

White Lick Presbyterian *Church Chat*

2530 North 600 East, Avon, IN 46123

December 2023 in the year of our Lord, Jesus Christ



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Pastoral Ponderings:

by Ruth Moore

Holiday and End of Year Giving

Don't know what to buy that relative who has everything they already need or want? How about Uncle Harry who is so hard to buy for? Are you looking for non-profits to fulfill your end of year charitable giving? Need to figure out how to complete your IRA Required Minimum Distributions (RDMs)? Look no further than the suggestions below.

Two of Pastor Ruth's favorites non-profits are **Heifer International** and **The Presbyterian Giving Catalog**. Both of these organizations help people help themselves with gifts of farm animals, seeds, tools, sewing machines, clean water, education and grants for small businesses.

You can find more information at www.heifer.org and www.presbyteriangifts.org.

Bread for the World is a national organization that works for food sustainability and distribution throughout the US and the world. Their goal is to help create a world without hunger and malnutrition. They advocate for continued feeding programs in our schools and communities. They have an office in Indiana and you can get more information at www.breadindiana.org or their national website at www.bread.org.

You can make an end of year donation to **White Lick Presbyterian Church**. I know most of you pledge and support our church's budget, but an end of the year donation will help to fund our Mission Team's end of year giving to our partners in Hendricks County, pay for the new fur-

nance we had to buy to heat church office, and can even be given directly to the Deacons so they can continue to offer the Women’s Retreat, and the Summer Gospel Quartet. Our treasurer, Ron Hoke, can help you with RDM giving to WLPC.

Giving is a sign of our gratitude to God. And we as a congregation have so much to be grateful for this holiday season don’t we? By joining our gifts together, however large or small, we expand our witness to God’s gracious and abundant work in the world.

Advent Event — December 3rd After Fellowship Lunch

After a delicious lunch by the Finance Team, the Worship and Mission Teams invite you to stay and participate in a few Advent activities. There will be chance to answer some Christmas trivia, make some hope, peace, joy and love Christmas gift ornaments for your tree, create some homemade Christmas cards, and we will help the Mission Team stuff homemade stockings with gifts for the residents at the Almost Home shelter run by Family Promise. There is something for everyone, so plan to stay and participate.

Holiday Field Trip: 12/5, The Festival of the Trees

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.

FIELD TRIP

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

The Gift of Being Present Advent Devotional

Advent Devotionals are available for our Worship Series “The Gift of Being Present.” This guided reflection journey for each week follows the themes of the Advent candles – where do we find hope, peace, joy and love in our lives and in our world? It also uses the mindfulness practices of the Advent study “Right Here Right Now: The Practice of Christian Mindfulness”

This devotional journal is available in print at church, or you can have it emailed to you or sent to you in the mail if you let Pastor Ruth know you would like one. Contact her at pastorruth@indy.rr.com

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.



PW Christmas Party



Come share the joys of the season and spread some Christmas cheer. The Presbyterian Women invite you to their annual Christmas Celebration.

When: December 14
 Time: 6:30 p.m.
 Where: Green Street Pub

Please feel free to invite any guests you would like.

There is a sign-up sheet in the hallway before you enter the sanctuary or you may email Trina at trina46168@gmail.com with your RSVP.

We hope to see you there!

**January - October 2023
 Financial Information**

Income	Expenses
\$145,945.88	\$132,434.33

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.

What is The Christmas Joy Offering

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a Presbyterian tradition since the 1930's. The offering distributes 50% to the Board of Pensions which assists current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs. The other 50% makes it possible for students to learn and grow in their faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

Please consider supporting the "Christmas Joy Offering," beginning December 3. For if we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. Envelopes will be in the pew racks.

Christmas Eve Worship Opportunities

Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. Perhaps some of you will come to worship in the morning and that will be your Christmas Eve worship for the year. Others will come to both the morning and the 5 pm service. Some of you will come only to the 5 pm service. Come to one, come to all, is the invitation of course, but if you want to know what will be offered at these services see below.

10:30 am Worship Service – This is the 4th Sunday of Advent and we will celebrate by lighting the 4th Advent candle at the beginning of the service, and the Christ candle at the end of the service. We will explore how we can be present to one another with love and light. The scriptures and sermon will be appropriate for the 4th Sunday of Advent, with some mention of the birth of Jesus. We will sing Christmas carols, but this is not a candlelight service with individual candles.



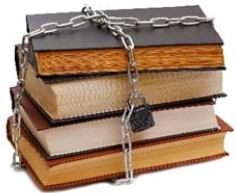
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Service – This will be a more traditional Christmas Eve service with carols, lighting individual candles and closing our worship time with the Christmas carol “Silent Night.” The scriptures and the sermon will be appropriate for the birth of Jesus Christ.

Conversations that Challenge Christians — December 17th

Banned Books is the topic for December 17th Conversations that Challenge Christians

The freedom to read is under assault in our public schools and libraries. Unfortunately, it may take only one person to get a book removed from the shelves using terms such as “pornography” or “indoctrination”. As part of our discussion, we will explore why books are banned; advocacy groups that are influential in getting books banned; types of books banned; and discover how many of those on the list that were required reading when we went to school.

Are you looking for a gift for that hard to buy for person? Are you looking for some reading material for the winter? Are you committed to finally cleaning out your library (so you can make room for more)? Have the grandkids outgrown all those cute story books? Do you have an assortment of Bibles collecting dust? Bring your gently read books to church during December. We will have a swap table in the Welcome Center for you to deposit your books and find ones you want to read. Any books remaining after Christmas will go to the libraries of one of our mission partners.



December Birthdays

- 7 Diana Temple
- 8 Terry George
- 11 Lawson
- 13 Judi Starks
- 15 Gary Shelton
- 18 Chuck Farnsley
- 19 Jean Ann Thorpe

(Please let us know if your birthday has been omitted.)

Fellowship Lunch Schedule

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

December 3 Finance

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



December Calendar



Sunday worship 10:30 am online link:

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/whitelickpres?mibextid=LQQJ4d>
 YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_X2uIQX3x0vECTI2SDT-w

Sunday, December 3

- 9:00 Advent Study: Right Here Right Now
- 10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online
- 11:30 Fellowship Lunch and Advent Activities

Tuesday, Dec 5

10:00 am Festival of Trees Outing at Indiana History Center

Wednesday December 6

7:00 pm Advent Study: Right Here Right Now; via Zoom

Thursday, December 7

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 10 – Communion Sunday

9:00 Advent Study: Right Here Right Now

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

Wednesday December 13

7:00 pm Advent Study: Right Here Right Now; via Zoom

Thursday, December 14

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

6:30 pm PW Dinner at Green St. Pub and Eatery

Sunday, December 17

9:00 Advent Study: Right Here Right Now

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

11:30 Conversations that Challenge Christians

Wednesday December 20

7:00 pm Advent Study: Right Here Right Now; via Zoom

Thursday, December 21

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 24

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

5:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 28

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 31

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online



Carl Sagan's "Pale Blue Dot" contrasts the enormity of God's creation with the insignificance of man's folly.

Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is a stunning contrast in methodology. Contact is made on a most personal level between God and man. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

On Thursday mornings at seven I meet with the Dads group at Denny's. It's a grieving group that has evolved into a bunch of old men who have an opinion on everything and a solution for nothing. I must say though that when one of the Dads hits a rough patch, the other Dads listen and empathize.

Thanksgiving morning is a special morning when we take our greatest personal loss and turn it into a positive; we remember their lives with photos and memorabilia.

After toasting our kids the discussion went to a comparison of medical problems. I am the oldest of the bunch but had the fewest complaints. Then alluding to the life that is to come a Dad said one day this will all be gone in the blink of an eye. Carl Sagan couldn't have said it better.

And so on to Christmas: Let us be present in the moment. We know our children who have gone on ahead of us will be disappointed if we don't fill each day with love, joy and Christmas present Right Here, Right Now. There are seven in my household including three grandchildren I never thought I would have. JB

Link to Carl Sagan's "Pale Blue Dot"

https://video.search.yahoo.com/yhs/search?fr=yhs-tro-freshy&ei=UTF-8&hsimp=yhs-freshy&hsprt=cro&p=carl+segan+one+small+blue+dot&type=Y10_F163_204671_102220#id=1&vid=262521a5a133ddfa3c472245118a6655&action=click