

White Lick Presbyterian *Church Chat*

2530 North 600 East, Avon, IN 46123

September 2023 in the year of our Lord, Jesus Christ



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Pastoral Ponderings:

by Ruth Moore

As the children go back to school and the church begins the fall start up of events and programs, I share this prayer with you by Arianne Braithwaite Lehn, a Presbyterian minister.

For Summer's ending

Near One,

Thank you for all the ways you've companioned me this summer.

You've traveled with me as I made road trips to visit scattered, special family, waited at airport gates thick with frustrating delays, buckled kids in the car for an adventure at the zoo, driven across town to eat crisp cold salads with a dear friend, and folded clothes and

packed the suitcase another time.

You've traveled with me, Jesus, as I've sat in medical waiting rooms, as I've kissed loved ones goodbye while holding back tears, as I've lingered by the window with a cup of coffee, overcome with too many thoughts to name.

You've made your presence known through tracked-in sand on the kitchen floor and the smell of strawberries dumped on the counter.

I've heard your voice in the joyful shrieks of children in sprinklers and the creak of the porch swing as dusk settled.

You've held me through weeks that were stressful and weeks that evaporated in elation...weeks when I was complacent and selfish and weeks I was sacrificial and servant-hearted...weeks when I was honest and integrated and weeks I didn't even rec-

ognize the person in the mirror...

You never failed to remind me how you loved me and still had good for me to do.

Sometimes I caught your message...

How I thank you, traveling and strengthening One, for going with me through these summer months... for offering reassurance as I enter the fall and all its change.

I hold out my gratitude for what was and my quiet hopes for what's to come.

Amen.

(Genesis 46: 4, Deuteronomy 31: 8, Psalm 139: 7-10)

**Bible on Training Wheels
Part 3 – Introduction to the
New Testament**

This study series continues in September and it is not too late to join us on Sunday mornings at 9 am and on Wednesday nights at 7 pm.

**Special Worship Series in
September**

For the four weeks in September and the first week of October we will be preparing for World Communion Sunday on October 1st.

It is around the tables of family and friends that we share our hopes, our joy, our dreams and our memories. This worship series is about that kind of sharing as well as the welcome and hospitality our tables can offer to others.

The series is called "Come to the Table" and through it we will hear the call to dine with Jesus – an invitation that means so much more than a simple eating experience. It never was with Jesus. The table was the place where he fed people, and also challenged them to acts of hospitality that reflect God's way. When we say "yes" to a

place at Christ's table, we accept a way of life that embraces God's definition of love, peace, grace, and joy.

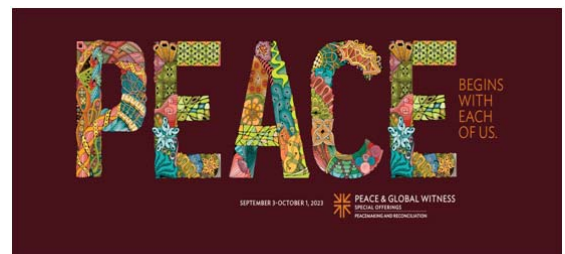
I hope to see you in worship for this meaningful series.

**Women's Retreat –
September 9 – 9 to 11:30 am**

The theme this year is Gratitude, and what that looks like in our everyday lives. The Deacons will have a light breakfast to get us started and Pastor Ruth is our retreat leader. We will create gratitude center pieces, create a gratitude quote box to take home, and talk about how we can still be grateful in challenging times. We will end our time in worship.

All women of the congregation are invited and you are encouraged to bring friends and neighbors.

Please RSVP to Mary Ann Hoke at 317-752-5246.



This year we celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Commitment to Peacemaking. The theme this year is a "Season of Peace". This month long pilgrimage is designed to deepen the pursuit of peace for congregation, small groups, households, and individuals.

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 chief1046vas@att.net.



There are many issues that Peace and Global Witness address. A few examples are human trafficking and exploitation of children, structural racism and upheaval of climate change.

We may look at human trafficking as something that happens in other countries but it is happening here in the US. Indiana ranks 23rd in reported cases. There have been 123 reported cases, with 176 victims. Among these cases 99 are related to sex trafficking, while 15 cases involve labor trafficking.

Climate change for farmers in the South Pacific Ocean like the island of Nui Island is especially vulnerable to tropical cyclones, rising sea levels and global pollution. Due to these changes, some 45% of residents have been forced to migrate with their families. Which means leaving the only home that they have know and moving to unfamiliar areas.

These are issues that we have heard about. Issues that we know hurt people here and around the world. We are called to do something about it. It's about making a change to action and it starts with us.

**January - July 2023
Financial Information**

Income	Expenses
\$104,100.25	\$92,597.33

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.

White Lick keeps 25% of what is collected to help make an impact in our community. Last years contributions were sent to Sheltering Wings. Sheltering Wings is a faith based organization which provides emergency housing for survivors escaping domestic abuse. They offer programs to help build better life skills for themselves and their children.

Through our gifts to the Peace and Global Witness Offering, we as a single congregation participate in this larger work that we would not be able to do on our own.

Peace is active, not passive. Peace is doing, not waiting. It's about making a change to action. Please give generously and remember when we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Alex Cooper**
- 1 Mary Sparks**
- 7 Jackie Rosa les**
- 19 Alice McDowell**
- 19 Sherry Wenger**
- 21 Robby Turner**
- 24 Carman Gray**
- 28 Kathleen Haulk**

If your birthday is missing from this list or from any other month's listing, please email your name & birthday to wlpres@indy.rr.com We want to include you, too.

Fellowship Lunches

Here is the schedule for Fellowship Lunches. Each team will take a turn at presenting Lunch, as shown below:

- September 3 Holiday — No Lunch
- October 1 Hospitality
- November 5 Tech Team
- December 3 Finance

(These are not general pitch-ins; however, you are always welcome to bring a food donation or help clean up.) 😊

Conversations That Challenge Christians: September 24th at 11:30 “Charter Schools”



Discussed briefly in passing as we tackled other topics, this session is devoted to Charter schools. What are they? Are they a threat or an opportunity for educating children? How does recent Indiana legislation impact school funding? Should religious institutions receive a charter and government funding for their schools? Cody Sparks will lead this session. Cody has taught in a charter school and shares his experiences.

September Calendar

Sunday worship 10:30 am online link:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/whitelickpres?mibextid=LQQJ4d>

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

Sunday, September 3 – Communion Sunday

- 9:00 Introduction to New Testament Series
- 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
No Fellowship Lunch – Holiday Weekend

Tuesday, September 5

- 4:00 pm Officer Nominating Committee – Zoom

Wednesday September 6

- 7:00 pm Introduction to New Testament Series – Zoom

Thursday, September 7

- 6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 9

- 9:00 - 11:30 Women’s Retreat

Sunday, September 10

- 10:30 Worship and Baptism in Sanctuary & online
- 11:30 Worship Team Meeting – Library

Tuesday, September 12

- 6:30 pm Mission Team Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday, September 13

- 6:30 Deacon’s Meeting – Brownsburg Library
- No Introduction to New Testament tonight

Thursday, September 14

- 6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Calendar continues —>

Sunday, September 17

No Introduction to New Testament today

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

Monday, September 18

6:00 PW Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 19

7:00 pm Session Meeting – Zoom

Wednesday September 20

7:00 pm Introduction to New Testament Series – Zoom

Thursday, September 21

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 24

9:00 Introduction to New Testament Series

10:30 Worship Outdoors (weather permitting) & not online

11:30 Conversations that Challenge Christians – Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, September 26

11:00 pm Fine Time for Lunch Time at Boulder Creek

Wednesday September 27

7:00 pm Introduction to New Testament Series – Zoom

Thursday, September 28

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall



Editor's Column:

By Jerry Bennett

Last month I was at a presentation of Indy Hunger Network. The man giving the presentation was David Minor. After the presentation I approached him and he said hi Jerry I remember you from Rochester. My group, Indy Circles, had been up in Rochester IN. It was our second visit to put on a Poverty Simulation for a civic group up there last year and David Minor who is the head of the Indy Hunger Network remembered me! Man was I embar-

rassed. I thought I was meeting him for the first time. Apparently I have gained some notoriety in poverty circles. I'm not sure that's a good thing but David probably remembered me because Circles Indy puts on a poverty simulation. Marie, the lady in charge, does a debrief at the end of it in which she asks the participants for words that describe their feeling.

I had agonized for some time over Marie's trying to explain just how Circles works and it works because of a very simple social phenomenon that people sometimes call mentoring. That is people who are clients or Circle Leaders in a very friendly, not in a judgmental way, kind of like the relationship that a parent has with a child showing them all the secrets of how to get along in the world. They have a rule in Circles that no money changes hands, that the advice given is freely given and the people who are certainly in need of a little pocket money don't ask for it. That turns off the people who are there to give something much more tangible.

Anyway, when David Minor remembered my name it was because at the end of the poverty simulation I recite a little poem that I have written to describe the emotional impact of this transaction on a person in poverty.

My feeling of surprise when David Minor recognized me before I recognized him gives testimony to the fact that my words, my service to the community, my actions have set me apart to where others have noticed what I am doing. It really is humbling.

So come take a seat at the table let us break bread together and see what Christ would have us do.

