

First Presbyterian News

February 2022

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, In. 46544

Back in late December, some experts predicted that everyone would be exposed to the virus in the next few months as the new variant “Omicron” started spreading like wildfire across our nation. In early January, I was diagnosed with Covid-19, and had to quarantine myself for 10 days at home. Since my symptoms were not severe enough to notice, I thought I had a cold since as we had some rather chilly-cold days in January. Unfortunately, a home Covid test came out positive.

I couldn’t believe that I had Covid. Around the time I was diagnosed, the latest news headlines caught my attention: **“Covid-19 hospitalizations reach record high, HHS data shows”**. The increased demand for testing has caused shortages and people are expressing their fear and frustrations. Unfortunately, some of our FPC family and friends have also been diagnosed with Covid in past months. Once Jae found out that I had Covid, she was more realistic about the fact that both Gabie and she would get infected. So, she went out for groceries to get necessary food supplies for the next 10 days. Jae sees that Covid is going to remain with us for a long time. A few days later, Jae and Gabie started showing Covid symptoms. While we are waiting to see the light at the end of the Covid tunnel, we must learn continually how to live with Covid. I was surprised to see the long lines of waiting cars to get tested at a drive-through testing site in Goshen. A volunteer at the testing site told me that they ran out of rapid tests, they could only offer me a molecular/test which would take much longer to get results.

Like the prediction, we are hearing about significant growth in Covid cases and hospitalization in recent months. And, I have been pondering about why we must go through this unprecedented time and challenges. What is God’s intention allowing this pandemic in our age? What is *your* response to this crisis? Where do you think we should go from here? How & what does it mean to live with Covid?

We as believers shouldn’t panic or be anxious about our current pandemic crisis. In Paul’s letter to the Philippians, Paul encourages his beloved friends in Philippi: **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”** (Philippians 4:6) Is it possible for believers to be anxious for nothing? Paul wants the believers in Philippi to acknowledge their dependence on God and his provision through their prayer. Prayer cures anxiety. It removes our fear and frustration.

The psalmist says, **“I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all of my fears.”** (Psalm 34:4) When we seek the Lord, he answers, delivering us from all our fears – fear of our unknown future, fear of losing jobs, family, friends and even fear of dying. The Lord wants us to depend on him amid this pandemic crisis because he is **our refuge and strength an ever-present help in times of trouble.** (Psalm 46:1)

The Lord invites us to pray because he is with us and wants us to rely on his presence. Let his loving presence wrap around you and guide you to his path. Living with Covid means we need to look after those who are vulnerable. Jesus said to his disciples, **“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.”** (John 13:34) Our primary obligation as believers is to love one another as Christ loved us. We love others because we understand how much God has done for us. And, in response to his love, we serve our neighbors through our gifts and callings.

What is our calling, our responsibility in this ongoing pandemic crisis? What does loving your neighbor look like in our current situations? How can you be a good neighbor – God’s witness to those around you? Ask God to give you wisdom and show you creative ways to love your neighbor today. **“Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”** (John 13:35)

Blessings, Pastor Daniel

Presbyterian Women

Mishawaka PW is off to a good start with successful fund raisers from 2021. Thanks to all who donate, sort, assist our buyers and buy yourselves. With these proceeds we were able to continue our mission giving. Carole's message (*below*) gives you a better understanding of their needs and this focus will continue each newsletter with the 14 different ministries we monetarily support locally and church-wide.

This year Bible Lessons continue with Ruth in January. December's lesson focused on loss and famine. In January we continue with Ruth and her story of faith and honesty. February Lesson is Bathsheba, an unlikely candidate for "Grandmother of the Year" award. We will learn Bathsheba's strength is her power and ability to influence kings, and her devotion to her son King Solomon.

Work in the Upper Room continues. If you have been in the Upper Room area, you know we have a lot of work ahead to be ready for our first sale days March 11th and 12th. February work days are:

Saturday, February 5th at 10 am - noon
Wednesday, February 16th at 2 pm - 4 pm.

Please remember the Food Cart in the lobby.

Darlene Seufert, Co-Moderator

God Loves a joyful giver! Our Presbyterian Women fundraising events continue to be successful and this is our 3rd year of making Annual Community Missions donations. At the Winter Gathering we chose 12 charities to receive \$200 each and \$400 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for a total of \$2,800. Over the next ten newsletters we will highlight these charities.

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 pm and Fridays 10-11:30 am. Staple items include cereal, peanut butter, soups, canned vegetables and fruit, rice, pasta, meats (canned and packaged) and toiletries. They also have someone available to help with gas cards and utility bills. The M.A.C. Pantry is located in Albright Church 504 W. Mishawaka Ave. Mishawaka, Indiana.

The **Mishawaka Food Pantry** is 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 their cafe that serves free lunches Tuesdays through Thursdays. The Pantry is committed to providing a caring and friendly atmosphere that will leave clients feeling more confident, hopeful, and empowered.

2022 UPPER ROOM DATES

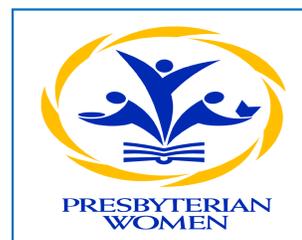
MARCH 11 & 12 sale days 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

JUNE 4 sale day 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 10 sale day 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

OCTOBER 15 sale day 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Watch for Pop-up Sales at fpcmishawaka.net



Smile Amazon

The Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc, received a donation in the amount of **\$191.84** as a result of purchases made by customers who have selected this charity. Thanks to customers shopping at smile.amazon.com, everyday purchases have generated **\$4,062.46** to Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church USA Inc., and over \$306 million in total for several United State charities.

Thank You.

Special thanks for the generous gifts to the Joy Offering of \$785.

Refugees from Afghanistan.

Four families from Afghanistan will be settling in our area. The sizes of the families are 10,7,7 and 6. The first family may have arrived by the time you read this letter as the Director of Resettlement was looking at a house for them last week.

Thank you to those that helped fill my RAV4 with household items, cleaning supplies, and hygiene items. These items were delivered to Catholic Charities for the refugees last week. We will continue to collect items listed on the email you received. There is also a list by the collection basket that you can take with you. Thank you again for your willingness to help these folks get a good start in our country and community.

When I spoke to the Resettlement Director, he mentioned there is also a need for people to take folks grocery shopping, acquaint them with the community, teach them English. If you are interested let Mary Ann Dentino know.

Soup R Bowl

The month of February we will be collecting items to be used for making a nice warm bowl of soup. These items will be given to the Albright Food Pantry. Below is a list of suggestions for the food cart:

Chicken, beef or veg. broth	Ready made soups
Canned vegetables	Canned tomatoes
Kidney beans	Rice
Noodles	Chili powder
Canned chicken or beef	or Any other non-perishable item to be used to make soup

Please place in the grocery cart in the lobby. Thank you for helping fill the grocery cart.

Mission Committee
Mary Ann Dentino, Chair

Please keep your calendar open in March for a Lenten Bible Study! Christen Education is in the planning stage and will have all the details soon.

BOOK CLUB

Join us the 3rd Sunday of each month as we discuss our monthly choice.

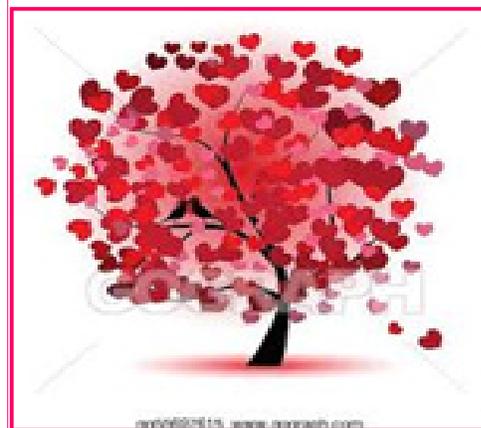
Contact Judy Green for the details,
mtcgjag@aol.com

Where there is faith,
There is Love

Where there is love
There is Peace

Where there is peace
There is God

Where there is God
There is no need.



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Daniel Cho

vision80cho@gmail.com

NEW! 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 6 am to 11am

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or fpcmishawaka@gmail.com

OUR 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: Sue Rice

Chair Personnel: Mary Watt

Chair Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Presbyterian Women: Darlene

Seufert and Chris Wukovits

Chair Special Gifts: Sue Rice

Chair Stewardship: Ron May

Treasurer: John Rice

Chair Worship and Music: Judy

Sulak

FPC has a new secretary

Her name is Katie Robertson. Katie is a Mishawaka native and graduated from Marian High School and Holy Cross College. Her prior work experience has been in retail and at the BMV.

She will be in the office on Tuesday through Friday mornings, 9:00 am to noon. Starting on January 27th.

Welcome to the FPC staff, Katie!

MAC Mishawaka Alliance of Care

Recently Betty White passed away, just a few days short of her 100th birthday. On her birthday, all across America, animal shelters received donations in her name at a suggested small donation of \$5. One shelter near us reports that they collected \$700.00 in just one day. Other nearby shelters reported the same or better. Isn't it amazing how far \$5 can go?

A few facts from 2021 and MAC, the pantry supported 234 new families, and a total of 1,423 families. Each month there are new families who come looking for help and then there are the individuals who *sometimes* need help, the names change, the needs never do.

Thank you for supporting the Pantry and Mission's food drives.

TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE 2022

February.....Judy S.

March.....Pam M.

April.....Angela

May.....Lynett

June.....Judy G./Carole

July.....Dyan

August.....Lynett/Teresa

September...Brittany

October.....Teresa/Lynett

Some new addresses for FPC old friends

The Bradens

13667 Crosscliffe Pl

Rosemount, MN 55068

The Hollihans

4718 King George Way #1408

Knoxville, TN 37918

Esther Morrison

49460 McKenzie Hwy

Vida, OR 97488 (this is a temporary address)

Please send information for the March news letter to Sue Rice by February 17th. suce@aol.com Thank you.



Per Capita

Per Capita is an annual per member apportionment assessed by the General Assembly and by many synods and presbyteries, to enable Presbyterians mutually and equitably to share the ecclesiastical and administrative costs of sustaining our witness to Christ through the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is not a tax on members; it is a benevolence that links congregations with presbytery, synod and General Assembly to explore and sustain ministry and mission locally, nationally and globally.

The earliest Presbyterian General Assemblies in the U.S. met annually, always in Philadelphia. As the church expanded into far-off places like Ohio, Kentucky, and Missouri, attendance at the Assembly became prohibitively expensive to frontier commissioners.

In order to share the costs of bringing the whole church together, in 1806 the Assembly began development of a "Commissioner Travel Expense Fund." Over the years this came to be known as per capita.

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a connectional church. Presbyterian congregations worship, serve, and govern together. Per capita contributions fund the shared governing responsibilities for the whole church and contributions provide almost the entire budget of the Office of the General Assembly. Some expenses of the Presbyterian Mission Agency are also funded by per capita, including the Office of the Executive Director, the PMA Board, communications, advisory and advocacy committees.

Per Capita in the Presbytery

The portion of per capita contributions that stay in our presbytery compose the majority of the Presbytery's annual budget. From support of congregations' ministry and mission through grants, programs and staff support to nurturing the next generation of ordained leaders for ministry, our contributions make a huge impact on ministry in north central Indiana. The Presbytery retains its share and pays the whole per capita amount owed to both the Synod and the General Assembly. The Presbytery pays this entire apportionment, whether or not the per capita funds from each congregation are received. When congregations do not pay, the presbytery must allocate money from other income that could be used for mission.

The 2021 per capita apportionment is \$42.03 which includes \$8.98 for General Assembly, \$3.81 for the Synod of Lincoln Trails and \$29.24 for the Presbytery of Wabash Valley. If you are able to help with the FPC Mishawaka per capita expense, please use the blue envelope included in the January portion of your offering envelope box or write per capita on your check's memo line.

QUESTIONS? Please refer to <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/departments/per-capita>

Giving statements for 2021 and offering envelopes for 2022 have been placed in mailboxes in the CE office, if applicable.

Statements not picked up by February 7 will be mailed. Members and friends not receiving offering envelopes may have them for the asking.

For those wishing to contribute for per capita, the amount in 2022 is unchanged from 2021, \$42.03.

Thanks be to God for providing through all who supported FPC in 2021!

Worship 10 am



February

Fellowship 11 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5 Upper Room work day 10 to noon Q of V 9am to 5pm (Nat'l Sewing Day)
6 <i>Communion</i> Greeter... Bill B. Usher... Ethan D W.L. Chris Wukovits	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Greeter...Bill B. Usher...Carole P. & Greg P. W.L. Chuck Wukovits Deacons 11:15am	14 	15	16 Upper Room work day 2 to 4 pm	17 Ruth Circle 7pm Darlene hosting	18	19 Mystery Quilts 10 to 11 am
20 <i>Congregational Meeting</i> Greeter...Bill B. Usher...Michael G. W.L. Mary Watt Worship & Music 11:15 Book Club 2pm	21 Elizabeth Circle 7pm Carole P. hosting	22	23	24	25	26
27 Greeter...Bill B. Usher...Neil S. W.L. Darlene S. Session 11:15am	28		March 2 <i>Ash Wednesday Communion</i> W. Leader Darlene		On January 22nd Megan McClure married Baron Kennedy. Wishing them a long and happy life.	

Greetings from worship and music

We are so blessed to have so many faithful volunteers to fill in for worship leaders and ushers.

Thank you for your help. If anyone is interested in being a worship leader or usher please get in touch with us.

May God bless you and keep you safe and well
Judy Sulak and Darlene Seufert

March worship leaders and ushers schedule

Worship leaders.

Ushers

3.2 Darlene Seufert

3.6 John Rice

3.13 Judy Sulak

3.20 Pam Camren

3.27 Chris Wukovits

Carole Polk/ Greg Phillips

Michael Green

Neil Seufert

Judy Sulak/ Bill Bellairs

Ash Wednesday
communion

