

PresbyNews

November 2023

Dear Church Family,

During the month of October, our congregation has been reading through Paul's Letter to the saints in Philippi. I love some of the closing thoughts in his letter:

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

Why is Paul concerned with what we think about? Because how we think becomes a habit. If we come to church every Sunday and we think there are not enough people in the pews, not enough money in the offering plate, too many sick and dying people in the prayers, and too little time to turn it all around, pretty soon, that is all we will think about and our thoughts become our reality. What if we formed the opposite habit? What if we walked in and we listened for the sounds of shared laughter; what if we watched for the moment the sun shines through the stained-glass window just so; what if we focused on the peaceful presence of the Holy Spirit in the sacred space filled with loving faces? What changes when we change the way we think?

At the second module of “New Dollars/New Partners” put on by Sacred Places Indiana, leaders of the congregation were taught a new way of thinking called Asset Based Community Development (ABCD). ABCD involves a paradigm shift for how we identify and view our community's assets and opportunities. Those who follow this model reject the idea that they are deficient and they need someone to come and fix them. Instead, they start thinking differently. Don't focus on what we don't have: focus on what we do have. Don't pine after other people's congregations in other people's neighborhoods: pay attention to the gifts and talents we have in our congregation and our neighborhood. Don't become more and more stingy and protective and insular in the use of our money: steward connections between and among people. That's how the ABCD model works. In short, just like Paul encourages the saints in Philippi, the people at Sacred Places Indiana encourage us to walk into the church looking for what is excellent! Make a habit of finding the gifts and talents already in the congregation and utilizing those gifts to change the neighborhood from the inside out.

I think Paul was on to something when he told the saints in Philippi to keep their focus on what is good and true and excellent. Wonderful things can happen when we start to see how richly God has blessed us: what an abundance we have to share! Keep on sharing it, beloved.

Annual Christmas Joy Offering—2023

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

As we as Presbyterians prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, we look forward to giving to others. In the past we have given generously to a special Christmas Offering. First Presbyterian Church members are once again blessed with the opportunity to support our annual Christmas Fund during Advent. This year's Christmas Basket Offering will purchase food baskets for local needy households located in the Starr Elementary, Vaile Elementary and Crestdale Elementary schools as well as Test Intermediate School and Dennis Intermediate School.

With your help, our Deacons and members of Mission and Evangelism Commission will provide 25 baskets of food on December 19th and deliver them to the schools. When you receive an envelope for the Christmas Joy Special Offerings and you wish to contribute, please place it in the offering plate on any Sunday during Advent.

Thank you for prayerfully considering your 2023 Christmas Basket Fund Offering. Let's make Christmas more joyful for a few more families. You may choose to support this annual project by donating any of the items listed below to be collected in the tubs in the foyer of the Education wing.

Co-Chairpersons: Luann Spicer 765-914-2583, and Dennis and Kathy Stephen 765-960-5733, and Linda Straw 765-966-4249.

Items you may donate:

- 50 Large cans sweet potatoes
- 25 Large cans green beans
- 25 Large cans corn
- 25 Large jars applesauce



Community Food Pantry



REQUESTS FOR HELP ARE INCREASING

For 2023 we are averaging

29 NEW FAMILIES PER MONTH!

102,408 meals we have provided in 9 months of 2023. (In 2022 we provided 73,870 meals for the entire 12 months.)

We have fed 3.5 times as many individuals as this time last year.

INCOME HAS NOT KEPT UP WITH EXPENSES

2023 through September 30

Income \$70,581.88

Expense \$89,643.64

-\$19,061.76

\$29,881.20 is our anticipated need for final 3 months; plus \$19,061.76 to make up the first 9 months shortfall –

we anticipate we will need \$48,947.96 to end the year in the black.

PLEASE BE AS GENEROUS AS YOU CAN! Send your contribution to:

CFP, PO Box 1345, Richmond, IN 47375. Thank you!

WHY THE HUGE INCREASE?

Poverty increased sharply last year in the United States, particularly among children, as living costs rose and federal programs that provided aid to families during the pandemic were allowed to expire.

The poverty rate rose to 12.4 percent in 2022 from 7.8 percent in 2021, the largest one-year jump on record. Poverty among children more than doubled, to 12.4 percent, from a record low of 5.2 percent the year before. The increases followed two years of historically large declines in poverty driven primarily by safety net programs that were created or expanded during the pandemic. Nearly all of those programs had expired by last year, however, leaving many families struggling to stay ahead of rising prices despite a strong job market and improving economy. Overall poverty now looks much the way it did in 2019.

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

1. JESUS SAID WE SHOULD

2. WHEN PEOPLE ARE FED, FUTURES ARE NOURISHED For the 1 in 8 Indiana children facing hunger, food insecurity is particularly devastating. Not having enough healthy food can have serious implications for children's physical and mental health, academic achievement and future economic prosperity. Research shows an association between food insecurity and delayed development in young children; risk of chronic illnesses like asthma and anemia; and behavioral problems like hyperactivity, anxiety and aggression in school age children.



2023 Sock Exchange

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

5:30 PM at the home of Linda Straw, on Clearcreek West Drive

Bring 1 pair of SOCKS!

Wrap up a pair of fun, funky, fuzzy, sparkly, spunky, spectacular, whatever kind you like of Christmas Socks – oh – and if you want fill the socks with something special, like candy, (peppermint, chocolate), lip balm, mints.

Please bring a salad to share

Reminder ~ sign up in the parlor

or call the church office so we know how many to plan for!

There will be a game and lots of food, fun & fellowship!

Invite friends—just let us know who so we can prepare

CHRISTMAS with LYNN & FRIENDS

Sunday, December 3rd

3 PM ~ First United Methodist Church, Connersville

This annual Advent program is our gift to you to welcome in the yuletide season.

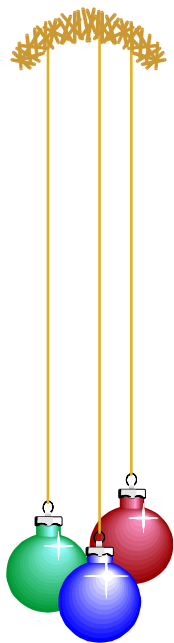
FUMC in Connersville has excellent parking and easy access into the sanctuary. We hope you will be with us for this special occasion and "please" tell your many friends of this event too!

Cast: Rusty Ammerman, Ann Frost, Kim Giesting, Lynn Kennedy, Judy Mahuron, St. Gabriel Adult Choir, Don Zlaty.

All are welcome for this FREE program of holiday music and magic!

In His JOY,

Lynn.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday and/or Anniversary
To all those celebrating in November



Our Newsletter is going digital!

Starting in January 2024, all Presby News will be sent out via email and available on our church website: firstpresbyterianrichmond.org

If you would still like to receive the printed newsletter, please call the church office at 765-966-2234 before December 20th, 2023 to request your place on the limited mailing list.

If you would like your email to be added to the emailing list, please email the church family at fpchurch100@gmail.com

St. Andrew's Day



November 12
10:30 AM

Hope Oaks will be
here to play the
bagpipes!

Wear your plaid

and celebrate
our Scottish heritage!



Advent
Begins
December 3

HERE & THERE

NO PARKING REMINDER— please do not park in front of the bay doors at Newton's Auto next door (front & BACK of their building). They sometimes need to get in there during our church service times.



REMEMBER ~ the Church Office is closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24 for the Thanksgiving holiday.



NOVEMBER 5 Daylight Savings Time ends! Remember to set clocks back one hour!

SYMPATHY is extended to the family and friends of Lois Gesell who died October 21, 2023

Pledge Envelopes

Please let Emily know, 966-2234, if you want envelopes for next year's contributions. We need to coordinate numbers with people's names alphabetically to help our Treasurers.

If you have envelopes now, we'll automatically assign you a number for next year. NOTE ~ you may not get the same envelope number year to year.



Samaritan's Purse Boxes

Thank you to all who have generously donated items to the Christmas shoe boxes and postage to mail the boxes. Contact Jon Richwine for more information, 966-2234.



From Karen Rosenberger

I wish to express my gratitude and appreciation for the support and encouragement you have showered upon me for my October organ recital at Reid Center! Also your weekly acknowledgments regarding my service music truly warm my heart, and I feel truly blessed to be a member of this loving community, who has accepted this Lutheran from the start! God bless you all!





Poinsettia Orders



Christmas is fast approaching and now is the time to order your poinsettias! We are ordering from Adult Day Care. Orders must be in the Church Office by **Sunday, Dec. 3.** Make checks payable to First Presbyterian (noting poinsettia on memo line) and include check with your order. All plants are \$14. You choose the color and how many.



- _____ Red
- _____ White
- _____ Pink



If you do not indicate a color, we will choose one for you!

Name:

In (please circle) memory/honor of:



Please place your order in the offering plate or turn into/mail to the Church Office.

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Website: www.firstpresrichmond@squarespace.com

Cable Broadcast : WCTV on Channel 21 ~ 8 PM Sunday

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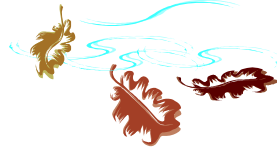
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**GLORIFY AND ENJOY GOD
MAKE DISCIPLES
SERVE HUMAN NEED**