



The Compass

September-
October 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspective on Plights and Pilgrimages of Peoples Pictured through Prophetic Passages

“Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.” (Isaiah 40:31a)

There is a painting at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City that reminds me of treasured times traveling with my late beloved wife Melissa. We would get away from the fast-paced crowded business surroundings of my previous corporate and collegiate places of work and study a lifetime ago in Manhattan’s massive metropolis, going beyond Boston, Massachusetts near where we spent our honeymoon at a bed and breakfast in Chatham on Cape Cod, journeying to Maine’s northern New England continental coastline down-east along North America’s easternmost U.S. shores beside the majestic North Atlantic.

As a couple of newlywed young urban professional adults, we enjoyed driving by the sea together visiting lighthouses along the coast between Portsmouth and past Portland taking time for sightseeing en route and sampling seafood fare at midday repast and/or fine evening dining here and there. Even with the ocean’s waves dashing upon the jagged deep-sea edges of some rocky terrain or through the rhythmic ebb and flow of tidal waters bringing onto beautiful beaches a refreshing reshaping of wet sandy paths for our and others’ feet to wistfully wade into over and over again leaving fleeting impressions that would nonetheless stay forever in our vivid reimagined memories, we still also encountered some idyllic bucolic settings graced by stunning sunsets over the expanse across fields of golden straw while strolling with the wind whistling our wants, wishes, and wiles away. The pictured piece referred to earlier here is entitled *Christina’s World* (1948) by the artist Andrew Wyeth.



As narrated via MoMA’s website app, “Andrew Wyeth’s favorite subjects were the land and people around him. He spent his summers in Maine, where he lived near Christina Olson, the woman who inspired this painting. Christina suffered from a neuromuscular disease and eventually lost the ability to walk.”¹ “One day he looked out the window and saw her crawling across a field picking blueberries, and he was inspired to paint the scene he was seeing.”² “He really was concentrating on the field to show how lost she feels and how hard it is for her to crawl across the field to her home.”³ “And he worked very carefully in the tempera technique to outline each blade of this straw. He even thought of the buildings in the back sort of as an after-thought; he worked on those much later.”⁴

“In a 1953 letter to Alfred Barr, the first director of The Museum of Modern Art, Wyeth explained:”⁵ “*The challenge to me was to do justice to her extraordinary conquest of a life which most people would consider hopeless. If in some small way I have been able in paint to make the viewer sense that her world may be limited physically but by no means spiritually, then I have achieved what I set out to do.*”⁶ Our spiritual imagination(s) can be sparked by even the most mundane material matters around us when faced with dire circumstances amidst abjectly adverse and sordid situations. The prophet in Isaiah (30:20-21) remarks, “*Although the Lord gives you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, your teachers will be hidden no more; with your own eyes you will see them. Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’*” No matter come what may after summer into fall upon the autumn season of our lives, the Lord is more than able to carry and see us through. Therefore, take heart, dear ones. As Christ has overcome the world, we by the Spirit of Jesus shall overcome.

In the name above all names of the faithful One unto whom we fix our eyes, we persevere

Pastor Rex

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¹Narrator, [moma.org/audio/playlist/172/2279](https://www.moma.org/audio/playlist/172/2279)

²Kathy Curry, Assistant Curator, [moma.org/audio/playlist/172/2279](https://www.moma.org/audio/playlist/172/2279)

³ibid.

⁴ibid.

⁵Narrator, [moma.org/audio/playlist/172/2279](https://www.moma.org/audio/playlist/172/2279)

⁶Andrew Wyeth, artist



- ◆ Rally Sunday is September 11
- ◆ Worship @ 9:30am
- ◆ Sack Lunches will be provided for everyone
- ◆ Sunday School @ 10:45am
- ◆ Adult Sunday School Class teachers:
Pete Vogler & Tom Dunn
- ◆ Youth Sunday School Class teachers:
Debbie Ford & Sarona Goodrich
- ◆ Youth meets during Worship following the
Children's Message & also at 10:45am

WELCOME TO ADVENTURE ISLAND

Beginning with Rally Sunday on September 11 and continuing for five consecutive Sundays, the K-8 Sunday School Class will discover Adventure Island: Quest for God's Great Light.

The class will learn about:

- ◆ The Creation Story: Love
- ◆ Moses and the Burning Bush: Trust
- ◆ Faith Through the Roof: Faith
- ◆ The "Lost" Parables: Joy
- ◆ Mary at the Tomb: Hope

Even after the initial five Sundays, the Adventure Island theme will continue throughout the Sunday School year and will feature lots of games and adventures with an island theme.



Insert Rally Sunday
Adventure Island
Photo Here

We were going to give you a sneak preview of Rally Sunday's Adventure Island (above photo), but decided to surprise you on September 11. We can't wait for you to see it for yourself!



PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

*Peace & Global
Witness Special
Offering to be
collected Sunday,
October 2.*

BREAD OF LIFE

The next Bread of Life Community Dinner First Presbyterian Church will host is on

Monday, October 31.

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.



IN MEMORIAM

Condolences are extended to the family and friends of **John B. Goodrich**; member of FPC Portland for 63 years. John passed away on July 12.



September

- 02 Alice King
- 03 Madeline Benirschke
- 06 Tonya Hyatt
- 08 Vecil Heniser
- 09 Jordan Rodden
- Daniel Scott
- 10 Chris Ford
- 12 Maria Hiatt
- 14 Harry Scott
- 21 Claire Smith
- 27 Sue Dunn
- 29 Stan Gockel

October

- 01 Adam Nixon
- Sydney Nixon
- 02 Janice Calhoun
- 04 Carrie Byrum
- 05 Tom Dunn
- 06 Linda Frantz
- Pam Rogers
- 14 Ivy Trinidad
- 17 Janet Barrett
- 29 Lisa Vogler
- 31 Lorna Snyder

LABOR DAY



Church Office will be closed
Monday, September 5 &
Tuesday, September 6

PW FALL GATHERING PLANNED

Presbyterian Women will be meeting on Saturday, October 8 at 10:00am to celebrate their annual Fall Gathering.

The program will feature local vocalist, Erika Frazee, who began singing at church when she was four years old. She currently leads the Praise Team at her church and assists with the children's music program.

Mark your calendars now and bring your friends.





**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

402 North Ship Street
Portland IN 47371

Phone: 260.726.8462

<mailto:office@firstpcportland.org>

<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.”



September

- 04 Communion
- 05 Labor Day-Office Closed
- 06 Office Closed
4:00pm Foundation Meeting
- 08 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 11 Rally Sunday
9:00am Choir Practice
Budget Requests Due
- 13 6:30pm Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 22 First Day of Autumn
5:30pm Choir Practice
- 23 9:00am Choir Practice

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


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

CALENDAR



October

- 02 World Communion Sunday
Peace & Global Witness Offering Collected
Communion
- 05 4:00pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting
- 08 10:00am PW Fall Gathering
- 11 6:45pm Session Meeting
- 22 First Presbyterian Church 150th Anniversary
- 27 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 30 Worship & Music Recognition Sunday
9:00am Choir Practice
- 31 Bread of Life Community Meal



October 22 marks the **150th anniversary** of the founding of First Presbyterian Church, Portland, Indiana. Throughout the coming year, we will be celebrating the past, present and future of our church. Watch for details and join in the celebration.