



# The Lamplighter



February 2020

Page 1

"For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval. Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding."

Romans 14:17-19

Beloved in Christ,

I have heard it said that as we age, time seems to move more quickly. I am just beginning to realize how true that statement is! As I have begun to move from one season of my life to the next, it feels like, besides God, the only consistent thing that I can rely upon with certainty is **change!** While I am usually not opposed to it, I have to admit some days I find myself, even as one who dislikes routines, wishing that things would slow down so I could establish one. But even with my lament comes blessing, because I have noticed that when I spend time in prayer and reflection, the presence of God's gentle and guiding hand becomes clearer.

For many, the world around us seems to be moving at a fast pace, one that is increasingly divided. That division has created intolerance, rigidity, and a form of self-righteousness (an unfounded certainty that one is totally correct and morally superior) that has created huge chasms in the fabric of our world and communities. As I lament the changes that I have seen taking place through the years, one thing becomes clear to me - and that is - if I am going to be a small pebble of change in the world around me - I have to..... **have to....** ground myself in prayer.

Prayer has the power to bring about change - and by that, I don't mean that we offer our laments and concerns to God and leave it at that. But that in and through our prayers, we not only pray for the needs of the world around us, but pray that God will CHANGE US and USE us, to be agents of change in a world so in need of love, peace, humility, and kindness. As disciples of Christ, we have been giving the responsibility to share these gifts with the world around us. It is a challenge to be sure - and that is where personal change can help.

As we walk the short season between Epiphany and the season of Lent, I invite you to focus more intentionally on your prayer life and open yourself up to where God is leading you. My prayer is that you might discover how God might be inviting you to be a small pebble of change in God's world here and now.

In Christ's perfect peace,  
Pastor Catherine

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING****January 21, 2020**

The January meeting was held in the Brides room  
Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00pm and opened with prayer.

The clerk declared a quorum.

Joys and concerns were shared. The covenant of leadership recited.

The following Elders were present: Jim Balk, Megan Huizenga, Mike Kramer, Joyce Moore, Roy Nelson, Dale Thayer  
Absent elders excused Dave Ray, Angie Smith, Cindy Wierema.

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

**Moved and seconded** to approve the regular session minutes of the December 10, 2019 meeting. **Motion passed**

**Moved and seconded** to approve the congregational meeting minutes of the January 12, 2020 meeting as amended. **Motion passed.**

**Clerk's Report**

Attendance statistics were presented: 12/15/19=79;  
12/22/19=52; 12/24/19=81; 12/29/19=50; 01/05/20=50;  
01/12/20=58; 01/19/20(cancelled due to weather) 12/18/19  
(Christmas program)=69

Communion on 12/24/19=81; 01/12/20=58

No Deaths reported:

**Moved and seconded** to honor request from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Ft. Collins, CO for transfer of membership to them for Craig Faulkner. **Motion passed.**

**Liturgist / Communion assignment for February is Cindy Wierema**

**Moved and seconded** to elect Anne Balk as clerk of session for 2020. **Motion passed.**

**Pastor's Report****December 11, 2019 - January 20, 2020****Visitations - 3****Visits In** Including Steam Anchor - 7**Cards- 2****Pastor's Report****December 11 – January 21, 2020****Vacation -December 25- January 8, 2019****Using up last of 2018 vacation****Ecumenical / Community Participation**

Steam Anchor Tuesdays 1-3

Salvation Army - collection of donations 2 times a week x 2 weeks

Money Counting - Monday Mornings 8:00

At School 9 -1:30, Tuesday January 14, 2020 as part of Pastoral

Grief Response Group

**Presbytery Participation**

Various COM responsibilities for the Presbytery

Mission/COM Meeting - Blackhawk - 12/11/19

**Church Community Participation**

Attended weekly Choir Rehearsal

Monday Bible Study

Children's 559 Christmas Program

Christmas Eve Service

Monthly Wednesday Book group

Leading Ukulele Practice 4:30 -5:30 on Wednesdays

559 from 5:30 - 7:15 Wednesdays

Coaching - 1/7/2020

Held Open House for Congregation 12/20

Lunch Bunch 1/9/2020

At 6:35pm the meeting was adjourned to call a meeting of the corporation for the purpose of electing corporate officers.

**Moved and seconded** to elect the following:

President – Jim Balk

Vice-president – Roy Nelson

Secretary – Anne Balk

Treasurer – Dale Thayer

**Motion passed.**

Corporate meeting adjourned at 6:39pm

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Calling & Membership: Joyce Moore.**

No report

**Christian Education: Megan Huizenga**

“Jesus Calm the Sea” is a curriculum being used for the youth at 559. We were reminded that we provide a safe place for our children, free from bullying that they may experience elsewhere.

**Fellowship Committee: Angie Smith**

There is the Trivia Night, Sunday, January 26th. fund raiser for Mission Starfish Haiti. Angie said that she was planning to have a Pancake Breakfast, hopefully in February.

**Finance Committee: Dale Thayer (chair) Jim Balk**

Dale Thayer reported that checking account balance was better at year end than previously. Following discussion regarding a proposal to replace the current sound system headset microphones and lapel microphones it was

**Moved and seconded** to purchase the digital system proposed by Tegeler Music at a cost of \$1,348. **Motion passed.**

**Nominating Committee: Mike Kramer**

No report

**Outreach Committee: Cindy Wierema**

There is still one month available for sponsorship of the Mission Starfish Haiti student.

**Properties Committee: Roy Nelson and Jim Balk**

The furnace filters have all been changed. Snow was plowed and salt applied to the parking lot.

**Moved and seconded** to add Dale Houzenga as a committee member. **Motion passed.**

**Moved and seconded** to have batteries for emergency lights replaced by volunteers. **Motion passed.**

**Staff Committee: Dave Ray**

The Staff Committee met on Thursday, January 16th, and held an interview with Stacy Bueno, pertaining to the open custodial position. Work hours, job duties and pay were discussed. As a result, the Staff Committee recommends the hiring of Stacy, effective ASAP.

**Moved and seconded** to hire Stacy Bueno as custodian. **Motion passed.**

Margaret is the only other member of the Committee at this time, will try to get a few others to join us.

**Worship Committee: Megan Huizenga**

**Moved and seconded** to allow the use of the Outreach Center for Mississippi Valley Region Blood Center for a blood drive on Feb 27. **Motion passed**

**Moved and seconded** to accept preceding reports. **Motion passed.**

Following a brief discussion, it was agreed to hold the session retreat on Sunday Feb 9 following worship.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 and closed with prayer by Dale Thayer.

**Next regular meeting date February 9, 2020 @ 12N**


**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 February 8th, all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.


**LUNCH BUNCH**

Lunch Bunch meet on the second Thursday of each month. They will meet at (yet to be determined) on February 13th at 11:30 am. There is a sign up sheet posted on the hallway bulletin board. Come and bring a neighbor, friend, or anyone who needs a day out.

**SOUND SYSTEM**

You may have noticed in the past month or so that we have been having trouble with our sound system. As a result, members of the Session worked with Tegeler Music to discover what had gone awry. Happily, it was discovered that it was a matter of pushing the correct buttons!

During their visit however, we were reminded of something that was on our radar, which is of the upcoming change in FCC guidelines regarding rules for frequencies used with wireless mics. Unfortunately, it means that we will no longer be able to use our current headset or lapel mic as of June of this year.

The Session voted on January 21, 2020, to replace one lapel and one headset with a new 10 channel digital system, which includes one lapel mic and one headset, the cost of which is \$1348.00. The good news is that we will receive a small rebate (\$50-\$75) for each of the obsolete units we turn in.

We are letting you know this in the hopes that a few of you might like to contribute to the cost of these new units. If you have any questions, please speak with Dale Thayer.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

Please join us on Wednesday February 26, 2020 for our annual soup supper and Ash Wednesday Service. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m., and our worship service, will start at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to help by bringing a soup, bread or a dessert, please use the sign-up sheet on the table outside the church office.

**BLOOD DRIVE HELP**

We are looking for someone to help organize and host the Mississippi Valley Blood Drive two times a year in our Outreach Center. Our next scheduled event is February 27, 2020. If you are able to help, please see Megan Huizenga or any session member.

**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

**FREEZIN FOR A REASON**

Freezin for a Reason will once again be held here at the church. It is a 5K Run/Walk with proceeds going to support the Fulton Mission Starfish Team needed projects. The race/walk will be held February 15, 2010 at 8:00 a.m.. The race begins and ends here at the church. The race/walk is a challenging course as it winds downhill to the bike path overlooking the mighty Mississippi River with a chance to view majestic eagles along the way. If extreme weather occurs on race day, the race will be shortened to 2 miles.

**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.

**FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE**

As we usually do, we will once again this year, receive donations to Souper Bowl Caring on February 2, 2020. All the proceeds will be sent to the Fulton/Thomson Food pantry. Our Adopt-a-Child campaign is in full swing and all spots are filled. We would like to say Thank You to all those who have signed up. Your donations are very much appreciated.

**THANK YOU**

Hello Church Family, Thank you so much for thinking of me this Christmas Season. The Subway gift card will certainly help me out as a starving college student. Currently I am studying Cyber Operations at Dakota State University in South Dakota and will be headed to Maryland this summer to work with the National Security Agency. I am also still serving in the Navy Reserve. I am so bless to have a home church family still thinking of me. Thank You All! God Bless! Brody May

**THANK YOU**

Thanks to all who shared the kind words since I left the janitorial position at your church. I appreciate that "you appreciated me". I enjoy cleaning so it's really not a job. I am feeling much better and I hope it stays that way. It was 2 1/2 months of doing a whole lot of nothing. I really wasn't able to, but am doing better now. Many thanks for the Christmas card and gift certificate for the fabulous Fulton Locker. Thanks a lot and hope everyone has a healthy 2020. Carolyn Steien.

**TABLES**

This message from the Properties Committee. Fulton Presbyterian Church was fortunate to have received donations to cover the purchase of 20 new rectangular and 12 round tables for use at the church. With that donation we now have available to members for free (or donation) 15 of the older tables. Any questions please contact Jim Balk or Roy Nelson.

**The Fellowship Committee Presents a**

Pancake  
Breakfast



**After Worship Service on  
Sunday, February 23rd.**



**Free Will Donation to Be Used For Future Fellowship  
Events**



**FREEZIN for a REASON  
5k Run/Walk**

OR- stay warm & donate

Saturday, February 15 @ 12 pm in Fulton, IL

Proceeds from this race will help Fulton Mission Starfish Haiti Team assist in needed projects.

**Course Description/Location:**

- 5k race course begins and ends at the Fulton Presbyterian Church, 311 N 9th St Fulton, IL
- This is a challenging course as it winds downhill to the bike path overlooking the mighty Mississippi with a chance to view majestic eagles along the way. \*\* If extreme weather occurs on race day, the race will be shortened to 2 miles.\*\*
- Plentiful parking in front of the church.

Please contact Jean Roeder at 563-249-7629 with questions.

**5k Run/Walk Information:**

- Early registration through Feb 10th - \$25
- Late Registration after Feb 10th - \$30
- Tshirts guaranteed to all entries received by Feb 10th. XXL add \$2
- Packet pick up 11am - 12 noon on race day at the church
- Age Divisions for 5k RUN: 15 and under, 16-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, 60-64, 65-69, 70 +
- Awards to 1st place male and female overall finishers, and the top three runners in each age division.

**Sleep in And Donate:**

- Not a runner or walker, but still want to donate?
- Make your checks payable to Fulton Presbyterian Church (Mission Starfish Haiti)
- Mail to or drop by the church post race:  
311 N 9th St Fulton, IL 61252

**2 ways to Register:**

- Mail registration to Jean Roeder  
301 4th St #7 Fulton, IL 61252
- **Online: [getmeregistered.com](http://getmeregistered.com)**

\*make checks payable to **Fulton Presbyterian Church, Mission Starfish Haiti**

Post race Chili and snacks available at the church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Male: \_\_\_\_\_ Female: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph #: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size: S \_\_\_\_\_ M \_\_\_\_\_ L \_\_\_\_\_ XL \_\_\_\_\_ XXL(add \$2) \_\_\_\_\_

5k Run \_\_\_\_\_ 5K Walk \_\_\_\_\_ (circle cost \*see above) \$25 \$30

Stay Warm and Donate Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

In consideration of my entry, I intend to be legally bound, for myself, my heirs, executors, and administrators, to waive release and forever discharge any and all rights and claims which may herein after accrue to me against the officials of the run, the Fulton Presbyterian Church, and the city of Fulton and all sponsors for any and all accidents or injuries incurred by me at this event and while traveling to and from this event. I am aware that participating in a road race is a potentially hazardous activity and assume all risk associated with this event including, but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, the effect of the weather, and conditions of the road. I further state that I have trained adequately and am in suitable athletic condition to the race I have entered.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Legal guardian if under 18)

**February VOLUNTEERS**

**Ushers: Jeff and Angie Smith**



**Greeters:**

- February 2 ..... Available
- February 9 ..... Fritz and Judy Jordan
- February 16 ..... Available
- February 23 ..... Available

**THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY**

**February suggested donations:**

- Canned Tomatoes
- Canned Corn



February 1, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	February 16, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
February 2, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship - Communion 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	February 17, 2020	President's Day 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to Meet
February 3, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00 p.m. Scouts—Papers 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	February 18, 2020	7:00 p.m. Quilters to meet
February 4, 2020	Pastor to Presbytery for the day Pastor will NOT be at Steam Anchor	February 19, 2020	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice <b>559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m.</b> 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending
February 5, 2020	10:30 a.m. Harbor Crest Chapel Noon RMA to meet here 4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice <b>559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m.</b> 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	February 20, 2020	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
February 6, 2020	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	February 21, 2020	Pastor's Day Off
February 7, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	February 22, 2020	Pastor's Day Off
February 8, 2020	Pastor's Day Off 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship	February 23, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Pancake Breakfast by Fellowship Committee
February 9, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Elder Retreat 1:00 to 4:30 p.m. Huizenga Open House in Outreach Center	February 24, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet
February 10, 2020	Pastor—Possible Jury Duty 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Finance Committee to meet	February 25, 2020	Pastor to Blackhawk Presbytery Council meeting Pastor will NOT be at Steam Anchor
February 11, 2020	Presbytery Meeting in Dekalb Pastor will NOT be at Steam Anchor	February 26, 2020	7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Blended Pre- school Screening 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Soup Supper and Worship Service There will be NO 559
February 12, 2020	4:30 - 5:30 Worship Music Practice <b>559@FPC doors open at 5:30 p.m.</b> 5:30 p.m. Dinner is served 5:59 p.m. Christian Education 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	February 27, 2020	2:00 to 6:30 p.m. Blood Drive 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
February 13, 2020	11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch to meet 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	February 28, 2020	Pastor's Day Off
February 14, 2020	Happy Valentine's Day Pastor's Day Off	February 29, 2020	Pastor's Day Off
February 15, 2020	Pastor's Day Off 12:00 Noon Freezin for a Reason 5K		

**BIRTHDAYS**



February 1	Warren Wiersema
February 4	Ruth Letcher
February 5	Brailynn Rathburn
February 8	Christa Curley
February 10	Kelly Smith
February 12	Jean Wilkin Michael Rathburn
February 13	Ron Koehn
February 15	Bill Wilkin
February 20	Chris Schrader
February 21	Caleb Malkewitz
February 22	Aliya Bueno Dale Thayer
February 24	Jaxon Rathburn
February 27	Laura Tichler



**ANNIVERSARIES**

February 21	Paul and Donna Parker
February 24	Don and Linda Damhoff
February 29	Tom Sr. and Thelma Warner

*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 continue to meet the second Thursday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO MEET**

The Men's Fellowship will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday February 11th For more information contact Bill Wilkin.

**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 Catherine.

**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.

**SEMI-ANNUAL DONATION STATEMENT AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL**

With our computer program, your donation statement is available through e-mail. If you are willing to receive your statement in this manner, please contact me. I have started this 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

**ESTIMATE OF GIVING**

Have you considered how you can help our Finance Committee plan for our church financially for 2020. Your Estimate of Giving helps us do just that. So please if you have not done so yet please consider filling it out today. For the blank form contact the Office. Thank You!



**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](mailto:fultonpres@mchsi.com)**

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

The text is written in a red, cursive, handwritten style. The word 'Happy' is at the top. 'Valentine's' is written below it, with a large, decorative flourish on the left side of the 'V'. 'Day' is at the bottom, with a heart symbol to its left. There are several small heart symbols scattered around the text, including one above the 'e' in 'Valentine's' and another above the 'y' in 'Day'.