

MEMORIAL PRESS

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February 2014 Pastor's Epistle



I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:18-25

On the first Sunday of January, the elders and I made the decision to cancel Sunday worship due to the snow and bitter cold arctic winds. I had never experienced what it was like to cancel worship, and discovered sleeping in on a Sunday morning was quite an unusual feeling!

Several weeks later, while attending the Confirmation Retreat with our youth at the Geneva Center in Rochester, there was another significant snow fall. Since I was so far from home, I touched base with several other pastors at the retreat and called several elders from our church about whether we should be considering canceling worship again. Each group of Hoosiers gave me a similar answer which in essence was, "No. This is normal Indiana snow." Basically what I was told is, "This is the way it is around here." The temperature drops and the wind blows, the snow falls and roads become precarious to traverse, but this is all really just par for the course.

Embracing the way it is, concerning the cold hard facts of the weather in Indiana, is understandable. We accept and adapt and move on. Period. End of story. But embracing the cold hard facts of life, and death, is not.

As I sit here writing the February Pastor's Epistle, yet another arctic blast is bearing down upon us, but it isn't the weather that I'm thinking about this morning, but rather the sheer volume of death and loss I have recently heard of and have myself experienced. Within a mere handful of weeks there has been a significant rise in just how many members of our congregation have experienced the passing of beloved family members, close friends, and trusted and treasured colleagues and co-workers. I myself recently learned of the passing of my hometown pastor's wife, and then heard again more news from home about the death of a friend of mine who was a captain I worked many hours with, who was a kind of father figure to me.

There is a saying I was introduced to a number of years ago, which depending on the situation, can be quite apropos or ill fitting. The saying is, "It is what it is." When talking about the weather, the saying is apropos; when talking about the inevitability of death, it is ill fitting and incorrect.

When someone we love passes away, what we need to remember is that death is neither the "way it is", nor is something to accept because "it is what it is". While it's unfortunately sad but true that we suffer the loss of those we know and love, it is also true that death is not the final word concerning life. In fact, this "bondage to decay" as Paul describes it, is a suffering we experience only in the present, but doesn't compare to the redemption of our bodies, of our very lives, which is the eternal glory of being set free to be the children of God that we were created to be. But that is later, and this is now. And as Paul reminds us, it is in the present that creation itself is "groaning" as it patiently waits for this all to come to pass.

It is in the present that we experience the cold winds of loss that sometimes seem to blow us away from remembering the good news of the resurrection. Therefore I want to remind you, and myself, that while we may not be able to see the future of the hope of which we await, we do indeed know and trust that it is a future that is coming. As sure as spring is around the corner, so is our eternal lives with the Lord.

My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for now the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come" Song of Solomon 2:1-12

Blessings, Pastor Justin

**Your Church Officers
For 2014**

PASTOR Rev. Dr. Justin I. Schlesinger-Devlin

ELDERS

Ralph Achgill
Harriett Berry
Susan Clawson
Kathy Deckard
Suzanne Fogarty
Susan Gibson
Mike Grimes, Clerk of Session
Cathy Hancock
Ron Miller
Jon Petrie
Wes Shaw
Brian Sprague

DEACONS

Nancy Brand
Cindy Bull
Molly Daniels
Joe Grimes
Nancy Grimes
Patty Hicks
Julie Rosa
Fred Reichart
Jane Reichart
Kathy Shaw
Cindy Stanford
Karen Summers

TRUSTEES

Ron Berry
Donnie Boles
John Brand
John Cassady
Bruce Gibson
Pat Grimes
Steve Hancock
Stephen Norris
Lynn Ryan

Local Church & Mission Treasurer
Asst. Church & Mission Treasurer
Church School Superintendent
Asst. Church School Superintendent
Cradle Roll Superintendent
Church School Secretary
Nursery Coordinators

Nancy Edwards
Patty Hicks
David Grimes
Jane Coleman
Bethany Grimes
Phyllis Hill
Cathy Bowlin
Hillary Basden

***** SESSION NOTES *****

Your Session met on Tuesday evening, January 21, 2014, and during the meeting the Elders:

- Read two letters of thanks from the Lafayette Urban Ministry for donations received from our church
- Reported the installation of Deacons and Elders for 2014
- Approved a list of special worship services for 2014, including: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunrise, and Christmas Eve
- Approved a comprehensive list of C.E. activities for 2014, including: Lenten symbols during worship, Teacher, Student & Grad recognition 5/18, VBS 6/16-6/20, Sunday School Kickoff 9/7, Hanging the Greens 11/23, Children's Christmas Program 12/14, and Taking Down the Greens on 1/3/15
- Approved Adult curriculum "Faith Practices of the Earliest Christian, and Sr. High Curriculum "Exploring from a book *Blue Like Jazz*" by Donald Miller
- Approved a list of Special Offerings for 2014, including: Souper Bowl, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peacemaking, Blanket Sunday, Jubilee Christmas, and Christmas Joy Offering
- Maintained the same Committee Chair assignments as in 2013
- Learned that the "Golden Girls" luncheon program will begin earlier in 2014
- Approved the Boy Scout's request to have an overnight event and prepare a pancakes and sausage breakfast for the congregation on February 9

Michael E. Grimes, Clerk of Session

Memorial Presbyterian Church – Mission Statement

The Mission of Memorial Presbyterian Church is to witness to the love of God and Jesus Christ to all people of the community and to serve their spiritual and physical needs through meaningful worship, Christian education, and community outreach programs.

Change for Change!!!



As part of Sunday school we will have a special offering called, *Change for Change*. This offering is meant to support mission projects, such as Heifer Project – a program featured in our kick-off, Animal Crackers! Please, SAVE your loose coins (no bills – we want to make the offering buckets *ring!*). **In January we collected \$70.84. On February 9, 2014, bring your change to help with Change in our community and throughout the world!**

Our Church Family

February Sunday Morning

Breakfast Host

Patty Hicks

February Deacons

Karen Summers, Capt.

Communion

TBA

February Elders

TBA

Communion

Harriett Berry

Devotions

February Birthdays:

- 1 Laura Houser
- 2 Alan Spray
- 3 Aaron Bradley Best
- 3 Lindsey Hughes
- 5 Courtney Biery
- 6 Nancy Edwards
- 6 Muriel Grimes
- 6 Kelly Reid
- 7 Brian Mundell
- 10 Evan Fitzgerald
- 12 Mike Alkire
- 14 Peggy Fields
- 14 Ryan Fitzgerald
- 14 Ryan Gard
- 15 Gene Smith
- 16 Emily Mundell
- 17 Stephanie Valenta
- 18 Bethany Grimes
- 18 Alexander Jones
- 20 Marilyn Yoder
- 24 Ron Berry
- 26 Dylan Holsclaw



February Anniversaries

- 10 Ron & Esther Miller
- 16 Ron & Harriett Berry
- 20 Alex & Cindy Zdravich





Dear Church Family,

It's so wonderful to have loving friends and family to see you through difficult times.

Thank you so very much for loving us. We are truly blessed with your love and thoughtfulness. God is good all the time.

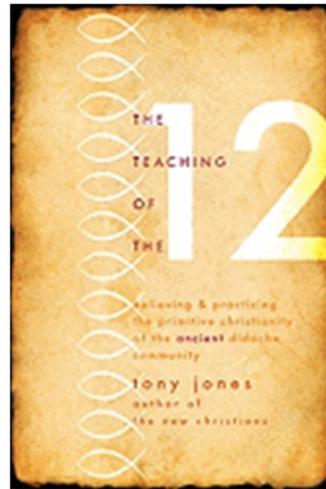


Love,
David, Muriel and Family

IN OUR PRAYERS:



Our military, our nation & its leaders; persecuted Christians; people locally & nationally in need; victims of domestic violence; Carolyn Finkenbinder; Russell Lucas; Marjora Odenkirk; Jackie Ginther (Niece/Joy Schwartz); Richard Triplet; Seth Ratcliff; Ethan Pfaltzgraff (Susan Clawson's relative); William Baker, Terry Lynn Pfeiffer; Dawn Morgan; Cindy DeGolyer; Randy Smith, Monica Bretz; Martha Trautman (colleague of L.Campbell); Susan Dawson (niece of Mary Terry), Cheryl Byers (friend of J.Coleman); Gene Smith; Andy Vasiento (father of Nicole Rosen); Bob & Susan Yost; Kevin Konrad; Amy McGuire; Ellen Hiday (friend of T. Lineback); Sally Wengal (friend of J. Schwartz), Betty Pfeiffer; Jack Ferry (friend of Don & Joy Schwartz); Richie Holmberg (nephew of Lynn & Judy Ryan); John Downham; Ann Jarboe (daughter of C. Gribble); Lucas Bush; Margaret Stonecipher (friend of C.Stanford); Jennifer Bower (daughter-in-law of Claude Bower); Miriam Woodrow; Kathleen Smith (co-worker, Karen Summers); Carol Bolander (daughter of Lina Guenther and mother of Josie Elzey); Robert Ewing; Ron Carter (son-in-law of Betty Pfeiffer); Diane Bower; Rick McCullom (nephew of Joy Schwartz); Scott Basden; Sarah Campbell; Matthew Montgomery (friend of Emily Mundell); Caroline Warren, (Niece of D. Boles); Jon Grimes; Kevin Daniels; the family of Fran Alkire; Mary Terry; Mintonye Elementary/Southwestern Middle School Students and Staffs; Susan Battson (sister of N.Edwards); family of Cathi Walters (sister-in-law of J.Grimes); family of Lois Miller (mother of Muriel Grimes); Ben & LuAlice Huston (Parents of Becki Sprague); Rev. David McDonald; Students & Staff of Purdue Univ.; the family of William Keith Overman (Great- Grandchild of Marge Smith).



During the month of February and early March, Pastor Justin is leading a discussion about the Didache with DVD excerpts and the text *The Teaching of the Twelve*. Come and discover a fascinating snap shot into the life of the very early church!

"Calling the Didache the most important book you've never heard of, Emergent leader Jones (The New Christians) briefly unpacks the theological and practical lessons to be gleaned from one of early Christianity's most overlooked texts. Less than half the length of the shortest New Testament gospel, the Didache (teaching) informed new Christians about spiritual practices like baptism, prayer, hospitality, fasting, Eucharist, generosity, and basic morality. Dated between 50 and 130 C.E., it is one of the oldest extant Christian texts not found in the New Testament. Jones writes engagingly, explaining the Didache's meaning and importance... (and) has done a great service by recovering and interpreting this neglected classic for the ancient-future church." From Publishers Weekly



On Sunday, February 9, our local Boy Scout Troop, with the assistance of the Cub Scout Pack, will be providing a free of charge pancake and sausage breakfast to the congregation. Breakfast will be served from 9 to 9:30 am. Afterwards we will gather for worship at 10:30 for a Scout Sunday celebrating the gifts of scouting, in a service of Worship with the Boy and Cub Scouts in attendance.

Youth Group News

Memorial Presbyterian Church Youth Group Winter/Spring 2014 Schedule

Sunday, February 2 at 9 am. *Souper Bowl Sunday Skit practice.
At 10:30 am; Souper Bowl Sunday!*

Sunday, March 2 at 5 pm. *Dinner/Dialogue.*

Sunday, April 6 after worship. *Sonrise Service practice.*

Sunday, April 13 after worship. *Sonrise Service practice.*

Sunday, April 20 at 6:30 pm. *Sonrise Service!*



Greetings from the Upper Elementary Classroom,
It's a boys club again this year with the exception of me. We graduated Dylan and gained Will which keeps us at 8. We are having a great time this year. We are trying really hard to memorize The Lord's Prayer as well as some of our bible verses. We our starting our new year with Jesus is the Message!!

Most of us love to hear and remember good stories; we will be hearing a reading several old stories regarding Jesus' spreading his message and God's word.

Our classroom is full of energetic children who are very willing to learn and try new things. Please feel free to come up and visit our classroom anytime. Just follow the noise☺

Suzanne Fogarty
Upper Elementary Teacher

Sunday, February 2, 2014

Youth group presentation during worship.

Help us feed the hungry of our community!



Thanks to everyone who has helped to keep our food pantry operating.

We need help every Friday morning from 9:00 – 11:00 am!

Once again any donations of food, toilet tissue and especially detergent are needed.

Paul Houser & Carol Frantz

Mark Your Calendars!!!!



2014 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, June 16 – Friday, June 20.

It's never too early to start planning. If you would like to help with this year's Weird Animals Vacation Bible School, please feel free to join the team. The VBS Planning Team meeting schedule is:

Scheduled meetings will be held immediately after worship at approximately 11:45 am. For more information about this year's theme, you can visit group.com/WeirdAnimalsPromos

Sunday, February 16

Sunday, March 16, 2014

Sunday, April 27, 2014

Sunday, June 8, 2014

Who refreshes others will be refreshed. – Proverbs 11:25

New or gently used donations of winter clothing are being accepted, girl's and boy's sizes Newborn through girl's junior and young men's and maternity wear.

If you've never come to a 'sort', please come join the fun in being God's hands in action! If you have questions, please contact Julie Boles.

The next **daytime sort** will be February 10, 10:00 am until Noon.



The next **Distribution/Sort** will be February 22, 2014, 9:00 am until Noon.

Staying in the *Word* Together – February 2014

Join Christians throughout North America as they read together – each Sunday – the scriptures for the week. Known as the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), the collections of readings is organized so that after a three year cycle, members of churches will have read through the majority of the Bible. In our church, our Sunday school curriculum follows the RCL.

As a church and denomination, we use the RCL and provide these to the pastors for direction on the order of worship and for guidance in Christian Education. A guest pastor may choose not to use the scriptures, but we are providing them to the congregation as a means of ***Staying in the Word Together***. Traditionally, there will be an Old Testament, Psalm New Testament and Gospel reading. For additional readings go to <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>.

Year A	First reading	Psalm	Second reading	Gospel
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany February 2, 2014	Micah 6:1-8	Psalm 15	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	Matthew 5:1-12
Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany February 9, 2014	Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Psalm 112:1-9 (10)	1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)	Matthew 5:13-20
Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany February 16, 2014	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 or <i>Sirach 15:15-20</i>	Psalm 119:1-8	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	Matthew 5:21-37
Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany February 23, 2014	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18	Psalm 119:33-40	1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23	Matthew 5:38-48



2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 am Con. Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Con. Breakfast 10:30 am Worship Youth Group Skit Practice, 9:00 AM SOUPER BOWL OF CARING	3	4 Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm Trustees, 7:15 pm	5 Lectionary Bible Study, Noon Zumba, 6:45 pm	6 Choir, 7:00 pm	7 Food Pantry, 9:00-11:00 am	8
9 Scout Sunday 9:00 am Pancake & Sausage Breakfast prepared & served by scouts 10:30 am Worship Change for Change Confirmation Class, 11:45 am Mother's Club Kid's Closet Sort	10 Kid's Closet Sort 10:00 am - Noon	11 C.E. Meets, 7:00 pm Blue & Gold Banquet, 6:00 pm	12 Lectionary Bible Study, Noon Zumba, 6:45 pm	13 Choir, 7:00 pm	14 Food Pantry, 9:00-11:00 am	15
16 8:30 am Con. Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Con. Breakfast 10:30 am Worship VBS Planning Team, 11:45 am	17	18 Cub Scouts, 6:30 pm Session, 7:00 pm	19 Lectionary Bible Study, Noon Zumba, 6:45 pm	20 Choir, 7:00 pm	21 Food Pantry, 9:00-11:00 am	22 Kid's Closet Distribution/Sort 9:00 am - Noon
23 8:30 am Con. Breakfast 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Con. Breakfast 10:30 am Worship	24	25	26 Zumba, 6:45 pm	27 Choir, 7:00 pm	28 Food Pantry, 9:00-11:00 am	