

First Presbyterian News

December 2024/January 2025

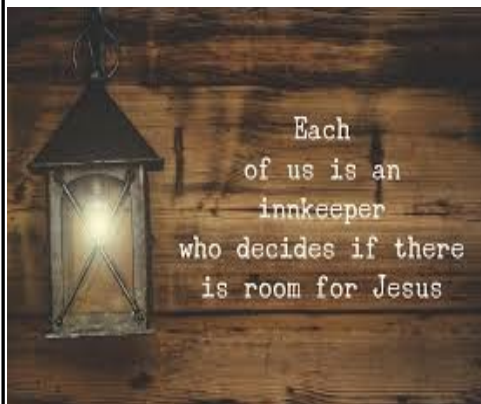
401 Lincolnway East
Mishawaka, IN. 46544

Every Christmas season, heartwarming stories are shared, and this one is my personal favorite. While it may be a classic tale—and some even say it's based on a true story (though there isn't enough proof) - I had the privilege of sharing it in a children's Christmas pageant, using puppets, during my previous ministry in Seattle, Washington. It's a story that always resonates deeply. Here's the story, with a few changes I made:

As Christmas approached, a small school decided to put on a special Christmas play. Wally, a fourth grader with a heart full of kindness, was eager to be part of it. Although Wally faced challenges with speech and learning, he was more excited than anyone to take part. His teacher, recognizing his enthusiasm, assigned him a role that was simple but meaningful—the innkeeper, who turns Mary and Joseph away. In the play, Wally's task was to say just one line: "There's no room", when Joseph knocked on the door. His teacher worked closely with him, helping him practice every day. Wally focused on getting it just right, knowing that Joseph would ask for a room and his response would be, "There's no room." The night of the play arrived, and the excitement was palpable. Wally stood backstage, eagerly waiting for his cue. When the moment came, Joseph and Mary arrived at the inn. Mary, appearing tired and in pain, leaned on Joseph as he knocked on the door. Wally opened the door and, as he had practiced, said clearly, "There's no room." Joseph pleaded, "Please, my wife is about to give birth. Can't you spare a room?" Wally repeated his line, "There's no room." Everything seemed to be going smoothly, but then Joseph asked one final time, "Please, it's so cold, and my wife is about to have a baby. We have nowhere else to go." At that moment, something changed in Wally. His face softened, and his eyes filled with tears. Breaking from the script, he looked at Mary and Joseph and said, "You can have my room." Some people in town thought that the pageant had been ruined. Yet there were others—many, many others—who considered it the most Christmas of all Christmas pageants they had ever seen.

Wally's heartfelt words remind us of the essence of Christmas: making space for others, for kindness and for the true message of hope that the season represents. His simple act of offering his room symbolizes the love and generosity that we are called to share, not just with those close to us, but with anyone in need. December is one of the busiest times of the year, with people all around the world preparing for Christmas. For many, it's a time of excitement, celebration, and spending time with family and friends. But in the midst of all the activity, it's also a chance to slow down and think about the true meaning of Christmas. This season encourages us to look past the busy preparations and reconnect with the spirit of love, kindness, and the message of hope and peace that Christmas brings.

"And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn." (Luke 2:7 NRSV)



Is there room in our hearts for Jesus this Christmas? As we consider making space for Jesus, are we also making room for those around us who may be struggling, lonely, or in need? What would it look like if we made room for love, grace, and peace this special season?

Wishing you a joyful Advent, a Merry Christmas, and a blessed New Year!

Blessings, Pastor Daniel

Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



Presbyterian Women Circles

Each Circle meets once a month—Elizabeth is on the 3rd Monday of each month, Ruth is on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Circles meet at 7 p.m. A list of dates and times can be found on the church bulletin board. If you find yourself free, you are welcome to join us. For more information about Elizabeth Circle, please contact Mary Ann Dentino at 574.287.8573 or dentinosb@aol.com For more information about Ruth Circle, please contact Teresa Primmer at 574.220.3500 or gigiprimmer@gmail.com

Bake Sale News: We held our Annual Bake Sale and Vendor Fair on Saturday, November 9th. Not only was it a busy day, but we were busy on two separate work days; making noodles and cheese balls! Then we had many hands baking/cooking to support our bake sale. Some of the items you would have found were: Cookies, quiches, candy/fudge, Beef sticks, and our noodles, cheese balls, and cheese spreads. We hosted 15 Vendors; plus our own Upper Room who brought in amazing products and helped make sale successful. We have become friends with our vendors and look forward to their return each year along with new folks. We couldn't have done it without all our bakers, workers, shoppers, and vendors; and we give thanks for all of you!

We made \$3,535.00 on our Bake Sale and another \$480 with Upper Room sales to help support our Mission projects.

Advent Dinner –December 8th following the service. At the Presbyterian Women's Gathering this summer, we heard from several inspiring speakers and want to share one of those Keynote presentations—Yung Me Morris— *“Did You Eat Yet?” The Ancient Tradition of the Agape Love Feast and the Mutuality of Korean Hospitality*. Such a powerful message on the idea of hospitality and caring for others and impact of food insecurities. We hope you will join us for food, fellowship, and reflection during this Advent Season.



Winter Gathering - January 11th at 10:00 a.m. (9:00 a.m. Board Meeting). We will have a carry-in brunch and gather our list of non-profits to support.. We've had an amazing year and can't wait to share those blessings with the non-profit organizations.

Upper Room 2024 was a successful year! Items donated that do not sell are distributed to several community projects, including Albright Clothing Pantry, St. Margaret's House, Broadway Christian Parish, and Goodwill. We have closed down for the next couple of months and are **Not** accepting any donations until after the new year.



Mission—Our Faith in Action



**MAC Mishawaka
Alliance of Care**

We delivered 125 lbs of food items in November, bringing our grand total for 11 months to 400 lbs of food! Let's finish off strong this year. The Pantry continues to serve over 200 families a month.

We have updated the baskets in the CE Lobby to help collect items throughout the year. Maybe you have some items to donate or find a great deal going on now. You can bring them in anytime.

Food Pantry Cart– items donated the 3rd Tuesday of the month to MAC Food Pantry.

Socks –Men's women's—donated to Broadway Christian Parish in Spring.

Leggings/Sweatpants—children at Battell—New, lightly used—donated in August to Battell.

Pop tops –Ronald McDonald House

Band-Aids—colorful, kids band-aids donated to children's hospital/Ronald McDonald House.

Knitting for Peace—hats, scarves, mittens, bibs—donated end of year to Hope Ministries.

Pillow Cases—make dresses for Malawi Matters group.

Baby Bundles—blanket, receiving blanket, outfit—St. Joseph Hospital Spring and Fall.

Purses Project—toiletries, toothbrush and toothpaste, Kleenex, feminine products, nail polish, travel aspirin, comb, brush, notepad and pen, hand sanitizer, hand cream, etc.



Thanksgiving Baskets—Thank you to all who donated! We delivered 14 Thanksgiving baskets.



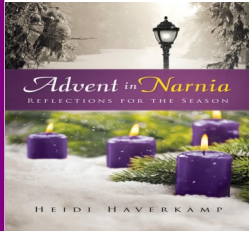
Joy Offering— December 21st: The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

We are there.  CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERING



Christian Education

We are excited about our Advent Book Study **Advent in Narnia: reflections for the Season** by Heidi Haverkamp.



Heidi writes: Lewis’s first book about the land of Narnia is a perfect fit for the season of Advent—the snow, a glowing lamppost, the children waiting for the return of a savior, and the visit of Father Christmas make it a natural reading partner for this time of year.”

Books are on the CE desk and half cost is \$6. Get a cup of coffee or juice, a cookie, and join us in the small dining room after church starting December 1st.

Church School is going extremely well. We thank those that celebrated the colors of the rainbow and God’s gift of colorful fruits and vegetables. We really need some more help in the playroom during church. If you would like to help, please let the office know.



Darlene Seufert, Chair CE

Prayer Shawl Ministries



We are so blessed to have so many who knit and crochet prayer shawls and prayer pockets for those in our congregation. We are in need of adult neutral colored prayer shawls. Patterns are in the Small Dining room. For those who would like to help but don’t know how to knit or crochet yarn would be greatly appreciated. 5 skeins of lion brand Homespun yarn makes one adult prayer shawl. Thank you to all who have helped.

Blessings,
Judy Sulak
Prayer Shawl Ministries



The Deacons Annual Children’s Christmas Shopping will be held on Saturday, December 14th at JC Penny’s. We will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Beauty Salon Door on the North side of the building. We will be shopping for clothing for around 50+ kiddos from the Mishawaka Schools.

Please consider helping us shop with a parent or guardian this year. It usually takes about 1 1/2 hours. We will have a sign up sheet on the board in the CE Lobby.



Smock Adult Ministries

We had a good attendance for the lunch and play at the Red Barn.

December 4th we will meet at Pigeon and the Hen Pottery—we have 11 members who have signed up to attend.



Our next event is March 13th at Menno-Hof Museum.

The address is:

510 South Van Buren Street. Shipshewana, IN.

The cost will be \$10. **Menno-Hof** is a **non-profit information center located in Shipshewana, Indiana** that teaches visitors about the faith and life of Amish and Mennonites.

After that we will meet at the Blue Gate Restaurant for lunch. I'll get the

time and cost to you after the first of the year.



After the first of the year, we will also start getting information out about our May event. We are planning a trip to Holland, Michigan and the tulip festival. The cost will include charter bus for round trip to Holland, MI as well as admission ticket to on specific garden and a meal. The cost will be \$80 per person. We will be asking you to sign up starting in **January** just so we can plan the number of transportation we'll need.

I'm also providing envelopes so I can keep better tabs on who is giving me money and how much. You can also sign up in the office.





* Prayers for the Nation and World.

For Peace and Justice around the world; for those who are suffering through conflicts/ war; for protection and comfort for all those impacted as well as wisdom for all the world leaders making decisions. May respect, kindness, courage, and the ability to work through differences reign as they work towards being the peacemakers You designed us to be.

Prayers For:

* All who are dealing with heart, cancer, and health issues. Prayers for successful treatment, healing, comfort, and acceptance.

We hold up the names of: Patty Stanz, Kevin Finley, Erica, and Ken.

* Caregivers to family and friends. May they feel your love and sustaining power. Help us to be conscious of their feelings.

We hold up the names of Andrea Finley, and Jim Stanz.

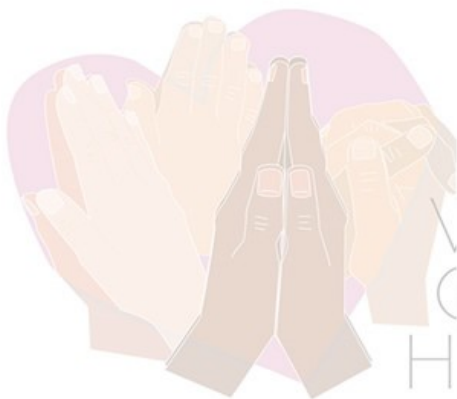
* Those who experience emotional crises, mental distress, or struggles with addictions. Prayers for successful treatment and help with coping skills.

* Our homebound members who always appreciate cards and calls.

We lift up: Kathy Bellairs, Jack Bruner, Janet Freeman, Ann Jones, Pat Harker, Esther Morrison, and Sandra Hamman

* All those names we have left unspoken and hold within our hearts, but whom God knows.

If you would like to add a prayer request to the pastoral prayer list, call: 574.259.7874. If no one answers, please leave a message.



How can
we
PRAY
for 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
Music Director Dr. Siwon Kim
Siwon.Kim@BethelUniversity.edu

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: Lynett Heritz

Book Club



Book Club: **December 15th** at 2:00 p.m. is *Comfort & Joy* by Kristin Hannah
Host, Teresa Primmer Leader, Darlene Seufert

Book Club: **January 19th** at 2:00 p.m. is *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt
Host, Lynett Heritz

Worship & Music

Greetings from worship and music,



As we are now in the season of Advent, which started December 1st, may we keep this season as a time for joyful hope and anticipation for Christmas, celebrating the birth of Christ.

The choir will be singing on Christmas Eve—if you would like to sing in the choir please check with Dr. Kim, or Vicky Garrett. We would love to have you!

As a reminder, Christmas Eve service will be held December 24th at 7:00 p.m.

TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

December...Judy Green,
Carole Polk
January...Darlene Seufert
February...Judy Sulak



Please Send information for the February Newsletter to Katie Robertson by January 17th.
fpcmishawaka@gmail.com
Thank you!



Worship 10 am



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1 1st Sunday of Advent <i>Communion</i> Greeter..Ethan DeMaegd Usher..Bill Bellairs Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Pam Camren <i>Advent Book Study after worship</i></p>	2	3	4	5	6	7
<p>8 2nd Sunday of Advent Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk Greg Phillips W.L. Darlene Seufert <i>Deacons Meeting after worship</i> <i>Advent Potluck after worship</i></p>	9	10	11	12	13	<p>14 Deacons Christmas Shopping at JC Penny 8:00 a.m.</p> 
<p>15 3rd Sunday of Advent 9 a.m.-choir rehearsal *Called Congregational Meeting Greeter..Ethan DeMaegd Usher..Michael Green W.L. Chris Wukovits <i>Advent Book Study after worship</i> 2:00 p.m. Book Club</p>	<p>16 7:00 p.m. Elizabeth Circle Hostess, Chris Wukovits Leader, Chris Wukovits</p>	<p>17 *Newsletter Deadline</p>	18	<p>19 7:00 p.m. Ruth Circle Hostess, Lynett Heritz Leader, Teresa Primmer</p>	20	21
<p>22 4th Sunday of Advent Greeter.. Usher..Bill Bellairs, Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Chuck Wukovits <i>Advent Book Study after worship</i></p>	23	<p>24 <i>Communion</i> Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk Marc Michael Green W.L. *7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>12-25 <small>© 2014 by the author. All rights reserved. www.kennethkane.com</small> "MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!"</p>	26	27	28
<p>29 Greeter.. Usher.. W.L. Judy Sulak</p>	30	<p>31 New Years Eve</p>				

Worship 10 am



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 National Spaghetti Day
5 Greeter.. Usher.. W.L. <i>Take down Greens after worship</i>	6	7	8 10:00-Noon Upper Room Work Day	9	10 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. QoV	11 9:00 a.m. PWCT Meeting 10:00 a.m. PW Winter Gathering with carry-in brunch
12 Greeter.. Usher.. W.L.	13	14	15	16 7:00 p.m. Ruth Circle <i>Hostess, Darlene Seufert</i> <i>Leader, Judy Green</i>	17 *Newsletter Deadline	18
19 Greeter.. Usher.. W.L. <i>2:00 p.m. Book Club</i>	20 10:00 a.m. Kitchen Clean up * 6:30 p.m. CE Meeting at Pam Camren's * 7:00 p.m. Elizabeth Circle at Church <i>Hostess, Carole Polk</i>	21	22	23 National Pie Day 	24	25
26 Greeter.. Usher.. W.L. Session Meeting after worship	27	28	29	30	31	