

First Presbyterian News

February 2024

401 Lincolnway East

Mishawaka, IN. 46544

Greetings everyone! I hope everything is well with you in 2024. Since we are still in the early part of the year, I am curious to know how many of you are sticking to your New Year's resolutions so far.

Research suggests that approximately 80% of people fail to keep their New Year's resolutions. Many lose their determination and motivation as early as mid-February, as reported by US News and World Report.

I didn't set any New Year's resolutions this time. While I used to do so in the past, my current focus is on lasting fulfillment rather than a short-term goal. Instead of setting my own specific goals to achieve, I have come to realize the significance of living each day according to what God has planned for me.

Henri Nouwen encourages us to view each day, hour, and minute as a new beginning—a distinct opportunity to transform our lives. He prompts us to imagine living every moment as if it holds the potential for new beginnings, and each day as a collection of promises. Nouwen inspires us to step into the new year with an openness to hear a voice saying, **“I have a gift for you, and I can't wait for you to see it.”** His suggestion is that we embrace the concept of every moment being a chance for renewal and the discovery of gifts in the upcoming year.

I won't discourage anyone from having New Year's resolutions, but it's crucial to bear in mind that each day is a gift from God, intended for us to live to the fullest. To accomplish this, we must open our minds and hearts to the Divine voice, allowing it to guide and inspire us on the journey of realizing each day's fullest potential.

How does the idea of every moment as a chance for renewal align with your personal outlook on life and growth, especially considering the perspective that each day is a gift from God and influences how you approach living life to the fullest?

As we approach the Lenten Season, a six-week period preceding Easter, how do you plan to prepare yourself? This season is observed by Christians worldwide through practices like meditation, almsgiving, and fasting—aiming to live life to the fullest. Yet, if we broaden our perspective beyond Lent, these practices should form the foundation of our entire lives. Our commitment to living with mindfulness, generosity, and self-discipline should persist beyond specific seasons. Again, I want to emphasize that my intention is not to dissuade you from setting any Lenten goals.

Rather, I wish to stress that everything we engage in during the Lenten season should become an ongoing practice, extending beyond that specific timeframe of the season. God is always there, reliable and trustworthy in everything. God calls us to show the same consistency in our faith, service, and witness.

Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58

The Lord calls upon each of us to maintain consistency in our faith. Our relationship with the Lord should exhibit unwavering steadiness, avoiding fluctuations and reflecting continual progress in responding to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. How does knowing that God is always reliable impact your dedication to faith, service, and sharing your beliefs? In staying firm in your faith, how can you thrive in carrying out the Lord's work in your everyday life?

Wishing you a blessed Lenten season filled with reflection, growth, and moments of peace. May your journey bring you closer to your faith and inspire positive changes in your life.



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.

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. We will be handing out purses in the spring to be filled with items for these women in need. Thanks so much for supporting PW and their mission projects.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me.

Chris Wukovits

2023 Recap

In 2023 we were blessed to have very successful Upper Room sales and a record setting Vendor/Bake Sale. This has allowed us to be more generous with our "above and beyond" donations to local charities.

This January, we donated \$4,400.00 to our usual local charities, including PDA as well as a few new ones, including the Deacons Christmas. **Below is the complete list we donated to:**

Deacons Christmas Fund, Hope Ministries, MAC Food Pantry, Mishawaka Food Pantry, St. Margaret's House, Unity Gardens, Busy Hands, Sew Loved, Resale to the Rescue, Ronald McDonald House, Malawi Matters, Cultivate, Rosie Place, and PDA. All received the same amount except PDA, which received more.

All the above charities are giving back, so you're giving and PW just keeps on giving to those in need.

Upper Room News

We want to thank everyone for their generous donations, helping with sorting, working with the sales, and shopping. As a reminder, we will be taking a break until March 2024 and will NOT be accepting donations until further notice.

The Upper Room will have its First Sale at the end of March (2 day sale). Mark your calendar and tell your friends. Also, if you haven't come to an Upper Room sale, you are missing out on some amazing finds! I, as well as many other PW ladies and men, generally go home with something they have found. If you know people just starting out or starting over, we have something for them.



Malawi Matters

We are starting a new Malawi Matters mission project—Pillowcase dresses for young girls. If you have gently used pillowcases, especially those with embroidering on them, consider donating them to us to turn into a dress. If you want to help sew, please contact Darlene Seufert for details.

Judy Green and Carole Poklinkowski, CO Moderators

Thank you for all who contributed to the Mitten Tree. Items collected will be dropped off at Battell School.

Soup-R-Bowl

Super-Bowl Sunday, February 11th is Soup-R-Bowl Sunday at First Presbyterian Church,



Mishawaka. Soup is a comforting and versatile dish that can be enjoyed in any season, but is especially good on a cold day. We will be filling the cart for the MAC Food Pantry with canned soup and non-perishable items to make soup. Donations will be dropped off Tuesday, February 20th.



Suggested items:

Flavored broths, canned chicken or beef, canned vegetables and tomatoes, rice, barley, small pasta or noodles. Seasonings are a special treat. The food bank gets lots of dried beans they give out freely.



Thank you in advance for your contributions and let's fill the cart!
Mission Committee

Deacons

Our Children's Christmas Shopping on Saturday, December 9, 2023 was a big success. It's been a long standing tradition and our gift to families of Mishawaka School City. This is to help provide warm clothing for families with children age birth through 12th grade for Christmas. This year we, along with parents/guardians and Social Workers, met at J.C. Penny to shop for 51 children. We also shopped, through our congregation, for an additional family. Altogether, this made a total of 54 children we shopped for. We spent \$3,724.00 on warm clothing. We would like to express our thanks to J.C. Penny for opening early for our event and their staff's help that day.

The Deacons would like to thank all those who donated monies and gave of their time helping to shop.

The Deacons would like to acknowledge and thank our out-going Deacon Jim Stanz for his service. We welcome back, for another term, Jennifer Frey and our newest Deacon, Juliana Bidlak.

THANK YOU

Per Capita

The per capita amount for 2024 is \$43.62. Presbytery receives \$30.01, Synod \$3.81, and General Assembly receives \$9.80.

Thanks! John Rice

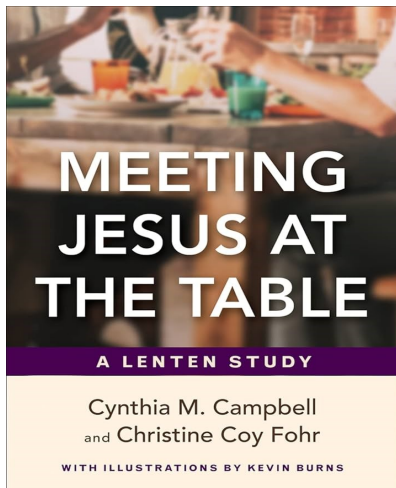


Christian Education

Lenten Study begins Wednesday, February 21 and will meet every Wednesday through March 27. We will be reading **Meeting Jesus at the Table**, written by Cynthia M. Campbell and Christine Coy Fohr. The books are in the CE desk and the cost is \$6.00.

Cynthia and Christine invite us to reflect on God’s love as told in the story of Jesus’ death and resurrection. In this, we are invited to join Jesus when he ate with tax collectors, when He and His disciples fed the multitude, when there was an empty chair, and finally at the Last Supper.

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the CE lobby. Sign up to attend, to bring a dessert or to lead a lesson. We will begin at 6:15 and end at 7:15.



HELP WANTED

The good news is, we have more children in the toddler room. The bad news is, we need more help. It would be wonderful to have two people in the nursery. We have been signing up for a month at time. It would be helpful to have a list of those willing to fill in now and then. See me or Carole Polk if you are willing to help.

Darlene



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 Garrett

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

Book Club

Book Club: **February 18th** at 2:00 p.m is *Ordinary Grace* by
William Kent
Host, Teresa Primmer. Leader, Judy G.



Book Club: **March 17th** at 2:00 p.m. is TBD

Thanks, Judy Green

Worship & Music

Greetings from worship and music,



The Lenten season is upon us. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our
Lenten journey through the desert toward Easter. Ashes on the forehead is a
sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality.
Please join us for the imposition of Ashes on Wednesday, March 14th
at 7 p.m.



Our next Worship & Music meeting will be held February 18th, following the
10 a.m. Service.

Blessings to all!

Worship & Music team

TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE

February...Judy S.
March...Pam M.

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



Worship 10 am



February



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 Groundhog Day 	3 QoV 9-5 (National Sew Day) U.R. workday 10 till Noon
4 <i>Communion</i> Greeter.. Usher..Ethan DeMaegd Judy Sulak W.L. Chris Wukovits PW Meeting after worship	5	6 National Frozen Yogurt Day 	7	8	9 National Pizza Day 	10
11 Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk, Greg Phillips W.L. Chuck Wukovits Deacons Meeting after worship Soup-R-Bowl 	12	13 Mardi Gras 	14 <i>Communion Service at 7 p.m.</i> U.R. workday 10 till Noon Usher.. Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Mary Watt 	15 Ruth Circle 7 p.m.	16	17 * Newsletter Deadline
18 <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i> Richard Fair Leads Service Greeter.. Usher..Michael Green W.L. Judy Sulak Worship & Music meeting after worship Book Club 2 p.m.	19 Elizabeth Circle 7 p.m. Presidents Day 	20	21 Lenten Book Study 6:15 p.m.	22	23	24
25 <i>2nd Sunday of Lent</i> Greeter.. Usher..Judy Sulak, Bill Bellairs W.L. Alan Camren	26	27	28 Lenten Book Study 6:15 p.m.	29		