

February 2020



First Pres. Press

Hi Everyone,

We want to update you with what is happening in the church office. Since December 11 Linda has been volunteering to keep the office open and running. On January 21 Lisa became the new church administrative assistant under training. Lisa and Linda will be sharing the position until the end of March (Lisa Tue, Wed and Fri and Linda on Mon and Thur).

We are making some, what we hope to be exciting, changes. Linda has used her managerial skills to organize the office to make our transition more efficient and effective. We have also added a "Did you know..." section in the newsletter. Check it out! If there is something you are curious about or want to share let us know and we can add it to the list.

Feel free to stop by and say hi!

Peace and Blessings,
Lisa Bricault and Linda Hook

HOME (Hospitality, Outreach, Membership, Evangelism) Team – submitted by Linda Hook
Team members: Tim Bricault, Pam Carges, Karen Fay, Tim Fay, Linda Hook



The next Alpha Course is scheduled to begin on Friday, March 6th and continue through the end of May. Each session will begin at 6:00 p.m. and will include dinner, fellowship, a short Alpha presentation, dessert and small group discussions. Information will be included in the bulletins each Sunday through the end of February.

Sign up is available now. Come alone or bring friends, family, coworkers – anyone you would like to invite. Everyone is welcome. Alpha is a wonderful way to explore our faith no matter where we are on our paths.

Beginners, those of us who know a little and are curious about more and people who have been Christians their whole lives but want to learn more and hear what others have to say. Join us on this fabulous journey to discover who we are...individually and together.

Library Refresh

We raised funds last May to begin refreshing the library to meet the needs of a variety of groups who use the space for meetings, study groups, for informal discussions and as a library. After a lot of research into the use of the space, discussions with a number of people representing the groups who utilize the room and investigating various layouts we are ready to begin the transition.

Over the next few weeks we'll be moving furniture out, painting and giving the room a makeover. The Children's Library will be moved to the Children's Area in Fellowship Hall. Most of the current furniture will not be used after the refresh. The furniture that will not be used will be placed in Fellowship Hall in the section that is usually closed and houses the extra tables and chairs. Anyone who has donated furniture to the library who would like to reclaim their donations please let Linda Hook know so your

name can be placed on the furniture. During the transition period and until we can purchase the tables and chairs that will be in the library, we will be using the oblong, folding tables and chairs from fellowship hall.

**Not Just For Men: King Archetype
by Pastor Garrett**

This is the third part of a new series in our newsletter on men's spirituality. My hope is that it will begin conversations among both men and women, deep personal reflection, and be some grist for the process of growth and transformation. I am copying this from an article by Ned Abenroth in the [Illuman of Washington](#) newsletter. [Illuman](#) is an international organization devoted men's spirituality and transformation. It addresses a second archetype we need today: the King

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For better or worse (depending on where you stand), this will be a year of answers. Though none of us know what those answers will be, nor if we will like the results, the answers will come, nonetheless. It is a new year that will mark the United States for generations. It is a new decade that will mark our natural world for centuries.

As we step into it, painfully divided, one thing is clear. Victory of any political ideology that sustains the demonizing of the other side, is a loss for everyone. The US two-party political system is immensely binary, which is to say dualistic. There is a winner and a loser, and there seems no other way possible, especially in these troubled times.

One core hope I hold, is that whatever the outcome of this year's political elections, we in [Illuman](#) can embody a King energy that is desperately needed. A wise Sovereign seeks the good of all in the realm, transcending conversations that have degenerated and lifting their eye to a broader and longer horizon.

To seek the good of all, you must first seek and recognize the good in all. You practice the arts of honoring, not othering, of hospitality, not hostility. So I invite us all in this moment, ...yes actually this moment...this isn't a rhetorical device referring to some future moment...I invite you to breathe and bring to mind one person we know personally who is on the other side of us in the political debates of the day... Now ask yourself the following questions? What about the motives, beauty, dignity of this person can I affirm? What am I not seeing that they might teach me? Where is common ground for us? Where have I stopped being curious and started projecting? What emotions in me are coming up as I sit with them? AND What boundaries must I set to protect myself and others in the midst of conversations of disagreement?

This last one is especially crucial. A King is not naive. The King always is aware of the stakes, that there is a threat of violence whenever people, especially men, gather, and engagement can only go as far as all are able and willing to go...The decorum of the royal court has at its purpose, keeping everyone safe and alive, in a chamber where huge disagreements over monumental decisions are made.

So, this year...this season especially: Enter the King.

We are all Kings, or Queens, or Sovereigns (this isn't a gendered nor patriarchal archetype). Sadly, very few of us are actively living into this part of ourselves. This winter we're working with King energy. Desmond Tutu and the Dali Lama pictured above are both Kings for our Time. Both engaged in their

more active days in helping their respective realms move through enormously turbulent waters. For Tutu, an Anglican Priest, it was first bringing down apartheid in South Africa, and then leading a revolutionary truth and reconciliation ritual for the country. The "Truth and Reconciliation Commission" as it was called, gave people on all sides of the racial atrocities a one time window of time to fully confess their crimes, face the pain of what they had done, and ultimately gain amnesty. It took a number of years to complete and while it wasn't perfect, it was still a radical approach to a cultural wide wound that was far better than other attempts at healing in other places that had suffered similar atrocities up to that point. It was full of King energy.

The Dali Lama has been a "King" for the people of Tibet in a time of severe persecution and exile by the Chinese government. Despite being relatively powerless in military and political strength, the strength of his spirit and teaching has transcended the power of the gun, and held his people, and many others as well, together. They say the pen is mightier than the sword, but a warm belly laugh and smile, is more powerful still. Both men have held boundaries, sought justice, and yet maintained a sense of joy and peace in the midst of suffering that is remarkable.

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LENT IN A BAG!

Ash Wednesday Dinner and Service

Ash Wednesday is on February 26. A simple meal will be shared beginning at 5:45 pm followed by a receiving of the ashes at 6:30 pm. Childcare will be provided during the service. Before dinner, participants will make a "Lent in a Bag" that can be used as a centering time for families and individuals during this Lenten season.

BIBLE STUDIES

These studies are open to new participants at any time! If you are interested in one of these studies, or would like a different type of study, contact Leigh Anne Herd, Tracie Folley or the group facilitator.

Group Facilitators	Day Time	Where	Study
Adult Faith Class Mary & Joe Gorman	Sundays 9:00 a.m.	Green classroom (2 nd floor)	Disciple Series
Pellottes' Group Louise & Rick Pellotte	1 st /3 rd Wednesdays 1:30 p.m.	Church Library	Adam Hamilton
Becoming Faithful Followers (BFF Group) / Linda Hook	2 nd /4 th Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.	Church Library	Game Night Feb 12* New study starts March 11
Fays' Group Karen & Tim Fay	1 st /3 rd Fridays 7:30 p.m.	Fays' Home	Adam Hamilton's "Unafraid"
Elsie O'Neil Circle	3 rd Thursday 12:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Jesus Always (Sarah Young)
Manuscript Study Leigh Anne Herd	1 st /3 rd Wednesdays 6:30 p.m.	Herds' Home	Book of John
Manuscript Study Leigh Anne Herd	2 nd /4 th Thursdays 1:00 p.m.	Newells' Home	Book of John

*No study the 4th Wednesday of February due to Ash Wednesday meal and service.

MANUSCRIPT STUDY

Manuscript study is an interactive way to study Scripture. Scripture is taken apart, observed and studied, then applied to our lives today. If you enjoy writing notes as you study, using colored pencils and markers, delving deeply into the language of Scripture and discussing in a group, then this type of study is for you. If you are interested, email laherdo2@gmail.com.

- Leigh Anne

Elsie O'Neil/Woman's Association

Who: All Women at LFPC.
What: We are more than a ladies group. We are individuals who get together and have developed unifying relationships.
Where: LFPC Library.
Why: We have lunch together. We bring our own bagged lunches and share a delicious dessert.
We discuss church business and our numerous church projects.
We support each other in trials and celebrate our joys.
We also work together on a light Bible Study, which can lead to deep, wonderful, meaningful conversations.
When: The 3rd Thursday of each month @ 12:30PM.

Mark your calendars for the fun and give it a try! You might find something you didn't even know you were looking for! Call me with any questions or concerns. 315-247-9304.

In Christ, Coleen Clapper

February Mission Report

Blessings in a Backpack Update

As part of the partnering rotation for the month of February, we are asked to collect:

veg. beef soup (ready to serve, any brand)



The rotation helps give us appreciation for the variety of foods they are trying to provide for the kids at Seymour Dual Language Academy in Syracuse. For more information or a refresher on the program see the direct link to the Liverpool chapter website: <https://blessingsinabackpackliverpoolny.org/>

Grey collection bins are labeled BIB in fellowship hall and the back of the sanctuary. We will dedicated the collection at the end of the month before delivery to the Lutheran church for backpack assembly.

Volunteers Needed for Blessings in a Backpack at the Winter Fair

Blessings in a Backpack has been invited to be a highlighted local non-profit guest at the Winter Fair in Syracuse by an organization called Music for the Mission. This Fair will be held at the NY State Fairgrounds indoor at the Expo on February 7th, 8th, and 9th, 2020. Volunteers are requested from each church in the Blessings in a Backpack program to attend some part of the three day event. While volunteering at the Music for the Mission booth, you will promote, educate and assist in the fund raising initiative that will benefit all of the Blessings in a Backpack Syracuse programs.

A sign up sheet will be on the Mission board in the sanctuary on February 2nd BiB are looking for volunteers to cover the table in four hour shifts:

- Friday Feb 7
shift 1 from 2 pm to 6 pm
shift 2 from 6 pm to 10 pm
- Saturday Feb 8
shift 1 from 10 am to 2 pm
shift 2 from 2 pm to 6 pm
shift 3 from 6 pm to 10 pm
- Sunday Feb 9
shift 1 from 10 am to 2 pm
shift 2 from 2 pm to 6 pm

Please consider signing up. When you do please contact John Meyer directly for further instruction, johnmeyer@gmail.com 949-500-5176. **Deadline for sign up is February 3.**

Charles and Melissa Johnson return to Zambia

As of this writing Charles and Melissa Johnson have returned to Lundazi, Zambia to resume their work on behalf of PC USA as mission co-workers. An excerpt from their last newsletter communication from January 7th was:

We know the words found in Romans 5: 1-5 to be true, but that doesn't mean it's easy. Near the end of a wonderful time sharing our work with 58 churches in 15 states Melissa's mom passed away and Charles received news that he has a potentially serious medical condition, an ascending aortic aneurysm. Although the aneurysm doesn't currently require surgery, it will require monitoring with periodic CT scans. All of this hitting us at once in mid-October was hard. We are extremely grateful that Presbyterian World Mission allowed us to extend our stay in the States to be with family and friends as we worked (and continue to work) through the emotional impact of these difficulties.

We will board our flight out of Atlanta tonight and begin our journey back to Lundazi. This will be the fourth such trip, saying goodbye to family and friends, since we became mission co-workers, and for Charles it is the most difficult. Still, we both look forward to seeing our friends in Zambia and resuming the work that we have been called to do there.

As we look back on our time in the U.S., we have a lot to be thankful for:

- The churches that welcomed and fed us.
- The folks who hosted us in their homes.
- Friends who drove out of their way to meet us with the clothes Charles left at their house in Deer Lodge, Montana.
- Friends who mailed Charles' laptop charger cable when he left it in Newhall, Iowa.
- Good doctors.
- Our time with our son Brien, visiting numerous barbecue joints in Texas.
- Being with Charles' mom to celebrate her 91st birthday.
- Being with Melissa's mom and family.
- Christmas Eve worship and tamales with old friends.
- Our children, Meagan, Eric and Brien, and grandchildren, Lucy and Max.
- Our friend who took flowers to our son Holden's grave on his birthday.
- Celebrating our 39th anniversary with family and friends.
- The prayers of friends and family.
- The many churches and individuals that support the work of our partnership with CCAP in Zambia.

Many of you have been asking if we've been able to convert our Keynote presentation, "Chiweme Pamoza, Better Together" to video format and yes, we finally got it done and uploaded to YouTube. <https://youtu.be/z--AfZoV6I>

Please keep Charles and Melissa in your prayers as they resume their work in agriculture instruction and women's health in Zambia.

Feed my Starving Children Mobile Pack Event at Vineyard Church March 18-21, 2020.

For those looking for a high energy and high impact kinetic service activity, consider serving for a shift at the Feed my Starving Children Mobile Pack event. This year it will be over four days, March 18-21. Link to the volunteer page is at:

<https://give.fmsc.org/campaign/2003-024mi-syracuse-ny-syracuse-vineyard-church/c237383>

Please talk to Rob Santos if interested. Rob cannot attend this year due to other commitment, but can put you in touch with Gwen. Web sign up works just fine too.



Matthew 25

The PC USA Presbyterian Mission has challenged congregations to unite under a common purpose for mission under a new program called Matthew 25. From their website:

What is a Matthew 25 church?

Matthew 25:31–46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. Convicted by this passage, both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) exhorted the PC(USA) to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor.

How the vision unites all Presbyterians

By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, you can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. We recognize Christ's urgent call to be a church of action, where God's love, justice and mercy shine forth and are contagious. And we rejoice how our re-energized faith can unite all Presbyterians for a common and holy purpose: our common identity to do mission.

There are 3 core missions

- **building congregational vitality**
- **dismantling structural racism**
- **eradicating systemic poverty**

There is a lot to unpack in those nine words.

At the November 2 Presbytery meeting, we were oriented to the goal by our resource presbyter Karen Chamis. She will be leading activities to network churches in Cayuga-Syracuse presbytery who express an interest. The mission committee discussed this at our November 3 meeting. We agreed no action for now, but generally for all of us to study up on the material. Of the three focus areas, one for eradicating systemic poverty is most directly linked to mission activities. However, we don't want to just relabel what we're currently doing for Blessings in a Backpack for example, which are really just 'band-aid' actions addressing a symptom of poverty, to suit this new rebranding.

Instead, if we do this, we want to challenge ourselves get after the deeper, systemic root causes.

Addressing the other topics of building congregational vitality and dismantling structural racism are broader goals that involve whole church (not just mission).

[An article for a cool recent example of a Matthew 25 initiative comes from a PCUSA church in Boise, ID, at this link.](#)

The invitation and the request is for all of us to read through the materials and ask ourselves, in what way might we challenge ourselves to lead and become a Matthew 25 congregation? How might we, as the body of Christ at LFPC, redefine ourselves in mission as a Matthew 25 church, at our intersection of God and the World?

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Santos

Blessings in a Backpack – Another Volunteer Opportunity

Thank you for supporting this very important mission. Once a month, on a Tuesday morning, three or four people from our congregation help fill bags for the students at the Seymour Dual Language

Academy at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 210 Hazel Street, Liverpool. I am looking for a few volunteers to help us. It takes about an hour and your help will be greatly appreciated, even if your schedule only allows you to assist once in a while.

In addition to helping children have food on the weekends, meeting and working with fellow Christians from our church community is most enjoyable.

Again, I thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 315-635-3433 or email me at Puternan@Verizon.net. - Nancy Putman

Did you know...?

There is a calendar on the wall opposite the church office for people to pick a Sunday to have flowers placed in the sanctuary? Yes. It's true! Want to know what's even better? The Flower Committee (Coleen Clapper, Lynda Fauler and Louise Pelotte) does all the work for you. That's right. Someone from the committee checks the calendar each week and contacts whoever signed up for the next Sunday. They work with a local florist who charges \$25 per standard arrangement and delivers the flowers on Saturday afternoon so they are fresh for Sunday morning.

When contacted by the committee rep, the donor can make a request for a special color or type of flower and state if the arrangement is to honor a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or simply *just because*. Of course, there's the option of upgrading to a larger arrangement too. Just let the committee rep know and she'll confirm the amount due. Payment is easy too. Make out a check to Liverpool First Presbyterian Church in the correct amount, note "flowers" in the memo line and simply place the check in the offering plate on Sunday or make sure payment gets to the Treasurer's office. It's as easy as that! If someone has already signed up for the week you wanted you'll have to choose another week. First come, first served.



You'll also see on the calendar that members of the congregation can place orders for lilies during the Easter season, geraniums in May and poinsettias for Christmas. What a wonderful service this committee offers to our church.

From the Kittles:

We joyfully announce the arrival of our son (and little brother to Benjamin) Oliver Mitchell Kittle, who weighed 6 lbs 13 oz, on January 13, 2020. We also would like to thank everyone in the congregation for their thoughts, prayers and cards. And a special thank you to the Kitchen Ministry for sending us delicious meals!!



Oliver Mitchell Kittle

Happy Birthday!



February Birthdays

1 Jason Gouger
9 Dode Lipton

(If anyone has been omitted from this list, please contact the church office)



Choir

LFPC Choir meets on **Thursdays at 7.00.**

Bottle Drive

We are still collecting clean, rinsed returnable cans and bottles for the preschool. There is a bin downstairs outside of Fellowship Hall to place your donations. Thank you!



LFPC Food Pantry Shopping List:

- * Canned Vegetables
- * Canned Fruit in juice or water (not syrup)
- * 100% juice
- * Protein rich foods containing at least 7 grams of protein per serving such as beans, canned meats, canned fish, peanut butter



The March **2020 Newsletter Deadline** is **Tuesday, February 25th by 12 noon.** Please get all articles and pictures into the church office by the deadline. You may call the office at 315-457-3161 or email lfirstpr@tweny.rr.com.