

Presby Press

RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

THIS MONTH: BEATITUDES

Starting June 7, we will spend a couple months looking at the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. The Beatitudes are eight proverb-like blessings contained within Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. They are the pinnacle of Jesus' teaching on mercy, spirituality, and compassion. Each one is short, precise but a little cryptic and full of meaning. Each Beatitude hits on a major biblical theme and we will take time to unwrap and explore each theme as we work through the Beatitudes one at a time each Sunday.

I recently read (and currently cannot find) a quote by a theologian that said that much of theology is trying to explain why the Sermon on the Mount (and the Beatitudes) don't really apply to us. On the surface, that seems quite cynical. However, the Sermon on the Mount and the Beatitudes challenge the way we live our lives spiritually and morally (even good Christian folk) and we do spend a lot of our time equivocating, ignoring, or figuring out how Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount aren't quite as radical as they appear. We will endeavor to tackle this challenge head on. It will call for us to continue to transform into Christ-likeness by paying more heed to how Jesus tells us to live in relationship with him in this world rather than being so concerned about what the world thinks of our lifestyle.

Beatitude comes from the Latin word for happiness and by extension, blessedness. This section is given such a title because each of the Beatitudes begins with "Blessed are."

Blessed are:

-the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. (5:3)
-those who mourn: for they will be comforted. (5:4)
-the meek: for they will inherit the earth. (5:5)
-those who hunger and thirst for righteousness:
for they will be filled. (5:6)
-the merciful: for they will be shown mercy. (5:7)
-the pure in heart: for they will see God. (5:8)
-the peacemakers: for they will be
called children of God. (5:9)
-those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake:
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (5:10)

We look forward to seeing you in worship each week as we explore the Beatitudes at our one summer worship gathering at 10:00am.

Childcare and children's Sunday School continue throughout the summer. Summer can be a difficult time to make regular worship attendance a priority. Without attempting to guilt, I will simply say that our times of communal worship are not primarily about what we are getting out of it, but what we are giving to God. Come offer yourself to God in love, devotion, and worship with us!



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SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

COFFEE HOUR

June

Greg & Liz Knuth

Would you like to be the face of hospitality for our congregation on Sunday morning? Helping with coffee hour is a good way to extend loving fellowship to our worshippers. If you'd like to help or want more information, call the office at 810.735.5755

USHERS

10:00am

June 7 Richard & Doris Parks, Sue & Rich Eaton

June 14 Richard & Doris Parks, Sue & Rich Eaton

June 21 The Collins Family, Paula & Don Swietzer

June 28 The Keech Family

LITURGISTS

10:00am

June 7 Cindy Shane

June 14 Melissa Dugan

June 21 Kathy Selden

June 28 Trevor CeKander

COMMUNION SERVERS

June 7th

10:00am

Sue Chapel
And
Gretchen Sutton

If you would like to be a communion server, please contact Sue Eaton.

IN WORSHIP

If you'd like to serve in our worship services, please contact Sue Eaton at (810)735-1420.



A BIRTHDAY PRAYER

Gracious God, I come before you to praise and adore Your Holy Name this day for the gift of _____ in Your Church Universal and here at Linden Presbyterian. I ask for your blessings upon _____ this day and in the coming year, that s/he may come to a deeper knowledge of Your love, grace, and peace in mind, heart, and spirit. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.

June 1	Mary Sue Ward		
2	Laura Teffner John Whitman	18	Janet Baldwin Leatha Cudworth Jennifer Spurrier
6	Robin Bloomfield Jesse Franks	20	Tucker Whitman
8	Heather Franks	21	Cooper Brandt Peg Brower
9	Tara Wasylyshyn	22	Shirley Honaker
10	Ed Neuville	23	Alexandria Perigo
11	Rival DeCaire	25	Ben Brindle
12	Bonnie Vander Muellen Karen Walker	26	Spencer Everhart
14	Sue Eaton Jon Chapel	27	David Nippa
16	Rich Eaton	30	Bill Cole

CONTACTS

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Edward Arter 810.735.5755

Praise Band

Johnathan & Melissa Dugan and Jarrod Montague
lpcoffice@lindepres.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Confirmation

Confirmation classes have now come to an end. We would like to congratulate the four youth that finished, Hanna Chapin, Marco Keech, Jack Whitman, and Tucker Whitman. It has been a joy watching them grow in their faith and learn what it means to become a member of the church. We celebrated their achievement at the church on May 31st, 2015.

VBS

August 3-7, 2015

We are busy gearing up for one of our biggest weeks of the summer – Vacation Bible School! VBS 2015 will have a Heroes of the Bible theme, and it will run August 3-7 from 9AM-noon. We will be taking a look at David, Ester, Daniel, Joseph, and our number one superhero, Jesus. If you've never been involved with a VBS before, you may be curious as to how it is run day-to-day. Each morning, the kids gather in the sanctuary in their age groups (pK-K, 1-2 grade, 3-4 grade, 5-6 grade). We begin by introducing what the topic will be, and the kids learn their memory verse of the day. Then, the different age groups begin a rotation, learning about each hero through a story, music, crafts, games, and a snack. The 5-6 group is the exception. These older kids begin in the sanctuary and then head out into Linden to do a community service project, and they return for the story and snack. Finally, all of the kids regroup in the sanctuary to review the verse and sing a song. Whew, it's a busy week!

This year will be extra special because the curriculum is all being planned by our members. Kristen Garmyn, Fred Lewis, Gemma Amendola, Kim Neuville, Donna Ingamells, and Gretchen Sutto have been meeting since last November to begin planning for this year's VBS. We have decided upon the characters, the verses, and have matched the games, crafts, and snacks to complement the theme. While all the other churches will be rotating through the same three VBS curriculums that are available this year, ours will be new and fresh, which is really exciting!

As you may have been able to tell, it takes A LOT of people to make VBS happen. We need volunteers to help register kids as they arrive. Nine leaders are needed to help guide the different age groups around. At least two volunteers each are needed to lead crafts, story, games, and snack time. Extra runners are always useful to hang out with the younger two groups. On top of that, we need volunteers to help us decorate and clean-up at the end. To make a long story short (too late), we need YOU!

I don't like to just think about our youngest disciples as the future of the church; they are our present. Proverbs 22:6 reminds us to "train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." We need to be training up our kids now in the present so they will be well equipped to lead us into the future. When the disciples wanted to turn the children away, Jesus said to let them come to Him. LPC is ready to have the children come to us, but we need more volunteers in order to make this happen. If you are interested in helping, great! Please contact Kristen Garmyn (kristengarmyn@gmail.com/810.280.5294) or Gretchen Sutto (gsutto915@yahoo.com/810.287.9438) and they will get you plugged in! Still on the fence? Contact them anyway, and they'll talk you into helping!

YOUTH CALENDAR

May 31st – Last youth group this year at the church! Middle school 6-7, and high school 7:30-9. (5th graders going into 6th grade next year WELOCME!)

June 7th – No Youth Group, Graduation night!

June 14th – Final night Party! Gather high and middle school together at Tammy Neuville's home for bonfire, food, community and games. 6-8 pm.

Wyldlife Camp – We still have spots for all 6-8th graders wanting to go to camp. There is a lime green form in Whitney Hall and will be the week of June 21 – 25th. See Jake for more information, best week of your life!

Younglife Camp – All 9th – 12th graders get signed up for YOUR best week of your life July 13 – 18th at Timberwolf Lake Camp in Lake City, Michigan. There are hot pink forms in Whitney Hall or see Jake for more information.

Bottles/Cans – Still bring in your bottles and cans at the last service on the last Sunday each month. All proceeds go to sending our youth to camp!

Fundraising Day – For the youth going to camp we are having a church clean up at the church on June 12 – 13th. If you need help raising money for camp contact Gayle Wagner or Jake Kirk for details.

Prayer! We are sending youth from our church to three camps this summer! So keep us in your prayers as we will be climbing mountains, traveling, tubing, laughing, and hearing about our savior Jesus Christ.

Financial Snapshot

The finances through April 30, 2015:

	Income	Expenses	
Budget	\$69,305	\$68,625	
Actual	<u>\$80,925</u>	<u>\$70,202</u>	
	\$11,620	(\$1,577)	Total Difference: \$10,043

We appreciate your commitment to the Kingdom of God at LPC. Our expenses at this point are higher than the budget chiefly due to annual or semi-annual expenses that are due in the first few months of the year. Please help us stay financially and spiritually strong through the summer!

Deacon on Duty

Nancy Robare

810.629.3951

In the event you have a pastoral care emergency after office hours, the Deacon on Duty is available to take your call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They will be able to notify the proper people and provide you the care you need.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

Famous and Not so Famous Quotes on Serving

If you want to lift yourself up, lift up someone else.—Booker T. Washington

No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted.—Aesop

Everyone can be great because anyone can serve. You don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't even have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve... You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

You cannot help someone get up a hill without getting closer to the top yourself.—General H. Norman Schwarzkopf

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.—Anne Frank, *Diary of a Young Girl*

You can do no great things, only small things with great love.—Mother Theresa

The purpose of life is not to be happy. It is to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, to have it make some difference, that you have lived and lived well.—Ralph Waldo Emerson

Volunteering is at the very core of being human. No one has made it through life without someone else's help.—Heather French Henry

Volunteers do not necessarily have the time, they have the heart.—Elizabeth Andrew

Success in life has nothing to do with what you gain in life or accomplish for yourself. It's what you do for others.—Danny Thomas

Start where you are, use what you have, do what you can.—Arthur Ashe

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.—Mahatma Ghandi

I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.—Rabindranath Tagore

I am only one, but still, I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And I will not let what I cannot do interfere with what I can.—Edward Everett Hale

Well done is better than well said.—Benjamin Franklin

Take care of someone else. Be there for someone else. Bless someone else. A happy life is about giving more than you take.—Mandy Hale

Small acts transform the world.—Howard Zinn

Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth.—Mohammad Ali

When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left. And I could say, "I used everything you gave me."—Erma Bombeck

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.—1 Peter 4:10 NIV

MISSIONAL CONNECTIONS

Friends in Christ, we are so happy to bring you more mission opportunities for the coming months! God calls us to serve in a multitude of ways. We all have skills and talents that make us special! Linden Presbyterian Church is devoted to utilizing its congregation's talents to help those less fortunate in the name of the Lord.

The Missional Connections team would like to give a special thanks to all of the volunteers who have participated in our recent service opportunities. Christmas in Action, Compassion Sunday, and the Carriage Town workday and dinner services were all very successful! Our F.I.S.H. Pantry continues to grow and serve more families every month, in large part because of our dedicated F.I.S.H. team.

As many of you know, we also have a Kids' Clothes Closet as part of our F.I.S.H. initiative. This year, for the first time, we decided to do a free clothes giveaway during our annual Rummage Sale. It was unbelievably successful! We gave away almost HALF of our inventory! The Lord blessed us with beautiful weather and we got to meet many people with inspiring stories. There is true need around us, and God brought it to us on that Thursday morning. We estimate that we gave away at least 60 garbage bags of clothing. A big thanks goes out to Tammy Neuville for helping immensely with the giveaway! It is definitely something we will continue in the coming years!

With the school year coming to a close, we are getting ready to begin our Free Lunch Monday program. Our first day of service will be Monday, June 15th. Free Lunch Monday is a weekly program for fellowship and food! Anyone who needs a free lunch or who just wants to gather with friends is encouraged to stop by! It is open to the community and all are welcome! We are always looking for volunteers to prepare and serve lunch. If you are interested, please call Kristen Garmyn at 810-280-5294.

This is the final call for Health Kit materials! We are continuing to gather supplies and will be packing and shipping boxes in the next few weeks. Thank you in advance for your donations!

On June 7th, we will be holding a F.I.S.H. Brainstorming meeting right after church. If you are a part of our beloved F.I.S.H. team, or are considering becoming part of it, please join us for a discussion about the progress of our program and for a chance to make improvements so we can better serve our community.

The weekend of June 27-28th, Linden is hosting a Gus Macker tournament. We have been blessed with the opportunity to have a table at this event to share with our community some of our positive mission endeavors. God has given us a great gift in this tournament and he is calling us to spread awareness about the amazing things happening at LPC in His name. The table will be set up with information about our F.I.S.H. pantry and our Clothes Closet, while promoting events like Free Lunch Mondays and Vacation Bible School. We need volunteers to man this table! A sign-up sheet will be placed in Whitney Hall, and you can sign up for whichever time slot best fits your schedule! If you feel called to serve in this way, or have questions about this event, please contact Kristen Garmyn.

Last, but certainly not least, we are starting a new program this year called "The 500lb Food Drive"! We are very excited to get this underway! Throughout the month of July, we will be attempting, as a congregation, to collect 500 lbs of food for our F.I.S.H. pantry! Endeavors in past years have brought, on average, 400 lbs of food, so we thought we would up our goal this year! At the end of the month, on July 26th, we will be having a cookout/potluck to celebrate our success! Stay tuned for more details!

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Hoosier Harmony Choir

June 27, 2015

The Hoosier Harmony Gospel Choir will be returning again on June 27th at 7:00pm. We welcome you to come and enjoy this special event. There will be a free will offering to support this event.

Free Lunch Mondays

Our most recent sermon series has been about “Jesus at table” with various people. Jesus wasn’t afraid to eat with others that many shunned. While we tend to choose status, Jesus chose love. We have been encouraged week after week to reach out and share our table with those who may be out of our comfort zone. How many of us have accepted and acted upon that challenge? How many of us have accepted and acted upon that challenge?

Linden Presbyterian is a church that loves to serve and help others. That is one of my favorite parts about this group. We have no shortage of love: whether it’s serving dinner or cleaning up at Carriage Town, boxing food at the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, donating and distributing food at our own FISH pantry, collecting and donating clothing, offering free lunches during the summer, adopting Compassion children, or sending money overseas. We love to love. But where does that love take us? Do we do our duty, check it off the list, and then go on with our lives? Or do we actually take the time to form those relationships with the people we are serving?

If we’re being honest with ourselves, most of us do not form those relationships. And we’re probably not even sure how we can begin to do that. We don’t come into contact with people when we box food or rake a yard. This, I’m sure, is an appeal to some. It’s uncomfortable to interact with people we don’t have things in common with, people we don’t share social capital with. But this is what Jesus wants us to do! He wants us to break down those walls that we have created and just love on each other. So how can we form those relationships?

One of the missions that LPC has is Free Lunch Mondays in the summer. We cook a kid-friendly meal (hot dogs, hamburgers, mac and cheese, or tacos), and from 11:30-1:00, anyone (of any age) living in the Linden School District can come and enjoy a free meal. Over the past three years I have volunteered for this ministry, I have been able to begin to form bonds with the families that come back week after week, year after year. I know which girl is allergic to walnuts and can’t eat certain cookies for dessert, which boys like Minecraft to ask them about what else they have built, and which man suffered heart issues the year before to inquire about his health. From this ministry, some of these children have attended VBS to learn about Jesus and that He loves them, too.

If you want to reach out to form bonds but are still a bit insecure about jumping right into the city of Flint to get started, I encourage you to join us here! While you may have different backgrounds, or you may be at a different point in your lives, these people that come for lunch are your neighbors. I’m sure you’ll find that you have more things in common than you might think. Each week we serve about 20 people, ranging in age from preschool to senior citizens. Since we have begun to play music and have offered coloring on the tables or face painting, more people are beginning to come. And when we have members coming in to eat and share a meal at table with them, I think they feel more comfortable to come back. You don’t need to do anything special; just join them at their table and be friendly. James 1:22 tells us, “Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.” Are you ready to accept the challenge?

JUNE CALENDAR

One Worship at 10:00am

2 ND AT 7:00PM	BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING
2 ND	PRESBYTERY MEETING IN FENTON
7 TH	GRADUATION
10 TH AT 7:00PM	COMMITTEE/TEAM MEETINGS (WORSHIP COMM. AT 6:00)
21 ST	ELDER JARROD MONTAGUE PREACHING
26 TH -28 TH	GUS MACKER TOURNAMENT
27 TH AT 7:00PM	HOOSIER HARMONY CHOIR
28 TH	ELDER JOHNATHAN DUGAN PREACHING

MONDAYS

8:00PM AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM

THURSDAYS

6:30PM CHANCEL CHOIR

8:00PM BELL CHOIR

8:00PM AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM

WEDNESDAYS

10:00AM QUILTERS

July Newsletter Deadline

Communication is key to a vital congregation!

Please send all submissions to lpcoffice@lindenpres.com by
Monday, June 22 at 5:00pm

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

500 lb Food Celebration – July 26th ... Don't miss it!

On July 26th we will be celebrating 500 pounds of food gathered, collected, and donated by you, our generous and faithful LPC family for the Food Pantry! The day will begin at 10:00am with a worship service under the pavilion followed immediately by a potluck/barbeque. Grilled hotdogs and hamburgers will be provided along with beverages and table service. Please bring a dish to pass. We look forward to enjoying God's bounty with you on that day!

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED