

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

3401 North Valparaiso Street

Valparaiso, IN 46383

Phone: (219) 464-4985

Engaged locally and globally for Christ!



Above graphic from A Sanctified Art
LLC | sanctifiedart.org

**JOIN US ON CHRISTMAS EVE,
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023**

For

**10:00 a.m. Worship
&**

**Lessons and Carols at
4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary and
Streamed Online**

**(FPC FaceBook page, fpcvalpo.org,
FPC YouTube Channel)**

Communion will be served at 4 & 7 pm Worship.

All Are Welcome!



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VALPARAISO
IS HOSTING A
BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
Thursday, December 21, 2023
7:00 p.m.**

This service is for people who may be experiencing a hard time during the holidays, and/or want to remember loved ones.

All are welcome!

GRATITUDE

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for your generous monetary donation of \$677 to The Caring Place on 10/23/23. The Danen Kane concert was a special way for you to think of us! We truly appreciate your support of our mission; we simply would not exist without the amazing support of our community members provide day in and day out.

We work hard to be good stewards of your donations! Over the last year, we have built many new partnerships with agencies in NWI, most notably, with NWI Ivy Tech Campuses to expand our prevention and awareness programming and advocacy throughout both Lake and Porter Counties, and with Family Focus to provide free access to licensed clinical therapists for our shelter residents and their children in their new temporary home with us 5 days a week! We also formed the first Porter Co. Response Team in partnership with local law enforcement, health care, and the prosecutor's office. Forming powerful partnerships helps make our funding go further as we stretch to meet our community's needs.

We know you have so many great choices of nonprofits to support in this community; and we are humbled that you chose us. As a small, grassroots nonprofit, we couldn't do this vital work without our donors' ongoing dedication and commitment to our mission to provide safety and support to families in crisis. We are forever grateful for YOU!

SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Bonnie Lang family upon the death of her husband, Doug Lang.

Warm regards,

Denise

You make a difference.

**Thank you
for your continued
support.**



American Red Cross



BLOOD DRIVE RESULTS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH November 19, 2023

Goal	=	41 pints
Donors Registered	=	46
First-time Donors	=	3
Pints Collected	=	46

Your support will go a long way toward replenishing blood supplies and ultimately saving lives!

One single blood donation can help save more than one life.

Individuals who are 17 years of age (16 with parental permission in some states), meet weight and height requirements (110 pounds or more, depending on their height) and are in generally good health may be eligible to give blood. Please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID when you come to donate. Theme078.Sas005 | 2012/07 © 2012 The American National Red Cross | 07112AP295

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Certificate of Recognition

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

In recognition of your commitment and dedication to the American Red Cross Premier Blood Partner Program. Your support is critical to our lifesaving mission. Each year we deliver nearly 6.4 million blood products to hospital patients—and we could not do it without you.

113 UNITS COLLECTED IN 2022

J. Chris Hrouda, President
Biomedical Services



American Red Cross
Premier Blood Partners Program



First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso has been named a Premier donor site for 2022 with a total of 113 units collected! That number is huge and the Red Cross is extremely grateful.

I would personally like to thank all of the volunteers from FPCV that donate their time during the Blood Drives!

In Christ's love,

Rose Ross, RN

We had a successful Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. The kids should be super proud of themselves for collecting so many non-perishables.

Our book fair was a big success. We earned back \$415 in free books and resources! Thank you to everyone who purchased.

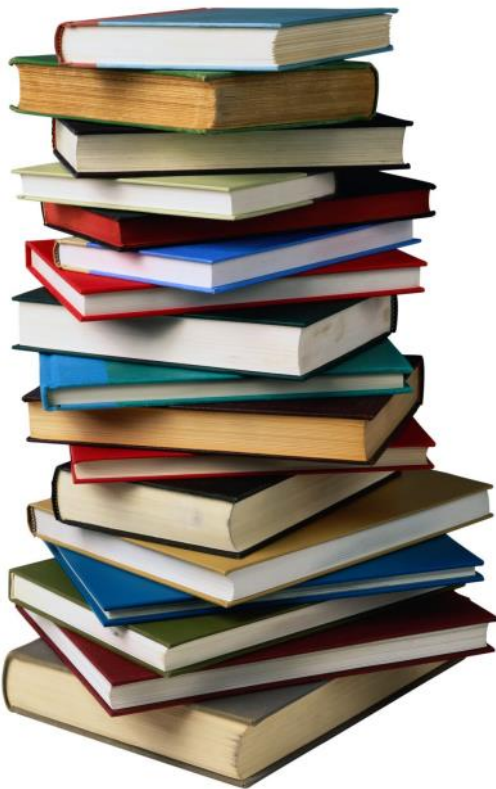
Looking forward to December we have our annual Cookie Walk and Christmas programs on Tuesday, Dec. 19 and Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023. We enjoy teaching the students the story of the Nativity and the reason we celebrate Christmas.

We hope everyone has a fantastic holiday season.

PRAYER & PRAISE MINISTRY

If you desire prayer support for yourself or loved ones, you are welcome to contact the Prayer Warriors through the Prayer and Praise Ministry chain: bcgermann@gmail.com or (219) 477-9964.

FAITH FORMATION NEWS



BOOK DONATIONS

We appreciate all the book donations; however, we are not in a position to receive donated books at this time.

This being said, please forward any book donations you may have to any of our local libraries (*if accepting books at this time*) and/or the Presbyterian Church Resale Shop.

Thank you,

Trish Lawson
Director of Faith Formation

WORSHIP FLOWER OPPORTUNITY

If you would like to donate worship flowers in honor/memory of a loved one or celebration, please fill out the information below and return it to the church office. **If you would like to have the flowers delivered to the church, please do so by noon the Friday prior to the Sunday service.** If you have any questions regarding the process, please contact the church office at 219-464-4985. Thank you.

Dec. 10

Dec. 31

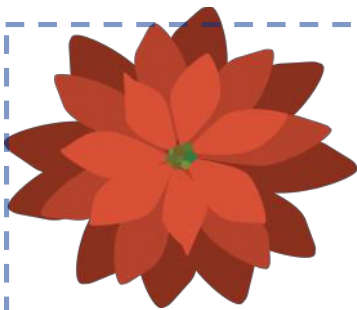
Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____



POINSETTIAS

It's that time of year again! If you would like to order poinsettias for this Christmas Season, please forward the following information and a check to the church office by December 10. The price is \$16 per plant. Red and white options are available.

Name: _____

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

of Red Plants: _____

of White Plants: _____

MISSION NEWS

PADS MINISTRY NEEDS YOUR HELP

Volunteers needed for PADS ministry. Please find the December and first week in January opportunities:

December 6 6-10 PM Shift 2-6 AM Dec. 7	December 27 6:30 - 7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2-6 AM Dec. 28 Laundry - pick up and bring back to church by 1/4/24
December 13 6:30-7:30 Intake 6 - 10 PM Shift 2-6 AM - Dec. 14	January 3 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 2 - 6 AM January 4
December 20 6:30-7:30 Intake 6-10 PM Shift 6-7 AM Thurs. Breakfast	

If you have any questions, please call or email Beth Germann at: 219-477-9964 or bcgermann@gmail.com

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DECEMBER'S SECOND MILE OFFERING...

is being received for the Joy Offering Ministry.

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CHRISTIAN FOOD PANTRY

In October, two hundred fifteen (215) families were served providing food for five hundred eighty-seven (587) people. Macaroni salad kits were assembled and given out. Several turkeys were received from the St. Paul congregation. With the help of the Meijer *Simply Give* program, it was anticipated that turkeys would be available for the Thanksgiving dinner menu items. (Thank you, Mickey, for the deliveries!) As preparations for the holiday dinner items were made, the need for the everyday food items continues. Donations of the basics: cereal, tuna, spaghetti sauce (canned), soups (canned), fruits (canned), rice, pork 'n beans, mac 'n cheese, veggies (canned) are always welcomed and appreciated. Thankfully – with the help of our seven (7) sponsoring church congregations plus many individuals and businesses in our community, the pantry is able to continue assisting families in our community in need.

Thank you to all who help in an enormous number of ways.

Nan and Sharon

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE TABLE

COMMUNION WILL BE SERVED DURING WORSHIP on

**Sunday, December 3, 2023
at 10:00 a.m. Worship**

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the above-captioned date/time during the in-person at FPC Valpo and online worship services (via Facebook Live/FPC website/FPC YouTube channel).

All are invited to the communion table in your home by bringing a piece of bread/cracker and a cup of juice/wine or whatever common elements you have to celebrate communion. This way, our faith community can be joined together for the sacrament even though we are physically apart.



MISSION STATEMENT:

Building Disciples; Growing in Faith;
Serving in Christ's Name

FPC VALPARAISO IS A MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATION:



• Building congregational vitality

• Dismantling structural racism

• Eradicating systemic poverty

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RESALE SHOP

Two months after our grand re-opening, the Presbyterian Church Resale Shop is running smoothly...most of the time! We are working out the kinks that we expected and are coping with the ones we didn't expect. The good news is customers are enjoying our new look and are shopping with us and the community is supporting us with an abundance of donations. In other words, we are swamped and would love to welcome new volunteers from our congregation!

As we prepare for Christmas, we are honored to partner with and support Toys for Tots. Our window display shares our commitment to this cause; and we have a donation box in the shop. Please help us fill it.



Thanks to our Church family for your support. Please contact me for more information on how you can get involved with our mission. Together we can make a difference!

Mary Linda Scott
Co-Moderator
Presbyterian Church Resale Shop Management Team
nana6987@hotmail.com
231-590-5799

DEACONS DOINGS

As we ponder over the many wonders of the month of December, one question always pops up in my head...Why don't we sing Happy Birthday to Jesus on Christmas? So, I went to one source, Google of course, and it said, "No one forces 'Happy Birthday' at Christmas when you have 'Joy to the World' or 'Silent Night' to sing instead. Plus, 'Happy Birthday' is so repetitive..." OK, I get that, I just did not want Jesus to feel left out on his birthday.

With that question being answered, I regress to realize that God is ageless, he was made before the world was, and we need to thank him for it---Now, and always. Through the hustle and bustle of December, please remember to embrace the awe of him, the love of him, and the importance of him throughout our personal and professional lives to ensure our gratefulness stays steadfast in our souls.

As this year comes to an end, a simple thank you to all of us seems appropriate because, well, what a year!!! We made it, simply because we chose to keep Jesus as our focus. So as we sing all of the beautiful Christmas songs together this holiday season, remember the meaning of his birthday, and the realization of unconditional and forgiving love given to all of us. What a gift.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!

Much love and many prayers,

Cindy Robinson

CALENDAR

Friday, December 1, 2023		
Saturday, December 2, 2023		
Sunday, December 3, 2023		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
11:00 AM	Congregational Life Team	FPC, Online
5:00 PM	Presbys	Offsite
Monday, December 4, 2023		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, December 5, 2023		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
12:00 PM	PWNS Board Meeting	154, 155
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
4:30 PM	Cub Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 6, 2023		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
11:00 AM	Building and Grounds	154, 155
5:00 PM	PCRS Celebration	Friendship Room
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC
Thursday, December 7, 2023		
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, December 8, 2023		
Saturday, December 9, 2023		
Sunday, December 10, 2023		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
6:00 PM	Presbys	Fellowship Hall
Monday, December 11, 2023		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, December 12, 2023		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
4:30 PM	Cub Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Planned Giving	101
Wednesday, December 13, 2023		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
6:30 PM	Finance Team	154, 155
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC
Thursday, December 14, 2023		
9:00 AM	MT Meeting	Friendship Room
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
6:30 PM	Choir	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, December 15, 2023		
Saturday, December 16, 2023		

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CALENDAR

Sunday, December 17, 2023		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
6:00 PM	Presbys	Fellowship Hall
Monday, December 18, 2023		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, December 19, 2023		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
4:00 PM	PWNS Christmas Program	Sanctuary
4:30 PM	Cub Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 20, 2023		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
4:00 PM	PWNS Christmas Program	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC
Thursday, December 21, 2023		
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
5:00 PM	Handbell Choir	Chapel
7:00 PM	Blue Christmas Worship	Sanctuary
Friday, December 22, 2023		
Saturday, December 23, 2023		
Sunday, December 24, 2023		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online
4:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship	Sanctuary
7:00 PM	Christmas Eve Worship	
Monday, December 25, 2023 - Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed		
Tuesday, December 26, 2023 - Church Office Closed		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Hospitality Center
4:30 PM	Cub Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, December 27, 2023 - Church Office Closed		
10:00 AM	Wed. Morning Bible Study	101
7:00 PM	PADS	FPC
Thursday, December 28, 2023 - Church Office Closed		
10:00 AM	The Comfort Stitchers	154, 155
Friday, December 29, 2023 - Church Office Closed		
Saturday, December 30, 2023		
Sunday, December 31, 2023		
9:00 AM	Faith Formation Classes	CE Rooms
10:00 AM	Worship Svc. Live & Streamed*	FPC, Online

*** on calendar denotes in-person and streamed online: Facebook, [fpcvalpo.org](https://www.fpcvalpo.org), FPC YouTube Channel:**

www.fpcvalpo.org/worship-livestream,
www.youtube.com/channel/UC8Za9RpS1LFHAmVd6XW_pTQ, or
www.facebook.com/1stPresChurchValpo

The church office will be closed from Monday, December 25, 2023, through Monday, January 1, 2024, for the Christmas and New Year's holiday as a way for the staff to enjoy their families. We will be available for any emergencies that arise during this time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December 1
Kathy Spitler

December 2
Andrew Adams
Susan Swarner

December 4
Paige Hughes

December 5
Audrey Rudzinski

December 6
Leanne Grant

December 8
Michael Byerly
Joan Johnston

December 10
Diana Richardson

December 12
Tim Reyna

December 13
Lindsay Giles

December 19
John Lawson

December 21
Pastor Nancy Becker

December 23
Ken Kukler

December 25
Lillian Bianco
Marc Buehler
Gavin Kukler
Jean Patton

December 30
Elizabeth Monroe

If we inadvertently missed your birthday, please contact the church office.

DUE DATES – TIDINGS ARTICLES, BULLETIN ARTICLES AND SCREENS

Due Date for Tidings Articles:

The due date for Tidings articles is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. (i.e. June articles are due by May 15.) Please email articles to Dawn Scarborough in the church office at dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org

Due Date for Bulletin Articles, Screens, First Notes and/or Advertisements:

The due date for bulletin articles, First Notes, and announcements is noon the Monday prior to the publication.

Please email bulletin announcements and First Notes articles to Dawn Scarborough in the church office at: dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org.

Please email screen announcements to Jeff Whitney at jwhitnev@fpcvalpo.org.

Thank you!



FINANCE TEAM NEWS

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2023

Our collective generosity with gifts to the church continues to serve God and our neighbors:

- Our budgeted giving is on track with \$437,657 received to date. Budgeted expenses paid total \$419,082.
- We have received \$147,164 in designated giving for capital projects, 2nd Mile and other mission giving, tuition and gifts to our preschool, scholarships and other specific gifts. We have distributed \$188,047 plus \$60,201 in capital projects this year.
- So far, we have received \$227,602 in gifts to The Sharing Table Project which are invested as we prepare to name our priorities and begin special projects to implement our Sharing Table visions for the future.
- We can celebrate our rejuvenated Presbyterian Church Resale Shop and its volunteers for deposits of \$18,958 since it reopened September 11th!

– Linda Long, Treasurer

ONLINE GIFTS TO THE CHURCH

FPC VALPARAISO ONLINE GIVING OPPORTUNITY

Visit: <https://onrealm.org/FirstPresbyteri76732/-/form/give/KLYBGIVCVH>
for FPC online giving.

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2023 PER CAPITA

This year, our per capita is \$43 per member. When we give to support *per capita*, we are saying, “Thank you for the gift of the Church.” We are working together, seeking the mind of Christ, working for justice and mercy in the world, and participating in God's continual reformation of the Church.

WE ARE THE CHURCH, TOGETHER

MINISTRY ROSTER

SEXTON

Open:

December 3	Rick Exley
December 10	Rick Exley
December 17	Rick Exley
December 24	
10:00 a.m.	Rick Exley
4:00 p.m.	TBD
7:00 p.m.	Mike Becker
December 31	Jim Hubbard

Close:

December 3	Jim Hubbard
December 10	Jim Hubbard
December 17	Jim Hubbard
December 24	
10:00 a.m.	Jim Hubbard
4:00 p.m.	TBD
7:00 p.m.	Mike Becker
December 31	Jim Hubbard

ELDER ON CALL SCHEDULE

December 3	Ron Phillips
December 17	Ron Scott
December 31	TBD

DEACON ON CALL SCHEDULE

December 10	Cindy Robinson
December 24	Cindy Robinson

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTER SCHEDULE

December 3	Lawson Family
December 10	Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Sharon Kinsey
December 17	Comfort Stitchers: Pastor Nancy Becker
December 24	
10:00 a.m.	Tues. Men's Bible Study: Mike Becker
4:00 p.m.	Amy & Ryne Press Family
7:00 p.m.	Andrea Phillips Family

MINISTRY ROSTER, CONTINUED

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

December 3	Ron Phillips
December 10	Ron Scott
December 17	Jeanne Turner
December 24	Sharon Kinsey
December 31	Presbys

USHERS SCHEDULE

December 3	David Goodwin Rose Ross
December 10	Jim Hubbard Sharon Hubbard Michael McKee
December 17	Mary Brown Julie Fletcher Golding
December 24	
10:00 a.m.	Connie Knauff Paul Knauff
December 31	Amy Press Ryne Press

COMMUNION SERVERS

December 3	
10:00 a.m.	Doug Hollar Judy Hollar Trish Lawson Ron Phillips
December 24	
4:00 p.m.	Jim Gray Michael McKee Cindy Robinson Steve Scarborough
7:00 p.m.	Isabel Gordon Jason Gordon Trish Lawson Ron Scott

COMMUNION SET UP / CLEAN UP

December 3	Jim Peyton
December 24	
4:00 p.m.	Cindy Robinson
7:00 p.m.	Cindy Robinson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Pastor Kim Adams	kadams@fpcvalpo.org
Pastor Nancy Becker, Parish Associate.....	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Rhonda Clark, Handbell Choir Director	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Sue Davis, Business Manager	sdavis@fpcvalpo.org
Brad Dirks, Organist	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Dan Higgins, Custodian	
Valarie Smart Higgins, Custodian	
Judy Hollar, Clerk of Session.....	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Trish Lawson, Director of Faith Formation	tlawson@fpcvalpo.org
Dawn Scarborough, Church Administrator.....	dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org
John Stocks, Custodian	
Jeff Whitney, Director of Worship Music & Digital Technology	jwhitney@fpcvalpo.org
Julia Zhao, Associate Pastor in Residence	jzhao@fpcvalpo.org

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact the church office at 219-464-4985.

Elders of Session

Ministry Team

Matthew Byerly	Worship Team iEngage**
Sharon Kinsey	Faith Formation Team Adult Faith Formation**
Harry Karabel	iEngage Team Worship Team**
Linda Long	Finance Team
Elizabeth Monroe	Membership Team Nominating Team**
Ron Phillips	Adult Spiritual Formation Team Faith Formation Team**
Ryne Press	Mission Team Matthew 25 Team**
Ron Scott	Personnel Team Nominating Team
Jeanne Turner	Stewardship Team

* denotes Co-moderator

** denotes Elder Rep.

Building and Grounds Team

Vic Klancer

Moderator of Session

Pastor Kim Adams

Membership Clerk

Elizabeth Monroe

Board of Deacons

Cindy Robinson, Moderator

Congregational Life Team

Debra Daugherty

Clerk of Session

Judy Hollar

Planned Giving Committee

Kathy Joseph, Moderator

MISSION STATEMENT: BUILDING DISCIPLES; GROWING IN FAITH; SERVING IN CHRIST'S



First Presbyterian Church Valparaiso (public) and
FPCVALPO (closed)