



The Compass

November-
December 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspective on Northern Lights and Night Skies in View of Flight

Flying west after an overnight east somewhere over Pennsylvania from Philadelphia, the pilot announced the appearance of colors in the atmosphere rendered visible within passengers' views to the right of the aircraft. The northward looking vantage point gazing outside my window seat provided a shimmering spectacle show with dazzling displays of lights upon projecting ionized particles energized in electromagnetic fields cast upon the solar winds originating beyond exospheric environs in space. What could likewise be described as curtains of color-filled ripples streaming arcs above unclouded vistas of lighted cities below made for this viewer's sights through the lens an astounding experience of pure joy and childlike delight at the holy wonder of the sheer surrounding creation.



"The northern lights, also known as the aurora borealis, are a natural light show that appears in the night sky as a colorful display of dancing light."

—AI Overview, Google

Reflections come to mind while freely traversing at liberty's bell ringing in one's imagination on the ground. Under cover of night via inflight insight coming to bear on pre-election wanderings as our present experiment of democracy flies into the face of this next quarter century's foray inside the new millennium's milieu of global affairs and its accompanying challenges being represented for renewed consideration, the plight of prayerful intercession becomes even more so necessarily to be observed in stark relief for recovery and reconciliatory efforts toward effecting desirable outcomes affecting varied aspects of masses' awareness of true freedom and hoped for well-being in the world, whether wanted or not.

"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

—John 8:32 (NRSV)

In advent of the resurrection and the life borne anew, with you, I continue

Pastor Rex

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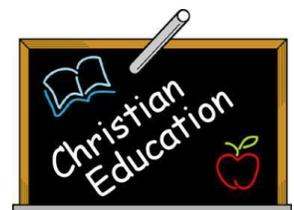


Rally SUNDAY

RALLY SUNDAY RECAP

Rally Sunday 2024 began with the Bible presentation to our third grader, Ivy, by Christian Education Chair, Jenny Stout. After worship, the Christian Ed Committee organized a sack lunch for everyone attending.

After lunch, the youth began their new curriculum "The Life of Jesus." Everyone is looking forward to another year of Christian Education. Photos by Claire Smith.



Continued on Page 3



Rally Sunday found our youth studying the "Life of Jesus" led by teachers, Debbie Ford & Sarona Goodrich. Photos by Sarona Goodrich.



FPC BIDS FAREWELL TO SUZIE

Recently, the church deacons hosted a Farewell reception for member Suzie Arnold who will be moving to Michigan in the near future. Many of Suzie's family gathered with her church family to give their best wishes as she prepares to leave the community. She will be missed by all of her First Presbyterian Church family. Photos by Claire Smith.

GOODBYE



PW CELEBRATES FALL ART



During the recent Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering, Kathy Ayers, church members and retired Jay Schools art teacher, taught the group step by step using acrylic paints to create a fall leaf masterpiece which they were all able to take home. Brunch was also shared and enjoyed. Photos by Claire Smith.



A VISIT FROM TIMBER

Timber, a Weimaraner owned by Dennis & Debbie Ford, recently spent Sunday at FPC.

Timber assisted Dennis in delivering a Children's Message during Worship followed by a visit to the youth Sunday school class. Photo by Dennis Ford.

Editor's Note: It is the policy of "The Compass" to refrain from publishing names of children pictured in order to protect their privacy and identity since our newsletter is published on the church website. Adults may be identified in certain circumstances.



Condolences are extended to the family and friends of **Harry Scott**; member of FPC Portland for 45 years. Harry passed away on August 20.

Stewardship Sunday is November 24

*Please turn your 2025
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 3.
Don't forget to set your clocks back one
hour before retiring
Saturday night.**

2024 PLEDGE PAYMENTS

Contributions for the 2024 tax filing year must be postmarked or delivered to the church office by December 31, 2024 in order to appear on your 2024 Contribution Statement.

We appreciate the faithful stewardship displayed by our church members once again this year. May God continue to bless you in 2025!



November

- 02 Jenny Stout
- 12 Wil Goodrich
- 14 John Engle
- 19 Katherine Byrum
- 22 Matt McCord
- 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

Hangin' of the Greens



Hangin' of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 24 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 Hangin' 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

Vecil Heniser

Joined FPC - March 30, 1961

Passed Away - January 4, 2024

Harry Scott

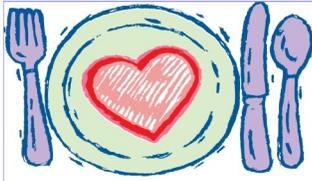
Joined FPC - March 7, 1979

Passed Away - August 20, 2024

BREAD OF LIFE MEAL

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



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 28 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.



**CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED**

Tuesday, November 26 -
Thursday, November 28
Tuesday, December 24 -
Thursday, December 26



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

**Congregational
Meeting to vote
on 2025 Slate of
Officers**

**Sunday,
December 15,
2024**

following Worship

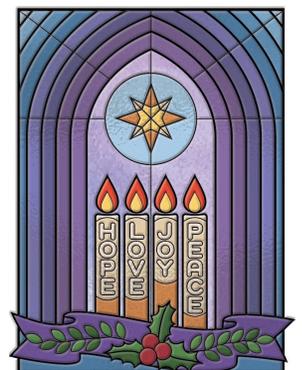
**Please plan on
attending!**



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Collected at First Presbyterian Church on December 22



CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Eric Rogers, Christmas Eve Service Coordinator

Our Church will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with our annual service of lessons and carols on Tuesday, December 24th at 7:00 p.m. 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.

We need singers!

If you have ever considered singing in our choir, the Christmas Eve service is the perfect opportunity to start or return. It's a short commitment of time with Christmas Eve choir rehearsals scheduled for four Mondays at 5:30 p.m. beginning December 2nd.

Please contact Eric Rogers at 260-726-0717 or ericrogers52@gmail.com if you have questions or just show up for the first rehearsal.



And we need your help recruiting singers from beyond our Church! The number of choir members within our Church has decreased as our congregation has become smaller. Happily, each year our Christmas Eve choir welcomes guests into its ranks. **We need more of them in 2024.** Do you know someone without a church who loves to sing? Inviting a friend to join our Christmas Eve choir could be a double blessing - one for that person and another for the service. No audition is required. If there are questions or concerns, Eric can answer them.

Not a singer? Your help is still needed! The Christmas Eve service works better with more volunteers. We need acolytes, greeters, nursery care givers, and other helpers. Please contact Barbara Cortner (260-726-8462 or office@firstpcportland.org). She will put you in touch with the appropriate committee chair.

Invite a friend or associate to come with you to the service: Christmas Eve is one of our best opportunities for bringing a visitor through our doors or welcoming back a member who has stopped attending. The Christmas season can be a difficult time for those who are dealing with a loss or personal crisis. You could make a difference for such individuals by inviting them to attend with you. People new to our Church may also feel self-conscious about their unfamiliarity with our Church and sitting with you can help. Remember that a visitor who had a good experience with our service may also come back.

And please don't forget our members who no longer attend First Presbyterian Church. Your invitation to join you at the service could help reconnect this individual with our Church.



**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.”



CALENDAR



November

- 01 All Saints' Day
- 03 Daylight Saving Time Ends
Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 06 10:00am Presbytery Meeting @ Faith
Presbyterian Church, Indianapolis
- 07 4:15pm Worship & Music Comm. Mtg.
5:30pm Choir Practice
- 10 Choir Sings during Worship
- 12 6:30pm Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 24 Stewardship Sunday
Hanging of the Greens
- 26-28 Church Office Closed
- 28 Thanksgiving Day

December

- 01 1st Sunday of Advent
Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 02 9:00am Newsletter Deadline
5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir practice
- 05 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 08 2nd Sunday of Advent/Choir Sings
- 09 5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Practice
- 10 6:30pm Session Meeting
- 15 3rd Sunday of Advent/Christmas Pageant
Congregational Meeting
- 16 5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Practice
- 22 4th Sunday of Advent/Christmas Joy Offering
- 23 5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Practice
- 24 7:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 24-26 Church Office Closed
- 29 Guest Preacher: Samuel Frost
- 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**