

First Presbyterian News

February 2020

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, In. 46544



Since I haven't had any chance to say "best wishes for year 2020" yet in a newsletter, let me begin my pastoral letter with this special greeting to you:

"May You and Your family receive many blessings from the Lord in year 2020!"

In the Bible, blessing means receiving God's gift or favor. When God called Abram (*before God renamed him to Abraham*) to leave his father's house to go to the land that God would show him, God promised to Abram that He would make him a great nation and bless him and make his name great.

Why did God make that promise with Abram?

What was God's purpose for blessing Abram's life?

The answer is simple. God blessed Abram so he could be a blessing to others. However, in order to be a blessing to others, Abram must submit himself to the divine call. He must leave his homeland, for the worship of the Lord, in the land of promise. Only Abram's obedience to the divine call would bring blessing on him and to others.

In year 2020, I hope and pray that God blesses each one of you abundantly so that you can be a blessing to others. All the blessings we have received come from God, and they should continue to flow through us.

Then, how can we be a blessing to others?

Remember, what Abram did when God called him, and this is what the author of Hebrews writes, **"By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place where he was to receive as an inheritance."** (Heb. 11:8) Abram responded to God's command with action. He simply obeyed God's promise.

God blesses us because he loves us. Now, God calls us to share the blessings that we have received from him.

Let me end my pastoral letter with "The Priestly Benediction" from Numbers 6:22-26

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

Blessings, Pastor Daniel



Communion in February will be February 2nd and February 26, Ash Wednesday. This will be the first year in a few years that our church will have an Ash Wednesday Service. Please plan to attend! The service starts at 6:30 pm. Darlene for Worship and Music

Light Suppers and Lenten Study

Join us on Wednesday evening during Lent at 6:00 for a light supper and a lesson from the book ***Give Up Something Bad for Lent***. We will be done around 7:15. You won't have to give up chocolate or brussel sprouts...just bad things.....like jealousy, gossiping, holding grudges, etc. I think we could all give up some bad habits that humans seem to have. The dates are March, 4, 11, 18, 25, and April 1. There will be a sign up sheet for participants, leaders, and preparing a light supper. Hope you can join us for this wonderful Lenten experience.

Christine Wukovits for Christian Education

XPUJIL UPDATE

“Making our faith come alive is the very spirit of the Church”

Dear Friends,

Thank you for reading this. I invite you to pray through the following paragraphs.

BUILD AND STRENGTHEN THE SPIDER WEB

Every year, after Thanksgiving and before Mexico's Guadalupe Day (December 12), Victor, Felipe, and I drive from village to village to meet with our cistern owner partners. This year, these visits are between December 1-11. Hundreds of men and women from a couple dozen villages will have the chance to tell us about the state of their rainwater catchment systems, and to pay back a portion of what they owe for the building materials. Not only cistern owners attend these gatherings. Families without cisterns often come to ask how to join this movement. We meet in churches, town halls, basketball courts, streets, and front yards. We do business at tables, benches, and the hood of my car. Flashlights required. The December visits add new strands to and reinforce the existing fibers of our partnership web.

OUR MEXICAN PARTNERS

Victor, Raul, Isaias, Felipe, Diego, Lucas, Ezequias, and Esau build cisterns. Their hard work, skill, kindness, and patience wins the respect of those with whom they serve. Pati, Rosa, Teresa, Margarita, and Encarnacion nourish our guests and treat them with loving care. Felipe Torres oversees everything, accounts for everything, and fills the gaps to keep this whole kit and caboodle moving forward. The cistern owner families—old and new—do their jobs, as well. May they never stop looking for God in their lives. May their Lord's unfailing love always motivate them to help others. We thank them and their families.

OUR AMERICAN PARTNERS (including FPC)

Past, present, and future. To name them would require many pages. Thank God for their steadfast participation. How wonderful it is when the Father chooses to work through his adopted children. May we continue to choose to serve our neighbors in need—including those in Mexico.

2020

We don't offer mission trips between mid-August and December, but the ministry keeps rolling. Partners prepare for the year to come. Mission teams take shape. Financial resources are cultivated. Mexican families learn what it takes to join this partnership that demands time, toil, and treasure from all its participants. And through it all: God's grace. Our gratitude.

CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank you. You give us all we have. Stoke the desire to seek you in everything, and constantly ask, "What do you want me to know? What do you want me to do?" Amen.

Todd Luke

We would like to thank all the church family who have helped, provided meals, sent cards and called during my recent hospital stay and recuperation at home. We are blessed to belong to such a caring church. Kathy and Bill Bellairs

Trust in God *Daniel 6

King Darius said, "Pray to ME!"
But Daniel would not bend his knee,
While in the cat's lair
His life God did spare.
Said Dan, "My God's power you did see!!"

(next Jonah)



Thirty days hath fruit-bearing
September, Moist April, hot June,
and cold November,
Short February twenty-eight alone;
The other months have either
thirty-one;
And February,
when the fourth year's run,
Does gain a day from the
swift-moving sun.
~"Shepherd's Kalendar"

Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



February 2nd **PWCT** meeting at 11:30 a.m.

March 21st 10:00 am, **Joint Circle**, Dyan will be leading lesson 7- Do Not Steal. If you have not attended a circle meeting and want to see what it is about, please join us. It is a carry-in brunch, please bring a dish to share. We will also be electing officers. The Board will meet at 9 a.m.

God Loves a joyful giver! Presbyterian Women have had some very successful fundraising events over the last couple of years and in gratitude we wanted to pay it forward. We started by increasing our Celebration Giving donation, we also took our Adopt-A-Child to a full scholarship and finally at our Winter Gathering we choose 11 charities to receive \$200 each. We'd like to say *Thank You!* to our members. If you donated items to the Upper Room or baked goods for the Bake Sale, or if you worked an event, shopped, helped us with advertising and spreading the word or invited a friend, then you are part of the reason we could be so generous with these charities. Over the next ten newsletters we will highlight the charities. It is our intention to continue this annual giving.

Two of our recipients are the MAC Food Pantry and the Mishawaka Food Pantry. Every individual has a right to access food, clothing, and community.

Many of you are familiar with the **M.A.C. Food Panty**— as we have the grocery cart in the lobby and Janet updates us on how many people they serve in the community. They are always looking for volunteers – they are open Tuesday night 6-7:30 and Fridays 10-noon. Staple items include cereal, peanut butter, soups, vegetables, rice, pasta, meats (canned and packaged) and toiletries. They also have someone available to help with gas cards and utility bills. The Pantry is located in Albright Church 504 W. Mishawaka Ave. Mishawaka, Indiana

The Mishawaka Food Pantry, located at 315 Lincolnway West. In addition to food they provide, clothing, hot lunches, family development, toiletries, transportation solutions, and most importantly, a sense of community. The Pantry provides a space for individuals with similar stories and experiences to come together in our cafe that serves free lunches Tuesdays through Thursdays. The Pantry is committed to providing a caring and friendly atmosphere that will leave our clients feeling more confident, hopeful, and empowered.

UPPER ROOM NEWS...

Starting February 1st items for the Upper Room can be dropped off upstairs. You can now drop items off at the top of the stairs.

Items that we will take are the following:

- *Men, women and children's clothing and shoes. MUST BE CLEAN, FREE OF HOLES/STAINS
- *Jewelry
- *Household and kitchen items. MUST BE IN WORKING ORDER if bringing in appliances.
- *Holiday items. Please no Christmas trees!
- *Linens FREE OF STAINS/TEARS!
- *Books and CDs
- *Small furniture. Please contact either Darlene, Teresa or Lynett about larger items.
- *Collectibles, Pictures and Art Work
- *Children's toys with all pieces.

Items that we DO NOT TAKE!

- *Computers, fax/scanners, printers, answering machines
- *T.V.s *Phones of any type *Power tools

Items can be dropped off at 828 Kerr St, South Bend or 1105 E 5th Street, Mishawaka (open April-Dec)
Check times!

OUR NEXT SCHEDULED WORK DAY IS: *Saturday, February 8th from 10-12 a.m.

NEXT SALE DATE IS FRIDAY, MARCH 13th AND SATURDAY, MARCH 14th. Time 9-2!

There will be a sign up sheet on the clipboard corner for work days/times! Please consider helping!

CHURCH STAFF**Pastor Daniel Cho**

vision80cho@gmail.com

Office Manager Nancy Adams

fpcmishawaka@gmail.com

Financial Secretary Joan Horvath

joanfpcmishawaka@gmail.com

Organist & Choir Director

Brandon Holihan

bhollihan5@gmail.com

Custodian John McLean

jmmclean52@gmail.com

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Pastor hours: Tuesday thru Thursday, 9 to noon

Office Secretary hours: Tuesday thru Friday, 9 to noon

Financial Secretary hours: Monday and Thursday, 9 to noon

Custodian hours: Monday thru 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 can ALWAYS use soup and soup items. Cans of veggies, cans of broth, any cans and some crackers would fill our shopping cart quickly and be put to goooooo use! And please remember to keep the pantry in your prayers as they find their rhythm and rhyme with scheduling and volunteers. So many in our community need the extra food items that the pantry is able to share each month. A giant blessing is that Granger Community Church had another food drop in January but even all those items will quickly be gone. Thank you, Janet Freeman

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: 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

AmazonSmile donation update. Your charity, **Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc.**, recently received a quarterly donation of **\$140.38** thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com.

To date, AmazonSmile has donated a total of:
\$2,167.78 to Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc.
\$156,109,909.51 to all charities.

Thank you for supporting Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc. by shopping at smile.amazon.com.

Do you use smile.amazon.com? If you shop on amazon could you? Thank you.

Mission is collecting items for our annual Soup'r Bowl. Look for the BIG RED TUB in the Lobby and toss in your donations! What is your favorite soup? And at the same time, extending until the end of February we are collecting socks for Broadway Christian Parish. Can our BIG RED TUB hold it all? Let's find out! Thank you, Mission Committee.

Book Club will be meeting on February 16th at Dyan's home. This month's read is Once Upon a River by Diane Setterfield. A fantastical Gothic yarn, about three missing girls that weaves in magic, mystery, and mayhem. Next month, pick your favorite book to share with the group. As always contact me if you have questions, Judy Green.

2020 TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY JUDY S.

MARCH PAM M.

APRIL ANGELA

MAY LYNETT

JUNE JUDY G.

/CAROLE

JULY DYAN

AUGUST LYNETT



SEPTEMBER BRITTANY

OCTOBER TERESA

NOVEMBER MARY ANNE

February 2020

Worship 10 am
Fellowship at 11 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Where do most people eat on</i>	<i>Leap Day?</i>		<i>IHOP</i>	<i>Course!</i>		<i>1</i>
2 Communion Greeter: Pam Martz Ushers: Ethan D & Dick D W. Leader: Chris Wukovits PWCT 11:30 am	3 	4	5	6	7	8 <i>Upper Room</i> <i>work day</i> <i>10 to noon</i>
9 Greeter: Judy Green Ushers: Carole P & Greg P W. Leader: Chuck Wukovits	10	11	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day 	15
16 Greeter: Carole Polk Ushers: Gordon R & Michael G W. Leader: Mary Watt Book Club 3pm	17 <i>newsletter deadline</i> <i>Special Gifts 3pm</i> <i>Elizabeth Circle</i> <i>@ Pam's home</i> <i>7pm</i>	18	19	20 <i>Ruth Circle @</i> <i>Teresa's home</i> <i>7pm</i>	21	22
23 Greeter: Teresa Primmer Ushers: Dan B & Neil S. W. Leader: Dyan Phillips	24	25	26 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm <i>Communion</i> W. Leader Judy Sulak	27	28 <i>In a Leap Year the weather always changes on a Friday.</i> <i>Belgian Proverb</i>	29 <i>It takes three springs to make one leap year.</i> <i>The Comic Almanac</i>



A Congressional Annual Meeting will be held February 9th, 11:10 a.m.



Worship and Music Thanks to all the members who are part of the worship team. The usher schedule has been changed, so be aware. The revised schedule will be in your mailboxes. To make it easier, I have assigned teams to a specific Sunday each month:

Ethan DeMaegd and Dick Dentino are the first Sunday.

Carole Polk and Greg Phillips are the second Sunday.

Gordon Reif and Michael Green are the third Sunday.

Dan Bruner and Neil Seufert are the fourth Sunday.

Bill Bellairs and Judy Sulak are the fifth Sunday.

Please remember if you are not available on the Sunday you are scheduled, please trade with someone else and then let the office know. Additional members to the Worship Team are always welcome. Please let me know that you can do, to serve as a liturgist or usher or be on the sub list. Darlene Seufert, Chair

2020 Pledge Cards November 10th was dedication Sunday, and thank you everyone who already turned in their card. You can still turn one in by simply dropping into collection plate. The Per Capita for 2020 is \$42.00. Thank you.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2020 Member Pledge Card

TAKE A STEP FORWARD FOR CHRIST! In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith and in commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to take this step forward in my giving (check one as appropriate):

- ☐ **STEP UP TOWARD TITHING.** I will move toward the goal of tithing.
☐ **STEP UP TO TITHING.** I will give a tenth of my income to God's work.
☐ **STEP UP BEYOND TITHING.** I wish to do more than God's minimum.

MY COMMITMENT FOR 2020 IS \$ _____ **per** week month quarter year (circle one)
 _____ **check if this is an increase over 2019.**

NAME: _____ **DATE:** _____ **2019**

This commitment may be changed at any time due to changing circumstances