



First
Presbyterian
Church

Connect



news from First Presbyterian Church - Evansville, IN
January 2, 2026

This Sunday



Just when you thought all the excitement of the holiday season had come and gone...they arrive...the Maji! During this season of Epiphany, we'll consider gifts that keep on giving. This week, we hear of the arrival of the maji from the east, who bring *Unexpected Gifts* to the child.

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

First Light @ Player Two

First Light, our group for Junior and Senior High aged youth, will gather on Sunday, January 4 from 5:30 to 7:00 at High Score Player Two (2814 Mt. Vernon Avenue, Evansville) for an evening of fun, snacks, and games! (*Parents: drop off and pick up at Player Two*)



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@fpcevv.com.

"I Can Do That!"

As we move into a new year, we give thanks for all our "church mice"! From ushering and greeting, to making coffee on Sunday mornings, to straightening the pews, to alphabetizing the nametags and more, these folks have done and continue to do so many small but important tasks around First Pres. And new "church mice" are always welcomed **and needed!** If you are looking for a way to give your time on a routine or occasional basis, contact the [church office](#) with the note "I Can Do That!" (firstpres@fpcevv.com; 812-423-6297) Your offer of time is deeply appreciated!



One Church Forum

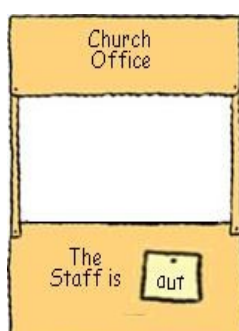
As part of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day events at the University of Evansville, local faith leaders are coming together for a "One Church Forum" on Sunday, January 18, 4:00 p.m. in Shanklin Theater on the UE Campus.



The afternoon is designed as a space for leaders to come together in pursuit of greater unity across the Church in our city. The desire is to gather staff and volunteer leaders, small group and ministry leaders, intercessors, justice and outreach leaders, and emerging leaders, those who love our city, serve faithfully, and carry responsibility within different expressions of the Church. Together, the goal is to seek God side by side, listen well, and contend for what God desires to do among us.

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. 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!



Merry Christmas and Thank You!



Thank you to everyone who gave to the Christmas Eve offering at Wednesday's worship service. The entire offering is going to the Tri-State Food Bank, which is improving the quality of life for our community's insecure families and children by providing adequate food and nutrition through our network of local charities and organizations feeding the hungry. Our Christmas Eve collection of over \$2,000 will be doubled by a matching gift at the Food Bank. Thank you for your generosity!

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!



*Future
Hope*

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!

Prayer Requests



- for Chris in Sydney, Australia, receiving treatment for pancreatic cancer;
- for all those traveling in England with the RSCMA National Choir;
- for one struggling with their faith;
- for the Biggs family, mourning the loss of Chad;
- in gratitude for health;
- for friends and family of Everett Nunn, as they navigate this first holiday season without him;

- for all of the youth in detention this holiday season;
- in gratitude for family celebrations at home and at church;
- for those in danger from the extremes of weather;
- in gratitude for time to rest.

Daily Readings

Taking time for a daily devotional can be a meaningful addition to a faith journey. 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.