

# The Compass

September-  
October 2024

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH—Portland, Indiana

## Pastoral Perspectives on the Edge of a Cliff

A fellow colleague in ministry posted photos of their recent hiking journeys in New York State<sup>1</sup>. One or two among quite captivating pictures shown here capture a moment on the ledge of much rocky terrain high above the great span of green landscape spread out before an anxious precipice while partly hanging off its leading edge. This sparked my descriptive imagination upon which came to mind the time in the Lukan gospel when Jesus was taken to the edge of a cliff.

*“They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff.”*

—Luke 4:29 (NRSV)

### Castle Point, Minnewaska State Park Preserve, New York



*out on a ledge, among one another beholden, viewing breathtakingly beautiful breadth of vistas, one sees from across the way above and below clouds under azure skies such veritably verdant vastness surrounding earthen vessel environs enraptured in enormity*

Queries ascend: In what ways have you placed yourself out there on a limb in service for the sake of Christ? How have we risked ourselves in endeavoring to bless and be a blessing for others around us? Is the Holy Spirit leading you and I to do so in some fresh new way? Can we hear the voice of the Lord beckoning?

—Pastor Rex Espiritu

<sup>1</sup> photos of The Rev. Stephen Park Choi

### IN THIS ISSUE

|                      |       |
|----------------------|-------|
| Ford Baptisms        | pg. 2 |
| Visit to the Scott's | pg. 2 |
| Rally Sunday         | pg. 3 |
| Happy Birthday       | pg. 3 |
| PW Fall Gathering    | pg. 3 |
| Music Kick Off       | pg. 3 |
| Calendar             | pg. 4 |



## FORD FAMILY CELEBRATES DOUBLE BAPTISM



First Presbyterian Church recently celebrated the baptisms of brothers Luke and Grayson Ford. The brothers are the sons of Chris and Mabel Ford and the grandsons of Debbie & Dennis Ford. Pictured above during the baptism (L-R) grandmother Dulce Aguirre, grandparents Debbie & Dennis Ford, Pastor Rex, Grayson, Mabel, Luke, and Chris. Photos by Claire Smith.



Sandra, Joey & Emily Bailey, recently trekked to Georgia to visit our church family members, Harry & Carolyn Scott. Photo provided.



Let's rally together to grow in our faith and community.

- ◆ Rally Sunday is September 8
- ◆ Worship @ 9:30am
- ◆ Special music during worship
- ◆ Sack Lunches will be provided for everyone following worship. Dine in or carry-out
- ◆ Sunday School @ 10:45am
- ◆ Youth Sunday School Class teachers: Debbie Ford & Sarona Goodrich. Theme: *The Life of Jesus*
- ◆ Jr./Sr. High School Class teacher: Julia Schwomeyer. Theme: *Energizers*
- ◆ Youth meets during Worship following the Children's Message & also at 10:45am
- ◆ Note: there will be no Adult Sunday School Class until January 2025



**September**

- 02 Alice King
- 03 Madeline Benirschke
- 06 Tonya Hyatt
- 09 Jordan Rodden
- Daniel Scott
- 10 Chris Ford
- 12 Maria Hiatt
- 14 Harry Scott
- 21 Claire Smith
- 27 Sue Dunn
- 29 Stan Gockel

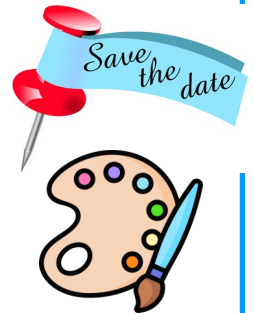
**October**

- 01 Adam Nixon
- Sydney Nixon
- 02 Janice Calhoun
- 04 Carrie Byrum
- 05 Tom Dunn
- 06 Linda Frantz
- Pam Rogers
- 14 Ivy Trinidad
- 17 Janet Barrett
- 29 Lisa Vogler
- 31 Lorna Snyder

**PW FALL GATHERING**

The PW Fall Gathering will be held Saturday, October 12 at 10:00am in the church Fellowship Hall.

The program will be entitled *Brunch and Brushes* with artist Kathy Ayers. Be on the lookout for further information.



**AUTUMN MUSIC PROGRAM KICK OFF**

The fall church season at First Presbyterian Church will begin on September 8 with Rally Sunday. As a part of our celebration, Amelia Freeman will join us for special music, singing a Mark Hayes arrangement of *Deep River*. She is a music teacher at South Adams Elementary School and an Anderson University graduate in music education. Amelia has participated in many of our Christmas Eve services and graced us with special music for several services over the past decade.

On Sunday, September 22, Jordan Wickey will play a work by Amy Beach arranged for saxophone. Beach was one of the rarities of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries: a successful female composer. Jordan is currently a saxophone performance major at Ball State University and, like Amelia, has participated in several special music occasions at our church.

Our choir will kick off the fall season on Sunday, October 13. To prepare, there will be two rehearsals: Thursday, October 3 and Thursday, October 10, both sessions at 5:30pm. Pete Vogler will continue as our choir director. Anyone who wishes to sing with the choir is welcome and encouraged to join our ranks. We need singers!

Reid Knuth, Jennifer Rupe, and Eric Rogers will continue as our keyboardists.





**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

402 North Ship Street  
Portland IN 47371

Phone: 260.726.8462

<mailto:office@firstpcportland.org>

<http://www.firstpcportland.org>

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**



September

- 01 Communion  
Cookies, Coffee, & Conversation
- 02 Labor Day-church Office Closed
- 05 4:00pm Worship & Music Committee Meeting
- 07 10:00am Presbytery Meeting @ Bluffton FPC
- 08 Rally Sunday
- 10 2025 Budget Requests Due  
6:30pm Deacons Meeting  
6:45pm Session Meeting
- 19 Church Office Closed
- 30 Bread of Life Community Meal

October

- 03 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 06 World Communion Sunday  
Peace & Global Witness Offering  
Communion  
Cookies, Coffee, & Conversation
- 08 6:30pm Session Meeting
- 10 5:30pm Choir Practice
- 12 10:00am PW Fall Gathering
- 13 Choir Sings
- 14 9:00am Newsletter Deadline  
3:00pm Foundation Meeting
- 21-24 Church Office Closed
- 27 Worship & Music Recognition Sunday

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

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