

First Presbyterian Church  
221 East Sixth Street at Lincoln  
Bloomington, IN 47408  
(812) 332-1514



# First Press

*Celebrating Christ and Serving Community*

February 2021 Volume 63, No.2

hello february

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2/2 - Julia Strycker; Nicholas Swank  
2/4 - Malcom Flemming  
2/5 - Emily Bobo  
2/7 - James Pfister; Steve Creech  
2/8 - Grant Prenkert; Jill Shimek; Betsy Gray;  
Backy Rusie; NancyRuff; Mary Ellen Rothrock  
2/10 - Ava Schneider  
2/11 - Greg Reece; Ken Bickers; Anne Fuson;  
Jean Kory  
2/12 - Sylvia Jefferies; John Stackhouse

2/14 - Bill Barrett  
2/15 - Michelle Talbot; Kelsey Potter;  
Maxwell Riggle  
2/17 - Dea Schneider  
2/18 - Judy Crow; Bob Baird; Carol Peterman  
2/21 - Peter Voskuil  
2/22 - Owen Johnson  
2/23 - Mike Riggle  
2/25 - Rachel Boeyink  
2/27 - Samantha Nickel  
2/28 - Tim Fuson



## Announcements

Join Pastor Kelley and Sherry Knighton-Schwandt on the first and third Thursdays of each month for a time of corporate prayer. In February, we will gather on February 4 and 18 at 12:00 noon on zoom.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/97299207915?pwd=c0RjSnFvL1lrSi9seHlIK05ZVXRUT09>

Meeting ID: 972 9920 7915

Passcode: 601375



Please reach out to Pastor Kelley ([kelley@fpcbloomington.org](mailto:kelley@fpcbloomington.org)) if you have any questions or prayer concerns!



Looking for a way to help our community? The Outreach Committee needs volunteers to work the Saturday morning breakfasts at Shalom. This would be a 1 1/2 - 2 hour shift once a month.

Shalom is careful to protect everyone who enters the building by requiring masks and social distancing. If interested in this rewarding opportunity, please call Ann Gilbert at 812-508-9558.

## Adult Education in February

February is an exciting time for Adult Education at FPC. Support your faith journey by engaging in at least one of these offerings.

### **Lectionary Bible Study—Every Tuesday evening at 7:30pm (NEW TIME).**

This ongoing class gives you the opportunity to delve deeply into the Lectionary passages for the previous Sunday and be part of a supportive, energetic group. The class discusses Bible passages based on the weekly Revised Common Lectionary and uses the curriculum, *Feasting on the Word*, to enrich the study. Volunteers take turns leading the spirited discussion.

- No prior Biblical knowledge is necessary
- You do not have to take a leader role
- Not necessary to attend every session.

The class meets on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm through Zoom.

Zoom link and Passcode (**NOTE: you may need a passcode to enter the meeting**) <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82820692230?pwd=c016Y0w4eUFUT1BPMEpBRmNiTVFDdz09>

Meeting ID: 828 2069 2230

Passcode: 082786

The Friday announcements will include material for each week's class.

### **Faith Forum: From cotton fields to university leadership. Charlie Nelms. Feb 11 at 7:30pm via zoom.**

Dr. Charlie Nelms is a person of the soil. One of eleven children, he was born and reared on a farm in the Arkansas Delta during the era of American-style apartheid. With the love and encouragement of his parents, teachers and the members of the small rural church where his family worshipped, Charlie went on to become a drum major for racial justice and a national leader in higher education. His book, *From Cotton Fields to University Leadership: All Eyes on Charlie, A Memoir*, was published by the Indiana University Press in 2019. All royalties from the sale of his book are donated to the United Negro College Fund and the Thurgood Marshall College Fund for scholarships for students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The focus of this Faith Forum is to:

- Give you a glimpse of what life was like for Blacks in rural Arkansas in the days of Dr. Nelm's youth.
- Share his rationale for writing the book, key themes and takeaways.
- Discuss the role the church played in nurturing his development; how it sustained him then and now.

If you wish to purchase the book, it is available through numerous sources including IU Press, Monroe County History Center bookstore, Amazon, and The Book Corner, among others.

The Faith Forum with Dr. Nelms will occur on Thursday, Feb 11 at 7:30pm. Watch the previous FPC Friday's announcements for the zoom link.

**Book study: Walter Brueggemann's Virus as a Summons to Faith: Biblical Reflections in a Time of Loss, Grief, and Uncertainty. Led by Rev. David Rosen. Thursdays for five weeks, beginning February 25 at 7:30pm.**

Much of our conversation during the last almost one year have centered on the medical issues of the COVID-19 virus. While this is understandable, the virus has spiritual implications around the loss, grief, and uncertainty many of us feel during this period. Walter Brueggemann, an outstanding Old Testament scholar and a professor emeritus at Columbia Theological Seminary enriches our reflections of how Old Testament teachings bring to this pandemic a deeper understanding of our relationship to God and to each other. Rev. David Rosen, an ordained Presbyterian minister, a student of Brueggemann, and an active partner with us at FPC will lead this discussion. The book study will meet once a week for five weeks, beginning on Thursday evening, February 25 at 7:30pm via zoom. More information regarding the zoom link will be provided in FPC Friday's announcements.



# LENT OF LIBERATION

## A Lenten Sermon Series + Sunday Study



First Presbyterian Church invites you to join us Sundays in Lent for our sermon series: Lent of Liberation. We will be using Cheri L. Mills’ devotional book *Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery* as our basis, weaving in the Scriptures and taking this holy time for reflection on the history of slavery. After worship on Sundays (10:00 a.m. on [fpcbloomington.online.church](http://fpcbloomington.online.church)) we invite you to gather for further reflection and study on zoom. The details can be found below.

### **Lent of Liberation Study**

Time: Sundays, 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Dates: February 21, 28; March 7, 14, 21, 28

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99527078857?pwd=TTF2cHVjbzFpc2N5NWlUWR0cUFHUT09>

Meeting ID: 995 2707 8857

Passcode: 955949

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“Lent is a time for personal reflection as we march toward Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday. The forty days of Lent are to remind us of the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, fasting and praying, practicing self-denial to commit himself fully to the will of God. This time was a prelude to his great Galilean ministry, in which he would say “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me” (Matt. 16:24). . . . Lent is a time of denial, but not denial of the truth—the spirit of Lent must lead us to confront the legacy of American Slavery head-on if we are to overcome the centuries of White privilege at Black expense.”

—Cheri L. Mills, *Lent of Liberation*, p. xiii

## League of Women Voters of Indiana Sponsor 3-Film Series

Voter suppression does not end after elections. A powerful way of suppressing the vote occurs every 10 years, after the U.S. Census, when legislative districts are redrawn. In Indiana, where redistricting is done by our legislators, both chambers and the governorship are currently controlled by one party. Single-party control increases the risk of gerrymandering — manipulating district lines to favor one party.

The League of Women Voters of Indiana is sponsoring a 3-film series offering deep insights into the tactics of voter suppression. We invite you to attend this series and learn how you can help bring about a fair and transparent redistricting process in 2021.

The 3 films are free and will be shown from 7:30-9:00 p.m. by Zoom. Q&A panels will follow each film and are listed in the attached flyer and below.

**Suppressed: The Fight to Vote** will be shown on Thursday, **January 28** and shares personal accounts from Georgia voters who faced deliberate voter suppression in the 2018 midterm election. The 35-minute documentary will be followed by Q&A's with panelists Sarah Ferraro (election official, Calumet LWV) and Olisa Humes (President NAACP chapter, Columbus, IN).

**UnCivil War: U.S. Elections under Siege** will be shown on **Thursday, February 4**. Directed by Indiana native Tom Glynn, it exposes a web of threats to free and fair elections. Panelists include Sheila Kennedy (former Prof. of Law and Policy, School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI), Paul Helmke (former Ft. Wayne Mayor, current Dir. of the Civic Leader Center at IU), and Peggy Welch (former IN State Rep., gerrymandered in 2011).

**Line in the Street** will be shown on **Thursday, February 11**. This award-winning documentary is about citizen activists and a landmark win for voting rights in the 2018 Pennsylvania Supreme Court case League of Women Voters Pennsylvania V. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It will be followed by panelists Jesse Kharbanda (Hoosier Environmental Council) and Jennifer McCormick (former IN State Superintendent of Public Instruction).

You must register in advance at <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0rc-2qpz4pHNzfroVQZCT-X4lvk7N7m-ng>. A confirmation email will be sent with information and a unique link to attend the programs.

To sign up for updates or to volunteer with the redistricting reform campaign, contact [redistrict-1@lww-bmc.org](mailto:redistrict-1@lww-bmc.org).

Thank you, League of Women Voters of Bloomington-Monroe County  
Redistricting Reform Team

**Together we can make a difference!**

To unsubscribe from this list, please “reply” and let us know. We’ll delete your contact information from future mailings.

## **“Three Cheers for ... You!” by Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake**

Katy Valentine, a Disciples of Christ (Christian Church) pastor in Chico, California, described a retreat she led for a group of clergy recently:

*“Yesterday I led an entire group of clergy (around 40) in a self-contained mini retreat, and oh my, they were fabulous! These clergy are all amazing. They have learned how to hold church online this year, made huge pivots (that’s the theme word of 2020 and 2021, isn’t it?) and learned to do their ministry in whole new ways.*

*I’m proud of them.*

*They are open minded, inclusive, and passionate about social justice here on the earth. They are true ministers of Jesus. Are they perfect? Of course not -- they’re human. But they’re darned great and have a lot of integrity. I’m riding high on the beautiful energy that was shared yesterday with my colleagues, and I am grateful.”*

I share this with you because similar things can be said of parishioners in many of our churches. You, too, have learned how to do ministry in whole new ways (pivots!).

Some of the things I appreciate about FPC Bloomington are:

- A genuine sense of caring among church members in times of need.
- Consistent efforts to maintain a sense of community while we continue to social distance.
- Strong lay leadership that keeps committee work, volunteerism, and mission effective.
- Positive feedback to staff that is encouraging and makes FPC a pleasant place to work.
- Continued strong stewardship/financial support as we mark a year of worshipping online.

The Church of Scotland (which is the mother church of North American Presbyterianism) started a mission outreach program called Church Without Walls several years ago that sought to bring the witness and work of the church directly into local communities—outside of the traditional church work that takes place inside church buildings. It has been a successful initiative to introduce people who are unfamiliar with the church to connect with it, primarily through “hands-on” community mission projects like Habitat for Humanity. Little did they know that the name Church Without Walls would take on a whole new meaning during the pandemic!

We, too, have an opportunity to be a *Church Without Walls* post-pandemic—to be less inwardly focused, less “siloeed” in our denominational camps, and more welcoming to those who may be curious as to what we are all about. FPC has many strengths on which to build as we move forward into the future.

Blessings and peace,

Rev. Dr. Scott M. Kenefake, Interim/Transitional Sr. Pastor

## Sharing Christmas with Posoltega, Nicaragua!

This year, the women of FPC’s Koinonia Circle outdid themselves, successfully conducting their annual Christmas Store virtually! As a result, we once again were able to share the joy of Christmas with the children of our sister church in Posoltega, Nicaragua.



Much like Koinonia, the women of our sister church, including Doña Lucrecia Martínez and Doña Gloria Cardoza, played a leading role in this project, organizing fiestas and purchasing small gifts – not only for children in the central Posoltega congregation but also for those in nearby “comarcas,” areas that are even more impoverished than the village itself.

Padre Gabriel Pallavicini has expressed the deep gratitude of his congregation, noting that FPC deserves “a thousand compliments from the Lord.” He said that we brought a much-needed dose of cheer to dozens and dozens of needy children even as we reminded the entire Posoltega community that, even in the midst of a global pandemic, “Christmas is a time of joy and hope.”



Thanks to the women of Koinonia and to all those who supported the Christmas Store with their purchases and donations; to Padre Gabriel and to the hard-working women of his congregation; and to God for permitting our two congregations to work together from a distance, as brothers and sisters in Christ



It was so nice to see our church's Outreach activities highlighted in the recent newsletter of Area 10 Agency on Aging.

### **Christmas Joy donated from First Presbyterian Church and Volunteers via the Angel Tree**

For over two decades, members of the First Presbyterian Church in Bloomington have made it a mission to provide Christmas gifts to many of the residents in the Edgewood Village, Cunot and Dodds-Wylie apartments. Throughout the years, they have provided basic warm clothing such as coats, gloves, scarfs and other clothing items to help tenants get through the cold winter months along with other gifts meant to provide enjoyment. This year they generously surprised 40 residents with gifts.

According to Ginny Coppedge, the activity was started 24 years ago by her friend, Joann Dodd, through a project of the church's Outreach and Mission Committee. Ginny and her husband, Jim, have co-chaired the venture for the last four years after their move from Spencer to Bloomington. "We advertise this as a family project. Often times the kids get involved and are very excited that they also have a connection." She notes the members of the church are very responsive and sometimes they don't have enough "Angel" gift tags for everyone. Often members will comment, "I know the perfect gift or I know exactly where to get that". Sometimes the gift the church provides may be the only gift a tenant receives. Ginny also notes that it might be the only gift that the church member gives because they don't have family to share the holiday.

The kindness of all those who have contributed gifts is sincerely appreciated by the residents according to Susan Chambers, Area 10 Housing Manager. "When we deliver the gifts to our residents, they are so appreciative and shocked by the kindness of others. Many will ask several times why they are getting the gifts! We always make sure they know that First Presbyterian's members are the folks that bought the gifts. Other gifts have been handmade and donated throughout the years. This year our amazing receptionist, Georgianne Medaris, made over 30 beautiful blankets by hand and donated them to make sure that every tenant received a gift!"

As with everything, COVID made a difference in how the closed church handled the project this year. Members had to be creative in implementing the venture. They set up three times for the "Angels" to drop off gifts in the church parking lot. "We were thrilled to see each other in person." Their assistant pastor also created an online system to sign up for the gifts which proved successful and will be in operation next year. "Something good did come from COVID," explains Ginny.

At the same time the church was managing the "Angel Tree", they also worked on a project they do every year for a church in their sister city in Nicaragua. Ginny comments, "Each year church members create beautiful handmade gifts which they sell in a store to children from our church for a \$1.00. The gifts are wrapped for the kids to take home and give to family members". Since the church is closed this year, a member created a catalog for the kids to make selections. The money is then sent to a priest who buys gifts for children in the Nicaraguan city.

Executive Director of Area 10, Chris Myers commends the group by stating, "The humble generosity of First Presbyterian Church extends past one time a year. They coordinate and staff a troop of volunteers who are instrumental in our Mobile Food Pantry, bagging and driving and delivering needed groceries to homebound individuals. They truly live by their mission, by example. We are grateful for their giving spirits!"

## Valentine sale!!!



### Chocolate for Valentine's Day! What could be better?

Buy some very delicious dark organic chocolate bars for that special someone – or yourself! You will be helping support Equal Exchange farmers and our church's ongoing projects in Posoltega, Nicaragua.

**Sunday, February 7, in the FPC parking lot 11:30-12:00,  
or call for free delivery to your front porch any time.**

Contact Debbi Conkle at [debbiconkle@gmail.com](mailto:debbiconkle@gmail.com) or 812-333-1712.

1. You must **order before coming**. See contact info above.
2. Write checks payable to **First Presbyterian Church**, with "Coffee" on memo line, or have exact change.
3. **Drive through the church parking lot between 11:30 – 12:00 noon, on Sunday, February 7.** Please wear a mask. There will be no direct hand-to-hand transactions. We will place items in your car, and you can place payment in a box. If the weather is nice, people may want to stay and visit with others.
4. If you prefer delivery to your home, let Debbi know.

**Coffee \$10:** Breakfast Blend Drip, Organic **Decaf** Drip, Breakfast Blend BEAN, Café Nica French Roast BEAN (dark)

**Coffee \$12:** Sisters' Blend Drip (1 lb.)

**Tea \$4:** English Breakfast, Earl Grey, Chai, Green, **Decaf** English Breakfast, Ginger Caffeine free, Peppermint Caffeine free, Rooibos Caffeine free

**Chocolate bars \$4:** Panama Extra Dark (80%), Very Dark Chocolate (71%), Dark Chocolate w/ mint crunch (67%), \*(**new**) Dark Chocolate w/ Orange 65%, Dark Chocolate Caramel Crunch w/ sea salt (55%), Dark Chocolate w/ Almond pieces (55%), Dark Chocolate w/ Whole Almond & Sea Salt (55%)

**Cocoa \$6.50:** Organic Baking Cocoa Mix (8 oz.), Organic Hot Cocoa Mix (add water) (12 oz.)

## February 2021 - A New Year's Gift by Pat Stackhouse

Sometimes New Year's surprises come early and often they come in forms other than material gifts. See how one arrived.

Last year it seemed many parties were around the New Year for my husband and me. There was much joy and merriment and good food and fellowship. At one party I didn't know the group well, but I had always enjoyed meeting with them. However, one woman in the group was always snobby to me whenever the group met. I was crushed and felt uncomfortable. She made a point to avoid speaking and setting with me.



However, at this one particular party things were to be different. The group was all to be seated at one long table when we ate and talked together. To my surprise, this woman came and sat right beside me. She turned slightly away from me but was nevertheless beside me.

She joined in conversation with those around but turned towards me several times with a pleasant face to include me in the conversation. I didn't say much but smiled and nodded.

When I got home, I was puzzled. I tried analyzing what had happened. Why had she sat beside me and attempted to include me in the conversation? My husband after hearing this for a while said, "Why don't you just accept it and quit analyzing it?"

He was right. I decided to pray and thank God for the woman and her gift of kindness and thank God for leading her to me.

Perhaps we too often try to figure people out and not just accept their kindness for what it is. Praise God for when people are kind and God for accepting us just as we are.



## Energy Efficiency Upgrades For An Old Church

By Allan Edmonds and Norm Holy

Our classic church is comfortable. But it is more expensive to maintain and more inefficient than a new building with modern heating and air conditioning. It is a challenge to upgrade the infrastructure to consume less fossil-fuel-based energy and to save money on utility bills.

The two most important projects in this direction that the Property Committee has accomplished in recent years are the replacement of old incandescent and fluorescent lighting with LED bulbs and the replacement of one of two gas-fired boilers with a high-efficiency model. We have in fact reduced our energy consumption substantially from our peak in 2014, saving many thousands of dollars a year.

These improvements have been a significant upgrade. But we are still an energy hog and there is more to be done.

The shutdown caused by the COVID-19 pandemic allowed us to save noticeably on gas and electricity by laboriously adjusting temperature settings and boiler operations by hand. How much better it would be to automate this process so that adjustments can be done on a daily basis as appropriate.

Before they moved away to be closer to family, Jack and Julie King were faithful members of our small Earth Stewards group. Jack passed away not long after they moved to upstate New York. To honor Jack's memory, Julie donated funds to the church to be used for energy efficiency improvements. Those funds are now being used to upgrade to electronic monitoring equipment. With this upgrade the property committee will be able to monitor heating and air conditioning remotely.

This paves the way to replacing rather antiquated valves and thermostats around the church to allow us to use proper zoned heating and air conditioning. This next step will be expensive. But now we have been able to take an important first step.

Let's continue to work together to reduce our carbon footprint at church as well as at home.



## From our Treasurer

The books for 2020 are not closed as of this writing. However, it is important to note that thanks to the generosity of the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, the church will end the year on a positive note. Full reports will be available shortly.

For those of you who have not yet submitted a pledge for 2021, it is not too late to do so. Please call the treasurer at 8012-332-1514 or email her at [mary@fpcbloomington.org](mailto:mary@fpcbloomington.org).

The per capita for 2021 is \$44/active member. If you have not already contributed this amount, please help us by sending this amount to the church.

Giving envelopes are available in the narthex adjacent to the social hall. If you take a box, please sign the yellow card.



# FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	7:30pm Theology on Tap (Zoom) 1	7:00pm 2 Choir Practice 7:30pm Deacons Meeting 8pm Bible Study (Zoom) <i>Groundhog Day</i>	3	5:45pm 4 Outreach Committee	1pm 5 C.L. Lewis Book	6
10am 7 Worship Service (Communion)  11am Children Choir	7:30pm 8 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	7:00pm 9 Choir Practice  8pm Bible Study (Zoom)	10	7:30pm 11 Faith Forum (Zoom)	1pm 12 C.L. Lewis Book  <i>Lincoln's Birthday</i>	13
10am 14 Worship Service  11am Children Choir  <i>Valentine's Day</i>	7:30pm 15 Theology on Tap (Zoom)	7:00pm 16 Choir Practice  8pm Bible Study (Zoom)	17	18	1pm 19 C.L. Lewis Book	20
10am 21 Worship Service  11am Children Choir	7:30pm 22 Theology on Tap (Zoom)  <i>Washington's Birthday</i>	7:00pm 23 Choir Practice  8pm Bible Study (Zoom)	24	7:30pm 25 Book Study (Zoom)	1pm 26 C.L. Lewis Book	27
10am 28 Worship Service  11am Children Choir						