



The Compass

March-April 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspective on Shining Skies upon Winter Waters

As we experience March to April from winter into spring through the lengthening Lenten days onto Eastertide, pictures of a sunlit frozen lakeside under cloud cover come to mind while I am reminded of the psalmist David’s proclamation.

*“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”*

—Psalm 19:1 (NIV)

In times past, driving on the road with undeterred determination toward our scheduled destinations, my traveling partner would in our earlier holidays together often make notice of various opportunities to stop en-route suggesting we might pull aside to take in the sights after we had passed by whatever vivid vistas were already behind us. Later in life’s journeys, I learned to better anticipate such things ahead when to our surprise I would find us slowing down to enter these sites for visitors to take time for touring and sightseeing as welcome interruptions along the way.



This memory resurfaced as I recently mentioned in passing what a beautiful view there was to be held by the lake which we were near to as the partner of the loved one driving suggested we might pause so that I could take a minute to photograph the lovely scene with bright rays of light breaking through white clouds over the icy snow laden blue liquid below.

Living life can lead to some significant mementos of treasured timely spaces gathered as precious gifts to remember by which we are blessed to recall with dearly beloved ones among us. Do not miss them. Let us aim to provide these holy moments for one another to recount with fond reminiscence the Lord’s blessings bestowed unto us.

For the glory of the resurrection and the life, with you, I abide

Pastor Rex

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PIPE ORGAN MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR PROJECT

By Eric Rogers

If you were in the sanctuary during the last week of November, you may have noticed technicians removing and reinstalling pipes from the organ. This was a part of the largest instrumental maintenance project of the Worship and Music Committee in 2023. The project included repairing the pipe organ and providing a better environment to protect the instrument and maintain its tuning. This was the first major work performed on our pipe organ since 1996. The results of the project were pleasing and have made several ranks of the organ usable again, providing an instrument that can better support our worship services.

To learn more about the history of our church's pipe organ and the repairs and the work performed on it last fall read the annual report from the Worship and Music Committee that was presented at the annual congregational meeting. If you didn't pick up a copy, they are still available, or Barbara Cortner can send you an electronic version of the committee's report.



PROFESSIONAL MUSICIANS VISIT FIRST PRES

Andrei Muravev, friend of First Presbyterian Church, and his wife, Polina Borisova, recently visited our congregation and provided special music during the worship service.

Andrei is a professional bassoonist and Polina is a professional violinist. Photo by Claire Smith.

BREAD OF LIFE MEAL

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



PW Spring Gathering
Saturday, April 27@ 10:00am



MARCH

- 01 Emily Goodrich
- Gracelyn Runkle
- 06 Debbie Ford
- Tristan Rodden
- 10 Mark Haggens
- 19 Rafael Haggens
- Shauna Runkle
- 23 Emma Rodden
- Julia Schwomeyer
- 29 George Hyatt

APRIL

- 01 Heather Ayers
- 15 Fran Austin
- 17 Trenton Franks
- Michael Nixon
- Ryan Nixon
- 18 Julisa Antonia
- Meranda Teeter
- 28 Rachel Benirschke
- 30 Carol Green



**Maundy
Thursday**

*Communion
&
Tenebrae
March 28
7:30pm*



March 29

12:00 noon

*@ Asbury United Methodist
204 East Arch Street*

*Pastor Rex will deliver the
Good Friday message.*

**Daylight Saving Time Begins
Sunday, March 10**

Remember to set your
clocks **forward**
one hour
before retiring
Saturday night.



*March 31
9:30am
Worship &
Communion*



Monday, April 8



Condolences are extended to the family and friends of **Vecil Heniser**; member of FPC Portland for 62 years. Vecil passed away on January 4.



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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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



March

- 03 3rd Sunday in Lent/Communion/
Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 07 4:00pm Worship & Music Comm. Meeting
5:30pm Choir Practice
- 10 **Daylight Saving Time Begins**
4th Sunday in Lent/Choir Sings
- 11 3:00pm Foundation Meeting
- 17 5th Sunday in Lent
- 19 First Day of Spring
6:30pm Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 24 Palm Sunday
- 28 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Service
- 29 12:00noon Good Friday Service @ Asbury
Methodist Church
- 31 Easter/Communion
One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

April

- 07 Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 08 Church Office Closed
- 09 6:30pm Session Meeting
- 11 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 14 Choir Sings
- 15 9:00am Newsletter Deadline
- 27 10am PW Spring Gathering
- 29 Bread of Life Community Meal

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

**Sunday Morning Worship 9:30am
in person & via Facebook**