



## First Presbyterian News

### December 2022/January 2023

401 Lincolnway East  
Mishawaka, IN. 46544

I can't believe we are in the last month of the year—"December". What comes to your mind when you hear the word December? It goes without saying that I think of Christmas. Every year the holiday season comes, many people find themselves busy with Christmas preparations—gifts, meals, baking, cards, and decorating.

However, we must not let our busyness distract our focus on celebrating the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ—the true meaning of Christmas.

**"The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory"** (John 1:14). The Word "*logos*", became flesh when Jesus was born as a baby in the manger at Bethlehem. Christ had always existed as the Son of God— **"in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God"** (John 1:1), but now chose to come into the world in human flesh and dwelt among us.

Our life does not make any sense until we meet Christ. Jesus, the Word, comes as the answer to the great problems of life. He is the source, fountain, origin, and cause of all life in this universe.

**"In [Christ] was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it"** (John 4, 5).

Christ's light is shining. It is a light that conquers darkness and turns death into life. It is the true light that has come to enlighten all people. Before Christ came into the world, the world was full of darkness. The world did not know God. Then, a new and radiant light came and began to shine, pushing back the darkness of the world. People had light of the knowledge of God's glory in the life of Jesus Christ.

When the light is present, everything is changed. When Christ, the light, lives and dwells among us, we are changed. We have eternal life. Jesus said, **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life"** (John 3:16).

God lit up the world with love through his Son, Jesus.

I invite all of you to join FPC Mishawaka Christmas Eve Service on December 24th at 7:30 p.m. There will be a Hand bell Choir, Chancel Choir, Candles, and Scriptures to celebrate, reflect, and honor the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I hope and pray you have a meaningful and peaceful Christmas, and a hopeful New Year in 2023.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Yours in Christ, Pastor Daniel

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. The church has Christianized that practice in the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ, who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in the Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of *hope, peace, joy, and love*: and remembering the promises of God with prayer.



## Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



### Advent Potluck

PW is hosting an Advent Potluck following worship on **December 4th**. PW will provide the main course and beverages. Everyone attending will need to bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert. It will be so fun reinstating the potlucks again! What a great way to get into the Christmas spirit!

There will be a sign-up sheet in the CE lobby beginning November 13th.

You can also sign up on the Ritual of Friendship pads in the sanctuary or by calling the church office during regular business hours. Ugly Christmas sweaters are encouraged, but not required.



### Winter Gathering

**January 7th @ 10 a.m.**—Ladies, don't miss this great get-together to start out the new year! We will start with a carry in brunch and spend the rest of the morning working on mission projects.

There will be a PWCT meeting at 9 am.



### Kitchen Clean Up

**January 16th @ 10 a.m.** —Feel free to bring doughnuts!

### Presbyterian Women Circles

This year's study started in September and will continue through to spring. Celebrating Sabbath: accepting God's gifts of rest and delight is a thought provoking study. Each Circle meets once a month—Elizabeth is on the 3rd Monday (contact Mary Ann Dentino) and Ruth is on the 3rd Thursday, (contact Teresa Primmer). A list of dates and times can be found on the church bulletin board in the lobby. If you find yourself free, you are very welcome to join us.

### Upper Room News & Work Day

Our last Upper Room sale was very successful with a profit over \$600. Add to that, the \$300+ Fall/Christmas items we sold at the Bake/Vendor Sale, and that gives us a nice profit for late fall. Our thanks again to those who make this possible: our donors and our many workers. The committee has added a Pop-Up sale December 10th from 9 a.m. till noon. We are hoping to sell more of the Christmas items for last minute shoppers.

The work room has been cleared and reorganized. We are planning to continue that work, with a day in January, dedicated to sorting clothes.

Once again we thank those that continue to bring us items to sell. We ask again, that these items are clean and spot/animal hair free. When donating small appliances or electronics, make sure they work and all the parts are there. Our 2023 schedule is out, but the committee is having a discussion on scheduling more pop-up sales on non-scheduled months with fewer hours.

The money we make goes to various organizations like Presbyterian Disaster Agency. If you hear of any national disaster, you know PDA is there.

PDA is the emergency and refugee program of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The core budget, including staff and administrative costs, is funded through the One Great Hour of Sharing, and its program work is additionally funded through designated gifts. Check their Facebook page for more information.

**January 18th 10 a.m.—Noon:** We will start pulling the Upper Room together for the new year. Many hands make light work.

### Bake Sale News

We hosted our 10th Annual Bake Sale and Vendor Fair on Saturday, November 12th.

We have had many Bakes Sales through the years, but this was our *10th* anniversary with vendors. Over the years, many of the vendors have become good friends to us personally, and we always look forward to their participation.

The Bake Sale Committee of Carole Polk, Judy Green, and Lynett Heritz would like to thank all the men and women who made this sale such a big success this year. It takes a lot of helping hands: from the set-up/cleanup, those who worked the day of the sale, the many flour covered hands of the bakers who donated goods, and those who came out to shop. We couldn't have done it without you!

All of our monies are used to support the many Mission projects of Presbyterian Women. Our tallies at this point for our Upper Room Booth was \$355 and our Bake Sale was \$2,405. We also collected \$109 for the Mishawaka Food Pantry.

It's a lot of work, but the benefits are so sweet!

Lynett Heritz

### Thanksgiving Baskets



### Thanksgiving Baskets

Because of our congregation's generosity, we were able to provide 14 Thanksgiving baskets to families of Battell students. These went to families that may not have had Thanksgiving without these baskets. Thank you again for making this day a little brighter for these folks.

Mission Committee

A BIG Thank you to Len Sailor for his beautiful music on St. Andrew's Day. Always a special moment of the year. And to the talented ladies who made the buttery short bread cookies. And at last, the many hands who helped decorate the church to welcome the Advent Season.

Please remember to sign the church Christmas Card, a tradition started when Rev. Ron Miller joined our church, that takes over the Mission bulletin board in the lobby. Or, send a card to the church and we will place it on the board.

### Joy Offering

It is Advent time and also time to give to the Joy Offering. 50% of these gifts are used to support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. The Christmas Joy Offering honors the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families in need.

BOP helped more than 227 individual recipients remain in their homes and afford assisted living or long-term care. The other 50% helps prepare the way for future leaders. The PC(USA), with its historic commitment to higher learning, has long promoted education and leadership development through the establishment and support of Presbyterian-related schools/colleges, equipping communities of color. Our future church leaders of color can receive much needed assistance while they pursue their professional goals at these schools/colleges. This offering will be received during the Sundays of Advent and during service on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts. You should have an envelope in your box for the Joy Offering. If not, there will be some by the offering plate.

Mary Ann Dentino



### Deacons Christmas Shopping

Christmas shopping at JC Penny will take place Saturday, December 3rd at 8 a.m. We are requesting names of 50 children from the School City of Mishawaka. The opportunity to help children in our area receive adequate clothing is one of our greatest missions. Can you help with shopping? This mostly consists of holding purchases and keeping track of money spent. Shopping usually takes about an hour or 2, then you are free to shop for yourself! Sign-up on the Clip Board and meet us outside JC Penny's catalog doors. Watch bulletin for meeting times. The parents are so grateful for Christmas gifts. It is truly a rewarding experience. JC Penny's has been very generous and helpful over the years, so keep them in mind when planning your shopping. We hope to spend about \$75 per child. Donations should be in by November 28th. There are envelopes in your offering box and in the church pews. Put "Deacon's Christmas Shopping" in the memo section of our check.

Carole Polk and the Deacons



Quilts of Valor will be making up their November snow day on December 2 from 9a.m. to 2p.m. The sewers will be busy in our basement. **And** in case you missed the interview, Quilts of Valor were interviewed by WNDU about their on-going giving and sewing and they gave a nice mention to First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka during the interview. How nice to have a church being involved with the community in so many ways. So a big WAY TO GO volunteers who give backpacks, socks, food, band-aids, hats & mittens, money for shopping, delivery of baskets, baby items, sewing, YOUR TIME and the lists go on.



### The Food Pantries in Mishawaka

At present, there are two major Food Pantries in Mishawaka, MAC Food Pantry (Mishawaka Alliance of Care) located in Albright Church and The Mishawaka Food Pantry, Inc. located on LWW. We have supported the MAC Food Pantry for many years by placing food items in the grocery cart in the CE lobby. We plan to continue to support them. It has also been brought to the attention of session that the Mishawaka Food Pantry's shelves are bare. Session, along with Mission, would like to support them also by having some food drives for them throughout the year. For example, bringing a needed food item to Circle, the Christmas dinner, some other church event, or place food in a marked container on Sunday.

Needed items are: Canned vegetables, Rice, Dried Beans, and Tuna.

Watch or listen for mores ways to contribute throughout the year.

**MAC Mishawaka Alliance of Care**

### Annual Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree will once again be up and ready for you to decorate. Mittens, scarves, hats, or any cold weather items can be added. Whether store bought or homemade, the items will be donated to Battell School after the holidays. You can find the tree in Fellowship Hall. Thank you.





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**Custodian hours:** Monday thru Friday 7 to noon**Contact us at** (574) 259-7874 or [fpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto:fpcmishawaka@gmail.com)**MAIL ADDRESS:** First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka

P.O. Box 744 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

**Church Officers and Committees****Session:** John Martz, Mary Ann

Dentino, Judy Sulak, Mary Watt,

Chris Wukovits

**Board of Deacons:** Carole Polk

Moderator, Bill Bellairs, Angela

Bellinger, Pam Martz, Jenn Frey, Jim

Stanz

**Facilities/Operations:** John Martz**Chair Book Club:** Judy Green**Clerk of Session:** Teresa Primmer**Chair Christian Education:** Chris Wukovits**Chair Finance:** Ron May**Chair Mission and Evangelism:**

Mary Ann Dentino

**Chair Newsletter:** Katie Robertson**Chair Personnel:** Mary Watt**Chair Prayer Chain:** Lynett Heritz**Presbyterian Women:** Chris

Wukovits and Judy Green

**Chair Special Gifts:** Sue Rice**Chair Stewardship:** Ron May**Treasurer:** John Rice**Chair Worship and Music:** Judy

Sulak

**Book Club**Book Club: **December 18th** at 3:00 p.m. is *Midnight at the Blackbird Café* Location: Teresa Primmer's, Leader Judy G**January 15**, at 3:00 p.m. is *Read a book you previously read years ago.*We will discuss if our perspective or like/dislike of the book has changed.  
Location TBA.

Thanks, Judy Green

**Worship & Music**

Greetings from worship and music,

Our local weather has made it look very winter-y outside, and with Thanksgiving gatherings with family and friends over, we look to Advent and the Christmas Season, during this time we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Our Christmas Eve Service is a joyous celebration filled with music and Joy! On Christmas Day morning there will be a service, at the usual time, where I will share a message titled, "What gifts have you received".

From the entire W&amp;M committee, Merry Christmas and a safe and joyous new year to all! Worship and music committee chair, Judy Sulak.

**The Remembrance of First Presbyterian Saints for 2022**

Ruth Luke—October 26, 2021

Yolanda Pecze—December 3, 2021 (Mother of Pam Martz)

Ken Boyer—March 14, 2022 (Friend of the Green Family)

Steve Hendershot—March 15, 2022 (Neighbor of the Green Family)

George Luke—April 7, 2022

David Keller—April 28, 2002

Nancy Stoltz—September 10, 2022

Georgia Mary Vratana—October 3, 2022

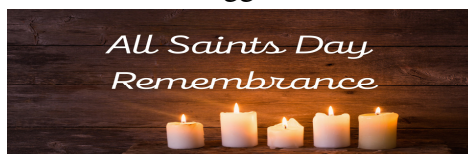
**TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE****December...Judy G./Carole****January...Darlene****All Saint's Day Remembrances List from Special Gifts**

Ada Meengs Altar Cloth, Claudia Riggs Geneva Center Campership,

New Church Grounds Landscaping: Jeanette Davis, Richard Dentino, Janice Farkas, Arthur Harker,

John Heritz, Elizabeth Johnson, Judith Long, Elizabeth McCurdie, Ada Meengs,

Harold Morey, Yolanda Pecze, Gordon Reif, Martha Riggs and James &amp; Christine Sneddon

*All Saints Day  
Remembrance*

Worship 10 am



December



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 QoV work day 9 to 2	3 Deacon's shopping at JCPenney's 8am
4 Advent Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Pam Camren PW Advent potluck after worship	5	6	7	8	9	10 Upper Room Sale 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
11 Advent Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Carole Polk/ Michael G. W.L. Darlene Seufert <u>Called Congregational Meeting</u> Deacons meeting after worship	12	13	14	15 Ruth Circle @ 7 p.m. host, Lynett	16	17
18 Advent Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Michael Green W.L. Chris Wukovits Worship & Music meeting after worship Book Club @ 3 p.m. at Teresa's	19 Elizabeth Circle 7 p.m. @ Chris Wukovits' house	20	21	22	23 office closed	24 <b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> <b>7:30 p.m. service</b> Ushers, Carole & Marc, Michael W.L. Chuck Wukovits <b>Joy Offering</b>
25 Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Neil Seufert W.L. Judy Sulak Guest Speaker—Judy S.	26 Office Closed.	27	28	29	30	31




Worship 10 am



January



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Ethan DeMaegd W.L. John Rice 	2 Office Closed	3	4	5	6 <b>Epiphany of the Lord</b>	7 PWCT Meeting @ 9 a.m. PW Winter Gathering @ 10 a.m. - mission work day/ brunch
8 <b>Baptism of the Lord</b> Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Carole P, Greg Phillips W.L. Pam Camren	9	10	11	12	13 QoV 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.	14
15 Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Michael G. W.L. Alan Camren Deacons meeting after worship Book Club at 3 p.m.	16 Kitchen clean-up @ 10 a.m.  Elizabeth Circle 7 p.m. @ church	17	18 Upper Room workday 2p.m. till 4p.m.	19 Ruth Circle 7p.m. @ Judy Green's	20	21
22 Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Neil Seufert W.L. Darlene Seufert Worship & Music meeting after worship	23	24	25	26	27	28
29 Greeter.. Bill Bellairs Usher.. Bill Bellairs W.L. Dyan Phillips Session meeting after worship	30	31				<div> <b>Please Send information for the February to Katie Robertson by January 17th. fpcmishawaka@gmail. com Thank you!</b> </div>