

First Presbyterian News

May 2024

401 Lincolnway East

Mishawaka, IN. 46544

In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.); ministers, ruling elders, and deacons are presented with a pivotal question that reaffirms our dedication to Christ's mission. This question encapsulates our commitment to serving and ministering to our community, reflecting the core values of our faith.

The very first constitutional question addressed to church leaders is:

“Do you trust in the Lord Jesus Christ your Savior, acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church, and through Him believe in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?”

This question is not just about what you know; it's about the depth of your faith and confidence in your calling. When you answer, you are not just stating facts; you are making a solemn commitment before God and the congregation, affirming your trust in your decisions and actions. Acknowledging Jesus as your Lord means promising to live as He did—loving others, showing kindness, forgiving, and putting others before yourself. It's about following His lead and trying to be like Him in everything you do.

By following Christ's example, you also express your faith in the Triune God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The Trinity is hard to explain because it is like trying to understand how God can be three persons in one. Throughout history, theologians and scholars have grappled with various interpretations and explanations of this mystery, leading to a wide range of perspectives and debates within the Christian faith. I am not delving into deep theological discussions, but here's a simplified statement: the Trinity is the idea that God is the Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit—all together as one divine being. This concept also mirrors our Presbyterian government structure, where authority is shared among ministers, ruling elders, and governing bodies.

Reflecting on my recent installation ceremony as the designated minister of our church last month, I am profoundly thankful and blessed to serve as your pastor. Words cannot adequately convey my gratitude for the unwavering support, prayers, and love from our beloved FPC family and friends. Five years ago, on April 14th, 2019, I was ordained with excitement and thankfulness. However, the recent installation ceremony on April 21st, 2024, brought forth deeper emotions, reminding me of the blessings bestowed upon me and encouraging further personal growth and reflection. When asked the same first constitutional question as five years ago, it felt like a divine challenge, urging me to reaffirm my faith and embark on a life journey guided by humility, steadfast dedication, and reverence.

What does this mean to me? It means that I cannot accomplish everything alone; I continually need your support. Leading the church is not a solitary endeavor—I depend on elders who bring their unique gifts and leadership to areas where I may lack. Similarly, ministering to those in need requires the compassionate service of deacons, who play a vital role in the governance of our church. But it's not just elders and deacons that I need; I need all of you—everyone reading this pastoral letter.

Allow me to remind you of the words from 1 Peter 2: 9

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, Gods' own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”

This verse serves as a reminder that you are all chosen by God, called to proclaim His glorious deeds.

Shall we join together in embracing the challenges and opportunities ahead? Will we commit to serving our congregation with dedication and love? Will we wholeheartedly follow Christ, seeking to live out His example in everything we do?

Let us embark on this journey together, united in faith, and purpose, as we strive to glorify God and serve His people.

Blessings, Pastor Daniel

Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



Thank you to everyone for a great Gifts of Women Sunday, for the donations for Ricca, the Birthday offering and for your help with our Purse Project—we currently have completed 14 purses!

- * The Calendar year is winding down, but we still have things going on.
- * Malawi workday is May 14th from 10 a.m.—Noon
- * PWCT Calendar meeting is June 5th at 6 p.m. and will be held at Judy Green's home
- * Upper Room Sale is June 1st from 9 a.m.—1 p.m.



Upper Room News

Please remember that when you donate items, be sure to check them to make sure that they are clean and damage free. If you are interested in helping to sort, price, or work during the Work/Sale Days, please join us! We always welcome extra hands.

Upper Room is NOT accepting donations of clothing or shoes until further notice.

Work Days: *Saturday, May 4th from 10-Noon, Wednesday, May 15th form 10-Noon*
 Sale Days: *Saturday, June 1st from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.*



Thank you for your continued support in helping to make the Upper Room the best it can be!



Mission—Our Faith in Action

**MAC Mishawaka
Alliance of Care**

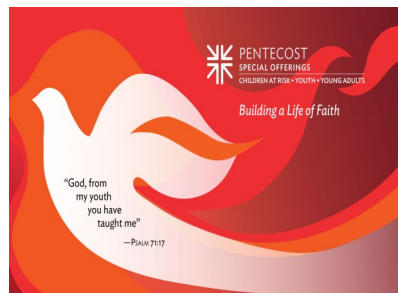


We delivered 19 lbs of food items in April. In February, they served 191 households/550 people. The pantry give out toilet paper and soap on every cart. They also make available toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, etc.

Do you have a collection of small toothpastes from dentist? Leave them in the cart and they will make their way to St. Margaret’s House via the pantry.

~ We dropped off pop tabs and boxes of children’s bandages to Ronald McDonald House. There are collection boxes on the credenza in the CE Lobby.

One Great Hour of Sharing—Thank you to all who donated in support of this offering.



Pentecost Offering— May 19th A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering is retained by our congregation so we can make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community. The remaining 60% is used to support at-risk children, youth, and young adults through ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Church grounds clean-up day will be May 18th from 9 a.m. until we are finished.

In the course of going through old records and reports, I came across several articles that Irene Arndt wrote for the Newsletter back in 1991; highlighting Memorial Gifts. She wrote these as 4 different installments. I would like to share with you what she wrote and I hope that you find this as interesting as I did.

Lynett Heritz– Special Gifts

OUR CHURCH AND MEMORIALS...by Irene Arndt

Part I...*We are in our fourth church building in Mishawaka. The first church was built with donated labor and barter. It was occupied in the Fall of 1837. The name used by the group was "The First Trinitarian Society of the Village of St. Joseph Iron Works, Inc." The growth of the congregation and the village caused the Society to begin a second church in 1844, and they moved into it in 1846. It was located on the southeast corner of Lincolnway and Mill Streets. This building was destroyed by the 'great Mishawaka fire' in 1872. One week after the fire, subscriptions began for rebuilding with brick upon the old foundation. Services were held in this third building exactly four months later, January 5, 1873. As the fiftieth anniversary date approached, members tried to complete church furnishing with gifts. Mrs. Julia Badger gave a silver baptismal font; in 1876, Robert Montgomery gave the bell that has called Mishawaka Presbyterians to worship for over 115 years. These were the first of our memorials.*

Part II...*The congregation continued to grow, and a larger new church was planned; it is our present building. The church name was changed to 'The First Presbyterian Church of Mishawaka, Indiana,' and the building was dedicated on March 30, 1911. History tells us that in the late 1800's and early 1900's, memorials were an important aid in furnishing the church. Often money was given because of need for a specific item. These items, without exception, all had qualities of permanence and were of definite importance to the church. Some of the earliest memorials were the stained glass windows, the piano, the organ chimes, pulpit furniture, and later the furnishings for the Christian Education Building lobby, library shelves, and books, etc. Several sizable bequests were given from time to time; these generally made up the investment reserves of the church. The lovely Memorial Registers, one in the case in the Narthex and one in Memorial Lounge, gave an accurate record of Memorial Gifts from 1876 through most of 1990. Over two-hundred accounts of individuals have been used and closed in the last fifteen-plus years.*

Part III...*Dr. Meengs always made an annual report of the Memorial Fund. In 1974, Reverend May requested that past memorials to the church be researched and that formal record keeping be initiated. A committee, led by a member of Session as chairperson, has been active since that time. The financial record for the committee was started January 1, 1975, with a balance of \$1,822.00. The record of previous expenditures had been given in the annual report. In round figures, about \$70,000.00 has come into the fund, and about \$60,000.000 has been used for accessories and necessities during the past fifteen-plus years. The value of gifts given directly to the church i.e., Bibles, Hymnals, pew cushions, Memorial Lounge, furniture in the Christian Education lobby, is not included in the above figure. For the comfort and pleasure of all members during the past fifteen-plus years, the Memorial Committee allocated over \$14,000.00 for the lower level renovation, over \$12,000.00 to the Music Department, \$14,000.00 for the elevator, \$8,600.00 for air conditioning renewal, \$7,000.00 for sanctuary audio equipment, \$1,500.00 for draperies and carpeting, and over \$600.00 for sidewalks and railings.*

Part IV...*Donating to Memorial Fund offers an easy plan for two way benefits in lieu of flowers at times of family sorrow; and when a memorial is received, a sympathy card is sent to the bereaved, an acknowledgment is sent to the donor, and the contribution will aid the church. The Fund includes all cash gifts of \$1,000 or less. Gifts of over \$1,000 are deposited in the Memorial Endowment Fund. Families may establish specific memorials through the Memorial Committee. The Committee, whenever possible, honors the family's request for the use of the donation. Most often the family has no special request. It has always been the policy of the Committee to not allow monies to be used for operational costs of the church. It was decided by the Trustees some time ago that no plaques would be used on gifts in the future. The pages in the Registers in the Narthex and in the Memorial Lounge are turned almost weekly. The Fund now has a balance of \$3,695.00 and a one year C.D. for \$7,000.00. Donations are received in the church office by the church secretary; she also records the donors at that time. The financial secretary then receives the money, records, and deposits it. She audits and files the bank statements. From their records, Irene Arndt has kept a complete record for the Memorial Committee. The Committee arranges for the information and printing in the Memorial Register. - Irene Arndt.*



* Prayers for Ukraine; for Israel, Gaza, and all who are suffering – for peace in this crisis, bravery for the coming days, protection & comfort for all those impacted, and for wisdom to all world leaders making decisions

* For all those who have Covid

* For those who experience emotional crises/mental distress or struggle with addictions, prayers for successful treatment/help with coping skills

* Prayers for comfort & strength for Kevin Finley's family

* For those with heart issues, including Kevin Finley and Joan Horvath – prayers for successful treatment, comfort, & healing;

* For those with cancer including Mary Watt's brother-in-law, David, Josh's (Victoria Green's boyfriend) grandfather, Greg Phillips' friend, Jon, and Katie Robertson's friend, Sharon – prayers for effective treatment, comfort, peace, and acceptance

* For continued prayers for those who have ongoing needs including our homebound members – Jack Bruner, Janet Freeman, Esther Morrison, and Kathy Bellairs – who always appreciate cards or phone calls

* Also prayers, we hold within our hearts, for those names we have left unspoken, but whom God knows.



Church Staff

Pastor Daniel Cho
vision80cho@gmail.com
Office Manager Katie Robertson
fpcmishawaka@gmail.com
Financial Secretary Joan Horvath
joanfpcmishawaka@gmail.com
Custodian John McLean
jmmclean52@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Pastor hours: Tuesday thru Thursday 9 to noon
Secretary hours: Tuesday thru Friday 9 to noon
Financial Secretary hours: Monday & Thursday 9 to noon;
June-September: Tuesday 9-noon
Custodian hours: Monday thru Friday 7 to noon
Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or fpcmishawaka@gmail.com
MAIL ADDRESS: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka
P.O. Box 744 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

Church Officers and Committees

Session:

Clerk of Session: Teresa Primmer
Christian Education: Darlene Seufert
Facilities/Operations: Chuck Wukovits
Finance: John Rice, treasurer
Mission: Carole Polk
Personnel: Mary Watt
Worship and Music: Vicky Garret

Board of Deacons:

Moderator: Lynett Heritz
Bill Bellairs, Angela Bellinger, Jenn Frey,
Teresa Primmer, Juliana Bidlack

Book Club: Judy Green

Newsletter: Katie Robertson

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz, Darlene Seufert

PW: Moderators—Chris Wukovits and Judy Green

Special Gifts: Ron May

Book Club

Book Club: **May 19th** at 2:00 p.m. is *Weyward* by Emilia Hays
host—Rose Marie Reif



Thanks, Judy Green

Worship & Music



Greetings from worship and music,

Congratulations to Pastor Daniel Cho! He was installed as designated Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka on April 21st.



TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

May... Lynett Heritz

June... Judy Green,
Carole Polk

Please Send information for the June/July Newsletter to Katie Robertson by May 17th.
fpcmishawaka@gmail.com
Thank you!



Worship 10 am



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Learn to ride a bike day 	2 National Day of Prayer 	3	4 Upper Room workday 10-12
5 Greeter.. Usher..Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Mary Watt	6 National Nurses Day 	7	8	9	10 QoV 9-2 National Golf Day 	11 Malawi workday 10-12
12 Greeter.. Usher..Michael Green, Judy Sulak W.L. Dyan Phillips Deacons meeting after worship Happy Mother's Day	13 National Apple Pie Day 	14	15 Upper Room Workday 10-12 Ruth Circle 7 p.m. @ Rose Marie Reif's	16	17 *Newsletter Deadline	18 Annual Spring Clean-up starting 9 a.m. 
19 Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk, Greg Phillips W.L. Chris Wukovits Worship & Music meeting after worship Book Club 2 p.m.	20 Elizabeth Circle 7 p.m. @ Church World Bee Day 	21	22	23 National Taffy Day 	24 Endless Breakfast Day 	25
26 Greeter.. Usher..Ethan DeMaegd, Ryan Frey W.L. Chuck Wukovits	27 Memorial Day 	28 National Hamburger Day 	29	30	31 National Macaroon Day 	