

# White Lick Presbyterian *Church Chat*

2530 North 600 East, Avon, IN 46123

October 2023 in the year of our Lord, Jesus Christ

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## Pastoral Ponderings:

by Ruth Moore

Mark and I just returned home from our son's wedding in California. It made this mama's heart grateful that John has found a life partner as sweet and supportive as his beloved Anya. I also had the privilege of officiating the ceremony.

After the wedding we rented a house in Newport Beach for 3 days and our children, their spouses, and Anya's parents and sister joined us. It was a great house with a room for everyone and lots of beach supplies, bikes and even surf boards.

We had not meet Anya's family before and as many of you know they are from Ukraine. English is not Vlad and Irina's first language, so sometimes we had some trouble communicating. They are not plan-

ners the way we are, so occasionally there was some tension about when we were joining together for meals and who was cooking. But all in all we got along fine and we were all happy for John and Anya.

Now that all three of our children are married – and they have all married within the last 21 months – I realize that they have new families that will love them but also influence them. Just as our children are very different, so are their spouses, and they do not always do things the way we do. So we are learning that communication about expectations is important. Life is a continuous journey of learning isn't it? And clear communication is the key to keep things running smoothly. As I get to know my children's partners, I am hoping to learn the way to be the best mother-in-law ever! I will keep you posted on my progress. —>

October is a busy month for White Lick – a Fall Masquerade party, a booth at Brownsburg’s Trail and Treat event, a challenging conversation on guns and gun laws, and our Annual Stewardship Campaign which begins on October 15 and ends on the 29<sup>th</sup> with the presentation of our giving cards and a celebration with cake after worship. Please see the articles below for more information.

I hope to see you in church soon, Pastor Ruth

**Journey to Generosity —  
The Way of Jesus**

**Journey to Generosity – The Way of Jesus** is our stewardship theme for 2023. When we follow the way of Jesus, we follow a path that leads to a generous way of life that derives from the generosity of God. While some people pop into Christian faith as fully mature stewards, most of us follow a journey in which our generosity grows as we become ever more aware of the generosity of God and how to respond adequately.

Some of you may not be familiar with the word “steward” or the concept of stewardship. Stewardship is recognizing everything we have and everything we are is a gift from God, and our response to this generosity it to be grateful and generous stewards in return.

On our journey to generosity this October we will follow the way of Jesus who calls us to recognize God’s love for all, and includes responding to that love with love for others. This foundation of Christian life is like an ellipse – a kind of circle squeezed into an oblong shape that has two centers: the promise of God’s love and the congruent call of God to love our neighbors.

The campaign will begin Sunday, October 15 and conclude with the collection of Giving Cards on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup> in worship. We will celebrate this opportunity to be generous with a cake reception after worship on the 29<sup>th</sup>. We will have testimonies from the congregation on why they give each Sunday. Look for a letter from Pastor Ruth in early October and another one from Treasurer Ron Hoke with your Giving Card later in the month.

I hope you will prayerfully consider making a giving commitment to White Lick this year. Knowing what people will give helps us make a budget for the church year and distribute funds to the different teams of the church. It also helps us know how much we can support our mission partners in 2024.

We indicate love for God and love for neighbor – the way of Jesus –when we give to the church, because then the church’s mission becomes our mission. The more we share, the more we represent our trust that God can work through White Lick Presbyterian Church to share the love of Jesus Christ within our own walls and out into the community.



**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](mailto: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](mailto:chieft046vas@att.net).

**White Lick Church Fall Masquerade & Bingo Night**

The Deacons will sponsor a Fall Masquerade & Bingo Night on Saturday, October 14, 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Adults, children, and grandchildren are encouraged to wear your favorite **COSTUME**. A \$25 gift card will be given for the "best" costume. our main activity will be several rounds of **BINGO**...with prizes. Have your **PICTURE** taken, by the fall scenery in the hallway, as you enter the fellowship hall. Plan to join us for a fun night of **FELLOWSHIP**. If you plan to attend, add your name and number attending to the sign-up sheet as you enter the Church sanctuary, or you can text Mary Ann Hoke at (317) 752-5246 or email at: rhoke4@indy.rr.com... this will help us determine the appropriate amount of refreshments.

**Costume... Bingo... Picture... Refreshments... Fellowship**

**January - August 2023 Financial Information**

Income	Expenses
\$117,504.46	\$106,047.85

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.

**Trail n Treat — Brownsburg Williams Park; Oct 28<sup>th</sup> 5-7pm**



**We need your help again this year.**

White Lick will set up a booth to hand out candy, toys, and post cards with church information at the Brownsburg Trail 'n Treat.

If you would be willing to help with set up or passing out candy, please contact Diane Buxton 317-502-3456 or at dbuxton77@hotmail.com.



We will be collecting candy donations at church again this year. Please put in the blue bins anytime before Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>. As always, thank you all for your continued support of our Mission projects.



**Fellowship Lunches**

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

- 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.) 😊

**Sheltering Wings  
Safe Bright Futuers**



*Thanks to Sheltering Wings' many supporters, more than 16,000 women, men and families have left domestic abuse behind for safe, bright futures.*

Since the first person sought shelter at our door in 2002, our vision has been to offer love, compassion, and resources to help people who experience domestic violence survive and thrive. Our door is open in the name of Jesus Christ to any survivor of any background with the promise of confidentiality and security.

Survivors learn to build stable and independent lives through essential programs and life skills training.

Vision

Sheltering Wings was formed in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ. We will extend the love and compassion of Christ to survivors of domestic abuse. Christ was never coercive or offensive and neither are our services. Our assistance will be offered in the name of Christ to any survivor of any background.

Mission

Sheltering Wings provides emergency housing for survivors escaping domestic abuse. We build stable and independent lives through essential programs offered in a supportive and Christ-centered environment.

Guiding Principles

- We acknowledge that God is the owner and sustainer of the shelter and that the families we serve are His children.
- We commit to adhering to Biblical principles when making all decisions.
- We conduct ourselves at all times and in every interaction respectfully, courteously, compassionately, and professionally.
- We imitate Christ's example of love and compassion in every interaction with those in need, serving them as though we are serving the Lord.

Minute for Mission

October 22<sup>nd</sup>

It is always a pleasure to have Joel Reichenbach, Sheltering Wings Church Relations Officer, come to White Lick to speak with us. White Lick has been partnering with Sheltering Wings for many years. We thank you for all the times you have helped by donating items.

Joel will share with us other volunteer opportunities in the future.



- 10 Carol Johnson**
- 12 Stephanie Treadwell**
- 13 Dave Halterman**
- 15 Elijah Bauzo**
- 16 Gerald George**

**(Please let us know if your birthday is not listed here.)**

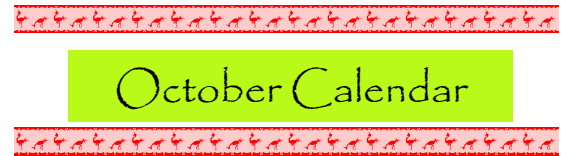
**Conversations That Challenge Christians: One Nation Under Guns: October 29<sup>th</sup>**

Guns and gun violence are topics for the Sunday, October 29, installment of our Conversations that Challenge Christians. The conversation will begin at 11:45 in the Fellowship Hall after snacking on cake provided as part of our Stewardship Campaign. Mark Moore leads this session. All are welcome to participate.

The conversation will be structured around two controversial United States Supreme Court decisions that have reshaped the law of guns, "Heller" and more recently "Bruen." In the Heller decision, the Supreme Court reinterpreted the Second Amendment to the Constitution to estab-

lish a broader individual right to own a gun for self-defense. In the Bruen decision as in the contemporaneous "Dobbs" abortion decision the Supreme Court is said to have destroyed constitutional precedent by establishing a "new originalist standard": "If there is no historical proof of a gun law linked to 1791 or 1868 . . . then any modern law restricting firearms is liable to be ruled unconstitutional. (1791 is the year the Second Amendment was ratified, and 1868 is the year the Fourteenth Amendment was ratified.) See "One Nation Under Guns" (The Atlantic, December 14, 2022 (online)).

Our culture of gun violence and Heller, together with the new originalist standard, provides plenty of opportunity for thoughtful discussion.



Sunday worship 10:30 am online link:

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

YouTube [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_X2uIIQX3x0VECTI2SDT-w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_X2uIIQX3x0VECTI2SDT-w)

**Sunday, October 1 – World Communion Sunday**

9:00 Introduction to New Testament Series

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

11:30 Fellowship Lunch – Hospitality

**Wednesday October 4**

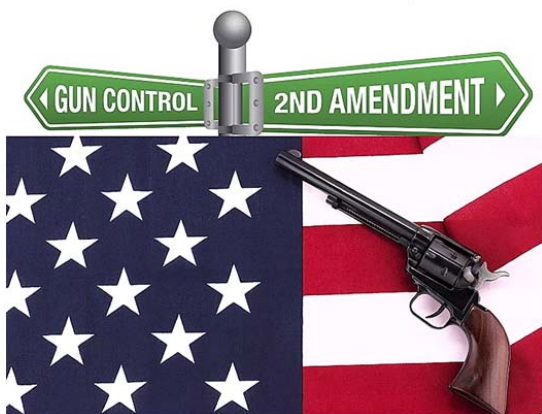
7:00 pm Introduction to New Testament Series – Zoom

**Thursday, October 5**

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, October 8**

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online



- Tuesday, October 10**  
6:30 pm Mission Team Meeting – Zoom
- Wednesday, October 11**  
6:00 Deacon’s Meeting – Brownsburg Library
- Thursday, October 12**  
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, October 14**  
7-9 pm Masquerade & Bingo Night
- Sunday, October 15**  
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online  
Beginning of Stewardship Campaign  
11:30 Worship Team Meeting – Library
- Monday, October 16**  
6:00 PW Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Thursday, October 19**  
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, October 22**  
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
- Tuesday, October 24**  
7:00 pm Session Meeting – Zoom
- Thursday, October 26**  
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, October 28**  
5:00 - 7:00pm Brownsburg Trail or Treat
- Sunday, October 29**  
10:30 Worship and Stewardship  
Commitment Sunday in Sanctuary & online  
11:30 Commitment Sunday Reception  
11:45 Conversations that Challenge Christians



I’ve always had a problem with charitable giving because I don’t trust my judgment to put my money where it will do the most good. I’ve heard there are charities that have been audited and done poorly.

There are charities that I’m sure are well intentioned but not well run. I don’t want to put my money in those places.

Worst personal example, many years ago I was driving up Pennsylvania Street with the family in the car and we were passing Robert’s Park Methodist Church. It was about a week before Christmas and we were having one of those early snowfalls that was just an inch on the ground but made things look pretty and especially there at that old line church with the set back from the street, the grass around it, the iron fence, it looked so Norman Rockwell. And then a vagrant came crawling across the sidewalk on his hands and knees. How dare he destroy my Rockwell image of the week before Christmas; this could not stand! I pulled the car to the curb ran back to the man, pulled some folding money out of my pocket and held it in front of his face. He turned his head toward me and flashed a big toothless grin. Obviously he was a career wino and I gave him the money. He gave me a big smile and I ran back to the car feeling oh so righteous. Then my 10 year old son asked me “Dad, what kind of wine do you think he’ll buy with that money?” Oh what a smart kid. Out of the mouths of babes come pearls of wisdom. This was not the way to spend my charitable dollars. Sure I felt good but I only perpetuated that wino’s bad habit. I didn’t help him at all.

So what’s the answer? How do we help our neighbors wisely? How do we get the most bang for the buck and what other ways of giving are there?

Personally I have found an opportunity mentoring people trying to get out of poverty. One of the clients in my group who is known as the welfare queen because she has been gaming the system for so long, she knows where all the bucks are buried,

told me "Pops, I've had it! I don't want to play the game anymore. "I look at you and I see in you a self reliance and resourcefulness that wants to help others and, Pops, I want to be like you. "The system has traps that hold you back. "You become dependent on the system and it keeps you from becoming independent. "I'm sick of it. "I want to be independent like you, Pops."

When she told me that I'm sorry, I can't help it, I cried. I wasn't trying to get through to her but somehow I did. Oh what a feeling.

I'm sure that the people who work on the committees at church, the Mission Team

for example and the Deacons and others, all the volunteer opportunities that are available at church the people who are doing that work are doing it because it is satisfying and it helps the people in the community that need the help.

Nice thing about White Lick, being a small church if you want to volunteer you don't have to hold your hand up very high to be recognized. It's also a church which is blessed with a small cadre of really really good volunteers. I'm talking about people who are dedicated and well aware of the importance of the work they are doing.

—JB