



# First Presbyterian News

May 2020

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, In. 46544

By the time you read this Pastoral's Letter on May, I hope to see people walking or bicycling on trails, kids playing at the playground/splash pad, family and friends gathering together around picnic tables and enjoying their BBQ grills in Central Park on weekends. I hope to see people shopping at the mall, eating at the restaurant and drinking ice coffee outside of café while enjoying nice weather freely without having any fear or concern about social distancing.

I hope to see people freely visit their elderly parents at assistant living facilities or nursing homes to spend a quality time together by catching up the latest stories in their life. Most of all, I hope to see all churches open their door on Sunday to welcome their members and visitors for the service.

Coronavirus pandemic had brought not only health-related issues, but also financial, emotional and social-related issues in our lives today. Due to the new government guideline, our session decided to suspend our Sunday service and all church-related activities. Since my childhood, I rarely have missed church on Sunday. No matter how busy, tired or sick I was, going to church on Sunday was not an option, but an obligation to me. I felt a little awkward not having in-person worship on Sunday.

While adjusting to the "new normal", I have been thinking about what it means to keep the fourth of the ten commandments "Remember the Sabbath Day and Keep it Holy". The Hebrew word Sabbath derives from the Hebrew verb *shavath* meaning "to cease" or "to rest". Basically, Sabbath is a day of rest, but this has nothing to do with "rest" as a relaxation. Instead, it is a day that we rest from all works, business, even pleasures/recreations on other days and spend our time honoring God.

Even before God gave the Israelites this fourth commandment, God himself rested "*shavath*" on the seventh day from all the work that he had finished. But at the same time, we must remember that God designed and appointed this Sabbath for us. We are called to remember and keep up with God's working/resting rhythm. Old Testament Scholar Fretheim states that **"the sabbath is thus a divinely given means for all creatures to be in tune with the created order of things. Even more, sabbath-keeping is an act of creation-keeping."**

Therefore, if we don't remember and keep our Sabbath holy, we are violating God's created order and bringing chaos into our lives. To Christians, Sabbath-Keeping reflects our relationship with God. We build our relationship with God by honoring his presence and worshipping him. Since the coronavirus pandemic, many churches have had to change their services into online until further notice.

I assume that we all prefer to have our Sunday service in Church rather than online because we feel more spiritually connected with God and with one another when we are physically being together.

(Continued on page two.)

(Pastoral letter continued from page one.)

So, I wondered and had a bit of concern about how many of our members would participate in the online service format during the Lent, on Palm Sunday and on Easter Sunday. Surprisingly and thankfully, we as one body have faithfully come together to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Although the format of our online services may not be very impressive compare to other churches, I felt encouraged and blessed through our members' response to every service in email by passing the peace, sending some words of encouragement and love to one another. Thank you. Pastor Daniel.

#### PARTIAL LIST OF HELPFUL RESOURCES FOR SENIORS

Center for Disease Control	800-232-4636	Up-to-date information on the COVID-19 virus
St. Joseph County Health Dept.	574-235-9750	Up-to-date information on the COVID-19 virus
Caregiver Homes	574-334-4550	Medicaid waiver program reimbursing family for care of loved ones
REAL Services	574-284-7107	Connection to Meals on Wheels, Medicaid Waiver and volunteer services

As everyone probably knows by now, the church sign was demolished recently when it was run into. The insurance company has been notified, estimates to replace it have been gathered and we hope to have a new sign in place to welcome everyone back once "live" services can once again be held!

#### BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Looking through some REALLY old newsletters in an effort to get ideas for my first newsletter venture, now that all activities are canceled and there isn't a lot to write about, I found a few things you might get a kick out of, particularly if like me, you can remember the "back in the day" ways of doing things!

In the very first newsletter of August 31, 1961, our Presbyterian women were urged to attend a Women's Association meeting this way – "Postpone that dress to hem and come to find out what our women 'ON THE GO' have been doing this summer..."

Also from that issue, how many of you remember that there were eight circles that met every month?!

Skip ahead to the issue of January 29, 1981, where the women were reminded to save Campbell soup labels, green stamps and Betty Crocker coupons. I'm sure I'm not the only one who remembers my mother unpacking groceries and handing us kids massive amounts of those stamps to put in booklets to eventually get to trade in for gifts with various merchants!

Old issues of the newsletter are maintained in the museum and make for very interesting reading.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor Daniel Cho**

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**Financial Secretary Joan Horvath**

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**Organist & Choir Director**

Brandon Hollihan

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**Custodian John McLean**

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**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor hours: Tuesday through Thursday, 9 to noon

Office Secretary hours: Tuesday through Friday, 9 to noon

Financial Secretary hours: Monday and Thursday, 9 to noon

Custodian hours: Monday through Friday 6 am to 11am

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

OUR MAIL ADDRESS: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka  
P.O. Box 744 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

**MAC Mishawaka Alliance of Care**

MAC Food Pantry submitted by Janet Freeman

**NEWS FROM THE MAC**

**REGARDING THE CORONAVIRUS**

In order to serve the clients who visit the MAC Food Pantry on Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings, the regular flow of folks had to be altered to keep everyone safe.

Schools being closed; children would not be having lunch. The volunteers filled bags directed to children and sealed them. Families who prepare meals received items similar to what goes in the shopping bags; again sealed. Signs were on the door to help facilitate the changes. The number of clients didn't vary. Fortunately, the Pantry shelves were filled.

The MAC Pantry will continue its mission dedicated to those in our community who are in need.

**Church Officers and Committees**

**Session:** Angela Bellinger, Lynett Heritz, Greg Phillips, Darlene Seufert, Chris Wukovits

**Board of Deacons:**

Carole Polk Moderator, Bill Bellairs, Tom Camren, Dick Dentino, Pam Martz, Teresa Primmer

**Facilities and Operations**

Lynett Heritz, Chair

Book Club: Judy Green

Clerk of Session: Teresa Primmer

Christian Education: Chris Wukovits, Chair

Finance: Ron May, Chair

Mission and Evangelism:

Angela Bellinger, Chair

Newsletter: Nancy Adams/Sue Rice

Personnel: Greg Phillips, Chair

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Presbyterian Women:

Carole Polk and Judy Green

Special Gifts: Sue Rice, Chair

Stewardship: Ron May, Chair

Treasurer: John Rice

Worship and Music:

Darlene Seufert, Chair

**Book Club** will be meeting again one of these days, we just aren't sure when! The book will be Between Shades of Grey. As always, contact me if you have questions, Judy Green. MTCG-JAG@aol.com.

**2020 TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE**



MAY	LYNETT
JUNE	JUDY G. /CAROLE
JULY	DYAN
AUGUST	LYNETT
SEPTEMBER	BRITTANY
OCTOBER	TERESA
NOVEMBER	MARY ANNE
DECEMBER	JUDY G./ CAROLE

We are going to miss the limericks that have been provided by Alan Camren for our enjoyment in every issue. No, Alan hasn't lost his sense of humor; he just has his hands full now that he and Pam have adopted an adorable Sheltie named Mac. Although no one can replace Alan's wonderful contributions, if anyone has any humorous tidbits to share, we would love to have them!



# May 2020

**Worship 10 am  
Fellowship at 11 am**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Upper Room work day 10-noon
<b>3</b> Deacons' meeting 11:15 Liturgist – Mary W. Greeter – Bill B. Ushers – Ethan D., Dick D.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Quilts of Valor 9-2:30	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Quilts of Valor 9-2:30
<b>10</b> Mother's Day Liturgist - Alan C. Greeter – Bill B. Ushers – Carole P., Greg P.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Malawi work day 10-12 Mystery Quilts 10:00
<b>17</b> Newsletter deadline  Gifts of Women Sunday	<b>18</b> Special Gifts meeting 3:00 Elizabeth Circle 7:00	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Upper Room work day 4-6	<b>21</b> Ruth Circle 7:00	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Liturgist – Chuck W. Greeter – Bill B. Ushers – Dan B., Neil S.	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Grounds clean-up day 9:00
<b>31</b> Liturgist – Pam C. Greeter – Darlene S. Ushers – Bill B., Judy S.						

As you are reading this, bear in mind that more than likely some of these items will be canceled because of stay-at-home orders still being in place. But just in case, if we are free to move about once again, you will know what there is to do!