

Presby Press

RAMBLINGS FROM THE REVEREND

THIS MONTH: WORSHIP - THE WORK OF THE PEOPLE

The more precise term for 'order of worship' or the 'worship bulletin' is 'liturgy'. Liturgy comes from the Ancient Greek word *leitourgia* which means the offering or work of the people. Our worship liturgy is then is our offering to God - our offering of praise and worship with all of who we are and all of what God has given us.

If you have been with us in worship recently, you may or may not have noticed a slight shift in what happens on Sunday mornings. Starting a few weeks ago, elders and deacons have been calling for the offering at each worship gathering. Part of the goal of doing this is to have our elders and deacons more visible in the worship of our congregation so that we can put a face with a name and establish new or stronger bonds with our servant leaders.

So now we can look around at our worship gatherings and see all kinds of people involved. We have the liturgist (who, depending on the gathering, leads the call to worship, prays, reads scripture, and leads the affirmation of faith), Jake usually leads our times of confession at each gathering, and now we have elders and deacons calling for the offering. Plus, we open up our prayer time to everyone present with us. Not to mention those who lead our musical worship. Then we must think of the wonderful people who set up for our worship times, the folks who warmly greet us, and the folks who take up our offerings to God. Praise God that worship isn't just the pastor or staff leading everything - it is the work and offering of the people of God!

Our liturgy truly is an offering of our whole congregation to God!

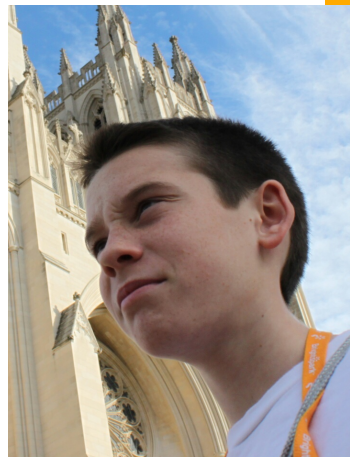
In other news, we will have a spring cleaning day on March 28 from 9:00-1:00. There will be more information to come.

The rummage sale is also on the horizon: May 7 - 9. Get ready to rummage!

See all the great ministry that is going on by reading these pages!

May Christ's blessings be with you,

Seth



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who is this suave chap?
find out on page six



SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MONTH

COFFEE HOUR

Gretchen Sutto will be coordinating the 9:00 coffee hour and **Donna Ingamells** will be coordinating the 10:30. If you are willing to assist them, please let them know.

USHERS

	9:00	10:30
3/1	Richard & Doris Parks Rich & Sue Eaton	Chapin family
3/8	David Brownlee Dave & Cindy Shane	Deb Wasylyshyn, Sue Chapel
3/15	Dennis & Lola Manner Sally Harris, Mary Leitkam	Sweitzer and Collins families
3/22	Donna Maidment, Paul Laidler Sharon Haley, Sharon Donaldson	Zysk family
3/29	Harden family [one worship]	Wagner family

LITURGISTS

	9:00	10:30
3/1	Jim Mars	Kathy Selden
3/8	Liz Knuth	Trevor Cekander
3/15	Denny Manner	Don or Nancy Robare
3/22	Doug Spalding	Sue Chapel
3/29	Mary Leitkam [one worship]	Andy Zysk

COMMUNION SERVERS

March 1

9:00

Vance & Noreen Huff
Richard Honaker
Sue Eaton

10:30

Sharon Foster
Debbie Wasylyshyn

March 15

10:30

Donna Ingamells
Gretchen Sutto

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

IN WORSHIP

If you would like to serve as an usher or liturgist, please contact

Cindy Shane at
cshane@cityoffenton.org



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.

Mar	2	Angela Flynn	22	Don Sweitzer
	4	Donna Maidment		
	5	Caitlin Keech	23	Susan Malinowski Tyler Spano
	6	Liv Bailey Montague		
	7	Pat Drumm	26	Katie Tucker
		Louise Edwards		
		Harrison Riggs	28	Alexus Harden Bill Miller
	8	Doug Spalding		
	12	Lynne Drewett	30	Sydney Kline Glenna Teed Maddox Collins Mason Collins Mike Vincent
	15	Cecelia Emerton Suzi Whitman		
	16	Marcella Dennert Maxwell Montague		
	17	Dale Cudworth	31	Andrea Passmore
	19	Tinley Vincent		
	21	Gemma Amendola John Browder		

CONTACTS

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Linda Lewis lpcoffice@lindenpres.com

Organist/Choir Director

Edward Arter 810.735.5755

Youth Ministry Intern

Jake Kirk 810.730.3783

Praise Band

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

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

VBS Planning Meeting – March 11 at 6:00pm

VBS is already beginning to take shape! Mark your calendars for August 3-7 and join us for some Super Heroes of the Bible fun! Our next meeting will be Wednesday, March 11 in Whitney Hall. We will begin planning the games, snacks, and crafts, and we'd appreciate your input! If you're available, please feel free to join us. Please contact Kristen Garmyn or Gretchen Sutto with questions or suggestions.

Mile of Pennies

Do you have any loose change in your pockets, car, or wallets that you wouldn't mind parting with? Help out the Christian Education Committee and drop it in the jar in Whitney Hall! We are trying to raise a mile of pennies – that's 84,440 coins (which comes out to a whopping \$844.40!). Through June 30, all money raised will go towards fundraising for Vacation Bible School, specifically with advertising in mind. We'd like a banner to go up outside in the spring and an ad to go in the Tri-County this summer. Beginning July 1, that money will directly benefit the Sunday School in the classrooms. Nickels, dimes, quarters, and dollar bills also will be accepted!

Sunday School

This past Advent season, our K-2 students learned the story of Christmas with the use of the book *What God Wants for Christmas*, and it was a success! Following in similar footsteps, all of our Sunday School children will learn about Jesus' last week throughout the season of Lent with the book *Benjamin's Box*. We hope your children/grandchildren/neighbors can join us!

The Christian Education committee meets the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 in Whitney Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Youth Group Fundraising

During the summer of 2015, our middle and high school youth have a combined three camps planned, and they need your help (but they're willing to work for it!). Do you have any yard work, moving, clean-up, dirty jobs you don't want to do yourself? Contact Jake Kirk, and he will find a youth to help you out!

Confirmation

A confirmation class is currently being planned for this spring. If you know of a young person, around 8th grade through 10th grade, who would like to learn what it means to become a full-fledged member of the church, please contact Pastor Seth or Gretchen Sutto. Classes will run once a week through the weeks of April 13 - May 18, with May 31 being our Celebration Sunday. Stay tuned for specific dates and times.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Each Sunday in March we are on our regular schedule. Here are some other details:

- March 2** Middle School will make Paul Bunyans. Come hungry. High school might get to eat any leftovers... mmm... leftover food that middle schoolers made... *drool*
- March 16** NCAA Basketball Selection Sunday. Fill out your bracket to win sweet prizes!
- March 30** Opening Day Baseball Extravaganza

YOUTH GROUP TIMES ON SUNDAY NIGHTS

Middle School (6th – 8th) 6:00 – 7:00pm at Linden Presbyterian

High School (9th – 12th) 7:30 – 9pm at Linden Presbyterian

Campaigners

We meet at Kim Herbert's house every Friday morning the high school has school from 6am to 7am to have a delicious homemade breakfast and get into the word of God. All 9th – 12th graders are invited! See Kim, Seth, or Jake for more information.

Summer Camps

Middle School: Middle school camp will be June 21-28th at Michindoh camp in Hillsdale Michigan. Forms will be arriving soon along with fundraisers for this incredible weeklong trip in Whitney Hall.

High School: We travel up to Timberwolf Lake in Lake City Michigan on July 13-18th for the best week of a kid in high school's life. Forms and fundraisers will be arriving soon to Whitney Hall.

Easter Sunday

Our youth ministry will lead the Sunrise Service at 7:00am at the Linden Mill Pond Gazebo. Then join us from 8:00-10:30 for Easter Breakfast to support youth ministry and camps!

Deacon on Duty

Carla Juarez 810.964.4934

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.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR YOUNGER JESUS FOLLOWERS

This month get to know Jack, a member of the high school youth group.

Full Name: John Talbot Whitman Jr.

Birthday: October 31, 1999

School: Freshmen at Genesee Early College

Family: Mom, dad, 2 younger brothers

Favorite Food: seafood

Favorite Hobbies: Being outside and sports

Favorite Sport: Golf

Favorite Movie: It's a Wonderful Life

Plans after high school: Attend a university and become a surgeon.

Person who has made most impact in your life: My parents, Suzi and John

Favorite childhood memory: Going on Vacations

Any place you could go in the world: Australia or France

People always think I'm: Reliable

I wish I could stop: Eating junk food

Sometime in my life I would like to: Scuba Dive

Biggest Fear: Drowning

Something no one knows about me: I used to live in Ohio

Michigan or Michigan State: Michigan State

Favorite bible verse: Exodus 14:14

Favorite story in the Bible: Moses

Favorite music group: Led Zeppelin or Rush

Biggest impact God has had in your life: My trip to Timberwolf Lake

One outfit you could wear the rest of your life: Khakis and a jacket

SEVEN HABITS OF A HIGHLY EFFECTIVE STEWARD

Habit 5: Live Within Your Means

What do you think when you read, “Live within your means?” Do you think, “Who me?”...yet often you find yourself wishing you had more money? Perhaps you have too much “month” at the end of the “money” because of a lifestyle you’ve created that is hard to maintain. Many times this may happen when we try to keep up with others and don’t live within our means.

Discontent and financial difficulty can happen when we compare ourselves to those who have more. Some use comparison to justify spending more than they should...“keeping up with the Joneses”. As Howard Dayton said in his book, Dollar and Sense, “someone once said that you can never keep up this the Joneses. Just about the time you catch them, they refinance their home and go deeper in debt to buy more things!”

We certainly live in a society of acquisition. Advertising is geared to encourage us to desire a better lifestyle and to aspire to a higher standard of living. According to society, we should acquire as many expensive possessions as possible because these things are evidence of a successful, important person. When we want to live this counterfeit, media-induced dream but cannot afford it, we suffer discontentment, envy and coveting. And, most importantly, it prevents us from giving freely and sacrificially back to God.

As God’s stewards, our fundamental lifestyle choice is to concentrate on what *we have* instead of what *we lack*. Debt is a terrible trap in which to fall and an even harder one to escape. “It’s not surprising that the Bible discourages borrowing. In Proverbs 22:7 we read, “...the borrower is servant to the lender”. Yet, despite warnings, it’s easy to fall into temptation of debt. As George Fooshee, author of You Can Beat the Money Squeeze aptly states, “People buy things they do not need with money they do not have to impress people they do not even like.”

Scripture contains a number of challenging principles that we should consider when choosing a lifestyle. As Paul indicates: “I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength.” Philippians 4:12-13.

Income alone should never determine our lifestyle, even if we have plenty of money to live the way we wish. The choices we make will depend not only in how much we make and what needs our family have, but also on the way we view the world and our responsibility as God’s stewards. God’s ownership, the gifts God has given us, the opportunities we have to develop our gifts are crucial in helping us to decide how to live.

When we as Christian stewards choose a lifestyle, we must come to terms with some basic questions: (Firstfruits: Managing the Master’s Money by Lillian Grissen)

- How many luxuries can we enjoy without endangering our spiritual health?
- How many wants can we indulge in when there are so many in need?
- In a world of limited resources, how many resources may we expend simply for personal pleasure?

Possessions require time, attention and often money to maintain and can then take away from our relationship with God and others because of the time and energy they consume. We need to prayerfully consider our lifestyle and spending habits and how that affects our stewardship responsibility. Is our lifestyle enhancing or sacrificing our giving?

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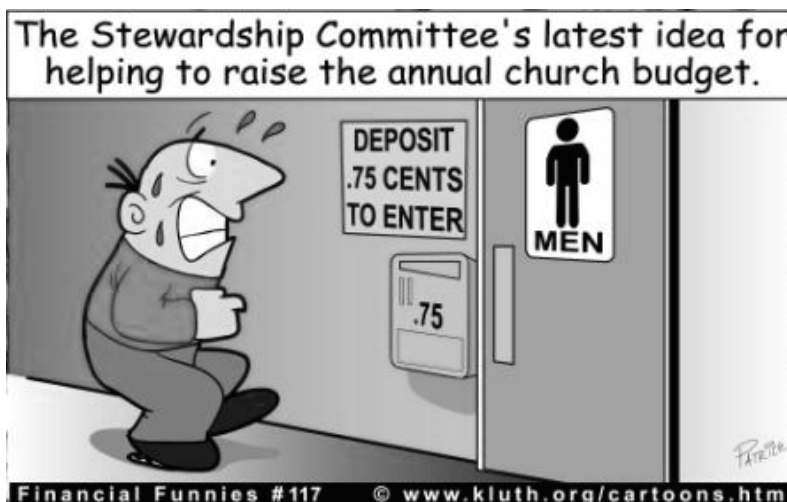
FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

The Finance and Stewardship Team is happy to provide the following summary of our 2015 finances through January 31:

Total Income (commitments, other offerings, rental income, etc.)	\$26,227.11
Total Expenses (all payments)	<u>\$18,111.83</u>
Difference	\$7,743.94

Our income is greater than expected chiefly due to the generosity of people who make substantial financial commitments and pay the bulk of that commitment at the first of the year. Expenses are also slightly higher than budgeted due to the timing of certain payments such as utilities and per capita.

We are grateful for your confidence in the mission of our congregation and your willingness to hear God's call and commit with your time, talent, and resources.



PER CAPITA



Remember per capita is due anytime after the first of the year. To date we have received \$2,337 toward our payment of \$8,100.00, which is 29% of our congregation membership. This means LPC will need to spend \$5,763 of our general funds to make up the additional expense we must pay to Presbytery. Your gift of \$25.00 per member will enable LPC to use our monetary resources to fund other ministries in our church. If a one time payment is not possible, installment payments are welcome as well. Thank you to those who have already provided their payment.

One time payment - \$25.00

Four quarterly payments - \$6.25

Twelve monthly payments - \$2.10

MISSIONAL CONNECTIONS

Hello Friends in Christ,

Spring is on its way! We have a lot of mission opportunities in the near future (and plenty throughout the year) about which to be excited. If you feel called to serve alongside us in both local and international missions, mark these dates in your calendar!

Thursday, March 26th	Carriage Town mission service (serving dinner)
Saturday, April 4th	Food Bank mission service
Saturday, April 18th	Carriage Town mission service (work day)
Saturday, April 25th	Christmas in Action
Sunday, April 26th	Compassion Sunday (look to magazine for more info)
Thursday, May 28th	Carriage Town mission service (serve dinner)
Saturday, June 6th	Food Bank mission service
Thursday, July 23rd	Carriage Town mission service (serving dinner)
Thursday, September 24th	Carriage Town mission service (serving dinner)
Saturday, October 17th	Food Bank mission service
Saturday, December 5th	Food Bank mission service

Lastly, our church will again be donating Health Kits to the Presbytery Health Fairs. Our Presbytery will be holding Health Fairs for migrant workers and inner-city children in Bay City, Flint, Imlay City, Saginaw, and Reese. Each person is given free dental, eye, and hearing exams along with blood pressure readings and diabetes tests. Those with health issues are referred to a local health clinic. Each person is given a Health Kit that consists of nine personal items and a pamphlet about hygiene and good health. LPC will be collecting materials for the kits during the month of April. There will be a box for donations in Whitney Hall. When donating, feel free to put together a whole kit or give individual items. If you are creating a kit as a whole, please put all 9 items in a gallon Ziplock bag and put it in the donation box. The kits will be delivered to the Presbytery in May. Items that are needed for Health Kits are listed below. ****PLEASE INCLUDE ONLY THE FOLLOWING:**

1 washcloth	1 tube of toothpaste (4-6.5 oz.)
1 dental floss	1 underarm deodorant (2.5 oz.)
1 toothbrush (unopened)	1 bar of soap (unopened)
1 hand towel	1 comb
1 bottle of shampoo (11-15 oz.)	

Thank you in advance for your donations!

If you want to be a part of our team or learn more about what we do, please join us on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00pm in Whitney Hall!

Faithfully,

The Missional Connections Team

SPECIAL WORSHIP GATHERINGS THIS SPRING

Palm Sunday

March 29, 2015

10:00am

Palm Sunday begins Holy Week and focuses on Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will have one service at 10:00am. At 9:30am we will take palms and process through town signing hymns and bringing celebration in the name of Jesus to the streets of downtown Linden.

Maundy Thursday

April 2, 2015

7:00pm

Maundy Thursday recalls the last night of Jesus' earthly life, the washing of the disciples' feet, the command to love one another, and the institution of the Lord's Supper. We will celebrate with lively music and share in the communal meal Jesus instructs us to share.

Good Friday

April 3, 2014

7:00pm

Why is it good? It is called good because of what Jesus' death means for the redemption and salvation of the world. We remember Jesus' sacrifice with a more somber service.

Easter Saturday Prayer Vigil

April 4, 2014

12:00pm-6:00pm

The sanctuary will be open for individual prayer (with resources available) on this day between Jesus' death and resurrection. Pastor Seth will be available to anoint worshipers with oil.

Easter Sunrise Service

April 5, 2014

7:00am

Our youth ministry team (including our youth!) will lead our sunrise worship this year. We invite you attend this special time, join us for breakfast, and then celebrate the resurrection again indoors! We will be at the Gazebo by the Mill Pond.

Easter Sunday

April 20, 2014

9:00am & 10:30am

He lives! What more can we say? Celebrate Jesus' resurrection with us! There will be an Easter Breakfast led by and to support our youth from 8:00-10:30am. Invite your friends and invite your enemies to worship the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ! We look forward to seeing you for this special time of worship.

Ascension Day

May 14, 2015

6:00/7:00pm

Ascension Day is when we celebrate Jesus ascending to his heavenly throne 40 days after his resurrection (remember, he makes many appearances to the disciples). We will celebrate with a barbecue at 6:00 and a concert at 7:00 featuring the full breadth and depth of our music ministries. This is a Thursday (Ascension Day is always a Thursday).

MARCH CALENDAR

9:00 - Traditional-style Worship

10:30 - Contemporary-style Worship

3RD	PRESBYTERY MEETING
3RD AT 7:00PM	BOARD OF DEACONS MEETING
7TH AT 8:30AM	PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AND MEN'S CLUB
11TH AT 6:00PM	VBS PLANNING MEETING
11TH AT 7:00PM	COMMITTEE/TEAM MEETINGS (WORSHIP COMM. AT 6:00)
18-20	SYNOD ASSEMBLY IN ADRIAN, MI
25TH AT 7:00PM	SESSION MEETING
26TH	CARRIAGE TOWN MISSION SERVICE (SERVING DINNER)
28TH	CHURCH CLEANING DAY
29TH	PALM SUNDAY PROCESSION AND WORSHIP

MONDAYS

7:00PM	ADULT EDUCATION CLASS
8:00PM	AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM

TUESDAYS

10:30AM	ADULT EDUCATION CLASS
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WEDNESDAYS

9:30AM	QUILTERS
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THURSDAYS

6:30PM	CHANCEL CHOIR
8:00PM	BELL CHOIR
8:00PM	AA IN FIRESIDE ROOM

April Newsletter Deadline

Communication is key to a vital congregation!

Please send all submissions to pastorseth@lindenpres.com by

Monday, March 23 at 5:00pm

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02-06-2015

SIRI ... SAY GRACE

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