



FPCSB

March 2026

TOWER BELL

MISSION STATEMENT

As disciples of Christ,
First Presbyterian Church exists:
to let people know that they matter to God,
by showing them that they matter to us,
in order that they may let
others matter to them.

MATTHEW 25

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation,
we are becoming a more relevant
presence in the world. We recognize
Christ's urgent call to be a church of
action, where God's love, justice and
mercy shine forth and are contagious. And
we rejoice how our re-energized faith can
unite us for a common and holy purpose:
our common identity to do mission.

VISION STATEMENT

As a caring community with a
commitment to Christian social justice,
we will create transformational space
to provide access to resources and
forge relationships with community
service and arts organizations.

IU South Bend to Host “Party with a Purpose” Day of Service for International Women’s Day

South Bend, Ind. — Indiana University South Bend will host *Party with a Purpose*, an annual campus- and community-wide day of service focused on menstrual equity and keeping girls in school, on **Thursday, March 5, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The event will take place in the Grill and Fireside A & B on the IU South Bend campus and is held in observance of International Women’s Day, which is celebrated globally on March 8.

Organized by the IU South Bend Honors Program and co-sponsored by Malawi Matters and its executive director, Phyllis Wezeman, *Party with a Purpose* brings together students, faculty, staff, and community members to address period poverty—both globally and locally—through hands-on service, education, and community partnership.

Participants will collaborate to cut, assemble, and sew washable, reusable menstrual pads for girls and young women in Malawi, where lack of access to menstrual products causes many students to miss up to a week of school each month. The reusable pads produced during the event will be distributed through Malawi Matters, a Michiana-based nonprofit with more than two decades of experience working in over 215 villages and 1,500 schools throughout Malawi using a train-the-trainer model focused on education, health, and empowerment.

“For many girls in Malawi, something as simple as a menstrual pad can mean the difference between staying in school or falling behind,” said Phyllis Wezeman, executive director of Malawi Matters. “*Party with a Purpose* connects people here in Michiana with girls halfway around the world in a very tangible way. It’s powerful to see how education, dignity, and opportunity can begin with community action.”

Throughout the day, participants will also create inspirational cards to accompany each menstrual kit and engage in short educational presentations about life in Malawi, global and local period poverty, and the work of Malawi Matters and community partner organizations. Stations will be equipped with flannel, terrycloth, waterproof fabric, and sewing machines, and no sewing or crafting experience is required.

“*Party with a Purpose* is designed to be welcoming and accessible,” said Neovi Karakatsanis, director of the IU South Bend Honors Program. “People can drop in for a few minutes or stay for hours, learn something new, and know that their time directly supports women and girls both locally and globally.”

In addition to the global service component, the event includes a menstrual product donation drive to support women in the Michiana community experiencing menstrual insecurity. Attendees are encouraged to bring packages of pads and tampons, which will be distributed to local service organizations serving women and girls in need. Representatives from several community organizations will

be present to share information and resources.

The project originated when Wezeman guest lectured in an IU South Bend course, *Women in Developing Countries*, and students expressed a desire to take action to support the girls and women served by Malawi Matters. The initiative has since grown into an annual Honors Program event promoting civic engagement, global awareness, public health, and gender equity.

Based on prior years, *Party with a Purpose* is expected to produce several hundred reusable menstrual pads for distribution in Malawi, along with hundreds of disposable menstrual products for local organizations.

The event is open to IU South Bend students, faculty, staff, and members of the broader Michiana community. Participants are welcome to drop in at any point during the day. All materials will be provided, though attendees may also bring clean or new flannel, terrycloth fabric, or towels to contribute to pad production.

For more information, contact Neovi Karakatsanis at nkarakat@iu.edu or phylliswezeman1@gmail.com.

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Happy
Birthday



Frederick Dean	03/02
Atu Ziwawo	03/03
Liz Rosencrantz	03/08
Mark Wenkus	03/09
Lilian Wambugua	03/13
Katherine Swiercz	03/16
Scott Kelso	03/17
Sarah Bowling	03/21
John Wallace	03/25

Love Rules: Palm Sunday Action

We Make Indiana invites local congregations to walk a Palm Sunday Path together through downtown South Bend on March 29, 2026, demonstrating our renewed commitment to feed the hungry, heal the sick and welcome the stranger. [Register at this link](#). All are invited to:

- Convene at Howard Park at 2 pm to walk through downtown past government buildings with palms, banners, and songs;
- Reconvene at the park* at 3:15 for a brief commitment service and refreshments.
- Attend preparation workshops during Lent;
 - o Singing Faith and Resistance, Tuesday, March 10, 7 pm, Zion Community Church, 211 S. St. Peter St, South Bend
 - o Witness through art: Making signs and banners, Wed. March 18, 5-7 pm, Our Lady of the Road, 744 S. Main St., South Bend
 - o Catholic Social Teaching and Immigration, Thursday, March 26, 6-7:30 pm, Near Northwest Neighborhood center, 1013 Portage Ave.

*Zion Community Church in case of rain, 211 S. St. Peter St, South Bend.

March Mission of the Month

With the start of Lent our focus for mission turns to the children of our community and Easter baskets. We will once again be assembling Easter baskets for the children of LaSalle Park Homes, El Campito Nursery School and Hope Missions. In total we have around 250 children that need a basket so it will be all hands on deck! But, we are not in this endeavor alone, the congregation on Christ the King Lutheran will be helping with this mission once again this year. We have divided the contents of the baskets up between the congregations and this is what is being asked for from First Presbyterian Church - coloring books and individually wrapped Easter candies. If you are able to help with providing coloring books or candy please bring to church and deposit on the table at the back of the sanctuary **by Sunday, March 8th**. Just FYI, in the past a great resource for coloring books and candy has been the Dollar Tree.

On Sunday, March 15th we will gather in the social hall for basket assembly and once completed enjoy an Easter brunch together. Thank you as always for helping to make this mission possible and putting smiles on the faces of so many children in our community.

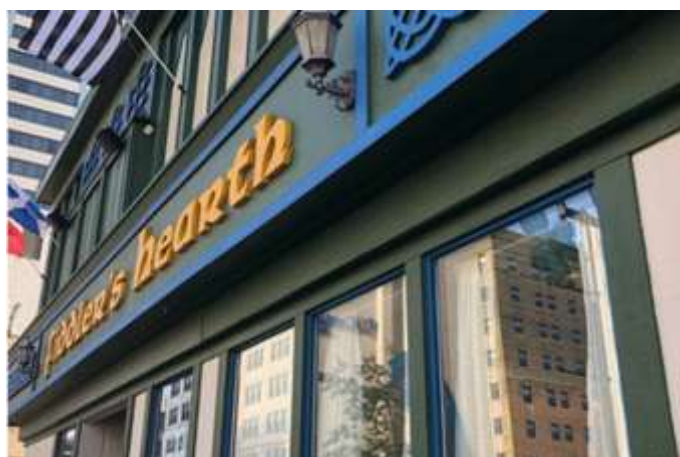
Ethnic Eating

FIDDLER'S HEARTH ...
Just in time for St. Patrick's Day!
Let's celebrate!

Friday, March 13, 2026

6:30 P.M.

Fiddler's Hearth
127 N. Main Street
South Bend, IN 46601



Ethnic Eating will gather at Fiddler's Hearth to enjoy good food and great fellowship – just in time for St. Patrick's Day.

Order off the menu. Separate checks. They are making an exception by offering this to our group. We have a reservation for 20 people – the max they will take that night – so get your reservation made today!

Reservations are required by Sunday, March 8 – and that's not that far away!!!

Please contact Phyllis Wezeman @ 574-302-1556 or phylliswezeman1@gmail.com.



“To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven”...

... “A time to be born”...

...“A time to love”...

The Presbyterian Church of Edwardsburg, MI, FPC Mishawaka,
Sunnyside Presbyterian Church

... “A time to grieve”...

Carl McLeod

... “A time to heal” ...

Jennifer Brittain, Kevin Dreyer, Van Gates, Scott Kelso, Sally Schlobohm, Joann Sporleder

...and friends of FPC...

Karen Blackley, Maggie Dyszkiewicz, Ann Schwarz, Michelle Scott, Mike Skaggs,
Emily Thompson, Vicki Toothaker, Ethan Wadzinski, Sharon Walbert

...“A time to die”...

... “and a time for peace”...

Those serving in our military & their families, those who serve our community:
teachers, police officers, fire fighters, emergency responders, healthcare workers, postal service
employees, grocery store workers, and elected officials. Victims and families of gun violence.

“Lunch Bunch”

Every third Thursday of the month

Allie’s Café

2323 E Mishawaka Ave, South Bend, IN 46615

We have a continuous reservation for 12.

LIVING MATTHEW 25 2026

Feed the Hungry
Welcome the Stranger
Clothe the Needy
Care for the Sick & Imprisoned
Act Boldly

Opportunities to Build Community in the South Bend Area through Learning and Serving

Facilitated by First Presbyterian Church of Downtown South Bend & its Community Partners

***Mondays
at the Movies***

Mondays, February 23 through April 6, 6:00 p.m.
St. Joseph County Public Library [Auditorium], South Bend

Feb 23



Brooklyn
[2015, PG-13, 1h 57m]

In 1950s Brooklyn, a young Irish immigrant is torn between the life she left behind and the future she's building.

Mar 2



Gut Renovation
[2012, 81 min]

A personal renovation unfolds into an essay on gentrification, memory, and displacement in Williamsburg.

Mar 9



West Side Story
[2021, PG-13, 2h 36m]

Two rival groups in 1950s New York are torn apart when a forbidden love challenges division and belonging.

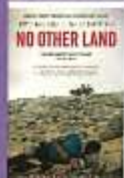
Mar 16



The Breadwinner
[2017, PG-13, 1h 34m]

A young Afghan girl disguises herself as a boy to support her family under Taliban rule.

Mar 23



No Other Land
[2024, Not Rated, 1h 32m]

A documentary following a Palestinian activist and an Israeli journalist amid displacement in the West Bank.

Mar 30



In the Heat of the Night
[1967, Approved, 1h 50m]

Wrongly arrested in Mississippi, a Black detective is forced to help solve a murder amid open racism.

Apr 6



Evicting the American Dream

A documentary revealing how eviction and housing insecurity impact families and children across the U.S.

For information contact
First Presbyterian Church
574-234-4159
info@fpcsouthbend.org
www.fpcsouthbend.org

See more on our website!



Free. Everyone welcome.

[Coordinated with Browning Cinema,
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center, University
of Notre Dame & Indiana University South
Bend Department of English – Film Studies]

First Presbyterian Church
333 West Colfax Avenue
South Bend, Indiana 46601
Return Service Requested



First Presbyterian Church of South Bend—We welcome all visitors! Visit our website: www.fpcsouthbend.org



**Join Us For Worship
on Sunday Morning
@ 9:45**