bach as well as Brahms and deGrigny.

And mark your calendars now for April 4 when we will welcome Mizue Fukushima from IU Jacobs to the Fisk organ bench. Bring your friends downtown each first Friday and start your weekend with music!

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food resources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

For over 75 years, Presbyterians have spent time during Lent to learn about and support these three programs via the OGHS offering, and this year is no different - watch for inserts in the Sunday bulletins which highlight individual stories of those whose lives have been impacted by the work of OGHS-supported programs. A [giving calendar](#) is available for download from the church website that provides a reflection, question, or activity for each day from Ash Wednesday through Easter. You can also visit the offering's page on the PCUSA website for more information, stories, and ways to [support](#) OGHS.



During Palm Sunday worship on April 13, we'll receive monetary gifts for the 2025 OGHS. We hope that you will give generously to the single largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

## Save the Date for a PW Luncheon!



All are welcome to a Spring Luncheon on Saturday, April 12 (*time tba*) sponsored by First Pres' Presbyterian Women group. In addition to food and fellowship, First Pres' own Dr. Emma Nicholls, a practicing clinical psychologist, will speak about Mental Healthcare in the US and Evansville. Watch for details in the weekly [Connect](#) and Sunday worship bulletins.

## From the Music Department

Plan to attend a free choral concert at Saint Benedict Cathedral on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. The University of Evansville Choir will be joined by the UE Music Conservatory Community Chorus and our own choir from First Presbyterian Church for a performance of the Duruflé *Requiem* accompanied by chamber orchestra and organ, played by our own Robert Nicholls, all conducted by Dr. Dennis Malfatti. During February and March, you can hear previews of individual movements during 10:30 worship.



**Save the Date:** Saturday, April 26 at 3:00 p.m. the Eykamp String Quartet will perform in the historic First Pres Sanctuary followed by a dessert reception in Fellowship Hall. Tickets for this special event are \$20 (purchase [HERE](#)), and all proceeds help send young First Pres Musicians to Summer Camps and other special music events.



## First Light Doings

First Light, our youth group for Junior- and Senior- High aged students, meets most Sundays from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. with Pastor MB. A [full schedule](#) of dates, topics, and events can be downloaded from the church website.

**On April 27**, the group will have an “Afternoon Away” at **High Score Player Two** on Mt. Vernon Ave. FIRST LIGHT will officially happen (with adult supervision) from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting students to and from the arcade. We have reserved their Party Room for pizza and snacks (for everyone!) starting at 1:30 p.m. Admission is good for the whole day (11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.), but parents/guardians are responsible for supervising their students if they arrive before and/or stay after the official meeting time.

[Sign up using the form on First Web](#) before **Monday, April 21** to get an all-day pass for your student and one friend per student (additional passes for friends or family are \$12/person at the door). Passes will be provided for all youth who attend FPC Evansville for worship or who have participated in FIRST LIGHT Youth Group and who sign up by April 21. You can still decide at the last minute, but you may have to purchase your own pass when you arrive (\$12).

## Be Still: Mindfulness and Christianity - Starting April 27

*Be Still: Mindfulness and Christianity* is a 4-week study group that will look at the benefits of mindfulness practice through the lens of Christianity. Mindfulness has been a buzzword in popular media for years, but in reality, humans have practiced mindfulness for millennia. This group will explore what mindfulness is (and isn't), what different religious traditions, including Christianity, have to say about it, and how incorporating mindfulness practice into daily life can deepen our spiritual lives. The group will be a mix of discussion and learning as well as “hands-on” practice. Additional reading and resources are available if desired but are not necessary to participate.

Potential topics include:

- Defining mindfulness • What does the bible say about mindfulness? •
- Mindfulness in the Christian tradition and in other religious traditions •
- Different ways to practice mindfulness • Benefits of mindfulness practice •
- Related concepts of acceptance, curiosity, gratitude •

This discussion group will be led by Emma Nicholls, Ph.D., HSPP. Emma has been a practicing clinical psychologist for over 20 years, and mindfulness has been a part of her practice for most (if not all) of that time. She especially enjoys teaching these skills to children and youth in group settings.

Resources used:

***The Mindful Christian: Cultivating a Life of Intentionality, Openness, and Faith***

by Irene Kraegel

***Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness***

by Amy G. Oden

This will be a four-session experience. One group will meet on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and another on Fridays at noon.

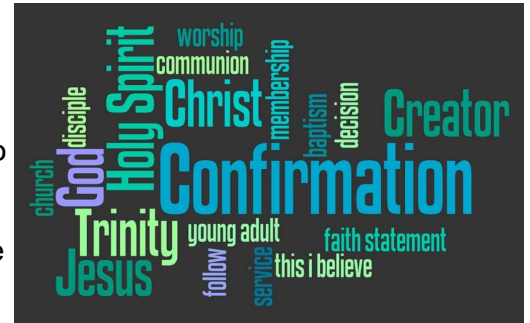
	<i>Sunday Group</i>	<i>Friday Group</i>
Session 1	April 27, 9:30 a.m.	May 2, noon
Session 2	May 4, 9:30 a.m.	May 9, noon
Session 3	May 11, 9:30 a.m.	May 16, noon
Session 4	May 18, 9:30 a.m.	May 30, noon



## What is Confirmation?

Confirmation is the sealing of the covenant (promise) made in baptism - if a student (grades 7 through 12) has not been baptized, they can ask to be baptized at any time or they can be baptized as part of their confirmation process. Basically, confirmation is an opportunity for students to profess their faith and to confirm their desire to become members of the church (if they choose to - some students choose to wait to 'officially' join the church.) Each student who wants to be confirmed will have several sessions with Pastor MB along with other students who wish to be confirmed. Students will be assigned a mentor (another adult member of the congregation) who will also connect with the student. Every adult who is part of this process will be background checked, and no students will meet with adults one-on-one; we will always connect in small groups.

Please contact Pastor MB ([mb@fpcevv.com](mailto:mb@fpcevv.com) or 812-872-4882 voice or text) to let her know if you/your student wants to be baptized and/or participate in confirmation this spring. The dates and times will be tailored to the needs of the students who want to participate. These young people already belong to God - this is just a way to help them feel connected to the church in a more intentional way. There is no rush! We can also do this again in the fall or next spring.



## Attention First Light High School Students: *Summer Opportunity!*

The **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** (PYT) is an ecumenical event hosted by the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that gathers high school age young people every 3 years. It is a well-planned and thoughtfully led event focused on worship, disciple making, Christian compassion & justice and biblical/theological education. It is also a catalyst for many young people to take the next steps in their faith. This year, it takes place in Louisville, Kentucky from July 21-28.

Youth Participants (YP) who are **entering freshmen through graduated seniors in high school** and are active in PC(USA) or Cumberland Presbyterian Church do not have to be official church members. Any students connected to our congregation are invited to go with the Presbytery of Ohio Valley delegation (led by Rev. Jerusha Van Camp) to worship, learn, fellowship, and play as a hopeful and joyful community of faith at the 2025 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. The experience will be one of those life-shaping, faith-forming events they will never forget! The 2025 and 2028 Trienniums will both be held in Louisville, Kentucky. The majority of PYT will take place at the Kentucky International Convention Center (KICC). Participants will stay at nearby, Triennium-designated hotels at special event rates.



The theme for this summer's Presbyterian Youth Triennium is **"As If We Were Dreaming."** Dreams play an important role in the biblical narrative. It is often through dreams that God speaks to God's beloved. Sometimes it is a promise. Sometimes it is a warning. Always it is a reminder that we are not alone; God sees us and is with us. There is a passage in the Psalms where God's exiled people were all but without hope, wondering if God had forgotten them. But God restored their hope and brought them back home. The only way they could describe their experience was that it was **"as if we were dreaming."**

For First Pres Youth who plan to participate in RSCM Midwest, you can do both! RSCM Midwest ends on Sunday, July 27 and Triennium begins in the afternoon on Monday, July 28. Contact Pastor MB if you have questions or are interested in attending. Email [mb@fpcevv.com](mailto:mb@fpcevv.com) or reach out to 812-872-4884 (voice or text).

# MARCH!

# WEEKLY EVENTS

- 4 TUESDAY  
6:30 p.m. EVPL Panel Discussion:  
*A Fever in the Heartland*
- 5 WEDNESDAY  
7:15 a.m. Ash Wednesday Worship  
12:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship  
5:15 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship
- 6 THURSDAY  
5:00 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 7 FRIDAY  
7:00 p.m. First Friday Recital:  
*Hansol Kim and Hyeyeon Ahn*
- 9 SUNDAY  
11:30 a.m. Music Support Committee
- 10 MONDAY  
6:30 p.m. *Book Group*
- 11 TUESDAY  
5:30 p.m. *Little Lambs Executive Board Meeting*
- 12 THURSDAY  
Church Office Closed  
5:00 p.m. Worship Committee
- 15 SATURDAY  
2:00 p.m. John Gibson Memorial Gathering
- 16 SUNDAY  
1:00 p.m. Deacon Retreat
- 17 MONDAY  
10:00 a.m. Mission Committee
- 18 TUESDAY  
5:30 p.m. *Little Lambs' Board Meet & Greet*
- 19 TUESDAY  
7:00 p.m. EVPL SPEAK Event:  
*Timothy Egan: A Fever in the Heartland*
- 21 FRIDAY
- 27 THURSDAY  
5:30 p.m. *Little Lambs Board Meeting*

- SUNDAYS  
8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship  
9:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Choir Rehearsal  
10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship  
11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour  
5:30 p.m. First Light
- MONDAYS  
• 11:00 a.m. Turning Over Tables Discussion Group  
• March 10-April 14 •  
2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting  
6:30 p.m. *NA Group*
- TUESDAYS  
3:45 p.m. Choir Teens  
4:45 p.m. Handbell Rehearsal  
5:45 p.m. Choristers Rehearsal
- WEDNESDAYS  
1:00 p.m. *Little Lambs Store Open*
- THURSDAYS  
4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners  
4:45 p.m. Choristers Rehearsal  
6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- FRIDAYS  
Church Office Closed
- SATURDAYS  
• 8:00 a.m. Turning Over Tables Discussion Zoom  
• March 8-April 19 •  
10:00 a.m. *Little Lambs Store Open*

\*Meets via Zoom  
*Items in italics are non-FPC events*







# APRIL!

## Happy Spring Birthdays!

1	TUESDAY	6:00 p.m.	Finance Committee Meeting
2	WEDNESDAY	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal at UE
3	THURSDAY	5:00 p.m.	Personnel Committee
4	FRIDAY	7:00 p.m.	First Friday Recital: <i>Mizue Fukushima</i>
5	SATURDAY	11:00 a.m.	<i>Evansville American Guild of Organists: Members' Recital</i>
6	SUNDAY	11:30 a.m.	Music Support Committee
		6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal at St. Benedict
7	MONDAY	6:30 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal at St. Benedict
8	TUESDAY	7:00 p.m.	FPC Choir Performs in <i>Durufle Requiem</i> at St. Benedict Cathedral
12	SATURDAY	TBA	Presbyterian Women Luncheon
14	MONDAY	6:30 p.m.	<i>Book Group</i>
15	TUESDAY	6:00 p.m.	Session Meeting
17	THURSDAY	7:00 p.m.	Maundy Thursday Worship
19	SATURDAY	10:00 a.m.	Choir Rehearsal
21	MONDAY		Church Office Closed for Easter Holiday
24	THURSDAY	5:30 p.m.	<i>Little Lambs Board Meeting</i>
25	FRIDAY	1:00 p.m.	<i>Choral Workshop</i>
26	SATURDAY	3:00 p.m.	Eykamp Quartet Concert ( <i>Fundraiser</i> )
27	SUNDAY	9:30 a.m.	Be Still: Mindfulness and Christianity

### MARCH

Linda Arp	3
Lowry Igleheart-Keach	3
Elizabeth Scurry	4
Scott Martin	5
Karen Parker	5
Steve Gibson	6
Murray McCandless	6
Bob Jones	7
Lainey Martin	7
Micaiah Van Camp	7
Adam Sponseller	8
May Hubbard	10
Lauren Ruthenburg	12
Peggy Newton	13
Gail Stamps	13
Alaina Aiken	15
Betsy Brubeck	15
Jana Wade	16
Jim Edrington	18
Eliza Petroff	18
Felix McKinney	19
Matthew O'Neill	19
Henry Peyronnin	19
Cara Franklin	22
Stephanie Montgomery	27
Bill Morrison	27
Bob Haynie	29
Jan Eastham	31

### APRIL

Bud Sanders	5
Ronda Hurt	7
Gary Moore	7
Tony Aiken	8
Jackson Foerster-Daniels	8
Kaitlyn Tubbs	11
Jerry Dosch	13
Marilyn Kunkle	14
Lydia Thornton	15
Phil King	17
Hanna Becerra	18
Mark Krahling	19
Casey Calvert	21
Zane John	22
Lisa Imbler	24
Mary Miller	24
Claudia Eisenmann	25
Graham Griffin	25
Jake Kohlmeyer	26
Carrie Moore	28
Devin Singer	29



## Holy Week Worship

Join with the First Pres family as we worship together marking the special days of Holy Week:

### Sunday, April 13 - Palm Sunday

- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship Greeters will hand out palm branches with the bulletins as you enter the lobby. Worship will begin in Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m.
- 9:30 a.m. Bible Bunch Adult Sunday School Class *(Class will not meet on Easter Sunday.)*
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Those who are able (*weather pending*), will gather in the courtyard to process into the Sanctuary waving palm branches at 10:30 a.m.

### Thursday, April 17 - Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Maundy Thursday/Tenebrae Service with Holy Communion in the Sanctuary. This year we will have the whole service in the Sanctuary.

### Sunday, April 20 - Resurrection of the Lord

- 8:30 a.m. Easter Worship Celebration Worship in the Sanctuary  
*(the 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Services are identical on Easter.)*
- 10:30 a.m. Easter Worship Celebration Worship in the Sanctuary



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