

First Presbyterian News

February 2025

401 Lincolnway East

Mishawaka, IN. 46544

Shortly after the New Year began in 2025, the Palisades Fire broke out in California on January 7th, causing widespread damage. Despite the tireless efforts of firefighters, strong winds and dry conditions made it nearly impossible to control the fire. Criticism arose about leadership, with some pointing to budget cuts for fire departments, empty reservoirs, and broken water systems that slowed down the response. Others argue that even with perfect preparation, fires of this size can be beyond human control. The disaster shows how vulnerable we are to the overwhelming power of nature. Looking back at last year's hurricane season in Florida, when the state was hit by several storms, it is clear that natural disasters can cause major destruction no matter how much we prepare. Just like California's wildfires, some disasters simply cannot be fully prevented. They remind us how unpredictable and uncontrollable nature can be. In the face of these uncontrollable events, some believe that we can reduce their impact by cutting down on fossil fuels, lowering emissions, and making sustainable choices. Others argue that nature works on its own, beyond anything humans can control. Both sides raise valid points, and it is important to find common ground. What's clear is that we should focus on working together, planning carefully, and doing what we can to protect lives and communities.

For those wondering what the Bible says about this, there is not a simple answer. However, Scripture does offer guidance. In Genesis, God gives humans the responsibility to care for the Earth. For example: Genesis 1:28 says,

"God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.'"

As we reflect on our duty to the environment, we are reminded of the responsibility we have toward each other. Life is unpredictable, and things do not always unfold as we hope or expect. Even when we take care of our health by eating well and staying active, there is no guarantee that illnesses like cancer will not occur. Despite our best efforts, health challenges can still emerge unexpectedly. Watching our loved ones go through such difficult times can leave us feeling powerless, as there is little we can do to take away their pain. However, we have a responsibility to look after those who are vulnerable in any situation, whether that is in the face of natural disasters, health challenges, or other hardships. Our duty is not just about preparing for the unexpected but also walking alongside those in need and sharing in their burdens. Galatians 6:2 says,

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Whether it is helping after a disaster or comforting someone during a personal trial, our duty is to care for others. In doing so, we honor the responsibilities God has given us and show love through our actions. How can we take responsibility for caring for the world around us? How can we support others and share in their burdens during

challenging times? Do our actions reflect the responsibility God has entrusted to us in caring for both God's creation and one another?

**CARRY ONE ANOTHER'S
BURDENS, AND IN THIS
WAY YOU WILL FULFILL
THE LAW OF CHRIST.**

- GALATIANS 6:2

Blessings, Pastor Daniel



Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



Presbyterian Women Gathering

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

2024! Wow! All of our efforts have truly made a difference. The success of the Upper Room and Bake Sale allows us to contribute \$4,700 to charities locally and abroad. What a fantastic achievement and it shows the power of coming together for a good cause. Charities we donated to: **Deacons Christmas Fund, Hope Ministries, MAC Food Pantry, St. Margaret's House, Unity Gardens, Busy Hands, Sew Loved, Resale to the Rescue, Ronald McDonald House, Malawi Matters, Cultivate Food Rescue, Rosie Place, Mercado Global, India Gospel League, Indian Youth Camp and PDA.**

Upper Room News

The Upper Room is currently *NOT* accepting donations until MARCH 1st. Because we are *NOT* working at this time, Please Do Not drop items off upstairs or place donations in other areas of the building. We will start accepting donations March 1st.

When dropping off items, please sign the RED BOOK on the desk upstairs for our records.

Please remember when donating items, be sure to check them to make sure that clothing is CLEAN (washed, free from tears/stains and damage free). When donating appliances, pots/pans, etc. they must be in good working order with the product manual included (if you have it). Please NO ELECTRONICS and NO Furniture.

Puzzles are always a popular item, but please make sure that ALL the pieces are included. We accept decorative pillows, but not bed pillows due to health laws. When donating sheets, please mark sizes.

Please, NO artificial Christmas Trees, but Holiday items are popular.

Because we are no longer a Basement Sale once a year, we have become a little more selective with our donations and it is showing in our sales and our clientele. We hear from our customers what a great job we are doing with our little shop and the selections we offer, so please help us live up to these higher standards.

If you have doubts or questions about a future donation, you can always contact The Upper Room Committee: *Darlene Seufert, Teresa Primmer, Mary Ann Dentino, Chris Wukovits, or Lynett Heritz.*

If you are interested in helping to sort, price, or work during the Work/Sale Days, please join us! We always welcome extra hands.

Work Days: **Wednesday, February 19th, Saturday, March 1st, and Wednesday, March 12th from 10 a.m. to Noon**

Sale Days: **Friday and Saturday—March 21st and March 22nd from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make the Upper Room the best it can be!

We are looking forward to another successful year with the Upper Room, which helps us fund our Mission Projects.



Mission—Our Faith in Action

MAC Mishawaka Alliance of Care



February is Soup-R-Bowl month. Soup is a comforting and versatile dish that can be enjoyed in any season, but it is especially good on a cold day. We will be filling the cart for the MAC Food Pantry with canned soup and non-perishable items to make soup. Donations will be dropped off Tuesday, February 18th.

Suggested items: *flavored broths, canned chicken or beef, canned vegetables and tomatoes, rice, barley, small pasta or noodles. Seasonings are a special treat.*

The food pantry gets lots of dried beans.

Thank you in advance for your contributions and lets fill the cart!

Mission Committee



Joy Offering collection totaled \$435!



**THANK
YOU**

Thank you to all who contributed to the Mitten Tree— Items were dropped off at Hope Ministries, along with the Knitting for Peace hats and scarves. They were most grateful.

Carole Polk

SMOCK SENIOR MINISTRIES

Our next fellowship event is a tour of Menno-Hof Museum on **Thursday, March 13th** at 10:00 a.m. with a buffet lunch at the Blue Gate Restaurant after the tour (lunch being from noon until 2:00 p.m.) The cost is \$15 per person with a deadline of February 23rd.

* Please see Darlene Seufert for reservation or sign up in the office.*



Menno-Hof Museum

Address: 510 S Van Buren St.
Shipshewana, IN 46565

Blue Gate Restaurant

Address: 195 N Van Buren St.
Shipshewana, IN 46565





* 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 the many impacted by the Wildfires in California.

Those families who have lost family members, pets, livestock; those who have lost homes and all they own, first responders battling the fires and rescue efforts. God please be with those impacted and calm the winds with your hands so that the fires can be contained and also not spread further.

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: Terri Keller, Vicky Garrett, 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.

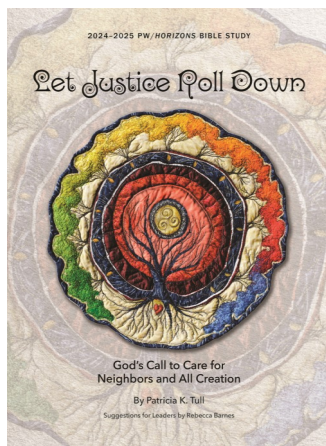
We hold up the names of Andrea Finley and Jim Stanz.

* 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.



Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call To Care For Neighbors and All Creation* calls us to care for our neighbors and for creation.

We are learning about the ecological systems and the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change. The study challenges us, as individuals and as a congregation, to commit to making changes to help our environment.

Our plan is to use less Styrofoam and plastic. Will you help?

While cleaning out the kitchen and washing the individual coffee cups, we found lots of extra unmarked cups. We ask that you check to see if any of the cups belong to you and that you please mark the cups with the pens provided.

We will hang the cups in the kitchen and ask that you use your cups during fellowship hour. If you don't have a cup downstairs, not to worry! You can claim one of the extras as your own or bring one from home.

Church Staff**Pastor Daniel Cho**

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Office Manager Katie Robertson

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Financial Secretary Joan Horvath

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Custodian John McLean

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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:* Ron May*Worship and Music:* Vicky Garrett**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:** Ron May**TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE****February...** Judy Sulak**March...** Pam Martz**April...** Angela Bellinger

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

Book ClubBook Club: **March 16th** at 2:00 p.m. is *The Berry Pickers*
by Amanda Peters.

Host, Judy Green Leader, Teresa Primmer

Book Club: **April 13th** at 2:00 p.m. is *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson
Host, Teresa Primmer Leader, Darlene Seufert

Thanks, Judy Green

Worship & Music

Greetings from worship and music,

Come sing with us!

Please consider joining the choir in this new year. We are so blessed and excited to have a very talented and wonderful music director, Dr. Siwon Kim, with us. It is not a weekly commitment—we practice on Thursday evening the week we are going to sing for the service. We would like to sing twice a month. Working with Dr. Kim is a joy and you don't need a fabulous voice. Please consider this great opportunity. If you have any questions, please give me a call.



- Chris Wukovits 574.256.2416



Join the Choir...
**You'll Be Glad
You Did!**



Sing

| Worship 10 am | | FEBRUARY | | | Fellowship 11 am | |
|--|---|----------|-------------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | | | | | 1 9-5 QoV National Sew Day 10-Noon Upper Room workday |
| 2 <i>Communion</i> Greeter: Juliana Bidlack Usher: Ethan DeMaegd Bill Bellairs W.L.: Chris Wukovits PW Meeting after worship | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal | 7  National Bubble Gum Day | 8 |
| 9 <i>Choir Singing</i> Greeter.. Usher: Carole Polk Greg Phillips W.L.: Chuck Wukovits | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Happy Valentine's Day!  | 15 |
| 16 Greeter: Carole Polk Usher: Michael Green Carole Polk W.L.: Judy Green | 17 *NEWSLETTER DEADLINE* 7 p.m. Elizabeth Circle at Church | 18 | 19 10-Noon Upper Room workday | 20 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 7 p.m. Ruth Circle | 21 | 22 |
| 23 <i>Choir Singing</i> Greeter: Usher: Bill Bellairs Ethan DeMaegd W.L.: Mary Ann Dentino Annual Congregational Meeting after worship Session Meeting after worship | 24 National Tortilla Chip Day  | 25 | 26 | 27 National Chili Day  | 28 | |