



The Lamplighter



December 2019

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1 The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, [a] the Son of God, [b] 2 as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way” [c]—

3 “a voice of one calling in the wilderness,

‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’” Mark 1:1-3

I have been frantically working on getting my living room painted. It was going to be my vacation project, something I was going to take my time on. My original plan was to spend Thursday through Monday, getting the painting along with the house decorated for Christmas, then load up the girls and head to Michigan to spend the second half of my vacation (and Thanksgiving) with my parents. That at least was the plan, until my Mom called and said they were coming to me rather than me going to them. Okay then, new plan.

Suddenly I needed to get at least the painting done before their arrival, and a healthy and intentional pace for the project became the entire focus of every minute of free time (and my entire Fridays) in order to get it before they arrived. This meant no personal reading, no walks for the dogs, no just sitting and relaxing..... my entire focus was (as of this writing, still is), getting the project done and the house ready.

My preparation for the arrival of my parents reminds me of what the season of Christmas has become for many of us - a marathon. What I mean by that is that we can get so focused on getting just the right presents, having the house look just so, and filling our schedule with so many seasonal activities, that we don't have time acknowledge and rest in the gift of the real reason we have a season called Christmas - which is the birth of Christ, our Lord.

As we begin the season in the Church year called Advent - our time of expectant waiting and preparation - my prayer is that we all will slow down and tone-down our seasonal activities and expectations and enter more fully into the simplicity of the season. A season where we remember the birth of a babe born not in a palace surrounded by the best of everything - but in a manger - a place simple and humble, and filled with the most important thing - love.

With Advent Expectations

Pastor Catherine

P.S. - Our Fulton Presbyterian Psalm 145 is still being worked on and hopefully will be in our January Lamplighter!

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING**November 12, 2019**

The November meeting was held at 6:00 pm in the bride's room.

The clerk declared a quorum.

Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin called the meeting to order at 6:11 pm. followed by the opening prayer by Mike Hand. The covenant of leadership was recited.

The following Elders were present: Jim Balk, Mike Hand, Megan Huizenga, Mike Kramer, Roy Nelson, Angie Smith, Dave Ray, Dale Thayer and Cindy Wierema.

Moved and seconded to approve the November docket.

Motion passed.

Moved and seconded to approve the regular session minutes of the October 8, 2019 meeting as corrected.

Motion passed.

Moved and seconded to approve the special session minutes of the October 20, 2019 meeting. **Motion passed.**

Clerk's Report Attendance statistics were presented: 10/13/19=65; 10/20/19=70; 10/27/19=80; 11/3/19=63
Communion on 11/3/19=63

No Deaths reported.

Communion / liturgist assignment for December is Roy Nelson.

Communion on the first Sunday in December will be served by Angie Smith, Megan Huizenga, Jim Balk and Anne Balk.

Moved and seconded to hold a congregational meeting the first Sunday of December for the purpose of election of officers and approving Pastor Terms of Call. **Motion passed.**

Pastor's Report**October 9 - November 11, 2019**

Visitations and Communion 4 Visits Out

Visits In Including Steam Anchor - 13 visits in

Cards mailed - 8

Ecumenical / Community Participation

Steam Anchor Tuesdays 1-3

Salvation Army scheduling for Bell Rising

Food Pantry Board Meeting 10/16

Lunch with Clergy

Harbor Crest 10/30

Presbytery Participation

Blackhawk Council meeting 10/29 via Zoom

Commission on Ministry Retreat

Various COM responsibilities for the Presbytery

Synod of Lincoln Trails - Coaching Seminar, November 3-5

Church Community Participation

Attended weekly Choir Rehearsal

Bible Study Mondays 9:30-11

Coffee and Conversation - First and Third Wednesday from 9-11

Book Group - Third Wednesday of the month

Leading Ukulele Practice 4:30 -5:30 on Wednesdays
559 from 5:30 - 7:15 Wednesdays

Meeting and correspondence with Fulton Police

Attended Potato Bar

Committee Reports:

Calling & Membership: Angie Smith

A meeting is scheduled for Sunday following worship to plan for the the delivery of Christmas treats to shut-ins.

Christian Education: Megan Huizenga

The committee met to plan the Christmas program scheduled for December 18 at 6:00 pm. The planned hayrack ride was cancelled due to weather.

Fellowship Committee: Dave Ray and Mike Hand

The Potato Bar receipts were \$918.

Finance Committee: Dale Thayer and Jim Balk

The 2020 budget was presented for review. The pastor's salary recommendation comes from the Staff Committee. The Staff Committee also recommended increases for the bookkeeper, choir director, organist and janitor. The overall budget is \$2,732 increase from the 2019 budget.

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

Moved and seconded to approve the distribution of the 2020 Stewardship tri-fold pledge form. (Similar to 2019 form) **Motion passed.**

Nominating Committee: Mike Kramer
Committee continues its search for 1 elder.

Outreach Committee: Cindy Wierema

Proceeds from the Rada sales were used to purchase children's clothing for our local school. At the last committee meeting there was discussion on how to improve the presentation of the table located just inside the Narthex.

Properties: Roy Nelson and Jim Balk

The emergency security light batteries are to be serviced by Company One. The mower has been winterized. The new tables have been labeled for identification. A new vacuum cleaner has been purchased to replace the smaller one that had been in service. Thermostats in some areas need to be serviced. An unpleasant odor has been noticed in the hallway and will be investigated.

Staff Committee: Mike Hand

No report.

Worship Committee: Megan Huizenga

The committee met to discuss communion dates for 2020. Decorating the church for Advent was also discussed.

Moved and seconded to receive the preceding reports.

Motion passed.

New Business

Chief Rhoades was unable to attend this meeting. He will attend a meeting to discuss the organization of a safety committee on Wednesday November 20 at 6:00pm.

Moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. **Motion passed.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 and closed with prayer by pastor Catherine.

**Next regular meeting date is December 10, 2019
6:00 pm**

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**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 14th, all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.

**LUNCH BUNCH**

Lunch Bunch meet on the second Thursday of each month. They will meet at Krumpet's in Fulton on December 12th at 11:30 am. There is a sign up sheet posted in the hallway. Come and bring a neighbor, friend, or anyone who needs a day out.

GREETERS

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

FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thank you to all that purchased wreaths and swags they will be delivered December 1st. With these sales, the profits will be \$227.00 going to Mission Star Fish Haiti. The Outreach Committee is planning another fabulous Bake Sale for December 8th, there should be plenty of delicious items to pick from. The first \$300.00 will go to the Fulton Food Pantry and the remainder to the General Fund. It will be a freewill offering and a great time to buy Christmas Treats. There are still a few spots open for Bell Ringers at the Dollar General. Remember that all funds collected through this project stays in the Fulton-Albany area.

KIND WORDS

Dear Kind Friends of Fulton Presbyterian Church, We want to express our ever present thoughts of love and admiration for the vital and important role your lovely church contributes to what makes Fulton IL so wonderful and, indeed, for spreading the Lord's Blessings and message, here on earth. Yours Very Truly, Linda and Jerry Bish (daughter of Martha and Ed Guth)

Thank You!

The Fellowship Committee would like to thank everyone that helped, donated to, attended or participated in any way at this year's highly successful Baked Potato Supper. Donations this year came to \$918 and went into the general fund!

"For Mature Readers Only" Book Group

This month the group will be discussing the following book on Wednesday December 18, 2019, beginning at 9:30 a.m. We currently have nine people in the group and would LOVE to have you join us!

How to Live Forever: The Enduring Power of Connecting the Generations by Marc Freedman.

Founder and CEO of Encore.org Marc Freedman argues that the secret to happiness, longevity, and living on is through mentoring the next generation.

In How to Live Forever, social entrepreneur Marc Freedman argues that we don't need medical or scientific intervention to live forever. Instead of trying to be young, we can live forever (and save money) by being there for those who are young. Investing time with young people, mentoring, and passing wisdom from generation to generation, is truly living one's legacy.

For the first time ever, we have more older people than young people, more people over 60 than under 20. In these new demographics we are more dependent than ever as societies on the flourishing of young people.

Freedman will show how various innovations around the world are beginning to bring the generations together in ways that are mutually beneficial and suited to the realities of the 21st century. With insights from brain science, human development, and other research, he provides a blueprint for how societies can remain vital even as they age, and how to find great purpose and joy in the second half of life.

Bible Study

You are invited to join the Pastor on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m., to explore together the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday's sermon focus. Please bring your bible along - coffee and a treat will be provided.

SHUT-INS

While doing your Christmas cards this year you might include the following: Beverly Shepard 1106 14th Ave, Fulton IL 61252, Darline Eickert 1120 12th St DeWitt IA 52742, Ann Wierema Harbor Crest Home 817 17th ST Fulton IL 61252, Evelyn Mohr 114 5th ST Fulton IL 61252, Warren Wiersema Windsor Manor Room 403 403 Scenic ST Morrison IL 61270, Dorothy Stamp 1509 Crestline Dr Clinton IA 52732

MISSION STARFISH HAITI

Conditions in Haiti, sadly, have worsened during 2019 due to increased political unrest, road blockages, gas shortages, violent protests, and increased crime. The U. S government has advised Americans not to travel to Haiti. Our support of Silentor and MSH will continue with our Trivia Night on Sunday January 26 and our Freezn for a Reason Run on Saturday February 15, but our trip planned for March 2020 has been cancelled. Please pray for the children, staff, and Silentor's surrounding community as they continue to educate children and teach them about Jesus in circumstances more difficult than usual. Also, please join us for these two events to help us raise funds to support and encourage everyone associated with MSH.



A PERFECT GIFT THIS ADVENT SEASON

In the lead up to Christmas, many of us spend time in search of the perfect gift — the gift that communicates to friends and family how much we know and love them. We search our memories for indications of what gift might cause the faces of our loved ones to light up. We scour the stores and shops, hoping to come across the thing that will communicate a depth of love that our words cannot.

As important as gifts to loved ones are, we have an opportunity to give gifts that help many people we do not know through the Christmas Joy Offering. These gifts in particular draw us back to the manger and God’s perfect gift to us — Jesus Christ.

Jesus came to live among us, bringing light into darkness, and reconciliation to God and to one another. A perfect gift from a gracious God.

During this Christmas and Advent Season, we celebrate leadership; past, present and future through support of the Christmas Joy Offering. We do so because church leaders greatly impact our lives of faith, walking with us down the path to be more like Jesus. We want those church leaders and their families who find themselves grappling with a critical financial need to have the resources they need which are provided through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. We also support the offering to help our future leaders in the church and world, like those educated at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Supporting these students helps the whole church develop leaders who reflect the wideness of God’s intended diversity.

For those supported through the Christmas Joy Offering, this help is truly a gift from above. May our gifts, and the leaders who receive them, point us always to the truth of the one whose birth we celebrate, Jesus Christ — the truly perfect gift.

Please give generously:
We receive the Offering on December 22, 2019.

presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy.

To learn more about the Christmas Joy Offering, please visit:
Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions: www.pensions.org, click on Plans & Programs
Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges:
www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/resc/

DECEMBER VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: Thomas and Thelma Warner



Greeters:

- December 1 Available
- December 8 Available
- December 15 Available
- December 22 Available
- December 29 Available

THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY

December suggested donations:
Canned Chicken Noodle Soup
Canned Cream of Chicken Soup



December 1, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship With Communion 10:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting and then Fellowship	December 16, 2019	9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet
December 2, 2019	6:00 p.m. Scouts - Papers 6:00 p.m. Security Meeting 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	December 17, 2019	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor 7:00 p.m. Quilters to meet
December 3, 2019	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor	December 18, 2019	9:30 a.m. Mature readers Book Group to meet 6:00 p.m. Christmas Program
December 4, 2019	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice 559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	December 19, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
December 5, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	December 20, 2019	Pastor's Day Off
December 6, 2019	Pastor's Day Off	December 21, 2019	Pastor's Day Off
December 7, 2019	Pastor's Day Off	December 22, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
December 8, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship & Outreach Bake Sale	December 23, 2019	6:30 p.m. Scouts to Meet
December 9, 2019	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 Finance Committee to meet 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	December 24, 2019	Pastor will Not be at Steam Anchor 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship
December 10, 2019	Pastor to Presbytery for Council Meeting Pastor will NOT be at Steam Anchor. 6:00 p.m. Session to Meet	December 25, 2019	Christmas Day Office Closed
December 11, 2019	Pastor to Stronghold for the day 4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice 559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m. 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	December 26, 2019	Pastor on Vacation
December 12, 2019	11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Krumpets 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	December 27, 2019	Pastor's Day Off
December 13, 2019	Pastor's Day Off	December 28, 2019	Pastor's Day Off
December 14, 2019	Pastor's Day Off 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship	December 29, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
December 15, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	December 30, 2019	Pastor on Vacation
		December 31, 2019	Pastor on Vacation

**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



Merry Christmas