

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

December 2015 & January 2016

Volume 54 No. 5

Worship & Music *Advent and Christmas Eve plans...*below is a look at what you can expect this Advent and Christmas season.

1st Sunday of Advent:

Children's message is "What is Advent and What the Advent wreath means."

Advent Candle lighting by Angela & Gia Bellinger "Coming"

Sermon: "When Faith Steps Up, Fear Flees!"

2nd Sunday of Advent:

Children's message is "Candy Canes"

Advent Candle lighting by Greg, Dyan & Charlotte Phillips "Prepare"

Sermon: "The Extreme Priorities Makeover!"

3rd Sunday of Advent:

Children's message is "The Crèche, Don't mess with Christmas"

Advent Candle lighting by ??? See Judy Green "Joy"

Sermon: "Watch, It's Time For Rejoicing, Gentleness And Thanksgiving!"

4th Sunday of Advent:

Children's message is "Christmas Tree angel tree topper"

Advent Candle lighting by Dan, Brittany, Julie, Mia & Tommy Rice "Hope"

Sermon: "Humph! Why Unexpected Greatness From Such A Tiny Town?"

Christmas Eve: 7:15 pm Canticle Ringers hand bell prelude, 7:30 pm scripture lessons and music telling about the birth of Jesus, Chancel choir singing, the Sermon by Don Neely "The Night The World Was Turned Upside Down!" Lighting of the Christ Candle and sharing his light throughout the Sanctuary while singing Silent Night. Our Bulletin cover will be a "special" surprise for you all to watch for.



Your Worship & Music committee, organist and Pastor Neely are working hard to bring you a beautiful and meaningful Advent/Christmas season. Each week the Children's message has a "theme" we will focus on, and share a little something with the congregation...hmmm?

December 6th we will share communion with one another. December 27th our church will host the "Community" worship for the local churches that participate like in the past...Barbara Wirt will be filling the pulpit. If you would like to participate in the service see Judy Green. There will not be a formal worship leader, plans are still in the beginning stages. There will be a special choir directed by Yolanda Kisor, so anyone wanting to sing let Justin or myself know and we will get you the details...things will approach fast and I need to share details with the people planning the service as well as all of you. Angela & Gia have agreed to host fellowship that for all who attend that day.

Pulpit Supply for January 2016: 3rd is John McLean, 10th TBD (Communion), 17th Jill Lowry, 24th & 31st TBD

Please be sure to invite friends and family without a church home or who may be visiting for the season to our services. I look forward seeing all the plans unfold each week as we "*await the coming of baby Jesus!*"

Presbyterian Women 2015 – 2016 CALENDAR



- Dec 4 set-up in Fellowship Hall
Dec. 5 Breakfast with Santa. 9:00 am
 Jan. 9 10 a.m. PWCT Meeting
 11 a.m. **PW Winter Gathering**
 Tea lunch/ brunch
 Malawi- Anna Liechty
 Jan. 18 Kitchen clean-up 10:00 a.m.

Our 2016 Winter Gathering

will be a luncheon tea

on **January 9 @ 11:00 am**

(note time change from original calendar)

Our speaker, Anna Liechty, will be presenting

"Woman - to - Woman"

which celebrates the women in our lives, women who have made a difference in the world, and women in Malawi who can make a difference in the lives of girls. This program is an awareness raiser and a fund raiser for Malawi Matters' "Equipping Women - Empowering Girls" program.

This program will be open to public, so if you know of anyone who would be interest, please invite them to join us for the program.

PW Basement sale storage room. Presbyterian Women have cleaned out two areas that will be available for you to drop items off at any time during. The first is the bottom of the PW closet, which is the closet behind the accordion door, closest to the bathroom in Fellowship Hall. Also there is a room on the 3rd floor- 2nd door on west side will remain unlocked at all times and there is a sign on the door. We would like to see all donated clothing in this room but you can also put other items here. We hope to make this a work room where we can sort and prep items for the sale ahead of time. As always thank you for giving, contact Darlene or Lynett with questions.

Presbyterian Women's Bake Sale and Vendor Sale Our Bake Sale-Vendor Fair was very successful this year. We would like to thank everyone who came for the 2 work nights, donated the many yummy baked goods, invited friends to shop and worked the day of the sale. We could not have done it without you! We made 1447.77, which helps to pay our Celebration Offering and to fund our other mission projects.
 Judy, Lynett and Carole, Bake Sale Committee.

2015-2016 PW/Horizon Bible Study:

COME TO THE WATERS

by Judy Record Fletcher.

Lesson Four: Dangerous Waters: God's Deliverance. Scripture readings from Joshua 3 and Psalms 69 : 1-3. The Joshua passage is the story of the Israelites crossing the Jordan River into the promise land. The problem is too much water. The Jordan River is overflowing its banks. It worked before, parting the waters, and will again. This is a time of celebration at end of a long (40 year) journey and hopeful anticipation of new adventures and a permanent home. The twelve tribes are settled and a new nation is born. On the other hand, the Psalmist is emotional and spiritually drowning. The work of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Program is also highlighted in this lesson.

Lesson Five: Stormy Water: Faith. The Scripture lesson is taken from Matthew 14: 22-33. The author uses John Westerhoff's book, Will our Children Have Faith to look at the four stages of Faith. Life has times of "Stormy Seas" and how do we call upon our Faith to give us guidance and hope.

Circle Meeting Schedule is the 3rd Monday/Thursday of the month. Check calendar.

Elizabeth Circle, Mondays at 7 p.m.

Chris Wukovits is hosting this month. January meeting is at church. See Mary Ann Dentino for additional information.

Ruth Circle, Thursdays at 7 pm. Teresa Primmer is hosting for December. Darlene Seufert is hosting in January. See her for additional information.

Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 5th Santa will be here at First Presbyterian Church! You must pre-purchase tickets for this fun filled morning. Tickets will be on sale Sunday November 29th or you can contact Chris Wukovits. The giggles, the ohhhh's and shouts are music to every one's ear. **Ho HO HO!**

Presbyterian Women/Quilts of Valor



Last Spring at the Presbyterian Women’s Gathering at Range Line PC, Diana Richards, Indiana Coordinator for Quilts of Valor (QoV) Foundation made a presentation about the QoV work across the country to present quilts to veterans. She showed many beautiful quilts and was seeking volunteers to present quilts to veterans around the state. Three of us from First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka volunteered. Darlene Seufert, Lynett Heritz and Pam Camren volunteered to cover the north central part of Indiana. To date, 16 quilts have been presented in Ft. Wayne, Goshen, South Bend, Rochester and Mentone. The veterans have been from all service branches and served in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. The pictures here were taken during the presentations including a photo from the Goshen News taken during a presentation at the Disabled American Veterans Club. Contributions for materials for the quilts can be made to Quilts of Valor Foundation on line (there are also MANY pictures of other presentations.) Presenters are volunteers and receive no compensation for their time.



Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School

December is a time for Jesus’ birth! The children will spend their days preparing for the journey to Bethlehem. They travel far and wide, through the church, looking for the star to lead them to the Baby Jesus. After their long travels, they give gifts and have cake and sing Happy Birthday to celebrate his Birth. The children will return on the 4th of January. Snow is the theme, how to dress for it, animal tracks in it, the eating of it! North and South poles, igloos and more. And continue with learning the letters and sounds they make. Merry Christmas & Blessings on the season. Jayne Wurz

SCRAPBOOKING CLUB...

will return in February! I hope you all have a happy, safe, family filled, picture taking, gorgeous, funny holidays! Please come join us in the coming months to take a few hours for yourself and do your hobby with your church family on a special Friday night of creativity.

Merry Christmas, Brittany Rice

For those of you who just got to scrap! Contact me about our annual weekend at Essenhaus in January. We scrap Friday, Saturday and Sunday! And eat really, really well. Contact me at scrap.brittany@comcast.net for details.

Book Club:

no meeting in December

the "suggested" reading is The Shepherd, the Angel and Walter the Christmas Miracle Dog and/or Blue Christmas by Mary Kay Andrews. January 2016 is in progress and will be shared via email and the bulletin insert. Book Club meets at 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month but dates can vary. Our next meeting is January 24th. Please contact Judy if you have questions. mtcgjag@aol.com Please come join us. We take turns hosting, leading and providing snacks, but no one is obligated to do that.

Stewardship:

There are only a few commitment cards outstanding for 2016. The cards that have come in offer increased giving that will nearly offset the losses that came with the passing of some faithful stewards.

The committee appreciates the ongoing support of our faithful, as well as the timely return of commitment cards that help us to budget for 2016.

News from the Christian Education Committee: Sunday School News

Session Two for the Pre K, Kindergarten and Primary class will begin November 29 and run during the four Sundays in Advent. The Lessons center around the figures in the Crèche. Lesson One tells about the Angel Gabriel and his visit to Mary. Advent is a time of waiting and learning about the Nativity story. December 6th is the story of Mary and Joseph and their travels to Bethlehem to be counted in the census. December 13th is the story of the Host Of Angels announcing to the Shepherds the birth of Baby Jesus. Finally December 20 is the story of the Wise Men as they follow the star to the baby Jesus.

CE is looking for members willing to teach one of these lessons. Each lesson is 30 minutes, beginning at 11:15 and ending promptly at 11:45. Talk to Darlene Seufert if you would be willing.

from Deacons

We have been talking about it all year, and it is finally here... *December 12th is JC Penny Christmas shopping.* Donations should be in by December 6th. There is an envelope in your box with the weekly envelopes as well as in the pews or just mark your check "Deacon's Christmas Shopping." We are requested the names of 50 children from School City Mishawaka. We will be needing about **15 people** to help the parents shop. Meet us at 8 am, 2nd floor elevator in the boys department. Please sign-up on the clipboard if you are planning on helping. This is a hands-on mission and we need people to help the parents with shopping. This mostly consists of holding purchases and keeping track of money spent. Shopping usually takes about an hour, and the parents are so grateful for much needed clothes and it is truly a rewarding experience. JC Penney's has been very generous and helpful over the years, so keep them in mind when planning for your shopping needs. Deacons thank you for your support.

Postage Stamps available for purchase. They come in all styles and shapes, and several people have been supporting the stamp program. Thank you for that. 100% of proceeds support our shopping Christmas fund and what a fun way to dress up your boring envelopes! Please remember there is a box with pre-packaged stamps in groups of 10 (\$4.90) or 20 (\$9.80). (by the mailboxes in the CE office) You can pick up what you need when you need them. Thank you. Deacons

Mission Committee:

You are a generous people, and gave enough that we were able to provide 14 Thanksgiving Baskets to families from Battell school. Turkey, stuffing, pie and all the rest will be a welcome and filling gift of giving to these families. And many, many thanks to our delivery people.

This holy season, let the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem illuminate our hearts and shine in our actions. By giving to the PC(USA) *Christmas Joy Offering*, we will provide opportunities for students to attend Presbyterian-related racial and ethnic schools and colleges. Also through our contributions, we will be helping families of active and retired church workers through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. Please prayerfully consider your gift to be used for these important groups of people.

We will once again be collecting non perishable soup ingredients after the first of the year until **"SOUPER"** Bowl Sunday. Any and all items will work, so let's get those kettles overflowing! Large soup kettles will be placed throughout the church for collection. Thank you.

Our church Christmas card will be at the top of the stairs in the lobby, please take a moment to share greetings with your family and friends. And once again the mitten tree will be out. Bring in mittens, scarves or socks to be donated to Battell School for winter. Merry Christmas

Special Gifts Special Gifts is growing. The committee has asked 3 church members if they would like to join and all have answered yes. Pat Harker will return to the committee after a few years off-duty, her gift of history will be most welcome. Anna Bowers will be joining for the first time to lend herself to the Committee, her gift of a youthful mind is a blessing; and Mary Ann Dentino will share her soft spoken knowledge with us all. We welcome all three ladies and look forward to giving to our church in the coming years.

Special Gifts meets 3 times a year to carefully use funds to honor the memory of our departed "saints". The committee works to provide grants to assist with immediate needs and with the Memorial Endowment to provide the church long-term needs.

Meeting dates for 2016 are February 15th 3pm, May 16th 3pm and September 19th 3pm.

Anna Bowers, Mary Ann Dentino, Par Harker, Betty Johnson, Gordon Reif and Sue Rice

All Saint's Day List

Patricia Barricklow (cousin of Rose Marie Reif) January 8

Ida LaBelle June 6

Charles Rolf Caylor June 17

Evelyn Mae Francis (mother of Mary Beth McClure) June 23

Claudia Riggs August 10

Elaine Summers (friend of Gordon & Rose Marie Reif) Oct. 16

Paul "Bud" Hertel Jr (uncle of John Martz) October 17

Annamae Poole (aunt of Mary Watts) October 27

John Heritz October 30

Memorial gifts used in 2015

Marion Dare: Cistern Well

Dolly Cook: Floor re-freshening on stairs and lobby.

Harold Cook: Floor re-freshening on stairs and lobby.

In the words of the Westminster Shorter Catechism: "The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory, and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves until the resurrection."

Saying Grace in a Restaurant. Sometimes we forget the really important things in life.

Last week, I took my grand-children to a restaurant. My six-year-old grand-son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great. Thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Nana gets us ice cream for dessert. And liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray. Asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

Hearing this, my grandson burst into tears and asked me, "Did I do it wrong? Is God mad at me?" As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job, and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table. He winked at my grandson and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer." "Really?" my grandson asked. "Cross my heart," the man replied. Then, in a theatrical whisper, he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream. A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my grandchildren ice cream at the end of the meal. My grandson stared at his for a moment, and then did something I will remember the rest of my life.

He picked up his sundae and, without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already." The End

Sometimes, we all need some ice cream. I hope God sends you some ice cream today!

A special Thank You to Len Sailor for his Beautiful music on St. Andrews Day. And to the many helping hands that helped hang greens, decorate the tree and give our church it's Season finery.

CHURCH STAFF**Church Secretary****Debra Leonard**

Debrafcpmishawaka@gmail.com

Financial Secretary**Joan Horvath**

Joanfcpmishawaka@gmail.com

Organist**Justin Appel**

Justinmappel@gmail.com

Custodian**Ken Vargo****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

Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Presbyterian Women:

Teresa Primmer and Carole Polk

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

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

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

Financial Secretary hours: Mondays & Thursdays 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or

First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka

P.O. Box 744 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

or fpcmishawaka@gmail.com



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

NEWS FROM THE MAC:

After many months of road construction, Mishawaka Avenue is now open, making access to the Food Pantry much easier for both volunteers and clients. It has been a challenge, however, clients were served which the need remains.

Pantry director Carol Minx reports: October statistics: 258 families (849 individuals); 265 children; 104 over 65; 27 new families. donations; 2,435 pounds of food, \$1,653 cash

Some items hard to get are, *canned fruit, fruit juice, muffin mix.*

They rarely can be bought from the Food Bank. Martins Supermarkets have & are generous partners, they often share sale items to make up the difference.

Several food drives were held in October:

The Pantry truck was parked at Howard Park during the Cancer Run. Not only were food items collected, the remaining snack bar food was given to the Pantry as well.

Coalbush Scouts and Twin Branch School held food drives. Mishawaka H.S. is holding a Food drive in December.

New rules from the Food Bank: No longer can clients be served relative to zip code; meaning all Food Pantries who receive government commodities must be open to all; one visit per month.

This is helpful to Albright as several River Park families can now come here as where before they had to travel all the way downtown. Clients are being made aware of the Pantry holiday hours.

From St Joseph Medical Center: Mobile Unit will be touring through neighborhoods. Veterans honored at Veterans Day.

News from the churches: Bake/Craft sales scheduled at East

Methodist & First Presbyterian. Peanut brittle sale at Albright.

1st Methodist, annual Christmas Pageant & Greatest Gift, Dec.5

First Presbyterian, Christmas clothing shopping for children.








The transportation ministry issued nine fuel only cards and eight bus passes in October. The need for volunteers at the Food Pantry continues. Call Albright Church for details. The Board is working to find a replacement for Carol Minx, the Pantry Director.

The church offices will be closed on December 23rd at noon for the rest of week.

Also the offices will be closing on December 30 at noon and re-open on January 4th

Worship 10 am
Fellowship at 11 am
Church school 11:15am

December 2015 & January 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 PNC 7pm	2 7pm C. ringers	3 W&M 7:00 pm	4	5 Breakfast w/Santa
6 greeter: Lynett ushers: Ethan & Dan B. W. Leader: Judy Green Comm. servers, Judy, Judy & Ron <i>Don Neely, pulpit</i>	7	8 PNC 7pm	9 C. ringers 7pm	10	11	12 <i>Deacons Christmas Shopping 8 am</i>
13 greeter: Esther M. ushers: Carole P & Bill B W. Leader: Darlene Seufert <i>Don Neely, pulpit</i>	14 Deacons 7pm	15 PNC 7 pm	16 C. ringers 7pm	17 <i>Ruth Circle 7pm @ Teresa's home</i>	18	19
20 greeter: Teresa P ushers: Michael G & Judy S W. Leader: C Wukovits <i>Don Neely, pulpit</i> <i>Joy Offering</i> 	21 <i>Elizabeth Circle 7 pm</i>	22 PNC 7pm	23  THEY LAID HIM IN A MANGER	24 <i>office closed</i> Bells 7:15 Christmas eve service 7:30 Don Neely preaching 	25 Office closed	26
27 greeter: Lynett H. ushers: Greg P & Janet F. <i>Barbara Wirt, Pulpit</i>	28	29	30	31 Office closed	1 Office closed	2
3 <i>John McLean, pulpit</i> <i>Epiphany of the Lord</i>	4 PWNS <i>Resumes</i>	5 PNC 7pm	6	7	8	9 PWCT 10am 11am PW <i>Winter Gather</i>
10 <i>Communion</i> 	11 <i>Deacons 7pm</i>	12 PNC 7pm	13	14 W&M 7:00 pm	15	16
17 <i>Jill Lowry, pulpit</i> <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	18 PW kitchen cleaning 10 am <i>Elizabeth Cir- cle 7pm @ the church</i>	19 PNC 7pm	20	21 <i>Ruth Circle 7pm @ Darlene's</i>	22	23 
24 <i>book club 2pm</i> <hr/> 31	25	26 PNC 7 pm	27	28 	29	30

Prayer Group meets to unite in prayer weekly. If you would like to learn more talk with Pam C. or Janet F. Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman, jfree930@aol.com

