

June 2019

Paula's Pondering

I was cleaning out my file cabinet at church last week, and I came across a paper entitled "St. Mark's United Methodist Church Expectations of Members." I'm not sure when or even if this was circulated, or which former pastor initiated it, but it has some very good guidelines for church membership that ought to be revisited.

The first expectation is that every member of the church will pray for the congregation, the community, and the world. Prayer should always be our starting point, and everything we do must be immersed in prayer. I would hope that each member and regular attendee of St. Mark's is keeping the church and its work in the community in their daily prayers, asking for God's guidance and strength.

The second expectation is that every member will worship regularly. The document didn't specify what "regularly" means, however. I would clarify the expectation to say every member would make it a priority to be in worship weekly whenever they are not sick, not working, and not in town. I recognize that things come up – the weather is bad, there are family obligations, sporting events, etc., but by making worship a priority, you are putting God first in your life. Indeed, that is what worship is all about. It's a weekly reminder that God is God and you are not.

Thirdly, a member of St. Mark's will continue to grow in their faith by participating in a small group study. This expectation recognizes that none of us has arrived – that each one of us must continue to grow into the likeness of Christ as long as we continue to draw breath. It also recognizes that Sunday morning worship is not the place to grow in your faith. Every member, and regular attendees too, should be in a small group Bible study and/or faithfully attend Sunday School. It is in these small group settings that spiritual growth can take place as you learn about Jesus, explore and model Christian behavior, and are nurtured by and nurture others.

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The fourth expectation listed is that each member of St. Mark's will give in proportion to their income. Membership in anything means you'll support the institution and its goals, and membership in a church is no exception. Of course, the biblical standard of financial support is the tithe, traditionally the king's portion, which is 10% of your income. Giving a tithe of your income is a fair way of supporting the church because, despite your income, while the gift might be different, everyone's sacrifice is the same. While giving 10% might seem too daunting, giving a percentage of your income, say 5%, and then increasing it by 1% or 2% each year is a good way to work up to a tithe and even beyond a tithe. By the way, tithing comes with a challenge from God – see Malachi 3:10.

The final expectation listed is to serve God with your hands, by volunteering in service to the congregation, the community, and the world. The Bible has a lot to say about those who say they have faith but never put it into action. Christianity is not a spectator sport, and Jesus doesn't need fans in the stands. Jesus needs people who will get their hands dirty and risk getting their heart broken. Sadly, only about 20% of the people in any given church do 80% of the work of the church. The chances are good, therefore, that you are not doing your share. Why not? There are lots of excuses – I'm

too busy, I'm too old, I don't have any skills – but they are just excuses. The biggest complaint I hear is that we have all these great ideas for needed ministries but no one to do them. My prayer for the past 6 years has been that the Holy Spirit will light a fire in this church – not a literal fire, but a spiritual awakening that will motivate and mobilize this church. Our mission field is literally right outside our doors, but it's largely untapped because we don't have enough people willing to help out. Each one of you has been uniquely created and equipped for the mission and ministry of this church. That means that no one else can properly do whatever you are here to do. Moreover, if they try to fill your spot, not only will they not be as successful as you would have been, they won't be filling the role they were created and equipped to do. The bottom line is we need each and every one of you to do your part if we are to be the church God placed in this place at this time.

All of these expectations are part of the Baptismal Vows each member promised at their baptism and renews at baptisms of others – "...faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ."

Blessings,

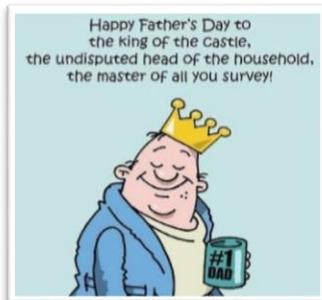
Pastor Paula

Upcoming Events

6/2.... Communion

6/14.. Flag Day

6/16.. Father's Day



Sunday Sermons

6/2 Paula Smith: Clear Vision - Serving Others..... Eph. 4:11-13

6/9 Shirley Weaver: Message TBD (UMW Sunday)

6/16 ... Amy Armstrong: A Strong Father Joshua 1:9

6/23 ... Amy Armstrong: Message TBD

6/30 ... Amy Armstrong: Message TBD

Birthdays

June

6/1 Arlene Mae Cahill

6/5 Carol Erlandson

6/6 Amy Armstrong

6/12 Andreon Bell

6/17 Monte Barbour

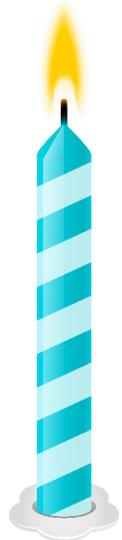
6/17 Dick Berry

6/20 Dale Gish

6/23 Greg Price

6/30 Chris Pauley

6/30 Rosemary Garten



Church Mice

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Phone Prayer Chain

If you know of a member going to the hospital, have a need, a concern, or a joy, please call someone on the following list, starting at the top, if possible. Call any time, day or night. If the person you call is not at home, leave a message or call the next person on the list.

Pat Townsend 373-3915 or 225-9459
 Rosemary Garten 427-5725 or 519-8500
 Carol Marcks 427-5725 or 560-5627
 Marilyn Berry 796-5789
 Lucille Bolen 560-5131
 Mary Branstad 796-9659 or 868-3752
 Ann Fiene 257-5214
 Jackie Leffingwell 257-1123
 Linda Roberts 650-5131 or 853-3398

Prayer Chain



Carol Buhle 796-3630 or 225-8174
 Shirley Weaver 461-9224 or 716-1184
 Chris Pauley 571-3922
 Gayle Elliott 257-9655
 Arletta Cahill 600-9203
 Flora Costanza 914-8034
 Sandy Bower 373-5603
 Anna Inman (660) 232-1221
 Jackie McMenemy 461-7577

Bread Of Life Food Pantry

The Food Pantry and Clothes Closet are open **Wednesday from 3-5:00pm and Saturday from 5-7:00pm.**

No appointment is needed. We need about two volunteers to help on Saturday.

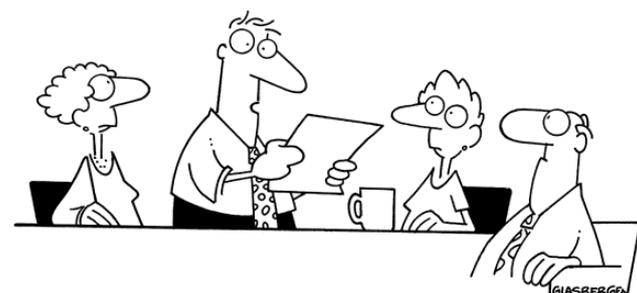
We now need weekly donations! The following items are needed for the week of:

- 6/2 Toilet Paper
- 6/9 Dish Soap
- 6/16 Bar Soap/Body Wash
- 6/23 Shampoo & Conditioner
- 6/30 Laundry Soap

Thank you for your donations!

Web: www.facebook.com/BreadOfLifeStUMC

2019	FAMILIES	PEOPLE	ITEMS OUT	ITEMS IN
APR	26	71	885	700



"Here are the minutes from our last meeting: Chuck talked 12 minutes, Rebecca talked for 7 minutes, Paula talked for 27 minutes, Bob talked for 9 minutes..."

Leadership Meeting Minutes

An apportionments display with envelopes was presented. A graph of donations will be printed for each fund.

Leadership council duties were discussed. A list of duties for leadership will be provided to determine which items are a maintenance issue or a governing issue.

Maintenance Issues:

- **Custodial supplies** – Staff will be allowed to make a decision about what to do to control the flow of supplies.
- **Clutter and signs in the foyers and entrances** – The Administrative assistant will work on this.
- **Communication and authorization** – The staff needs a clear hierarchy of who to contact for certain issues.
- **Painting day for the office** – Painting has been approved for the office. Painting is planned for Saturday, June 8, at 9am. Volunteers will be solicited through the bulletin.
- **Food pantry** – The issue of the Hy-Vee charge account was brought up and questioned. The Treasurer should handle this within the guidelines of his duties.
- **Flowers** – Questions for outside flowers go to the Building & Grounds committee. For inside the church, it would be the Hospitality committee.
- **Door color** – Building & Grounds decided to paint the door red at the last meeting.
- **Outside sign** – Sign needs to be changed. Duty assigned to the administrative assistance or she can find someone to change it.

Governing Issue:

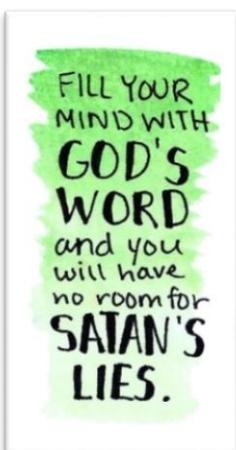
- **Committees** – The following 4 committees were decided to be formed: Hospitality, Education, Building & Grounds, and Missions & Outreach. People around the table were assigned to come up with a list of the duties that each of these committees would be responsible for.

Other Issue:

- **Fireworks stand** – Any concerns about the fireworks stand goes to the committee that oversees it.

The book "Mission Possible" was discussed. The remaining chapters of the book were divided up and each member of the council will take a chapter to lead at the next meetings.

Renew Your Mind... *By Remi Roy*



"Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think." Romans 12:2

What changes when we surrender our hearts to Jesus? Certainly, not our outward appearance, our income or the people in our families or at work. On the outside, we look the same. So, what changes?

The more we give in to the flesh the more our lives stay the same. The more we yield to the Spirit the more we begin to look like Christ. It is important to note that we cannot and do not change our ways first before we come to Christ. Hard as we try, we do not have the power to do that and, if God required that, no one would be saved.

Paul, however, instructs us to renew our minds.

Romans 12:2 says, 'Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.' Paul knew that it takes a sincere desire to want to obey God to resist the lure of the world, hence his admonition to not copy the ways of the world. The same temptations we experienced in the past will come our way as new creations in Jesus Christ. We will face the same hardships, deal with the same emotions and circumstances. What makes the difference is our sincere desire to please God. Our desire, fueled by God's grace and love makes real change possible.

Philippians 2:13 says, 'For it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.'

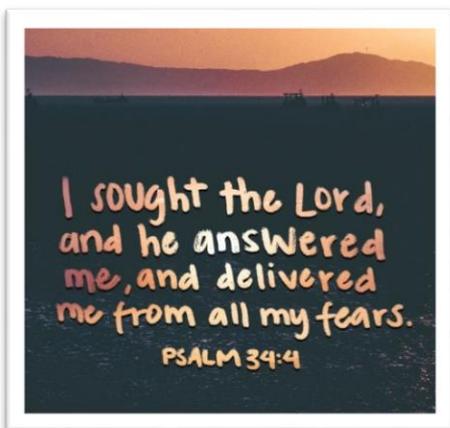
But how do we carry out Paul's instruction to renew our minds in the practical sense?

It's all in the Word. God's Word empowers us and enables us to go all the way in our pursuit of Him.

Our job is to study and apply the Word. It is our weapon against everything that comes against us; whether sickness, fear or evil thoughts. God's Word is the standard by which we measure our lives and conform to His will.

Lord, help us to study and apply your Word to our lives each day. Help us make this a discipline of the mind and heart, empowered by Your Spirit, transforming us each day more and more into your likeness. Help us have self-awareness of when we're falling into temptation and turn quickly back to you. Thank you for your tender mercy and love, ever leading us onward. In Jesus' Name I pray, Amen!

Healthy Boundaries... *By Debbie McDaniel*



Life is precious. Yet all too often, we may find that much of our time is spent around negative, toxic people, draining the life right out of us. Sometimes they're co-workers, friends, or sadly, even family members.

God never intends for us to spin our wheels, waste our days, trying to make others happy who can never be happy. Because in reality, it doesn't depend on us. It's not up to you. They may want you to think it does, as if you possess the power to improve the value of their existence, but that's not a burden meant for you to carry.

God's greatest desire is to set us free. And sometimes what propels that change is for some brave soul to be willing to say, "Stop, no more." One

who will choose what is better, and learn to set boundaries that will protect and limit the control an unhealthy person might be placing on another's life.

Sadly, when we look deep into the mirror of our souls, we may realize that we are the ones who have some unhealthy tendencies that God wants to change. Today's a good day to stop wasting time in toxic patterns of living. For he has better in store for us.

He can accomplish great things through your prayers. He can move mountains. He can change hearts. Anything is possible through his great power. Understand that though it is never up to you to make someone different, he's set you in their lives for a purpose, for a reason.

He loves you, he cares for you, and he has good in store for your future.

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed" (John 8:36).

Let's Pray:

Lord, protect me from the abuse and harm of toxic people. I know you desire to set me free—free from the hurt of others, but also free from my own sin and bondage in that sin. Help me have eyes to see toxic behavior around me and in me... and give me the strength, courage and resilience to break free from that toxicity and choose the path of life. Thank you for always protecting and guiding me Lord. Thank you for always being good, gracious, kind and loving. In Jesus' Name, Amen.