



First Word

News and Events of FPC

Vol. 14, No. 2; First Presbyterian Church; 215 East Lincoln; Goshen 46528; Phone 574/533-7845; March 2024

"Valuing One Another"

Table of Contents

Pastor's Column "Valuing One Another"	1-2
First Word News	3-10
Called Congregational Meeting	
Session Notes	
One Great Hour of Sharine	
Change for Chicks	
Pastor's Bible Study	
Food Pantry Day (March 10)	
Easter Flowers	
Do You Want to Fast This Lent?	
NAMI—National Alliance on Mental Health Illness	
Understanding our Grief Support Group	
Women of Worship (WOW)	
Member Change of Address	
Fellowship Table on Sundays	
These Days	
Present and Past Live Streams	
Bad Weather Cancellation Procedures	
Our Mission is . . . Present and Past	
Greencroft Residents Blessed with Sunday Service by FPC Youth (Photos)	
March Birthdays/Anniversary	
Please Keep in Your Prayers	
Per Capita	
Giving to the Church	
April 2024 Calendar	11

This week I spent several days at AMBS, my seminary in Elkhart. It was their annual "Pastors and Leaders Week." I attend every few years, but this one was a milestone. I started my studies there fifty years ago. A lot has changed in that time, with me and with the seminary:

- new buildings on campus, and a marvelous library,
- updated decor; pleasing, pleasant and different,
- different people; all teaching facility I had the opportunity to learn from are no longer with us in flesh and blood, the on-campus student body is 75% international students with most North American students attend virtually while living with their families in different parts of the country,
- the ways of teaching. I don't remember a virtual attendance option then, and the overhead projectors have all been replaced with cameras,
- and the issues, concerns, and focus of research are very different now than 50 years ago.

Still, some things had not changed:

- the red brick walls of the Sermon on the Mount Chapel we gathered in for conference meetings (I loved and still love sitting in the chapel and looking up those walls until they met/ meet the light of the sky)
- the words carved in wood that hang on that wall: **"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."**
- the preciousness of life and faith in our Creator God, and the values and teachings of Jesus, the Christ; witnessed to by many who have traveled from all corners of the world to study together for a few years; by people who have left vocational careers and moved families to study and learn together so they can live and share more effectively the preciousness of life in community at one with God.

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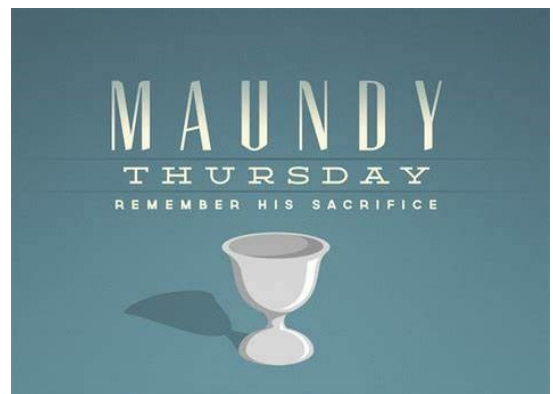
The mixture of things changed and things unchanged reminded me of three timeless values.

1. There is nothing better for us, and for our planet earth, than for everyone to be included in a **loving community** with Jesus' teachings leading us.
2. Truth matters. Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth and the life..." **Honest, clear, accurate knowledge** is worth investing in; it pays great dividends.
3. The Old Testament description of **shalom: peace with justice for everyone** (justice not based on merit, but based on common human value and need).

Each of these lead us to valuing each other, as friends, neighbors, and the church. They lead us to become one in Christ. They liberate us from harmful relationships and join us together in joy.

Several weeks ago, I heard Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg (former South Bend mayor) describe his military experience as a truck driver in Afghanistan this way. It worked as a matter of trust, he said. "When we experience being a necessary part of something much bigger than ourselves, bonding and trust building is inevitable." I think that is very true of Christian community as well. A trusting community is bigger than any one of us, but if we each do our part, it will inevitably happen. Jesus seems to have had this in mind when he taught, "Love one another, as I have loved you." It results in a wonderful mixture of the old and the new, and is good for the whole planet.

Bless you all!
Pastor Ken



After Worship on Sunday, March 10 - **CALLED CONGREGATIONAL MEETING** – Pastor Nominating Committee and Finance Update.

**** SESSION NOTES ****

Your Session met in person for a called meeting on Tuesday morning, February 20, 2024 the regular monthly meeting, and during the meeting the Elders:

Received an inspiration from our Moderator Rev. Ken Weaver from John 10:10 – the Good Shepherd and his sheep. Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it more abundantly."

Educational point – This scripture is part of our church's mission. Reaching Out to share God's love with all people.

Accepted the Financial Report for 2023 from Treasurer Wayne Kramer; and the January 2024 month end from Assistant Treasurer Karen Wellington.

Transitional update: Next Steps - letter was sent to the congregation in January reviewing the transitional steps taken so far. The Nominating Committee will have nominees for a Pastoral Nominating/Search Committee to be presented for congregational voting as a Called Meeting of the Congregation in March.

Received reports from all committees.

- Buildings and Grounds – a lot of work projects have been completed around the inside of the church. Many thanks to Ken Mirer and Bob Hoke.
- Christian Education – our young people will be having a Maundy Thursday meal on Thursday, March 28, before the Maundy Thursday Service.
- Congregational Life and Ministry – The Hospitality Table is available on Sundays.
- Finance – continues to meet monthly with our Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. The 2024 Stewardship Campaign is proceeding.
- Marketing and Outreach – The committee will be called Outreach.
- Mission Committee – Change for Chicks is being collected for Heifer International; also One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) will be collected during the Lent season.
- Personnel Committee – Staff job descriptions are being reviewed and updated.
- Worship – Plans have been made for February. Planning for Lent continues. Thursday, March 28 is the Maundy Thursday service at 7 p.m.
 - A reminder the Covid pandemic is over, Covid is not. Please be careful of all the viruses around.

Pastor Ken closed our meeting in prayer.

Next Session meeting will be on Tuesday, March 19.

Marie Palacios, Clerk of Session

February 14 - March 31, 2024

One Great Hour of Sharing: For 75 years, One Great Hour of Sharing has provided Presbyterians a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world.

in a world of disaster, hunger, and oppression

**Millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources,
clean water, sanitation, education, and
opportunity.**

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

your impact

**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the
Oppressed**

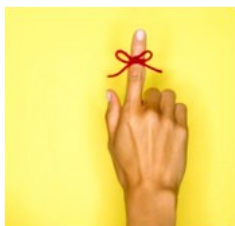
Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

Offering envelopes will be in the pew holders next Sunday, March 3. This special offering will be collected through Sunday, March 31. Thank you for giving.



As a congregation, we will share in a Lenten project with Heifer Project International. The children are collecting **"Change for Chicks"** and we will be collecting additional gifts to purchase goats, sheep, and cows. Please plan to join in this mission project.

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY – "How the Bible Informs Earthly Life: The End, the Middle, and the Beginning" usually meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays, 4:30 pm. You can join at any time. (Next sessions: Monday, February 26, and March 11, 4:30 pm.)



SUNDAY, March 10 - FOOD PANTRY DAY: Plan to bring your packaged goods or make a financial contribution to the Food Pantry. Suggestions for the Pantry: canned vegetables; canned meat (beef, tuna, or chicken); cereal; soup.

You can use the red wagon in Hardie Hall to drop off your packaged goods.

EASTER FLOWERS will again decorate the Sanctuary on Easter. The order form was enclosed with the Sunday, February 25 bulletin, and will be available for a few more Sundays. **Deadline for all orders is Monday, March 18.** Flowers will be available for you to take after Easter Worship on Sunday, March 31.

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

(in the words of Pope Francis)

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

(Supplied by Jay Morris)

The local office of **NAMI—National Alliance on Mental Illness** offers a class for people who have a loved one with mental illness. It is an excellent class, with information on the brain, medications, self-care, and resources—along with a supportive group meeting for eight Saturday mornings. A **free 8-week class for family members of people with mental illnesses** can help you understand and support, while maintaining your own well-being. Offered by NAMI, the **class begins Saturday, March 16, 9:00-11:30 am.** It covers brain research, meds, crisis response, stigma, self-care and more. Contact Colleen Prough, 574-349-1746 or Lorie Copeland at namielkhartcounty@gmail.com for more information. An informational flyer is on the bulletin board by the Hardie Hall restrooms.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP: The 10-week series began on Tuesday, January 30, 2024, **7:00-8:30 pm in the Library**, and will continue on Tuesdays.

“Understanding Your Grief” is based on Dr. Wolfelt’s Ten Touchstones - basic principles to learn and actions to take to help you engage with your grief and create momentum toward healing. If you are grieving a death recently or longer ago, this bestseller book and support group will help guide you as you journey through the wilderness of your unique grief.

No need to pre-register and there is no cost. Sessions are open to the public. Attendance at every session is not required. You can join at any time. If this is of interest to you, please join us as you can. The church’s phone is 574/533-7845.

The Group’s Leadership Team:

Jenny Holbrook: Administrator

Susan Hepler Long: Christian Education

Pastor Ken Weaver, LCSW, LCAC: 28-year Hospice Chaplain

iujenny81@gmail.com

shyoder52@aol.com

weaverk2434@gmail.com

Understanding Your Grief – Ten Essential Touchstones for Finding Hope and Healing Your Heart – by Dr. Alan Wolfelt, who is recognized as one of North America’s leading death educators and grief counselors. His books have sold more than a million copies worldwide and have been translated into many languages. Founder of the Center for Loss and Life Transition, he is known for his compassionate messages of hope and healing as well as his companioning philosophy of grief care.

WOMEN OF WORSHIP: *From Daughters to Disciples.* The next gathering is on **March 20, 9:30 am** in the Kitchen Conference Room. Anyone is welcome to join at any time.

MEMBER CHANGE OF ADDRESS: **Ian and Colleen Hooley; Anabelle and Hudson Hooley**

4 Saint Joseph Manor

Elkhart, IN 46516

FELLOWSHIP TABLE on SUNDAYS – There is a sign-up sheet to schedule volunteers for the month of April, all Sundays. If you are interested, please sign up, or if questions, please see Karen Wellington.

THESE DAYS (April-May-June), *Daily Devotions for Living by Faith*, now available on a table outside of the office.

PRESENT and PAST live streams from Sunday mornings:

<https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurch-go8630/streams> (“live” button)

Bad Weather Cancellation Procedures

If we need to cancel **Worship and Sunday morning activities, or weeknight meetings**, an announcement will be sent via Flocknote by Marcia Yost, and posted on WNDU NewsCenter 16. If, for some reason, the posting does not show on NewCenter 16, you can access the WNDU closings on your phone or their website—www.wndu.com—closings (closings and delays). We’re also hoping to post closings on WSBT22 and ABC57.

Our Mission is . . .

ABUNDANT LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST FOR EVERYONE.

We commit to God and one another by

- Reaching UP - to worship God
- Reaching IN - to seek fulfillment and sharing in Jesus Christ
- Reaching OUT - to share God’s love with all people

Greencroft Residents Blessed with Sunday Service by FPC Youth.
By Susan Hepler Long, CE Director FPC

Cookie Cutter Christmas (our Christmas play) was shared with residents at Greencroft Heath Unit and Evergreen Place Sunday morning February 10. Using their paintings, the props, and the costumes from the Christmas presentation for FPC in December, our youth—Magnus Eberly, Alex Ganger, Ben Ganger, Nora Neff, Adelaide Yaks, Eloise Yaks, and Walter Yaks presented the plays, led the singing of four songs, and The Lord’s Prayer. The four songs were Joy to the World, How Great Thou Art, Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee, and Let There be Peace On Earth.

Mrs. Long led the service with a welcome and prayer, sang a solo (He Touched Me), and closed the service with the Benediction.

The invitation from the Greencroft Chaplain, Greg Grotbeck, was to share in a service with Greencroft seniors that have difficulty getting out. He was so grateful as were the dear people participating with us. Let us pray that more churches will get involved. The dear congregation was delightful and delighted to have our darling young ones share their love of Jesus with The Word, songs, and a very sweet story.

Thank you, Ashley Ganger, for taking photos and, Jackie Kramer for you assistance and being the official “Apron” manager.







March Birthdays

3/ 3 John D. Ulmer
3/ 7 David Jester
3/10 Gary Kazmierczak
3/10 Christine Winkler
3/12 Kahleb Teall
3/12 Madeline Yost
3/18 Sandra Kurtz
3/20 Linda Sorg
3/24 Allison Yacks
3/25 Mimi Lind
3/29 Dick Craig
3/29 Adelaide Dian Yacks

March Anniversary

March 27 Mike and Betsy Kastro

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS: Our Armed Forces and their Families; Israel and Palestine; the people of Ukraine; Mike Kastro; Ernie Jenkins and son Grant (Jenny Jenkins' son and grandson in OH); Wayne Kramer; Jim Wray; Edward Lee Rodriguez (Bruni Claudio's grandson– needs kidney and pancreas transplants); Marilyn Sweany (Linda Sorg's sister); Dave Webster in Atlanta (Georgia Webster's son); Jeff Mirer (Ken and Karen's son); Barbara and David Jester; Jasmyne Hunley and son Vincent; Tom Drummond; Dick Craig; Donna Schrock; Brad Gilmore (Jenny Albert's brother)

The families of the victims and those injured in the recent shootings

The families of those affected by recent flooding and earthquakes

Response Teams and those affected by hurricanes

PER CAPITA is an annual per member fee a congregation pays to their area Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly to support our denomination's work in mission, evangelism, education and administration. Through your per capital giving, which is over and above your yearly pledge, the Presbytery of Wabash Valley helps congregations with transitions and resources for programming and planning, cares for pastoral leaders and their families, helps prepare people for service as pastoral leaders, and provides funds for special projects or needs of our congregations. There is a designated amount per member. **In 2023 the amount per member is \$42.90. In 2024, the amount per member will be \$43.62.** There is a line item for Per Capita on the church's offering envelope. **Per capita brochures, which explain where your dollars go, are on the table outside of the office.**

It would be of immense help to this congregation and our operations budget to please pay your annual membership fee as soon as possible. There are some in our congregation for whom paying per capita is difficult. If you are able to contribute per capita for those who might not be able to pay, your generosity would be greatly appreciated. Thank you to those who have already paid their per capita, and those who have also given an extra portion. The total amount due is paid whether or not each member contributes their individual amount. If you would like offering envelopes for 2024, please contact the church office (574/533-7845).


Giving to the Church

In these difficult times we ask you to continue giving to the church if at all possible. We recognize some families might not be able to do so. We understand! If you are able to give, there are three ways to do so:

- 1) Use the offering plate on Sunday for your gift/giving envelope.
- 2) Mail a check to the church at 215 E. Lincoln, Goshen IN 46528.
- 3) Give online through our website at [https://](https://www.discoverfirstchurch.org/donate)

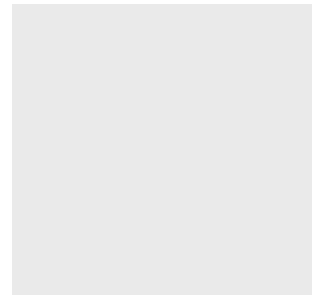
www.discoverfirstchurch.org/donate. You can share a one time gift or set up a recurring gift.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office Hours: Monday and Thursday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00 am – 12:00 noon Closed Friday * Online worship posted on YouTube					1 World Day of Prayer	2
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 10:00 am Nursery 10:15 am Worship*; Junior Church follows Choir Anthem in the lower level Sunday School area	4 Pastor Ken 9:00 am Personnel 4:15 pm Staff Mtg.	5 7:00 pm Understanding Your Grief Support Group in Hardie Hall	6 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Worship	7	8	9 Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10. 
10 4th Sunday in Lent; Pastor Ken; Communion 10:00 am Nursery 10:15 am Family Worship* After Worship: Called Congregational Meeting – Pastor Nominating Committee and Finance Update	11 Pastor Ken 10:00 am Finance 4:30 pm Bible Study	12 7:00 pm Understanding Your Grief Support Group in Hardie Hall	13 5:00 pm CE Meeting 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	14 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn in WDR 10:00 am Board of Deacons 3:15 pm CL&M	15	16
17 5th Sunday in Lent 10:00 am Nursery 10:15 am Worship*; Junior Church follows Choir Anthem in the lower level Sunday School area	18 Pastor Ken 8:30 am Missions 5:15 pm B&G 25 Pastor Ken Newsletter Deadline 4:30 pm Bible Study	19 10:00 am Session 7:00 pm Understanding Your Grief Support Group in Hardie Hall 26 6:00 am-7:00 pm The Salvation Army 61 st Annual Pancake Day 7:00 pm Understanding Your Grief Support Group in Hardie Hall (last one in 10-week series)	20 9:30 am WOW in Kitchen Conference Room 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 27 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal	21 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn in WDR 28 Maundy Thursday 9:00 am-noon Andrew from Oaklawn in WDR 5:00 pm Maundy Thurs. Soup Supper 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service	22 29 Good Friday	23 30 Great Vigil of Easter 10:00 am Easter Flowers Arrive
24 Palm/Passion Sunday; Holy Week Begins; Pastor Ken 10:00 am Nursery 10:15 am Worship*; Junior Church follows Choir Anthem in the lower level Sunday School area						
31 Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Day 10:00 am Nursery 10:15 am Worship*; Junior Church follows Choir Anthem in the lower level Sunday School area						

First Word (March 2024)

First Presbyterian Church
215 East Lincoln Avenue
Goshen, IN 46528



First Word

*A publication of
First Presbyterian Church
215 East Lincoln Avenue, Goshen, IN 46528-3347*



Church Website: www.discoverfirstchurch.org
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church Goshen IN
www.youtube.com/@firstpresbyterianchurch-goshen
Church email: First Presbyterian (fpcgoshen46528@gmail.com)

Transitional Pastor: weaverk2434@gmail.com
Treasurer: wkramer46528@comcast.net
Secretary: jhickman46528@comcast.net
Christian Education Director: shyoder52@aol.com
Phone: (574) 533-7845; fax (574) 533-4864

Office Hours:

Monday and Thursday	9:00 am-4:00 pm
Tuesday and Wednesday	9:00 am-12:00 noon
Closed Friday	

Church Staff:

Transitional Pastor:	Rev. Ken Weaver
Treasurer:	Wayne Kramer
Volunteer Assistant Treasurer:	Karen Wellington
Secretary:	Jeannie Hickman
Director of Music:	Marcia Yost
Organist:	Marilyn Mason
Volunteer Christian Education Director:	Susan Hepler Long
Organist Emeritus:	Dennis Huff
Custodian:	Betty Barber
Nursery Attendant:	Kiersten Friesner