

White Lick Presbyterian *Church Chat*

2530 North 600 East, Avon, IN 46123

January 2023 in the year of our Lord, Jesus Christ

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Remarks from Ruth:

by Ruth Moore

I have to write my January Remarks before we have celebrated Christmas, but I wanted to say that it has been a joy to journey through Advent with all of you and to welcome the angels of Christmas with the worship/study curriculum of *Angels Among Us*. I wasn't sure I was going to like or feel comfortable with the angels theme, but it has been a blessing and a revelation to me as we have discovered together the messengers in our lives and been encouraged to be messengers of God's love for others. And I know that Christmas Eve will be a meaningful and joy filled worship experience as well. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your Advent/Christmas traditions and for helping me

make room in my heart and life for the Christ child.

January will be a time to begin planning for 2023 and the Mission Team, the CE Team, and the Worship Team are meeting this month to do just that. The Mission Team is exploring what it means to reach out into the community, and the Worship Team will evaluate our December worship and make plans for Lent in 2023. The Christian Education Team will plan for an adult study in Lent – what would you like to discuss? All these teams welcome your input, so let me or Shirley Halterman (Mission chair), Diane Akers (Worship chair), and Beth McGuire (CE chair) know your suggestions.

The month of January would not be complete without the ordination/installation of new officers January 8th in worship, and the

Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29th after worship. Please plan to join us for these important dates that help us move into future leadership for White Lick, and give us a time to pause and see what we have accomplished and learned as a congregation in 2022.

As we approach the end of one year and the beginning of another, I want to say thank you to all of you for welcoming me (and Mark) into your midst this year as your new pastor. Since we have been looking for angels this Advent, I want to say that I believe it was an angel who told me to consider a call to serve as your pastor. My colleague and friend, Gretchen Schneider, knew I was looking for a new call to ministry and suggested I look at White Lick. And so I did, and the rest is history. God knew this was my next ministry challenge, and provided the messengers (including the Pastor Nominating Committee) to make that happen. Thank you for your support of my ministry, and thank you even for the challenges that have come along. I believe I have grown in my faith and leadership, and I could not have done that without all of you. Thank you for all you do and contribute to the life and ministry of this body of Christ we call White Lick Presbyterian Church.

I wish you and yours a healthy, happy and faith filled New Year!

Gratefully, Pastor Ruth

Annual Meeting—January 29

The Session has set the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting and the Annual Corporation Meeting for Sunday, January 29 following 10:30 worship. The meeting will be livestreamed with provisions made for online voting.

The purpose of the annual meetings shall be to:

- a) Receive annual reports from the church's ministries (information only)
- b) Receive financial report for the preceding year (information only)
- c) Receive budget for the current year (information only)
- d) Grant permission for the corporation to sell cemetery plots during the ensuing year.

Information for the Annual Report due to Annetta Davis by January 15th.

Conversations That Challenge Christians: Pro-Choice and Christian

Join Pastor Ruth on Sunday, January 22 at 11:30 as we discuss our next topic of the Conversations that Challenge Christians series. We will discuss the book *Pro-Choice And Christian – Reconciling Faith, Politics, and Justice* by Kira Schlesinger.

Ms. Schlesinger is an Episcopal priest serving a congregation in Tennessee. A review of this book states that Ms. Schlesinger “manages to create a place of quiet, cool-headed decency where we can gather to talk about one of the most combustible topics on the planet – abortion. Regardless of your personal convictions you’ll find Kira’s honesty inviting and her thoughtfulness engaging, and you’ll likely rethink the way you see those you believe to be your adversaries.” This book

Church Chat is published monthly by White Lick Presbyterian Church.

Submissions of personal testimony or general interest items can be emailed to Jerry Bennett jerry.bennett721@gmail.com or left for Jerry in the Church Office.

If you would like to receive Church Chat by email send a request to Jerry Bennett or Ginny Sheets chieft046vas@att.net.

“unapologetically preaches the good news of Jesus Christ as a promise of abundant life for all people while unflinchingly naming the brokenness and tragedy in the world. This is the book we’ve been waiting for.”

You do not need to purchase/read the book before our discussion, but if you want to, it is available on Amazon for \$15.00.

**Stewardship Campaign
A Success!**

We are happy to report that we have exceeded our goal for the annual Stewardship Campaign. Forty-four (44) families have turned in giving cards in the amount of \$162,180 (our goal was \$160,000).

Twenty-two (22) families increased their giving amounts over the previous year. Thank you, thank you, thank you! And, we are still counting on regular contributions from our other twenty-nine (29) families.

We depend on the generosity and faithfulness of those who make White Lick their church home. We seek to be a church

**January – November 2022
Financial Information**

Income	Expenses
\$158,326.76	\$141,820.45

Please keep your giving up to date.
Place your offering in the plate at Church.

Mail your gift to the Church office:

**2530 N County Road 600 E
Avon, IN 46123**

Use the “bill pay” feature at your bank.
Use the “give now” link on Church website:

whitelickpcusa.org

THANK YOU for your financial support.

community centered on love and service, and with your help, we will live out that calling.

Thank you for your prayers, your generosity, and your faithfulness.

Stewardship and Finance Team



Birthdays

- 1 Sue Lawson
- 19 Will Parker
- 13 Jeannine Fancher
- 15 Wes Potter
- 23 Stacia Cooper Critchfield
- 24 Trina Corbett
- 27 Chris Cooper
- 29 Cassie Brooks
- 29 Angie Cooper

(Please add your name if you have been missed.)

January Calendar

Sunday worship 10:30 am online links:

Facebook Live <https://www.facebook.com/whitelickpres/live/>

YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_X2uIIQX3x0vECTI2SDT-w

Sunday, January 1 – New Years Day –

Hymn Sing Sunday

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online (no Fellowship lunch)

Monday, January 2

No Study Group today

Thursday, January 5
 6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 8 – Communion Sunday
 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
 Installation & Ordination of Officers
 11:45 Worship Team

Monday, January 9
 1:00 - 2:30 Study Group via Zoom.
 First Advent, Book Study.

Wednesday, January 11
 6:00 pm Deacons Meeting

Thursday, January 12
 6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 14
 9:00 am Mission Team

Sunday, January 15
Annual Reports Due
 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

Monday, January 16
 1:00 - 2:30 Study Group via Zoom
 6:00 PW Meeting

Tuesday, January 17
 7:00 pm Session Meeting

Thursday, January 19
 6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 22
 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
 11:30 Conversations that Challenge Christians: Pro-Choice and Christian – abortion discussion from **a faith perspective.** led by Pastor Ruth

Monday, January 23
 1:00 - 2:30 Study Group via Zoom

Thursday, January 26
 6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 29
 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
 Annual meeting

Monday, January 30
 1:00 - 2:30 Study Group via Zoom



At the end of my Wednesday evening prayers on 12/21, the Wednesday before Christmas, I gave God a high five. I know that sounds familiar and at eighty-four I am familiar with God; we have come a long way together. It is not disrespectful however.

I need to go back to February to put events there into context. I just now discovered the context myself. When Mary came to share my life the part that I struggled with was her son, Matt. He is a disabled Veteran with tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, two of the worst hell holes that America has ever tried to 'fix'. Not being able to see his disability, I didn't know how to handle it. We clashed; my fault.

One night in February while I was tossing and turning my mom, who passed in 1955, came in to quiet the baby (me). I felt her hand on my hand and when I brought the other hand up and placed it on hers I felt that familiar lump on the bone below her ring finger. She had no words, no message for me but like a mom quieting a restless babe I knew that I need not fret over my perceived problems.

Some time later Matt brought a girlfriend home. We didn't see much of them as they spent most of their time when Matt was not working up in their room. As time went on Katt slowly mixed in more with the rest of the household and helped out as she could.

A week or two before Christmas Katt became excited. She was going home for Christmas. She had obtained an Amtrak ticket to her home in North Carolina where her son and her dad were. A few days later Matt got a call. Katt was staying. Her dad was in bad health and might

die. Matt was crushed.

The next day he wanted to talk to me. This was a first. With tears streaming down his gravely face he told me that when he brought Katt home she was addicted to drugs (I had no idea).

That in those early months he had held her as she fought off the shakes of detox. (I don't think I could do that.) But when she got home she went to church; gave her life

to the Lord and was baptized.

I realized when Matt gave me this news why my mom had visited me in February. Another Angel was working on this. It was not mine to fix.

I told this story to a good friend. Knowing that I still had some issues with Matt (my fault) he told me "The instrument the Lord selects shall be adequate to the task. Amen to that.

