

Midweek Message



Don interacting with Emma during a baptism photo shoot! September 17, 2017

Midweek E-mail from First Presbyterian Church of Jamestown, New York

January 23, 2019

The Reverend Donald E. Ray

First a personal note—As you read this, I am likely in some stage of my date with the “electric mule” and my new “heart heartthrob.” Twenty-six plus years working in healthcare required a sense of humor. Since you might miss mine, the “electric mule” is a defibrillator. My heart throb is a pace maker. I have been diagnosed with “A-fib—an irregular, fluttering heart action. A 24 hour monitor also revealed some actual stoppage in my heart beat. “Cardioversion”, shocking the heart out of its flutter so hopefully it would restore a normal beat pattern is doubtful considering my heart evidently doesn’t really have a normal pattern. But that’s not what I want to write about. I have been living with this, and it’s no fun.

Our church calendar calls this period of time, “Epiphany” celebrating the journey of the Wise Men to worship Jesus; or “Ordinary Time.”

“Ordinary Time” ‘Normal, customary, traditional, standard, regular.’ Sounds, boring, common, and blah. After a busy, hectic holiday season, ‘ordinary, regular, normal’ might sound appealing. But it gets old fast.

Paul writing to the Philippians sheds some light on this. In the distress we worry so much about, Paul writes “instead of worrying, pray. . . .Before you know it a sense of God’s wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. . . you’ll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst, the beautiful not the ugly, things to praise not things to curse. (Phil4:6 – 7)

Paul is writing that these are the ways life is supposed to be, every day. If we confine our thinking of ‘miracles’ to the extraordinary, unexplainable, wonders like the Christmas story unfolds, we miss the ‘ordinary.’ It’s in the ordinary that the hope, peace, joy and love touch the core of our life.

There is much that is distressing in every level of our life. If something isn’t already bad, we worry that it will become so before long. Paul concludes, “It’s wonderful when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.” Let that be the ‘ordinary’ in your life, and celebrate it.

Don

REMEMBERING YOU IN OUR PRAYERS:

The family of Mick Yates mourning his loss; Don Ray; Julie Dudgeon; the Ukraine winter camps going on this week; Linda Barber and her sister Lorraine; Lucy Miller’s son Paul; Catherine Willard’s sister Nancy; Marge Cochrane; Pauline and MacKenzie; Nicholas Johnston; our church leaders to make wise decisions at Session tonight; and thank you for the warm up, we survived another one!

ACP Family for October: Sophia and her Mother Sarah

Staff Member: Shari Stevens

If you need a ride to church or a doctor's appointment, would like a visit from the Pastor, could use support from our Casserole and Cookie Crew, or would like to let us know about a prayer concern, please let the church office know. The Member Care Committee is ready to help you out.

Sunday, January 27th

Sunday School Breakfast 9:00 am

Story time at 9:15, then Sunday school classes at 9:30 am

Chancel Choir Rehearsal 9:30 am

Worship is in the **Chapel** at 10:30 am

Worship Leaders for January 27th

Liturgist: Jim Babcock

Greeters: Betsy Shepherd

Ushers: Rudy and Diane Mueller

Worship Leaders for February 3rd

Liturgist: Mark Naeser

Greeter: Craig Butler

Ushers: Bridgette and David Winters

Coming Soon!

Youth Winter Event

If Snow, then sledding behind Karen's house
If NO Snow, then something fun in Fellowship Hall
And we'll pretend like it's winter with indoor winter games

Sunday, January 27th at 1:00 pm

Children's Choir

Beginning this **Thursday at 5:30 pm** we will be rehearsing in the Sandra J. Merwin Fellowship Hall. If you have a 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade student who is interested in this experience, it's not too late to join and we encourage you to do so since we will be rehearsing regularly every Thursday until Easter.

Session Notes:

Annual Meeting Announcement

THE SESSION of First Presbyterian Church hereby calls for the 185th Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of First Presbyterian Church to be held Sunday, February 3, 2019, starting at 11:30 a.m. (weather date: February 10, 2019) for the purposes of:

Reviewing the annual reports of church boards and organizations,
Electing church officers,
Electing members of the congregation to serve on the 2019 Church Nominating Committee,
And to consider any other matters that may appropriately arise.

The meeting will be preceded by lunch.

-Melanie Gritters, Clerk of Session

2019 PLEDGES are still being collected. If you have not turned in your pledge, please put it in the collection plate or send it to the church office. The pledge count currently stands at 86 pledges for \$212,256. Last year's total pledge was \$281,333 by 120 families and individuals.

Mission Notes:

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance program has provided \$50,000 to presbyteries and congregations in the southwestern US to support local congregations and partner organizations that provide food and temporary shelter to asylum seekers. This is largely funded by your donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering taken at Easter. The Presbyterian Church of Mexico has active ministries to the refugees waiting to get into the US.

Jim Kullberg – Mission Chair

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Church Business Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

January 23 – TON 3:15 pm-CANCELLED

January 23 – Session 5:30 Finances, Session 7:00 pm

January 24 – Aging and Saging 12:00 pm

January 24 – Children’s Choir 5:30 pm

January 24 – Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

January 27 – Mission Committee 11:45 am

January 27 – Youth Group Winter Event 1:00pm

January 29 – Duplicate Bridge 12:30 pm

January 29 – Barbershoppers 7:00 pm

January 30 – TON 3:15 pm

January 30 – Artist Workshop 6:30 pm

January 31 – Aging and Saging 12:00 pm

January 31 – ACP Family Event 1:30 pm

January 31 – Children’s Choir 5:30 pm

January 31 – Chancel Choir 7:00 pm

February 3 – Annual Meeting and Luncheon 11:30 am