



The Lamplighter



January 2020

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Pastor's Note for January:

Since as I write this, we are in the midst of the busyness of the week before Christmas, I want to share with you with this beautiful prayer by Catherine Marshall called *A Prayer of Waiting*, which is from her book *Adventures in Prayer*.

Lord Jesus,

You want honest words on my lips:

no thought of mine is hidden from you anyway.....

but Lord, why does your Providence have to move so slowly?

I know that the seasons come and go in majestic sequence.

The earth rotates on its axis in a predetermined rhythm.

No prayers of mine could change any of this.

I know that Your ways are not my ways;

Your timing is not my timing.

But Lord, how do I, so earthbound,

come to terms with the pace of eternity?

I want to be teachable, Lord.

Is there something You want to show me,

some block You want removed,

some change You want in me or my attitudes

before You can answer my prayer?

Give me the gift of eyes that see,

of ears that hear what you are saying to me.

Come Lord Jesus, and abide in my heart.

How grateful I am to realize that the answer

to my prayer does not depend on me at all.

As I quietly abide in You and let Your life flow into me,

what freedom it is to know that the Father does not see

my threadbare patience or insufficient trust, rather only

Your Patience, and Your confidence that the

Father has everything in hand.

In Your faith I thank you right now for a more glorious

answer to my prayer than I can imagine.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING**December 10, 2019**

The December meeting was held in the Brides room

The clerk declared a quorum.

Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. And opened with prayer..

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

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

Absent excused: Angie Smith,

Moved and seconded to approve the December docket. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to approve the regular session minutes of the November 12, 2019 meeting as amended. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to approve the special session minutes of the December 1, 2019 meeting as amended. **Motion passed.**

Clerk's Report

Attendance statistics were presented 11/17/19=65; 11/24/19=62; 12/1/19=60; 12/8/19=60

Communion on 12/1/19=60

No Deaths reported:

Distribute liturgist/communion sheet for 2020

Liturgist / Communion assignment for January is Jim Balk

Pastor's Report**November 12 - December 10, 2019**

Visitations 4- Visits Out

Visits In Including Steam Anchor - 9

Cards mailed - 4

Vacation - November 21- November 30th**Ecumenical / Community Participation**

Steam Anchor Tuesdays 1-3

Salvation - organization of scheduling

Salvation Army - delivery of buckets

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

Harbor Crest 11/17

Presbytery Participation

Blackhawk Council meeting 12/10 via Zoom

Various COM responsibilities for the Presbytery

Presbytery Meeting November 12

Mission/COM Meeting - Blackhawk -

Church Community Participation

Attended weekly Choir Rehearsal

Bible Study Monday Dec 9 - 9:30-11

Book Group - Third Wednesday of the month

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

559 from 5:30 - 7:15 Wednesdays

Coaching - Nov 20

Run, Hide, Fight November 18

Finance Committee Meeting

Helped decorate church for Advent

Attended two personnel meetings

Worked on Elder lead service for while I am on vacation

Provided a backup order of service for January 5th while I am on vacation as a backup if there is inclement weather and pulpit supply cannot come.

Moved and seconded to accept pastor report as presented.

Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Calling & Membership: Angie Smith.

We visited the shut ins with the cookie and fruit trays and sent gift cards to college students and military.

Christian Education: Megan Huizenga

The annual Christmas program is scheduled for December 18, 2019 at 6:00pm.

Fellowship Committee: Dave Ray and Mike Hand

The Mission Starfish Haiti Trivia night is scheduled for January 26.

Finance Committee: Dale Thayer (chair) Jim Balk

Chairman, Dale Thayer, reported a current bank balance of \$18,216.19.

Nominating Committee: Mike Kramer

The committee will meet to determine a candidate for elder.

Outreach Committee: Cindy Wierema

The proceeds from the recent bake sale were \$716.00. The local Food Pantry will receive \$300.00 and the balance will go to the General Fund. The profit from the Christmas swag sales of \$227.00 is directed to Mission Starfish Haiti.

Properties Committee: Roy Nelson and Jim Balk

The odor that was noticed in the narthex has been resolved. The planned carpet cleaning is postponed until spring. The emergency exit lights will be updated later this week. The outdoor Christmas decorations were installed by Roy Nelson with assistance from Mark Kapusinski in putting up the Christmas Star. Thank you Roy and Mark!

Staff Committee: Mike Hand

Our janitor has resigned due to health reasons.

Worship Committee: Megan Huizenga

Moved and seconded to approve the following dates for communion in 2020: January 12, February 2, March 1, April 5, April 9(Maundy Thursday), May 5, June 7, July 5, August 2, September 6, October 4, November 1, December 6, December 24 (Christmas Eve). **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to allow the committee to determine the disposition of Christmas decorations that are no longer used.

Motion passed.

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

New Business

The Safety Team report was presented by team member, Mike Hand.

1. There is a need to determine if the police department has a key available in their squad car in case of an emergency.
2. Greeters provide the first line of security.
3. Discussion about the installation of a wireless buzzer.
4. Further questions involve the use of cameras, budget needed and the authority of the safety team.

Moved and seconded to grant authority to the safety team members to stop someone from entering or request that they leave and if not compliant to notify police. **Motion passed.** The team will move forward with guideline for the safety team procedures.

The group discussed a request from the bookkeeper/secretary to no longer publish the monthly newsletter, The Lamplighter. A possible alternative would be a bulletin insert on a scheduled basis. The consensus is that the Lamplighter will be published in January and session will discuss this further at the next meeting. Pastor Catherine has provided an order of service that will be used for the December 29 worship service.

In addition, the pastor has provided an order of service for January 5, 2020 that will be used in the event that weather conditions prevent the pulpit supply from coming.

Outgoing Elder Mike Hand was thanked for his service.

The next meeting will include an Elder Retreat On January 18, 2020 and will be held at the church beginning at 8:00 a.m.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. and closed with prayer by Mike Hand

Next regular meeting date January 18 at 8:00 a.m.



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 January 11th, all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.



LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch meet on the second Thursday of each month. They will meet at The Brunch House in Fulton on January 9th 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.

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

We sold Wreaths and Swags with the profit of \$227.00 being sent to Mission Starfish Haiti. The wreaths and swags were delivered December 1st. We also helped by sponsoring the Sparkette Sharing Tree.

A huge thank you to all the wonderful bakers who made the recent bake sale a success. Also, thanks to all of those who purchased the sale items. The bake sale raised \$716.00. \$300.00 went to the Fulton/Thomson Food Pantry and \$416.00 to the General Fund. The Outreach Committee would like to thank all!

We will be setting up bulletin board with a calendar to allow you to sign up to help by donating to support our adopted child. Stephanie from Haiti has been our adopted child for nearly 3 years now.

February 2, 2020 we will once again be supporting Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday with the proceeds going to the Fulton/Thomson Food Pantry.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the thoughtful gift of a gift card during stressful finals week. Thank You, Nate Wierema.

THANK YOU

FPC, Thank you so much for the Christmas card and Subway gift card. I was very thoughtful and greatly appreciated. Merry Christmas! Brandi Pessman.

FRIENDS

Dear Paul and Fulton Friends, We are doing well these days - Adjusting to a new lifestyle now that Don retired after 36 years of working for the Department of the Army. We think of you fondly. Love in Christ Don and Jill Jesperson.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the delicious tray of goodies. That was so nice of you and I appreciate your kindness so very much. I hope you all have a very Happy Holiday Season. Dorothy Stamp

THANK YOU

Hello Friends at FPC! Thank you so much for the Subway gift card! It's so nice to know that even when I am away at college you are still thinking of me. I hope you all have a wonderful time with friends and family this holiday season. Gratefully, Jenna Schrader

THANK YOU

To the ladies, I will never forget your kindness. I'm sooo glad I'm a part of 311 N 9th St. Harold Bonneur

THANK YOU

To the Calling and Membership Committee. Thank you so much for the plate of cookies. Evelyn Mohr

PEACE AND GOOD WILL

For the generous use of your dining hall, kitchen and sanctuary, we Thank You. The de Immigrant Millers. Peace and Good Will!

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 12:00 Noon. 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

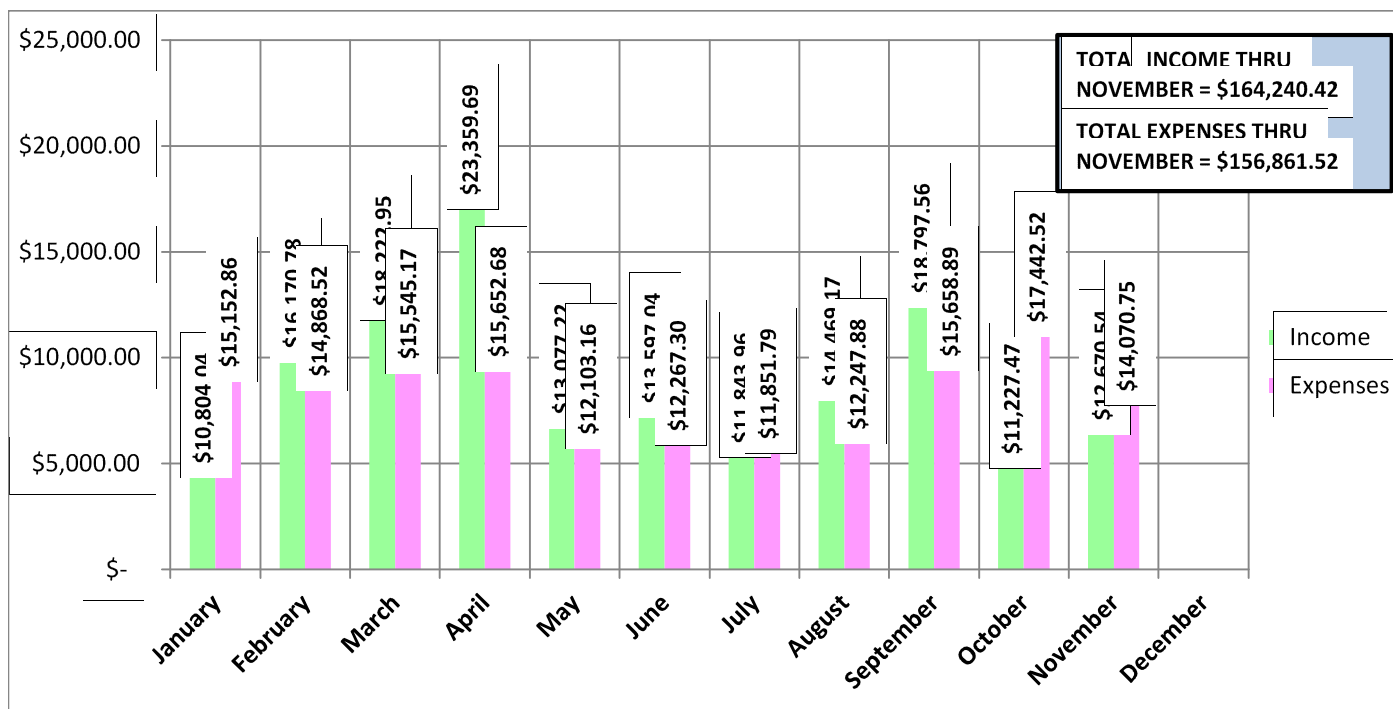
You are invited to join the Pastor on Monday mornings at 9:30 a.m., to explore together the scripture passage for the upcoming Sunday's sermon focus. Please bring your bible along - coffee and a treat will be provided.

WARMEST GREETINGS AND GOOD WISHES

It was so nice to see you all again. I told Aunt Marie I would be back again next year. I truly enjoy coming back to visit the wonderful people who make up your congregation. I hold you all in my heart with special memories. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year. Bobbi Chase.



FINANCIAL UPDATE



The above chart shows our church's General Fund income and expenses for January 1, 2019 through November 30, 2019 as being a much better picture than last year. Your Finance Committee with the help of all committees and our office personnel have worked very hard this year to reduce our budget during the first 3 months of 2019 and then to control our expenses within that budget. Your Finance Committee is very grateful to everyone that has been involved in this difficult process and especially to those of you who have stepped forward to help us with our income. As you can see from the above chart, all of our efforts as a church family have provided positive benefits to our financial condition. This is not just a one-year process, as we will continue to very closely monitor and control our expenses in 2020.

Dale Thayer, Chairman
Finance Committee

January VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: James Bielema and Dale Thayer

Greeters:

January 5 Available
January 12 Available
January 19 Available
January 26 Available



THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY

January suggested donations:

Canned Chicken Noodle Soup
Canned Cream of Chicken Soup



MISSION STARFISH HAITI

TRIVIA NIGHT

WHEN: SUNDAY JANUARY 26th, 2020 AT 6:00PM

WHERE: FULTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

COST IS \$15.00 PER PERSON. UP TO 8 MEMBERS ON EACH TEAM. REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED. PROCEEDS BENEFIT MSH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.

TO RESERVE A TABLE CONTACT BILL WILKIN AT

563-249-3098

Or 815-589-3580

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January 1, 2020	New Year's Day Office Closed	January 16, 2020	9:30 to 11:00 a.m. Book Club 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice		
January 2, 2020	Pastor on Vacation 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	January 17, 2020		Pastor's Day Off	
January 3, 2020	Pastor day off/on Vacation	January 18, 2020	8:00 a.m. Session Retreat		
January 4, 2020	Pastor day off/on Vacation	January 19, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship		
January 5, 2020	Pastor on Vacation 9:30 a.m. Worship Beth Wicks to fill Pulpit 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	January 20, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to Meet		
January 6, 2020	Pastor on Vacation 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Finance Committee to meet 6:00 p.m. Scouts—Papers 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet	January 21, 2020	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor 7:00 p.m. Quilters to Meet		
January 7, 2020	Pastor on Vacation	January 22, 2020	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		
January 8, 2020	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	January 23, 2020	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice		
January 9, 2020	11:30 Lunch Bunch at Brunch House 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	January 24, 2020	Pastor's Day Off		
January 10, 2020	Pastor's Day Off	January 25, 2020	Pastor's Day Off		
January 11, 2020	Pastor's Day Off 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship	January 26, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting and then Fellowship 6:00 MSH Trivia Night		
January 12, 2020	9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion 10:45 a.m. Fellowship - Tom Warner 80th Birthday with cake	January 27, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to meet		
January 13, 2020	9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Scouts to Meet	January 28, 2020	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor		
January 14, 2020	1:30 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor 6:00 p.m. Session to Meet	January 29, 2020	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		
January 15, 2020	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	January 30, 2020	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice		
		January 31, 2020	Pastor's Day Off		

BIRTHDAYS

January 3	Owen Radke
January 9	Thelma Warner
January 10	Shirley Buikema
January 12	Thomas Warner Sr.
January 13	Jenna Schrader Kris Blount
January 16	Ryan Thayer
January 17	Devonny Hubbard
January 20	Mike Kramer
January 22	Mary Vogel Nicholas Hoogheem
January 24	Pam Peacock
January 26	Paul Parker
January 31	Zoey Horton

**ANNIVERSARIES**

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 January 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!

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*Happy
New Year*