

Community

Presbyterian Church

of

Lac du Flambeau

Community Press

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To: All the “Good and Gentlefolk” of Community
Presbyterian Church of Lac du Flambeau, Wi.

Greetings.

It is hard to believe we are already entering the third month of the year 2020. It seems to me that Christmas was only yesterday, but here we are. Fairly soon you shall be rejoining us and we will be glad to see you all—an already loving community will be even richer and fuller.

The weather here has literally been all over the place, up and down the temperature scale, snowing off and on to varying degrees and then occasionally giving us hints of spring. Nevertheless, it is, at least in my view, a beautiful place to be.

This month I want to share some thoughts with you concerning our “maturing in faith.” Sometimes I wonder if we really understand that our simple human actions have divine repercussions. Our reconciliation with one another is inextricably linked to being reconciled to God. We are always in the process of becoming and this process is very challenging. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul recognizes we are infants in our faith and that Jesus is always calling us to Christian maturity—basically an other-centered love.

Well, there’s the rub! How do we listen to Jesus in the midst of all we are hearing in the world these days. There is a cacophony of voices telling us that alternative facts equal truth. Both inside the church and outside the church we hear many things on many issues from wealth, poverty and power to the ban on refugees. The trajectory of this age is not one of increased care or concern for our neighbors, but one of increased self-centered ness, self-protection and exclusivity. How will we respond to these issues? Will we respond as infants in the faith with continued divisions, quarreling, or as those truly maturing in Jesus, God’s love incarnate, not only refraining from hatred, prejudices, oppression, or power, but refusing to capitulate to our anger as well?

Which should we choose? Life—loving the Lord our God? Or Death—bowing to the gods of this

age, the idols of security, wealth and power?

Of Course, we already know the answer. We choose life. We shall put away our childish things. We shall grow in grace and abound in steadfast love. We know the correct response, but even so we capitulate to alternative facts. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak. The only way we shall hear and heed the message of Jesus in these chaotic, difficult times is to listen carefully and to do so in community. That is to say, we must be mature in Jesus and live the “but I say way,” and we need loving scrutiny, mutual accountability and the community of faith, i.e. you and me, to plant and water so that God will give growth.

This suggests that Jesus bring us a new, powerful challenge. Namely, suggesting that our earthly relationships matter a great deal to our God. How we treat our sisters and brothers, our neighbors and friends, and our enemies, matter more, in fact, than our personal piety or our gifts on the altar. Our righteousness should exceed that of the Scribes and Pharisees through fulfilling the law, the law that makes for a good community and through love that follows not just the letter of the law, but the spirit of the law. We must be mature in our faith and living.

No one, and certainly not Jesus of Nazareth, ever suggested living the life of faith, that is: the gospel, would be a piece of cake. On the contrary, though the statement is simple and easily flows from our lips, it is incredibly difficult to live Love—but I’ve it we must, however limited our expression of the AGAPE may be!

Until next time, enjoy the month of March, and let your light so shine before you that God’s gospel of love may prevail....

Pax et Caritas,

Bill Anderson

NO SESSION NOTES from FEBRUARY 2020

No notes this month. Next Session meeting will be March 13th at 10:00 AM

Ancient guidance on prayer

When we pray, we are not to pray for ourselves alone. We do not say "My Father, who art in heaven" or "Give me this day my daily bread"; we do not ask for our own trespasses alone to be forgiven; and when we pray that we may be delivered from evil, we are not praying only for ourselves either.

Our prayer is for the general good, for the common good. When we pray, we do not pray for our own single selves; we pray for all God's people, because they and we are one.

Cyprian, bishop of Carthage (third century)

God's wonders

People travel to wonder
At the height of the mountains,
At the huge waves of the seas,
At the long course of the rivers,
At the vast compass of the ocean,
At the circular motion of the stars,
And yet they pass by themselves
Without wondering.

St. Augustine

An Irish Blessing – St. Patrick

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields and,
Until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His Hand.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS FOR FEBRUARY were:

Feb. 2, 2019: the Raduege's, Fran & Bill

Feb. 9, 2019: the Gelwick's, Carol & Tom

Feb. 16, 2019: Shirlee Gallagher

Feb. 23, 2019: Carolyn Anderson (thank you for your last minute fill-in; no one signed up)

Thank you all for your time, hard work and contribution to the fellowship.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Pam Fraboni	March 3
Bill Streng	March 6
Nancy DiCristina	March 12
Owen Karlmann	March 15
Dennis Robertson	March 25

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

There are no known Anniversaries this month

Volume 3, Issue 3



THE CHOIR CORNER

I must say that our congregation has a virtually impenetrable stubborn streak. Despite serious and frequent invitations to our friends and supporters, we have been completely unsuccessful in recruiting additional member to our joyful band of singers. I have decided that it is time to stop the harangue and go with the flow. I am just struggling with the inevitability of our situation that is stymieing our choir's efforts to bring a better effort in support of our worship services. We could do so much more with a larger choir and a better blend of voices. Well, those wishes will go the way of the woolly mammoth and we shall all be unaware of what could have been.

The anthems for March have not been chosen as of this writing. Sorry, Shirley and I have just been apprised of our first great grandchild to be delivered on our wedding anniversary (September 3rd) if all goes as planned. This is an event for which we have been longing and we are exited and all aflutter. It is hard to concentrate on some of the chores associated with being the Minister of Music, but I promise that the congregation will be pleased with the selection when it is made.

I'm truly sorry that this issue of The Choir Corner qualifies as a catharsis of my spirit. I'm just not used to failure and I regret not being able to provide a product that is not up to my standard in a musical sense.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Shugar, Music Director & Webmaster

2020 SCRIPTURE READINGS

March 1, 2020

1st Sunday in Lent
Communion Sunday
Gen. 2:15-17; 3: 1-7; Ps. 32; Rom. 5:12-19
Matt. 4: 1-11

March 8, 2020

2nd Sunday in Lent
Gen.12: 1-4a; Ps. 121; Rom. 4: 1-5, 13-17;
John 3: 1-17

March 15, 2020

3rd Sunday in Lent
Exod. 17: 1-7; Ps. 95; Rom. 5: 1-11;
John 4: 5-42

March 22, 2020

4th Sunday in Lent
1 Sam. 16: 1-13; Ps. 23; Eph. 5: 8-14;
John 9: 1-41

March 29, 2020

5th Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel. 37: 1-14; Ps. 130; Rom. 8: 6-11;
John 11: 1-45

These readings are suggested by the Presbyterian Planning Calendar and may be changed depending on the topic of the sermon. Liturgist will be called each week or emailed to tell them what the readings will be.

Liturgist for the month of March will be:

March 15: Pearl Jonkman-Hujet

Ushers for the month of March will be:

As of the date of this printing we have one person that has signed up. Obviously, we are in serious need of Liturgists and Ushers. Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall. Your participation is urgently needed and greatly appreciated. Thank you for your help.

SPECIAL DATES

World day of Prayer	March 6
Daylight-Saving Time begins	March 8
First day of Spring	March 19
Sundays in Lent will be:	
First Sunday	March 1
Second Sunday	March 8
Third Sunday	March 15
Fourth Sunday	March 22
Fifth Sunday	March 29

THANK YOU

Many thanks to the women who came on February 3 to help clean the church kitchen and write notes to the "Snowbirds". Thanks to them, the kitchen has been tidied up and 41 women received greeting from the church. Some of the group brought soup, bread and dessert for a lovely luncheon following the writing of the notes. The help is greatly appreciated.

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

Thanks to Shirlee Gallagher of for organizing the Valentine's Day International Night Supper. Many different dishes were enjoyed and it was a wonderful night of fellowship.

A Lenten history lesson

Though the date of Easter varies, the majority of the Lenten season occurs during March. In fact, the word *Lent* comes from the Anglo-Saxon words *lenctentid* (meaning "March") and *Lenten* (meaning "spring").

The first reference to Lent dates back to 325 AD, in one of the 20 canons decreed at the council of Nicaea. By the eighth century, Christians started a serving Lent, and a 10th century monk named Aelfric connected the use of ashes and "the Lenten fast" to the pro-Easter period.

Lent lasts 40 days to represent Jesus' time in the wilderness, when He was tempted by the devil. The six Sundays that occur between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday aren't counted as part of Lent; instead, as the traditional day of worship, they're considered "mini-Easters."

Don't settle

For most of us, the great danger is not that we will renounce our faith. It is that we will become so distracted and rushed and preoccupied that we will settle for a mediocre version of it. We will just skim our lives instead of actually living them.

John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*

May you have warm words on a cold evening, a full moon on a dark night, and the road downhill all the way to your door

-Irish Blessing

As people of God and servants of our Lord Jesus Christ, we believe our Mission to be the building of a strong fellowship, ministering to the Spiritual and physical needs of the church, the community, and the world fulfilling our Lord's command to "Love our neighbors"