

The Leaven

JANUARY 2020

SOULE SEARCHING

When H. L. Mencken was editor of the Baltimore Sun he was known to reply to outraged readers of his editorials with this preprinted postcard:

Dear Sir or Madam:
You may be right.
Yours sincerely,
H. L. Mencken

It must have been a great way of disarming someone who was out to start a fight. It is short and succinct. It lets the reader know their letter was received and read. It gives the recipient a bit of affirmation. Imagine a referee saying to Bill Self, who is arguing about a foul call in the closing minutes of a close game, "You may be right but I am the referee for this game. Please sit down." Or a parent who says to a wildly argumentative teenager, "You may be right. Just remember I love you, and I am the parent." Depending on how these lines were spoken they could help soften a big argument and perhaps even eliminate a deep divide.

Peter Marty writes, "I've long been of the opinion that Abraham Maslow's hierarchy of needs is missing something elemental. Beneath our fundamental human need for food, water, safety, and intimacy is our personal need to be right. Being right or feeling in the right is highly seductive. But, if my need to be right is more important than my being in relationship with the person I've engaged in conversation or argument, I'm in trouble."

We must make room for each other. The world is in greater danger from people claiming to know too much rather than too little, Reinhold Niebuhr once observed. Few things seem to anger Jesus more than religious people who behaved as if they knew all things. The Apostle Paul wrote, "For now, we see in a mirror dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." 1 Corinthians 13:12

"There is something about certainty that makes Christianity un-Christian," Marilynne Robinson once wrote, concerned with narrow and bitter understandings of faith. Expressing her own commitment to be a thoughtful Christian, she continued, "I have cultivated uncertainty, which I consider a form of reverence." That reverence seems about right for we who can only "see in a mirror dimly . . . and [who] know only in part."

As we enter this new year that is presently filled with tension, drama and uncertainty (which is bound to increase as we move closer to an impeachment trial and then a general election) let us remain humble knowing that all of us "know only in part." Let us pray for ourselves and others:

Lord, may my uncertainty temper my words and improve genuine communication with those who see things differently than I do. May our love for you and all your children guide and direct all our decisions and actions as we seek to walk in your way this year and every year.
Amen.

Blessings, Tim



JOY OFFERING

FPC collected \$913 for the Joy Offering in December.

PWC

Many looking for a job do not have the proper clothing for a job interview or for a work situation. PWC is collecting **interview or work appropriate clothing** for men and women to be given to Wilson Ave Church clothing bank. If you have clothing you would like to donate, please bring it to the church before January 23. A coat rack will be made available to hang your clothing on. Thank you from Presbyterian Women.

COMMUNITY MEAL

Yea, we will serve our traditional community meal on Tuesday, January 28 from the new kitchen. Volunteers, desserts, fresh fruit, dog and cat treats are needed.

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Jack Thomas has been part of our church family since 1992. We gathered to celebrate his life on Friday, January 3. Jack passed away on December 27th. A nice size congregation gave thanks to God for Jack's many gifts and his love of God, the church, and God's creations!

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

Sunday, Jan. 26

JANUARY CHILI COOK OFF

JANUARY 26, 2020

Time to season those pots and pick those peppers,
CHILI COOK OFF is coming!!

All you CHILI WRANGLERS sign up by Jan. 21st with your
CHILI NAME in Narthex. Sign up also if you would like to be a judge.

ALL OTHERS

A-L -Bring Salad or Bread **M-Z**- Bring Dessert



PRAYER CONCERNS

Immediate: Jeannie (Barbara-Sue Rose), Paul Wilde (Carolyn Anderson), Oliver (Maria Traynham), Marilyn Ferbert, Laura Chapa (Linda Barry), Sherry Byrd (Kristen Michaels), Jeff Dewees (Cindy Scircle), Ron Bacquet (Cindy Scircle), Le Thomas and Family, Gary Auchard, Carl and Linda Johnson and Family, Adam Nelson

Ongoing: Joe Hudson, Judy Jahn, Gladys Griffin (Maria Traynham), Barbara-Sue Rose, Maria Gordon (Carolyn Tillotson), Brianna Hoffman (Cindy Scircle), Twila Corley, Bill Taylor (Dru Cox), Jayce Ward (Cindy Scircle), Miledys Aràmboles (Miriam Bowman), Priscilla Conley (Sally Azbill)

JANUARY FELLOWSHIP TREATS

The schedule for providing treats for January:

Jan. 5-Circle 5 **Jan. 12** -Session

Jan. 19 -Deacons **Jan. 26**-Chili Cook Off- **A-L** -Bring Salad or Bread **M-Z**- Dessert

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1- Kathy Lemke **1-** Linda Barry **3-** Anne Davis **5-** James Hughes Jr. **6-** Kristen Michaels
15- Gregg Scircle **20-** Ron Kenton **28-** Joe Hudson **29-** Dennis Goodwin **31-** Andy Michaels

JANUARY ANNIVERSARYS

26-Bob Doby and Marge Grafke-Doby **29-** Dick and Ruie Gibson

I'VE DONE THE MATH ...

... and here on New Year's Eve as I prepare to bid "Adieu" to 2019 and say "Hello" to 2020, I think we've done a pretty good job as a congregation in terms of our overall support of the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The numbers our excellent administrative assistant - that would be Arlene - recently supplied me with indicate that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering received Easter Sunday brought in \$2,004.22, the Pentecost offering received in early June \$669.27, the Peace and Global Witness offering received in early October \$587, and the Christmas Joy offering received the Sunday before Christmas \$788. In addition, \$100 came in separately under the One Great Hour of Sharing 'umbrella' for use in connection with relief efforts in the wake of Hurricane Dorian, giving us a grand total of \$4,148.49 for the year.

While much of the money that was contributed by members and friends of the church went to the larger church, at some level, for its use in carrying out the work of the church, a portion of the money received through the Pentecost offering and a portion of the money received through the Peace and Global Witness offering were retained by us and subsequently turned over to ministries of our choice for their use. With respect to the Pentecost offering, 40 percent of what came in was given to Phil Parsons for his use in running a youth ministry under the auspices of The Salvation Army operation here in Leavenworth. With respect to the Peace and Global Witness offering, 25 percent of what came in was given to the Guatemala Partnership Scholarship fund, which was created as a result of the relationship that has developed over the past 25 years between the Heartland Presbytery of northeast Kansas and northwest Missouri and Maya Quiche Presbytery in Guatemala.

I am confident that the funds received here are already making a difference in the lives of any number of people, and we can feel good about that as a congregation. After all, we worship a God who is fully capable of multiplying what may seem like just a little in the face of such great need and turning it into a LOT! Five loaves of bread + two fish = more than 5,000 hungry men, women and children fed, right?

On behalf of the other members of the Faithful Discipleship Committee, Carl Johnson, Ginnie Strand, Judy Wiedower and Gerald Carder, I want to thank everyone for their generous giving in 2019, and it is my hope and prayer that God richly blesses you in 2020 as you continue to share a portion of what God has blessed you with in helping Leavenworth First Presbyterian Church and the larger church meet the very real needs of people both in the United States and around the world, doing so as always in the name of Jesus.

In His service,
Rick Nichols, moderator, Faithful Discipleship Committee

THE 2019 TIME AND TALENTS SURVEY

First of all, on behalf of the other members of the Faithful Discipleship Committee, Carl Johnson, Ginnie Strand, Judy Wiedower and Gerald Carder, I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the Time and Talents Survey that was mailed to members and friends of the church in early November. All told, 43 survey forms were submitted for consideration and tabulation, and it is the committee's intent to take the information we have received and put it to good use in helping the church do the work the Lord wants us to do here in the Leavenworth-Lansing area during 2020. In fact, we were able to share some of the information we received with the Nominating Committee late last year as it was preparing to finalize the slate of nominations for the Elders and Deacons' classes of 2022.

Time

I have a very limited amount of time during the course of a typical week available for church work/activities/ministries - 12

I have a fair amount of time during the course of a typical week available for church work/activities/ministries - 19

I have plenty of time during the course of a typical week available for church work/activities/ministries - 5

Talents

I am willing to pray for the church and the people of the church - 31

I am willing to serve as an usher - 28

I am willing to serve as the liturgist - 24 plus 1 question mark

I am willing to help serve communion - 30

I am willing to sing in the choir - 13

I am willing to perform with the bell choir - 7

I am willing to share my faith journey with the congregation - 15

I am willing to help count the offering as an active or former elder - 16

I am willing to help teach Children's Church - 5

I am willing to help out in the nursery if needed - 6

I am willing to serve as a sound technician - 2

I am willing to help serve community meals - 30

I am willing to help back Backpack Buddies bags - 28

I am willing to assist at the homeless shelter - 11

I am willing to help with Vacation Bible School - 10

I am willing to fill in for the administrative assistant if needed - 13

I am willing to provide transportation in an emergency - 18 and 1 maybe

I am willing to help provide food for a funeral dinner - 15 and 1 maybe

I am willing to help with the maintenance of the church's website and Facebook page - 1

I am willing to help with the maintenance of the grounds - 11

I am willing to serve as an elder or deacon - 11 either position and 4 specifically as a deacon

I am willing to serve on one of the church's committees (Personnel, Worship, Mission, Christian Education, Building and Grounds, Capital Campaign and Renovation, Communication, Nomination, Endowment and Memorials, and Faithful Discipleship) - 29

I am willing to be responsible for ...

POC for Circle V

Hanging of the Greens & some as they pop up!

Whatever I can do to help

Making flower arrangements for special occasions

Help w/ESL

Helping with ESL

Any volunteer activity

Picking up used communion cups, church publicity

Contributing to a welcoming environment

Finance/personnel management

Funeral dinners and Presbyterian Women

Nothing but I'm willing to help with most things

I would like to see the church ...

Pursue Christian Education more aggressively for all ages

Engage with the young families more (maybe a mothers' Bible study group); encourage more member fellowship outside the church walls (like going to plays, sporting events, or having dinner groups)

Continue to grow

Retain and grow younger families

Continue to be involved in community ministry

Continue to do God's work

Continue to march in a positive direction. I think we are making great progress.

Continue as is. Wonderful progress is occurring in all areas.

Start a recycling program to get the plastics out of the trash cans

Create a more child-friendly atmosphere in the parlor, while still preserving the presence (the old photo portraits) of the founders

Maintain a more "up-to-date" website

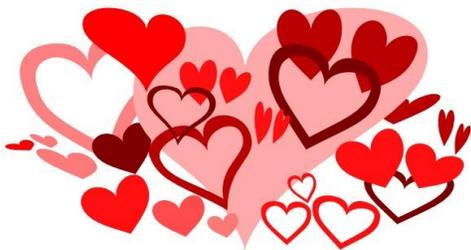
Continue its outreach mission(s) to the local community

Coordinate a coat drive next winter

Continue to support Pastor Tim

VALENTINE DINNER AND ACTIVITY

On Friday, February 14, 2020 from 5-8 pm the Deacons will be hosting a "Cajun Theme" dinner. Cost is \$10 per person and catering will be provided by Terry Booker. The dinner will include: blackened chicken, brisket, jambalaya, fried green tomatoes, salad, rolls, corn bread, and Louisiana bread pudding. We hope you will sign up to attend this Madi Gras event. If you need a child care please notify the church no later than Friday, Feb. 2nd.



SOUPER BOWL?

You know about the Super Bowl, but do you know about the Souper Bowl?

Coincidentally, they both occur on the same day, Sunday, February 2, but the latter is a giving tradition in our church. Please bring your offerings of cans or boxes of soup to the church by Feb. 2, and the Mission Committee will distribute them to area food pantries.



JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	30 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cady Choralliers	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Church Office Closed	4
5 Fellowship Treats-Circle 5 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	6 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cady Choralliers	7 6:00 PM Deacons	8 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice	9 6:00 PM Session Meeting	10 Church Office Closed	11 2:00 PM ESL Starts Back Up
12 Fellowship Treats-Session Class 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	13 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cady Choralliers	14 10:00 AM Circle 5 6:30 PM Circle 5	15 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice	16	17 Church Office Closed	18 10:00 AM League of Women Voters
19 Fellowship Treats-Deacons 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship 11:30 AM Question Ed. Committee Meeting 2:30 PM Circle 2 PWC-Kathie's Home	20 Hooring Milk Church Office Closed 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cady Choralliers	21	22 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:30 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice	23	24 Church Office Closed 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Amstaur Radio Testing	25
26 Annual Congregational Meeting Fellowship - Chili Cook Off Mission Committee Meeting Worship Committee Meeting 9:00 AM Adult Education Class 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM Worship	27 7:00 AM Men's Morning Discussion Group 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM Cady Choralliers	28 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Community Meal	29 9:30 AM Crafts & Fellowship 6:00 PM Bell Choir Practice 7:00 PM Choir Practice	30	31 Church Office Closed	1