

# White Lick Presbyterian *Church Chat*

2530 North 600 East, Avon, IN 46123

February 2024 in the year of our Lord, Jesus Christ

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## Pastoral Ponderings:

by Ruth Moore

Well it seems like we just celebrated Christmas together and now in February we begin the season of Lent on Ash Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. I love the church seasons and how they give us a rhythm and purpose for our lives – but Lent does seem a bit early this year!

Lent in its simplest form means spring – it is the 40 week days after Ash Wednesday when the days are getting longer and God's creation is beginning to come out of its winter hibernation. In Christian terms, it is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

At the Ash Wednesday service we will have ashes imposed on our foreheads to re-

mind us of our call to repent from sin, and our own mortality as human beings. During the six weeks of Lent we will have a Sunday morning and Wednesday night study on the gospel of Mark which is the gospel we will hear in worship during Lent. I hope you will consider participating as a way for you to prepare for the miracle of resurrection.

As you know I like to use Worship Design Studio worship programs. For Lent this year our worship series is called, "What r u up 2?" Lent is often known as a time of giving something up in order to make room in our lives for spiritual pursuits. This year, rather than giving something up in Lent, the scriptures ask us to consider all that Jesus is "up to" and all that he asks us to be up to in his name. Instead of bemoaning what we can't do, or

used to do, in a culture where “measuring up” to external standards seems impossible, this Lent we will celebrate the small things we can do right now to respond to God’s call in our place and for our time.

I invite you to join us in worship and study this year. Easter is always so much more meaningful when we have prepared and readied ourselves for the Easter miracle that is ours to claim.

I hope to see you in church during this season of Lent.

Pastor Ruth

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service**  
 February 14, at 7:00 pm  
 Simple Soup and Bread Supper  
 Before Service  
 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

**Lenten Study – The Gospel of Mark**

Beginning Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> Lenten Study – The Gospel of Mark.

Join Pastor Ruth for a six week Lenten Study on the Gospel of Mark on Sunday mornings at 9 am at church (Feb 18<sup>th</sup>), or Wednesday nights at 7 pm (Zoom – Feb 21.)

We will walk through the Bible’s earliest source (gospel) for the life of Jesus with scholar Amy-Jill Levine as she examines John the Baptist, the Little Apocalypse, the Transfiguration, and several of Jesus’ most notable stories and parables. The Good News of the gospel message will come alive as we study Dr. Levine’s book and listen to her DVD. We will see Jesus as divine and human, powerful and weak, and approachable yet mysterious. This is an in-depth study of select passages and illuminates the Gospel of Mark in its his-

torical context and as a source for the other gospels.

Amy-Jill’s book *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner’s Guide to the Good News* will be available for pick up in the church office beginning Feb 4<sup>th</sup>. The Christian Education Committee budgeted this year to pay for the participants books, so pick up your free copy in the church office. Please only pick up a book if you are going to participate in our discussions. If there are any left over for personal use Pastor Ruth will let you know. Questions? Contact Pastor Ruth at [pastorruth@indy.rr.com](mailto:pastorruth@indy.rr.com).

**February is Per Capita month**

Presbyterians support the greater church (the PCUSA) through the annual per capita. Paying per capita is part of our responsibility as a connectional church. The per capita is assessed for every confirmed youth or adult who are listed as members on our church rolls.

This year’s per capita is: \$43.61 per member and is to be divided as follows:

- Whitewater Valley Presbytery \$30.00
- Synod of Lincoln Trails \$ 3.81
- General Assembly \$ 9.80

Please consider rounding up to \$45 or \$50 to help us pay for those who can not afford to pay per capita. Write “per capita” on the memo line of your

*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 [chief1046vas@att.net](mailto:chief1046vas@att.net).

check and bring your check to church on Sunday or mail your check to:

White Lick Church  
2530 N County Road 600 E  
Avon, IN 46123

Thank you,  
Finance Team

**Inclement Weather**

**Inclement Weather—stay home?**

Prediction of what the weather will be on Sunday morning is almost impossible. The worst prediction can pass us by and then another day we wake up to a foot of snow when 2" was predicted. This does not help when trying to plan Sunday morning worship, meetings, and other scheduled activities.

Saturday around 6:00 pm when the evening weather is broadcast, the pastor in conversation with elders representing Buildings and Grounds, will decide what to do for Sunday. Guidance being any ice that will cause slippery roads and 3" or



**2023 Annual  
Financial Information**

Income	Expenses
\$183,672.60	\$165,863.72

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.

more of snow will be primary criteria for cancelling 10:30 worship at the church depending on the outlook for more accumulation. The forecast can easily change overnight so what seemed OK on Saturday may mean canceling everything early Sunday morning. With the location of our church on county roads that can blow shut right after the snowplow has come through, flexibility is the key. And, the roads may be plowed but our parking lot has not.

How will you know? Emails will be sent out and the information posted on Facebook. If you do not have access to either, then contact your deacon or another church member. If in doubt, stay safe and stay home and catch the service on YouTube or Facebook. One look at your driveway should help you decide whether you want to venture out on the roads.

The Deacons invite you to attend the next

**"Fine Time for Lunch Time"**

Wednesday, Feb 7, 2024 at 1:00 pm

**Green Street Eatery**

911 N Green Street (Kroger shopping center)  
Brownsburg, IN 46112

dutch treat lunch

Put your name on the sign up sheet

as you enter the sanctuary

or contact Mary Ann Hoke

(317) 752-5246



**Letters Home**

Dear White Lick Family,  
 I had a very busy Fall 2023. In addition to a full load of classes, I am also working at a church, Highland Presbyterian Church in Louisville. If you want to see the sermon I gave there, here is a link to the vimeo recording <https://vimeo.com/881431830> If you want to see just the sermon, skip to minute 24. I am also keeping myself busy as a chapel minister coordinator for the seminary chapel services, and working in the seminary library. I am enjoying my class-work quite a bit, and I seem to be doing well. At the time of writing, I don't have my final grades from the fall semester yet. And I am taking a January term class that meets everyday for two weeks in January. I will have a short break, then spring semester begins in February. At this time, I am half way through a three-year program. Though the everyday tedium of reading and writing papers makes the time pass very slowly, when I take a moment to look up it seems the time is passing very quickly. My only wish at this moment is that I had more time to dig deeper into the fascinating topics that come up in my classes. In the fall semester, I took a New

Testament class on letters and Revelation, as well as biblical Greek, both of which were fascinating. I took a very interesting class titled "Won't You Be My Neighbor", which explored how to be a neighbor in a multi-cultural and religiously diverse world. This class provided opportunities to visit other religious communities in Louisville and engage in interfaith dialogue. I also took a preaching class, which helped me hone my preaching skills. That's it for now, I hope to visit soon.

With much love,  
 Mary Mitchell  
 LPTS seminary student.

**Policies for Sexual Conduct and Child Protection**

Leadership within the Christian community is a privilege and a sacred trust. White Lick Presbyterian Church takes any accusation of sexual misconduct seriously and is committed to thorough investigation as prescribed by civil law and the PCUSA Book of Order. Copies of our Policies for Sexual Conduct and Child Protection are available next to the sanctuary and may be obtained at the church office or from the clerk of session. This policy defines the parameters of prohibited behavior, training and implementation, and reporting procedures. If at any time you suspect an incident of sexual misconduct, please discuss immediately with the pastor or a session elder. Of course, confidentiality is important to protect all who are involved. If an incident takes place off-site (such as an event at a park, camp, field trip), try to gain as much information

as possible, especially if there are witnesses. Even if the incident is investigated by law enforcement, the church is also obligated to follow up.

**Conversations that Challenge Christians: Working Poor**

On February 25 following worship we will discuss some of the issues in the first three chapters of Desmond's book "Poverty, by America". Poverty goes well beyond our paradigm of the single mother

raising children on a minimum wage, dead end job. Poverty is physical pain. Poverty is instability. Poverty is loss of liberty and a feeling that the government is against you. Poverty is embarrassing and shame; it diminishes self esteem and personhood. Poverty widens the gap between the races. As the saying goes: "The rich get richer. The poor get poorer."

Although there are many success stories of people raised in poverty going on to become very successful in their careers, this is not the America most persons in poverty end up knowing; or, even having the vision to seek beyond finding their next meal. What makes it worse is the data that shows our country's progress on eradicating poverty has not improved. Billions of dollars have been spent by the government plus the committed effort of so many not-for-profit organizations and churches.

**Why?** On February 25, we will begin to discuss our way through Desmond's book

as he identifies the institutional structures and systems that we all knowingly or unknowingly support that keep a certain segment of our country forever poor. You do not need to have read the book to participate as adequate information will be presented at each session to encourage thoughtful discussion. Snacks will help you spend an extra hour at church before heading for your favorite restaurant. And, make sure to leave a generous tip because your waitress is probably one of the working poor.

**Website and Facebook Assistants Needed**

We are looking for another person(s) to help with the church's website and group Facebook page. Beth McGuire is in charge of the website which is done in a program called Square Space. Not hard once you get the hang of it. Ginny Sheets is chief administrator for Facebook.

On the Tech Team, we like to have at least two people who know and understand the workings of each part of our technology. Annetta Davis and Shirley Halterman are responsible for the livestream of the Sunday morning worship services on Facebook and YouTube. Ginny Sheets and Amy Chambliss run the sanctuary Power Points. Bryan Ruppel and Stephanie Wise do the sound. We have been negligent to recruit adequate backup for the website and our group Facebook page. If you would like to help, contact Beth [bmcquire13@live.com](mailto:bmcquire13@live.com) or Ginny [chief1946vas@att.net](mailto:chief1946vas@att.net). If you would like to help with the livestream or sound, just wander back any Sunday morning and talk to a member of the Tech Team.

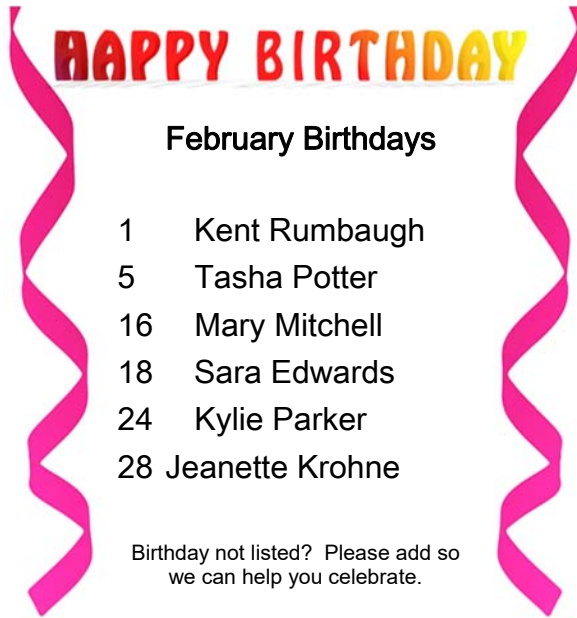


**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

**February Birthdays**

- 1 Kent Rumbaugh
- 5 Tasha Potter
- 16 Mary Mitchell
- 18 Sara Edwards
- 24 Kylie Parker
- 28 Jeanette Krohne

Birthday not listed? Please add so we can help you celebrate.




**February 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_X2uIiQX3x0vECTI2SDT-w)

- Thursday, February 1**  
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, February 4**  
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online  
11:30 Fellowship Lunch – Worship
- Monday, February 5**  
6:30 Mission Team Meeting via Zoom
- Wednesday, February 7**  
1:00 “Fine Time for Lunch Time” @  
Green Street Eatery – Deacon’s
- Thursday, February 8**  
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

- Saturday, February 10**  
9:00 am Men’s Bible Study, Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, February 11 – Communion Sunday**  
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
- Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday**  
6:00 pm Soup and Bread Supper  
7:00 Ash Wednesday Worship Service
- Thursday, February 15**  
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, February 18**  
9:00 Lenten Study in Fellowship Hall  
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
- Monday, February 19**  
6:00 PW Meeting in Fellowship Hall
- Tuesday, February 20**  
7:00 pm Session Meeting – Zoom
- Wednesday, February 21**  
7:00 pm Lenten Study via Zoom
- Thursday, February 22**  
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, February 25**  
9:00 Lenten Study in Fellowship Hall  
10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online  
11:30 Conversations that Challenge  
Christians: Working Poor
- Wednesday, February 28**  
7:00 pm Lenten Study via Zoom
- Thursday, February 29**  
6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

**Fellowship Lunch Schedule**

(First Half of 2024)

January	7	Hospitality
February	4	Worship
March	3	Session
April	7	Presbyterian Women
May	5	Building & Grounds
June	2	Deacons



We have talked about 'being in the present' recently; I had an oh my moment I must share. When Winona was in the nursing home we became friends with a woman who came to visit another resident. Her name is Denise and her friend was Jerry, her next door neighbor. Jerry had no family and Denise was the one that convinced him to seek placement there.

Jerry passed on a few weeks ahead of Winona but Denise kept in touch and helped me through that very difficult first year.

Recently on of the members of the Dads group (Dads who have lost a child) lost his wife of fifty-four years and when consoling him I remembered the compassion I received from Denise. I texted her:

David Cook, a guy in the Dads group



recently lost his wife of 54 years. It was cancer but the time from onset to passing was short. Yesterday was the first breakfast meeting since the funeral. It reminded me of the compassion you showed me when I was in that place. Thank you.

She texted me:

Thank you! The prayer you always say at lunch. I've repeated that prayer so much to a lot of Red Lobster customers they

always love it. We are going to have to

do lunch soon! I

love and miss you!

Happy New Year!

You just never know when your 'presence' will be felt.

Halverson benediction:

"You go nowhere by accident.

Wherever you go, God is sending you.

Wherever you are, God has put you there; He has a purpose in you being there. Christ, who indwells you, has something He wants to do through you where you are.

Believe this and go in His grace and love and power."

—JB