

St. John Presbyterian Church



The Messenger
March 2020



Pastor's Thoughts



The season of Lent is a season of reflection and renewal. It used to be the time when potential new members of a church would either go through confirmation class or some sort of training to learn what the basics of their faith were.

For the next several weeks leading up through Palm Sunday my sermon series is going to be titled "Training Camp" in the spirit of Lent being the season of training in the faith.

Like any training our faith requires sacrifice, discipline, and practice: lots of practice. Only by training do athletes become elites and performers become virtuosos; similarly the only way we grow more and more into the likeness of Christ is through training.

So let us enter the Lenten Season as if we're entering "Training Camp", ready to learn more about ourselves and our faith: more about Jesus, his love, and his will for our lives.

Let us leave behind anything that distracts us from him so that we might focus and let the Spirit train us up in the Way, the Truth, and the Life, who is Jesus our Risen Lord.

Session Notes

From the Stated Meeting for February 2020

- Opened with prayer
- Pastor Allen reported that he is currently going through Enneagram training that will allow him to conduct and interpret test results for individuals and/or groups; also, he will be attending NEXT Church from March 1st through the 4th in Cincinnati
- Christian Ed reported that we are in the process of training youth to run the soundboard on Sunday mornings during worship; they also discussed more ways to involve our youth in church service
- Family & Children's Place will be bringing a group on March 19th to bake bread for charity in our kitchen
- Great Banquet meetings will be starting up in April for our June weekends
- Pledges are up to start the year, but we also had significant Plant & Property bills due regarding the furnace repairs; we are keeping an eye on our total deficit
- Assigned Rod Plunkett as the area coordinator for Human Resources and Bob Goodwell as the sub-coordinator for the Trustees
- Lent starts on 2/26; deacons are ordering palms and flowers
- Next Spiritual Care Team gathering / training was held on 02/22
- Deacons are planning straightening up the rooms of Memorial Hall to be useable again; plan is to set up a computer workstation in one of those rooms
- Attendance has been up with a few new visitors
- The Personnel Committee is rewriting the part-time job responsibilities
- A motion was approved to continue having an Executive Council that will include the area coordinators of the Trustees, Human Resources, and Deacons: this year those will be Shawna, Rod, and Matt
- Closed the meeting with prayer

PRESBYTERY PRAYER PARTNERS

March 2020

The Presbytery of Ohio Valley encourages all our congregations to pray for each other throughout the year. Over a two-year period, a week will be designated for each of our churches and other organizations. Items listed below have been sent to us from the churches and organizations on our prayer list for the weeks shown. Sharing prayers with each other works!

Note: The person who prepares your worship bulletins and/or church newsletters may request this information in a Word document from bbsnyder22@gmail.com. It is also available on the POV website.

Week of March 1

Please pray for the following organizations as they continue their work of service in 2020:

Presbytery Council	Stewardship
Board of Trustees	Permanent Judicial Commission
Committee on Ministry	Presbyterian Women
Congregational Mission and Vitality	Pyoca Conference and Retreat Center
Evangelism and Congregational Witness	Commissioners to General Assembly 224
Nominating	Commissioners to Synod
Personnel	

Preparation for Ministry and the inquirers and candidates

Week of March 8

First, Brazil

Rev. Gary Scroggins

First Presbyterian Church in Brazil Indiana continues to provide traditional worship and education (with a vibrant youth program). We also provide a meal for the community every Sunday night (52 weeks a year). An emerging focus for our church has been to organize events to draw people to our building. Accordingly, we are now organizing movie nights and concerts (we had the ISU Sycamore Singers this past November and the Brazil Community Choir in December). We anticipate having about 6 similar events in 2020. We are increasingly emphasizing the need for all church members to identify opportunities to invite others to visit our church family. The church is also participating in a program entitled "Sacred Places" which emphasizes church involvement in local communities and also gives grant money for maintenance of historic buildings. We thank God for our past and look with joy to the future.

Week of March 15

First, Brownstown

Rev. J.C. Blankenbeker

Brownstown Presbyterian Church is located in a small community in southern Indiana, population 2,912. Our church is located across the street from Brownstown Central High School. Because of our choice location, we provide a cookout for incoming freshmen a week before school starts which coordinates with the freshmen open house. We provide a free meal for all freshmen, their families, teachers and staff at BCHS. Freshmen receive a gift bag and may register for a free Walmart gift card. Once a month we also provide snacks for the staff at BCHS as a way to encourage them and to thank them for their hard work.

We donate goods for the local food pantry and help disperse supplies. The church ministers to the inmates at the Jackson County Jail and supports the R.E.C. (Residence Encounter Christ)

Over the past ten years our church has experienced many trials. As a result, the congregation has dropped from an average of 100 members to 30. The remaining members anticipated having to close our doors, however, God had different plans. Unexpectedly, we received a major contribution from a wealthy member who lived in Scotland. The money was given with the intention of perpetuating the church. We invested the money and searched for a full-time pastor. In October of 2019, God blessed us with a wonderful young pastor whose ideas and preaching have given us all hope for the future. We are praying God will restore us so we may be a beacon of Christ's love to our community and to the world.

Week of March 22 Cayuga United, Cayuga

Cayuga Presbyterian Church in Cayuga, Indiana is still shrinking, but still present. We still are an older congregation, too. One positive result: when one has a small church congregation, it makes for a really tight, close knit family. We participate yearly with Church World Services, mission support with Presbyterian Church (USA), and with Campus Crusades for Christ (CRU). We have an Easter Sunrise Service and Christmas Eve Service which includes food and fellowship after each service. At Christmas we purchase clothing and a toy for approximately 15 needy children and gift cards for shut-ins.

We covet prayers for our small congregation, and especially for our session, because after almost 3 years we are again searching for a part-time pastor.

Thank you for keeping us in your prayers.

Week of March 29 Valley City, Central

Valley City Presbyterian Church is a small church southwest of Corydon IN in a rural setting. Our attendance ranges from 15 to 30. Even though we are small we are big in the community. Each year we have a free harvest feast for the community. It brings people together for a great meal and fellowship. We usually send people home with food.

For years we have made homemade ice cream for events. If our church had a booth set up at a festival, people came looking for pie and homemade ice cream. And this past fall we had our first apple butter making event. People stopped by just to see what we were doing and some stayed to help stir. We hope to make this an annual event.

For being a small church we still help where we can. We donate to the elementary school in the area. We have given to the food pantry and a homeless shelter in Corydon. A women's group that meets monthly at the church clothes 10 children from the angel tree every year. We go Christmas caroling to the elderly and those who live alone.

This past year we have been without a permanent pastor, but that hasn't stopped us from all that we do. We care about our community and try to reach out to those around us. We also make our church known by having a group sing each month at the Harrison County Hymn Sing. We have even hosted the hymn sing.

We just hope to stay connected to the community and the needs of the people. Being small doesn't stop us from doing good deeds. This is what God calls us to do and we will continue to show his love where and when we can.

Southern Indiana Chapter - American Guild of Organists

Annual Series of Lenten Organ Concerts

Featuring the Beautiful Church Organs of Southern Indiana

Friday, February 28, 2020 – Noon

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church – Scheler Lane – New Albany

Shawn Dawson, organ

with Katelyn Stumler, soloist

Friday, March 6, 2020 – Noon

Grace Lutheran Church – Kferner Lane – New Albany

Dr. Janet Hamilton, organ

Helen Bohannon, violin

Friday, March 13, 2020 – Noon

St. Paul's Episcopal Church – Main Street – New Albany

Gary Pope, organ

Friday, March 20, 2020 – Noon

St. John Presbyterian Church – 1307 E. Elm Street – New Albany

Dr. Charlie Mitchell, organ

with Chelsea Getty, cello & Jenny Miller, violin

Friday, March 27, 2020 – Noon

Trinity United Methodist Church – 2796 Charlestown Road – New Albany

Dr. David K. Lamb, CAGO, organ

with Austin T. Smith, baritone

Friday, April 3, 2020 – Noon

First Presbyterian Church – 222 Walnut Street – Jeffersonville

Judith E. Miller, CAGO, organ

Friday, April 10, 2020 – Noon

Park Christian Church – 2231 Green Valley Road – New Albany

Dr. David K. Lamb, CAGO, organ

To the Fellowship Committee of St. John,

The meal that was served to our family and friends after Mom's service was wonderful. I know it takes a lot to gather enough food, salads and tasty desserts to satisfy a group that size.

Mom loved serving on Fellowship, and loved all of you that she served with. Thank you from the bottom of my heart, for your prayers, your checking in on me and asking about her. Your support throughout the last few difficult years has sustained me. Also, thank you for being on the front lines of St. John Church, the church that the Stephens family has called home for almost a century.

Much love,

Shawna & Don Cherrie



We had approximately 50 guests at the Chili Cook off generating \$2449. in donations for Camp Pyoca.

Winners were:	First Place	Shawna Cherri
	Second Place	Steve Prince
	Third Place	Ron Neafus

Special thanks to all who helped make the event a success.

February Love Thy Neighbor Food Donations Drive for Hope

A gigantic THANKS to you, St. John family for your MANY donations to the Hope Food Pantry! Our February donations ended February 26 for the specific food items of pasta, canned fruit, and cookies. Here is our final count: 900 items

Of course, we continue donating food items but we return to the "any non-perishable" foods and the backpack items for the homeless. If Hope requests that we have special items, you will find that info posted in Memorial Hall or in the bulletin!

You make a difference in the lives of so many in the New Albany community. Let us continue...Loving Our Neighbor!

Fran

March 8th DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Please set you clocks ahead

Saturday night before you go to bed.

PLEASE do not call facility.

**ONLY call the message line to make
an appointment.**

—TAX TIME!

The following locations will be available for free tax preparation.

VITA SITES: various starting dates

Get your taxes prepared free by IRS-certified volunteers. Avoid expensive "rapid re-fund" loans and costly tax preparation fees. Please take your Social Security card and picture ID.

APPOINTMENTS ARE REQUIRED. Please call the message line 812-590-4064 to make an appointment. A volunteer will call you back.

CASI (Community Action of Southern Indiana)

1613 E. Eighth Street, Jeffersonville **(Starts Jan. 25)**

*Tuesdays, 1:00-4:00 *Wednesdays, 1:00 - 7:00,

*Saturdays, 9:30 - 12:30, **(Walk-ins welcome on Saturdays)**



St. John United Presbyterian Church

1307 E. Elm Street, New Albany (basement)

*Thursdays, 12:00-3:00 **(Starts Jan. 30)**

Harrison County Palmyra Branch Library

689 Haub St. NE, Palmyra (intersection Haub & IN-135)

*Mondays and *Tuesdays, 2:00 - 5:00, **(Starts Jan. 27)**

AARP SOUTHERN INDIANA TAX-PREPARATION LOCATIONS:
LOCATIONS WILL BE OPEN FEB. 1 THROUGH APRIL 15.

American Legion Post 28

1930 McDonald Lane, New Albany

*Tuesdays and *Thursdays, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

*Fridays, 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

American Legion Post 204

412 N. New Albany St., Sellersburg

*Tuesdays and *Thursdays, 10 a.m.—2 p.m.

*Fridays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



Hillview Apartments

1341 Hillview Drive, Corydon

Appointments preferable. Walk-ins taken as schedule permits.
Appointment number, **812-783-9646.**

*Wednesdays & *Fridays, 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Youth Music Adult Handbells Ladies Day Out Bread Sales	2 Flower arranging 9-12 BH My Club 5:30 Group 6pm Parlor History Committee 5:30	3 NO Sermon Club Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	4 RSVP Quilters 9:00 am - 2:00 pm WNL 5:30 Chancle Choir rehearsal 6:30	5 Tax Preparation 12 - 3	6 Basketball (2 gps) 3:30 - 7:30	7 Set your clocks AHEAD 1 hour before you go to bed
8 Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Youth Music Adult Handbells DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	9 Flower arranging 9-12 BH My Club 5:30 Group 6pm Parlor	10 Sermon Club 10:30 - Parlor Lady's Day Out 11:45 AM Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	11 RSVP Quilters 9:00 am - 2:00 pm WNL 5:30 Book Club 12 - 2 Chancle Choir rehearsal 6:30	12 RSVP Meeting 10-12 Benninger Staff Meeting 1pm Pastor's office Tax Preparation 12 - 3	13 Basketball (2 gps) 3:30 - 7:30	14
15 Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Youth Music Adult Handbells	16 Flower arranging 9-12 BH My Club 5:30 Group 6pm Parlor	17 Sermon Club 10:30 - Parlor Deacons 6pm Session 6:30 Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	18 RSVP Quilters 9:00 am - 2:00 pm WNL Chancle Choir rehearsal 6:30	19 Family & Childrens Place (children baking bread) 10 - 2 BH Tax Preparation 12 - 3	20 Lenten Organ Concert - noon Basketball (2 gps) 3:30 - 7:30	21
22 Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Youth Music Adult Handbells	23 Flower arranging 9-12 BH Group 6pm Parlor My Club 5:30	24 Sermon Club 10:30 - Parlor Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	25 RSVP Quilters 9:00 am - 2:00 pm WNL Chancle Choir rehearsal 6:30	26 Tax Preparation 12 - 3	27 Basketball (2 gps) 3:30 - 7:30	28
29 Study Group 9:30 am Worship 10:20 am Youth Music Adult Handbells	30 Flower arranging 9-12 BH Group 6pm Parlor My Club 5:30	31 Sermon Club 10:30 - Parlor Men's Basketball 7:00 PM	NOTES: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____			

If you would like to contribute an article to the newsletter, please submit by March 20th for the April Newsletter.

Send to: stjohnpres@gmail.com

CONNECT WITH US

On the web at www.stjohnpres.com

On Facebook and Twitter (@stjohnpres)

And on You Tube!

WE EXIST TO BRING PEOPLE INTO THE TRANSFORMING PRESENCE OF JESUS CHRIST,
THROUGH STUDY, WORSHIP, PRAYER, AND FELLOWSHIP.

ST. JOHN CHURCH
1307 E. ELM STREET
NEW ALBANY, INDIANA 47150

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