



401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

# First Presbyterian News

March 2016

Volume 54 No. 7

## Greetings FPC!

I am so excited to be beginning this ministry journey together!

As I begin, I wanted to let you know some of the initial steps I have been taking to get to know the congregation as your new pastor. You probably have heard me talk a lot about "one-on-ones" since I started in mid-February. These are short, 30 minute conversations that I am encouraging each individual member of the congregation to have with me. My goal is to get a "snapshot" of the current life, needs, and hopes of the church through these short, intentional conversations. In each conversation I will ask:

- 1) Who or what brought you to FPC? What keeps you here?
- 2) What do you think is the church's most pressing challenge currently? What do you think is a pressing need or challenge in the surrounding community of Mishawaka/South Bend?
- 3) What are your hopes and dreams for FPC?

My aim is to have as many of these one-on-ones as possible this month. You can sign up to meet with me on a sign up sheet in the office or you can email me a 30 min time that works for you. My email is: [pastorfpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfpcmishawaka@gmail.com). I look forward to sitting down with each of you.

In addition to getting to know one another I hope you have been enjoying our Lenten series "Sensing the Gospel" in worship. Compiled by Matt Skinner at Workingpreacher.org, this series is focused on going on the Lenten journey through our five senses. In February we looked at experiencing Christ through "touch" and "sight." This month I look forward to unpacking "taste," "hearing," and "smell" with you. If you think you know someone who might be interested in this creative approach to Lent, make sure to invite them to church!

Finally, I hope to see you for Bible study Sundays at 9:00 before worship. This is a great opportunity for us to be a learning congregation, wrestling with scripture together, as we seek to discern the Spirit's leading.

I am looking forward to serving with and among you in this season of FPC's ministry.

Grace and peace, Travis

**New Bible Study: Sunday mornings with Pastor Travis, 9 am in Memorial Lounge**

The Deacons will be hosting a **Continental Breakfast** before worship on **Easter morning** in Fellowship Hall starting at 8:30 a.m.

Please plan on joining us.

No Reservations required!

**News from Worship and Music:** During Lent we will have "Time with Children" focusing on symbols related to Jesus. Palm Sunday we will once again have a Palm processional with the children helping with the leading into church. There will be events during Lent and the week of Passover, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. Details will be shared in the weekly bulletins.



Just a reminder that the **One Great Hour of Sharing** offering will be collected on Palm Sunday.  
*Hope does not disappoint us because God's love had been poured into our hearts. Rom. 5:5*

**One  
great hour  
of sharing**

By God's grace, each day is a gift, an opportunity for a new beginning. Through abundant and generous gifts to OGHS, for many years, Presbyterians have faithfully heeded God's call to serve people seeking to reclaim and restore their lives. Your gift to OGHS is a gift of hope. Your gift allows Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to restore communities around the world affected by natural and human-caused disasters. Your generosity helps the Presbyterian Hunger Program work with Presbyterians and other partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in this country and internationally. Your sharing makes it possible for Self-Development of People to affirm the dignity of all by assisting in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people.

Our congregation will receive the OGHS offering on Palm Sunday, March 20. Please give generously.

**Mission Committee: Sock it to me!**

The Mission Committee is again going to collect new and gently used socks for Broadway Christian Parish beginning the last Sunday in February and lasting 4 weeks. As always, ***Thank You.*** Angela



**SCRAPBOOKING & CRAFTING CLUB with Brittany Rice**

Have a project that you need to work on or get finished? Then come join us for an evening of festive fun fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. We meet from 6pm to 11 pm. The cost is \$5 and includes set-up, tear down, and tableware. Please bring your own drink and a snack to share. See you soon, Brittany [scrap.brittany@comcast.net](mailto:scrap.brittany@comcast.net)

The dates for 2016 are **March 25<sup>th</sup>**, April 29<sup>th</sup>, May 27<sup>th</sup>, June 24<sup>th</sup>, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, August 26<sup>th</sup>, September 23<sup>rd</sup>, October 21<sup>st</sup>, and November 18<sup>th</sup>

**Offering Envelopes and 2015 giving statement** If you have not done so already, please pick up your offering envelopes and statement from your mail box in the Education Office. Some envelopes are also on the ledge in Memorial Lounge. Per capita this year is \$39.38. Thank you.

**Prayer Group** meets to unite in prayer weekly. If you would like to learn more talk with Pam C. or Janet F. Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman, [jfree930@aol.com](mailto:jfree930@aol.com)

**DEACONS FUNDRAISER** Save the Date....Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. the Deacons will be holding their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Nelson's Port a Pit Fundraiser to benefit the Children's Christmas Shopping. A ½ chicken will sell for \$6.50 and this year we will be offering Pit-Tatoes for \$3.50. Please help by selling tickets to family and friends, at work or neighborhood. Stay tuned for more information! If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Primmer or Lynett Heritz.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Pastor**

**Rev. Travis Winckler**

[pastorfpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto:pastorfpcmishawaka@gmail.com)

**Church Secretary**

**Debra Leonard**

[debrafpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto:debrafpcmishawaka@gmail.com)

**Financial Secretary**

**Joan Horvath**

[joanfpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto:joanfpcmishawaka@gmail.com)

**Organist**

**Justin Appel**

[justinmappel@gmail.com](mailto:justinmappel@gmail.com)

**Custodian**

**Ken Vargo**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Pastor hours: 9 to 11 a.m. & 1 to 4 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday

Secretary hours: 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Financial Secretary hours: Mondays & Thursdays 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Custodian hours: Monday, Tuesday & Friday 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or

First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka

P.O. Box 744 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546

or [fpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto:fpcmishawaka@gmail.com)



**Newsletter deadline is March 17 at noon.** Please send information for April or any newsletter to Sue Rice at [suce@aol.com](mailto:suce@aol.com) or mail/email information to Debra, the church secretary.

**NEWS FROM THE MAC:**

At the February MAC Board meeting, Carol Minx, Food Pantry director of the Pantry reported 2015 statistics as follows:

Households served, 3126; People served, 10,607; Ages 60 +, 1263; New Households, 381; Children, 3544. As startling as these figures may be it is a drop of 803 from 2014; likely from a variety of circumstances and that is good news for the community.

News from the Food Bank of Indiana, guardian of Federal commodities, has given notice 2016 may see an increase in prices, as well as the availability of certain items, which will be a challenge to keep Pantry shelves filled. That is where using other sources comes into play. Volunteers scour local newspaper ads, work with the store managers in buying large quantities at sale prices and go shopping. Volunteer hours are all a part of Pantry work...at one time quoted as \$21.00 per hour. That is time donated by these dedicated folks. It does add up. Incidentally, both pounds and time are all a part of the required reports to the Federal Department of Agriculture.

Volunteer working on Pantry Days (Tuesday evenings and Friday mornings) is just one facet. Attending meetings ie., People Gotta Eat, driving the Pantry truck to the Food Bank, delivering food collections from member churches to the Pantry, keeping up with the cleanliness of the Pantry, including cleaning the grocery carts are examples.

It should be noted that Albright United Methodist Church has given the Pantry a 'home' which is a blessing in itself.

The MAC Board continues to search for a director to replace Carol. The Board is taking a look at perhaps dividing the responsibilities...sharing the work load....

As always, Volunteers are the backbone!

**As always, many thanks for the wonderful donations to the kettles during the SOUPER BOWL DRIVE.**

**Church Officers and Committees**

**Session:** Angela Bellinger, Alan Camren, Judy Green, John Martz, Ron May, Darlene Seufert

**Board of Deacons:** Lynett Heritz; moderator, Tom Camren, Teresa Primmer, Jason Pursehouse, Judy Sulak, Bill Walter

**Facilities and Operations**

John Martz, chair (elder)  
Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino,  
Chuck Wukovits

**Book Club:** Judy Green

**Clerk of Session:** Teresa Primmer

**Christian Education:** Darlene Seufert

**Finance:** Ron May, Chair

**Mission and Evangelism:**

Angela Bellinger, Chair

**Newsletter:** Sue Rice

**Nominating:** Darlene Seufert, Chair

**Personnel:** Alan Camren, Chair

**Prayer Chain:** Lynett Heritz

**Presbyterian Women:**

Teresa Primmer and Carole Polk

**PWNS Board:** John Rice, Chair

**Scrap Booking:** Brittany Rice

**Special Gifts:** Sue Rice, acting chair

**Stewardship:** Ron May, Chair

**Treasurer:** John Rice

**Worship and Music:**

Judy Green, Chair



Presbyterian Women 2016 CALENDAR

March 12 9 am PWCT Mtg, 10 am **Joint Circle Mtg.** & Bible study, carry-in brunch Election of Officers  
 April 3 **Gifts of Women Sunday** Honorary Memberships, Birthday Offering, Install officers 2016  
 April 3 Noon PWCT Meeting  
 April 9 Mission sewing cutout 9:30 am  
**April 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23** Basement Sale (set up, sale, bag sale and clean up) \*see next page  
 April Spring Gathering TBD  
 June 1 Calendar Meeting & Supper @Church 5:30 p.m.



2015-2016 PW Bible Study: **COME TO THE WATERS**  
 by Judy Record Fletcher

**Circle Meeting Schedule: March 12, Both circles will meet for a joint meeting at 10 am.**

Lesson 7: Streams of Mercy-Forgiveness  
 The March lesson was written specifically for Lent. The Scripture readings come from Isaiah 35: 1-2, 5-7; Psalm 51:1-12; Matthew 6:12

February's lesson was on Justice and Righteousness taken from the book of Amos. For the March lesson Fletcher turns our thoughts to forgiveness and mercy. The perfect topic for the Lenten season which is a time for penitence.

Isaiah 34 shows us God's harsh judgement against the faithless Israelites turning the streams into pitch and her soil into sulfur. In contrast, Isaiah 35 talks about the dry desert being glad and turning into bloom when God demonstrates his compassion and forgiveness. For a people living in a desert, this imagery of a dry land bursting into bloom would be a powerful metaphor for God's continuing love and compassion.

The Matthew passage addresses the question "What is Forgiveness?". The Lord's Prayer teaches us to "forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors". The passage also asks the question "What is Sin?". Fletcher writes, "Without God's forgiveness, sin builds up and our faith becomes dry and brittle like a parched creek bed." The third question is perhaps the hardest to answer, "How Do We Seek Forgiveness?"

A spiritual discipline used for centuries is the practice of examen. Put very simply, examen is a two step process. First affirm God's love, then confess our human weaknesses and our brokenness in relation to God. Read about examen on page 85 of the study book for more information.

**Book Club:**

*Dead Wake, The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* by Erik Larson

**"On May 1, 1915, with WWI entering its tenth month, a luxury ocean liner as richly appointed as an English country house sailed out of New York, bound for Liverpool, carrying a record number of children and infants."**

Come joins us as we remember a time 100 years ago. We meet at 2:00 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month, the 20th this month, and each month we take turns hosting & leading. (there always eats)

This month we are meeting at Lynett's home and Beth Davis will lead the discussion. Contact Judy if you have questions. [mtcjjag@aol.com](mailto:mtcjjag@aol.com)

**Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School**

March is such a happy month, full of magic all around us. Michael Finnegan will be up to mischief so be on the look out as the children celebrate St. Patrick's day, imagine magic. We watch outside as the season changes, nature magic. And with Easter also in March, the classroom will switch to celebrating sprit magic with discussions on new beginnings. As always we thank First Presbyterian Church for their support of this pre-school. With out your support, we could not give these children their first steps in school magic.

Thank You, Jayne

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 Postage Stamps available for purchase! They come in all styles and shapes. 100% of proceeds support our Deacon's Christmas fund, so please pick up pre-packaged stamps in groups of 10 (\$4.90) or 20 (\$9.80) in the CE office. Thank you. Deacons  
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## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BASEMENT SALE 2016!**

Sunday, April 17... We will be setting up for the Basement Sale after Worship.

**ALL ITEMS BEING DONATED MAY BE LEFT  
ON THE STAGE STARTING APRIL 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Tuesday and Wednesday, April 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> – We will finish setting up and pricing items

Thursday, April 21 SALE DAY...9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Friday, April 22 SALE DAY...9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, April 23 BAG SALE & CLEAN UP!



If you need help to drop off items before this date please contact either Darlene Seufert or Lynett Heritz to make arrangements. We are accepting gently used clothing for men, women, youth and children. Please remember that all items should be clean and in good condition. There is always a need for bedding, home wares, linens, books, seasonal items and children's toys and books.

**WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING COMPUTERS  
OR LARGE ELECTRICAL ITEMS!!**

*Computers can be dropped off at the Goodwill Store and  
electrical items to the Rehab Store on McKinley.*

We are always in need of ladies and guys to help the days of the Sale. If you would like to donate several hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, please let Darlene or Lynett know. And please stop by or tell your neighbors and friends about the Sale! There have been some amazing finds in past years; who knows what you will find this year!

**PW Basement sale storage room.** Presbyterian Women have an area that will be available for you to drop items off at any time. There is a room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor- 2<sup>nd</sup> door on west side which will remain unlocked at all times and there is a sign on the door. We would like to see all donated clothing in this room but you can also put other items here. We hope to make this a work room where we can sort and prep items for the sale ahead of time.

As always thank you for giving, contact Darlene or Lynett with questions.

