



# First Presbyterian News

March 2020

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, In. 46544



*“When they were sick, I wore sackcloth; I afflicted myself with fasting. I prayed with head bowed on my bosom, as though I grieved for a friend or a brother; I went about as one who laments for a mother, bowed down and in mourning.” Psalm 35:13-14*

Forty days of the Lenten season has already begun. The word “Lent” comes from Middle English *Lenten*, “spring”. Lent is the forty-day period of fasting and repentance that lasts from Ash Wednesday into Holy Week excepting the six Sundays. These forty days parallel Jesus’ fasting in the wilderness as well as forty-year wandering in the wilderness of the children of Israel.

Around this time, many churches encourage and challenge their parishioners to fast by abstaining from eating favorite food, watching TV, using social media; by giving up your time and goods to help others; by spending more time than the usual in prayer or meditation of the Word. In our church, Christian Education challenges our members to give up bad habits like jealousy, gossiping, or holding grudges during Lent. *(come join us for the Wednesday night Lenten Study, see below)*

Then what is the purpose of fasting? Why should we fast?

First of all, fasting should not be an instrument we use to our own benefit or pleasure. Fasting is responsive: In a grievous situation, we fast in response to the grievous situation.

If you remember the story of 2<sup>nd</sup> Samuel 12, the LORD struck the child that Uriah’s wife had borne to David, and the child became ill. David fasted and went into his house and spent the nights lying on the ground. David fasted and wept for the child. In other words, he was sharing the child’s pain and suffering through his fasting.

New Testament Professor Scot McKnight at Northern Seminary said that **“fasting is the act of identifying with pain, as Christ identified with us in his death. It is an act of cruciform sacrifice for others.”**

St. John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople said, **“No act of virtue can be great if it is not followed by advantage for others. So, no matter how much time you spend fasting, if you do no good to others, you do nothing great.”**

Fasting identifies with other’s own grief and pain over a situation. It involves total self-sacrifice. It gives us an opportunity to love another person. Through fasting, we learn how to love others, which will lead us to draw closer to God. See you in church soon, Pastor Daniel

## Ash Wednesday Service and Lenten Study



February 26th begins the Lenten Season with Ash Wednesday Service. We will meet in the Prayer Room at 6:30 pm. Please come join us for this informal service that calls us to reflect, repent and to remember that Jesus died for our sins. Communion will be served. Then plan to...

Join us the following Wednesday evenings, March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1, during Lent at 6:00 pm for a light supper and a lesson from the book ***Give Up Something Bad for Lent***. We will be done around 7:15 pm. This study helps us learn how to let go of baggage like jealousy, gossiping, holding a grudge, and other things. Please come join us once or every week.

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.

Thank you, Darlene and Chris

## Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



March 21<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am – **Joint Circle**. Dyan Phillips will be leading lesson 7- Do Not Steal. Lessons are stand alone, so feel free to join us even if you have not attended a circle. It is a carry-in brunch, please bring a dish to share. We will also be electing officers. The Board will meet at 9 am.

**Annual kitchen clean up** -Thanks to the ladies who spent time cleaning and organizing the kitchen, it looks great! Just a reminder to mark items in both refrigerator and freezer to make sure they get used or saved.

**Mitten tree** – was very fruitful this year, producing many hats, scarves & mittens. This year the knitted items were sent to Knitting 4 Peace and the other items were distributed to Mishawaka Food Pantry (18 hats, 6 hat/glove sets, 18 gloves and 2 scarves.) Many thanks for your continued support.



2020 Annual Community Support Spotlight - **Knitting 4 Peace** - [knitting4peace.org](http://knitting4peace.org)  
 “Crafting Hope, Healing, & Peace One Stitch at a Time. Since their founding in June 2006, Knitting 4 Peace has delivered requested handmade items to more than 174,815 people living in communities across the United States and 81 countries around the world.” This organization was promoted by PW Churchwide and with several women of our congregation who knit and crochet, it is a great fit. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> year we have sent in a box of donations. For 2020, in addition to the monetary donation, we sent them 12 hats, 4 scarves, 2 gloves, 10 bibs and 8 cloths.

They welcome handcrafted yarn and quilted items that incorporate an element of 3 in any creative manner. 3 represents the individual creator of the item, the recipient, and the Spirit of Life that creates and unites all of Creation. Three also symbolizes the importance of the Abrahamic faith traditions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) to global peace. Because these three traditions represent 2/3 of the world’s population, there is virtually no chance for global peace until our Abrahamic Family is knit together in a tapestry of respect and commitment to compassionate coexistence. Three also represents our work of crafting three essential elements of life: hope, healing, and peace. You can incorporate 3 in your item, it is up to you: 3 colors, patterns based on 3 (k3, p3; cast on # stitches divisible by 3), fringe with 3 pieces of yarn, triangular shape, etc. Peace Pals are automatically a 3: head, torso, legs.

Check out their website for needed items and pattern requirements. In addition to above, they need blankets, booties, peace shawls & peace pods. Finished items can go in the marked basket in the CE Lobby.

The Lenten Book Study for this year is Give Up Something Bad for Lent. Presbyterian Women are asking you to expand that theme to **“Give Up Something Good for Lent”** and contribute it to the Upper Room Sale. The suggestion is to use a trash bag or box and each day of lent, put an item in that will be donated to the Upper Room sale. A win/win!! You unclutter your house and we have items to sell.

Due to your generous contributions for our Upper Room ministry and the Bake Sale, Presbyterian Women were able to support 11 different local and world wide missions. Each month we are featuring a different mission. A new one to us is **Samaritan’s Purse** that will be highlighted during Lent.

The story of Good Samaritan (Luke 10:30-37) gives a clean understanding of how we are called to help those in need who live far or near. Samaritan’s Purse is a nondenominational Christian organization that provides physical aid to those in need. The way this is done is actually pretty simple. You need a shoe box and items to fill the shoe box. Due to the cost of sending these boxes where needed, the organization asks for \$9 to process and mail each box. However, the items needed for each box can come at a minimal cost. PW is asking anyone who wishes to participate to simply choose a Shoebox gift suggestion. These are organized by gender and age. The items on the list need not be new but of course clean. More information will be presented during the last service in February. We will have the shoebox gift suggestions list and an example. For more information, you may also go to [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org).

### Jealousy Is

A seed of jealousy grows, leaves into branches into trees. A forest where you shall be lost forever.

By James McLain

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor Daniel Cho**

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**Office Manager Nancy Adams**

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**Financial Secretary Joan Horvath**

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**Organist & Choir Director**

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**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 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

**MAC Mishawaka Alliance of Care**

MAC Food Pantry submitted by Janet Freeman

2020 at the MAC Food Pantry continues with the help of dedicated volunteers, both Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings. The community's response during the holidays was a blessing for many families in the area. The need, however, continues. On January 25, 2020, the Pantry welcomed a large group from Granger Community Church, along with volunteers from the MAC for the annual FOOD DROP. The Pantry received 480 cases of food. 48 volunteers from GCC participated in the "bucket brigade" as food was delivered to the basement storage. That makes the task more fun.

As we begin the new year, the challenges are still in place. **The numbers grow.** One factor is the number of individuals in some families has grown due to families banding together.

A reminder, there always is a need for volunteers...two hours each month is how you can help. Contact Albright Church, Phone: 574.259.1975 ext. 107 for more information. AND a BIG THANK YOU for helping to keep the grocery cart in the CE building filled. It is another opportunity to spread the mission of First Presbyterian Church.

**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

**Book Club** will be meeting on March 15th and it is pick your favorite book, Award Winner or Classic to share with the group.

Darlene's home is where we will meet at 3 pm.

On April 19, Between Shades of Grey is the book, I will be hosting, as always contact me if you have questions, Judy Green. MTCGJAG@aol.com

**2020 TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE**



MARCH	PAM M.
APRIL	ANGELA
MAY	LYNETT
JUNE	JUDY G.
	/CAROLE
JULY	DYAN
AUGUST	LYNETT
SEPTEMBER	BRITTANY
OCTOBER	TERESA
NOVEMBER	MARY ANNE

Chuck, Caryn, Carol, and I are so thankful for our church family during this difficult time of my mom's passing.

Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, and many cards.

According to Mom's wishes, Rev. Daniel did a wonderful job at her memorial service.

Presbyterian Women certainly "pulled out all the stops" for the luncheon following the service. Our family and guests outside of the congregation were really impressed!

We will be eternally grateful.

Chris, Chuck, Caryn, and Carol



# March 2020

**Worship 10 am**  
**Fellowship at 11 am**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Greeter: Carol Polk Ushers: Ethan D & Dick D W. Leader: Darlene Seufert	2	3	4 <b>Upper Room</b> <b>work day 4 to 6</b> <i>Lenten Study</i> 6pm	5	6	7
8 <i>daylight saving time change</i> <i>spring forward</i> Greeter: Rose Marie Reif Ushers: Carole P & Greg P W. Leader: Pam Camren	9	10	11 <i>Lenten Study</i> 6pm	12	13 <b>Upper Room</b> <b>Sale</b> 9 to 2	14 <b>Upper Room Sale</b> 9 to 2
15 Greeter: Ethan DeMaegd Ushers: Gordon R & Michael G W. Leader: Chris Wukovits	16	17 <i>newsletter</i> <i>deadline</i>	18 <i>Lenten Study</i> 6pm	19 <i>First</i> <i>day of spring</i> 	20	21 <i>PWCT 9am</i> Joint Circle Meeting 10am
22 Greeter: Bill Bellairs Ushers: Dan B & Neil S. W. Leader: Chuck Wukovits	23	24	25 <i>Lenten Study</i> 6pm	26	27	28
29 Greeter: Bill Bellairs Usher: Bill B & Judy Sulak W. Leader: Darlene Seufert	30	31	<i>April 1</i> <i>Lenten Study</i> 6pm <i>last one</i>			

A fish story!! Jonah 1  
To Nineveh Jonah's to go.  
God's angry when Jonah said, "NO!"  
A lesson was learned.  
Poor Jonah had earned,  
Three days in a whale, don't you know!!

Are you just itching to call some one?  
The new Church directory is done.  
All updated and shiny.  
Pick one up at church on Sunday  
or call Nancy in the office,  
and she can mail you one.

Deacons would like to give an update on the use of **Flower Fund** donations. While we no longer purchase flowers weekly for the pulpit, we have made use of the donations. In the last couple of years, we commissioned Susan May and Pam Martz to make permanent, seasonal arrangements to grace the pulpit. We have spruced-up or replaced Christmas decorations for the sanctuary. We've added heather arrangements for St. Andrew's Day, as heather can be hard to get at times. Most recently, Pam has been tasked with refurbishing the Easter Lily cross. We are grateful to the talented ladies who have made beautiful arrangements at affordable prices.

Our homebound list is small, but we continue the tradition of providing an Easter lily and a Christmas arrangement during the holiday from their church family.

Thank You for your past support and continued support of this fund. Board of Deacons

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of Elizabeth "Betty" Johnson on February 2nd. Betty's memorial service will be at FPC on March 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm with PW doing a luncheon in Fellowship Hall following service.