

The Lamplighter



December 2018 Page 1

Pastor's Note

Luke 1: 27b-28

The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

I have to confess that I am already caught up into the excitement and anticipation of the season! Having just returned from a wonderful visit to Michigan, I am eagerly looking ahead to Christmas, and the extended time I will have to spend with family and friends. I am equally excited about the plans we have for worship and 559 annual Christmas service. All of it - the fellowship - the music - the sights, sounds and smells of the season have me filled with an enormous amount of joy - something that even the foot of snow we received on the final Sunday in November cannot squelch.

My waiting is filled with anticipation and excitement, is in total contrast to what Mary was feeling when she said "yes" to the Angel that came to tell her that she had been chosen by God to bring the Son of God into the world. Having a child out of wedlock came with many risks - for Mary the next nine months were undoubtedly filled with fearful anticipation. Mary's feelings as she awaited the birth of our Savior is what many people feel during this season. It is not a time of joy and excitement - but a time of loneliness, sorrow, worry, and for some, anger.

So this Advent, I want to invite you to join with me in being intentional in keeping an eye out for those who find this a season to just "get through." Just as the Angel that came to visit Mary, left her with words of encouragement when he shared that she would have someone to journey with her, Elizabeth, we are called to be people who journey with those who see this season as a journey into the valley of shadows, rather than to the manager, where a new baby, with new promises for the entire world is found.

Journeying with someone who needs encouragement does not mean trying to "fix" what is wrong or challenging; it means letting them know that they are not alone - that God is with them - and that you will be with them. In seemingly small gestures like listening, spending time, sending notes, opening up your home and your table to those who are alone - you just might be the vessel that God uses to be a beacon of light that shines like that bright star over the place where the babe lay - where hope and the truth of God's trustworthiness can be found.

Peace, Pastor Cath



HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING

Session Minutes-Regular Meeting Presbyterian Church of Fulton November 13, 2018

The November regular session meeting was held in the Bride's room. Clerk noted a quorum present. Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Covenant of Leadership was recited. Joys and concerns were shared and Mike Hand opened with prayer

The following Elders were present: Cindy Wierema, Roy Nelson, Anne Balk, Marie Burkhardt, Mike Hand, Mike Kramer and Dale Thayer.

Excused Elder absent: Jim Balk

Moved and seconded to approve the November docket. Motion passed.

Moved and seconded to approve the regular session minutes of the October 16, 2018 meeting as amended. Motion passed.

Liturgist / Communion assignment for November is Cindy Wierema

Clerk's Report attendance statistics were presented 10/21/18=56; 10/28/18=66; 11/4/18=68; 11/11/18=71.

No new members; Communion on 11/4/18 served to 68 and communion served to 2 shut-ins.

The communion and liturgist assignments for December were discussed. The clerk will ask for volunteer liturgists for Dec 2, Dec 9, and Dec 23. Mike Hand will be liturgist on Dec 16 and Dec 30. Jim and Anne Balk will provide communion elements for Dec 2 and Dec 24.

Pastor's Report October 15 - November 12, 2018

Visitations and Communion

2 Communion

1 Visitation

Visits In

Office /Steam Anchor - 12 Salvation Army help - 2

Besides Regular keeping regular office hours from approx. 9:00-12:00, doing weekly worship planning, study and sermon writing and Lamplighter Articles

Ecumenical / Community Participation

School Volunteer on Friday mornings

Faithwalking - Wednesdays

Faithwalking Circle Meetings 10/15 and 11/8

Salvation Army Bell Ringing Organization

Meeting with Local Clergy 11/8

Led worship at Harbor Crest 10/31

Commission on Ministry Meeting at Stronghold

Triennial Visit at Morrison Presbyterian Church

Church Community Participation

Bible Study 10/22

Lead Ukulele Group on Wednesday nights

559 Youth leader

Worship Committee Meeting

Christian Ed Meeting

Meeting with Chair of Finance

Worship Staff meeting

Website research and Telecon

Attended/Participated in Trunk or Treat

Attended Fellowship event at Comedy Sport

Worked/Attended Potato Bar

Researched/Purchased and set-up for Veterans Day Remembrance Steam Anchor - Tuesdays 1-3

Moved and seconded to present to the congregation at the next congregational meeting the amendment of 2 items in the bylaws: (1) The timing of the congregational meeting to elect session members, audit committee members and nominating committee members be changed from November to December. (2) Use of the inactive list be restored. Motion passed.

Moved and seconded to call a congregational meeting for December 16. **Motion passed.**

Following a discussion about modification of our church website, it was **moved and seconded** that following the a final Dec 9 payment to the current website service, we move forward with MonkDev to develop our church website. **Motion passed.**

Committee Reports:

Calling & Membership: Marie Burkhardt & Anne Balk. Gift cards have been purchased and will be sent to our college students and military personnel. We are completing a shut-in list so that goodie plates and fruit plates can be delivered before Christmas.

Christian Education: Megan Huizenga

The 559 group is going well. A Christmas program is being planned for Dec 19. The mission focus is going well.

Fellowship Committee: (Bill Wilkin chair) Mike Hand

The Potato Bar event served about 90 people and a total of \$570 was collected.

Nominating Committee: Jim Balk and Marie Burkhardt

No report.

Outreach Committee: Cindy Wierema

The committee continues the adopt a Haiti child activity. This group will again be organizing the Sparkette Giving tree project at our church. There will be a bake sale on December 9.

Properties: Roy Nelson and Jim Balk

Landscaping rock was purchased and dispersed to the areas needed. Hahn Construction will be contacted to determine the scope of work and cost of repairing the door that was damaged.

Staff Committee: Mike Hand

No report.

Worship Committee: Anne Balk

The worship committee met to plan for the Advent season.

Poinsettias will be available to purchase for use in the sanctuary and will be in place by Dec 19.

Finance Committee: Dale Thayer (chair) & Jim Balk

The proposed budget for 2019 was reviewed.

Moved and seconded to approve the budget as presented. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to distribute the stewardship letter as presented. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to receive the preceding reports. Motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 and closed with prayer by Pastor Catherine. Next regular meeting date December 18, 2018 7:00 p.m.



DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: Tom and Thelma Warner

December 2 Fritz and Judy Jordan

December 9 Ruth Letcher and Dawn Petersen

December 16 Bill and Jean Wilkin

December 23 Ron and Connie Koehn

December 30 Available

THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY December suggested donations:

Canned Chicken Noodle Soup Canned Cream of Chicken Soup





MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Our Men's Fellowship Group continues to meet on the second Saturday of each month at 8 a.m. This month it will be December 10th, all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.



LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch meet on Thursdays. We will be at Steam Anchor in Fulton on December 8th at 11:30 am. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the hallway. Come and bring a neighbor, friend, or anyone who needs a day out.

NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee is hosting a bake sale on December 9th, the first \$300.00 is going to Fulton/Thomson Food Pantry the remaining will go to the General Fund.

We have begun the sign up to help with our adopted child Stephanie please sign up for days, weeks, or months (our Mission Star Fish Haiti child).

If you could help with RINGING THE SALVATION ARMY BELLS we could use the help for Dollar General and Manny's Pizza. Thank you all your support all year.

559 Mission and News

The month of November was a busy time for the 559 crew! We spent most of our time together as a large group, with a focus on our November mission, which was honoring our Veterans in worship on Sunday, November 11th. We also began preparing for our December activities.

Speaking of December activities - we hope that you will mark your calendars for **Wednesday**, **December 19th at 6:00**, which is when we will be holding our annual **Christmas program**. We will have special music, provided by our young musicians, a retelling of the Christmas story, and a time of fellowship and Christmas cookies after the program!

We would also like to invite you to participate with us in **this month's mission focus** - which is collecting **hats, mittens, and scarfs** for needy people in our community. Most of what we gather will go to the school, but we are exploring finding a place where adults in need can go to obtain these essential cold weather necessities. If you plan on attending the program, please bring your donations then - or if you would like to help, but are unable to attend, you can drop them off at the table outside of the library anytime between now and Christ-

CHANCEL AND BELL CHOIRS

The Chancel and Bell choirs have begun practicing for this fall and winter. The Bell Choir Practice will begin at 6 p.m. and the Chancel Choir will follow at 7 p.m. If you only want to join for special occasions you will be welcomed as well. New members are always welcome!

GREETERS

We need your help by signing up to be a greeter on Sunday mornings. Please sign up on the sign up sheet which is found on the table in the Narthex. Thank You

Delzell's 50th Wedding Anniversary Open House

On October 26^{th,} 2018, Paul and Judí Delzell celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. To help honor this special event, the public is invited to attend an open house that will be held from 1:00-4:00 PM on Sunday, December 23^{td} at the Fulton Presbyterian Church. The church is located at 311 N. 9th Street, Fulton, IL 61252. The Delzell's have requested no cards or gifts, but look forward to your presence at this celebration. A small meal will be served.





7 November 2018

Friends of Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center,

As the members of the Stronghold Committee, we want to start by sharing how thankful we are for your churches support of God's work here on the bluffs of the Rock River. Your members contributions of time, talent, financial support, and active use of our facilities are essential to the ministry of Stronghold.

Next, there are not words enough to commend Executive Director, Danny Pierce and the team that makes Stronghold "GO." This extends throughout the organization – all the way to our volunteers, international staff, and counselors who spend summer as leaders. Thanks be to God.

This has been a season of advancement in our camping and retreat ministry in a number of ways:

- Over 800 youth and adults of all ages spent a portion of their summer in our great outdoors, participating in activities and fellowship learning to be disciples of Jesus Christ.
- New events, partnerships, and groups are finding their way to Stronghold. In the past year, over 10,000 individuals from six continents have come to Stronghold for retreats, outdoor adventure, team building and renewal.
- Based on the popularity of Stronghold's annual February Confirmation Retreat, we are excited to have launched a new Fall Youth Assembly.
- Improvements have been made on the grounds and in several of the buildings including roof repairs, remodeling bathrooms, painting projects and converting to LED lighting.

We are grateful – grateful to God, grateful to the Stronghold staff, and grateful for those of you that contribute in many ways to our ministry. In this increasingly fast-paced technologically driven world, Stronghold offers a place of quiet reflection and renewal; a peaceful place to enjoy nature and feel the love of the Holy Spirit.

As there are many blessings, there are also many challenges before us. Stronghold is in a multiyear process of transition towards financial independence. This is being helped by the focus that Danny has brought to bringing in new groups, guests and events. However, camp and retreat revenues cover only a portion of what it takes to sustain our ministries.

Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center www.strongholdcenter.org

1922 IL Rt. 2 North • PO Box 199 • Oregon, IL 619 Phone: 815-732-6111 • Fax: 815-732-7325

We are asking your church or organization to join together with other friends of Stronghold to make a gift to our end-of-year campaign. Support comes in many sizes and types. For example, booking retreats, attending events, supporting summer camp and including Stronghold in your Mission budget are all vital to our future.

We are counting on you, friends of Stronghold, who understand God's grace to transform and renew life. Please join us in our mission and help keep Stronghold strong!

Yours in Christ,

Stronghold Committee Members (2018)

Rev. Stephen Loch Bowie	Third Presbyterian Church	Rockford
Gail Dancey	First Presbyterian Church	Sterling
Rev. Jim Freidmeyer	First United Presbyterian Church	Henry
Betsy Johnson	Middle Creek Presbyterian Church	Winnabago
Ray Lantz	First Presbyterian Chruch	Gibson City/Kankakee
Julie Leber	Third Presbyterian Church	Rockford
Rev. Kathie Luke	United Presbyterian Church	Freeport
Terry Mohaupt	SecondFirst Church	Rockford
Rev. Rebecca White Newgren	SecondFirst Church	Rockford

Stronghold Camp
& Retreat Center
2018 Gift
YES! I/We wish to support the on-going mission of Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center with a gift of:
\$ 25 \$ 50 \$ 100 other
Knight's Circle Bronze - \$250
Knight's Circle Silver - \$500
Knight's Circle Gold - \$1,000
Knight's Circle Platinum - \$2,500
Knight's Circle Double Platinum - \$5,000
My Check is enclosed.
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Please charge my credit card: Visa Mastercard
Discover
Card # Exp. Date Security Code
Signature Date
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
Name(s)
Address
City/State/ZIP
Telephone Number
Email
All gifts to Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center are tax-deductible within the limits of the law.
Please make checks payable to: Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center. Return all gifts to: Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center, PO Box 199, Oregon, IL 61061.





Dear Friends,

Through the annual Christmas Joy Offering, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) assist leader and their families-past, present, and future. The offering supports church workers and their families who have retired, those who continue their ministry, and those who will be our future leaders. Each of us gives thanks to someone who points us to God and the gift of Jesus Christ in our Lives.

This past August, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) celebrated the life and ministry of the Reverend Katie Cannon, a Gifted leader and the first African American woman ordained in the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Dr Cannon was a graduate of Barber Scotia College and, at the time of her death, she was the Annie Scales Rogers Professor of Christian Social Ethics at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. A renowned lecturer and the author of seven books, Dr Cannon received the Award for Excellence in Theological Education in June of this year at the 223rd General Assembly (2018) in St. Louis. Her gifts of teaching, mentoring, and advocacy for women, especially women of color, helped develop leaders for ministry.

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December 1, 2018 December 2, 2018 1st Sunday of	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	December 16, 2018 3rd Sunday of Advent	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
Advent		December 17, 2018	
December 3, 2018		December 18, 2018	1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor
December 4, 2018	1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor		7:00 p.m. Session and Quilters meet
December 5, 2018	559@ FPC 5:30-6:00 p.m. Ukulele Practice 6:00 p.m. Dinner is Served 6:20 p.m. Learning and Exploration 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	December 19, 2018	559@ FPC 6:00 p.m. Christmas Program: All are invited and welcome. Refreshments provided after program.
		December 20, 2018	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
December 6, 2018	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice	December 21, 2018	Pastor's day off
D 1 7 2010	7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	December 22, 2018	
December 7, 2018	Pastor's day off	December 23, 2018 4th Sunday of	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
December 8, 2018	8;00 a.m. Men's Fellowship	Advent 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Paul and Ju Delzell Anniversary Open ho	1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Paul and Judi Delzell Anniversary Open house in
December 9, 2018 2nd Sunday of Advent	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship		Outreach Center
Auvent		December 24, 2018	6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
December 10, 2018		December 25, 2018	Wierema Family in Outreach Center
December 11, 2018	9:30 a.m. Finance Committee to Meet. 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor	December 26, 2018	Pastor on Vacation NO 559@ FPC
		December 27, 2018	Pastor on Vacation 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice
December 12, 2018	559@ FPC 5:30-6:00 p.m. Ukulele Practice 6:00 p.m. Dinner is Served		7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
	6:20 p.m. Learning and Exploration 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	December 28, 2018	Pastor on Vacation
December 13, 2018	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice December 30, 2018 Pastor on Vacation 9:30 a.m. Worship	Pastor on Vacation	
		9:30 a.m. Worship	
December 14, 2018	Pastor's day off		10:45 a.m. Fellowship Diane Jochum to fill the Pulpit
December 15, 2018		December 31, 2018	Pastor on Vacation



December 1	Marie Burkhardt Sally DeWeerdt
December 2	David Vogel
	Alex Turnquist
December 8	Olivia Wilkin
December 9	Colin Tichler
December 12	Don Damhoff
December 15	Irma Geerts
	Buddy Bueno
December 17	Kayla Horton
December 29	Lano Toepfer



ANNIVERSARIES

	TIT (T (I / III III III III III III III III II
December 4	Mark and LeeAnn Steele
December 17	Jim and Anne Balk
December 28	Steve and Lynne Turnquist

If your birthday or anniversary was missed please contact the office.

OFFICE SCHEDULE:

Pastor - 9 a.m. to Noon - Monday - Thursday Secretary - 8 a.m. to noon - Monday - Friday



LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch will meet at Stream Anchor in Fulton at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday December 13th.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO MEET

The Men's Fellowship will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday December 8th. For more information contact Bill Wilkin.

DID YOU KNOW

Did you know that when you pay your bills by "Bill Pay" online you can include the church or even make it an automatic payment. Please see Paul Delzell for more information.

QUARTERLY DONATION STATEMENT AVAILBLE BY E-MAIL

With a new update to our computer program, your donation statement is now available through e-mail. If you are willing to receive your statement in this manner, please contact me. I have started this new method with several signing up. Thank You Paul Delzell

DID YOU KNOW?

If you put loose trash in any of the containers outside the kitchen door, someone will have to fish it back out and put it in a trash bag. Our trash is carried to the curb in bags by someone to be picked up by the trash collectors. So PLEASE DO NOT put loose trash in either of the trash containers put it in a garbage sack. Thank You Paul Delzell

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Are you in need of offering envelopes? I have begun a new policy of printing them when you need them as many have said they have some left from previous years. So, if you are in need please call the office or drop a note in my box at church to let me know how many you would like and I will print them. Thank You Paul Delzell

PRAYER REQUESTS

If you or someone you know is in need of prayers, please contact us at the office. We are available by e-mail, telephone, or regular mail. We will pass your request along to everyone, there are never too many prayers. Thank You Paul and Pastor Cath



THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FULTON 311 NORTH NINTH STREET FULTON, IL 61252-1897 PHONE: 815-589-3580

FAX: 815-589-4712 EMAIL: fultonpres@mchsi.com



We will be ordering Poinsettias again this year for the holiday season. If you would like to order a Poinsettia please fill out the order form below. In an envelope enclose the form and a check (made out to Fulton Presbyterian Church) or cash in the amount of \$13.95. The envelope can be dropped off at the church office or placed in the offering plate. The deadline for ordering will be Sunday, December 16th.

In Memory of:	
In Honor Of:	
In Celebration of:	
I will take the Poinsettia after the Christmas Eve Service	Quantity Ordered:
Please use the Poinsettia in the ministry of the church.	Amount Enclosed:
Name:	