



First Presbyterian News

April 2024

401 Lincolnway East

Mishawaka, IN. 46544

Hello Friends! We made it! The forty days of Lent are now behind us. Hopefully they were meaningful to you—full of time of reflection, growth, and peace. However, a look at the church calendar reminds us we are now in the time of Easter. We know this in so many ways—not only that we live in the time of the risen Christ, but also by simply looking and being outside. Witness the return of the flowers, green grass (yes, we now need to start mowing again), and leaves on the trees (and sometimes in Indiana, we may still see some of that stubborn snow, but fortunately only briefly).

In fact, the entire Lenten season, leading up to Resurrection Sunday, was focused on renewal—renewal of our minds, bodies, and spirits. Now we go forward in this Eastertide with what is hopefully both a sense of anticipation as to what is before us and a sense of gratitude for the grace of God in Christ, that through the power of the Holy Spirit, has brought us this far.

As a bibliophile (read: book nut), this month also means I have to extend the time it takes me to finish a book, which has often been the case during the time I have been enrolled in seminary. April is when all the papers, tests, and homework are due, but April also means the end of my semester and joyously, the celebration of 3 birthdays in our household (from the 1st to the 30th!) For me this summer also marks my seminary halfway point: 2 years done, 2 more years to go. ☺

And, sadly for me, April also means the end of my time with you. I have so appreciated the welcoming spirit that has been extended to me and to my wife, Kathy. As Mishawakans for the past 20 years, we feel a real kinship with you. Thank you for all you have done to help further my education, inspire me to move forward through Lent, and to welcome this Eastertime, keeping in mind what God wants for all God's children, namely:

*“to be transformed by the renewing of the mind,
so that you may discern what is the will of God—
what is good, and acceptable and perfect (Romans 12:2).*

A final note: This month is an exciting and momentous one for First Presbyterian Church Mishawaka! Our dear Pastor, Daniel, is scheduled to be formally installed as your pastor on Sunday, April 21st. I was delighted to be invited to participate, and look forward to worship and celebration on that day. This represents what is the culmination of the several years he has spent in Christian service and mission with you and I am so happy for Daniel, his lovely family, and for this church. I know that, as I now shift back to my home church and continue in my seminary studies, all is well with this special place. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with all God's people.

Richard Fair



I recommended featuring Richard Fair on the front page of this month's FPC Mishawaka Newsletter, emphasizing the significance of showcasing his experience as he prepares for potential leadership roles as the head of a church in the near future. For those who are not familiar with Richard Fair, let me share a story with you.

Our church has had the privilege of hosting Richard Fair for his Supervised Practice of Ministry (SPM) and Field Education (FE) since mid-January. Richard, a Master of Divinity student at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Iowa, embarked on his ministry internship journey with us to fulfill his seminary credit requirements.

My first encounter with Richard dates back to our joint service on the Admission Commission (AC) for Westminster Presbyterian Church in South Bend during its closure. During the church's closing process, I witnessed Richard's exceptional leadership skills, making it a pleasure and privilege to collaborate with him.

Interestingly, Jennifer Burns Lewis, the Visioning and Connecting Leader of the Presbytery of Wabash Valley, approached me with the opportunity for our church to serve as a field education site and for me to be Richard's supervisor. Initially hesitant, I expressed my concerns about my qualifications compared to what Richard might need. However, Jennifer's encouragement and belief in my capabilities persuaded me to reconsider, highlighting the potential benefits for both me and our church.

I am immensely grateful that I accepted this invitation and sought approval from our session. Richard has proven to be an invaluable asset during his ministry internship, demonstrating his proactivity in various areas such as preaching, leading the Lenten Book Study, attending meetings, and engaging with our church family and friends.

As my family settled into our new home, Richard's willingness to preach at least once a month has alleviated the pressure on me, especially during the busy first three months of the year. Richard's positive impact extends beyond just assisting me; he has contributed significantly to our Christian Education book study. I had the opportunity to witness his well-prepared leadership during one of the sessions, reinforcing my appreciation for his dedication and skills.

As April comes to a close, Richard will be wrapping up his field site education experience. Let's come together in prayer and hope, wishing Richard success in his academic pursuits and the completion of his remaining ordination requirements on his journey towards his calling.

Blessings,
Pastor Daniel



Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



Presbyterian Women Circles

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.



Gifts of women Sunday will be April 7th. Our speaker will be Jennifer Burns Lewis. PW will host fellowship.

We will also be collecting for our birthday offering and for school supplies for our daughter, Rica, in the Philippines.

Upcoming Purse Project



Presbyterian Women's Purse Project was a huge success last year! We donated purses, filled with all kinds of goodies, to St. Margaret's House for homeless and abused women. We are doing it again this year. Please clean out your purse collection and donate your gently used purses for this worthwhile project. Ask your friends as well! There will be a box in Fellowship Hall for your donated purses. PW will be handing out purses on April 7th and will collect the filled purses on April 14th. Below is a suggested list of items for the purse:

soap or shower gel, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste, Kleenex, feminine products, nail polish, chap stick, shampoo and conditioner, travel aspirin, comb, brush, notepad and pen, hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, gum, mints, hand cream, and sunglasses.

Thanks so much for supporting PW and their mission projects.

Upper Room News



The Upper Room is NOT accepting clothing or shoes until further notice. The Upper Room also requests that, when dropping off items, please leave your name with your donation in case there are questions.

Please remember that when you donate items, be sure to check them to make sure that they are clean and damage free.

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: ***Saturday, April 6th from 10-Noon, Wednesday, April 17th from 10-Noon***

Sale Day: ***Saturday, June 1st from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.***

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

We delivered 22 lbs of food items in March.

Do you have extra grocery store bags (in good condition and no holes)? Drop them in the food cart in the lobby. Each family uses about 10 bags per cart and we serve 25-40 families a night.

Let's not forget to add food to the shopping cart for MAC and Food Pantries.

Staple products:

Cereal, Soup, canned Vegetables and Fruit, Pasta, canned Beans, and easy to cook foods are the best donations. Jell-O is also a hard to get product. But all donations are appreciated, including toiletry items. They are feeding 60-75 families.

*Nothing perishable and please watch for expiration dates.



**MAC Mishawaka
Alliance of Care**

Mission—Our Faith in Action

We collected and delivered 150 bottles of conditioner as our portion of “Living Matthew 25 –2024 event: **Spring into Service—Welcome Kits for Guests of Residential Agencies**” . Kits were assembled to be delivered to:

Center for the Homeless, Dismas House, Hope Ministries, Our Lady of the Road, St. Margaret’s House, Upper Room Recovery Community—Men’s Residence & Women’s House, and the YWCA.

Mission Committee

THANK YOU





* Prayers for Ukraine; for Israel, Gaza, and all who are suffering – for peace in this crisis, bravery for the coming days, protection & comfort for all those impacted, and for wisdom to all world leaders making decisions

* For all those who have Covid

*For those who experience emotional crises/mental distress or struggle with addictions, prayers for successful treatment/help with coping skills

*For Dyan Phillips' father, Cliff, who had an MRI for back & hip pain. Prayers for correct diagnosis & treatment.

*For Greg Phillips' mother, Lynn, who had foot surgery. Prayers for speedy recover & healing.

*Prayers for comfort & strength for Kevin Finley's family

* For those with heart issues, including Kevin Finley and Joan Horvath – prayers for successful treatment, comfort, & healing;

* For those with cancer including Mary Watt's brother-in-law, David, Anna Bower's sister, Elizabeth, Lynett Heritz's friend, Rex, Greg Phillips' friend, Jon, Katie Robertson's friend, Sharon, and Grandfather of Josh (Victoria Green's boyfriend), Gary – prayers for effective treatment, comfort, peace, and acceptance

* For continued prayers for those who have ongoing needs including our homebound members – Jack Bruner, Janet Freeman, Esther Morrison, and Kathy Bellairs – who always appreciate cards or phone calls

* Also prayers, we hold within our hearts, for those names we have left unspoken, but whom God knows.

You may have noticed the roof repair work in late January. Strong summer storms with hail were probably responsible for some broken roof tiles over the sanctuary balcony to the east of the bell tower. The ceiling over the balcony showed the problem as plaster began to peel and fall from water damage. Since the damage seemed to be confined to the balcony ceiling, many worshipers weren't even aware. It turns out that a lot of local roofs needed repair, and FPC had to wait in line for qualified repair providers. Work finally got going in January, with a quoted price of \$21,700! There was also a fear that there would be so many broken tiles that replacements would need to be ordered, and this type of material has to be custom made. Happily, the “best-case scenario” held, and the final price was as quoted.

The story gets better. FPC has benefited from time to time from the generosity of the Smock Foundation. As stated on the foundation's website, Laura Smock's wish in 1955 was to “help aged Presbyterians in the state of Indiana for such benevolent, charitable, religious, educational or any allied public purposes...that will promote the health, welfare, and happiness of ailing or needy or crippled or blind.” As such, the two stair lifts and the two accessible bathrooms at FPC were paid for with donations from the Smock Foundation. Recently, the foundation has expanded somewhat on the original intent, and invited Indiana churches to apply for assistance with worthy projects. The foundation looked favorably on FPC's application and reimbursed us for the full amount.

Thanks be to God, who provides good stewards and sustains their good works far beyond their days!

John Rice



Church Staff

Pastor Daniel Cho
vision80cho@gmail.com
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;
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: Mary Watt
Worship and Music: Vicky Garret

Board of Deacons:

Moderator: Lynett Heritz
Bill Bellairs, Angela Bellinger, Jenn Frey,
Teresa Primmer, Jim Stanz

Book Club: Judy Green

Newsletter: Katie Robertson

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

PW: Moderators—Chris Wukovits and
Judy Green

Special Gifts: Ron May

South Bend Cubs outing is scheduled for **Friday, July 26th.**
Tickets are \$15 per person, and Greg Phillips needs a head count to order tickets. Head count needs to be in no later than **April 21st.**
Reserve your spots on the sign-up sheet in the lobby or text/call Greg at 574.607.0707 with how many seats you want. He will collect money at a later date.



Worship & Music

Greetings from worship and music,



We made it! The Lenten Season is behind us and we are now in the Easter Season.

We hope you all had a blessed Easter!



Blessings to all!

Worship & Music team

TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

April... Angela Bellinger

May... Lynett Heritz

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



(See John 20:1-18) 03-29-2002

I WANT YOU TO FOLD UP MY BURIAL CLOTHES, WAIT FOR MARY, AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS SERIOUS ... NO HIDING AND YELLING "BOO"

Worship 10 am



April



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Upper Room Workday 10-Noon
7 <i>Gifts of Women Sunday</i> Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk Rose Marie Reif W.L. Judy Green	8	9	10	11 National Pet Day 	12 QoV 9 a.m. till 2 p.m.	13
14 <i>Communion</i> Greeter.. Usher..Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Chuck Wukovits	15 Elizabeth Circle 7 p.m. <i>Leader Carole Polk, Hostess Mary Ann Dentino</i>	16	17 Upper Room Workday 10-Noon	18 Ruth Circle at 7 p.m. <i>Leader Darlene Seufert, Hostess Judy Sulak</i>	19	20 National Cheddar Fries Day 
21 Greeter.. Usher..Ryan Frey W.L. Darlene Seufert Worship & Music Meeting after worship	22 National Jelly Bean Day 	23	24	25	26 National Pretzel Day 	27
28 Greeter.. Usher..Bill Bellairs Michael Green W.L.	29	30 National Bugs Bunny Day 				