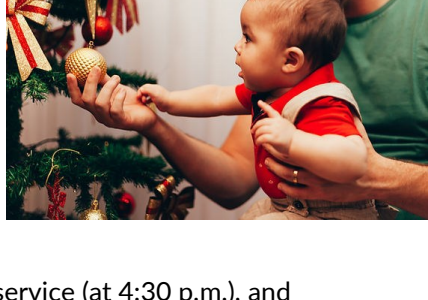




news from First Presbyterian Church – Evansville, IN
December 19, 2025

This Sunday

This is the final Sunday of our Advent *Waiting Well* series. (It's almost Christmas!) We will take a look at the Matthew text where Joseph goes from deciding to quietly get out of his engagement to Mary (hoping to help both of them to avoid embarrassment) to receiving a message from an angel that affirms her story about the child to naming the child Jesus. The message, ***Don't Drop the Baby***, tries to answer this question: "How do we deal with urgent situations that arise while we are waiting on something we are confident will happen?"



Read below for details on tonight's Longest Night service (at 4:30 p.m.), and Wednesday's Christmas Eve worship. Bring a friend to either or both!

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

Congregational Meeting - this Sunday

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 this **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](#).

Christmas Joy Offering - this Sunday

The Christmas Joy Offering of the PC(USA) honors and celebrates the past leadership of retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. It also honors and celebrates emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much. This Sunday, you will find a special envelope in the bulletin that you can use to share your joy with others who point us to God.



Longest Night - this Sunday

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.*
[fpcevv.com](#)

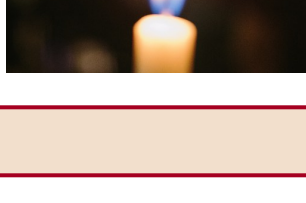
Early Adult Third Space



E.A.T.S. is a new opportunity for those age 18-25 to get together, share food, make connections, and have fun. The first meeting of this group is this Sunday, December 21 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you're of this age group, plan to join Rev. MB and Rev. Jerusha this Sunday evening - and invite a friend!

Christmas Eve Worship

Our Christmas Eve Service is this Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. (doors open at 4:30 p.m.). This service of Candlelight, Carols, and Communion will begin with a prelude by the flute choir at 4:40 p.m., and the evening's offering will benefit the Tri-State Food Bank. Invite your family, friends, and co-workers to celebrate the joy of Christmas at First Pres.



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!

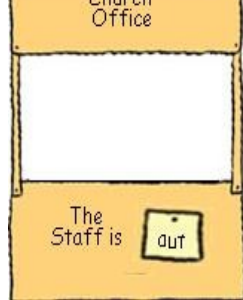
There is still time to join us in this vision of *Hope for Our Future*. You can put your completed card in Sunday's offering plate, mail it to the church, contact [Lora](#) in the church office, or fill out an electronic pledge card [HERE](#). Thank You!

One Worship December 28

On Sunday, December 28, there will be only one worship service for the morning at 9:30 a.m. Wear your favorite holiday sweater (or family appropriate) Christmas PJs and join us anytime after 9:00 a.m. for donuts, bacon, coffee, juice, and fellowship. Worship based on the *12 Days of Christmas* carol will begin at 9:30 a.m. Bring your family as we celebrate with joy!



Holiday Office Hours



the church office, normally open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. will observe holiday hours into January. In addition to Christmas Day, the office will be closed December 28-January 1. The office will reopen January 5 with somewhat unpredictable hours as some staff use vacation time. Designated staff will monitor voice- and e-mail messages remotely. If you need access to the building or have specific questions, please contact us by email or leave a message. You may reach out to Pastor MB directly during this time [mb@fpcevv.com](#) or 812-872-4882 (voice or text) - leave a message indicating the urgency of your need. She'll get back to you asap!

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.

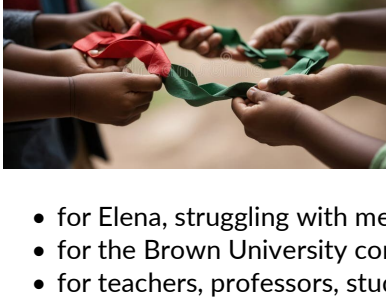
Whether you're part of a congregation, a campus, a community group, or simply someone who wants to help, you are welcome. Bring friends, colleagues, and questions. Come to connect, be inspired, and leave with concrete next steps and new partners. Details, schedule, and accessibility information are available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



**INDIANA FAITH
VOICES FOR JUSTICE**

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@fpcevv.com](#).

Prayer Requests

- for one dealing with debilitating pain;
 - for one preparing to have surgery in early January for a tumor;
 - for a niece, looking for a home;
 - for Murray, as he awaits diagnosis and treatment of a circulation issue;
 - in gratitude for patient caregivers;
 - for Brian, as he has carpal tunnel surgery Monday;
- 
 - for those who cannot be with their loved ones due to physical distance;
 - for a young person being treated in Louisville for acute myeloid leukemia;
 - for Evelyn, who has the flu, and her parents;
 - for David, as he continues to recover;
 - for our neighbors as they celebrate Hanukkah;
 - for Janet, as she recovers from surgery;
- for Elena, struggling with mental health issues;
 - for the Brown University community, following the shooting over the weekend;
 - for teachers, professors, students, and staff as they finish the semester;
 - for a husband seeking patience as his wife begins a medical journey;
 - for wisdom for world leaders;
 - in remembrance of the 29 people lost in the UE plane crash 48 years ago;
 - in gratitude for the promise of more moderate weather.



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@fpcevv.com](#) with comments, questions, or to unsubscribe.