



First  
Presbyterian  
Church



news from First Presbyterian Church – Evansville, IN  
January 23, 2026

## This Sunday - BUILDING CLOSED

Due to the Winter Storm Warning and Cold Weather Advisory in effect through Sunday, **the church building will be closed all day Sunday, January 25.** We are pre-recording a Worship Service today (Friday) at 5:00 p.m., which will be uploaded to Facebook and YouTube in the usual places. You may also visit our website, [fpcevv.com](http://fpcevv.com), for a link to the service and the online bulletin by this evening. *There will be no in-person activities in the building on Sunday, January 25. The building will be closed.*



Please take care of yourselves and check on your neighbors. If you know folks who regularly attend but don't use email, please give them a call to make sure they are aware. *The church building will not be open at all this Sunday.*

In our pre-recorded service, I will talk about *The Gift of Bold Action - taking on bold challenges to live differently in the world, both individually and together.* The Gospel lesson, Matthew 4:12-23, is the call of Peter, Andrew, James, and John to leave their nets and follow Jesus. That's pretty bold! What is God calling each of us to do today?

## January 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays - CANCELLED



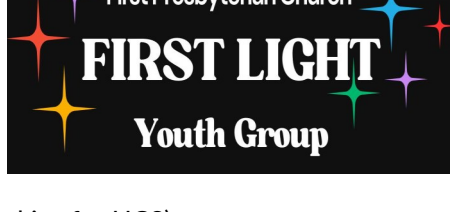
**4<sup>th</sup> Sundays at 1<sup>st</sup> Pres will not meet this Sunday.** We will resume this monthly worship experience on Sunday, February 22, 5:30-7 p.m., with an evening built on **Practicing Peacemaking**. Watch for the opportunity to sign up for soup, bread, etc., in a few weeks.

## FEBRUARY First Light Doings

First Light, our group for Jr and Sr-High students usually meets Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 for games, snacks, and fun, but will not meet January 25 due to inclement weather.

In February, First Light will consider some questions:

- ? *What is sin? What does it mean to confess?*
- ? *What does it mean to repent?*
- ? *What does it mean to repair?*



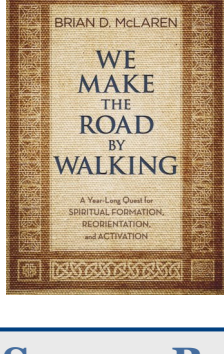
**February 1 - Game Night**

**February 8 - Service Night** (making brownies/cookies for UCS)  
with Evening Prayer at 6:45 p.m. (Some extra parents are NEEDED for this!)

**February 15 - Movie Night** (longer time TBD since there's no school 2/16)

**February 22 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays @ 1<sup>st</sup> Pres - Practicing Peacemaking**

## We Make the Road - ZOOM on 1/25

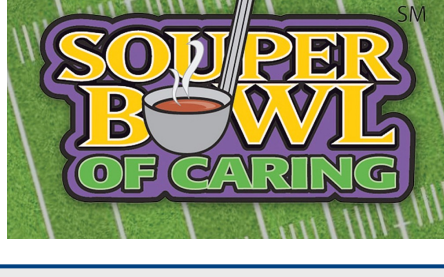


**This Sunday's *We Make the Road* group will meet online only!**

Join Rev. Jerusha in a yearlong quest for spiritual formation, reorientation, and activation by participating in weekly conversation groups based around Brian McLaren's book *We Make the Road by Walking*. Hybrid (in-person + online) groups meet on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesdays at Noon and 7:00 p.m. (Zoom links are on the [church website](#)). Books (\$11) are available in the church office (and on Kindle and Hoopla), and you can drop in/out as your schedule allows.

## Souper Bowl?

The Souper Bowl of Caring is back! On the first two Sundays in February, root for your favorite team in this year's 'big game' by bringing canned goods with you to church. A special display will be set up in Fellowship Hall where you can put your team's cans in their "end zone"! The real winners will be our neighbors who use the food pantry at Patchwork Central - all the donations will fill their shelves. Go Team!



## Raise Awareness!

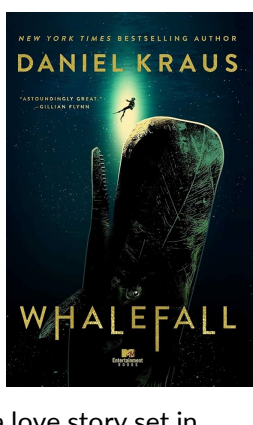


First Pres is again pleased to host United Caring Services' White Flag Walk on Saturday, January 31 starting at 10:00 a.m. There's no cost or requirement to raise funds - the goal of the walk is to bring awareness of what it is like to be unhoused during the coldest part of the year. Participants will walk from First Pres to UCS on 6th Street and back. For more information or to sign up, please go to the UCS' website: <https://unitedcaringservices.org/events/>.

## February Book Group

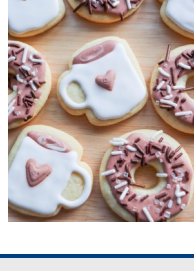
Book Group at First Pres meets next on Monday, February 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 105. A Zoom option is available; contact [Francie Hubbard](#) to learn how to sign in.

February's book is *Whalefall* by Daniel Kraus. The book is a scientifically accurate survival thriller about a teenage scuba diver who's been swallowed by an eighty-foot, sixty-ton sperm whale while looking for his father's remains in the Pacific Ocean off the California coast. He is forced to confront his past - particularly his relationship with his father - while seeking a way to escape the whale before his oxygen runs out.



On March 9, the group will discuss *The Art of Hearing Heartbeats*, a love story set in Burma (Myanmar) that spans decades.

## Fellowship!



Do you like a cup of coffee or tea and a little nibble while chatting with friends? Us, too! We have a number of wonderful folks who prepare, provide, and clean up after our Sunday fellowship times, and they'd love to have you help, too! Sign up on the sheet in the Parlor near the snacks to bring treats (homemade or purchased at 8:30 or 10:30 worship). And if you'd like to help put refreshments out or clean up after fellowship time, please email Sue Schriber ([sschriber0826@gmail.com](mailto:sschriber0826@gmail.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 holiday decorating 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](mailto:firstpres@fpcevv.com); 812-423-6297) Your offer of time is deeply appreciated!



## Our Future Needs You!



*Future  
Hope*

Thank you to everyone who 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 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!

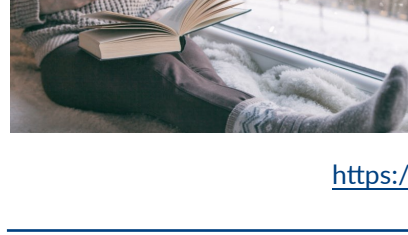
There is still time to join us in this vision of *Hope for Our Future*. You can put your completed card in Sunday's offering plate, mail it to the church, contact [Lora](#) in the church office, or fill out an electronic pledge card [HERE](#). Thank You!

## Prayer Requests

- for the family of Sylvia Nichols;
- in praise for Elesha and Brian's marriage - 34 years!;
- for patience and peace as E awaits an appointment with the hand surgeon;
- for blessings and safety for those who stand against abuse of our immigrant neighbors;
- for those who are seeking safe shelter as the winter storm approaches;
- for one struggling with legal issues;
- for Amy, battling depression;
- for a couple working hard on marital issues;
- for a friend, whose 2 brothers have been diagnosed with cancer;
- in gratitude for kind and generous friends;
- for college students, as they travel to begin a new semester;
- that one has the energy to continue to make positive strides in the new year.



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