

# First Presbyterian News

March 2025

401 Lincolnway East  
Mishawaka, IN. 46544

## Where Are We Heading?

As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited to pause and reflect on our journey. Where are we going? Are we moving with purpose, or are we merely drifting? Without a clear sense of direction, we may find ourselves lost, uncertain of where we are meant to be. Lent is more than just a tradition; it is a sacred opportunity to seek God with intention—to call upon Him with sincere hearts, to set aside the distractions that pull us away, and to return to the path He has laid before us. It is a season of reorientation—a time to examine our hearts, realign our steps, and renew our commitment to living as God's people.

Walter Brueggemann, a respected Old Testament scholar, observes: **“Lent is a time to consider again our easy, conventional compromises and see again about discipline, obedience, and glad identity.”** His words challenge us to recognize the ways we settle for what is comfortable—choices that require little effort or sacrifice. Lent calls us to confront these compromises and consider how they might be holding us back from a deeper faith. It invites us to reengage with the spiritual practices that strengthen our walk with God, even when the journey is difficult. This season also reminds us of the joy found in embracing the identity God has given us—one not shaped by the world's expectations, but by His love and purpose. Our true calling comes from God alone, and it is through following Jesus and obeying His word that we become who we are created to be.



**“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endure the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.”**

**- Hebrews 12:1-2 (NRSV)**

As we enter this sacred season, may we keep our eyes fixed on Christ, who not only shows us the way but *is* the way. And as we journey through Lent, may each step of faith lead us closer to the life God desires for us—a life of transformation, renewal, and deeper communion with Him.

Blessings, Pastor Daniel

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



## Worship & Music

Greetings from worship and music,



We are entering the season of Lent and as a reminder here is what is coming up:

**Ash Wednesday** *March 5th, service at 7:00 p.m.*

**Palm Sunday** *April 13th*

**Choir Rehearsals:** *Thursday, March 6th 7:00 p.m. Thursday March 20th at 7:00 p.m.*

**Singing:** *Sunday, March 9th Sunday, March 23rd*

We wish you all a blessed season of Lent!



\* Prayers for the Nation and World.

For Peace and Justice around the world; for those who are suffering through conflicts/war; for protection and comfort for all those impacted as well as wisdom for all the world leaders making decisions. May respect, kindness, courage, and the ability to work through differences reign as they work towards being the peacemakers You designed us to be.

\* Prayers for the many impacted by the Wildfires in California.

Those families who have lost family members, pets, livestock; those who have lost homes and all they own, first responders battling the fires and rescue efforts. God please be with those impacted and calm the winds with your hands so that the fires can be contained and also not spread further.

### Prayers for:

\* All who are dealing with heart, cancer, and other health issues. Prayers for successful treatment, healing, comfort, and acceptance.

We hold up the names of: Dorothy Foley, Judy Sulak's cousin; Terri Keller, friend of Chris & Chuck Wukovits; Vicky Garrett; Patty Stanz; Kevin Finley; Erica, and Ken.

\* Caregivers to family and friends. May they feel God's love and sustaining power. Help us to be conscious of their feelings.

We hold up the names of Andrea Finley and Jim Stanz.

\* Those who experience emotional crises, mental distress, or struggles with addictions. Prayers for successful treatment and help with coping skills.

\* Our homebound members who always appreciate cards and calls.

We lift up: Kathy Bellairs, Jack Bruner, Ann Jones, Pat Harker, Esther Morrison, and Sandra Hamman.

\* All those names we have left unspoken and hold within our hearts, but whom God knows.

*If you would like to add a prayer request to the pastoral prayer list, call: 574.259.7874.*

*If no one answers, please leave a message.*

## Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church, Mishawaka



### Presbyterian Women Gathering

March 15th at 10:00 a.m.—**Joint Circle**, Darlene will be leading lesson 7. Lessons are stand alone, so feel free to join us, even if you have not attended a circle. It is a carry-in brunch, so please bring a dish to share. We will also be electing Officers. The Board will meet at 9:00 a.m.

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. For more information about Elizabeth Circle, please contact Mary Ann Dentino at 574.287.8573 or [dentinosb@aol.com](mailto:dentinosb@aol.com) For more information about Ruth Circle, please contact Teresa Primmer at 574.220.3500 or [gigiprimmer@gmail.com](mailto:gigiprimmer@gmail.com)

\* Thanks to the ladies who spent time cleaning and organizing the kitchen, it looks great! Just a reminder to mark items in both refrigerator and freezer to make sure they get used or saved.

**Guns to Garden** event—March 22nd, Noon-5 p.m. at FPC South Bend. Presbyterian Women learned about this grass-root gun surrender movement at the Church Wide Gathering last summer and we're excited to take part with First Presbyterian South Bend and United Presbyterian Church of Cassopolis, along with several other organizations. In a nutshell, you can bring UNWANTED, unloaded firearms to be destroyed. The leftover scrap parts are transformed into garden tools. This event will also accept ammunition to be deactivated by the group *Connect 2 Be the Change*. Inside the church, they will offer several events: **Pop-N-Heal**—a jewelry-making project, making bracelets from deactivated bullets. **Enough!**—teens who confront gun violence with original works of theatre. **Music Presentations**, and **Self-Healing Communities** will also be available with several resources. Please reference the flyer included in this newsletter or contact Darlene or Carole for ways you can participate and do our part to end gun violence.

### Upper Room News

There are just 2 work days (Saturday, 3/1 & Wednesday, 3/19) until we open for our first sale days-Friday, March 21st and Saturday, March 22nd, both days 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Please consider signing up for a shift. If you are interested in helping to sort, price, or work during the Work/Sale Days, please join us! We always welcome extra hands.

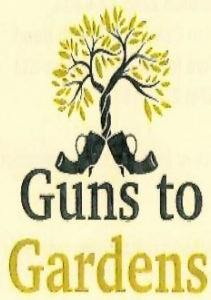


Work Days: **Saturday, March 1st Wednesday, March 19th from 10 a.m.—Noon**

Sale Days: **Friday and Saturday—March 21st and March 22nd from 9 a.m.—12:30 p.m.**

Thank you for your continued support in helping to make the Upper Room the best it can be! We are looking forward to another successful year with the Upper Room, which helps us fund our Mission Projects.





Saturday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>  
12 -5

First Presbyterian Church

333 W Colfax  
South Bend, IN 46601

## A Safe Surrender Event

### Outside in the Parking Lot

Bring unloaded, unwanted guns in the trunk of your car or back of your truck. You will be greeted by a volunteer who will walk beside your vehicle as the guns are removed and delivered to the chop saw operator.

After the guns are no longer functional, you may accept a gift card per gun. You may park your vehicle and come inside to enjoy art activities created in response to gun violence.

Blacksmiths and artists will use pieces of your gun to create garden tools or works of art.

\*Guns must have serial numbers. Printed guns, ghost guns, BB guns, or broken guns are not accepted.

### Inside the Church

Connect 2 Be the Change will offer **pop-n-heal** jewelry-making. Participants make bracelets and key rings from de-activated bullets.

**Enough!** Teens confront gun violence with original works of theatre. This program was developed with South Bend Civic Theatre.

**Music and Presentations with free resources.** Presenters include the Music Village, Self-healing Communities and Oaklawn.

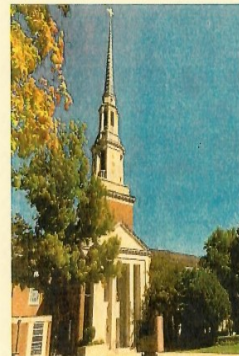
### **Refreshments**

**Prayers** led by Onsite Ministries available inside and outside.

**More** to be announced.



# Guns to Gardens



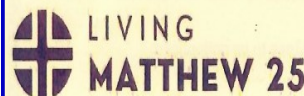
Saturday, March 22nd 12-5 P.M.  
First Presbyterian Church of South Bend  
333 W. Colfax Ave (enter off Williams St.)  
(574) 234-4159

A safe surrender event to dispose of unwanted firearms.

Bring guns to be disabled. You will be safely and legally guided through the process.

Bring bullets for Connect2BeTheChange

Stay for Pop N Heal workshop, speakers on mental health, and music!



"For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,  
I was a stranger and you welcomed me,  
I was naked and you gave me clothing,  
I was sick and you took care of me,  
I was in prison and you visited me."



## Mission—Our Faith in Action

### MAC Mishawaka Alliance of Care



**Donations to the Food Pantry**, we collected 94 lbs in year to date.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering has been making a huge impact on the lives of so many here at home and around the globe! It has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. We will collect the offering on Palm Sunday, April 13th. A sharing calendar has been included to use –It begins on Ash Wednesday, March 5th.



**SOCKS.**

**SOCKS.**

**SOCKS.**

The month of March, our mission will be collecting socks for the homeless. Let's fill the bin in the lobby with men's, women's and children's socks.



Thank you in advance for helping in keeping feet warm!



We have been invited by FPC South Bend to participate in **"Living Matthew 25"** events scheduled in March and April. Movies, books, performances, art, tours, and services—lots of opportunities to build community in



Michiana. Check out the list on the bulletin board or at [livingmatthew25sb.weebly.com](http://livingmatthew25sb.weebly.com) for more information. Most events are free, a few have costs, and some have limited space.

Mission Committee





# A Sharing Calendar for Lent 2025

Each day at or after a meal time, gather around this map activity. Consider the reflection and questions, place a coin or a bill (a "gift") in your fish coin bank or a jar.

March 9-14

**Sunday:** God, open our eyes to your face in every person. Let us see the ways we are all connected with all of Creation. May we as your Church, together, seek love, justice and peace with all. **Amen.**

**Monday:** Using the online map, find a PDA partnership near where you live. Say a prayer for those recovering from natural and human-caused disasters.

**Tuesday:** In a natural disaster, people are often unable to access their normal sources of drinking water. Sharing a gift in your fish box will help water reach people who need it.

**Ash Wednesday:** Read Isaiah 58:6-8, 12. Which actions or words stand out to you? Write a prayer of intention for Lent using some of the words from Isaiah 58.

**Thursday:** Think of three people you are thankful for. Find a way to let them know you are thinking about them. Consider sharing a gift in their honor.

**Friday:** Blue T-Shirt Sunday celebrates the ministry of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). Wear a blue shirt for worship this Sunday and learn more at [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org).

March 16-21

**Sunday:** Gather us all around your banquet table, O God, with all who hunger and thirst. May we join, together, to share the abundance you've intended for all. **Amen.**

**Monday:** Using the online map, find an SDOP partnership near where you live. Read about the need being addressed and say a prayer for the people involved in that ministry.

**Tuesday:** Social barriers can be like locked doors that hold people back and keep them from thriving as Jesus intended. Make a gift to help open doors so all people can grow and learn freely.

**Wednesday:** Clean water is a necessity for every living thing. Using the online map, find three projects related to water. Give a gift for each faucet in your house.

**Thursday:** What are you thankful for in yourself? God offers gifts and talents to each of us. Make a short list of yours and make them part of a "Thank you, God" prayer.

**Friday:** Millions of Americans live in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy fresh food. Make a gift for each grocery store near your home.

March 23-28

**Sunday:** Encourage us, Creator, when things get difficult. May we draw creativity and hope from your Spirit, and from our partners along the way. **Amen.**

**Monday:** Using the online map, find a project or partnership near a location you have wanted to visit, but have never been. Say a prayer for all neighbors whom you have never met.

**Tuesday:** People who care for others also need care. Do something special for the caretakers in your life to say, "Thank you."

**Wednesday:** Wiggly worms and buzzing bees are essential to healthy soils and plants. Give a gift of thanks for all the little things that help the world grow.

**Thursday:** The right supplies make all the difference, whether you are growing crops or learning at school. Remember the last time you had the right tool for a project and make a gift as part of remembering.

**Friday:** Make up a mealtime prayer and use it during meals this weekend. Give a gift in thanks for the food you have.

March 30-April 4

**Sunday:** God, you say, "Come to the waters" and "Buy wine without money and bread without price." Let us learn by your generosity, the gift of giving what we have to share. **Amen.**

**Monday:** Using the online map, find a Presbyterian Hunger Program partnership near where you live. Say a prayer for the people involved in the ministry there.

**Tuesday:** When rain is scarce, special collection systems are built to catch the water so it can be used for growing plants. Give a gift to help bring water to people when it doesn't rain.

**Wednesday:** Electricity is usually the first utility that is lost in a storm. Can you identify a favorite Bible verse about light? Make a gift in honor of the verse.

**Thursday:** Social support and connection are important parts of being healthy. Give a gift of gratitude for one person or place that offers welcome to you.

**Friday:** Teaching healthy food choices and food safety can change the health of an entire community! Make a gift for the healthy foods you had today.

April 6-11

**Sunday:** Loving God, help us to learn from what others have seen, so that we might grow in understanding across lines of difference. **Amen.**

**Monday:** Using the online map, locate a ministry in a country far away from you. What needs are being addressed there? Say a prayer for the people involved in these ministries.

**Tuesday:** Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental development is compromised. Make a gift to help ensure healthy food for infants.

**Wednesday:** The vulnerable are often the most impacted in emergency situations. Visit [pcusa.org/GOHkits](http://pcusa.org/GOHkits) and ask your church to assemble kits for such emergencies.

**Thursday:** Think of all the things people share with you. Write a thank you note to one of these people and give a gift of thanks for their care.

**Friday:** Learn about the Indigenous peoples who inhabited the land where you live. Learn the name they used for the land when they lived there.

April 13-18

**Passion/Palm Sunday:** Guide us through the paths that feel lonely, assured that you are always with us. Be with us in the darkness as we walk by faith and not by sight. **Amen.**

**Monday:** Immunizations give us hope for a day when certain diseases will no longer cause sickness and pain. Give a gift for each immunization you have received.

**Tuesday:** It is estimated that nearly 1 in 11 people around the world will go to bed hungry each night. Make a gift to eliminate hunger.

**Wednesday:** Education helps lift people out of poverty. OGHS helps kids world wide attend school. Make a gift and consider donating books to a local reading program.

**Thursday:** Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by war and disasters. Give a gift for each blanket on your bed.

**Friday:** Communication can be incredibly difficult after a disaster, especially if the internet isn't working. Give a gift for every phone your family has.

April 20

**Sunday - Resurrection/Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing:** Present the gifts in your coin box to your congregation. Say a prayer for all those who will receive help from your generosity.



For more locations and ministries, go to [pcusa.org/oghsmap](http://pcusa.org/oghsmap) or scan this code.



**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



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

**Music Director** Dr. Siwon Kim

Siwon.Kim@BethelUniveristy.edu

**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](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:* Carole Polk*Personnel:* Ron May*Worship and Music:* Vicky Garret**Board of Deacons:***Moderator:* Lynett Heritz

Bill Bellairs, Angela Bellinger, Jenn Frey,

Teresa Primmer, Juliana Bidlack

**Book Club:** Judy Green**Newsletter:** Katie Robertson**Prayer Chain:** Lynett Heritz, Darlene Seufert**PW:** Moderators—Chris Wukovits and Judy Green**Special Gifts:** Ron May**Book Club**Book Club: **March 16th** at 2:00 p.m. is *The Berry Pickers* by Amanda Peters.*Host,* Judy Green*Leader,* Teresa PrimmerBook Club: **April 13th** at 2:00 p.m. is *The Demon of Unrest* by Erik Larson*Host,* Teresa Primmer*Leader,* Darlene Seufert

Thanks, Judy Green

**TODDLER ROOM SCHEDULE****March...** Pam Martz**April...** Angela Bellinger**Please Send information for the April Newsletter to Katie Robertson by March 17th.****[fpcmishawaka@gmail.com](mailto:fpcmishawaka@gmail.com)****Thank you!** 😊

**Father, help me to  
see this holy season  
of Lent as a time of  
spiritual renewal,  
rather than a time  
of deprivation.  
Motivate me to  
reach a new level of  
experiencing your grace.**

Worship 10 am



Fellowship 11 am

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10-Noon Upper Room workday
2 <i>Communion</i> Greeter.. Usher..Ethan DeMaegd Bill Bellairs W.L. Alan Camren	3	4	5  7 p.m. Service	6 7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	7	8
9 <i>1st Sunday in Lent</i> Daylight saving time begins  * Richard Fair will be here  Greeter.. Usher..Carole Polk Greg Phillips W.L. Dyan Phillips	10	11	12 10-Noon Upper Room workday	13	14 9-2 QoV	15 10 a.m. PWCT Joint Circle
16 <i>2nd Sunday in Lent</i> Greeter.. Usher..Michael Green Carole Polk W.L. Darlene Seufert 2 p.m. Book Club	17 * <b>NEWSLETTER DEADLINE*</b>  7 p.m. Elizabeth Circle at Church 	18	19 10-Noon Upper Room workday	20  7 p.m. Ruth Circle  7 p.m. Choir Rehearsal	21 9-12:30 Upper Room Sale	22 9-12:30 Upper Room Sale
23 <i>3rd Sunday in Lent</i> Greeter.. Usher..Bill Bellairs Ethan DeMaegd W.L. Judy Sulak  Deacons meeting after worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 <i>4th Sunday in Lent</i> Greeter.. Usher.. John Martz Judy Sulak W.L. Chris Wukovits  Session meeting after worship	31					