

First Presbyterian Church

Ninth at Washington, Michigan City, Indiana

December 28, 2025

10:00 A.M. (Sanctuary)

1st Sunday of Christmas



THE WORSHIP OF OUR LORD

† † †

** Indicates those who are able, please stand*

† † †

WE GATHER BEFORE GOD

† WELCOME – WORSHIP – CELEBRATE – SERVE †

PRELUDE: “In Dulci Jubilo”

J. Pethel

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP: Please join in unison

One: Wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born King of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

All: *On this first Sunday of Christmas, we, too, have come to worship Jesus the Messiah: the son of David, the son of Abraham.*

One: When the wise men saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt down, paid him homage, and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

All: *On this first Sunday of Christmas, we offer ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you, O God.*

One: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

All: *Glory to God in the highest heaven!*

*HYMN #49 “Once in Royal David’s City” (pew hymnal)

WE ARE RENEWED IN GOD’S GRACE

CALL TO CONFESSION: (Acts 3:19-20) Spoken by the liturgist

Hear these words of the Apostle Peter, “Repent, therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord ...” With humble and trusting hearts, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Please join in unison)

God of Christmas, we would never have thought to find your Savior in an innocent baby. We confess we would have expected a warrior with a great army. We would not have thought to find your kingdom to be one of service, obedience and humility. We confess we would have expected, maybe even wanted, a kingdom that reflected our own values and self-interests. Lord, forgive us when we quickly leave Christmas behind and neglect to live lives worthy of our calling as followers of our Lord, the Prince of Peace. By your Holy Spirit, help us turn to you and live according to the values of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

SILENCE IS KEPT

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

Pastor: The angel said to Joseph, “She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Indeed, he did and still does.

All: *Friends, we believe the good news: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.*

*SINGING GOD’S GLORY: Gloria Patri “Glory to the Father” #567 (Please join in unison)

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen Amen Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF GOD

Pastor: Since God has forgiven us in Christ,
let us all forgive one another,
and pass the peace of Christ to each other.
The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you!

(Worshippers are invited to turn to their neighbors, offer the greeting "The peace of Christ be with you", and one may respond with the words, "And also with you." Worshippers may also share a handshake, hug or other expression of Christ's peace.)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

NOISY OFFERING

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: (Please join in unison)

Almighty God, the gospel writer John tells us, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us." As we hear your Word read and proclaimed today, may we hear and see the glory of Jesus Christ and receive grace upon grace. Amen.

FIRST READING:

Isaiah 63:7-9

SECOND READING:

Matthew 2:13-23

SERMON: "Refuge"

Rev. Ericka Parkinson Kilbourne

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: (from the Confession of 1967) Please join in unison

In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful men and women. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which everyone stands convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE IN OUR OFFERING

OFFERTORY: "A Christmas Carol on 'Greensleeves'"

G. Richolson

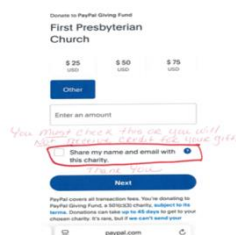
Many ways to give and give back



paypal.com **Click on link**

<https://www.paypal.com/fundraiser/112574644767835624/charity/3545525>

OR Scan here:



When giving on PayPal, please be sure to **SHARE** your name and email address so we can give proper credit for the gift!!

*Doxology Song #592

"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH/ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (together, using "debit")

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN: #23 "Angels We Have Heard on High!" (pew hymnal)

WE GO OUT IN GRATITUDE TO SERVE IN GOD'S NAME

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Go out with the joy and promise of Christmas.
Know that we are not alone in this world.
Jesus, Emmanuel, God is with us, goes with us.
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.
Amen.

*POSTLUDE: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

L. Smith

SHARE OUR PRAYERS WITH:

For each of us to share the Gospel with someone this week:

- Don Bowman, Dave Dougherty, Sandy Dougherty, Stan Holdcraft, Johanna Miller, Barb Reichert, Margo Shank, Mary Steider and Donna Wiseman for health needs
- Pray for our Military and their families.
- AmeriCorps and Peace Corps workers and their families

GUESTS AND VISITORS

We are delighted to welcome you and worship with you today! **First time visitors**-we would love to connect with you. Please text "welcome" to 219-300-9867 and share your contact information with us.



FLOWERS We express our sincere thanks to all who provided poinsettias for the glory of God and to beautify the sanctuary this morning. If you purchased poinsettia(s), and chose to take yours, please do so today after service.

SERVING TODAY

Ministers

Preacher

Organist

Liturgist

Greeter(s)

Ushers

Video and Sound Team

All Members of the Congregation

Rev. Ericka Parkinson Kilbourne

Carol Garrett

Rob McFarland

Brian & Judy Spiece

Deb Langley

Mark Smith and Antoinette Jackson



MEMORIALS/DONATION

The General fund received a donation from Louise Pecoraro.
Thank you for your kindness!

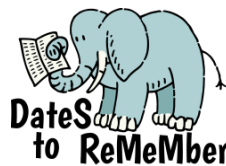


Enjoy your special day!

Dec 01 Ree Labaj
Dec 02 Andrew Grove
Dec 06 John Jackson
Dec 12 Anne Lute
Dec 13 Bernard Scott
Dec 14 Michele Bartels
Dec 14 Jason McDaniel
Dec 20 Pamela Krueger
Dec 20 Peggy McAnally
Dec 24 Jason Blank



Dec 25 Jesus
Dec 26 Alexis Day
Dec 28 Laurie Wilson
Dec 31 Aiden Lamb
Jan 01 Patty Mershon Schaefer
"HAPPY 100th"
Jan 03 Mary Barr
Jan 03 Mira McDaniel
Jan 04 Roberta Snyder



**EVENTS, DATES AND/OR TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. THIS LIST WILL BE UPDATED WEEKLY
AS OF TODAY, THIS IS THE MOST RECENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE.**

- ❖ Dec 28 Sunday **NO** 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Dec 28 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service (1st Sunday of Advent) with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Dec 28 Sunday school after the sermon
- ❖ Dec 28 Sunday 3 p.m. Trinity Episcopal Church (See church chat for details)
- ❖ Dec 29 Monday Office closed-Holiday-Pastor off
- ❖ Dec 30 Tuesday Office Closed Vacation Day (Pastor and Diane)
- ❖ Dec 31 Wednesday Office Closed holiday-Pastor Off
- ❖ Jan 01 Thursday Office Closed holiday- Pastor Off **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
- ❖ Jan 02 Friday Office closed-Pastor Off
- ❖ Jan 03 Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Soup Kitchen-Pastor Off
- ❖ Jan 04 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Jan 04 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service (2nd Sunday of Christmas) with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Jan 04 Sunday school after the sermon
- ❖ Jan 04 Sunday After Worship putting Christmas decorations away.
- ❖ Jan 05 Monday Pastor Off
- ❖ Jan 06 Tuesday Epiphany of the Lord-Pastor Off
- ❖ Jan 06 Tuesday 10 a.m. 3B **New Session**
- ❖ Jan 06 Tuesday 6 p.m. PFlag meeting
- ❖ Jan 07 Wednesday 4:30 p.m. B&G meeting
- ❖ Jan 08 Thursday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ Jan 08 Thursday 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts meeting
- ❖ Jan 09 Friday Office closed-Pastor by appointment
- ❖ Jan 10 Saturday 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- ❖ Jan 11 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Jan 11 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service (Baptism of the Lord) with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Jan 11 Sunday school after the sermon
- ❖ Jan 12 Monday Pastor Off
- ❖ Jan 13 Tuesday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ Jan 13 Tuesday NO finance meeting
- ❖ Jan 14 Wednesday 10 a.m. Outreach meeting
- ❖ Jan 15 Thursday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ Jan 15 Thursday Mission meeting



- ❖ Jan 16 Friday Office closed-Pastor by appointment
- ❖ Jan 17 Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- ❖ Jan 18 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Jan 18 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service (2nd Sunday after Epiphany) with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Jan 18 Sunday School after the sermon
- ❖ Jan 18 Sunday After Worship - Blood pressure screening
- ❖ Jan 18 Sunday 4 p.m. Lakeshore Performing Arts recital
- ❖ Jan 19 Monday Pastor Off
- ❖ Jan 20 Tuesday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ Jan 21 Wednesday 1:30 p.m. Elisabeth Circle meeting
- ❖ Jan 21 Wednesday 6:30 p.m. Session meeting
- ❖ Jan 22 Thursday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ Jan 22 Thursday 5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts meeting
- ❖ Jan 23 Friday Office closed-Pastor by appointment
- ❖ Jan 24 Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Soup Kitchen
- ❖ Jan 25 Sunday 9 a.m. Adult Ed Class with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Jan 25 Sunday 10 a.m. Worship service (3rd Sunday after Epiphany) with Pastor Ericka
- ❖ Jan 25 Sunday NOISY OFFERING
- ❖ Jan 25 Sunday School after the sermon
- ❖ Jan 25 Sunday After worship ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
- ❖ Jan 26 Monday Pastor Off
- ❖ Jan 27 Tuesday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ Jan 29 Thursday 10 a.m. 3B
- ❖ Jan 30 Friday Office closed-Pastor by appointment
- ❖ Jan 31 Saturday 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. Soup Kitchen

HAPPENING TODAY



Trinity Episcopal Church is again hosting the annual community worship service “A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols”, Sunday, December 28 at 3:00 pm.

Our tradition has been to collect free will donations for a community need. This year we will be supporting the NEST Community Shelter in this effort to reduce homelessness in LaPorte County. The program follows the form presented yearly at King’s College, Cambridge, England. The lessons read during the program are from the Old and New Testament foretelling the coming of the Messiah and the story of Jesus' birth. Each lesson is followed by a hymn and musical meditation presented by musicians from around the community. Following the program there will be a reception in the Episcopal Bishop’s Mansion adjacent to Trinity Church.

CHURCH CHAT

“Any or all information is subject to change without notification”

HELP NEEDED

Please plan on staying after worship on January 4th to help put the Christmas decorations away. The more the merrier and the quicker we will be done. Any and All help will be greatly appreciated.

PLEDGES FOR 2025

Soon we will be saying good bye to 2025. If you need to know where you are with your 2025 pledge, please contact the office and a "to date" report will be furnished for you. Remember to have any donation(s) that you want counted for 2025 you **MUST** have them **IN the office** by

December 31, 2025

If received after December 31st, they will be applied to your 2026 pledge.

Thank you, Diane Yettaw, Administrative Assistant.

Thank you.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Please have your annual reports turned into the office by **January 5, 2026**. This will allow time to get the report ready to give to the congregation on January 18th. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY



Are you looking for a fulfilling way to serve your church community? Would you find joy in keeping organized records of session minutes and congregational statistics? We are now in an active search for a new Clerk of Session. And if you choose to step up to the task, you have the great opportunity to learn from our most recent Clerk, Laura Kittle, and also Alice Yacullo, who served before her. You would not be alone! Please prayerfully consider serving the congregation in this way. If you have any questions, you can direct them to Pastor Ericka, Laura Kittle, or Alice Yacullo.

Special Offering
PER CAPITA

JAN 4 2026

NAME : _____

ADDRESS : _____

Amount \$ _____

PER CAPITA FOR 2026 \$45.08 per person

BREAKDOWN:

2026 Per Capita Partnership - \$45.08
Office of the General Assembly - \$11.26
Synod of Lincoln Trails - \$3.81
Wabash Valley Presbytery - \$30.01

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For prayer requests
Contact Brian Spiece at
jspiece@hotmail.com

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Rev. Dr. Ericka Parkinson Kilbourne
Mobile – 219-380-6566
Office – 219-879-4501 Ext 203
Fax – 219-879-4503
E-mail erickapk@fpcmicity.org

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Diane Yettaw, Office Administrator
Office – 219-879-4501 Ext 201
Fax – 219-879-4503
E-mail – dyettaw@fpcmicity.org

† † †

Web Site Address – <http://www.fpcmicity.org>
YouTube – First Presbyterian Church Michigan City
Facebook – First Presbyterian Church Michigan City
WiFi password: 1holyGod!

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