

First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso

3401 North Valparaiso Street
Valparaiso, IN 46383
Phone: (219) 464-4985

Mission Statement: Building Disciples; Growing in Faith; Serving in Christ's Name



Dear Beloved Community,

What an interesting, and at times, difficult, season it is to be in ministry. Our world feels increasingly divided. Freedom of speech is a gift, but too often it is misused in ways that wound instead of heal. Social media in particular emboldens us to say things we might never speak face-to-face, and anger too quickly escalates into hate.

Years ago, when Jason and I went to see *Star Wars: The Phantom Menace* in the theatre, Yoda, my favorite character, spoke a line that has stayed with me ever since: “Fear leads to anger, anger leads to hate, hate leads to suffering.” There’s deep wisdom here. Fear of what we don’t understand can grow into anger, and anger, if left unchecked, can harden into hate. Hate doesn’t just wound others, it corrodes our own souls.

As followers of Christ, we are called to another way. Paul reminds us: “Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ” (Ephesians 4:31–32, CEB). Even when we fall short, and all of us do, God still sees us as beloved. And if God sees us this way, we are called to see one another as beloved too.

October itself reminds us of God’s goodness breaking in. The beauty of the leaves turning, the abundance of autumn foods, the joy of Halloween laughter, all of it is a reminder that grace is never far away.

First Presbyterian Church, will gather on Sunday, October 19, for Celebration Sunday. On that day, we will pledge our giving for 2026 and share a meal together, not to boast in our own achievements, but to celebrate the work God is doing among us and through us. Our stewardship theme this year is “For Good” inspired by the song of the same name in the musical, *Wicked*. We are here, not for hate, not for fear, but for good. Stewardship is about caring faithfully for what has been entrusted to us, whether it’s the earth with its changing seasons, the neighbors God calls us to love, or the vibrant ministries of our church.

This October, may we remember that even in a world where anger is loud, goodness is louder still. God has placed us here for good, to be people of compassion, generosity, and joy.

In God’s Grip,

Pastor Kim

STEWARDSHIP TEAM NEWS



Well, the 2026 Stewardship campaign time is coming to an end. **October 19th** is the date of our **Celebration Sunday** when we will turn in our pledges (intentions to give financially) and come together for a lunch after the church service.

We will be rejoicing in God's infinite love, reflecting on what we have been able to do as a church body working together to share the Word of God, and reminiscing about those who have changed our lives for good.

Your financial gifts make many good things possible, from the daily operations of our building to far-reaching missions. **Please prayerfully consider your commitment and turn in a pledge card by October 19.**

Please respond to the meal invitation by October 5th so that we can have enough fried chicken and cake ready. We ask that you complete the meal by bringing a side dish to share. God is good all the time, and He has made us – for good!

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FAITH FORMATION & IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA COLLABORATION, CONT.

WANTED:

Host cars & candy donations

Fall Fest Nature Night is MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2025 6PM-7:30PM and we are asking for the congregation to host their cars and help with our annual candy donation request (bin located in the Narthex until October 12th).

****This year we are looking for cars (if you so choose) to host a simple game, i.e. Plinko, Ring Toss, Bean Bag Buckets...
Contact Trish Lawson at tlawson@fpcvalpo.org to sign up!**

As always thank you for your support!



FREE
EVENT!!

Monday
October 13, 2025
6pm-7:30pm

FALL FEST NATURE NIGHT

Join your hosts
First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso
&
Izaak Walton League of America
Porter County Chapter
for an evening full of fun!

Community Conservation Groups
Local Small Animals
Nature and Fall Themed Crafts
Games
Trick or Treat Nature Trail

3401 N Valparaiso St.
Valparaiso, In 46383
(Enter through Door C)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



PRESBYS SCHEDULE

October 1: 5:30-8pm (Dinner included) FPC

October 8: 5:30-8pm (Dinner included) FPC

October 15: 5:30-8pm (Dinner included) FPC

October 19: Breakfast @ 8 AM – FPC

October 29: 5:30-8pm (Dinner included)



GODLY PLAY

Join us for another year of *wondering* in our Godly Play space.

Preschool-5th graders are welcome to join us at 9:00 a.m. for morning music with Mr. Harry in room 144 followed by our Godly Play time in room 141.

All are welcome!

HAVE YOU THOUGHT ABOUT A WILL?

This past August was National Make-A-Will Month. Annually, the month of August is designated for this purpose. I certainly saw a number of articles in the newspaper and on-line promoting the making of a Will during August. Reading an article by Chris White the CEO for Northwest Indiana United Way, he states that Wills are “more than documents – but a peace of mind.” Common reasons given for completing a Will are the following.



- 1) Protect your children by naming guardians.
- 2) Support your spouse or partner by ensuring financial security.
- 3) Reduce conflict among family members by clearly stating your wishes.
- 4) Leave a legacy by designating a gift to a cause or organization close to your heart.

Seventy percent of adult Americans do not have Wills. A carefully written one has many benefits as outlined above. A Will can conserve your estate, expedite settlement, and creatively care for those you love. A Will can also provide an avenue for you to support those charities and non-profits that you have passionately supported during your lifetime. First Presbyterian is an example that you can support forever through a Will.

When Connie and I were in our 20's, we probably did not think much about a Will. However, when our oldest daughter was born, our thinking changed. We had a Will written primarily for the purpose of providing guardianship for our children. Now we are in our 70's and 80's, our children are adults providing for themselves, and we still see the need for a Will or Estate Plan. Some think writing a Will is complicated. It is not. Modern day tools can now allow one to write their own Will in less than an hour. Also, many competent, caring attorneys are available in our community to assist with writing a Will.

A Will is a cornerstone or framework for providing for our loved ones whether it is a spouse, children, grandchildren, or church family. It is never too early or too late to have one written. The question again is, Have You Thought About a Will?

Paul Knauff, Planned Giving Team

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.



Heating, Air Conditioning & Parking Lot Projects:

As you know your B+G's Team works continuously maintaining First Presbyterian Church to provide a safe, comfortable and beautiful environment for our Faith Community Worship, Mission and Christian Education.

Following almost five (5) years of study and temporary repair work we are at the end of any continuation of cost-effective and efficient heating and cooling maintenance.

The situation has become critical as we currently have no Air Conditioning (AC) and irregular heat in the Sanctuary and no heat or AC in the Chapel, Narthex and Hospitality center. Along with these failed systems our thirty (30) year old Main Office and Fellowship Hall heating and cooling systems have reached the end of their life expectancy and could also fail at any time.

On September 11th your Session Elders approved major repairs and upgrades to our fifty (50) year old boiler and air conditioning systems. They have also approved the much-needed repaving of our south, main, parking lot.

Last August your Finance Team, with Jim Hubbard, presented a brief update in First Notes regarding these improvements and I'll let them provide more financial details; however, I can now say that these major projects will cost almost \$800,000 will be financed with both Sharing Table Funds and a Mortgage Loan. The split between funding sources will be approximately 56% Sharing Table and 44% mortgage.

These projects will start very soon and will involve both heat and air conditioning in the Sanctuary, Chapel, Narthex, Hospitality Center, Fellowship Hall and Main office. These areas will be weaned off the two (2) boiler heating system to be replaced with high efficiency heating units and new rooftop AC units. At this time one (1) boiler will be operating to provide floor heat for the Nursery and Preschool and all of the north and north-west Classrooms, Faith Formation Office, Library and storage room general heat.

We don't anticipate any physical work being done in the major areas as listed; however, there will be no heat or air conditioning for a few weeks. The majority of construction will take place in equipment room 138 and up on the roof; however, the east end of the north hallway of the education wing is closed off at door "E".

We are still not sure of the actual working schedule as this type of project is a very fluid situation and dates are most likely going to change; however, the general contractor has estimated approximately 8 – 10 weeks of work from start to finish. We are looking at a very busy fall activity calendar and there are various events that will be affected.

For safety reasons office staff and Pre-school classes will occasionally be moved into other areas of the facility.

DEACONS DOINGS

Our annual Deacon Cookie Walk is approaching fast! Deacons have been baking treats and cookies for several years now, raising funds for the charitable work we do.

If you would like to contribute and bake some unique items or perhaps treats from a family recipe, we would love to have them. Just place them in a sandwich size zip lock bag and drop off Friday, November 7, 2025, at the kitchen church **from 4:00 p.m. onward** or early the day of the Craft Fair November 8.

In addition to the Cookie Walk, the Deacons have also provided a gift bag to several shut-ins in our church family during the Advent season.

We are also reaching out to anyone who would like to help provide 16 identical gifts that are pre-wrapped for our deacon friends. Such gifts can include personal care items such as magnifying glass, socks, puzzles, candy, cookies, hot chocolate etc. Anything thoughtful and creative would be great!

Thanks for any assistance and if you have any questions, please contact

Deacon Betty Richardson
219-242-3667



First Presbyterian Church of Valparaiso's
**5th Annual
Holiday Craft & Vendor Fair**

Saturday November 8, 2025

9am-2pm

3401 N. Valparaiso St.
Valparaiso, In 46383

Contact: Trish Lawson tlawson@fpcvalpo.org



**Vendor Applications
being accepted now
through October 1st!**

MISSION NEWS

DAYBREAK/PADS OPPORTUNITIES

Daybreak Homeless Shelter is in need of volunteers!!

Visit: <https://daybreakvalpo.org/volunteer>

They really need volunteers to provide and cook meals for around 30 people starting at 5:00 PM each night. To help with the overnight, Shifts run from 7:00pm - 11:00pm, 11:00pm - 3:00am, and 3:00am - 7:00am.

DAYBREAK DINNER

FPCV will be making dinner for Daybreak homeless shelter <https://daybreakvalpo.org/> on Thursday, October 16. We will be preparing the dinner for 40 people in the FPCV kitchen and delivering it to the Daybreak Homeless at 4:45 p.m. Dinner preparation will start at 3:00 p.m. We will make the meatloaf, scalloped potatoes and green bean casserole at FPCV and then transport it to the shelter along with the fruit, salads and desserts. Dinner at the shelter ends at 6:00 p.m., followed by clean-up.

THESE ARE THE NEEDS FOR THE DINNER:

- _____ Supply 6 pounds of ground beef for meatloaf
- _____ Supply 6 pounds of ground beef for meatloaf
- _____ Supply 5 boxes of Scalloped potatoes
- _____ Supply 5 boxes of Scalloped potatoes
- _____ Supply 7 cans of greens beans
- _____ Supply 7 cans of green beans
- _____ Supply 4 cartons of fried onions
- _____ Tossed Salad for 20 people
- _____ Tossed Salad for 20 people
- _____ Cut up Fruit/fruit salad for 20 people
- _____ Cut up Fruit/fruit salad for 20 people
- _____ Cookies or brownies for 20 people
- _____ Cookies or brownies for 20 people

VOLUNTEERS TO HELP COOK AND SERVE:

3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Need 5-6 volunteers to:
Make meatloaves for 40 people (6 meatloaves)
Make scalloped potatoes for 40 people
Make green bean casserole for 40 people

4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Need 4-5 volunteers
Deliver food and then serve it. We will engage and have conversations with the guests as we serve them.

6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. Need 2-3 people
Clean up and bring back pans to FPCV.

Please reach out to Beth Germann at bcgermann@gmail.com or 219-477-9964 to donate food items, serve as a volunteer that day or if you have questions.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL NEWS

Our kickoff to another wonderful preschool year has begun! We have a great year planned that is full of learning, growing, lots of play and fun!

It's going to be a festive autumn season as we have some wonderful events planned for our preschool kids. As we fall into October, we will be taking a trip to Garwood's Apple Orchard this month. It's always a fun trip for the kids to enjoy all things the fall has to offer outdoors. Another fun and informative day will include the Valparaiso Fire Department coming to visit for our annual fire safety lessons. All students will learn important fire safety skills, will do some safety activities and get to meet a fireman or two. October is fire safety month and it's always a great way to inform the students of life saving safety standards.

As the month takes a spooky turn towards Halloween, the kids will be able to dress up in their Halloween costumes and trick or treat, during class time, in the church halls! It's always a spooktacular time for them to trick or treat and have a Halloween celebration!

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Any church members that would like to volunteer to pass out candy to our preschool children for their Halloween party are welcome!

Dates/Times: October 30th (Early Learners) at 9:10 a.m. & October 31st (Pre-K) at 9:10 a.m.

Please contact Lisa Koroncz at fpp@fcpvalpo.org if you are interested in volunteering and would like more information!

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PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH RESALE SHOP NEWS

Your Presbyterian Church Resale Shop will open on Tuesday, October 7, 2025. Shopping hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 11:00 to 3:00. Our new location is 65 Franklin Street.



Moving has been a huge job, but we are excited to share our efforts with all of you and with the community. Please stop by and say "hello"!

We will begin accepting donations on Monday, October 13th. A drop box is available in the alley or items may be left in the Shop during business hours.

Thank you for your support. We hope to see you soon!

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

CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 1, 2025

10:00 AM	Faithful Friends Bible Study	101
1:00 PM	Building and Grounds Team	154/155
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:30 PM	Faith Formation Team	145
5:30 PM	Presbys Youth Group	100
6:30 PM	Worship Team Meeting	154/155

Thursday, October 2, 2025

10:00 AM	Comfort Stitchers	154/155
5:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, October 3, 2025

Saturday, October 4, 2025

Sunday, October 5, 2025

9:00 AM	Faith Formation	FPC
10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Congregational Life	Friendship Room
11:00 AM	GLS / International Preview Perform	Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 6, 2025 - Church Office Closed (Staff Can Work Remotely)

Repaving of FPC Parking Lot Project

6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
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Tuesday, October 7, 2025 - Church Office Closed (Staff Can Work Remotely)

Repaving of FPC Parking Lot Project

12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
12:00 PM	PCPS Board Meeting	Friendship Room
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	Online
4:00 PM	Membership Team	Online
5:30 PM	Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Planned Giving	101

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - Church Office Closed (Staff Can Work Remotely)

Repaving of FPC Parking Lot Project

10:00 AM	Faithful Friends Bible Study	101
5:30 PM	Presbys Youth Group	100
6:00 PM	iEngage Team	Online

Thursday, October 9, 2025

9:00 AM	MT Meeting	Friendship Room
10:00 AM	Comfort Stitchers	154/155
5:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary

Friday, October 10, 2025

Saturday, October 11, 2025

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 12, 2025 – Fall Congregational Meeting

9:00 AM	Faith Formation	FPC
10:00 AM	Worship: Fall Meeting of the Congregation	FPC
Monday, October 13, 2025		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
6:00 PM	Family Nature Night Festival- -Trail & Treats	FPC
Tuesday, October 14, 2025		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	FPC
4:00 PM	Preschool Team Meeting	100
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
6:30 PM	Mission Team	154/155
Wednesday, October 15, 2025		
10:00 AM	Faithful Friends Bible Study	101
11:00 AM	Agenda Meeting (TBC)	FPC
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:30 PM	Presbys Youth Group	100
7:00 PM	Finance Team	154/155
Thursday, October 16, 2025		
10:00 AM	Comfort Stitchers	154/155
5:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, October 17, 2025		
Saturday, October 18, 2025		
Sunday, October 19, 2025		
8:00 AM	Presbys Youth Group Breakfast	FPC
9:00 AM	Faith Formation	FPC
10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
11:00 AM	Celebration Sunday Dinner	Fellowship Hall
Monday, October 20, 2025		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, October 21, 2025		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	FPC
6:30 PM	Deacons Meeting	154/155
Wednesday, October 22, 2025		
10:00 AM	Faithful Friends Bible Study	101
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
6:30 PM	Session Meeting	
Thursday, October 23, 2025		
10:00 AM	Comfort Stitchers	154/155
5:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, October 24, 2025		
Saturday, October 25, 2025		

continued on next page

CALENDAR

Sunday, October 26, 2025 – Reformation Sunday

9:00 AM	Faith Formation	FPC
10:00 AM	Worship	Sanctuary
Monday, October 27, 2025		
6:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
Tuesday, October 28, 2025		
12:00 PM	Men's Bible Study	101
1:30 PM	Bulletin Notes Meeting	FPC
4:30 PM	Scouts	FPC
6:00 PM	Sweet Adelines	Fellowship Hall
Wednesday, October 29, 2025		
10:00 AM	Faithful Friends Bible Study	101
2:00 PM	Disciples Bible Study	101
5:30 PM	Presbys Youth Group	100
Thursday, October 30, 2025		
9:10 AM	Halloween Treats for Preschool	FPC
10:00 AM	Comfort Stitchers	154/155
5:00 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
6:30 PM	Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
7:30 PM	Worship Team Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Friday, October 31, 2025		
9:10 AM	Halloween Treats for Preschool	FPC

** on calendar denotes in-person and streamed online: Facebook, fpcvalpo.org, FPC YouTube Channel:*

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

DUE DATES: TIDINGS ARTICLES, BULLETIN ARTICLES AND SCREENS

DUE DATE FOR TIDINGS ARTICLES is the 15th of the month prior to the publication. (i.e. November articles are due by October 15.) Please email articles to Dawn in the church office at dscarborough@fpcvalpo.org

DUE DATE FOR BULLETIN ARTICLES, SCREENS, FIRST NOTES AND/OR ADVERTISEMENTS is noon the Monday prior to the publication.

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

Please email screen announcements to Jeff at jwhitney@fpcvalpo.org.

THANK YOU!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

October 1
Diana Austin
Ellen Corley
Pat Haas

October 2
Kade Borlick
Isabel Gordon

October 3
Sydney Hughes

October 6
Ralph Greenawald

October 7
Ben Hoham
Bruce Roth

October 10
Kassie Stanko

October 11
Henry Hoham

October 12
Jacki Phillips

October 14
Trish Lawson

October 15
Patrick Thomas

October 17
Jeremiah Giles
Cindy Robinson

October 18
Marita Banta-Long
Lauren Skadberg

October 21
Glen Buford
Kylee Stanko

October 22
Kent Richardson

October 24
Linda Hartlerode

October 26
Jason Gordon

October 28
Pat Lane

October 29
Lisa Thomas

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



MINISTRY ROSTER

SEXTON

Open:

October 5	TBD
October 12	Paul Knauff
October 19	Paul Knauff
October 26	TBD

Close:

Dan Higgins

ELDER ON CALL SCHEDULE

October 5	TBD
October 19	Jim Gray

DEACON ON CALL SCHEDULE

October 12	Jim Peyton
October 26	Sheya Bennett

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

October 5	Doug Hollar
October 12	Allison Schmitt
October 19	Mike Becker
October 26	Molly

USHER SCHEDULE

October 5	Jason Adams Rose Ross
October 12	Ben Keller Madison Keller Julie Fletcher-Golding
October 19	Mary Brown Jim Hubbard Sharon Hubbard
October 26	Michael McKee Suk McKee Rose Ross

COMMUNION SERVERS

October 5	Pastor Nancy Becker Michael McKee Jim Gray Ron Scott
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COMMUNION SET UP / CLEAN UP

October 5	Beth Germann
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHURCH STAFF

E-MAIL ADDRESS

Rev. Kim Adams	kadams@fpcvalpo.org
Rev. Nancy Becker, Parish Associate.....	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Dr. John Bernthal, Organist.....	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Rhonda Clark, Handbell Choir Director.....	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Sue Davis, Business Manager	sdavis@fpcvalpo.org
Dan Higgins, Custodian	
Valarie Smart-Higgins, Custodian	
Judy Hollar, Clerk of Session.....	churchoffice@fpcvalpo.org
Stephen Howell, Seminary Pastoral Intern.....	SCHowell@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

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

<u>Elders of Session</u>	<u>Ministry Team</u>
Matthew Byerly.....	iEngage Team* Worship Team* Nominating Committee **
Rhonda Coffin.....	Stewardship Team
Jim Gray	Mission Team
Madison Keller.....	Faith Formation Team* Membership Team*
Sharon Kinsey	Faith Formation Team Stewardship Team*
Jerry Kahrs	Finance Team Building and Grounds Team*
Harry Karabel.....	iEngage Team
Johnny Lawson.....	iEngage Team*
Kathryne Penninga	Worship Team Nominating Committee **
Rose Ross	Congregational Life Team
Chip Wilkes.....	Personnel Team* Finance Team*

*denotes Elder Rep.

**denotes Vice Moderator

Building and Grounds Team

Vic Klancer, Moderator

Moderator of Session

Pastor Kim Adams

Membership Clerk & Moderator of Membership

Elizabeth Monroe

Board of Deacons

Beth Germann, Moderator

Personnel Team

Jim Hubbard, Moderator

Clerk of Session Pro Tem

Jim Hubbard

Planned Giving Committee

Kathy Joseph, Moderator

Treasurer

Jerry Kahrs

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



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