

# First Presbyterian News

November 2020

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, In. 46544

## A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR DANIEL

*"This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it." Joshua 1:8*

God suggests to the people of Israel through Moses' predecessor "Joshua" that taking Canaan as known as Promise Land will require faith, courage and great effort. Joshua the leader of the Israelites worries and wonders about whether he could be like Moses who was wise, courageous and strong.

Then the LORD comes and speaks to Joshua quietly and insistently, **"I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. Be strong, be courageous, and obey all the law I gave to Moses."**

First, the LORD grants faith in Joshua's heart so that he would feel confident leading the entire camp of Israel to the land that he had promised with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

After giving an assurance of his presence with Joshua, the LORD commands him to be obedient to the law which was given through Moses at Mt. Sinai. He specifically instructs Joshua to mediate on the law day and night.

What is "meditation"? Meditation in Bible sense is to think intently and at length, as for spiritual purposes. By reading and thinking the words of the text, we enter into the world of the text. Meditation is the way that we can engage and encounter God's spiritual presence. Through meditation, God speaks to us, and we respond to his voice.

Have you heard about "*Lectio Divina*" which is an ancient contemplative spiritual practice? In *Lectio Divina*, we seek to experience God's presence through meditating the Scripture.

**Here is a guideline for *Lectio Divina* which is instructed by Henri Nouwen:**

**Choose a passage of scripture to read aloud, slowly, attentively once through. Pause to let the passage sink in. Resist a familiar understanding, even of a familiar passage. Allow yourself to hear the story anew.**

**Reread the passage, piece by piece. Note the story line and questions raised. Again, resist the familiar interpretation. Look for a word or two in the story. Explore the passage the way a child might explore a strange room, in the spirit of curiosity and openness.**

**Read the passage a third time. What word or words jump out at you, commanding your attention? Stay with that word as long as long as you can. Meditate on it. Chew on it. Is God speaking a personal word to you today? Contemplate the personal word for you today in the written word.**

Although the meditation requires our time and effort, it helps us to participate in hearing and recognizing the Word in our own lives. Therefore, even in our busy life, we should set aside for our time with God and tune into his presence by reading, reflecting, resting and responding in his Word.

*"Happy are those whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night." - Psalm 1:2-*

Blessings,

Pastor Daniel

## Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



**2020 Annual Community Support Spotlight - Each charity received \$200.  
-In the Bend Quilts of Valor - local branch of Quilts of Valor Foundation (qovf.org)**

The mission of *Quilts of Valor Foundation* (QOVF) is to honor veterans and active service members with healing, comforting Quilt of Valor. QOVF is a non-profit organization of volunteers across the nation dedicated to covering those who have served our country. Since 2006, the foundation has awarded over 245,000 quilts and the *InTheBend Quilts of Valor* has awarded over 200 quilts across north Central Indiana during its more than 5 years in existence. This local chapter, headed up by Pam Camren and includes several of our ladies, meets in our church making these amazing, beautiful quilts. They will once again have a booth at our Vendor Fair in November, so stop to purchase their items or just make a donation to the cause.

### Deacon's Christmas Shopping.

Christmas Shopping with local families for children's clothing has been an important and meaningful mission of this congregation for 45 years. We plan on it happening this year, however Covid may make it a little different. We will be in close contact with School City as well as JC Penney's so we can maintain protocols they, as well as us, are comfortable with. Once a plan is in place, we will let you know. Shopping is currently scheduled for Dec 5<sup>th</sup> at 8am. Watch bulletin for changes or more details. Envelopes will be in pews as well as the one in your offering box. Make sure to write *Christmas Shopping* on your check. Donations should be received by Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>.

### Hanging of the Greens

Sun Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> following Worship. Calling for all available hands to help decorate our beautiful sanctuary for Advent Season. Many hands make it a short task and a large sanctuary makes it a perfect socially distancing fellowship event!

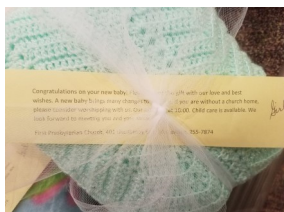
### Baby Bundles!

**Christine Wukovits, CE chair**

Rev. Daniel and Jae delivered our latest bunch of Baby Bundles to St. Joseph Medical Center. When we are back together again, Susan and Jack Marsh will be delivering them. We are the only church in the area that donates Baby Bundles. Our church has been doing this for many years.....not sure how long. It's hard to believe that a new mom would not have something cute to take her baby home, but it happens more often that we would think. Our Baby Bundles bring a lot of smiles and joy to new moms. If you have items to donate, they would be greatly appreciated. Just put them in the bassinet in the CE lobby.

Chris and Lynett

P.S. Many thanks to Pam Camren who recently supplied us with a huge bag of newborn sleepers and onesies. She has found Marketplace on the internet. That could be scary!



# Presbyterian Women Vendor Fair & Bake Sale

Sat. November 14<sup>TH</sup> 9 am - 2 pm

First Presbyterian Church Mishawaka  
401 Lincolnway East

homemade noodles \* cheeseballs

soup mixes \* fresh baked goods \* breads



Cookies by the pound

\*\*\*\*\*



Seasonal Crafters and Décor

Handcrafted Items for yourself & your home

Pallet Art, Homespun Creations, Quilts of Valor, Teanie Gardens, Floral Arrangements, Handmade Wooden toys.

Mary Kay Norwex Pampered Chef Wink Naturals

Poparazzi Jewlery Snaps Charmed Jewelry

. \*\*\*\*\*

No lunch available - Masks required & social distancing practices in place



*\*\*\*Thank you for supporting our Mission Work both locally & abroad.*

**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**

Things remain about the same at the MAC as far as those who are in need of help. Some items that are very hard to find these days are cereal, spaghetti and rice (preferably microwaveable). Of course all donations are appreciated greatly but these are just some of the “hot” items. The grocery cart in the front lobby is ready and waiting to be filled up!

And sadly, the Pantry’s truck has made its last trip. They are looking at options for getting it replaced or other methods for delivering/picking up orders. Anything you can help with would be huge for those who depend on the Pantry.

The need at the food pantry is ALWAYS an ongoing one. After a brief conversation with one of the workers, she mentioned the basic personal needs, toothpaste and brush; deodorant; soap--bar or soft; female items; and of course toilet paper. And for the families cereal, canned soup, pasta--any kind, instant rice, canned fruits. And let's not forget any and all thanksgiving meal items are in high demand. Lastly a kindly reminder that children are often home for some part of the week now so items they themselves can make/eat are very welcomed. And there are so many individual grocery items now, so fun!

**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**

NOVEMBER MARY ANNE  
DECEMBER JUDY G./  
CAROLE

We are still planning on doing the Thanksgiving Baskets for Battell school but we aren't sure how it will work this year. We are waiting to hear back from the Social Worker. Look for updates in the church bulletin.

**BOOK CLUB UPDATE**

The book club is back up and running (well, reading) this month, meeting on November 15th at 3:00 p.m. with the selection below. The December meeting of the club will be on December 20th also at 3:00 p.m.

November Book: The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

Hostess: Darlene Seufert

Leader: Dyan Phillips

December Book: Skipping Christmas by John Grisham

Hostess: Lynett Heritz

Leader: Judy Sulak



## STEWARDSHIP INFORMATION

John Rice, Treasurer

### ***It's Stewardship Time!***

We've been talking back and forth about what we could possibly put together for a Stewardship program in this year of all years. Even before 2020 changed our perspective on all things of this earth, there seems to be less and less that our very faithful group needs to be told. A small but dedicated church family of stewards has remained supportive. Some of those stewards fill out a pledge card every year, some don't but still give reliably. Stewards of the past put away funds for the rainy years that we experience in the twenty-first century, and we somehow manage to need to withdraw far less than we expect.

### ***So here's what wasn't in the budget!***

The year began with us writing a check for nearly \$25,000 for boiler replacements completed in 2019. This money was taken from the "Energy Fund," established a couple of decades back when we were given a large bequest. By mid-March, the investments line shrunk by about \$27,000 as the markets reacted to the global pandemic. That loss was temporary, and as of the end of September, our investments are now ahead for the year. In the spring, a drunk driver amazingly survived a horrible collision with our Lincoln Way sign. The sign fared worse. A new sign is in place, at a cost just over \$37,000. Insurance paid \$15,000, and the membership rose to the occasion to more than make up the difference\*. Over the summer, a \$19,000 grant from the Smock Foundation completely paid for the upgrade to the main restroom in the CE first-floor hallway. It is now handicap-accessible. Oh, and we closed the church to worshipers for a couple of months. You might expect that would have been devastating to pledge receipts, but no, not so much. Actually, we're seeing more of a downturn more recently, because some thoughtful stewards stepped up and paid their entire pledge for the year in February, March, and April.

### ***Then, how do we stand now?***

Three quarters into 2020, we're in the red \$14,364. We'd certainly rather be closer to breaking even, but then again, the budget that we approved last January projected far worse! Giving is ahead of budget by more than \$6000 without counting the extra-mile giving to replace the sign. Spending, as is normal for us, is less than expected.

*\*(The final report is incomplete on the sign ordeal. There have been other unfinished costs, including site clean-up and repairs to the downspout at the northeast corner of the building. If insurance pays for those, as we expect, then the congregation's support will have MORE than paid for the damages. The total will end up pretty close either way.)*

***For those wanting to make a pledge for 2021, a pledge card is attached. You may mail it in or put it in a collection plate. Since circumstances are so wildly unusual, there won't be a formal presentation of cards this year. God will provide, through His stewards past, present, and future.***

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## 2021 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 2021 IS \$** \_\_\_\_\_ *per* week month quarter year *(circle one)*  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *check if this is an increase over 2020.*

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ 2020

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

## Worship and Music

## Darlene Seufert – Chair

The Worship and Music Committee and Pastor Daniel have met to plan for a busy fall. Some FPC long standing traditions happen in the fall along with Advent and Christmas.

November 1st is All Saints' Day. We welcome Pastor Daniel back after a much deserved vacation. Judy Green is the liturgist with Ethan DeMaegd and Dick Dentino as ushers. There will be communion and reading of the names of the Saints who passed away in the last year. Please email or call the office if you would like to have a family member or friend's name on that list. Liturgical color is white.

November 8th: Chris Wukovits will be liturgist with Carole Polk and Greg Phillips as usher.

November 15th: Chuck Wukovits will be liturgist with Michael Green as usher.

November 22nd will be our traditional St. Andrew's Day. Dyan Phillips will be liturgist with Dan Bruner and Neil Seufert as ushers. Liturgical color is white.

November 29th is the First Sunday in Advent. Judy Sulak is the liturgist with Bill Bellairs and Darlene Seufert as ushers. The Hope Candle will be lit. Communion will be served. Liturgical color is purple through Advent. Looking for family willing to read the Advent Reading during the lighting of the Advent Candles. Please let me know if you are interested.

## BLASTS FROM THE PAST

In searching through museum items for interesting tidbits, I keep running across groups that have been prominent in past years in the church but no longer exist. This is understandable since in those days the membership exceeded 600 people. But even though we are now much smaller, wouldn't it be nice once all the craziness brought on by the pandemic has passed, to revisit some of these various groups and activities and perhaps see if there could be interest in reviving them? If nothing else, perhaps just seeing what there used to be will bring back fond memories for some of you!

In the very first newsletter from August of 1961, mention was made of a Junior-Hi Fellowship and Senior-Hi Fellowship group, citing some interesting sounding activities. Of course, those would only be possible if the church were to get an infusion of young people but it is something to think about.

There was also something called a Day Apart which was held at a member's cabin and sounded like just a lovely retreat day.

In a 1971 newsletter, mention was made of forming a group called the Lamplighter Group which focused on learning, studying, sharing and growing together in true Christian spirit. There were also several special interest group activities, among them planting terrariums and talk of starting a book exchange. Around Mother's Day there was a mother-daughter banquet which also included a musical program. Events such as pancake and sausage breakfasts and pizza parties with movies shown were also featured in a 1981 newsletter.

Think about what was good about the past in the church and what could be taken from those ideas to benefit everyone now. Of course this is food for thought once life returns to some sort of normalcy in restrictions but it could be something to look forward to!



# November 2020

**Worship 10 am  
Fellowship at 11 am**

| Sun  | Mon  | Tue   | Wed  | Thu   | Fri                     | Sat  |
|--|--|---|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| <b>1</b> All Saints' Day<br>Communion<br>PW meeting – 11:15 a.m.<br>Daylight Savings Time ends | <b>2</b>   | <b>3</b><br> | <b>4</b> Book study – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.   | <b>5</b>  | <b>6</b>                | <b>7</b>   |
| <b>8</b> Deacons' meeting – 11:15 a.m.   | <b>9</b>   | <b>10</b> Book study – 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.   | <b>11</b> Bake sale work night 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.                                  | <b>12</b> Set up for bake sale 8:00 a.m.  | <b>13</b>               | <b>14</b> Bake Sale/ Craft Sale 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.                          |
| <b>15</b> Book Club – 3:00 p.m.  | <b>16</b> Elizabeth Circle – 7:00 p.m. at church | <b>17</b> Newsletter deadline   | <b>18</b> Quilts of Valor 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.<br>Book study – 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. | <b>19</b> Ruth Circle 7:00 p.m. at Darlene's  | <b>20</b>               | <b>21</b> Mystery Quilts 10:00 a.m.<br>Quilts of Valor – 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. |
| <b>22</b> Hanging of the greens<br>St. Andrew's Day  | <b>23</b>  | <b>24</b>   | <b>25</b>  | <b>26</b> <i>Thanks-giving!</i><br>Office closed<br> | <b>27</b> Office closed | <b>28</b>  |
| <b>29</b>  | <b>30</b>  |   |  |   |                         |  |

Does anyone else start feeling gloomy and depressed when it is getting dark at 6:00 in the evening – and earlier every day? The end of Daylight Savings Time always brings on the doldrums but it also means the start of what I think of as the hunkering down season! For the December/January issue, is anyone has some ideas to make those long cold winter days and nights more appealing, reach out and share them and perhaps we can get enough to put them in the newsletter for all to enjoy!