



The Lamplighter



May 2019

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Pastor's Note May 2019

I will lead the blind by a road they do not know, by paths they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I will do, and I will not forsake them

Isaiah 42:16

Easter was late this year, at least it felt late to me. Maybe it was because the winter seemed so long that I became convinced that spring would never arrive. I think this year was particularly hard for me because of the obvious lack of light in my home. My former home in Michigan had an over abundance of light which seemed to help keep at bay the darkness of spirit that the winter months can sometimes bring. For some reason the lack of light affected me more this year that my two previous winters in Illinois/Iowa.

For me, the bottom line is, I need light. I suspect that most of us do. Its obvious presence or lack there of can and does affect our moods, our outlook, our entire approach to the day, and at times life. God knows this, which is why there are over 200 references to light (depending on the translation) in the bible -and why God provided the Light of the World - for us. Christ's light shines as a beacon during times of darkness and despair, and it also shines a light on the suffering, injustice, brokenness and darkness in the lives of others and invites us to partner with God on the Holy mission of reconciliation.

There is a hymn written by Bernadette Farrell called ***Christ Be Our Light***, that I so like the words of. They remind me of Christ's constant presence in my life, not only as a beacon of hope in my times of darkness - but that I am called to be a beacon of light, for Christ, in the midst of the world's darkness to others.

Christ Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

(Chorus)

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.

Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

**Session Minutes
Presbyterian Church of Fulton
April 9, 2019**

The April meeting was held at 7:00 pm in the bride's room.
The clerk declared a quorum.
Moderator Rev. Catherine Martin called the meeting to order at 7:04 pm.
Joys and concerns were shared followed by the opening prayer by Rev. Catherine Martin. The covenant of leadership was recited.
The following Elders were present: Jim Balk, Mike Hand, Megan Huizenga, Mike Kramer, Roy Nelson, Dave Ray, Angie Smith, Dale Thayer, Cindy Wierema
Excused Elder absent: none

Moved and seconded to approve the April docket. **Motion passed.**
Moved and seconded to approve the regular session minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting as amended. **Motion passed.**

Clerk's Report Attendance statistics were presented 3/24/19=55; 3/31/19=60; 4/7/19=68.

No new members; Communion on 4/7/19=71 and communion served to 3 shut-ins.

Correspondence: Family of Art Deutscher and Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center

Former member, Betty Hill-Addington passed away. Luncheon served at the church.

Pastor's Report March 5th - April 9

Communion - Five

Visitations out - 10 (includes home, lunch, hospital and visitation)

Visits In - 7 (includes Steam Anchor and Salvation Army)

Vacation March 11th to March 16th

Ecumenical / Denominational and Community Participation

Clergy Group meeting in Sterling on Leadership Thursdays from 10-11 a.m.

Participating in Faith-walking 301 which meets on Fridays from 11:45 - 1:00

Volunteer on Fridays at Elementary School

Led Committee on Ministry Retreat 3/25/ and 3/26 at Stronghold

Synod Conference call 3/27/19

Local Clergy meetings 3/27 and 4/4

Attended a Synod Retreat for COM and CPM Members at Champaign/ Urbana 3/28 (pm) through 3/30/19. Attended Presbytery Meeting 4/9/19

Attended to the business of COM for Blackhawk Presbytery on an almost daily basis

Church Community Participation

Attended weekly Choir Rehearsal

559 on Wednesday

Ukulele Group on Wednesday

Attended Finance Committee Meeting

Staff Meetings (Worship)

Held rehearsal 3/8 and then presided at quinceañera for the Bueno family 3/9/19

Attended worship Committee Meeting

Attended Game Night at church 3/24/19

Presided at Graveside service for Verna Peck 4/6/19

Met with Family 4/5/19 and Presided at Funeral service for former member Betty Hill-Addington 4/8/19

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

Committee Reports:

Calling & Membership: Angie Smith

Scheduling appointments for the photo directory. The committee served a luncheon for the family and friends of Betty Hill-Addington. The replenishment of kitchen supplies will be coordinated by this group.

Christian Education: Megan Huizenga

All activities are going well.

Fellowship Committee: Dave Ray and Mike Hand

Game night was well attended. April 14 there will be a trip to Circa 21 to see "Grumpy Old Men". Summer activities are being planned.

Finance Committee: Dale Thayer (chair) & Jim Balk

The previous month was good financially.

Moved and seconded to accept a quote for the 5 year lease of a copy machine from Office Machine Consultants. Maintenance costs are locked in for 2 years. **Motion passed**

Nominating Committee: Mike Kramer

No report.

Outreach Committee: Cindy Wierema

July 2 we will participate in the community Summer Nights activities.

Moved and seconded to start a rice and beans campaign on May 19 for Mission Starfish Haiti. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded to plan for a garage sale in August. **Motion passed.**

Properties: Roy Nelson and Jim Balk

The local police department has requested the names of 3 people to call in case of an emergency. Those will be Dave Ray, Roy Nelson and Mike Kramer.

The flags will be replaced. The older tables have been donated. \$100 was donated by one individual who received some of the tables. Spring cleaning dates are set.

Staff Committee: Mike Hand

Moved and seconded to approve hiring Carolyn Stein as our new janitor who will work every other week. **Motion passed.**

Moved and seconded the pastor has the discretion to adjust her days off with notification to the session. **Motion passed.**

Worship Committee: Megan Huizenga

The committee met April 3 to discuss the Maundy Thursday Service. A meal will be served at 5:00 followed by Communion at 6:00 in the Outreach Center. A worship service will follow in the sanctuary.

A community Good Friday service will be observed at Second Reformed Church that will include participation by our congregation and First Reformed Church.

Moved and seconded to have youth serve as acolytes. If no youth is available this will be done by an usher. **Motion passed.**

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

New Business:

Moved and seconded to baptize Owen Ursal Lee Rathburn on Easter Sunday. **Motion passed.**

A ukulele camp is being considered for this summer.

The pastor requests that committee reports be emailed in advance to facilitate our meeting time.

The meeting was closed at 8:25pm with prayer by Jim Balk

Next regular meeting date May 14, 2019



MAY VOLUNTEERS

Ushers: Fritz and Judy Jordan

May 5 Roy and Mary Jo Nelson
May 12 Adam and Megan Huizenga
May 19 Ruth Letcher
May 26 Available

THE JAN STUART MEMORIAL FOOD PANTRY

May suggested donations:

Macaroni and Cheese Dinner

2 lb. Dry Spaghetti

16 oz. Spaghetti



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

LUNCH BUNCH



Lunch Bunch meet on second Thursdays . We will be at Yen Cheng in Clinton on May 9th 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.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE NEWS

The Outreach Committee and 559 are combining efforts to put together May Baskets for Harbor Crest Nursing Home residents. The baskets will be delivered Wednesday May 1st.

We would like to thank all the wonderful bakers who helped our committee raise \$742.00 at the Palm Sunday Bake Sale. The first \$300.00 has been donated to the Fulton/Thomson Food Pantry and \$442.00 to the General Fund. We are blessed to have such a caring church family.

A fund raiser is planned again this year for "Rice and Beans" to Haiti beginning May 19th, 2019.

Another highly successful fund raiser was the flower sale this year. We were able to show a profit of \$413.00. The flowers should be arriving around May 1st.

Mark your calendar for Tuesday July 2nd "Fulton Summer Nights" event. We will once again this year be a sponsor for "Fulton Summer Nights".

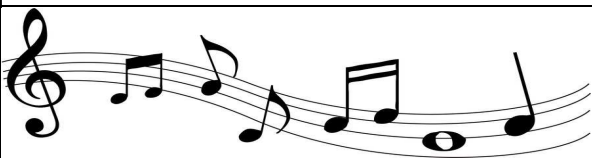
We would like to take this time to thank everyone for their continued support of the Outreach Committee and its projects throughout the year..

CHANCEL AND BELL CHOIRS

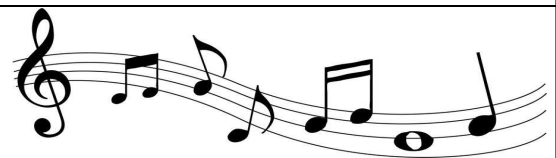
The Chancel and Bell choirs continue to practice. The Bell Choir practice begins at 6 p.m. and the Chancel Choir follows at 7 p.m. If you only want to join for special occasions you will be welcomed as well. New members are always welcome!

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



MUSIC SUNDAY



Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 19th, 2019**, which will be a special Sunday worship service, filled with multiple songs for joy and praise including beloved favorites and some a song or two that are currently being played on contemporary Christian Radio. We will also be having a special offering taken up to assist in the purchase of new music for our chancel choir, and bell choir for the 2019/2020 worship year.

FROM CALLING MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

The Calling and Membership Committee did not meet in April. But, we do hope that you have signed up to have your portrait be included in our new pictorial directory. Thank You

LAMPLIGHTER JULY AND AUGUST

This is a reminder to all contributors to the Lamplighter that we will not be publishing it July and August again this year. We appreciate your news items very much! So if you have news items for July or August you should have it to the office for the June issue. Thank You very much! Paul



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Your Finance Committee provides the following update on our finances. We had 2 good months. In February we received \$1,153 more than our expenses. In March we received \$3,018 more than our expenses. However, our expenses in January were \$4,350 more than our income. When comparing all 3 months, we had \$45,387 in income and \$45,567 in expenses which put us \$180 more in expenses than our income was for the first 3 months this year. We are moving in the right direction in controlling our budget.

Some of you may have heard that we signed a new contract for a new copy machine for our office. The obvious question is “How can we afford that with our budget situation?” We actually save money in doing so, as explained below.

Our old machine was through Office Machine Consultants in Rock Island and we had 1 year left on the 5-year lease agreement. For the year of 2018 we paid an average of \$240 per month which was \$139.50 for the lease plus a cost per copy for black copies and a different cost per copy for color copies.

A sales representative from Access Systems in Davenport stopped in our office and presented a proposal for one of their new machines and showed us that we could save some money with a new machine. We contacted Office Machine Consultants and told them we were contacted by another company and received a proposal from that company for a new machine, and asked what they could do for us in order for us to stay with their company. (We have been with them for approximately 15 years.)

Office Machine Consultants gave us a proposal for a new machine with their proposal being a more favorable proposal than Access Systems. The Finance Committee reviewed the proposals from both companies and our usage/costs for 2018, and then presented their recommendation to Session on April 9th that we lease the new machine on a 5-year lease agreement from Office Machine Consultants. The new machine from Office Machine Consultants decreases our average monthly costs (based on the 2018 average monthly fees) to \$179 per month which is \$135 for the lease plus a cost per copy for black copies and a different cost per copy for color copies. The big difference is that the new lease agreement gives us a much lower cost per copy for both black copies and color copies. The cost per copy under the new agreement is about ½ the cost per copy under the old agreement. Additionally, the new machine is capable of stapling and folding to make booklets which will save Paul valuable time. The Session approved the Finance Committee’s recommendation for the new machine. This new machine gives us an average savings per month of \$60.61 compared to our old machine (\$727.32 savings for a full year).

The Finance Committee and the full Session believed that if we could save over \$700 for the year with the new machine, now was right time to upgrade and stay with Office Machine Consultants who has given us very good service over the last 15 years. **BOTTOM LINE: This was another reduction in expenses that we were able to achieve PLUS gain improved technology at a lower cost!**

We are continuing to very carefully control our expenses and be good stewards of the resources we are given. We are continually looking at ways that we can reduce expenses. With God’s guidance and your prayers, we are slowly moving in the right direction with thoughtful, prayerful, detailed decisions.

Dale Thayer
Chairman, Finance Committee





PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

THE PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS OUR YOUTH BEGIN LIFE WITH A STRONG START—A SOLID FOUNDATION OF FAITH FORMED IN THE FIRST THIRD OF LIFE, FROM CHILDHOOD THROUGH YOUNG ADULTHOOD.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with *the church of the past*, continuing to inspire *the church of today*, and pointing us to *the church of the future*. Each year, this celebration is marked by receiving the Pentecost Offering which nurtures the faith of those who are the church to come — children, youth, and young adults.

Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, your congregation participates in helping our children, youth, and young adults grow up to proclaim with the Psalmist, "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."

QUICK FACTS

- ✧ Congregations keep 40% of raised funds to initiate or support programs for young people in their communities.
- ✧ The first Presbyterian Youth Triennium was held in 1980.
- ✧ The Day of Pentecost is referred to as the birthday of the Church.
- ✧ Pentecost is usually represented with the color red, which symbolizes the fire of the Holy Spirit.

Since the Pentecost Offering started in 1998, Presbyterians have raised more than \$15 million for ministries that benefit younger members of God's family. We believe we are called to do even more — to support and care for young people as they build a strong foundation of faith.

1998-2019

May 1, 2019	559@FPC 5:30 p.m. meet to deliver May Baskets to Harbor Crest Home 6:30 p.m. Dinner is Served 7:00-7:05 Closing and Sending	May 16, 2018	Pastor on Study Leave 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
May 2, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	May 17, 2019	Pastor on Study Leave
May 3, 2019	Pastor's day off	May 18, 2019	Pastor on Study Leave
May 4, 2019		May 19, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
May 5, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	May 20, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Meet
May 6, 2019	6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Papers 6:30 p.m. Boy Scouts - Meet	May 21, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor WILL NOT BE at Steam Anchor 7:00 p.m. Session and Quilters to meet
May 7, 2019	1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor WILL BE at Steam Anchor	May 22, 2019	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
May 8, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 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	May 23, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
May 9, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 11:30 Lunch Bunch to meet 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice	May 24, 2019	Pastor's day off
May 10, 2019	Pastor on Vacation Pastor's day off	May 25, 2019	
May 11, 2019	Pastor on Vacation 8:00 a.m. Men's Fellowship	May 26, 2019	9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship
May 12, 2019	Pastor on Vacation Ron Koehn in pulpit Happy Mother's Day 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 a.m. Fellowship	May 27, 2019	Office Closed for Memorial Day
May 13, 2019	Pastor on Study Leave 10:00 a.m. Finance Committee to meet	May 28, 2019	1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Pastor WILL BE at Steam Anchor
May 14, 2019	Pastor on Study Leave Pastor WILL NOT BE at Steam Anchor	May 29, 2019	Pastor out of office at meeting in Chicago 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
May 15, 2019	Pastor on Study Leave 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	May 30, 2019	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Practice 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Practice
		May 31, 2019	Pastor's day off

BIRTHDAYS
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



May 2	Payton Curley
May 12	Stacy Bueno
May 13	Kody Crosthwaite
May 15	Dylan Kalyan Neil Petersen
May 17	Keith Huff
May 21	Andrew Schrader Russ Hoogheem
May 24	Craig Faulkner
May 26	Jim Stachour
May 28	Anna Huizenga Elijah Blount
May 29	Cindy Kuykendall



ANNIVERSARIES

May 4	Leland and Eunice Swanson Jim and Joyce Moore
May 12	Keith and Marie Johnson
May 24	Mark and Anastasia Wierema
May 31	Bill and Jean Wilkin

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 Jenny's at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday May 9th.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP TO MEET

The Men's Fellowship will meet at 8:00 a.m. Saturday May 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 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.

SEMI-ANNUAL 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!

Happy Mother's Day!

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FULTON**

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