

White Lick Presbyterian *Church Chat*

2530 North 600 East, Avon, IN 46123

November 2023 in the year of our Lord, Jesus Christ

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Pastoral Ponderings:

by Ruth Moore

November is a month for gratitude, and I have so many things to be grateful for.

I was able to spend a week in October with my best friends from high school. We shared memories, drank a few beers, and even played the blackjack tables in Atlantic City. I have known one of these women since kindergarten, and the other two I have known since 4th grade. We grew up together. We were in each other's weddings. We have been through the birth of babies, two divorces, and the death of one spouse. I have not lived near them since I was in high school. And yet the bond remains strong and they are my constants in life. I am very grateful to have friends like these.

We have completed our Giving Campaign – *Journey to Generosity* – the way of Jesus. And you have responded generously to the mission and ministry of our congregation. I am grateful for the opportunities WLPC has to help bring about God's kingdom here on earth. And your gifts of time, talent and treasure help to make that possible. I see over and over again how God works through all of you and I am grateful to be a small part of that.

In November we elect new officers to serve the church for three year terms. I am grateful for the new officers who have agreed to serve in 2024. Cody Sparks has agreed to be a new Elder and Stephanie Wyne has agreed to be a new Deacon. They are both new members who have joined the church in the last year. Bryan Ruppel has agreed to continue to be an

Elder and serve another term. Bryan oversees the building and grounds maintenance of the church and is an invaluable member of the Session. Being an officer of the church takes time, commitment, and a willingness to care for and make decisions for the church. And let's not forget to share our gratefulness for Ginny Sheets who will be rotating off the Session this year. Ginny has served as an Elder for the past six years and was Clerk of Session for part of that time. I know you will join me in expressing gratefulness to all who serve as officers of the church.

To be grateful is to be thankful. I am thankful to be in ministry together with all of you. I am thankful to God for all the blessings that flow to and through us. May this month be a time to give thanks and a time to thank others.

See you in church,
Pastor Ruth.

CHILI SUPPER

November 4, 2023
4:30 – 7:00

It's that time again! The Presbyterian Women are busy cooking and making plans for the annual Chili Supper/Bake Sale! We hope you plan to attend and bring your friends, as we raise money for PW projects in the community.

All-You-Can-Eat, sit-down Meal is \$10.00 (12-adult); \$5.00 (6-11) and FREE for 5 and under.) Carry-Out is available at the same price and includes a bowl of Chili, Crackers, Hot Dog and Dessert (3 choices.) Accepting cash or check. Pre-Sale tickets will be sold for two weeks before the Supper.

Our homemade Bake Sale will be available in the Welcome Center. If you are not

in PW – but would like to provide a dessert for this event – there is a sign-up sheet in the Hall.

All Saints Day

We will remember and celebrate the saints of the church and the saints in our lives with All Saints Day worship on November 5th. We will lift up in prayer the names of church members who have died in 2023, but if you would like to lift up a loved one's name please let Pastor Ruth know.

Worship Team

We are recruiting liturgists and greeters. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Diane Akers, worship team leader, in person, by phone or text at 317-370-2987, or via email at akersdja@gmail.com. Thanks!

The Deacons invite you to attend the next "Fine Time for Lunch Time"

Tuesday, Nov 14, 2023 at 1:00 pm
Smokey Bones Restaurant
10143E US Hwy 36 (Rockville Road)
Avon, IN 46123
dutch treat lunch

Put your name on the sign up sheet as you enter the sanctuary or contact Mary Ann Hoke (317) 752-5246

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.



**Family Promise
Mission — November Focus**

Family Promise works to end and prevent homelessness in Hendricks County through a coordinated effort to create sustainability stability for those who struggle. We provide emergency and permanent housing, homelessness prevention and stability services such as transportation, employment, childcare, life skills and most of all love. We operate out of two Resource Centers in Plainfield and Brownsburg. These are the hubs in our community to receive the resources they need for stability.



In July 2022, we opened a new family shelter, Almost Home, in

Plainfield, where we house 6 families at a time until they move into their own home. The development of duplexes at Almost Home is underway. Over the next 3 months the site will be prepared for construction of 6 buildings, each containing two 4-bedroom units, for a total of 12 homes.

In 2022, Family Promise ended homelessness for 125 families and prevented it for 895 families.

White Lick will focus on Family Promise during November. You will see more information from the Mission Team during the month ahead.

We will be supporting Family Promise at Christmas this year by bringing UNWRAPPED toys and teen items to church to share in their Santa Shop. As you remember, last year we “adopted” a couple of families, had sign up sheets, and ornaments from the Giving Tree for specific children. This year, you may bring in items for any age, boy or girl. If you see something cute on sale, go ahead and get it. Families will then be able to come to the Santa Shop and select items for their children for Christmas.

The Mission Team also volunteered to make Christmas Stockings for the folks at Almost Home. Nan Johnson has a pattern and has already purchased the material for the stockings. If you like to sew, please contact Nan. We need 4-5 helpers. You are welcome to join in the fun when we assemble the goodies on December 3rd.

We are excited to welcome back Julie Randall, Executive Director, Family Promise on Sunday, November 19th. Julie will share with us during our Minute for Mission time right before worship. She will also be staying as our presenter during Conversations that Challenge Christians to discuss Homelessness.

**January - September 2023
Financial Information**

Income	Expenses
\$147,218.90	\$121,324.71

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.

Conversations that Challenge Christians — November 19th



Conversations that Challenge Christians will be November 19th following worship in Fellowship Hall. We are a week early as we will be decorating the church the following week as part of the annual Hanging of the Green. In keeping with the Mission Team focus in November on Family Promise, Julie Randall, Executive Director, will be our featured speaker. She will be speaking about the issue of homelessness in our county and the lack of tenant's rights. Family Promise works hard to keep families in their homes which is a challenge for those in poverty and especially new immigrants who are frequently subject to sub-standard housing with little recourse. Throughout the Fall and Winter, we will be taking an in depth look at the causes of poverty and how our structures and systems keep persons in poverty. Speakers and Matthew Desmond's book *Poverty by America* will serve as our resources.

God Wink II

Remember the original God Wink? I used the analogy of coaching kids in Little League to illustrate how a wink and a pat on the back could give someone the confidence to win.

Well, I just had another God Wink. I had finished the Editor's Column and went out for a walk. I met a grandma with a three year old grandson. She told me he was born with a bad heart that required a lot of surgery. When the baby came home she had to take care of him because her daughter had to get back to work. She was

worried about running out of diapers because she did not have money to buy any. I was down to two when there was a knock at the door. "Total strangers from some church over there with two packages of diapers. "When those were almost gone, others from somewhere else appeared. "He's no longer in diapers but we never had to buy diapers, ever. "God had my back."

Later that night I was getting ready for bed. I would soon be sitting on the edge of the bed for my nightly talk with God when it hit me. God, it was you. You just sent me a God Wink. That thing. Stop worrying about it. I, God have got you covered

Preparing the Church for Advent



The Sunday following Thanksgiving (November 26) is when we get together to decorate our church for Advent and the arrival of Christmas. That Sunday you are encouraged to wear comfortable clothes as we will start immediately after Service. There might be boxes to carry up from the basement, wreaths to hang, bows to make, ladders to climb and trees to decorate. Hot cider will be available.

The tree that makes its home in the Welcome Center is called The Memory Tree. You are encouraged to bring an ornament labeled with your family name, to put on that tree. (If you don't make it to the Hanging of the Greens, bring it the next Sunday.)

However, we hope you will join us in this special tradition. Remember the adage about "Many hands making a light load."



**Fellowship Lunch Schedule **

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

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.) 😊

Field Trip: Indiana Festival of Trees — December 5th

Festival of Trees
 Indiana History Center
 450 West Ohio Street
 Indianapolis, IN 46202
 Tuesday, December 5, 2023 at 10:00 am

The Deacons invite you to join them for a field trip to see the Festival of Trees. This is a perfect way to brighten your holiday season. This year’s winter wonderland features more than 75 elaborately decorated trees. The Eli Lilly hall also features a massive, 30 foot centerpiece tree.

The trees are located on three floors of the history center. An elevator is available. Admission price is \$15 or \$14 for seniors (60 and over). Parking is free with admission. The Star Dust Café (by Jonathan Byrd) is available for lunch, snacks or drinks.

Car pools will be available if you do not want to drive downtown. Contact your Deacon or Mary Ann Hoke at (317) 752-5246. A sign up sheet will be available as you enter the sanctuary.



November Birthdays

- 5 Deanna Ruppel
- 14 Diana Bryant
Sam Thompson
- 15 Mat Bryant
- 18 Aby Bauzo
- 29 Al Boulanger

(Please let us know if your birthday is not

New Church Officers

2024 Slate of Candidates to Serve White Lick

On **Sunday, November 5th**, the congregation will vote on the slate of candidates the nominating committee has proposed for Deacon and Elder. Please remember to stay after worship for the Congregational Meeting.

The nominating committee is pleased to announce its slate of candidates for the class of 2024 White Lick leadership. We have nominated two candidates for Elder, Bryan Ruppel and Cody Sparks and one candidate for Deacon, Stephannie Wyne.

Bryan Ruppel has agreed to serve a second three-year term as Elder. He currently serves on the Tech Team and handles the sound both in the church and for the live stream. He serves on the Building & Grounds Team to maintain our 175-year-old building and the grounds of the church. He has been instrumental in getting the security cameras set up, getting a new roof for the church, resolving some septic issues and so much more. It takes a lot to maintain our beautiful church in the wild wood. We are grateful Bryan has agreed to serve another three-year term. —>

Cody Sparks has been nominated to serve his first three-year term as Elder on the Session. Cody is a retired history teacher, having taught eighth graders for 30 years in Pike Township schools. He recently presented information for the Conversations that Challenge Christians about charter schools in Indiana. Cody and his wife Mary serve as greeters. Cody has served in various roles at previous churches.

Stephanie Wyne has been nominated to serve her first three-year term as Deacon. She says not to be concerned if you see her photo at the post office. Such a wonderful sense of humor! Stephanie attended Ball State University for her undergraduate studies and IU for her graduate studies. She worked for 21 years at AT&T and served on the board of directors at a previous church. She came to White Lick seeking a more bible-based church. Last year she helped hand out candy at the Trail & Treat at Williams Park. Stephanie also sings in the choir and helps run sound for the Tech Team.

Men's Bible Study Group

Cody Sparks would like to establish a men's bible study group at White Lick. The first meeting will be at 9:00 am on Saturday, November 18 in Fellowship Hall. Pancakes, sausages, and beverages will be provided. The group will determine when and how often it will meet as well as the subjects for the Bible Study. The Continuing Education Team will include this new bible study group as we make plans for bible study and other Christian Education events and activities at White Lick.

White Lick has a strong group of men, and we are grateful to Cody for initiating a

men's bible study, including a great breakfast menu on Saturday, November 18 at 9:00 am.

Please contact Cody Sparks at coachcody17@gmail.com or 317-513-1946 if you have any questions or need additional information.



Sunday worship 10:30 am online link:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/whitelickpres?mibextid=LQQJ4d>
 YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_X2uIQX3x0VECTI2SDT-w

- Thursday, November 2**
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall
- Saturday, November 4**
4:30 - 7:00pm Chili Supper
- Sunday, November 5 – All Saints Sunday**
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
11:30 Congregational Meeting to Elect Officers
11:40 Fellowship Lunch – Tech Team
- Wednesday, November 8**
6:30 Deacon's Meeting – Brownsburg Library
- Thursday, November 9**
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, November 12 – Communion Sunday**
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
11:30 New Officer Training
- Tuesday, November 14**
1:00 pm Fine Time for Lunch Time at Smokey Bones
6:30 pm Mission Team Meeting – Zoom
- Wednesday November 15**
7:00 pm Christian Education
- Thursday, November 16**
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, November 18

9:00 am Men's Bible Study, Fellowship Hall

Sunday, November 19

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

11:30 Conversations that Challenge Christians

Monday, November 20

6:00 PW Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, November 21

7:00 pm Session Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, November 23

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

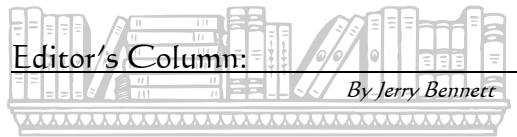
Sunday, November 26

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

11:30 Hanging of the Greens

Thursday, November 30

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall



If it's November it must be time for Thanksgiving. I could go on and about how lucky, no, let's make that blessed I am to have Mary, her son Matt and the grand-kids here but let's take a longer view. I am grateful for John Howland, my great great great great grandfather. Yep, seven generations. John Howland was a pilgrim. One of those religious separatists who landed at Plymouth in 1620. I have read that they

were supposed to go to Virginia but the guy who held the land grant from the King for Massachusetts bribed the Captain of the Mayflower to put them ashore on "his" land.

Some years later, after they were no longer indentured to work the land, they took off for warmer climes further south. AAA didn't have a map showing the Chesapeake so when they followed the coastline to the southern tip of what is now called New Jersey they were stuck.

Genealogy is a big thing today but when I was a kid it was just starting to gain interest. In 1920, the 300th anniversary of the landing, Rev. Paul S. Howe, LL, B., Ph. D published a book: *Mayflower Decedents in Cape May County*. In 1920 nearly everyone in Cape Mat was a Mayflower descendent. My dad was born there. It was an easy Doctorial thesis for Rev. Howe and he did a masterful job of connecting the genealogy and history. For me, it was my personal Book of Genesis. This is where I come from.

I'm glad the Captain of the Mayflower took that bribe. A subsequent colonization at Roanoke, the place in Virginia where the Pilgrims were supposed to go didn't go so well. Ever hear of the Roanoke hundred. No, no one has. They just disappeared. Had the Mayflower gone to what is now Roanoke, would I have ever been? — JB