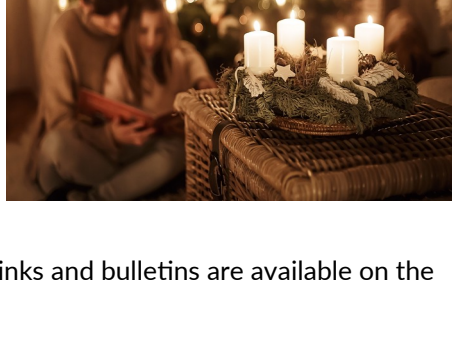




news from First Presbyterian Church – Evansville, IN
December 12, 2025

This Sunday

This Sunday, December 14, is the Third Sunday of Advent. Our focus text for Sunday, Matthew 11:2-11, brings us into the story of John the Baptizer as he sends word to Jesus asking whether Jesus is the Messiah - “the one who is to come” - or whether they should “wait for another?” Sometimes waiting is wise, but sometimes we’d rather keep waiting than make a daring move. What is God calling us to do in this season of Waiting Well? Come find out...

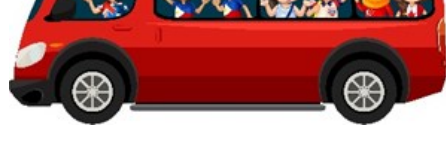


Join us Sunday in person or online! Live Stream links and bulletins are available on the First Pres [website](#).

“Green” Tea Time!

Presbyterian Women will present their annual **Green Tea on Sunday, December 14**, after both services. There will be sweet treats as well as somewhat healthier options, along with green tea and PW’s famous coffee ice cream punch.

The real green in the Green Tea is the financial contributions PW hopes you will make this year to Evansville’s **Immigrant Welcome and Resource Center**.



The still relatively new Center (established in May 2024) connects recent immigrants and new Americans with services, employers and schools. They offer English language classes; after-school and camp programs for children and youth; legal consultations; and a New Americans Academy. They also present cultural competency training for businesses and organizations interested in employing or serving immigrants.

An exciting current need at the Center is for funds to supplement a grant that will help purchase a van to be used for transporting children and parents to medical appointments and school meetings.

Come on December 14 to enjoy some fellowship, learn more about the Immigrant Welcome and Resource Center (<https://www.evimmigrantwelcomecenter.com/>), and help them achieve a dream.

Evening Prayer - Sunday

Join your First Pres friends this Sunday, December 14 starting at 4:30 p.m. for fellowship. We’ll gather in the parlor with candles, and enjoy a brief service of Evening Prayer at 5:00 p.m. Invite a friend for a reflective, centering way to wind down the weekend.



First Light Youth Group



First Light’s Christmas Party is this Sunday Night from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. We’ll have supper, exchange ‘white elephant’ gifts (bring something silly!), talk about our hopes, and of course, play games! Let Rev. MB or Rev. Jerusha know if you’re coming so there’s enough to eat!

Poinsettias! - Order Today!



It wouldn’t seem like Christmas without poinsettias around the building! These beautiful Christmas flowers may be donated in memory, or in honor, of loved ones for \$15.00 per plant. Orders may be made (*and paid for!*) [online](#), by contacting the church office (423-6297; lora@fpcev.org), or using the form in your worship bulletin by *this Sunday, December 14*. Thank you for helping make our building and the season beautiful!

Eat and Help CAJE!


Make plans to eat at Hacienda on First Avenue today and help CAJE! Hacienda will give 20% of your purchase (including gift cards!) to CAJE. There’s no coupon needed, - just say “CAJE Give Back” to the Hacienda (First Avenue only) staff. What a tasty way to help others!



Christmas Joy Offering - December 21

THE PERFECT GIFT.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering,
we come together to support past, present and future leaders,
embodying God’s perfect gift to us,
Jesus Christ.

 CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 30 – DECEMBER 21

Congregational Meeting - December 21

If you’re thinking, ‘Didn’t we just have a congregational meeting?’, well, yes, you’re correct - just a few Sundays ago on November 16 - where we elected new officers and affirmed the pastor’s terms of call for 2026. At that time, we were not aware of a need to hold an “official meeting of the corporation”. So, in order to fill this requirement, Session has called for a meeting of the Congregation on **Sunday, December 21 at 11:30 a.m.** in the Sanctuary. The sole agenda item of the meeting is to convene the official meeting of the corporation, and is expected to last 15 minutes.



In future years, this requirement will be fulfilled at the annual congregational meeting when we elect new officers for the coming year. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Pastor MB](#) or Clerk of Session [Steve Wylie](#).

Longest Night - December 21

Longest Night Service
December 21 at 4:30 p.m.

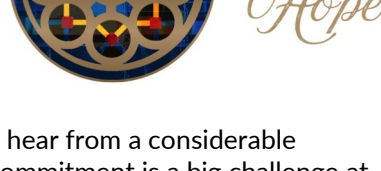
*A reflective service of healing and hope
for those experiencing pain, loss, or disconnection.*

First Presbyterian Church: *A house of prayer for all people.*
fpcev.org



Our Future Needs You!

Thank you to everyone who has turned in a pledge as part of our *Hope for Our Future* campaign! We are almost two-thirds of the way to meeting our goal of \$1.5 million over three years for the **operating budget**, and we are right at our goal of \$1 million over three years for the *Future Hope* giving. We are gratefully excited by your faithful generosity!



Even with all this good news, we are still expecting to hear from a considerable number of current supporters. Perhaps a three-year commitment is a big challenge at this time - that’s OK - feel free to mark your pledge as a one-year commitment! Maybe you’re not sure about making two separate pledges - that’s OK, too - right now we are most in need of learning about your continued commitment to the operating budget for 2026 so that we can finalize the 2026 budget. (You can make a pledge or gift - one time or over several years - to *Future Hope* giving at anytime.) We welcome your questions and are glad to help you figure out your best way to support First Pres. Don’t hesitate to reach out to Pastor MB, any of the Future Hope committee, or Church Administrator Lora Blaylock! If you simply want to call (812.423.6297) or [email Lora](#) to continue or increase your current level of giving, that is fine!

There is still time to join us in this vision of *Hope for Our Future*. You can put your completed card in Sunday’s offering plate, mail it to the church, contact [Lora](#) in the church office, or fill out an electronic pledge card [HERE](#). Thank You!

Faith Voices for Justice

Mark your calendar for *Faith in the Face of Fear*, a rally and workshop day at the Indiana Statehouse on January 8. In a moment when many are feeling anxious or isolated, this gathering is designed to bring people together across traditions - and beyond them - to lift our voices, learn practical tools, and strengthen the courage we need for the work ahead. We’ll begin with a public rally at the Statehouse to ground our day in shared values of dignity, justice, and hope. Following the rally, participants can join a series of skill-building workshops led by community partners, offering practical strategies for advocacy, coalition-building, and care for our neighbors.



**INDIANA FAITH
VOICES FOR JUSTICE**

Whether you’re part of a congregation, a campus, a community group, or simply someone who wants to help, you are welcome. Bring friends, colleagues, and questions. Come to connect, be inspired, and leave with concrete next steps and new partners. Details, schedule, and accessibility information are available at inaithvoicesforjustice.org.

Pastor MB is serving on the Steering Committee for Indiana Faith Voices for Justice and will be participating in the Rally and Workshops on January 8. Contact her if you would like to participate with her. mb@fpcev.org.

Prayer Requests

- as JB seeks direction and the will to follow it;
- for one receiving counseling, who is concerned for friends and family during the holiday season;
- for SG, receiving kidney treatment;
- in gratitude that a boiler problem at Peace Lutheran (Beavercreek, OH) was caught before major damage occurred;
- for one seeking employment;
- for those struggling due to this challenging economy;
- for Eric S, receiving care at Midtown for heart issues;
- for Earl McDaniel and family, as he recovers;
- for the 2400 soldiers and sailors that were lost at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941;
- for the Watts and Norvell families, as they mourn the loss of (Aunt) Helen;
- for a family trying to avoid foreclosure;
- in gratitude for the First Pres choirs;
- for Krista, following the death of her husband Chad;
- for those who struggle at this time of year;
- for one looking for work;
- for Tristan, a Senior at Memorial, receiving treatment in Louisville for acute myeloid leukemia;
- for those struggling with chronic pain.



Daily Readings



As we begin a new year, we share with you a different resource for daily readings. The link below will take you to the PC(USA)’s website, which offers multiple readings for every day. The readings that you will see immediately when you click the link will be for the current day, but you can pick readings for a specific day, print out readings, and sign up for a daily email of lectionary readings.

<https://pcusa.org/daily/devotion>

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@fpcev.org with comments, questions, or to unsubscribe.