

White Lick Presbyterian *Church Chat*

2530 North 600 East, Avon, IN 46123

January 2024 in the year of our Lord, Jesus Christ

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Pastoral Ponderings:

by Ruth Moore

As we begin a new year – how is that possible? – I want you to know how grateful I am to start a new calendar year of worship, ministry and mission with all of you. I look forward to new ways of doing things, new people to meet and welcome into our midst, and new ways of loving our neighbors as ourselves. And I hope to do that with more intension as I (we) slow down and look for the presence of God in our midst, and look for ways to be the presence of God in the lives of others – our Advent theme for 2023. I share this classic poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson in 1850 for us to ponder as we begin a new year together. The language is old, the message is not.

Ring Out Wild Bells

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
 The faithless coldness of the times;
 Ring out, ring out my mournful
 rhymes
 But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
 The civic slander and the spite;
 Ring in the love of truth and right,
 Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
 Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
 Ring out the thousand wars of old,
 Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
 The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
 Ring out the darkness of the land,
 Ring in the Christ that is to be.

**Mission Team:
 Christmas Giving**



Many of you assisted Nan, Trina, Deanna, and others put together the stockings at church on the 3rd. What a Blessing! Trina then scurried around to make up stockings for two families who came into Almost Home right before we were scheduled to deliver. In all, we delivered 34 stockings in time for Christmas.

The best news is that THREE families were able to get into a home right before



Thank you so much for all the wonderful toys given in our Toy Drive for the Family Promise Santa Shop. Shirley and Dave delivered more than 4 overflowing tubs of gifts to Heather Heikkila at Family Promise.

Nan Johnson headed up the Christmas Stockings Project.

Special thanks to all of the ladies who hand made Stockings for Almost Home; Sara, Jean, Daphne, Alice, Sherry, Darlene, Angie, Annetta, Cindy and Nan. Our little church is filled with hidden talent!

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 chief1946vas@att.net.

Christmas. They were able to take their family bag of Stockings with them.

We are blessed to be a part of a congregation that loves to give to others.

The Mission Team can always count on you to turn out in full force whenever we ask you to support one of our Mission Partners. You are the best! Thank you.

You're Invited — January 14th

Interested in seeing what Cassie Brooks saw in the Netherlands in July? Cassie invites you to stay after church for a

bit on January 14 for a slideshow and some of her stories and takeaways from her 23 day Lilly Endowment Teacher

Fellowship experience over the summer. What makes Cassie proud of her Dutch family heritage, and what were the

disappointments? Join us to find out, and there might even be some Dutch goodies to nibble on while we visit... the

Dutch love their lekker gebak (tasty pastries)!

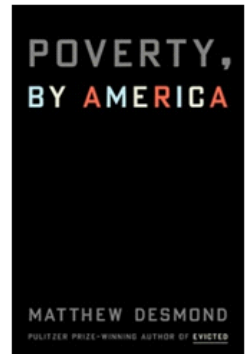
Conversations that Challenge Christians: Winter Book Study, January 21st

This is who we are: the richest country on earth, with more poverty than any other advanced democracy...Almost one in nine Americans—including one in eight children—live in poverty. There are more than 38 million people living in the United States who cannot afford basic necessities, and more than 108 million getting by on \$55,000 a year or less, many stuck in that space between poverty and security. More than a million of our public schoolchildren are homeless, living in motels, cars, shelters, and abandoned buildings. After arriving in prison, many incarcerated Americans suddenly find that their health im-

proves because the conditions they faced as free (but impoverished) citizens were worse...The United States annually produces \$5.3 trillion more in goods and services than China...California alone has a bigger economy than Canada does; New York State's economy surpasses South Korea's. America's poverty is not for lack of resources. **We lack something else.**

(emphasis added)

Matthew Desmond opens his new book *Poverty, by America* with some attention getting facts about poverty. This is not your typical book about poverty. Desmond digs deep into the structures and systems that keep



people in poverty. "Those of us living lives of privilege and plenty must examine ourselves. Are we—we the secure, the insured, the housed, the college educated, the protected, the lucky—connected to all this needless suffering? ...Which makes this a book about poverty that is not just about

**January - November 2023
Financial Information**

Income	Expenses
\$164,761.09	\$147,729.91

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.



the poor. **Instead, it's a book about how the *other* other half lives, about how some lives are made small so that others may grow.**" (emphasis added)

The winter series of Conversations that Challenge Christians will explore some of Desmond's conclusions on how we as a nation keep people living in poverty through the laws, policies, norms, values, and behaviors in our institutions, businesses, government, and churches. As part of the *privileged classes*, we do not even recognize our role in the poverty cycle. You do not need to read the book to participate in the discussions. We will start the conversations on January 21st following worship.

Book Swap Continues

The group who attended the December Conversations that Challenge Christians discussion on banned books, requested the book swap continue. Books will be put on a bookshelf in Fellowship Hall. Feel free to take a book or books to read or bring your books to share with others. Books for all ages accepted...even banned books.

Conversations that Challenge Christians: The Working Hungry, Jan. 21st

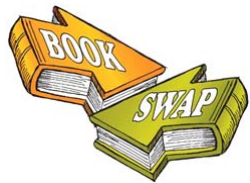
Most of us have the image of an inner-city family that must rely on the neighborhood church food pantry. However, food insecurity is a much more complex issue than passing out free food. Not only are inner city families impacted but suburban and rural families as well. We will view a documentary called "Working Hungry" which looks at the problem in Indiana and specifically in the Indianapolis metro area. Discussion will follow on the institutional structures and systems that keep children

going to school hungry and parents working multiple jobs to cover basic living expenses. More details will be included in Pastor Ruth's Thursday emails.

Congregational Meeting January 28th

The congregation will meet after worship on January 28 for the purpose of a Congregational Meeting to review what our teams and committees accomplished in 2023, and to look over the Session approved budget for 2024. Your presence is important so that you can be informed about the health of the ministry and mission of White Lick Presbyterian Church, and hear our plans and dreams for how we can be the face of Christ to our neighbors in 2024.

A written Annual Report will be sent to you by email from the Clerk of Session, Annetta Davis, and a few printed copies will be available at church on the 28th.



Birthdays

- 1 Sue Lawson
- 9 Will Parker
- 13 Jeannine Fancher
- 15 Wes Potter
- 24 Trina Corbett
- 27 Chris Cooper
- 29 Cassie Brooks
- 29 Angie Cooper

(Let us know if your birthday is not listed.)



Fellowship Lunch Schedule

(First Half of 2024)

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



January Calendar



Sunday worship 10:30 am online link:

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

YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_X2uliQX3x0vECTI2SDT-w

Thursday, January 4

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 7

10:30 Worship and ordination of officers
in Sanctuary & online

11:30 Fellowship Lunch – Hospitality

Wednesday, January 10

6:00 Deacon’s Meeting – Brownsburg
Library

Thursday, January 11

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Saturday, January 13

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

9:00 am Mission Team

Sunday, January 14 – Communion Sunday

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

11:30 Cassie Brooks Holland Trip Overview

Monday, January 15

6:00 PW Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 16

7:00 pm Session Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, January 18

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 21

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

11:30 Conversations that Challenge
Christians

Thursday, January 25

6:30 pm PAL Group in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, January 28

10:30 Worship in Sanctuary & online

11:30 Congregational Meeting



Editor’s Column:

By Jerry Bennett

Our theme in Advent was “Right Here, Right Now” with emphasis on living in the moment. Last week we had the longest night of the year. It is the darkest of the dark. While out for my walk I said to my other self. (My left brain and right brain have conversations at times.) “Enough of the darkness; bring on some light! “Let’s fast forward to spring!” Then my right brain, the rational one replied, “You can’t do that. “Think of the tectonic chaos of spinning the earth to fast forward three months.” My rational voice said, “Be patient. “Spring will come when it comes and with it the rebirth of Easter and all the flowers and new chicks and bunnies and all of the pagan fertility symbols that were co-opted by the Roman Church in superimposing Christianity on the pagan world.”

“Spring will come and in the mean time contemplate the coming season.”

My left brain said, “But I’m impatient! “I want Spring Right Here, Right Now!” The ‘me’ (irrational) voice in my head said.

The self (rational) voice answered, “Be patient. “Spring will get here when it gets here.”

“So, what am I to do while I’m waiting

for spring to come? "Huddle in a corner and try to keep warm?" My other self, imitating the voice of God said "I had a purpose in mind when I created the winter. "It is a time for reflection and review. "What have you done right and what have you done that brought you no gain? "What will

you do differently tomorrow? "Read a book; join a study group; make yourself useful to your fellow man. "Hey! "Here's an idea. "Make some New Year's Resolutions... "And keep them."

It gets noisy in my head when I have nothing to do. Better get busy. — JB



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