

First Presbyterian News

December 2020/January 2021

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, In. 46544

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANIEL

It was late night a week before Christmas in 1818. The light was still on in the small village church near Salzburg, Austria. Even though it was late at night, 26 years old a young priest "Mohr" couldn't sleep.

In a coming week, they had to have Christmas service and performance, but the church organ was broken. Father Mohr tried to repair this broken church organ, but it was very hard to repair it and they couldn't afford a new organ in such a small village.

Mohr prayed to God and looked down on the silent and peaceful village. It was a very silent night. He was moved by the majestic silence and beauty of the night, and began writing a poem.

On a following morning, he went to the church organist, a schoolteacher named Gruber and handed over his poem.

Mohr said, "I wrote a poem last night, and ask you to compose a melody with this poem. And, how about playing the guitar at the Christmas service?"

On Christmas day, the music was played on a guitar in the small village church.

"Silent Night, Holy Night! All is calm, all is bright... sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace."

This simple melody with lyrics became a beloved Christmas hymn of comfort and peace throughout the world. Perhaps this hymn would not been born if the small village church organ was not broken.

This has really been a hard year not only for us, but for everyone in the world due to the pandemic crisis. COVID-19 has caused widespread a public health crisis, a social crisis and an economic crisis this year. Some people lost their loved ones, lost their jobs, and lost sources of income.

In any public place, we must always wear masks and maintain 6 feet of social distancing. In some states, mass gatherings of 50 or more were prohibited or even banned in order to flatten the curve. Our church also had to suspend in-person service until the further notice.

As schools go to remote learning, millions of kids struggle with online learning, and working parents are panicking as they struggle to figure out how to help their kids while working from home.

Nursing homes across the country have been in lockdown for many weeks (some facilities still effectively are in lockdown) to protect elderly residents from the virus. For a while, hospitals wouldn't allow any general visit to the patients.

We feel so broken and despairing. The virus has rapidly changed how we live, work and learn. There is no way for us get back to the time that we used to have, but adjusting to the pandemic's 'new normal'.

Although it's difficult for all of us to stay positive in times like this, can good things come out of this pandemic crisis? Can we see a potential silver lining in the midst of darkness?

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Christ works in our darkness to reveal his greatness. Christ uses our brokenness to reveal his glory. Therefore, when we face trials of any sort, we believers see them as opportunities to grow in our faith.

Amidst the challenges of COVID-19, how can we ready to celebrate a meaningful Christmas 2020?

Jesus said, **"I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness."** (John 12:46) Two thousand years ago, Jesus came to bring light to a dark world. He came to heal and redeem our brokenness.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him." John 3:17

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Daniel

Worship and Music

Darlene Seufert, Chair

Every month I write out an article for the newsletter and think we will have more definite news the next month. However, Covid 19 isn't ready to leave. I appreciate that everyone who attends our in-church service follows the rules. Session has decided to keep our in-person service because of your willingness to follow the guidelines. Plans are underway during the Advent and Christmas season which have been modified as needed. We, along with Christian Education, are planning a very special Christmas Eve service. We are also opening up the balcony if needed to keep folks socially distanced.

On a personal note, I want to thank the many of you who have said yes when asked to be part of the worship team. Again if you would like to be put on the liturgist or usher schedule, please let me know.

December/January Worship Schedule:

December 6: Worship Team: Pam Camren, Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino; communion and the Peace Advent candle will be lit.

December 13: Worship Team: Alan Camren, Carole Polk and Greg Philips; the Joy Advent candle will be lit.

December 20: Worship Team: Darlene Seufert, Michael Green; the Love Candle will be lit.

December 24: Christmas Eve Worship Team: John Rice, Carole Polk and Marc Poklinkowski, Michael Green; Christ Candle will be lit.

December 27: Worship Team: Darlene Seufert, Neil Seufert, Dan Bruner; Andrew Peecher will be our guest minister.

January 3: Epiphany Sunday; Worship Team: Judy Sulak, Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino; Communion will be serviced.

January 10: Baptism of the Lord; Worship Team: Pam Camren, Carole Polk, Michael Green.

January 17: Worship Team: Dyan Phillips, Neil Seufert and Dan Bruner

January 24: Worship Team: Janna McLean and Michael Green

January 31: Worship Team: Judy Sulak and Bill Bellairs

Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



VENDOR/BAKE SALE

Vendor/Bake Sale of 2020 was successful and safe! We spaced out the vendors, protected the cookies and counted the people entering. We had a steady flow but not jam packed. Noodles, pies and cakes sold out. There are a few soups and cheeseballs remaining. See Judy G, Carole or Lynett if you would like to purchase any. Some of the remaining cookies that our ladies didn't want to take home we packed up and donated to Hope Ministries. THANK YOU to all who worked over the past month, to all those AMAZING bakers, we couldn't do it without you. Bill Bellairs, Dick Dentino and Ron May had bake goods that were a big hit! We made around \$2000.00 to support our mission work throughout the coming year. THANK YOU!

SAMARITAN'S PURSE CHRISTMAS BOXES

Thank you Darlene and Chris W. for delivering the Samaritan's Purse Christmas boxes, 23 of them, to boys and girls age 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14.

UPCOMING DATES IN 2021

January 9 PWCT and Winter mission project day

January 18 Kitchen clean up

UPPER ROOM NEWS

In order to give us time to clean, mark and place the items we already have, we are asking that you **save your donations until the beginning of March.** We are also reminding you to please make sure clothes are in good shape and clean.

We are always amazed at the useful and lovely items you are donating. We have averaged about \$500 a sale. That has enabled Presbyterian Women to increase our mission projects. In November we donated 18 Christmas Boxes to Samaritans' Purse for their Operation Christ Child. Thanks to all of you who filled a box or donated items. We were also able to use items that had been donated to the Upper Room.

Jesus said in Luke 10:2, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

MISSION NOTES

Fourteen Thanksgiving baskets were delivered to families this year. Everyone was very grateful to receive them. Thanks to those who donated food items and helped deliver the baskets.

Remember the Joy Offering will be collected during the month of December.

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**

Stats from the MAC Board:

August: served 152 families, 643 individuals.

September: served 148 families, 513 individuals.

October: served 130 families, 643 individuals.

Other news:

The Pantry has purchased a sign regarding days and hours of operation to inform clients. The Board contacted the City of Mishawaka for the rules of sign placement.

Volunteers and clients are working well with the necessary rules due to the pandemic. Thank you to all groups and individuals for their donations.

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: 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:**

Darlene Seufert, Chair

2020 TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

DECEMBER JUDY G./ CAROLE

BOOK CLUB UPDATE

December Book: Skipping Christmas by John Grisham

December 20th at 3:00 p.m.

Hostess: Lynett Heritz

Leader: Judy Sulak

Deacon's Christmas Shopping

At this time, Christmas Shopping is currently scheduled for Dec 5th at 8am. But with changing in stages, more information to come. We do not plan on person to person shopping, but I do need several volunteers to help shoppers if needed or just be around as guidance. If you have not signed up, please let Carole know if you can help. We hope to have everyone in and out as fast as possible.

There is still time to donate. Envelopes will be in pews as well as the one in your offering box. Make sure to write *Christmas Shopping* on your check.

Christmas Decorations We will be taking down decorations Jan 6th following the service. Please think about sticking around to help out.

BLESSING BAGS

Mission Committee and Presbyterian Women

Our congregation is invited to join in a community service project beginning in January. We will be making, collecting, and distributing Blessing Bags to our homeless population. The bags will be one-gallon Ziploc bags filled with items that are essential for someone who is homeless. The bags will be given to anyone in the congregation who wants to participate, with an enclosed list of items to include. The bags will be given to Pastor Daniel so he can pass them out to people who come to our church for help. Hopefully, we will have so many that we can also donate some to Mike at the Mishawaka Food Pantry. What a wonderful project for the new year!

*Warm stocking hat
 *Pair of warm socks
 *Gloves
 *Scarf
 Bottle of water
 Granola bar or protein bar
 Band-aids
 Dried fruit (raisins)
 Multi-purpose wipes
 Chapstick
 Toothbrush and toothpaste
 Shampoo
 Kleenex pack
 Soap
 Washcloth
 Deodorant

Beef jerky
 Cheese and cracker packs
 Trail mix
 Lotion
 Comb
 Fruit snacks
 Cookie snacks
 Mints
 Chewing gum

*These items can be new or gently used clean and in good condition.

BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Provided by Teresa Primmer

FROM JANUARY, 1963 1ST PRES NEWS:

Dr. John Meengs was asked to give a brief greeting over WSBT-TV on Christmas Eve. Following Bishop Pursley's greetings, he gave this message as president of the County Council of Churches:

"Christmas is Wonderful!" declared a writer as he looked into the shining eyes of a little girl and saw there the expectancy of great things to come, the joy of making others happy, the faith that believes in miracles. For the Christian, Christmas is wonderful because it is the song of 'peace on earth to men of goodwill'; it is the declaration of a great redemptive purpose – 'He shall save his people from their sins'; it is a revelation of God's love – 'God so loved that He gave.'

In the name of the Christian forces of our communities represented in the County Council of Churches, I bring you greetings at this season of the year and our sincere hope that your Christmas may be wonderful in a deep and meaningful sense."

WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES

Have you any old grudge you would like to pay,
 Any wrong laid up from a bygone day?
 Gather them now and lay them away
 When Christmas comes.

Hard thoughts are heavy to carry, my friend.
 And life is short from beginning to end;
 Be kind to yourself, leave nothing to mend.
 When Christmas comes.

William Lytle

ON KEEPING CHRISTMAS HOLY

1. Attend the services of your church.
2. Give gifts to those outside your circle of family and friends who cannot repay you in kind. Break the habit of gift swapping.
3. Write a note of appreciation to someone who, during the year, did some outstanding public work in a unselfish manner, or whose words or deeds were an inspiration to you. Written words are especially appreciated.
4. Phone or call on some lonely person and wish him a Merry Christmas.
5. Send a cash gift through a church or charitable channel to needy people who will never know their benefactor.
6. Invite someone to eat Christmas dinner with you – a foreign student, perhaps, who cannot repay you in kind.
7. Provide your minister with a cash gift for someone in need, specifying that he not reveal your name.
8. Get down on your knees and thank God that you are living in a land so blessed with riches that you are on the giving instead of the receiving end.

Methodist magazine, Together

Courtesy of Teresa Primmer

ALL SAINTS' DAY MEMORIALS

Betty Barrick, November 9, 2019, Former member

Arthur Harker, November 29, 2019, Member

Mary Bethe, January 27, 2020, Mother of Chris Wukovits/Former Member

Tom Farkas, January 30, 2020, Longtime frequent visitor and son-in-law of George and Elinor Prough

Elizabeth Johnson, February 2, 2020, Member

Barbara Hrabik, May 31, 2020, Sister of Ron and Stan May

Bill Gustin, July 8, 2020, Brother of Esther Morrison

Gordon Reif, August 16, 2020, Longtime member

Jim Fleming, September 2, 2020, Friend of the Church

Maymie Pride, September 16, 2020, Mother of Randy Pride

John Bellinger, September 19, 2020, Father-in-law of Angela Bellinger

Betty Favorite, October 3, 2020, Longtime Member



Hello First Presbyterian Church family, usually at this time of year, the Mission Committee loans their bulletin board to make a giant Christmas card for us to share greetings with one another. Years ago Pastor Miller shared this idea: that by each of us not sending out cards to one another, the money saved could go for the Joy Offering collected on Christmas Eve and during advent. It has been fun doing this but 2020 being what it is, I think we need a GIANT display of well wishes from those near and far. So please send the church a Christmas card this year! Share with us some “Joyful” news. And know First Presbyterian Church will be praying for you and with you. Merry Christmas. And in the February newsletter we will share a picture and some wishes we collect during the coming weeks. Thank you.

Sue Rice

Many thanks to all of you for the cards and well wishes during my surgery. The new hip is coming along and I hope to be running the bases when softball season begins next spring.

The Called Meeting of the Congregation, was held Sunday, December 6, immediately following the worship service, for the purpose of receiving the report of the Nominating Committee and electing church officers. Those nominated are:

Elders – Mary Ann Dentino, Missions; Judy Sulak, W & M; John Martz Facilities (2 yrs)


Deacons – Jennifer Frye, Jim Stanz

Nominating Committee Members at Large - Mary Watt, Pam Camren



December 2020

Worship 10 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Deacons' Christmas Shopping – 8:00 a.m. meet at JC Penney's
6 Communion Congregational meeting – after worship	7	8	9 	10	11	12
13	14 	15	16	17 Ruth Circle – 7:00 p.m. at Teresa's home	18	19
20 Book Club – 3:00 p.m. at Lynett's home	21 Elizabeth Circle – 7:00 p.m. here	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day 	26
27 Guest Pastor Andrew Peecher	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve		



January 2021

Worship 10 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 New Year's Day!	2
3 Communion	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Deacons' meeting – 11:00 a.m.	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Book Club – 3:00 p.m. Newsletter deadline	18 Elizabeth Circle – 7:00 p.m. here	19	20	21 Ruth Circle – 7:00 p.m. at Judy G.'s	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

May 2021 bring us all a new beginning free from the challenges of 2020.