

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

April 2015

Volume 53 No. 8

One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Palm Sunday.

Hope does not disappoint us because God's love had been poured into our hearts. Rom. 5:5

By God's grace, each day is a gift, an opportunity for a new beginning. Through abundant and generous gifts to OGHs, for many years, Presbyterians have faithfully heeded God's call to serve people seeking to reclaim and restore their lives. Your gift to OGHs is a gift of hope. Your gift allows Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to restore communities around the world affected by natural and human-caused disasters. Your generosity helps the Presbyterian Hunger Program work with Presbyterians and other partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in this country and internationally. Your sharing makes it possible for Self-Development of People to affirm the dignity of all by assisting in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people.

Please give generously

One
great hour
of sharing

Holy Week begins March 29. Please join us in worship.



Palm Sunday, March 29, 10:00: We will hear and reflect on Jesus' enigmatic entrance into Jerusalem the final week of His earthly life. Children are invited to join in the palm branch processional at the beginning of the service.

Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7:00 p.m.: In a Tenebrae Service, we will hear again of the night Jesus gathered with His disciples for the Last Supper and was betrayed into the hands of His enemies.

Good Friday, April 3, 7:00 p.m. Several South Bend churches are gathering for an ecumenical Good Friday service, and we have been graciously invited to join them. This year's service will be at St. Peter's U.C.C., 915 N Ironwood Dr., South Bend (corner of Rockne and Ironwood).

Easter, April 5, 10:00 a.m.: We will celebrate Christ's Resurrection with hymns, lilies, and the Lord's Supper. An Easter Egg Hunt for the children will be offered downstairs following worship.

Easter Egg Hunt at First Presbyterian Church after worship.

Following worship, children may come to the Fellowship Hall stage to receive a basket and hear instructions on our egg hunt. Children of all ages may participate.

Contact Judy Green if you would like to help.



from the Pastor's desk

Spring Break & Holy Week

This year, Holy Week falls just before the first week of April – that is to say, just before spring break for the local schools. However, many are the years when the two fall on the same week. The juxtaposition of the two weeks sets me to thinking...

Americans in general and Protestants in particular are not big on “pilgrimages,” but that word comes up frequently in connection with spring break. College students make “pilgrimages” to warmer climes, and families make “pilgrimages” to vacation spots or the homes of relatives. For some, the spring break trip becomes almost a ritual, and the week becomes almost “holy” in being set aside for a special (though not religious) purpose.

I don't condemn spring break trips. In those fortunate years when spring break does not coincide with Holy Week, clergy families enjoy it as much as anyone. I well remember the year when our boys were young and we spent several glorious days at a Wisconsin Dells waterpark.

If you polled students, parents of school-age children, teachers, or other school personnel as to the relative importance of spring break vs. Holy Week, what do you think you'd find? I'd guess that spring break would win, hands-down. After all, it's about having fun, and who among us couldn't use more fun in our lives? And for families, vacation trips are often the best chance for parents and children to deepen their relationship (assuming they don't drive one another crazy!).

Indeed, for most people, including most Christians, the tendency is to conflate Palm Sunday and Easter, and to skip Holy Week altogether. It is to emphasize the “fun” parts of the week – waving palms on Palm Sunday, dressing up and hearing wonderful music on Easter, perhaps an egg hunt for the small children – and pay little attention to the dark events in between: the betrayal and sadness at the Last Supper, the horror and tragedy of Jesus' arrest, trial, and suffering, the darkness and despair of His crucifixion and death.

Why focus on those things? Don't we have enough depressing thoughts in our lives without adding to them? Why not just stay with the up-beat, the positive, the happy parts of our faith? Unlike the media emphasis on preparing for Christmas, there is no popular push for preparing for Easter.

But to skip Holy Week, to leap lightly from palm branches to Easter baskets, to skip immersion in Jesus' passion through Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, is to miss something important and life-giving, something deeper and more lasting. To quote Timothy George, Dean of Beeson Divinity School:

Of course, we know that all is not right with the world nor indeed with ourselves. Good Friday does not permit the kind of unscrupulous optimism usually found on our Easter greeting cards. But it does declare that at the heart of the universe there is a personal presence, a God who has chosen not to remain in his heaven, cocooned within himself, but who has become a part of the world he has made, and taken upon himself the burden of loving it back to himself. This he has done as a humbly born baby in a manger, as a suffering man on a cross.

We are invited by ... Holy Week to believe beyond all doubt that ... there is redemption in and beyond, though not apart from, suffering and pain, ... that time is a God-given opportunity to learn to love, and that love is the one thing we experience in time that remains in eternity.

I invite you this year to observe Holy Week. To get beneath the surface of life, to “go to dark Gethsemane,” to meditate on Jesus' “sacred head, now wounded,” to ask yourself, “Holy Jesus, how have I offended?” In doing so, you will be prepared for a deeper and fuller understanding of the joyous good news of Easter, that indeed “Jesus Christ Has Risen Today, Alleluia!”

News from Presbyterian Women

Gifts of Women Sunday and Birthday Offering, April 12th

Our annual Gift of Women celebration will have speaker Beth Snyder, Program Assistant, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Beth is a great speaker who brings a vast knowledge of PDA. She has also been active in Presbyterian Women on all levels. Beth recently moved to Jefferson, Indiana and her first request before joining the local Presbyterian Church was to be allowed to start a PW group. Please come and welcome Beth as we celebrate the Gifts of Women and learn more about Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The theme this year is "Celebrating the Bond Between Young and Senior Women".

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BASEMENT SALE 2015!

All items may be dropped off starting on Sunday, April 12th and placed on the stage. If you need to drop off items before this date please contact either Darlene Seufert or Lynett Heritz to make arrangements. We are accepting gently used clothing for men, women, youth and children. Please remember that all items should be clean and in good condition. There is always a need for bedding, home wares, linens, books, seasonal items and children's toys and books.

Sunday, April 19... We will be setting up for the Basement Sale after Worship

We will be setting up tables and spreading out the booty. A brown bag is suggested if you plan to stay.

ALL ITEMS BEING DONATED FOR THE SALE

SHOULD BE DROPPED OFF BEFORE/ON THIS DAY!

(Monday is a non-work day, extra day to drop off for the "oops! I forgot" of our church)

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 21 & 22 – We will finish setting up and pricing items

Thursday, April 23 SALE DAY...9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, April SALE DAY...9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

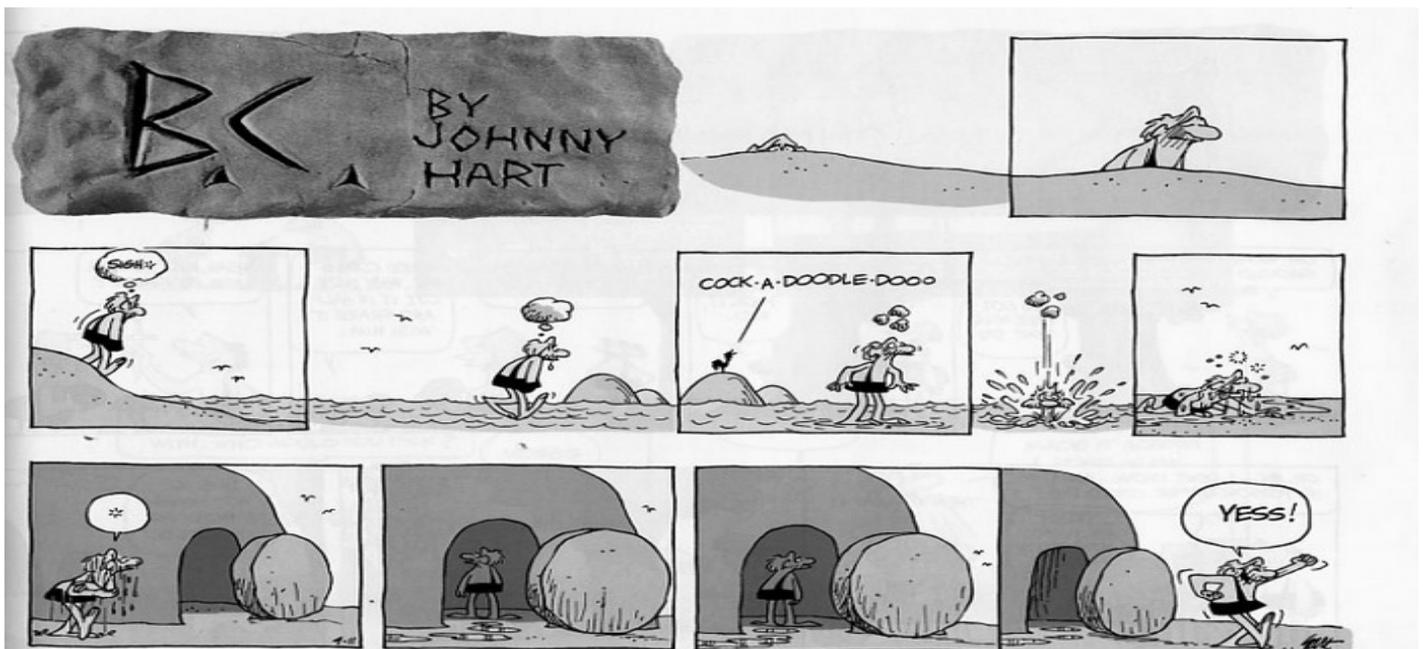
Saturday, April 25 BAG SALE & CLEAN UP! 10 a.m. to noon

WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING COMPUTERS OR LARGE ELECTRICAL ITEMS!!

Computers can be dropped off at the Goodwill Store and electrical items to the Rehab Store on Grape Road. **We are always in need of ladies and fellas to help the days of the Sale.** If you would like to donate several hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, please let Darlene or Lynett know.

So what day can you help?

And please stop by or tell your neighbors and friends about the Sale! There have been some amazing finds in past years; who knows what you will find this year!



Adult Sunday School...

Our current video-based class, *First Light: Jesus and the Kingdom of God*, will continue through Palm Sunday. There will be no class on Easter or the Sunday after. The class will resume on Sunday, April 19. The next video class will be *Constantine's Sword*, James Carroll's disturbing history of how Christianity has been perverted into anti-Semitism.

Book Club's next meeting will be on the 26th of April at 2 pm. The *Bostin Girl* by Anita Diamant. We will meet at Lynett's home and Beth Davis will lead the discussion, the meeting will last about an hour or so. All are welcome to attend, come monthly or at your pleasure, *even if you have not read the book*. So please join us, there is always room for more. You may contact Judy, at mtcgjag@aol.com or see information on board in the foyer. Thank you.

5/17/15 The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

9/20/15 The Ladies Bathroom by Carolyn Brown

We take turns hosting, leading and providing snacks, but no one is obligated to do that.

Possible future reads: *Sea Change* by Karen White, *Cuckoo's Calling* by

J. K. Rowling, *The Girl in the Photograph: The Story of Kim Phuc*

Since its introduction, The Deacons Christmas Shopping Program has provided clothing to thousands of children in our community. In an effort to continue to help as many children as we can, the Deacons have scheduled two fundraising events.

Nelson's Port-A-Pit Chicken – May 2, 11am-3pm church parking lot. Pre-sale tickets will be available. Cost is \$6.50. Tell your friends and family! Anyone willing to help the day of the sale, or if you have a location to hang flyers or sell tickets please contact Carole... did I mention that we will have a chicken suit?!

Hacienda Fiesta Give Back Night. Sept 21st at 100 Center Hacienda – details to follow later, but mark your calendar now to enjoy lunch or dinner (dine-in or carry-out) at the 100 Center Hacienda.

A portion of your purchase will be returned to the Deacons.

Postage Stamps are still available for purchase. Contact Carole Polk with any questions or orders.

The Building Facilities annual **Spring Clean up will be May 9 at 8:30 am**. Please join us for this opportunity to spruce up the building and grounds, there's always plenty to be done! If you have a particular project in mind and need some supplies, let John Martz know. A light lunch will be served. Bring any of your yard tools that you like to work with. All help is appreciated.

Smile When You Use Amazon

If you plan to purchase books, music and other wonderful gifts from Amazon, you may effortlessly donate to PW (free to you!) by signing up for and shopping through Amazon Smile. Simply visit smile.amazon.com and select Presbyterian Women as your favorite charitable organization. Shop as you normally would through "regular" Amazon, but and even better!, when you shop through Amazon Smile, a portion of the purchase of eligible items is donated to Presbyterian Women. In other words: you shop, Amazon gives, PW receives!

Prayer Group Meets to unite in prayer weekly.

Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman. jfree930@aol.com

How awesome the power of prayer is!



The **Mission Committee** not only takes monetary donations for our 4 offerings throughout the year but we also do many service projects to help our own community.

In January we had our “Souper Bowl”

In February & March we had “Sock it to me”

Thanks to the wonderful donations of socks we were able to warm over 100 peoples feet during this cold weather in Broadway Christian Parish.

In April, let’s “fill the cart” as we, the committee, look for new ideas for another project!

NEWS FROM THE MAC

Statistics from the MAC Food Pantry located at Albright Methodist Church tell the story of the caring community this church is a part of. During the Christmas holidays Granger Community Church donated 850 boxes of food collected through their annual Christmas food drive. Both Habitat for Humanity and Broadway Christian Parish shared some of what was received through their holiday food donations. As often occurs, donations to the MAC food pantry begin to decline after the holidays, however, MAC churches and individual donations are increasing.

The Vineyard Church will be holding its first food drive of the year this month. USDA allotment coming through the Food Bank of Northern Indiana is expected within the month. Local food stores continue supporting the efforts of the Pantry. People Gotta Eat has indicated the Pantry will be included in its distribution of funds.

Carol Minx reported cash donations in December, January and February were extremely helpful giving the Pantry a healthy beginning for 2015. Nearly 52,000 pounds of food were donated in 2014.

An in-depth discussion at the MAC meeting addressed the issue of the homeless in Mishawaka. A consortium of concerned individuals, including social workers, has been meeting. An overture to the city administration inviting discussion has not received much attention other than the city doesn't seem to agree there is much of a problem feeling it is an issue that has been handled by the churches and other community groups. Since there is no homeless shelter as such, entities who are called upon in emergency situations do what they can. The goal of the consortium is trying to find a suitable location which can be outfitted as a temporary place having on-site volunteers available to work with those in need of assistance during these emergencies. This concern is another layer for the Mishawaka Alliance of Care and it is looking for an answer to a problem that does exist.

Mission is alive and well in our community. East Methodist Church has resumed its annual Lenten Soup nights....serving from 4:30 to 6:30 on the first Thursday during Lent. First Methodist is holding Trivia Night fund raiser. Our church collected socks for those in need.

Through the benevolence of the Smock Foundation of Fort Wayne, our church now has a Smock Fund for emergency assistance to Presbyterians. It is jointly administered by our Deacons and our Mission Committee, and is only for church members. If you have, or are aware of, and emergency need, please speak to Angie Bellinger (Mission Committee) or one of our Deacons.



Register now for the 2015 Churchwide Gathering!



Registration for the 2015 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women is open!

Register now: www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering

The Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for Presbyterian women from across the country (and around the world!) to gather for worship, education, community-building, fun and renewal. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, forums, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers and worship. So turn on your GPS, turn off your hectic schedule and follow Minnie the Moose (the 2015 CWG moose-cot) to the lovely Hyatt Regency Minneapolis June 18–21 for worship, fun, fellowship, connection and spiritual uplift! The theme of the Gathering is “One Body, One Spirit,” based on 1 Corinthians 12:12–27. Registration for the event is just \$395 (less than in 2012!), with hotel rooms at the Hyatt Regency at \$169 per night (up to four guests per room). Rooms are also available at the Hilton Minneapolis.

A MEMBER'S VIEW

Every church probably thinks that there are some things they do that are uniquely theirs. Things that make them special. Three things come to my mind about 1st Pres. Mishawaka.

One is our use of our members' talents to create covers for our bulletins. Children and adults have contributed to this. When I have shared this with members from other churches, they are impressed.

A second is the make up of our session. Including the clerk, 6 of the 7 members are employed. Most churches have a much different ratio with more retirees serving, demonstrating our members' willingness to get involved.

The third is the recognition that the worship service begins and ends with the prelude and the postlude. Very few churches have congregations listening to and applauding the postlude. I am concerned about what I see as a change in this practice. If people need to leave after the benediction, they can do that quietly. If people wish to visit, that could be done in the sanctuary after the postlude or in the narthex, memorial lounge, fellowship hall, or the CE lobby. That should be done out of courtesy to the organist and those remaining listeners.

Alan Camren

CHURCH STAFF
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Custodian Ken Vargo

Pastor hours: varied, please check Sunday Bulletin, or call for appointment.

Secretary hours: 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Financial Secretary hours: Monday & Thursday 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or fcpmishawaka@gmail.com



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Newsletter deadline is April 17 at noon. Please send information for February newsletter to Sue Rice at suce@aol.com or mail information to Debra, the church secretary.



Church Officers and Committees

Session: Angela Bellinger, Judy Green, John Martz, Ron May, Bruce McClure, Darlene Seufert

Board of Deacons: Bill Bellairs, Tom Camren, Lynett Heritz, Carole Polk, Teresa Primmer, Bill Walter

Facilities and Operations

John Martz, chair (elder)
 Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino,
 Chuck Wukovits

Book Club: Judy Green

Clerk of Session: Teresa Primmer

Christian Education: Darlene Seufert

Finance: Ron May, Chair

Mission and Evangelism:

Angela Bellinger, Chair

Nominating: Dave Sulak, Chair/Elder

Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Presbyterian Women: Darlene Seufert and Teresa Primmer

PWNS Board: John Rice, Chair

Scrap Booking: Brittany Rice

Special Gifts: Sue Rice, acting chair

Stewardship: Ron May, Chair

Treasurer: John Rice

Worship and Music:

Judy Green, Chair

John & Sue Rice welcome our church family to the wedding of Katie Grace to Justin Ora McCloskey on April 11th, 2015. The nuptials will take place at half past three. Please join us on this most joyous day and share blessings with our children.

Special Gifts offering Camperships to Geneva Center

The Special Gifts Committee is offering to help with the cost of attending Geneva Center Camps. Every year hundreds of Presbyterian youth visit Geneva Center for a fun-filled, enriching week of faith-filled enjoyment. As in years past, please contact a committee member with a filled out form, preferably before deadline of camp, and then start packing the bags! Betty Johnson, Ida LaBelle, Gordon Reif and Sue Rice

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

Ice cream, you scream the 4 year olds are serving their families at the annual Ice Cream Social here at PWNS. Some songs will be sung and art work will be displayed as another year of learning will be celebrated. The upstairs class will enjoy field trips as the weather improves. Summer school will again happen, helping 5 year olds get ready for kindergarten. Please contact the office for more details. Thank you, Jayne Wurz



April 2015

Worship 10 am, Fellowship 11 am Adult School 11:15 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>One great hour of sharing</i></p>			1	<p>2  Maundy Service 7pm</p>	3 	4 
<p>5 Easter Greeter Margret D. & Lynett H. ushers: Ethan D. & Dan B. W. Leader: Darlene S</p> 	6 <i>Deacons Meeting 7pm</i>	7	8	9	10 <i>wedding rehearsal 5 pm</i>	11 <i>Wedding of Katie & Justin 3:30 pm</i>
<p>12  Gifts of Women Greeter: Mary Ann D. ushers: Carole P. & Rose Marie R. Beth Snyder, guest W. Leader: Judy G.</p>	13	14	15	16 <i>Ruth circle 7pm</i> 	17 <i>Newsletter deadline</i> <i>Scrapbooking Club 6 to 11 p.m.</i>	18
<p>19 Greeter: Laura P. Ushers: Michael G. & Judy S. W. Leader: Chris W.</p> <p>Sale set up </p>	20 Second chance to bring in sale items <i>Elizabeth circle 7pm</i> 	21 <i>basement sale set up</i>	22 <i>basement sale set up</i>	23 <i>Basement Sale 9 to 6</i> 	24 <i>Basement Sale 9 to 2</i> 	25 <i>Bag sale and clean up 10 to noon</i> 
<p>26 Greeter: Bill B. Ushers: Dick D. & Janet F. W. Leader: Judy S. Book Club 2 pm</p>	27	28	29	30		

SCRAPBOOKING CLUB

Join us for some fellowship and fun at our Scrapbooking/Crafting Group! We meet in the Fellowship Hall and the cost is \$5. Set-up, clean-up, drinks, and tableware are provided. Sharing snacks & ideas with each other and catching up on all the things happening in our lives makes this evening go very quickly. Feel free to bring any type of project that you have to work on. We meet from **6pm to 11pm.**

2015 DATES: April 17th May 29th June 26th (No July) August 28th September 25th October 23rd November 20th (No December)

I look forward to seeing you there, Brittany Rice scrap.brittany@comcast.net