



First Presbyterian News

February 2021

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, In. 46544

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANIEL

Since we didn't have a separate January Newsletter, I would like to open my letter with New Year's Greeting:

Happy New Year Everyone! May God be with you through New Year 2021 and fill your life with comfort, love and hope!

After Jesus was baptized, the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan. During this time, Jesus fasted and prayed to prepare himself for the mission that the Father had sent him to accomplish.

After Jesus returned to Nazareth from his 40 days fasting in the wilderness, John the Baptist was arrested. Then, Jesus began his ministry at Galilee, proclaiming good news of God and saying "**The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in good news.**" (Mark 1:15)

Within a few weeks, the season of Lent begins. It begins on Ash Wednesday (February 17th), and ends on the Saturday before Easter Sunday (April 4th). In the time of Lent, many Christians commit to fasting, giving up things they love, or doing something meaningful in life.

But most of all, Lent is a time for us to reflect on what Jesus did for us on the cross 2000 years ago and understand the teaching of the cross as it speaks to our times today and live it out to Jesus' calling: "**Repent and believe in the good news.**" We must accept this call as addressed to one and all of us especially during the season of Lent.

Think about the time when we first repented and believed in the good news of Jesus Christ, what differences do we notice between how we felt then and how we feel now? How should we live our Lent this year 2021?

To live Lent means that we walk with Jesus to Jerusalem, to the cross and the resurrection for he is our everything. How wonderful it is walking with Christ who is the way, the truth and the life!

Lord, we pray today. Help us to see afresh the wonder of the cross. We're grateful that you remain the same throughout the ages: full of love and forgiveness. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Blessings,

Pastor Daniel

From the Desk of Sue Rice

This year we tried a new way to share our Christmas greetings with each other due to Covid. We had cards with Lionel Trains, the Peanuts gang singing to us, trees, wreaths, and snowflakes to mention a few. Some friends even included pictures. Thank you all. I think Janet Freeman says it best; *to my FPC family, onward and upward*. So thank you for sharing and good-bye 2020. May we be closer than 6 feet in 2021. Be safe. See you in church.

Smile Amazon, please use smile.amazon.com when you shop and help Presbyterian Women. In the 4th quarter a total of \$234.44 was donated to the P.W. in the Presbyterian Church USA INC. So for the year a total of \$3,041.26 went to P.W. It all depends on us, sign up at smile.amazon.com, click on Presbyterian Women for your donation and shop. In these times every little bit helps. Thank you.

Worship and Music

Darlene Seufert, Chair

February Worship Leaders and Ushers:

February 7th: Chuck Wukovits - Liturgist; Ethan DeMaegd - Usher.

February 14th: Mary Watt - Liturgist; Carole Polk and Greg Phillips - Ushers. This is Transfiguration of the Lord Sunday and Communion will be served.

February 17th - Ash Wednesday. Communion will be served.

February 21st - Dyan Phillips - Liturgist; Michael Green - Usher.

February 28th - Judy Green - Liturgist; Neil Seufert and Dan Bruner - Ushers.

Please remember if you are unable to serve on your scheduled date to trade with someone.

Looks like worship will not change in the beginning of 2021. So at this time we are following the CDC guidelines which means wearing our masks, keeping social distances and humming our hymns. FYI, our yoga teacher encourages us to hum at the end of our practice. She tells us humming is very helpful to mental health. I looked this up and will share the following information.

"Research has shown humming to be much more than a self-soothing sound: it affects us on a physical level, reducing stress, inducing calmness, and enhancing sleep as well as lowering heart rate and blood pressure."

The Ash Wednesday service this year is February 17th at 7:00 p.m. Look for more information in the bulletin. The season of Lent begins.

We are grateful to Bill Niederer who has filled in as organist the month of January and Jane Peiffer for again filling in the last Sunday in 2020.

I thank the committee I worked with; Judy Green, Dyan Phillips and Dan Rice, for their support during the last three years. As I handed the large binder to Judy Sulak, I told her Worship and Music is a little extra work, but a very rewarding service to the church.

Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



PW had another successful year with their sales that support mission work. This year we are once again making a monetary donation to 12 organizations, most of which we also support as part of our mission work throughout the year: Hope Ministries, MAC Food Pantry, Mishawaka Food Pantry, St Margaret's House, Unity Garden, Busy Hands, Sew Loved, Malawi Matters, Knit 4 Peace, Resale to the Rescue, Ronald McDonald House (locally) and PDA.

Thank you to the congregation for supporting us and the mission work we do.

Aug 5-8, 2021 is the PW National Gathering in St Louis, Mo this year, see Darlene S for info.

PW has a few cheeseballs available for sale, see Judy Green or Carole Polk if you are interested.

Upper Room News

Due to your generous donations to the Upper Room, we were able to increase our treasure and give more money to charities. A big Thank You, but as you continue to declutter and clean out closets, we are now accepting donations. We only ask that the donated items are clean and/or working properly. We still are not taking furniture or electronics. We have already started in January to unpack, mark and organize.

Our February/March work days:

February 6th: 10 am - 12 pm

February 17th: 4-6 pm This is Ash Wednesday, prepare to stay for services.

March 3rd: Wednesday 4-6 pm- Final check before March Two Day Sale

March 12th and the 13th - Sale Days are 9 am - 2 pm

Upper Room Chairs; Teresa, Lynett and Darlene

Prayer Chain

We are in the process of updating our Prayer Chain list. It is super easy to be a part of this ministry. Simply tell Lynett Heritz, Pam Camren or Darlene Seufert you would like your email added to the list. If you have a prayer concern, simply let one of us know and we'll include it in the prayer message.

Book Club – February 21st at 3:00 p.m.

"Anxious People" by Fredrick Backman

Leader- Lynett Heritz

Host-Judy Green

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Daniel Cho

vision80cho@gmail.com

Office Secretary Nancy Adams

fpcmishawaka@gmail.com

Financial Secretary Joan Horvath

joanfpcmishawaka@gmail.com

Organist

Custodian John McLean

jmmclean52@gmail.com

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 11 am

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

The MAC Food Pantry had been closed for several weeks due to Covid issues but has now reopened as of January 12th. We were able to get them the items from our grocery cart so now the cart is ready to be filled up again!

Also the annual food drop from the Granger Community Church was January 23rd.

Church Officers and Committees

Session: Greg Phillips, Chris Wukovits, John Martz, Mary Ann Dentino, Judy Sulak

Board of Deacons:

Carole Polk Moderator, Bill Bellairs, Tom Camren, Pam Martz, Jen Frey, Jim Stanz

Facilities and Operations

John Martz, Chair

Book Club: Judy Green

Clerk of Session: Teresa Primmer

Christian Education: Chris Wukovits, Chair

Finance: Ron May, Chair

Mission and Evangelism:

Mary Ann Dentino, Chair

Newsletter: Nancy Adams

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:

Judy Sulak, Chair

Lenten Book Study Chris Wukovits, CE Chair

RESTORED: Finding Redemption in Our Mess, by Tom Berlin, will be our book study selection for the Lenten season. Needless to say, we have come through some dark times this past year. We certainly have "messes" in our lives.....personally, nationally, and internationally . Sometimes our lives are in such disarray, we can't envision a way through to redemption. But when we look at the mess through the eyes of Christ, we not only find redemption, we can clearly see spiritual restoration. The author encourages us to reflect and meditate through own brokenness, showing us that it is only when we focus on the cross as a place to surrender control, that we can leave our mess behind and find true redemption.

Please join us for this insightful look at how to get past the messes in our lives. Our first meeting will be on February 24, in Fellowship Hall, at 7:00 p.m. Unfortunately, it isn't safe to serve a light supper prior to our study, but can certainly have snacks that are individually wrapped. The study will continue March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. The cost is \$5 for a book. Please sign the clipboard in the CE lobby so we can make sure we have enough books for everyone. There will also be a sign up for leading the study and providing snacks. As always, friends are welcome to join us. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

2021 TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

JANUARY DARLENE

FEBRUARY JUDY S.

MARCH PAM M.

APRIL ANGELA

MAY LYNETT

JUNE JUDY G./CAROLE

JULY DYAN

AUGUST LYNETT

SEPTEMBER BRITTANY

OCTOBER TERESA

NOVEMBER MARY ANN

DECEMBER JUDY G./

CAROLE



BLASTS FROM CHRISTMASSES PAST



In reminiscing about Christmas traditions of the church, I heard tales of the Living Nativity from “back in the day” and it sounded so intriguing, I asked for memories people had of the event and got some fun responses. Hopefully others find these stories and photos will trigger heartwarming memories!!

I remember laughing and rolling my eyes with Becky May at our mothers’ tales of how “they didn’t dare even breathe too hard” in fear of So-and-So, who was in charge of the living nativity when they were young. Fortunately for us, we had Lynette and Darlene, who didn’t threaten us. In fact, they made us hot cocoa and cookies.

But I remember being cold. And the years when there were enough people to have multiple shifts were better, not only to warm up, but also for the chance to see it; it was very moving to witness.

Carol Palay (Chris & Chuck Wukovits' daughter)

When I was growing up in FPC, it just wasn't Christmas without the living nativity. I believe it was started in 1956 by Claudia Riggs. Back then, church was your social life. The church was bursting at the seams with all the "baby boomers". Youth group was on Sunday night, and it was great fun. The Living Nativity was a Christmas tradition for many years on the Sunday evening before Christmas Day. The church steps were configured differently, and a large wooden platform was installed over the steps so we had a place to stand. Hay was piled up on the floor of the platform to resemble a stable. We got down to church around 5:00 p.m. to get on our costumes and do make up with Neil and Dorothy Crumb. I remember the beard that was glued to my face. It was itchy and turned my skin red for a couple of days. Long johns were certainly necessary under those heavy costumes to stay warm. Standing still for thirty minutes is a long time when it's ten degrees! I was always a shepherd. We did it in shifts. There were two or three shifts when I was in youth group because we had a lot of kids. Everyone's mom sent goodies for us to share, and it was a feast of cookies, cakes, sloppy joes, chips, and hot chocolate. Folks would drive real slowly down Lincolnway to see the Living Nativity. Some would pull into the parking lot and walk over to enjoy the scene. We couldn't talk or move and had to stand a certain way. The person who drew the "short straw" was the angel because you had to stand with your arms raised over the manger. The Living Nativity is certainly a wonderful Christmas memory for me.

Christine Wukovits

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My son Curt shared that putting on the makeup and dressing in costume took a long time. As he said, "It was a process."

I just remember it was an event that the kids wanted to be a part of. They didn't seem to worry about the cold weather. Hot chocolate was always the reward. Had a little trouble keeping the kids from talking, but they seemed to respond well when folks walked down the sidewalk.

Darlene Seufert

Few words to describe my time doing Living Nativity: youth, fellowship, fun, sticky beards, stand still, freezing, hot chocolate.

Carole Polk

(Continued from page 5)

I was involved as a kid and as a dad. As a kid, I think I remember the Bruners, Camrens, Huffs, and Wukovitses being involved in maintaining order back in the 1970s. That was probably my first experience of "helping" master mechanic Chuck. He assembled the platform, and I stood around in case he needed a tool fetched. I don't remember it as being so terribly cold. The plastic baby doll that appeared in the 2020 video production was used back then, too. It's probably older than I am.

As a dad, I remember that Katie was often the tallest, and couldn't escape playing one of the wise men, despite Christopher's recruiting of other young men to help fill out the cast. Claudia Riggs was involved in those productions in the early 2000s, and that was the beginning of a great friendship between Claudia and Katie. Katie remembers Claudia applying "pancake makeup."

In both generations, it was quite something just to serve the church in what we understood to be a traditional contribution to the community, but also to have a special feeling to be with those dear friends in our time, along with feeling a connection to the Holy Family outside of time.

Our front steps have been reconstructed in more recent times, but the platform was repurposed to serve as one of the homes in *The 34th Christmas*, the wonderful play written by Vicky Garrett and performed several times in our sanctuary. The plastic baby doll appeared in those productions, too!

John Rice

I remember that Neil Crumb used to do make-up for the kids which included using a special glue to put beards on the kings and shepherds. It was then taken over by Meg Fleming.

I remember the kids looked forward to being senior members of the group because then they could be Mary and Joseph.

Mary Ann Dentino

Soup R Bowl

Mary Ann Dentino, Mission Committee Chair



Let's fill the grocery cart for the Albright Food Pantry during the month of February. Bring cans or packages of items to make soup or ready made cans of soup.

Possible Items

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Kidney beans | Rice | Tomatoes |
| Broth | Small pasta | Canned chicken |
| Canned vegetables | Ready made soup | Crackers |

Thank you for your contribution!

Quilts of Valor

Pam Camren, Group Leader

InTheBendQOV is a recognized group of the Quilts of Valor Foundation which was founded in 2003 by Catherine Roberts, a Blue Star Mom and quilter. The mission of Quilts of Valor (QOV) Foundation is to honor and comfort active service personnel and veterans with quality-made quilts.

Since 2003, the foundation has awarded nearly 255, 000 quilts. These quilts are made by volunteer sew-ers and long armers across the US. The Foundation has 4 paid staff and everyone else involved on the board of directors, state coordinators, sewing groups and presenters are volunteers....over 10,000 people devote resources, time and talent to making Quilts of Valor. The organization is supported by donations, group memberships and some corporate sponsorships for certain specific needs; i.e. printing of brochures, etc.

To date, in the nearly five years of being *InTheBendQOV*, we have been involved in the presentation of nearly 225 quilts. Not all were made by the group but other quilters in Indiana provided quilts in the beginning. We have awarded quilts to veterans of WWII, Korea, many to Vietnam vets and several from more recent conflicts in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

InTheBendQOV (pre pandemic) generally meets twice a month at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka to plan, sew and complete quilts. Many members sew for QOV between our scheduled meetings. The dates vary to fit into the churches' calendar of activities.

Veterans and service members can be nominated to receive a quilt by going to the govf.org website and "requesting a quilt". The nominations are channeled to the state where the award will take place and will be fulfilled when a quilt is available. It can take from months to a couple of years to honor the request with the awarding of a quilt.

The number of quilts awarded each month varies and many award ceremonies center around military related holidays sometimes in groups and often with family present.

Contact information:

Palma (Pam) Camren

InTheBendQOV, group leader

pamcamren1@gmail.com

574-303-9343

THANK YOU



A special thank you to the congregation for the prayers, cards, messages and phone calls from members and Pastor Daniel that Angela, Jenny and I received at the loss of our father and husband.

The pears were enjoyed by the family for Christmas breakfast and in the Tuscan salad for dinner. The cardinal lantern is a reminder that when we see a cardinal, an angel from heaven is near. We have had a cardinal visit our bird feeder.

With your love and comforting words plus God's help and guidance we will make it down this new road we will travel.

Angela Bellinger, Jennifer Micinski and Mary Ann Dentino



FEBRUARY 2021

Worship 10 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Upper Room work day – 10:00 a.m. to noon
7 Communion PWCT meeting – 11:15	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Deacons' meeting – 11:15 Valentine's Day	15 Elizabeth Circle – 7:00 here	16	17 Upper Room workday 4:00-6:00 Ash Wednesday – service in Memorial Lounge at 7:00 Communion Newsletter Deadline	18 Ruth Circle – 7:00 at Dyan's	19	20
21 Book club 3:00 at Judy G.'s	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

Apparently no one else has Upper Room sales so substitute that for "yard" on the sign!

The first Upper Room sale of 2021 will take place on Friday March 12 and Saturday March 13 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Volunteers are welcome to work at the sale or just come and enjoy browsing and buying