

First Reports

First Presbyterian Church
Evansville, Indiana



MAY/
JUN
2026

www.fpcev.org

Generational Wisdom in a Multi-Generational Congregation and the necessity of Inter-Generational Community for Sustained Growth

When I think of generational wisdom I think of my grandmother. She was not only one of the youngest public-school principals in the state of Kentucky, but was one of the youngest women to fill this role. She was born in December of 1906 so this year will be the 120th anniversary of her birth.

Grandmother (that's what we called her - in my mind a very warm term, not a stuffy one!) was simply amazing. She was well educated (Bachelors, Masters, and Rank I degrees) and a lifelong learner. She was a teacher of English grammar and literature (and early in her career of almost all subjects through twelfth grade because of the smaller schools where many teachers had to double up on subject matter). She eventually was a reading specialist and a director of pupil personnel. She sponsored clubs, directed plays, sponsored the senior class, was involved in local, district, and state teachers' organizations, and was active in her local Southern Baptist Church.

Along the way she married an incredibly strong-willed man (Papa) and she could definitely match his energy. He was also an educator and principal, and later a superintendent, farmer, antique collector - or trader - I think the hunt and the sale were more satisfying to him than keeping anything. (He would have loved my husband.) Together they reared two daughters and loved three grandchildren (I was the oldest) along with many nieces and nephews. They were a power couple before power couples were a thing.



Back to Grandmother.

Grandmother was wise. She was a person who was always paying attention, always listening, always challenging her own ideas about life. I will never forget one time when I was home from college and we were sitting in her room catching up on life when she suddenly looked at me and said, "Oh! I need to ask you something" and proceeded to pick up a magazine to ask me about an article she had bookmarked. I honestly don't remember what the article was about (likely something that was somewhat shocking in the 1980s) but I do remember her being very interested in what I knew about it and what I thought about it. And her curiosity was not judgmental - it was honest. She was interested in what I, *her granddaughter*, thought about it. That simple action set in motion something that has served me well.

Grandmother's influence encouraged me to approach new information and different ideas with curiosity, not judgement; to interact across generations with openness to the experiences of others; and to treat all people with respect. Her oldest daughter (my mother) is very much like her (with a good dose of her father's strong will). I feel like I'm a good mix of all of them along with some strong genetics from my dad's side of the family. None of them were perfect (and I'm certainly not perfect) but all of them cared about people.

(continued on p. 2)

Generational Wiscom *(continued from p. 1)*

So how do we wisely engage with each other in this multi-generational congregation? How do we learn from each other? How do we listen to each other? How do we encourage both younger folks to listen to older folks and older folks to listen to younger folks? It is more than a two-way street! It is a complicated intersection with multiple stop signs and stoplights from every possible direction. Kind of like the intersection of Upper Mount Vernon, Hogue Road, and Tekoppel Avenue on the near West Side of Evansville. It's messy and (according to our Church Administrator) "you kind of have to trust that you'll know when it's your turn to go!"



If we are to not only gain new members but also thrive as we do, we must honor a culture of inclusivity that is not only about individual differences but that also includes attention to generational differences. To have healthy, sustainable growth, we need opportunities for inter-generational engagement. Our worship services need to be welcoming to people of all ages. Our mission activities need to include opportunities for a broad age range. Our educational activities need to be welcoming to people of all ages. Now don't get me wrong - there is still a place for generational groups - I'm just reminding us that most of our connecting points for large groups of folks need to include ways for all ages to engage. I'll be writing more about this in coming months. In the meanwhile, take the time to get to know someone new who is not at all like you!

Peace and Presence from your pastor,

MB 



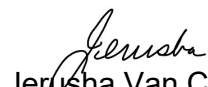
Growing Together

It has been one year since my return to First Pres. The congregation has grown both spiritually and in number. Watching our First Pres LGBTQ community grow and leading the study through *We Make the Road by Walking* are highlights for me in this first year.

Every single person who has kept their commitment to read and discuss *We Make the Road by Walking* over these eight months has grown in God's love, in their understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, and in faith and hope. This experience reminds me that transformational spiritual growth and maturity is not something that happens by magic or quick fixes. Spiritual growth comes through a commitment to consistent study, to prayer, and to connection with each other in the community of faith.

In August, we will begin one more year-long cycle of readings with *We Make the Road by Walking*. This book along with the discussion provides a framework for consistent and intentional discipleship. I challenge us all to make an intentional investment in our spiritual growth in the remaining months of this year. Whether it is with *We Make the Road by Walking*, or with the Bible Bunch class, or with other studies and offerings provided this year, do something. Show up for yourself. Show up for each other. Invest in your spiritual life alongside others in this loving community where questions and doubts, faith, and hope are welcomed. Let's walk this path together. Let us be devoted disciples who live the way of Jesus. I believe in you. I am praying for you. May our longing for God be greater than our distractions.




Jerusha Van Camp
Minister of Spiritual Formation and Connection

Happenings In and By the Music Department

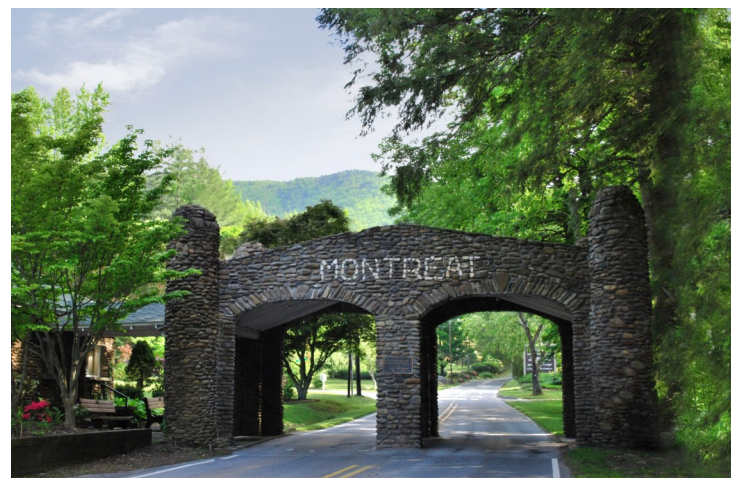


The Armed Man

The Choir School of First Presbyterian Church presents Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace* on Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 p.m. This profound and emotional piece to perform and witness will be accompanied by an orchestra of outstanding local musicians, conducted by First Pres Director of Music Robert Nicholls. Come at 3:30 and join in the pre-concert talk led by Robert. Invite your friends, family, neighbors, and co-workers to experience this special occasion.

First Friday Concert

Join us on Friday, June 5 at 7:00 p.m. for a concert given by our Music Administrative Assistant, Bri Alley, in a reprise of their UE Senior Recital and Gumberts' Recital performances. Composers include Komgold, Poulenc, Rorem, and Britten. Bring your neighbors, friends, and coworkers to begin your June with wonderful music!



Montreat Experience

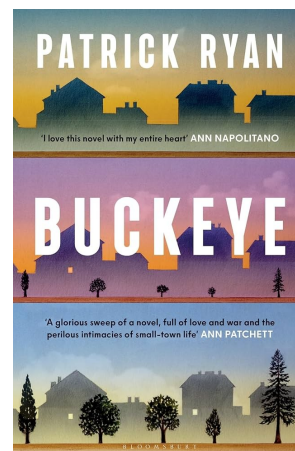
Our largest group ever is preparing for the Presbyterian Association of Musicians Worship and Music Conference in Montreat, NC, at the end of June. Twenty-three of us will attend daily worship, concerts, classes, and other learning experiences all in communal living. Hickory Lodge is nestled in the heart of beautiful and secluded Montreat up in the mountains just East of Asheville, NC. Pray for us as we travel on June 28 and return on July 4. This is the tenth year we have had the privilege of attending the Montreat Conference. Thank you for your generous donations this past year at the Silent Movies, soup and bread sales, and Breakfast with Santa. This could not happen without your support!

Calling All Readers

Book Group at First Pres meets next on Monday, May 18, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in room 105 in the Ed Wing. A Zoom option is available; contact Francie Hubbard (francie@myhubbards.com) to learn how to sign in.

The Group will discuss *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan. This sweeping novel interweaves the intimate lives of two midwestern families across generations, from World War II to the late twentieth century. A chance kiss becomes a complex secret irrevocably binding two couples in unexpected ways and forever impacting the next generation. *Buckeye* is a story of love, loyalty, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

On June 8, the group will discuss *The Cutting Season*, a literary thriller set on a historic Louisiana plantation where a dead body intertwines a modern murder mystery with the plantation's dark history.



Diaper Drive for Little Lambs

In honor of all parent figures, from mothers to fathers, and all other caring folks, you are invited to donate diapers and wipes (or money, of course!) to Little Lambs **between Mother's Day, May 10 and Father's Day, June 21**. Examples of the store brand diapers and wipes needed are:

available at Wal-Mart:

Parent's Choice Dry & Gentle Diapers, sizes newborn through 7

Parent's Choice Fragrance Free Baby Wipes

available at Target:

Up & Up Absorbent & Soft Diapers, sizes newborn through 7

Up & Up Fragrance Free Baby Wipes



Bring your donations to church with you and put them in the pack-n-play in the lobby or make a monetary donation in the offering on Sunday Morning (*memo: Lambs*) or online at fpcevv.com/giving.

Sister Joanna's Table - June 20

Our first outing at Sister Joanna's Table food ministry in April was a success, with a good number of volunteers helping meet and serve lunch for our neighbors in need at our neighbor St. Paul's Episcopal church, so we're planning to continue on the third Saturday of even months for the rest of the year. Mark your calendars and come help prepare, serve, and clean up lunch on **Saturday, June 20**. Three 'shifts' of volunteer opportunities begin at 9:00 a.m. and everything's finished by 1:30 p.m. (Some folks stay the whole time, others just come for a portion of the day.) Questions? Want to help? Watch for more details in the weekly *Connect* and/or email Rev. MB (mb@fpcevv.com; subject: Sr. Joanna's Table).



June is Pride Month

There are a number of opportunities to join your First Pres friends in participating in Pride Month:

Pride Fest Planning Meeting

Folks interested in helping decorate and plan for the 2026 River City Pride Fest can join Rev. Jerusha in-person or [online](#) on Wednesday, May 6 at 6:00 p.m. All ideas welcome!

Sign up for the Pride Festival

Show your love and support the LGBTQIA+ community at the 2026 River City Pride festival on Saturday, June 6. There are various opportunities to participate and support our pride festival efforts this year. Whether you plan to walk in the parade, sit at our information table, or want to help with pre-planning, all volunteers should fill out the Pride Festival volunteer form. All parade participants must be registered by May 15. Only pre-registered participants will be able to participate in the parade. T-shirts are available to buy from SouthWest Grafix in our online store located at fpcevv.com under the "visit us" tab. (More items will be added to the store in the coming weeks!) Contact Rev. Jerusha for more information, or use the [QR code](#) to sign up!

LGBTQ Gathering

The LGBTQ gatherings will pause for May and June and return in July with two luncheon opportunities. We will go out for lunch right after church on Sunday, July 5, and then again, on July 26, Scott Wylie and Larry Schwartz will welcome us to lunch at their home. Mark your calendars and watch for more details.

**VOLUNTEER AT THE
2026 RIVER CITY
PRIDE FESTIVAL**

Show your love and support for the LGBTQIA+ community at this year's River City Pride Festival! Walk in the parade. Take a shift at our table. Buy a t-shirt. Make a donation.

SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026

Sign up here:


First Presbyterian Church
609 SE Second Street
Evansville, Indiana 47713
fpcevv.com

National Day of Prayer

The Mayor's Interfaith Advisory Council of Evansville, Indiana invites the community to gather at the Four Freedoms Monument on the Evansville Riverfront at noon on Thursday, May 7 for the annual Interfaith Observance of the National Day of Prayer. The theme, **"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble."** (Psalm 46:2) is timely.

From the Council's *statement on Mutual Respect in Public Life*:

As faith leaders from this community, we recognize the inherent value found in faith traditions beyond our own and the strength that comes from loving our neighbors. We share a commitment to focus on love and kindness in a time when public discourse - both in person and online - often feels strained and divisive. We seek to listen with openness, to better understand one another, and to work toward the good of our neighbors.

We recognize that across our faith traditions, we share deep and abiding commitments to compassion, justice, peace, and love for all people. Throughout our sacred texts we are taught to seek peace and pursue justice.

Together, we reaffirm our commitment to walk alongside one another in service to all people - especially the most vulnerable among us - and to continue building bridges of unity, hope, and love within and among our communities of faith and in the larger community in which we live.



Singing Resistance Evansville

Singing Resistance Evansville is gathering to learn songs of resistance and hope most Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in the First Pres Sanctuary. The group is currently preparing for three future events in collaboration with other local organizations.

Upcoming Practices:

May 3, 17, 24, 31 and June 7 (practices will resume on August 9 after a 'summer break')

Flag Day Peace Walk: Sunday, June 14 starting at 2:00 p.m.

Singing Resistance is working on this event in collaboration with the River City Rising/Peace Rally folks. The plan is to walk and sing down Main Street from the intersection of SE Second and Main (near the Peephole) to the intersection of MLK and Main (by the Desert Shield/Storm statues).

Fall events in the planning stages include two *We The People Community Sing & Concerts* that will happen around Constitution Day and after Election Day. Watch for details!

SINGING RESISTANCE
EVANSVILLE @singingresistanceevansville



2026: Our Values Then, Alive Today!

This year marks our nation's 250th birthday. 2026 is also a celebration for First Pres as we plan our future with Rev. Mary Beth and Rev. Jerusha. It might be interesting to look at our history and how members celebrated the very values we will continue in our plan going forward. Below is another paragraph about one of our earlier church members' expression of those values - of peace and equality, justice and kindness, our building and worship, care for our church family and the needs of our community. Join us as we celebrate 2026: Our Values Then, Alive Today!

Samuel Archer



The Archer window in our historic sanctuary was given in memory of Samuel Archer (February 24, 1809-November 10, 1890) who is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. Mr. Archer was a banker who was born in Gibson County before Indiana was an incorporated state, raised on his father's farm and began his business career as a clerk in a store in Princeton. He came to Evansville in 1855 and entered the wholesale dry goods business. In 1867 he transitioned to insurance and banking. His business ventures were not without losses but he never gave up and is noted for his shrewdness and ability. He was a member of our predecessor church Grace Presbyterian with his family and the window was given in his memory by his

family. It is said that the window is positioned on the side of the sanctuary where he normally sat. The choice of the image of Samuel the judge and prophet corresponds with his name and is indicative of his determination and vision as a business man. Samuel the prophet anointed David as King of Israel and united the tribal society into a kingdom. He predicted the coming of Christ as seen in a vision when he was a child. The image of Samuel shows him going to anoint King David as he carries a pouch of oil. The artist of the window is undetermined at this time.

- submitted by Jane Bernhardt



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May

Tamara Labhart	1
Marc Johns	2
Becky Sparks-Thissen	2
Robert Nicholls	5
Scott Wylie	5
Tim Black	7
Alice McKinney	7
Jon Fuchs	9
Helen Sponseller	9
Cameron Cross	11
Deborah Meyer	12



Erin Carver	15
Kate McKinney	19
Brooke Campbell	21
Ashley McReynolds	21
Jackie Aldridge	22
Kerry Norvell	22
Melissa Whitler	22
Ryan Bassemier	24
Avery McDaniel	24
Eleanor LeGate	26
Winston Murphy	26
Cindy Shelton	26
Sarah Groves	27
Matt Qualls	28
Julie Langerak	30
Karla Uhde	31

June

Guy Crouch	Jun 2
Don Qualls	Jun 2
Bailey Rankin	Jun 2
Dick Bernhardt	Jun 5
Katelin Hills	Jun 5
Joy Pullen	Jun 7

Terri Dunsterville	Jun 9
Cathy Edrington	Jun 10
Andrew Korb	Jun 10
Sophia Henson	Jun 13
Max Haynie	Jun 14
Douglas Kirk	Jun 15
Charlie Sosinski	Jun 15
Lynne Thissen	Jun 16
Mary Beth McCandless	Jun 18
Katie Parker	Jun 18
Jacqueline Pennington	Jun 19
Wes Blalock	Jun 20
Mollie Foerster-Daniels	Jun 21
Tom Kohlmeyer	Jun 22
Bill Brubeck	Jun 23
Tom Boyle	Jun 24
Cydney Wathen	Jun 24
Paul Blaylock	Jun 25
Maxwell Carver	Jun 26
Sue Korb	Jun 26
Kathie Siegert	Jun 26
Tracy Shaw	Jun 30
Georgia Shaw-Pullen	Jun 30

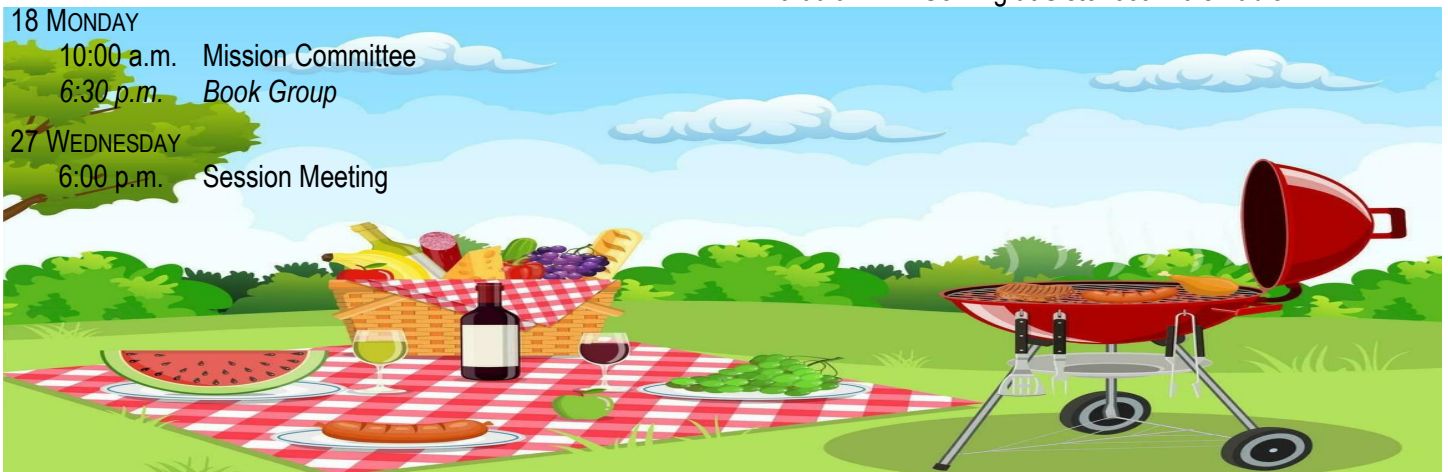
MAY

JUNE

- 1 FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. First Friday Concert: Nicholls/Truta
- 2 SATURDAY
12:00 p.m. Music Recognition BBQ @ Blaylock's
- 4 MONDAY
5:30 p.m. *EAGO Annual Meeting/Concert*
- 10 SUNDAY
6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 11 MONDAY
10:30 a.m. Feeding Mission at UCS
- 13 WEDNESDAY
5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 16 SATURDAY
1:30 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 17 SUNDAY
4:00 p.m. Spring Concert: *The Armed Man*

- 5 FRIDAY
7:00 p.m. First Friday Concert: Bri Alley
- 6 SATURDAY
12:00 p.m. First Light trip to Louisville (to 6/9)
- 8 MONDAY
10:30 a.m. Feeding Mission at UCS
6:30 p.m. *Book Group*
- 10 WEDNESDAY
5:30 p.m. Finance Committee
- 14 SUNDAY
9:30 a.m. Flute Rehearsal
11:30 a.m. Montreat Meeting
6:15 p.m. Evening Prayer
- 15 MONDAY
10:00 a.m. Mission Committee
- 20 SATURDAY
9:00 a.m. Serving at Sister Joanna's Table

- 18 MONDAY
10:00 a.m. Mission Committee
6:30 p.m. *Book Group*
- 27 WEDNESDAY
6:00 p.m. Session Meeting



WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAYS

- 8:30 a.m. Wide Awake Worship
- 9:30 a.m. Fellowship Time, Adult Sunday School, Choir Rehearsal (through 5/17), We Make the Road
- 10:30 a.m. Sanctuary Worship, Follow Me Time
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Hour
- 7:00 p.m. *Singing Resistance Evansville (through 6/7)*

MONDAYS

- 6:30 p.m. *NA Group*

TUESDAYS

- 11:30 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 5:45 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal (through 5/12)

WEDNESDAYS

- 7:00 a.m. Morning Prayer (through 5/27)
- 12:00 p.m. We Make the Road
- 1:00 p.m. *Little Lambs Store Open*
- 7:00 p.m. We Make the Road

THURSDAYS

- 4:00 p.m. Choir Beginners (through 5/14)
- 5:00 p.m. Chorister Rehearsal (through 5/14)
- 6:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal (through 5/14)

FRIDAYS

- Church Office Closed

SATURDAYS

- 10:00 a.m. *Little Lambs Store Open*

**Items in italics are non-FPC events*



609 SE Second Street, Evansville, Indiana
fpcevv.com



Karl Jenkins

The Choir School of
First Presbyterian Church presents

The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace

Sunday, May 17, 2026

3:30 p.m. pre-concert talk with Robert Nicholls
4:00 p.m. concert - reception following

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