



First Word

News and Events of FPC

Vol. 14, No. 9; First Presbyterian Church; 215 East Lincoln; Goshen 46528; Phone 574/533-7845; December 2024-January 2025

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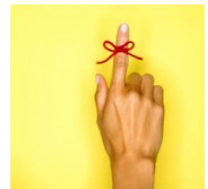
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THANKSGIVING DINNER at GOSHEN CITY CHURCH (214 South 5th Street): Served from 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Eat in or carry out.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 10:00 am – We'll be decorating the church for the Advent season and Christmas – all ages invited.

COMMUNION SUNDAY, December 1- FOOD PANTRY

DAY: Plan to bring your packaged goods or make a financial contribution to the Food Pantry. Suggestions for the Pantry: canned meat (beef, tuna, or chicken), vegetables, crackers and protein bars. You can use the red wagon in Hardie Hall to drop off your packaged goods.



FREE HOLIDAY CONCERT - CRIMSONAIRES – on Friday, December 6, 6:30 and 7:30 pm. If you are able to donate **3-4 dozen Christmas cookies**, there is a sign-up sheet on a table outside of the office. Thank you for delivering your baked cookies to the church on Thursday, December 5, 9:00 am-4:00 pm.

SMOCK SENIOR MINISTRIES—FUTURE EVENTS: March 2025 – Menno Hof and lunch in Shipshewana; May 2025 – Tulip Festival in Holland, MI; July 2025 – South Bend Cubs Baseball Game

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: The next 11-week series will begin on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 and continues (on Tuesdays) through March 25, 7:00-8:30 pm; 111 West Washington Street, Goshen. The leadership Team is Jenny Holbrook and Pastor Ken Weaver. No registration is necessary.

IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, there will be items on display in the downstairs youth area, **room #1**, from the basement under the Sanctuary. This area has been cleared and cleaned by Karen Mirer, Jeanne Potter, and Carol Beachy (thank you, ladies!!). Items were approved by Session on November 19, some for a minimum contribution to FPC, to give away, or donate. All items remaining on Sunday, December 15, will then be donated or be disposed of.

**** SESSION NOTES ****

Your Session met in person for a called meeting on Tuesday morning, November 19, 2024, the regular monthly meeting. During the meeting the Elders:

Received an inspiration from our Moderator Rev. Joel Moody– Mark 13:1-8. Temples – the church body or our own body is a temple. Where is our hope when your temple falls? With Jesus, he gives us hope when something fails.

Educational point – From the Book of Order – The Foundations of Presbyterian Polity Chapter 3 – Principles of Order and Government - God is Lord of the Conscience.

Received a report from our Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC).

The Deacons continue to contact their church groups monthly.

Received reports from all committees.

- Buildings and Grounds – Work to take down the chimney in Westminster building and other projects has begun. The Fall Work Day was successful.

- Christian Education – Understanding Your Grief – the fall session is completed and the new session will begin Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 7 p.m. at 111 W. Washington Street in Goshen.

- Congregational Life and Ministry – The third Smock Cluster Fund activity is planned for Wednesday, December 4, at Pigeon & The Hen Pottery in South Bend. Cost is \$5 to attend. Sign-up sheet is in the office.

- Finance – continues to meet monthly with our Treasurer.

- Mission Committee – Samaritan's Purse (Operation Christmas Child boxes) will be received in November as the fall mission.

- Outreach – update in the sound booth is continuing, print media reviewed, and updating the website

- Personnel Committee – Second interviews regarding the Administrative Assistant position have taken place.

- Worship – Plans have been made for Advent. Decorating of the Church will be November 30 starting at 10 a.m.

Session approved merging the Personnel Committee with the Finance Committee. Also approved was the merging of the Outreach Committee with the Mission Committee and renaming that committee Mission and Outreach.

Installation of Officers will be Sunday, December 1.

Pastor Joel closed our meeting in prayer.

Next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, December 17, 2024.

Marie Palacios, Clerk of Session

MITTEN TREE: For many years, our congregation has supported the ministry of the Walnut Hill Day Care by collecting mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, and socks for needy children. This project takes place through mid-December, with donated items distributed prior to Christmas.

Please share some of your blessings with those in need. The small wooden Mitten Trees will be in Hardie Hall. You may clip your unwrapped gifts of mittens, gloves, socks, etc., to the tree.

CHRISTMAS DAY DINNER

We welcome everyone for an in-person meal on Christmas Day (Wednesday, December 25th). The meal will be served from 1:00-2:00 pm. Carry-out will be available on that day. After Wednesday, December 4, you're invited to call the church to order a meal for delivery or drive-through carry-out (574-533-7845). The deadline for delivery orders is noon on Wednesday, 12/18; the deadline for drive through carry-out is Friday, December 20. This year, the menu is ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, vinegar based cold slaw, apple or pumpkin pie.

Multiple volunteer opportunities are available where entire families can participate together; other areas where just one, two, or three are needed . . . If you are interested in volunteering, please call Karen Wellington (574-849-0195).

Fully cooked apple or pumpkin pies are needed. A sign-up sheet will be available on a table outside of the office.



MEMBER CHANGE OF ADDRESS (Effective 12/4/24): Bob Hoke

19865 Meadow Ridge Drive
Goshen 46526

CONGRATULATIONS to Shannon Young and Salvador Ramirez who were married on Saturday, November 23. Rev. David Smook officiated the wedding in the Chapel. (302 South 7th Street, Apt. 2, Goshen, IN 46528)

HELP WANTED: Volunteers for the Office Front Desk. Hours would be Monday and/or Tuesday morning, 9:00 am-12:00 noon. You'd answer the phone, take messages, greet visitors, distribute food pantry bags, and help facilitate the filling out of the Foundation application form. Please talk with Jackie Kramer – she has worked the desk for some time now and will be glad to help.

FELLOWSHIP TABLE on SUNDAYS – A sign-up sheet to schedule volunteers for the month of December is now available on a table outside of the office. If you have questions, please see Karen Wellington.



From Operation Christmas Child . . . **PACK A SHOE BOX** (Samaritan's Purse)

Collected through Friday, November 22, these gift-filled shoe boxes, given in Jesus' name, will go to transform a child, a family, and community. Thank you to all who filled a shoe box or made a donation.



Our Mission is . . .

ABUNDANT LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST FOR EVERYONE.

We commit to God and one another by

- Reaching UP - to worship God
- Reaching IN - to seek fulfillment and sharing in Jesus Christ
- Reaching OUT - to share God's love with all people

PRESENT and PAST live streams from Sunday mornings:

<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurch-go8630/streams> ("live" button)

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE that is familiar with **selling items** on **E-BAY or Marketplace**. The church is putting together a number of items for possible sale (e.g., original Apple monitors), when Session approval is obtained. If you are interested in facilitating the sales for the church, please contact Karen Wellington, the church office at fpcgoshen46528@gmail.com, or call 574/533-7845.

Our Guiding Values

Inclusive Community. Evolving Faith. Engaged. Sustainable.

1. **Inclusive community** (bound together by Jesus Christ)
2. Growing and **evolving faith** in Jesus Christ
3. **Engaged** with the greater community
4. Future oriented, **sustainable** focus

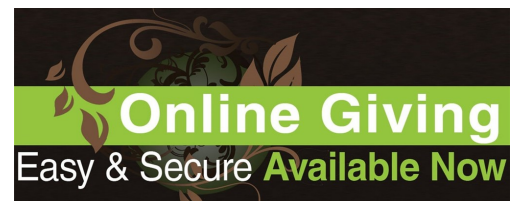
PER CAPITA is an annual per member fee a congregation pays to their area Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly to support our denomination's work in mission, evangelism, education and administration. Through your per capital giving, which is over and above your yearly pledge, the Presbytery of Wabash Valley helps congregations with transitions and resources for programming and planning, cares for pastoral leaders and their families, helps prepare people for service as pastoral leaders, and provides funds for special projects or needs of our congregations. There is a designated amount per member. **In 2024, the amount per member is \$43.62. In 2025, the amount per member is \$44.66.** There is a line item for Per Capita on the church's offering envelope. **Per capita brochures, which explain where your dollars go, are on the table outside of the office.**

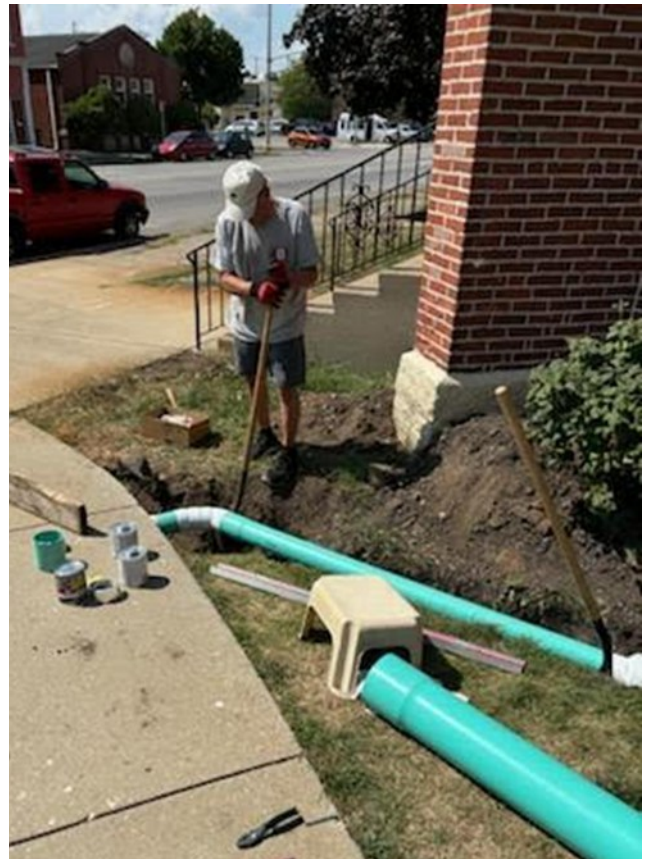
It would be of immense help to this congregation and our operations budget to please pay your annual membership fee as soon as possible. There are some in our congregation for whom paying per capita is difficult. If you are able to contribute per capita for those who might not be able to pay, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to those who have already paid their per capita, and those who have also given an extra portion. The total amount due is paid whether or not each member contributes their individual amount. If you would like offering envelopes for 2025, please contact the church office (574/533-7845).

GIVING TO THE CHURCH

In these difficult times we ask you to continue giving to the church if at all possible. We recognize some families might not be able to do so. We understand! If you are able to give, there are three ways to do so:

- 1) Use the offering plate on Sunday for your gift/giving envelope.
- 2) Mail a check to the church at 215 E. Lincoln, Goshen IN 46528.
3. Give online through our website at <https://www.discoverfirstchurch.org/donate>. You can share a one time gift or set up a recurring gift.





THANK YOU Ken Mirer and Bob Hoke—
 New downspout and new trenching pipes to the street to keep water away from the church's foundation; excavated trench line and pipe line. Four loads of dirt and landscaping rocks from the Weaver farm.



Early Voting—Monday, November 4,
8:00 am—12:00 noon

Voters directed downstairs to the
Sunday School corridor, then upstairs
to Westminster , then down the ramp to
the voting site.

According to the Election Board,
the church averaged 1100 voters per
day.





December Birthdays

12/ 6 Mary Wagner
12/15 Jean Cox
12/16 Christine Huber
12/16 Julia Stauffer
12/18 Karen Mirer
12/24 Elizabeth Holbrook
12/26 David Plank

December Anniversaries

12/5	John and Christine Huber	54 years
12/29	Susan and Doug Long	12 years

January 2025 Birthdays

1/18 Ian Hooley
1/28 Lindsey (Stewart) Rangel
1/30 Kirby Eysol



PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Our Armed Forces and their Families; Israel and Palestine; the people of Ukraine; Wayne Kramer; Tom Drummond; Susan Hepler Long; Marilyn Hay; Parents and nephew of Kirby Eysol; Kirby's sister, Jackie; Ernie Jenkins (Jenny Jenkins' son in OH); Jim Wray; Edward Lee Rodriguez (Bruni Claudio's grandson—needs kidney and pancreas transplants); Dave Webster in Atlanta (Georgia Webster's son); Jeff Mirer (Ken and Karen's son); Barbara and David Jester; Jasmyne Hunley and son Vincent; Dick Craig; Doris Shank; Brad Gilmore (Jenny Albert's brother)

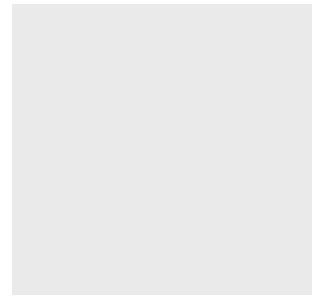
The families of the victims and those injured in the recent shootings
The families of those affected by recent flooding and earthquakes
Response Teams and those affected by hurricanes

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sunday of Advent: Communion Installation of Officers (Lucy Rupe) 10:15 am Family Worship* 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	2 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	3 10:00 am Presbytery Stated Assembly (Central Presbyterian Church, Lafayette)	4 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (prayer service) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Worship	5 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn in WDR 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	6 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship) 6:30 and 7:30 pm Crimsonaires Christmas Concert	7 10:00 am Poinsettias Delivered 10:00 am-1:00 pm MEG in lower level (prayer time and Bible Study)
8 2nd Sunday of Advent; Communion; 10:15 am Family Worship* 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	9 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	10	11 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (prayer service) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	12 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn in WDR 4:00 pm Congregational Life 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	13 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship)	14 10:00 am-1:00 pm MEG in lower level (prayer time and Bible Study)
15 3rd Sunday of Advent; Choir Contata 10:15 am Family Worship; Choir Contata 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	16 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	17 10:00 am Session	18 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (prayer service) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	19 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn in WDR The Post Meal 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	20 pm Goshen HS Choir in Sanctuary and Westminster (M. Yost) 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship)	21 10:00 am-1:00 pm MEG in lower level (prayer time and Bible Study)
22 4th Sunday of Advent; 10:15 am Family Worship* 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	23 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	24 Office Closed 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 31 Office Closed	25 Office Closed Nativity of the Lord/ Christmas Day (am Christmas Dinner Prep) 1:00 pm Christmas Dinner	26 Office Closed 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	27 (Office Closed through Wednesday, January 1) 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship)	28 10:00 am-1:00 pm MEG in lower level (prayer time and Bible Study) Office Hours: Monday & Thursday 9:00-4:00 pm Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon Friday Office Closed
29 10:15 am Hymn Sing* 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	30 Office Closed 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	31 Office Closed				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday * Online worship service will be posted on YouTube Office Hours: Monday and Thursday: 9:00 am-4:00 pm Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 am-12:00 noon Closed Friday			1 New Years Day Office Closed	2 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn In WDR 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	3 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship)	4 10:00 am-1:00 pm MEG in lower level (Prayer time and Bible study)
5 Communion 10:15 am Family Worship* 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	6 Epiphany of the Lord 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	7	8 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Prayer service) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Worship Committee	9 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn In WDR 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	10 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship)	11 10:00 am-1:00 pm MEG in lower level (Prayer time and Bible study)
12 Baptism of the Lord 10:15 am Family Worship* 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	13 10:00 am Finance 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	14 7:00-8:30 pm Understanding Your Grief -111 W. Washington	15 5:00 pm Christian Ed 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Prayer service) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	16 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn In WDR The Post Dinner 5:15 pm B&G 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	17 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship)	18 10:00 am-1:00 pm MEG in lower level (Prayer time and Bible study)
19 10:15 am Family Worship* 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Office Closed 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	21 10:00 am Session 7:00-8:30 pm Understanding Your Grief -111 W. Washington	22 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Prayer service) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	23 Newsletter Deadline 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn In WDR 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	24 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship)	25 10:00 am-1:00 pm MEG in lower level (Prayer time and Bible study)
26 10:15 am Family Worship* 1:00 pm Ministerios Ebenezer Goshen (MEG) in lower level (Worship)	27 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship rehearsal)	28 10:00 am Board of Deacons 7:00-8:30 pm Understanding Your Grief -111 W. Washington	29 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Prayer service) 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	30 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Bible study)	31 6:00-8:00 pm MEG in lower level (Worship)	

First Word (December 2024-January 2025)

First Presbyterian Church
215 East Lincoln Avenue
Goshen, IN 46528



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A publication of
First Presbyterian Church
215 East Lincoln Avenue, Goshen, IN 46528-3347

Church Website: www.discoverfirstchurch.org

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Goshen IN
www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurch-go8630/streams

Church email:
First Presbyterian (fpcgoshen46528@gmail.com)

Phone: (574) 533-7845

Office Hours:

Monday and Thursday 9:00 am-4:00 pm
Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00 am-12:00 noon
Closed Friday

