



# The Lamplighter



March 2019

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## March 2019

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to.....*  
**Ecclesiastics 3**

Dreams..... in the junior/senior high 5:59 class this week, we looked more deeply at the story of Jospheh and how his seeing and interpreting dreams played a role in the way in which God used him for God's good purposes. Just as dreams were important in Jospheh's story - so too they are in our own stories of faith.

Dreams about who we want to be, how we can make those dreams a reality, and how that new reality can impact the world are important, especially for us people who follow the risen Lord. They are important because they provide us with a vision and roadmap for the future; a future filled with hope and new opportunities for faithful discipleship.

Dreams, in part, are what we talked about in worship at the beginning of February. In small groups I invited you to brainstorm and share with one another what your initial hopes and dreams were for our faith community in the upcoming year and how those dreams might impact in the world around us as we share the gospel.

On the next page, you will find the result of that time of sharing. It is something that our session has looked at and will continue to discuss and pray about in more detail as the months unfold. For now, they are committed to be in prayer and discernment over four different areas including specific elements of our worship, themes of reconciliation, how it is that we identify ourselves in community, and our finances.

I invite you to look the results of our sharing and be in prayer about what has been presented - and *what needs* to be added, as together we live more fully into the lifelong journey of following where God leads us as disciples of Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Catherine



**Worship**

9:00 Worship Service

More upbeat music

We are to traditional

Contemporary Music in worship

More in Bell Choir and Choir

**Community and Church Life**

More decorations

Decorate to show what we are doing -

Book sale

More at 559 - Get the word out

Taxi Service (calls to people for pick-up for church services and activities)

Church Show Choir

Youth Lock-in

Afternoon or time to invite retired people for coffee fellowship

Babysitting - Mom's morning out and babysitting service for parents during Christmas

Emphasis little gestures of kindness

Respect others opinions

Opportunities for young children and families to become involved

Listen and ask people to participate

Expand Men's fellowship - open up and invite people from outside the church

Bible Study in the wall and winter - preceded by a simple meal.

Softball team

Restart Couples group

Moving to different areas during coffee time.

Help keep summer nights going

Political and social justice awareness and being a voice within the community of Fulton

Encourage young people to come to church

**Financially**

Two comments about "keeping our heads above water financially."

**Outreach**

Pizza cookoff/contest

Continue what has been started locally and internationally

Use church for more community events (see us join us): community potlucks; more public activities;

Resume fall community supper - good outreach (x2)

Sharing what you believe with others outside the church

Make our name known in the community

Summer nights

Try to build the congregation

Blood Drive

Youth Mission Trip (x2)

Haiti 2020

Movie outreach

Bring food to Trailer Park

Set-up a stand at park

559 visits at Harbor Crest and Sarah Harding.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SESSION MEETING**

**There was no Session meeting in January do to the weather.**

The February meeting was held at Agri-King following the session retreat.

Clerk noted a quorum present. Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin called the meeting to order at 10:40am. and opened with prayer. The covenant of leadership was recited, and joys and concerns were shared.

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

Excused Elder absent: Roy Nelson

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

**Moved and seconded** to approve the regular session minutes of the December 18, 2018 meeting. **Motion passed.**

**Moved and seconded** to approve the minutes from the annual congregational meeting on January 27, 2019. **Motion passed.**

**Clerk's Report** Attendance statistics were presented 12/23/18=48; 12/24/18=96; 12/30/18=31; 1/6/19=42; 1/13/19=34; 1/20/19=48; 1/27/19=46 ;2/3/19=50

No new members; Communion on 12/24/18=76; 1/6/19=42; 1/13/19=34; 2/3/19=50 and communion served to 4 shut-ins.

Correspondence: Letter from Keith and Marie Johnson requesting that they be moved to the inactive member list because they have relocated to North Carolina. **Moved and seconded. Motion passed.**

**Moved and seconded** to remove Verna Peck from church roles following her death. **Motion passed**

Thank you notes from individuals were shared.

The schedule for remitting the per capita payments for 2019 will be quarterly.

Elder monthly communion / liturgist assignment sheet was distributed.

Various annual presbytery reports are done. Clerk annual statistical report due Feb 14.

**Moved and seconded** to elect Anne Balk as stated clerk of session for 2019. **Motion passed.**

**Liturgist / Communion assignment for February is Mike Hand**

**Pastor's Report**

**December 19, 2018 - February 8, 2019**

**Communion** - Four

**Visitations out** - Eight (includes home, lunch, hospital and hospice and visitation visits).

**Visits In** -14 (includes Steam Anchor and Salvation Army) Vacation from December 26 - January 4th.

**Ecumenical / Community Participation**

Led Worship at Harbor Crest January 13, 2019.

Clergy Group meeting in Sterling.

Led small group at Faithwalking Retreat - January 25 -26.

Participating in Faithwalking 301 which meets on Fridays from 11:45 - 1:00.

Gateway Circle Meeting - January 10 and January 31.

Three Commission on Ministry meetings - via conference calls due to weather (retreat was rescheduled).

Training for Small group leadership - Faithwalking - Zoom call 1/20/19 .

Volunteer on Fridays at Elementary School.

Commission on Ministry meeting in Sterling 1/9/19.

**Church Community Participation**

Set-up for Christmas eve in Sanctuary.

Christmas Eve Service.

Attended weekly Choir Rehearsal.

559 on Wednesday (weather permitting).

Ukulele Group on Wednesdays (weather permitting).

Welcome and prayer at Trivia night (I did not stay for the event).

Attended visitation .

Attended Finance Committee Meeting in January.

Staff Meetings (Worship) January 14th and February 4th.

Visitations at Hospice.

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

Held hours at Steam Anchor from 1-3.

Thank you cards and notes - 10.

**Moved and seconded** to change the regular meeting night to the second Tuesday of the month beginning in April. **Motion passed.**

**Committee Reports:**

Committee assignments will be as follows:

Calling and Membership – Angie Smith

Christian Education – Megan Huizenga

Fellowship Mike Hand and Dave Ray

Finance Committee – Dale Thayer and Jim Balk

Nomination Committee – Mike Kramer

Outreach Committee – Cindy Wierema

Properties Committee – Jim Balk and Roy Nelson

Staff Committee – Mike Hand

Worship Committee – Megan Huizenga

**Calling & Membership:** Angie Smith

No report.

**Christian Education:** Megan Huizenga

559 has been cancelled several times due to weather. An average of 17 children attend. The ukulele Group is composed of students and adults. The committee is planning summer activities

**Fellowship Committee:** Dave Ray and Mike Hand

There will be a pancake breakfast following worship on February 10. Game night is set for March 24. In April there will be a trip to Circa 21 to see “Grumpy Old Men”.

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

Currently, quarterly statements of giving are being mailed to all that give money to the church during the quarter. (At present time, 16 are receiving by email.)

**MARCH VOLUNTEERS**



**Ushers: Bill and Jean Wilkin**

- March 3 ..... Jim and Joyce Moore
- March 10 ..... Cindy Wierema
- March 17 ..... Mark and Leann Steele
- March 24 ..... Ruth Letcher

**THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY**  
**March suggested donations:**

- Canned Carrots
- Canned Peas



**Moved and seconded** that we change to semi-annual statements. **Motion passed.**

- a. Will require less time for office staff to prepare statements
  - b. Will reduce cost of printing
  - c. Will reduce cost of postage
2. Currently, statements of giving are either mailed or emailed. **Moved and seconded** that we change for those to be mailed by putting the statements in sealed envelopes with person's name on outside and place on table in Narthex for people to pick up. (Will have to announce they are there to be picked up.) After a set time period, the remaining ones can then be mailed. **Motion passed.**
- a. Will further reduce cost of postage

Chairman Dale Thayer provided an explanation regarding the format change in the financial report. He also expressed concern about a decline in income.

**Nominating Committee:** Mike Kramer  
No report.

**Outreach Committee:** Cindy Wierema

**Moved and seconded** to approve the committee's activities planned for the year which includes Souper Bowl Sunday, Adopt a Child, flower sale, Summer Nights, Rada Sale, Wreaths and Swages, 2 blood drives, 2 bake sales, 4 denominational offerings

which includes One Great Hour of Sharing, Peace Offering, Pentecost Offering and Christmas Joy Offering. **Motion passed.**

**Properties:** Roy Nelson and Jim Balk

Reporting for the committee, Jim Balk stated that an alarm had sounded at the church and Dave Ray responded. Stains on the ceiling tiles are being evaluated. Outside lights will be repaired.

**Moved and seconded** to allow windmill storage temporarily for 3 months if the Drives building is demolished if a hold harmless agreement is done. **Motion passed.**

**Staff Committee:** Mike Hand

**Moved and seconded** to approve hiring Wayne and Sonia Hook as custodians who will be compensated at \$106 per week.

**Motion passed.**

**Worship Committee:** Megan Huizenga

No Report.

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

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

The meeting was closed at 12:05 with prayer by Pastor Catherine

### THE PASTOR'S SIDE TABLE

The Pastor's Side Table is a new addition to the Lamplighter. It is the place where you can learn about what the pastor read in the past few weeks or in the process of reading now.

*Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover \*

*A Thousand Mornings* by Mary Oliver

*Outlander* by Diana Gabaldon

*Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory* by Tod Bolsinger \*\*

And just started!

*Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country On Earth* by Sarah Smarch.\*

*The Nightingale: A Novel* by Kristin Hannah.\*

Books that were recommended reading by the presenter of my preaching seminar.

\*\* Reading and discussing one chapter a week of this book at clergy gathering in Sterling.

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

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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 March 9th, all men are welcome and encouraged to attend.



### LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch meet on Thursdays. We will be at The Paddle Wheel in Fulton on March 14th 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.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Please mark your calendars and plan on attending a joint Ash Wednesday service with First Reformed on March 6, 2019 here. We will engage in fellowship with our Brothers and Sisters in Fulton by sharing a simple meal of soup and bread together beginning at 6:00 p.m. Worship will follow in the sanctuary at 7:00. You are welcome to attend just the supper or just the worship or hopefully both! This is a wonderful opportunity to think about and engage in what it means to be part of the body of Christ - so please come!!! A signup sheet is on the bulletin board to bring soups.



### NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The Outreach Committee would like to say Thank You to everyone for a super job supporting Souper Bowl Of Caring Sunday which raised \$322.62 for Fulton Food Pantry. What a wonderful giving church family we have!

We will soon be starting our Spring flower sale. We will use the proceeds from the flower sale for Fulton Summer Nights.

We are also planning a bake sale for April 14<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. The 1st \$300.00 will go to the food pantry and the remaining will go to the general fund.

We once again would like to say Thank you for supporting the mission of the Outreach committee. We are so Blessed.

**GAME NIGHT SUNDAY MARCH 24TH**

Please plan on bringing your favorite game to the church Sunday evening March 24th. We will begin game time at 4:00 p.m. and plan on dinner approximately 5:30 p.m. Buddy and Stacy Bueno have offered to serve their widely acclaimed Fajitas and Spanish rice, so even if you can't make game time please join us for dinner.

**CHANCEL AND BELL CHOIRS**

The Chancel and Bell choirs continue to practice. The Bell Choir practice begins at 6 p.m. and the Chancel Choir follows 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

**NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN ED COMMITTEE**

We have finally been able to meet for 559@FPC this month! We have averaged 17 students combined. With so many missed practices the ukuleles did not perform in church this month. We will play our next song in March.

**NEWS FROM WORSHIP COMMITTEE**

In worship we will be planning a soup supper for the combined Ash Wednesday service on March 6, 2019. Sign up sheets are posted for soups, bread, and desserts. Elizabeth Wicks confirmed that she will be our pulpit supply on March 17, 2019.

**Circa 21 Playhouse****"Grumpy Old Men"**

The Fellowship Committee is sponsoring an outing to Circa 21 Playhouse.

The presentation for this event is **"Grumpy Old Men"**

When: Sunday, April 14

Time: Doors open at 3:45pm

Meal 4:00-5:00pm

Curtain time is 5:45pm

Price: Tickets include show and dinner are \$49.75 each.

Please sign up by March 31, 2019

March 1, 2019	Pastor's day off	March 16, 2018	Pastor on Vacation
March 2, 2019		March 17, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
March 3, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	March 18, 2019	Pastor Com Retreat at Stronghold 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Meet
March 4, 2019	10:00 a.m. Finance Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Papers 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Meet	March 19, 2019	Pastor Com Retreat at Stronghold 7:00 p.m. Session Meets 7:00 p.m. Quilters Meets
March 5, 2019	1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor at Steam Anchor	March 20, 2019	<b>559@ FPC</b> 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
March 6, 2019	<b>NO 559@ FPC</b> 6:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Soup Supper 7:00 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship	March 21, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
March 7, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	March 22, 2019	Pastor's day off
March 8, 2019	Pastor's day off 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Bueno - Quinceneara Rehearsal	March 23, 2019	
March 9, 2019	8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Bueno - Quinceneara Ceremony	March 24, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship 4:00 p.m. Game Night at church 5:30 p.m. Meal time after games
March 10, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	March 25, 2019	6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Meet
March 11, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Meet	March 26, 2019	Pastor will be at Presbytery for the day. 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor WILL NOT BE at Steam Anchor
March 12, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor WILL NOT BE at Steam Anchor	March 27, 2019	<b>559@ FPC</b> 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 6:00 p.m. MSH Trivia Night
March 13, 2019	Pastor on Vacation <b>559@ FPC</b> 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	March 28, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
March 14, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 11:30 a.m. Lunch Bunch at Paddle Wheel.	March 29, 2019	Pastor's day off
March 15, 2019	Pastor on Vacation	March 30, 2019	
		March 31, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship

**BIRTHDAYS**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**



March 1	Caden Wilkin
March 3	Jeff Pessman Jackie Pessman
March 4	Jennifer Smith
March 5	Dorothy Hook Jim Balk Mark Steele
March 6	Taylor Curley Courtney Radke
March 8	Anne Balk
March 12	Jim Moore
March 21	Adam Huizenga
March 23	Odetta Swanson
March 26	Belle Curley
March 30	Reece Kramer
March 31	Pam May

**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 The Paddle Wheel at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday March 14th.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO MEET**

The Men's Fellowship will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday March 9th. 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 Cath

**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 AVAILABLE 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

**ESTIMATE OF GIVING**

Have you considered how you can help our Finance Committee plan for our church financially for 2019. 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!



**ANNIVERSARIES**

March 17	Mike and Karen Hand
March 19	Chuck and Odetta Swanson

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

**THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF  
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FULTON, IL 61252-1897  
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EMAIL: fultonpres@mchsi.com**



**SUNDAY, MARCH 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Games begin at 4 pm!**

**Dinner at approximately 5:30 pm!**

**Buddy and Stacy Bueno serving up their widely acclaimed Fajitas  
and Spanish rice!**

**Come for the games!**

**Come for the Food!**

