



The Compass

May-June 2025

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspective in the Seasons of Easter into Pentecost and Beyond

Contemplating the life of Jesus during the events of Holy Week from the Passion of the Christ in and through the season of Easter toward past Pentecost, I am reminded of the centrality of the resurrection in our experiential journey of faith. My memories from childhood and youthful adolescence resurface with lyrical remembrances echoing “Every morning is Easter morning from now on... Every day’s resurrection day, the past is over and gone.”

Commentaries of biblical and theological scholars tell us that the Christ event encompassing the crucifixion and resurrection is at the very center of faithful Christian witness. We are to live out our days in the light of the resurrection and the life upon every day of being blessed to be a blessing unto, around, for, and with others. Throughout the ins and outs of our daily lives, we are called to be as Christ to one another. This was resonant in my mind on my way to see some colleagues for a reunion gathering in the previous month.

At the heart of what could be termed as being among the most prominent global financial and news publishing capitals in the world is one quintessential New Yorker’s main point of northern state transport centered upon midtown Manhattan’s traffic hub for mega metropolitan hustle and bustle commuter rail activity. In a recent city visit with friends from college days, I was taken once again by the grandeur of surroundings inside Grand Central Terminal. This was the site of my regular weekday commute to work after commencement as a newly graduated and degreed professional employee of a major corporation. The main station for Metro North has many pathways that begin and end into and out of the city that never sleeps.

In the Johannine book of Revelation (5:6a) we read from the NIV’s translation a prophetic vision:

“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders.”

The geography and topology of a place can figure significantly in forming the inherent grounded meaning for a location and its surrounding activities toward posterity. The position of a person and the shape of their life’s witness can likewise affect the eternal importance of an others’ experience and actions around them that can impact their effect on all humanity in perpetuity.

May the resurrection and the life of the risen Christ be ever more made manifest in our lives and the lives of loved ones among us for the glory of God in the power and presence of the Holy Spirit, always

Pastor Rex



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¹*Every Morning is Easter Morning* by Donald S. Marsh and Richard K. Avery © 1972 Hope Publishing Company (written as Presbyterian pastors in Hudson River Presbytery)

EASTER AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

This year's Easter service featured a beautifully decorated sanctuary, Easter Communion, and a lovely special Easter Cookies, Coffee, & Conversation hosted by Mark & Donna Haggengjos. Friends, family, and members gathered together to celebrate the risen Lord and to enjoy time spent in each others company. Thanks to everyone who made this year's service so special.



All Easter Photos by Claire Smith.



EASTER AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (Cont.)



A CHOIRED TASTE CONCERT MAY 6

By Eric Rogers

The members and organizers of *A Choired Taste* are looking forward with excitement to the group's concert on May 6th at 7 p.m. The chorus has grown to 23 singers, the largest number since its founding in 2017. Not surprisingly, Presbyterians are well-represented, including Pastor Rex Espiritu, David Loyd, Jennifer Rupe, Gloria Green, Pam Rogers, Julia Schwomeyer, and Claire Smith singing, Eric Rogers directing, and Pete Vogler playing the flute and snare drums.

A Choired Taste will perform a varied program at the free concert, including American, Irish, and Scottish folk songs, as well as contemporary secular and sacred music.

First Presbyterian Church is sponsoring the *A Choired Taste* concert as a part of our community outreach efforts. We hope the event will draw a large audience including people unfamiliar with our church, occasional visitors, and, of course, a great turnout from our congregation. We hope to demonstrate to the community that *First Presbyterian* is a welcoming place. You can help support our goal and our *Church's* mission by attending and by inviting your friends to the concert. If you see someone you don't know that night, please introduce yourself!

The Pentecost Offering supports our ministries with children and youth.

Pentecost Offering collected June 8

When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot!

 **PENTECOST**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

PW TO PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Life can be challenging and even difficult for believers today. Understanding the background and the meaning of the Armor of God in Ephesians enables Christians to fully prepare for spiritual battle. You CAN live victoriously!

Join presenter, Deb Johnson, on Saturday, May 3 at 10:00am for the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering. Everyone, men included, are invited to attend. Brunch will be followed by Ms. Johnson's presentation.

DEACON NOTES

By Linda Frantz

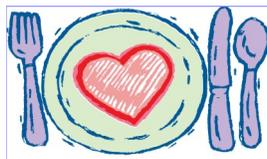
Our friend, Janet Barrett, asked me to thank all the participants in the Service of Tenebrae: Tom Dunn, Dennis Ford, Linda Frantz, Donna Haggengjos, Meg Mauger, Eric Rogers, Pam Rogers, and Eric Trinidad.

Also, if anyone would like to serve cookies after church, we have June 1 and July 6 available. Please see me if you are interested.

BREAD OF LIFE MEAL

The next Bread of Life Community Dinner First Presbyterian Church will host is on Monday, June 30.

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.




CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED

**The Church Office
will be closed on the following days
Wednesday, May 21 & Thursday, May 22
Monday, May 26 (Memorial Day)
through Thursday, May 29
Monday, June 16**

A PIPER OF PRAISE



On Sunday, March 16, in celebration of St. Patrick's Day along with our Presbyterian connections to Scotland, Reid Knuth shared his gift of bagpiping with the congregation. Reid played several traditional Scottish tunes and hymns while kitted out in Highland attire complete with sporrans and Glengarry headgear. *Photo by Claire Smith.*

THE ANNUAL INSTALLATION OF DEACONS AND ELDERS took place the second Sunday in January. Thank you to all our Deacons and Elders for all their service. *Photo by Claire Smith.*



**A CHOIR TASTE
COMMUNITY CHOIR
IN CONCERT**

**Tuesday, May 6, 2025
7:00pm
First Presbyterian Church
FREE ADMISSION**



May

- 04 Eric Rogers
- 05 Emiley Bailey
Joey Bailey
- 08 Jay Goodrich
- 09 Reny Lingo
- 14 Joey Knuth
- 15 Jim Runkle
- 17 Theodore Scott
- 19 Audi Ford Cayetano
- 28 Cassandra Byrum
- 29 Eliza Hyatt
- 31 Lee Haggengjos

June

- 07 Dave Hyatt
- 16 Stacy Lingo
Barbara Cortner
- 21 Joanna Knuth
Christina Myers
- 26 Bob Morehous



Condolences are extended to the family and friends of **Rebecca James** member of FPC Portland for 20 years. Becca passed away on April 13.



**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



May

- 03 Presbytery Meeting
10:00am PW Spring Gathering
- 04 Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 05 5:30pm A Choired Taste Rehearsal
- 06 7:00pm A Choired Taste Concert**
- 11 Mother's Day
- 13 6:30pm Joint Deacons/Session Meeting
6:45pm Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 18 Christian Education Sunday
- 21-22 Church Office Closed
- 26 Memorial Day-Church Office Closed
- 27 Church Office Closed
- 28 Church Office Closed
4:15pm Worship & Music Comm. Meeting
- 29 Church Office Closed

June

- 01 Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 03 2:00pm Foundation Meeting
- 08 Day of Pentecost/Pentecost Offering
- 15 Father's Day
- 16 Church Office Closed
- 20 First Day of Summer
- 30 Bread of Life Community Meal



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

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