



The Compass

November-
December 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspective from Previous Presidential Promotions of Providential Progress

Over eighty years ago on Christmas Day, 1943, soon after President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him Supreme Commander of Allied Expeditionary Force, General Dwight D. Eisenhower with Prime Minister Winston Churchill alongside senior British and American officers gathered among leadership together for the Allies in Europe during World War II. From humble beginnings in the U.S. heartland at the center of the North American continent, “Ike” served the people of this country along with other nations on earth, eventually serving as leader of the free world. A photograph with FDR (November 25, 1943, Cairo, Egypt) is shown here from the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas.

Upon subsequent service in various capacities following the end of WWII, including President of Columbia University and first Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Dwight David Eisenhower served two consecutive terms as President of the United States. An excerpt from his speech at the start of his administration, which he began with a personal prayer, is at times quoted for reflection on posterity.

“History does not long entrust the care of freedom to the weak or the timid.”

—Dwight D. Eisenhower, 34th President of the United States of America, First Inaugural Address, 1953

In a related excerpt, a verse from scripture in the New Testament comes to mind as the apostle Paul writes to Timothy with heartfelt encouragement to bear upon mentoring a beloved protégé in faith.

“For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.”

—2 Timothy 1:7 (NASB)

We in Christ have been given strength of courage in spirit to persist, persevere, and prevail through thick and thin, upon times of challenge and need, in plenty and in want, no matter come what may. At this season of Thanksgiving after celebrating All Saints’ and Reformation Day into Advent and Christmastide, may we continue moving forward in faith having such in mind, even as Paul preceded his remark above with these words written below over tears of joy and longing in recollection.

“For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well. For this reason, I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.”

—2 Timothy 1:5-6 (NASB)

As ones who are accompanied by holy love and spiritual discipline with divine wisdom and power from on high, we are blessed to share blessings even more along with all the saints of our ancestors before us to continue keeping on keeping on keeping the faith. Thanks be to God.

Pastor Rex



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EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER VISITS



Rev. Dr. Erin McGee (left), the Transitional Lead Presbyter of the Whitewater Valley Presbytery, recently filled the pulpit and enjoyed fellowship with our congregation following worship. *Photo by Claire Smith.*

PW FEATURES BUSINESS SPEAKER



The recent Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering featured speaker, Hannah Long (left), a local business woman and entrepreneur. She and her husband started Bizy Dips Bakery and Coffee Shop in 2020. The Longs train their 20 employees to be kind and to give quality service to their customers. Hanna hopes her business continues to grow while she serves God. *Photo by Claire Smith.*

RALLY SUNDAY ENJOYMENT

The annual tradition of kicking off the new Sunday school year continued this year with the popular sack luncheon enjoyed by all in attendance. *Photo by Claire Smith.*





Condolences are extended to the family and friends of **Debbie Ford**; member of FPC Portland for nearly 43 years. Debbie passed away on August 30.

Stewardship Sunday is November 16

*Please turn your 2026
Pledge Cards in to the office
before that date.*

*If you have not received your pledge
card in the mail, or need a replace-
ment card, please contact the church
office. Please prayerfully consider this
year's pledge in support of your
church.*



**Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday morning, November 2.
Don't forget to set your clocks back one
hour before retiring
Saturday night.**

2025 PLEDGE PAYMENTS

Contributions for the 2025 tax filing year must be postmarked or delivered to the church office by December 31, 2025 in order to appear on your 2025 Contribution Statement.

We appreciate the faithful stewardship displayed by our church members once again this year. May God continue to bless you in 2026!



November

02	Jenny Stout
12	Wil Goodrich
14	John Engle
19	Katherine Byrum
30	Mary McCord

December

05	Morgan Trinidad
09	Jennifer Rupe
11	Reid Knuth
	Pete Vogler
18	Carley Trinidad
19	Rachelle Boolman
24	Pastor Rex
25	Nati Espiritu
31	Vivian Morehous

Hanging of the Greens



Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 23 following the morning services. Once again this year, the Deacons are asking everyone to participate in this exciting time of fellowship and decorating the church for the Christmas season.

If you plan on participating in the Hanging of the Greens, you are encouraged to dress casually. A light luncheon will be served following this event.

REMEMBERING THE SAINTS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

All Saints' Day-November 1

Debbie Ford

Joined FPC - November 3, 1982

Passed Away - August 20, 2025

Becca James

Joined FPC - September 11, 2005

Passed Away - April 13, 2025

BREAD OF LIFE MEAL

The next Bread of Life Community Dinner First Presbyterian Church will host is on Monday, December 29.

If you want to help serve or if you would like to provide some of the food, please contact Julia Schwomeyer at 726.4761 or call the church office at 726.8462.



thank you

"Thank you Church Family for all of your support upon the death of my Mother."

-Donna Haggenjos

THANKSGIVING DINNER ITEMS NEEDED

Once again, our church has been asked to provide the ingredients for turkey dressing for the upcoming Community Thanksgiving Dinner. Items needed include loaves of bread, celery, eggs, and large cans of chicken broth. If you would like to provide donated items, please call the church office at 260.726.8462. You will then be given instructions on where and when to deliver your donated items.

The dinner will once again be held in the Asbury United Methodist Church dining hall, 204 East Arch Street. The dinner will be held on Thanksgiving Day, November 27 at 1:00pm. For those who are homebound, have a special need, or need transportation to Asbury for the meal, please call 260.726.8464.



CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING

**Congregational
Meeting to vote
on 2026 Slate of
Officers**

**Sunday,
December 14,
2025**

following Worship

**Please plan on
attending!**



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Collected at First Presbyterian Church on December 21



CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Eric Rogers, Christmas Eve Service Coordinator

First Presbyterian Church will continue its long tradition of celebrating the birth of the Christ Child with a Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols on the evening of Wednesday, December 24th. The service will include readings from the Old and New Testaments, a brief message from Pastor Rex, carols, anthems, hymns, and instrumental music. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

And yes, we want you to join us on Christmas Eve! If you will be in the area that night, please plan on attending. If you have friends or associates who do not already have a service to attend that evening, please ask them to be your guests and to sit with you. Advent and Christmas Eve are some of our best opportunities for bringing visitors through our doors or welcoming back long-absent members. Attending the Christmas Eve service with people who care about them can be especially helpful to those who are struggling with grief or loneliness.



How else can I help?

On Christmas Eve we will need acolytes, greeters, nursery care, as well as help with lights and sound. We could also use help in getting the word out about the service. If you are willing to assist with one of these responsibilities, please contact Barbara and she will either 'sign you up' or put you in touch with the appropriate committee chair.

In addition, we need singers! If you would like to sing with our Christmas Eve choir, please know that you will be welcomed with enthusiasm - no experience required. It's a short time commitment with Christmas Eve choir rehearsals scheduled for four Mondays at 5:30 p.m. beginning December 1st. Please contact Eric Rogers at 260-726-0717 or ericrogers52@gmail.com if you have questions or just show up for the first rehearsal.

We also need help recruiting singers from beyond our Church. Do you know someone without a church who loves to sing? An invitation from you could be all that's required to gain a new chorister who will undoubtedly thank you for being included.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Phone: 260.726.8462

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<http://www.firstpcportland.org>

Our Vision Statement

"To provide a ministry which will lead
people to strengthen their faith in Jesus
Christ and reach out with God's love."



CALENDAR



November

- 01 All Saints' Day
1:00pm Debbie Ford Memorial Service
- 02 Daylight Saving Time Ends
Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 05 10:00am Presbytery Meeting-2nd Presbyterian
Church, Indianapolis
- 11 6:30pm Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 13 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal
- 16 Stewardship Sunday/Choir Sings
- 23 Hanging of the Greens
- 26 Church Office Closed
- 27 Thanksgiving Day-Church Office Closed
- 30 1st Sunday of Advent

December

- 01 9:00am Newsletter Deadline
5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal
- 03 Church Office Closed
- 07 2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 08 5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal
- 09 6:30pm Session Meeting
- 14 **3rd Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant**
Congregational Meeting
- 15 5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal
- 18 5:30pm Choir Rehearsal
- 21 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Joy Offering
- 22 5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Rehearsal
- 24 Church Office Closed
7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 25 Christmas Day-Church Office Closed

Church Office hours:
Monday-Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm
Closed on Friday

Sunday Morning Worship 9:30am