



The Compass

November-
December 2022

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Sesquicentennial Reflection 2022-23

Giving Thanks for 150 Years — 150 Psalms over 150 Days

Celebrating the Word and Spirit in Daily Psalter and Weekly Wisdom

Monday—Saturday with Sundays at Sabbath Observed

Daily Devotional Readings: Five Psalms + One Proverb a Week for Thirty Weeks
from Reformation Day 2022 through Pentecost 2023

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, ...full of grace and truth.” —John 1:14 (NRSV)

As we devote ourselves anew to the Word of God who continually dwells in Spirit among us, filled with grace and truth, we embark on a new year in observance of 150 years here at Portland—First Presbyterian Church. Through sequentially sustained series of sesquicentennial reflection recurrently rendered in over 150 devotional days, we will endeavor by daily readings together to prayerfully contemplate the Word of the Lord. Indeed, grateful for God’s steadfast loving faithfulness unto us from the past century and a half into the new millennium, with thanksgiving, praise, and adoration, we celebrate our continuing journey in this time and place to the glory of God.

2022 OCT » NOV • DEC | SESQUICEN DEVOTIONAL

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30 Reformation	31 Hallows Eve Proverbs 1	01 All Saints Psalm 1	02 Psalm 2	03 Psalm 3	04 Psalm 4	05 Psalm 5
06 Proverbs 2	07 Psalm 6	08 Psalm 7	09 Psalm 8	10 Psalm 9	11 Psalm 10	12
13 Proverbs 3	14 Psalm 11	15 Psalm 12	16 Psalm 13	17 Psalm 14	18 Psalm 15	19
20 Reign of Christ Proverbs 4	21 Psalm 16	22 Psalm 17	23 Psalm 18	24 Thanksgiving Psalm 19	25 Psalm 20	26
27 Advent (1 st) Proverbs 5	28 Psalm 21	29 Psalm 22	30 Psalm 23	01 Psalm 24	02 Psalm 25	03
04 Advent (2 nd) Proverbs 6	05 Psalm 26	06 Psalm 27	07 Psalm 28	08 Psalm 29	09 Psalm 30	10
11 Advent (3 rd) Proverbs 7	12 Psalm 31	13 Psalm 32	14 Psalm 33	15 Psalm 34	16 Psalm 35	17
18 Advent (4 th) Proverbs 8	19 Psalm 36	20 Psalm 37	21 Psalm 38	22 Psalm 39	23 Christmas Eve Psalm 40	24
25 Christmas Proverbs 9	26 Psalm 41	27 Psalm 42	28 Psalm 43	29 Psalm 44	30 Psalm 45	31

In a covenant of prayer-filled devotion, we commit to our community of faith and commend one another in the Lord toward holy lection of piety via divine inspiration upon persistent providential petition with utmost gratitude for such season of opportunity in mission and ministry marked by joyful hope and ardent love in the light of life.

May we continue to bear witness alongside each other at weekly corporate worship, joining with others before us in providing renewed testimony to the praise of God’s glorious grace and peace in Christ. Ever with you at Advent and beyond the now and the not yet in ongoing pilgrimage and sabbath rest under the Sovereign One, I am and remain

Faithfully yours, abiding,

Pastor Rex

RALLY SUNDAY DISCOVERY ON ADVENTURE ISLAND

This year's Rally Sunday featured a tropical island theme complete with palm trees, lighthouse, golf course, games, and fishing pond. A sack lunch was provided to everyone attending the morning service compliments of the Christian Education Committee. The youth Sunday school curriculum theme of Discovery on Adventure Island follows a five week lesson study of learning about the Creation Story, Moses and the Burning Bush, Faith Through the Roof, the "Lost" Parables, and Mary at the Tomb. The lessons feature music videos with songs the youth will present during Sunday worship at a later date. The study encourages the students to "Arise! Shine! with Love, with Trust, with Faith, with Joy, and with Hope.

The island theme will continue through-out the Sunday school year. Thanks to the Christian Education committee (Debbie Ford, Sarona Goodrich, Gloria Green, Carolyn Scott, and Jenny Stout, chair) for creating such a special time of learning and fun for our youth.



Photos by Debbie Ford.





Pictured above (left) is the warm welcome students received when they stepped foot on Adventure Island. Also pictured above (right) are students enjoying craft time. Both photos by Debbie Ford. Pictured left are students enjoying their sack lunches together. Photo by Claire Smith.



Rally Sunday also featured a presentation of Bibles to our Third Graders. Pastor Rex & Christian Education Chair, Jenny Stout joyfully presented Bibles to Violet and Julisa. Photo by Claire Smith.



November

- 02 Jenny Stout
- 03 Abby Arnold Champ
- 08 Lynn Boolman
- 12 Wil Goodrich
- 14 John Engle
- 17 Lauren Runkle
- 19 Katherine Byrum
- 22 Matt McCord
- 25 Allison Byrum
- 30 Mary McCord

December

- 05 Derek Arnold
- 09 Morgan Trinidad
- 11 Jennifer Rupe
- 11 Reid Knuth
- 11 Pete Vogler
- 18 Carley Trinidad
- 19 Rachelle Boolman
- 24 Pastor Rex
- 31 Mim Ludy
- 31 Vivian Morehous

CHOIR NEWS

In September, our regular choir began singing on the second Sunday of the month. The choir will continue to convene on those Sundays through at least the end of December. Pete Vogler has kindly volunteered to direct the choir on those Sundays. The choir will rehearse at 5:30pm on the Thursday before the Second Sunday, and again for a short rehearsal at 9:00am just before "Choir Sunday." Anyone interested in singing is welcome to participate.



In addition to the regular choir, the Christmas Eve Choir will sing on December 24 (see separate article) and on Sunday, December 25, the Rodden family will sing at the service.

**REMEMBERING THE SAINTS
OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN**

All Saints' Day - November 1

John Young

*Joined FPC - April 18, 1943
Passed Away - February 25 2022*

John Goodrich

*Joined FPC - March 26, 1959
Passed Away - July 12, 2022*



**Daylight Saving Time Ends
Sunday morning, November 6.
Don't forget to set your clocks back
one hour before retiring
Saturday night.**

CHURCH MEMBER HONORED

First Presbyterian Church member, Meg Mauger, was recently spotlighted by Nextech website, an organization whose mission is to "create equitable access to computer science curriculum and experiences for all K-12 Indiana students." If you would like to read the entire article please visit this link [Meg's Story - Nextech](#) or type the following address in to your browser: <https://nextech.org/about/impact-stories/meg/> Congratulations, Meg!



**Stewardship Sunday is
November 20
Please turn your 2023
Pledge Cards in to the office
before that date.**

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.

For the first time since the pandemic, 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 24 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
will be held Sunday December 4
in order to approve the
Nominating Committee's
2023 Slate of Officers.*

NEWS FROM THE DEACONS

- ◇ Ushers/Greeters: If you are interested in giving a warm welcome to those attending Sunday morning worship, please contact Rachel Benirschke. Everyone can smile and say hello, so please volunteer!
- ◇ Cookies, Coffee & Conversation: The Deacons will be hosting this time of fellowship following morning worship on the 1st Sunday of each month. If you would like to help by bringing four dozen cookies, please let Maria Hiatt or Linda Frantz know. Everyone is so grateful that fellowship is resuming.
- ◇ Check out the Bulletin Board: Pam Rogers is filling the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall with lots of interesting news items about our church family. Stop by and take a look.

Hanging of the Greens



Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 20 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.

2022 PLEDGE PAYMENTS

Contributions for the 2022 tax filing year must be postmarked or delivered to the church office by December 31, 2022 in order to appear on your 2022 Contribution Statement.



We appreciate the faithful stewardship displayed by our church members once again this year. May God continue to bless you in 2023!


**CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED**

Wednesday & Thursday,
November 23-24;
Thursday, December 22;
Monday, December 26

A FOND FAREWELL TO JANET

First Presbyterian recently held a farewell gathering for well-loved member, Janet Barrett, upon her move to North Carolina to be near family. After the farewell, Janet wrote, "Dear Church Family-Thank you so much for the farewell gathering in August. A special thanks to Deb, Linda and Pam-the room and cake were decorated beautifully. I really appreciated all of the cards and personal notes in each one of them. You all mean so very much to me." Janet, you will be greatly missed by all your church family!



Photo by Mary McCord.





All farewell photos by Claire Smith.



HAGGENJOS BOOK PUBLISHED



First Presbyterian Church member, Donna Haggengjos, recently wrote and published a children's book entitled "Oaks, the Mighty Tree." The book was illustrated by Stephen McClung. Donna wishes to thank the church family for all their support. Photo by Claire Smith.

HAGGENJOS & WATSON ARE WED



On August 14, Lauren Haggengjos and Zachary Watson were married in Seattle, WA. The bride is the daughter of Dr. Mark and Donna Haggengjos. Photo submitted.

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.

BABY ARTURO WELCOMED



Lee and Stephanie Haggengos recently celebrated the birth of baby Arturo Wilson born in September. He was welcomed by his 2 1/2 year old brother, Rafael. Dr. Mark and Donna Haggengos are the children's grandparents. Photo submitted.



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

When we give
to the Christmas
Joy Offering,
we share our love
with the leaders
of our Church —
past, present
and future —
who point us
to God.

**First Presbyterian Church Portland
will collect the Christmas Joy
offering on December 18.**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CELEBRATE AUTUMN

Our church Presbyterian Women recently held its annual Fall Gathering with a brunch and a vocal program presented by local singer, Erika Frazee. Linda Frantz once again led the ladies in the devotion. The ladies also received a sneak-peak at the books purchased for the upcoming Christmas book gift project for the local preschoolers. Thanks to the PW leadership committee for another great gathering. Photo by Claire Smith.



CHRISTMAS EVE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By Eric Rogers, Christmas Eve Service Coordinator

First Presbyterian Church will celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with our Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. The Saturday, December 24 service will begin at 7:00p.m. and include carols, anthems, hymns, instrumental music, as well as readings from the Old and New Testaments, and a Christmas Reflection. The sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

All our Church family and friends are invited to help with the Christmas Eve service in one or more of the following ways:

Attend! The Christmas Eve service carries a simple, but powerful message that transcends all the glitter and commercialism surrounding the Christmas season.

Sing in the Christmas Eve Choir: Rehearsals for this special choir begin on Monday, November 28 at 5:30p.m. There will be four Monday rehearsals plus an abbreviated rehearsal on Christmas Eve before the service. You do not need to be a member of our regular choir to participate and you will be warmly welcomed. Eric Rogers will be at the organ and also direct the choir. Please contact Eric at 260-726-0717 or eprogers@embarqmail.com if you want to sing in the choir. This will help us know how many copies music to order.

Play in our handbell choir. If you can read music, we can use your help. Three or four rehearsals will be organized. Please contact Eric as soon as possible if you are interested.

Volunteer for another responsibility: We need acolytes, greeters, and other volunteers. Please contact Barbara Cortner (260-726-8462 or office@firstpcportland.org).

Do you know someone who sings but is un-churched? You could add joy to this individual's life with an invitation to participate in the Christmas Eve Choir. Please feel free to contact that individual and let her or him know about the rehearsals. If you think it will be helpful, Eric will be happy to follow up with the details for participating.

Invite someone to come with you to the service: Christmas Eve is one of our best opportunities to bring a visitor through our doors or welcome back a non-attending member.

Do you know an un-churched friend who may be dealing with loss, loneliness, or a personal crisis? The Christmas season can be especially difficult for such individuals. Your invitation may help someone reconnect and experience the peace and transformative power of God's healing love.

Are you a friend of a member who no longer attends First Presbyterian Church? Your invitation to join you at the service could help reconnect this individual with our Church. Imagine what might happen if each of us asked a former member who no longer attends church to join us for Christmas Eve.





**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
- 02 Presbytery Meeting
- 06 Daylight Saving Time Ends
Communion
Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 08 6:30pm Deacons Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 10 4:00pm Worship & Music Comm. Mtg
5:30pm Choir Practice
- 11 Veterans Day
- 20 **Stewardship Sunday**
Hanging of the Greens
- 23-24 Church Office Closed
- 24 **Thanksgiving Day**
- 27 1st Sunday of Advent
- 28 5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Practice

DECEMBER

- 04 2nd Sunday of Advent
Communion
Congregational Meeting
Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 05 4:00pm Foundation Meeting
5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Practice
- 08 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 11 3rd Sunday of Advent
Children's Pageant
- 12 9:00am Newsletter Deadline
5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Practice
- 13 **6:30pm Session Meeting**
- 18 4th Sunday of Advent
Christmas Joy Offering Collected
- 19 5:30pm Christmas Eve Choir Practice
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 22 Church Office Closed
- 24 **7:00pm Christmas Eve Service**
- 25 Christmas Day Service
- 26 Church Office Closed

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