

First Reports

First Presbyterian Church
Evansville, Indiana



JUL/
AUG
2025

www.fpcev.org

Grateful

I'm sitting in my mother's home, relaxing and thinking about the second half of 2025, (how is that possible?) and I'm overwhelmed with gratitude. I'm so grateful for you, First Presbyterian Church of Evansville, Indiana. I'm grateful for the last nine months we've shared as pastor and congregation. I'm grateful for your attentive care for each other. I'm grateful for the continuing welcome you extend to Murray and me.

I'm grateful for the past two weeks of continuing education at the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conferences at Montreat. I'm grateful for our amazing staff who have become trusted colleagues in ministry. I'm grateful for elders who are reimagining ministry and for deacons who are connecting with the congregation. I'm grateful for leaders who are stepping up.

I'm grateful for your willingness to rethink the use of space and to attend to the care of this amazing building. I'm grateful for individuals who have agreed to serve on a comprehensive campaign team in anticipation of potential renovation and restoration of the sanctuary and other capital projects along with possibly expanding our endowment funds (along with expanding our regular giving so we can expand staffing and the ministry we do.) I'm grateful for individuals who have agreed to work together in anticipation of many building projects.

I'm grateful for the call to serve with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Peace and Presence from your pastor,

Rev. MB McCandless

email me at mb@fpcev.org, text me at 812-872-4882,

or call me at the church (please leave me a message) at 812-423-6297 ext. 110.



Grateful for a Great Turn-Out!

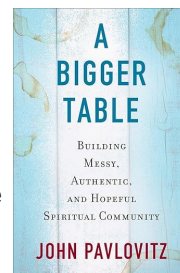
Dear Friends - I'm so happy we had such a great turnout to represent First Presbyterian Church at the River City Pride Parade and Festival! In the midst of the celebration of Pride Month, our transgender siblings and children have suffered a massive blow as the Supreme Court upheld a ban on gender affirming care. In addition, the Trump administration has ended the LGBTQ centered suicide hotline. Now more than ever, expressing allyship for the LGBTQIA+ community is critical. This church's witness to the belovedness of all people and to God's extravagantly inclusive love is a powerful message of hope, peace, and justice for a battered community. For that, I am deeply grateful.



Jerusha Van Camp
Minister of Spiritual Formation and Connection

A Bigger Table - Summer Sermon Series & Book Study

Join Rev. MB McCandless and Rev. Jerusha Van Camp for a summer sermon series and book study based on John Pavlovitz's 2017 book *A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community*. Starting Sunday, July 6 with the message "FINDING OUR PLACE" based on Luke 13:22, 31-34, each week begins with the Sunday morning sermon and then continues with groups that dig into the book both in person and online on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays through mid-August. Books are available in the office for \$11. (A Kindle version is available online.) See the weekly schedule below. You are encouraged to read the book on your own if you can't do a weekly group.



Week	Sunday Worship 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.	Tuesdays 10:00 a.m.	Wednesdays Noon	Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.	Thursdays 10:00 a.m.
1 - 7/6	Luke 13:22, 31-34 - FINDING OUR PLACE - Introduction and Chapters 1-2				
2 - 7/13	Luke 14:1-6 - THE PROBLEM WITH RELIGION - Chapters 3-5				
3 - 7/20	Luke 14:7-11 - INVITATION TO THE TABLE - Chapters 6-8				
4 - 7/27	*Luke 14:12-24 - REAL COMMUNITY - Chapters 9-10				
5 - 8/3	Luke 14:25-33 - BEYOND THEOLOGY - Chapters 11-13				
6 - 8/10	Luke 15:1-2 - STANDING ON THE EDGE - Chapters 14-16				
7 - 8/17	Luke 15:3-32 - FORWARD WITHOUT FEAR - Chapters 17-18 and Afterword				
<i>*Worship and the Sermon on July 27 will be in conjunction with RSCM Midwest Watch for information about a vlog that week!</i>					

First Light First Sundays: July 6 & August 3, 5:30-7:00 p.m.



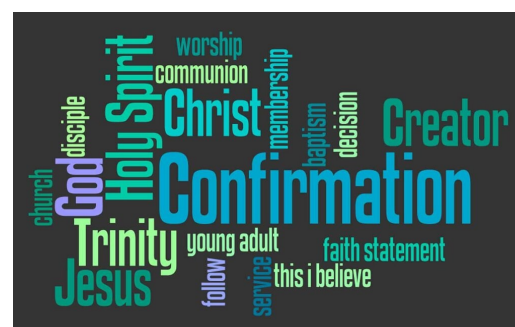
Our Middle and High School youth group, First Light, will meet on first Sundays of the month this summer!

Sunday evening, July 6, we will help prepare food for the First Pres Feeding Ministry at United Caring Services and we'll pull out some EPIC games! Bring snacks to share.

Sunday, August 3, time and location to be determined!

Confirmation Class

CONFIRMATION CLASS for students entering grades 8 through high school will meet in the First Light room (*Ed Wing #102*) at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays July 6-August 17. Students who attend at least three Sunday mornings, who create a statement of faith (in any creative medium - written, art, music, drama, etc.), and who choose to request church membership will have the opportunity to meet with the Session the evening of Tuesday, August 19 (in person or on Zoom) or at a later date if needed to be received into membership. Rev. MB McCandless will lead most Sundays and Rev. Jerusha Van Camp will lead a few Sundays.



Be Still: Mindfulness and Christianity - Starting in July!

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.

Topics may 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, with two sessions in July and two in August. 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	July 13, 9:30 a.m.	July 11, noon
Session 2	July 20, 9:30 a.m.	July 18, noon
Session 3	August 17, 9:30 a.m.	August 15, noon
Session 4	August 24, 9:30 a.m.	August 22, noon

Yoga and Yummies!

Presbyterian Women invite all for Yoga and Yummies, Saturday, July 12, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All ages and abilities are welcome for an hour-long beginner Yoga class led by certified instruction Delanie Davis. This class will include scripture, meditation, and spiritual music.

The class is suited to chair yoga as well as mat/floor. A small number of yoga mats will be available,



but you're welcome to use your own mat, blanket, or towel as well. Children under 12 should be able to focus on directions/class/ instructions for up to an hour and must accompanied by an adult.

A healthy lunch of salad, fruit, and other treats will be enjoyed following the class. There's no cost to attend (although a tip jar for Ms. Davis will be available); your RSVP (firstpres@fpcevv.com; 812-423-6267) is helpful (please include if you need to borrow a mat!). *Namaste!*

FALL VOLUNTEER ROUNDUP for Ministry with CHILDREN & YOUTH

SUNDAY MORNINGS with CHILDREN

This program year (beginning in September) we will need volunteers to serve as teachers and assistants with our Children's Spiritual Formation during the 10:30 Worship Service. Ideally, we will have two teachers and two assistants each Sunday morning. We have a gap in ages and would like to have a class for younger elementary students and another for older elementary students whenever possible. Parents, grandparents, guardians: we are not going to call this time for children "Sunday School" anymore since we are aware that there are some children who are resistant to the idea of "more school"! We'll probably just call this time with children "Time with Children"! Stay tuned. We plan to continue to use the FOLLOW ME curriculum for Sunday mornings with Children.

→ Please email jerusha@fpcevv.com if you are interested in being on this year's rotation. Put CHILDREN in the memo line of your email and let Jerusha know if you'd like to teach or assist (or either or both!).

VOLUNTEERS ARE AWESOME



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

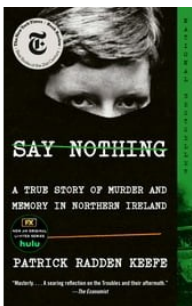
SUNDAY EVENINGS with YOUTH

We will also need adults to assist with FIRST LIGHT YOUTH GROUP beginning in September. We plan to continue to meet from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on most Sunday evenings. Rev. MB and Rev. Jerusha will be doing the planning and will lead. They need adult volunteers to assist with activities and projects. Weekly or monthly commitments are welcome!

→ Please email jerusha@fpcevv.com if you are interested in volunteering to assist with FIRST LIGHT. Put YOUTH in the memo line of your email and let Jerusha know if you'd like to volunteer weekly, monthly or occasionally!

Calling All Readers:

Book Group at First Pres meets next on Monday, July 14, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in Room 105 in the Ed Wing. A Zoom option is available; contact Francie Hubbard (francie@myhubbards.com) to learn how to sign in.



The July discussion will be of *Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland* by Patrick Radden Keefe. The author is an American writer and investigative journalist, and his book is eminently readable. According to Maureen Corrigan of NPR, it "captures the complexities of a historical moment by digging deep into the lives of people on all sides of [Northern Ireland's Troubles]."

On August 11, *The Twilight Garden* by Sara Nisha Adams is the subject - a novel about two feuding neighbors who unite to resurrect a neglected city garden.

RSCM Midwest Choral Residency

The RSCM America Midwest Summer Choral Residency takes place in Evansville July 21-27, housed on the University of Evansville campus. Public worship services are held throughout the week with choral music sung by the Residency which is made up of children and adults from across North America:

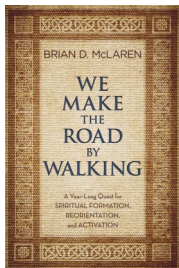
- ♪ Tuesday, July 22, 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong in UE's Neu Chapel
- ♪ Wednesday, July 23, 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong in UE's Neu Chapel
- ♪ Friday, July 25, 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong at Saint Benedict Cathedral
- ♪ Saturday, July 26, 4:30 p.m. Choral Mass at Saint Benedict Cathedral
- ♪ Sunday, July 27, 10:30 a.m. Worship at First Pres



Mark your calendars and invite your friends to enjoy these wonderful free music-led services with you!

We Make the Road By Walking: Weekly Conversation Groups

Described as *a brilliant retelling of the biblical story and a thrilling reintroduction to Christian faith*, the book, *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren is described as a guide to exploring the *difference that an honest, living, growing faith can make in our world today*. Watch for opportunities to join this *yearlong quest for spiritual formation, reorientation, and activation* in a weekly small group setting starting August 31.



Yes - this is a yearlong quest. We will use this book for at least two years and you can choose to join at any time (knowing that you can complete the book in a full year from the date you begin.) If you've ever wondered about the big picture of the bible and how it connects to a progressive expression of Christianity, this book is for you!

You can choose to read the book on your own or you can choose to read weekly and join in some conversation. Groups will be available in person and online.

4th Sundays @ First Pres

Coming this fall: **4th SUNDAYS @ 1st PRES** - An Engaging, Intergenerational Gathering for Service, Learning, Worship, and a Meal happening from 4:30-6:00 p.m. on the 4th Sunday evening of each month.

Come and experience a new way to connect with God and each other. Planned to be a gathering of all ages around a monthly theme, we'll be exploring the connections between simple service projects (putting together hygiene kits or school supplies, for example), arts, crafts, prayer stations, activities, an uncomplicated time of worship (some songs and scripture expressed through storytelling, skits, movement, and art) with communion, followed by a simple meal (might be pizza, might be tacos, might be spaghetti, might be a baked potato bar...come and see!) Who is this for? EVERYONE!

September 28	WELCOME ALL
October 26	HONOR GOD'S DIVERSITY
November 23	LIVE IN COMMUNITY
December 28	HOPE*

**On the Sunday after Christmas, December 28, there will be One Worship Service with Communion at 9:30 a.m. with the Wide Awake Worshippers and Sanctuary Worshippers followed by breakfast.*



Mark Your Calendars to be at First Pres on August 24!

SAVE THE DATE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 24, 9:30 A.M.
CARRY-IN BREAKFAST



SAVE THE DATE
Sunday, August 24
1 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Leadership Retreat
Elders – Deacons – Staff





- 1 TUESDAY
5:00 p.m. Future Hope
- 4 FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. *INDEPENDENCE DAY*
First Friday Recital: Independence Day
Concert + Ice Cream Social!
- 5 SATURDAY
- 6 SUNDAY
5:30 p.m. First Light First Sunday
- 8 TUESDAY
5:30 p.m. *Little Lambs Executive Board Meeting*
- 10 THURSDAY
5:30 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 11 FRIDAY
12:00 p.m. Be Still
- 12 SATURDAY
12:00 p.m. Yoga and Yummies
with Presbyterian Women
- 13 SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. Be Still
- 14 MONDAY
10:30 a.m. Feeding Mission at UCS
6:30 p.m. Book Group
- 17 THURSDAY
11:30 a.m. *Little Lambs' Fashion Show*
- 18 FRIDAY
12:00 p.m. Be Still
- 20 SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. Be Still
- 21 MONDAY
10:00 a.m. Mission Committee

- 1 FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. First Friday Recital: *Molly Patrick*
- 3 SUNDAY
TBA First Light First Sunday
- 7 THURSDAY
5:15 p.m. Personnel Committee
- 10 SUNDAY
11:30 a.m. Music Support Meeting
- 11 MONDAY
10:30 a.m. Feeding Mission at UCS
6:30 p.m. Book Group
- 12 TUESDAY
5:30 p.m. *Little Lambs Executive Board Meeting*
- 13 WEDNESDAY
5:00 p.m. Worship Committee
- 15 FRIDAY
12:00 p.m. Be Still
- 17 SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. Be Still
- 18 MONDAY
10:00 a.m. Mission Committee
- 18 TUESDAY
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting
- 22 FRIDAY
12:00 p.m. Be Still
- 24 SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. Carry-In Breakfast
9:30 a.m. Be Still
- 28 THURSDAY
5:30 p.m. *Little Lambs Board Meeting*



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAYS

8:30 a.m.	Wide Awake Worship
9:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour
9:30 a.m.	Adult Sunday School
9:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class (<i>through 8/18</i>)
10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary Worship
11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour

MONDAYS

2:00 p.m.	Staff Meeting
6:30 p.m.	NA Group

TUESDAYS

10:00 a.m.	A Bigger Table
6:00 p.m.	RSCM Midwest Rehearsal (<i>through 7/15</i>)

WEDNESDAYS

Noon	A Bigger Table
1:00 p.m.	<i>Little Lambs Store Open</i>
7:00 p.m.	A Bigger Table

THURSDAYS

10:00 a.m.	A Bigger Table
6:00 p.m.	RSCM Midwest Rehearsal (<i>through 7/17</i>)

FRIDAYS

Church Office Closed

SATURDAYS

8:30 a.m.	Outside Cleanup Crew (<i>1st and 3rd weeks</i>)
10:00 a.m.	<i>Little Lambs Store Open</i>
10:00 a.m.	RSCM Midwest Rehearsal (<i>through 7/19</i>)



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

Happy Birthday!

JULY

Patrick Griffin	2
Julie Williams	2
Lisa Calvert	4
Abby Greenwell	4
Lisa Foerster-Daniels	7
Daniel Hein	11
Jacob Murphy	11
Nancy Bizal	15
Douglass Korb	15
Mandy Scurry	17
Pete Ruthenburg	18
Ron Whitler	19
Peter Rosenquist	20
Kathryn Nix	25
Rich Siegert	26
Jane White	26
Sam Wolf	26
Darrell Pennington	27
Susi Canfield	28
Jeremy Montgomery	28
Gary Morris	28
Bob Pope	29
Emily Frasso	30
John Strange	30



AUGUST

Gardner McDaniel	1
Jeff Haywood	2
Brandon Montgomery	2
Lauren Lyon	3
Bri Alley	4
Luke Sokel	4
Charlie Pennington	5
Kristi Cirignano	8

Sarah Cross	8
Penelope Pennington	8
Kelli Richard	8
Jeanna Roggenkamp	8
Anna Henson	9
Nancy Erwin	10
Marjorie Blalock	12
Charlie Foerster-Daniels	12
London Hunt	13
Heather John	13
Sarah Wolf	16
Bob Jacobs	17
Louisa White	18
Isaac Henson	20
Allison Mooney	20
Skyler Wagemann	20
Sandra Mants	21
Mike Shelton	22
Jenny Singleton	24
Sue Schriber	26
Cheri King	28
Wendy McCormick	29
Sean Campbell	30
Cathy Erwin	31
Meg Singer	31

July First Friday = Independence Day!

★ Independence Day Concert ★
July 4 7:00 p.m.



First
Presbyterian
Church



We the People
...sure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common
...and establish this Constitution

Join us for an Independence Day Concert : Friday, July 4, 7:00 p.m.
Stay for an Ice Cream Social following the concert!

Park your car in the church parking lot, enjoy the concert and ice cream, and then walk to the riverfront for the fireworks!
The concert will feature patriotic selections played by Robert Nichols on the Fisk organ.

It's all free!

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