



The Compass

May-June 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

Pastoral Perspectives through Generations of Justice and Peace

Amidst various recent news articles regarding current events on university campuses throughout the land, I came across an opinion piece evoking a sense of past times being brought into the present, renewing fervency in fields of feeling from, as one popular artist songwriter’s lyric puts it, “when I wore a younger man’s clothes.”⁽¹⁾ Upon reading it, I experienced memories during my junior year through undergraduate studies and life as a young adult surface, bringing scenic recollections adrift toward one among others pounding the bricks and lawns around College Walk over Columbia’s main campus at Morningside Heights on the island of Manhattan’s upper westside in New York City, suddenly suddenly coming to mind...

Speaking to the salient moment of today’s generation, I read with interest as an alumnus, columnist Lydia Polgreen’s account:

“Their tactics were a mild echo of those of an earlier generation of students, who effectively shut down the campus in April 1985 to demand that Columbia divest from South Africa — protests that were in turn an echo of the 1968 student takeover of the university amid the broad cultural rebellion against the Vietnam War.”⁽²⁾

The following verse from scripture revisits the academic psyche in this season’s zeitgeist:

“They are blessed who work for peace, for they will be called God’s children.”

—Matthew 5:9 (NCV)



A prior month’s photograph at the Carter Presidential Center while visiting dear friends and church members around Atlanta reminds me of our connectedness with people through generations before and after us in our struggle toward justice and peace for all peoples around this world that God so dearly loves. The zeal of the Lord of hosts shall accomplish this both in the now and the not yet of things still to come.

In Christ’s Peace, —Pastor Rex

⁽¹⁾Piano Man <https://www.billyjoel.com/song/piano-man-14/>

⁽²⁾<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/04/19/opinion/columbia-protests-israel-gaza-crackdown.html>

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE GETS A LIFT




Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday's Children's Message featured an indoor balloon launch. Dennis Ford, who gave the message, explained that Palm Sunday is a day of celebration when Jesus entered into Jerusalem accompanied by cheering crowds waving palm branches. To help illustrate the message the children were given balloons that had palm branches attached. They let go of their balloons in celebration as their praises lifted to heaven. *Photo top left by Claire Smith. Photo top right by Debbie Ford.*



NEW MEMBER WELCOMED

First Presbyterian recently welcomed its newest member, Natividad (Nati) Espiritu. Nati, who is Pastor Espiritu's mother, has been part of our congregation since Pastor Rex began filling our pulpit. Welcome, Nati! *Photo by Claire Smith.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CELEBRATES EASTER



He ⁺is Risen

Easter 2024 was again a joyous celebration at First Presbyterian Church. The sanctuary was filled with the fragrance of spring flowers purchased by members of the congregation. Following worship, those members gathered to claim their flowers. (photo left).

Also following worship, everyone gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a special time of Easter treats and fellowship. Photos by Claire Smith.

“I am coming to you.”

—JOHN 14:18b

Our church collects the Pentecost offering on May 19.



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

Uniting Presbyterians in support of young people sharing their faith, ideas and gifts with the Church and the world.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May

04 Eric Rogers
05 Emiley Bailey
Joey Bailey
08 Jay Goodrich
09 Reny Lingo
13 Emily Byrum
14 Joey Knuth
15 Jim Runkle
19 Audi Ford Cayetano
28 Cassandra Byrum
29 Eliza Hyatt
31 Lee Haggengos

June

02 Christian Runkle
04 Rachel Vogler
07 Dave Hyatt
16 Stacy Lingo
Barbara Cortner
21 Joanna Knuth
Christina Myers
26 Bob Morehous



Thursday, May 9
Wednesday, May 15
Monday, May 27-Thursday, May 30
Monday, June 17

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.

GREEN HONORED FOR CONSERVATION

First Presbyterian Church member Gloria Green was recently honored by the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD),

Gloria received the River Friendly Farmer award for her conservation stewardship and efforts on her land to protect Indiana's natural resources.

The Jay County Soil and Water conservation District nominated Gloria for the award based upon farm management practices that protect Indiana's rivers, lakes, and streams. Gloria has used her ground over the years to implement education programs for many people from preschool ages to adults.



Pictured above right is Gloria Green during the recent presentation. Photo by Sarona Goodrich.



PASTOR VISITS THE SCOTT'S

Recently, Pastor Rex took a trip to Georgia to visit our long-distance members, Harry and Carolyn Scott.

Pastor Rex shared with the Scott's our congregations warmest thoughts and prayers. Photo by Rex Espiritu.



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL SPREADS THE LOVE OF JESUS

Before each time our church hosts the Bread of Life community meal, the youth Sunday School class works to spread the good news and love of Jesus.

They affix labels to prepackaged utensils used at the meal. These labels have a positive loving scripture from the Bible intended to uplift each person who attends the meal. The youth class always looks forward to the times they get to spread the gospel message this way. Photo by Sarona Goodrich.



**FIRST
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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

- 01 Presbytery Meeting
- 05 Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation/
Choir Recognition Sunday
- 09 Church Office Closed
5:30pm Choir Practice
- 12 Mother's Day/Choir Sings
- 14 6:30pm Session/Deacons Joint Meeting
6:45pm Session Meeting
6:45pm Deacons Meeting
- 15 Church Office Closed
- 19 Day of Pentecost/ Pentecost Offering/
Christian Education Sunday
- 27 Memorial Day/Church Office Closed
- 28 Church Office Closed
- 29 Church Office Closed
- 30 Church Office Closed

June

- 02 Communion/Cookies, Coffee & Conversation
- 03 3:00pm Foundation Meeting
- 10 9:00am Newsletter Deadline
- 11 6:30pm Session Meeting
- 16 Father's Day
- 17 Church Office Closed

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

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