



First Presbyterian News

December 2017/January 2018
401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, In. 46544

Dear FPC, Mishawaka,

As Advent and Christmas approach there are many things that vie for our time and attention. There are cards to send, gifts to buy, volunteer opportunities to get involved with, and travel plans to make. For some of us, this Christmas season includes preparing to move on to new vistas of ministry and service. In the midst of the busyness of this season I want to take an opportunity to say thank you. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to serve as your pastor these past two years. Thank you for inviting me into your living rooms, your sanctuary, and your church community with grace and open hearts. I have been blessed to serve among you.

Though I know navigating this pastoral transition is a unique part of our life together this Christmas season, it need not be dispiriting. In the midst of everything we juggle over the holidays, we heed Advent's invitation to pause, reflect, and give thanks. We give thanks for the blessings of God as we seek to discern the new doors God opens for us to love and serve our neighbors. We wait in worship to hear God's message spoken to us anew, reminding us to set our eyes on the hope of Christ. In Advent we set our eyes in particular on the hope of Christ born in the form of a child into our harried and hectic existence. I hold forth the hope of Christ for your future, FPC, Mishawaka, and I take comfort knowing that you are in the loving hands of God and the capable leadership of the Session and presbytery. I believe there are good days yet ahead for those who call this church their spiritual home.

So again I say thank you. Thank you for letting me be a small part of what God is doing in your lives, even if just for a while. And know that I will always have a little piece of my pastoral heart reserved for you.

As we walk through this Advent season we will look at preparing ourselves, at the meaning of God's good news, and at welcoming others to share the newborn King. Please join us this December.

May God bless and keep you. Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year.

Pastor Travis

A SPECIAL INVITATION

Please plan to join in during *Fellowship Time* after Sunday morning worship on **Christmas Eve, December 24**. It will be an opportunity to say farewell to Pastor Travis as we celebrate his ministry among us.

Personnel Committee, Alan Camren, Elder

Joy Offering One True Light

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. Our offerings will be gathered all through the month of December.

Thank you from the Mission Committee

Advent devotionals are available for all, just pick one up in the back of the sanctuary.

In Treehouse, the children will take a break from their Route 66 curriculum and will be studying from a 4-week Advent series based on the movie, *The Star*.

Deacon's Children's Christmas Clothing Shopping! *Calling all volunteers!*

When: Saturday, December 2, 2017 Where: North Door at JC Penney's

Time: 7:45 a.m. Why: To help parents shop for clothing for school age children.

We will team up members of the congregation with parents to help them shop and make it an enjoyable experience. Please consider taking a couple of hours to help. If interested please contact any of the Deacons: Teresa Primmer, Pam Martz, Tom Camren, Judy Sulak, Jason Pursehouse or Lynett Heritz.

The 34th Christmas

Come spend an evening at First Presbyterian Church (December 9th, 10th) as we visit with Mary, Matthew, John, Peter and others discussing the life and teachings of Jesus. Our own Vicky Garrett co-wrote this play and the story gives us many ideas, questions and teachings to enhance our lives during this holiday season. Many of the actors are from our own congregation!

Please plan to join us and share with friends a special welcome to attend this special play.

The CE Committee is planning a movie viewing of *The Star*- the story of the first Christmas told from the view point of the animals. We are planning the **December 17th 4:45 pm** showing at Movie 16 in South Bend. Sign-up sheet will be posted so we can gauge attendance and need to pre-purchase tickets- watch for updates or changes.

Elizabeth Circle meets the
3rd Monday of the month at 7pm.
Contact Mary Ann Dentino for information

December 18 at Chris Wukovits
January 13 at the church (Pam Camren)
February 19 at Mary Ann Dentino's

Ruth Circle meets the
3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm.
Contact Teresa Primmer for information

December 21st at Teresa Primmer's
January 13th at the Church (Judy Sulak)
February 15th at Dyan Phillips's

December 24th will have both a morning and evening service.

The morning service will be the last Advent service, simple and heart warming, followed by a special fellowship in honor of Travis (along with Emily, Gabe, and Silas).

The evening service will start at 7:30 pm with a bell choir and end with our candle light service.

Please join us, morning, evening, or both. *Merry Christmas*

December 31st we will once again join other area Presbyterian churches for a joint service. This is the 6th year for the combined service and will take place at First Presbyterian, South Bend.

333 West Colfax Ave, 9:45am.

Blessings in the New Year



Book Club: On December 30th, *The Nest* by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney.

A warm, funny and acutely perceptive debut novel about four adult siblings and the fate of the shared inheritance that has shaped their choices and their lives.

We are meeting at the Curve Café on Lincolnway next to Dairy Queen at 10am.

We would love to have you join us. Contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks, Judy. (MTCGJAG@aol.com)

Special thanks to our congregation and church for donating kitchen and school items to be shipped to schools in the Caribbean that lost everything in the hurricanes. This thank you was sent from The International Home Economics Services Inc. Board of Trustees and Mary Warnock, President. What First Pres. Mishawaka donated helped fill 30 cartons to be sent to help the Home Economics classrooms. Our congregation's love and generosity always comes through.

A Big Thank you from Presbyterian Women for all the work and support of our **Bake Sale**. The baked items flew off the tables in record time this year. We appreciate the hours spend helping at work nights, with set-up and take down of the sale, as well as your creative, delicious baked items. We made over \$1500.00 which helps us to pay our Celebration Giving and supports our local mission efforts. Job well done!

Mission Committee We collected enough items for 14 Thanksgiving baskets. All the families came from Battell school and were most appreciative. Thank you to those who donated, who helped put baskets together, to Lynett for arranging for pies and rolls and to those who delivered baskets. I am Thankful to belong to such a giving church, Angela-chair of Missions.

NEWS FROM THE MAC
 Pantry Director, Sheilia Swinehart reports:
 October: Number of households served; 237, Individuals; 884, Monetary donations: \$1,350. Volunteers from The Vineyard Church delivered a large donation of food, from a recent food drive. And the Pantry received a shipment of frozen meat from USDA.
 November: on the 19th, Pantry volunteers picked up the food barrel donations from Martin's Food Store. These donations will be a boost for the clients as the Thanksgiving holiday approaches. Posting of Pantry Hours for the holidays was done.
 Pantry Volunteers have begun civil rights training as each group gathers on their varied schedule; part of the Pantry's requirements as a non-profit entity.
 The Pantry, along with other community groups/churches, will be part of the January 20, 2018 Food Drop sponsored by Granger Community Church. This has become a yearly event....It takes a great deal of planning but is also a lot of fun...More news will be coming soon...A known saying that has become more and more fact....it does "take a village"

It's that time of year!...your mailbox is crowded with pleas for donations of one sort or another.

This plea is for a donation.

Every dollar sent to Geneva Center before the end of the year will be matched....double your money! A donation for the development of a young person's getting to know the love of God through a summer camp experience at Geneva Center. Geneva Center has received a matching challenge that was made anonymously. To date GC has received nearly \$15,000 that will be matched. Can you/we help reach the \$25,000 challenge and help provide life changing experiences in the beautiful setting of Geneva Center?

Where else can you "double" (at least, without a doubt) the impact on a young person's life?

Questions? See or call Pam Camren 231-8379

CHURCH STAFF**Pastor****Rev. Travis Winckler**

pastorfpcmishawaka@gmail.com

Office Administer**Judy Kelly**

officejudyk@gmail.com

Financial Secretary**Joan Horvath**

joanfpcmishawaka@gmail.com

Organist**Brandon Holihan**

bhollihan5@gmail.com

Custodian**John McLean**

jmmclean52@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Pastor hours: please call for appointment

Office Administrator hours: Tuesday thru Friday 9 - noon

Financial Secretary hours: Tuesdays 9 - noon

Custodian hours: Monday thru Friday 8am to 1 pm

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

OUR MAIL ADDRESS: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka

P.O. Box 744 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

Newsletter deadline is January 17 at noon for the February issue.Please send information to Sue Rice at suce@aol.com or emailJudy, church secretary at officejudyk@gmail.com. You can also mail to church or phone Judy.**Church Officers and Committees****Session:** Angela Bellinger, Alan Camren, Judy Green, Ron May, Chuck Wukovits, Janna McLean**Board of Deacons:** Lynett Heritz; moderator, Tom Camren, Pam Martz, Teresa Primmer, Jason Pursehouse, Judy Sulak**Facilities and Operations**Chuck Wukovits, Chair
Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino,**Book Club:** Judy Green**Clerk of Session:** Teresa Primmer**Christian Education:** Janna McLean, Chair**Finance:** Ron May, Chair**Mission and Evangelism:**

Angela Bellinger, Chair

Newsletter: Sue Rice**Nominating:** Darlene Seufert, Chair**Personnel:** Alan Camren, Chair**Prayer Chain:** Lynett Heritz**Presbyterian Women:**

Lynett Heritz and Pam Camren

Scrap Booking: Brittany Rice**Special Gifts:** Sue Rice, Chair**Stewardship:** Ron May, Chair**Treasurer:** John Rice**Worship and Music:**

Judy Green, Chair

The Mission Committee: Now and up Coming...

1. An ongoing band-aid Drive for the Memorial children's cancer ward. There is a basket on the hutch in the CE lobby.
2. Hats, gloves & scarfs are once again being used to decorate the tree in Fellowship Hall. Items will be donated to Battell School.
3. Collection of items for 'Souper' Bowl Sunday will begin on the 14th of January. Just what kind of soup do you like?
4. Collection of sock for Broadway Christian Parish will take place in February and last the whole month.

Thank you, gracias, thanks, bravo for helping the committee succeed in these endeavors.

Anna, Mary Ann, Jennifer, Betty & Angela,
Mission Committee

Thank you all for remembering me and making my birthday extra special and helping David pull off the surprise! Judy Sulak.

Epiphany Tea at His Majesty's Tea Room

Want to put on some airs, try the High Life, hold your pinkie out when sipping some tea, join us on January 6th. The cost is \$25 per person, less costly than flying over to Europe and still lots of fun! Give me a call, text or email if interested by December 10th. Cheer-o, Chris Wukovits

Port a Pit chicken halves are still available for purchase.

They are vacuum packed and come either as a single half (\$5) or double(\$10). Great for quick dinners on a busy day, awesome chicken salad, or give that noodle soup a twist on flavor. Get in touch with Lynett if you would like to purchase, thank you.

REFLECTIONS ABOUT PASTOR TRAVIS

As the chair of the Personnel Committee, I had the opportunity to meet with Travis several times over the past 2 years. As we drank the obligatory coffee and started with personnel matters, generally it transitioned into personal stories, experience, reflections. It is easy to do with him. He is genuinely interested in the person he is talking to. However, one needs to be prepared after expressing an opinion for a follow-up question: “Why do you think that is so?” or “What might you do about it?” Stretches you a bit.

The Holy Spirit – through Emily – brought his family to Mishawaka. We did meet, at least in part, his needs: a church to serve, an income, and time to spend with his growing boys. Similarly, he met our needs. After a few years of contentiousness and then adjusting to the reality of having a part time staff, our congregation needed a calming, spirit-filled listener. We got that in Travis, along with consistently meaningful sermons.

There has never been a doubt that his time at FPC would be limited, 3 years at the most. Sadly it was only 2. Even so, Travis never came across as a “short timer”. He began with one-on-one meetings to get to know the members. He offered opportunities for small group meetings after worship, in the evening at church, and even in his home. Travis also made connections with local pastors and organizations.

Pastor Travis Winckler and 1st Presbyterian Mishawaka fit nicely together. We pray that he and 2nd Presbyterian Saint Louis will be equally blessed. Thank you, Pastor Travis, for two healing years.

Alan Camren

Our Dedication Sunday on November 12 was one of the better attended services of the year. Many turned in pledge cards, and among those pledges, a net increase of about \$4300 over 2017 was pledged. Our church is again operating at less than break-even, and will likely continue to in 2018. Even so, the pledge process does help with budgeting. If you’ve not yet made a pledge for 2018, we encourage you to print out the card below and send it to the church office with a commitment.

With thanks, the Stewardship Committee

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2018 Member Pledge Card

TAKE A STEP FORWARD FOR CHRIST! *In response to God’s love and as a concrete expression of my faith and in commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to take this step forward in my giving (check one as appropriate):*

- STEP UP TOWARD TITHING.** *I will move toward the goal of tithing.*
- STEP UP TO TITHING.** *I will give a tenth of my income to God’s work.*
- STEP UP BEYOND TITHING.** *I wish to do more than God’s minimum.*

MY COMMITMENT FOR 2018 IS \$ _____ *per week month quarter year (circle one)*
 _____ *check if this is an increase over 2017.*

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____ **2017**

This commitment may be changed at any time due to changing circumstances

November 1st (All Saints' Day) & November 2 (All Souls' Day) is sometimes known as *Allhallowtidel*, a "time to remember the dead, including martyrs, saints, and all faithful departed Christians." We at First Pres take this time to remember loved ones lost in the past year. On November 5th, we recognized the following loved ones who have become "Saints" during the year.

"May you find rest, with your soul up and off and on its way to God"

One bell rang with the reading of each name.

Barbara Anne Rice, January 4th, mother of John and Dan Rice

David Louis Rice, January 29th, uncle of John and Dan Rice

Regina Harrison, February 23rd, mother of Judy Sulak

Jerry Kendall, April 19th, member

Jim Pickley, May 30th, husband of Vicky Garrett

Dorothy Phillips, July 3rd, Grandmother of Greg Phillips

Sylvia Popovich, July 12th, cousin of Chris & Chuck Wukovits and Lynett Heritz

Phyllis Ann Jackson, September 11th, mother of Sue Rice

Billy McNeal, September 12th, grandfather of Brittany Rice

Kathy McDevitt, September 16th, niece of Janet Freeman

Thomas Harrison, October 29th, father of Judy Sulak

In Memory of Lucille Wallis—campership to Geneva Center.

The 2018 list for ushers and worship leaders is being put together as you read this. If you would like to join the rotating team of ushers or worship leaders please contact Darlene to be added to the list.

To be a greeter any Sunday morning contact Judy Sulak.

To serve fellowship, please sign up on the clipboard.

Flowers for the sanctuary are always welcome, please send check to church office and specify date and details.

Volunteers needed for the nursery, see clipboard or contact Darlene

Volunteer Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Work Project

WHAT: Help build 20 Habitat Homes WHEN: August 27-31, 2018
 WHERE: Near Jefferson and Byrkit, Mishawaka WHO: 250 volunteers each day
 Registration: Begins for volunteers in March
 SPECIAL: The Carters usually show up to help with these projects.
 More information will come as it is available.

Let Angela or Mary Ann know if you are interested in helping with the project.

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Worship 10 am Fellowship at 11 am Talk Back 11:10 am</p>					1	2 Deacon's shopping 7:45am
<p>3 acolyte: Julie Rice Greeter: Teresa Primmer Ushers: Ethan D. & Dan B. W. Leader: Judy Sulak</p>	4	5	6	7	8	9 34th Christmas 7pm Greeter: Pam Martz 
<p>10 Greeter: Teresa Primmer ushers: Carole P. & Bill B. W. Leader: Pam Camren</p> <p>34th Christmas 7pm Greeter: Darlene Seufert</p> 	11	12	13	14	15	16
<p>17 acolyte: Julie Rice Greeter: Teresa Primmer ushers: Michael G. & Judy S. W. Leader: Darlene Seufert</p>	18 Elizabeth Circle 7pm Chris W's	19	20	21 Ruth Circle 7pm Teresa's	22	23
<p>24 Greeter: Bill Bellairs Ushers: Carole & Marc Polk, and Michael Green 'farewell Travis' after morning service</p> <p>Candlelight service at 7:30pm</p>  <p>31 worship at First Presbyterian Church</p>	25 Office	26 closed	27 for	28 the	29 week	30 Book Club <u>The Nest</u> Meeting at Curve Café at 10am

Please share a message, card or picture with your church family on the bulletin board at the top of the stairs.
Merry Christmas

A Holiday Recipe
 4 cups Love 5 spoons of Loyalty
 2 cups of Faith 2 spoons of Tenderness
 3 cups of Forgiveness 1 cup of Friendship
 1 barrel of Laughter abundant sunshine

Take love and loyalty, mix thoroughly with faith. Blend it with tenderness, forgiveness and friendship. Sprinkle abundantly with laughter.
 Bake it with sunshine.
 Serve generous helpings daily.

Smile When You Use Amazon this Christmas!
 Shop from Amazon, donate to PW! Visit smile.amazon.com and select Presbyterian Women as your favorite charitable organization. Shop as you normally would but 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!

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>office closed</i>	2	3	4	5 <i>game night</i> 7 to 8:30pm	6
7 greeter: Darlene Seufert	8	9	10	11	12	13 PW Gathering 10am <i>both circles meeting</i>
14 greeter: Pam Martz	15 <i>Kitchen clean up</i> 10am	16	17 <i>newsletter</i> <i>deadline</i>	18	19	20
21 greeter: Bill Bellairs <i>Book club 2pm</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 greeter: Bill Bellairs	29	30	31			



Mark your calendars for an **All Church Game Night** on Friday, January 5, from 7 until 8:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. Bring some snacks and favorite games, and even a friend or two!

Presbyterian Women 2018 CALENDAR

January 13 **PW Winter Gathering** (PWCT Meeting @ 9 a.m.)

January 15 **Kitchen clean-up** 10:00 a.m.

February 4 PWCT Meeting 11:30 am

March 10 **Joint Circle Mtg. & Bible Study** @10:00 a.m. (PWCT Meeting @ 9 a.m.)



Book Club, January 21st, 2 pm, *Winter Garden* by Kristin Hannah. Dyan will lead discussion. We would love to have you join us. Contact me if you have any questions. Thanks, Judy Green

The **Christian Ed Committee** is planning a **LENTEN BIBLE STUDY**, following the same pattern as our fall study of Acts. So please save your Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30pm starting with February 21 and ending Holy Week. If you have thoughts about a good study you would enjoy, please let someone on the CE Committee know, Janna, Katie, Darlene, Pam C., and Carole. Thank you.

SCRAPBOOKING & CRAFTING CLUB with Brittany Rice

We meet in Fellowship hall from 6pm to 11pm to work on our various projects. Bring any project you would like to work on! A donation to the Food Pantry shopping cart is all I ask.

Contact me at scrap.brittany@comcast.net for any questions, thank you, Brittany.

2018 dates: February 23, March 23, April 27, May 18, June 22, July 27, August 31, September 28, October 26 and November 16.

Sat. Dec. 9th @ 7:00 p.m.
&
Sun. Dec. 10th @ 7:00 p.m.

1st Presbyterian Church Mishawaka
401 Lincoln Way East, Mishawaka, IN

The
34th
CHRISTMAS

When the memories were new
A new Christmas musical by Victoria Garrett & Buryl Red

The 34th Christmas takes place on the evening of what would have been Jesus' 34th birthday. Join us as Mary, the Disciples and others reflect on Jesus' birth and his life in this unique story.

Directed by Alex Price
Admission is free