



# First Presbyterian News

## December 2023/January 2024

401 Lincolnway East  
Mishawaka, IN. 46544

As we enter the Advent season and approach the final month of 2023, it's incredible how time has flown! During this unique and reflective time, we are called to ponder the love of God, as revealed through Jesus Christ, and to contemplate the days gone by this year. December is a month full of excitement and hope. Many of us have been looking forward to this season, and it is a time when we aim to finish the year on a high note before welcoming the new one.

What are your most cherished expectations for this Advent, Christmas, and New Year?

Before sharing your hopes for this Advent, Christmas, and New Year, I encourage you to center your thoughts solely on Jesus Christ. Take a moment to ponder the purpose of Christ's arrival on earth as a human being and His presence among the people.

Why did Jesus come? What was the central mission/purpose of Christ's arrival?

According to **Luke 19:10**, Jesus himself said that, "[t]he Son of Man came to seek and save the lost."

Who are the lost ones? The Bible says we've all gone astray, like sheep that wander, as **Isaiah 56:3** describes. Indeed, we are the lost ones in need of special guidance, protection, care, and love.

To save us, Jesus came, lived a perfect life, and ultimately endured the death that was meant for us. Christ's birth marked the beginning of a journey that led to his sacrificial death on the cross, allowing us to reconcile with God.

So, how can we join Jesus on this mission?

Through Christ's cross, we, who once were apart from God, can now draw near to Him. This same cross also breaks down the barriers of hostility between us and others, allowing for reconciliation and peaceful relationships.

Do you have relationships in your lives that feel strained or broken? Who is it that you need to reconcile with, and how can Christ's sacrificial actions serve as a guiding force in achieving that reconciliation?

Moreover, as we reflect on the spirit of reconciliation, let's extend our considerations to our neighborhoods. Are there communities around us in need of care and support? How can we, inspired by the love of Christ, contribute to fostering unity and peace without our localities?

As we step into the closing days of December, welcoming the transition into the New Year of 2024, let's embrace the opportunity this season brings to mend and strengthen our relationships. Keep your heart open, ready to extend grace and compassion to those around you.

**"For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,  
and through him God was pleased to reconcile  
to himself all things, whether on earth or in  
heaven, by making peace through the blood  
of His cross." (Colossians 1:19-20)**



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!

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, contact Mary Ann Dentino for more details. Ruth is on the 3rd Thursday of each month, contact Teresa Primmer for more details. A list of dates and times can be found on the church bulletin board. If you find yourself free, you are very welcome to join us.

### Advent Potluck

Please join us for the PW Advent Potluck after worship on December 10th. PW will provide ham, potatoes, green beans, and beverages. Bring a salad, dessert, or vegetable dish (other than green beans) to share. Sign up in the CE Lobby and indicate how many in your family will attend. You can also call the church office to sign up as well. We hope to see Fellowship Hall full! Sharing a dinner with your church family is a wonderful way to celebrate the Christmas Season.

Merry Christmas from your Presbyterian Women!



Thank you to everyone who contributed baked goods, candy, time, and muscle!  
We could not have done it without you!!

In December, PW will be hosting an Advent potluck dinner—we look forward to see you all.

We start the year off with our PWCT meeting at 9:00 a.m. on January 6th, where we will be deciding how to responsibly use the money we have raised. This will be followed by a carry-in brunch at 10:00 a.m. Then we will work on a couple mission projects. Darlene will be showing us how to make pillowcase dresses that will be sent to Africa and Judy Sulak will be sharing with us how to make prayer pockets to add to our prayer shawl ministry. All ladies are welcome to join us!

Finally, remember, January is kitchen clean up for PW—anyone who can lend a hand, please join us in the kitchen on Monday, January 15th at 10:00 a.m.

### Upper Room News

The Upper Room had a great year and we want to thank everyone for their generous donations, helping with sorting, working the sales, and shopping.

We will be taking a break until March 2024 and will NOT be accepting donations until further notice.

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, and easy to cook foods are the best donations. Pop-top cans and foods that don't have to be cooked are also appreciated

for those that do not have a kitchen. Nothing perishable and please watch for expiration dates.

**MAC Mishawaka  
Alliance of Care**



### Deacons Corner



Christmas shopping at JC Penney will be held on *Saturday, December 9th at 8:30 a.m.* We will gather at the Beauty Salon Door on the North Side of the building, as in years past. We will be shopping for around 50+ kids this year. Please consider helping us shop with either a parent or guardian this year. It usually takes about 1 1/2 hours. We will have a sign up sheet on the board in the CE Lobby.



### Greeters and Fellowship Sign Up

Please consider signing up to help with either greeting at the EAST Door on Sunday mornings or Hosting Fellowship after worship.

Greetings from Prayer Shawl Ministries,

You all are so talented and caring! We have given prayer shawls to so many this past year. We are now making prayer pockets for those who already have received a prayer shawl but still have joys and concerns happening in their lives.

During our winter gathering we will be looking at patterns and materials for both prayer shawls and prayer pockets, knit and crocheted.

For those who want to contribute to this ministry and don't know how to knit or crochet, supplying yarn or taking a shawl/prayer pocket to one in need is another way to help.

We are looking forward to seeing the women of our church—and bring a friend—to learn how to make these much loved items to share our love and God's love with others.



Blessings,  
Judy Sulak and prayer shawl ministries.

**THANK  
YOU**

A big thank you to all members of our congregation who brought in groceries, filled the bags, and delivered the Thanksgiving Baskets. Sixteen baskets were delivered to thankful families. One family—children and mom, was waiting outside playing in their yard with smiles on their faces and many “thank yous” when we arrived to deliver the basket. All of the extra items brought in were taken to the MAC Food Pantry at Albright Church.

You are all a blessing to all the folks receiving your gifts.

Mission Committee

The Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges, equipping communities of color.

The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

A Joy Offering envelope can be found in your box of envelopes. Additional envelopes can be found in Memorial Lounge. They may be placed in the offering plate on Christmas Eve or any time during Advent.

Thank you in advance for your generous gifts.

Mission Committee

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**Custodian hours:** Monday thru Friday 7 to noon**Contact us at** (574) 259-7874 or [fpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto: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: Mary Ann Dentino

Personnel: Mary Watt

Worship and Music: Judy Sulak

**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:****TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE****December... Judy G./Carole****January... Darlene****Please Send****information for the****February Newsletter****to Katie Robertson by****January 17th.****[fpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto:fpcmishawaka@gmail.com)****Thank you!****Book Club**Book Club: **December 17th** at 2:00 p.m. is "*Christmas in Tinsel Tree Village: A Holiday Novella*" by Violet Shipman at Teresa Primmer's**January 21st** at 2:00 p.m. is *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende at Darlene Seufert's**February 18th** at 2:00 p.m. is *Ordinary Grace* by William Kent Krueger at Teresa Primmer's

Thanks, Judy Green

**Worship & Music**

Greetings from worship and music,



November brings us a season to be thankful for all God has given us personally and as a church family. Thanksgiving reminds us to share our abundance and the love of Jesus Christ with others.



In December, we celebrate the birth of our Savior and the love God has shown us through His Son, Jesus. We are commissioned to share that love with everyone we meet in a caring and respectful manner. We have Christmas Eve service on Sunday, December 24th and have been invited to Sunnyside Presbyterian Church on December 31st for church service.

There is so much happening in these last 2 months of the year, so please remember to take time to pray and meditate on the word of God so as to be a blessing to others.

May the peace and love of Jesus Christ surround you today and every day.

Blessings to all!

Worship & Music team

Worship 10 am



# December



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 National Pie Day 	2
3 <i>Communion</i> Greeter.. Usher..Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Pam Camren	4 National Cookie Day 	5	6	7 National Cotton Candy Day 	8	9 Deacon's Christmas shopping 8:30 a.m. at JC Penny
10 Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk, Greg Phillips W.L. Darlene Seufert Advent Potluck after worship Deacon's Meeting after worship	11	12 National Gingerbread House Day 	13 National Hot Cocoa Day 	14 Ruth Circle 7 p.m. Leader—Judy G, Host—Lynett	15	16
17 Greeter.. Usher..Michael Green W.L. Chris Wukovits Book Club 2 p.m.	18 Elizabeth Circle 7 p.m. @ Chris Wukovits' house	19	20	21	22	23
24 7 p.m. Service <i>Communion Joy Offering</i> Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk, Marc, Michael Green W.L. Chuck Wukovits	25 <i>Joy Offering</i> 	26	27	28	29	30
31 Service at Sunnyside Presbyterian Church						



Worship 10 am



# January



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 National Spaghetti Day 	5	6 PW Meeting 9 a.m. Carry in brunch
7 Communion Greeter.. Usher.. Ethan DeMaegd, Bill Bellairs W.L.	8 CE Meeting	9	10	11	12 QoV 9-2	13
14 Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk, Greg Phillips W.L. Dyan Phillips Deacon's Meeting after worship	15 Kitchen clean up 10 a.m. Elizabeth Circle 7 p.m. @ church Leader & host—Mary Watt	16	17 Deadline for Newsletter Info.	18 Ruth Circle @ 7 p.m. Leader— Teresa, host— Dyan	19	20
21 Greeter.. Usher..Michael Green, Bill Bellairs W.L. Pam Camren W& M Meeting after worship Book Club 2 p.m.	22	23 National Pie Day 	24 National Peanut Butter Day 	25	26	27 National Chocolate Cake Day 
28 Greeter.. Usher..Ryan Frey, Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Darlene Seufert	29	30	31 National Hot Chocolate Day 			