



news from First Presbyterian Church – Evansville, IN
January 30, 2026

This Sunday



We welcome First Pres member Jean Beckman to the pulpit this Sunday. A longtime teacher of the Bible Bunch Sunday school class and regular liturgist, Jean will share with us a sermon considering the influence of prophets and the gospels on our neighbor Patchwork Central, titled *Seeking the Welfare of the City*.

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

February First Light

First Light, our group for Jr and Sr-High students meets Sunday evenings from 5:30 to 7:00 for games, snacks, and fun!

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?*

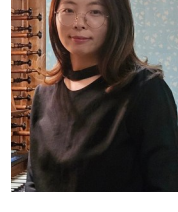


February 8 - Service Night (making brownies/cookies for UCS) with Evening Prayer at 6:45 p.m. (Some extra parents are NEEDED for this!)

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

February 22 - 4th Sundays @ 1st Pres - Practicing Peacemaking

First Friday - Tonight!



We welcome Hansol Kim to play the First Friday Recital tonight at 7:00 p.m. Hansol is a masters student in Organ Performance and Sacred Music at IU Jacobs School of Music. For her second First Friday appearance, Hansol will share compositions by Bach, de Grigny, Howells, and Duruflé. Bring a friend downtown and begin your weekend with wonderful music!

Organizing Help

Have you got the 'cleanies' after all those snow days? Share that energy to help First Pres! Rev. Jerusha is looking for a few folks to help organize, sort, and clean up the resource room from 10:00 a.m.-Noon on tomorrow Saturday, February 7. The resource room, located upstairs in room 202, will aid staff and educators in the planning and implementation of ministry and education. Your help is greatly appreciated! [Contact Rev. Jerusha](#) with questions or to RSVP.



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!

Evening Prayer

Join your First Pres friends this Sunday, February 8 starting at 6:15 p.m. for fellowship. We'll gather in the parlor with candles, and enjoy a brief service of Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m. Invite a friend for a reflective, centering way to wind down the weekend.



February Book Group



Book Group at First Pres meets next on Monday, February 9,

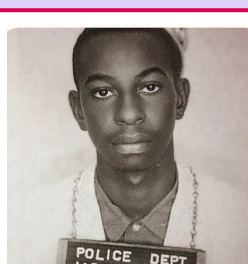
6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 105. A Zoom option is available; contact [Francie Hubbard](#) to learn how to sign in.

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.

A Freedom Rider's Legacy

Hezekiah Watkins, the youngest of the Freedom Riders, will share his powerful story of courage and civil rights advocacy in the Journey to Justice series at Bosse High School on Monday, February 12 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. At just age 13, Watkins was arrested and sent to Mississippi's notorious Parchman State Penitentiary after being mistaken for a Freedom Rider in 1961.



Lunch and Learn



The Mission Committee's next Lunch and Learn program is Monday, February 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Our friends from Patchwork Central will share with us what they do to serve our neighborhood.

We'll gather in fellowship hall - bring your own lunch as early as 11:30. The presentation will begin at noon and last as long as an hour (including time for questions). Drinks will be provided.

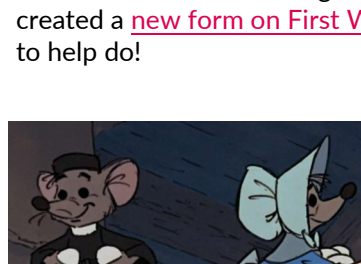
Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent begins with three (identical) services on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Join Pastor MB for a brief time of worship including the imposition of ashes at 7:00 a.m., 12:15 p.m., or 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our theme for the season is *Unbound: Longing for Wholeness*.



Church Mice - New Opportunities!

The staff has been working on an updated list of behind-the-scenes tasks and have created a [new form on First Web](#) so folks can let us know what items they would like to help do!

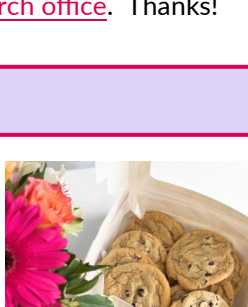


We hope everyone - folks who are already helping with regular and occasional items as well as new folks - will [fill out the form](#). The goal is to not rely on just one or two people for doing multiple tasks, but to have multiple people share the tasks (to have a rotation of people in the case of weekly items) and also to have substitutes when a regular 'church mouse' isn't available. We're not looking to replace any of our wonderful volunteers; rather, we want to give them some backup and assistance!

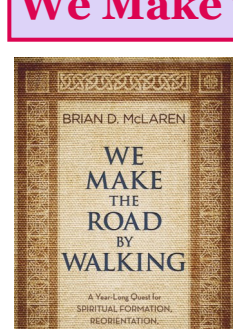
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the [church office](#). Thanks!

Fellowship and Flowers!

Do you like a cup of coffee or tea and a little nibble while chatting with friends? How about beautiful flowers in worship? Us, 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 give flowers for worship, you can do so using [this form on First Web](#). Thanks for helping add hospitality and beauty to our Sundays!



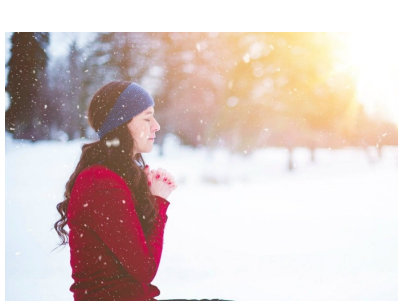
We Make the Road - Join Anytime!



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.

Prayer Requests

- for Tom, recovering from heart surgery at Vanderbilt;
- for those whose ailments are increased by this cold weather;
- for the loved ones of those who were killed by ICE, and all those unjustly detained and persecuted;
- in celebration of Jerusha and Kathryn's wedding anniversary;
- for one afraid for their family's safety;



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@fpcevu.com with comments, questions, or to unsubscribe.