

401 Lincolnway East, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

First Presbyterian News

March 2015

Volume 53 No. 7

Pastor's Column

This being lent, it's time to talk about sin. You may have noticed that I preach about "sin" less than some other preachers, but I will be doing a sermon series on the "seven deadly sins."

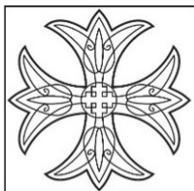
What are the "seven deadly sins?" That phrase may be meaningful to some of you; others may say "what???" They are not listed as such in the Bible, but were first catalogued by Pope Gregory the Great in the 6th Century. They were called "deadly" (or "capital" or "mortal" or "cardinal") not just because they were fatal to one's hope of heaven, but because they were thought to be the origin of other vices. They are, in modern terminology: wrath, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony.

At first blush, these may seem mere relics from our religious past. They evoke musty medieval treatises, a life-denying asceticism*, a vengeful God. Indeed, in our current culture, what were once vices are often seen as virtues. Pride is seen not as the root of evil, but as the fruit of the robust psyche. Greed, the desire for what we don't have, fuels our consumer society. Envy becomes the marketing tool whereby merchants induce us to buy. Lust is often the companion marketing tool – it gets our attention -- and, besides, isn't "lust" just an archaic word for sexual freedom? While gluttony is hardly in vogue, as many of us try to lose weight, yet gourmet food is all the rage. It seems that the only thing wrong with anger is suppressing it, and anger drives much of our political debate. Though we look down on sloth, yet we assume that ease is better than effort and that leisure is the goal of life. Our all-consuming quest for self-gratification has distilled the seven deadly sins into a way of life.

Though they aren't as commonplace in our consciousness as in centuries past, the "seven deadlies" have a long history in art and literature, and continue to inspire art, books, and movies. The original 1967 "Bedazzled" movie and its 2000 remake; the 1995 movie "Se7en" and the 2010 TV miniseries Seven Deadly Sins all focused on them. Indeed, I've seen it suggested that characters in both Gilligan's Island and Spongebob Squarepants are based on the seven deadlies. As for books, you can find 7 Deadly Sins reading lists on both Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

What are we to make of the seven deadly sins? Are they truly deadly? Are they even sins? And, if they are, how can we avoid or overcome them? Worship with us in lent as we explore these and other questions.

*Asceticism describes a lifestyle characterized by abstinence from worldly pleasures, often for the purpose of pursuing spiritual goals.



Joshua Yoder
Rebecca Kirkpatrick
Mission Co-Workers
Presbyterian Church (USA)

Dear Friends and Partners, Egyptians learned yesterday that 21 Coptic Orthodox Egyptians previously captured in Libya by ISIS were executed. Christians and Muslims alike grieved the devastating loss of life. Both the Coptic Orthodox and Protestant communities have been deeply and spiritually affected by this violence. We ask you to hold them in prayer in these days. We pray for the families of those killed, the communities from which they came, and the thousands of Egyptians who continue to be in Libya simply trying to provide income for their families back in Egypt. We want to make sure you know that we are safe here in Cairo. At this point neither we nor our partners at the seminary believe that this act of violence has put us in any danger as we continue to live and work with the seminary. May the Peace of Christ be with you, Joshua and Rebecca

Adult Class:

The Sunday morning adult class will continue viewing the thought-provoking video series *First Light: Jesus & the Kingdom*, by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. The class meets after worship in the Meeting Room, with Pastor Steve Braden, or a member of the class, leading the discussion. Grab some coffee and refreshments and join us. The schedule has been revised due to the two Sundays we have missed because of snow:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Topic:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
February 22	<i>Collaborative Eschaton</i>	Lent 1
March 1	<i>Jesus as Lord</i>	Lent 2
March 8	No class/Session	Lent 3
March 15	<i>Substitutionary Atonement?</i>	Lent 4
March 22	<i>Demonstrations in Jerusalem</i>	Lent 5; guest leader
March 29	<i>The Crowd & the Crucifixion</i>	Palm Sunday

News from Presbyterian Women

Thank you to Gordon & Rose Marie for delivering 32 baby bundles to St. Joe Regional Medical Center and the many hands that gathered, sorted, washed, folded, sewed and knitted to make these bundle.

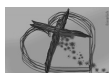
Upcoming events: March 14 - Joint Circle Meeting and Bible Study PWCT-9 am
 Brunch 10:00 am Bible Study and Election of Officers
March 21 - Mission cut-out 9 am see Rose Marie with questions

April 12th - Gifts of Women Sunday Honorary Membership Birthday Offering

April 19-22 - Set up for basement sale **April 23 & 24 - Basement Sale** **April 25 - Bag Sale & Clean up**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BASEMENT SALE! Thursday, April 23rd-Saturday, April 25th
 Start cleaning those closets, ladies and gents! They say that if you haven't worn an item of clothing in over a year it's time to donate it! My husband tells me that for every piece of new clothing that I buy I have to get rid of two! Or turn it around, and for every piece of clothing that you donate you can purchase two more! And I know just the place....The Presbyterian Women's Basement Sale! WE have had some great finds! And what better way to find that new little piece of clothing, or new book or item for your collectables, is to volunteer to work the Sale! Hope to see you there!!! Just a reminder, that we will NOT be accepting computers. They can be dropped off at the Goodwill store. Also any big electrical items can be dropped off to the Rehab Store on McKinley. If in doubt about any items or if you need to drop off items earlier please call either Lynett Heritz or Darlene Seufert.

Book Club's next meeting will be on the 15th at 2 pm and the meeting will last about an hour or so. We will be talking about All the Light We Can Not See by Anthony Doerr. Darlene will lead, while Dyan will host. So please join us, there is always room for you. Contact Judy, organizer, at mtcgjag@aol.com for information and details or check out the information board in the foyer. Thank you.



WEDDING MINISTRY NEWS

Our efforts to share our beautiful sanctuary for non-member weddings is moving right along. On January 11 and February 7, Pam Martz and Pam Camren hosted FPC Wedding Ministry displays at Century Center and Notre Dame Bridal Shows with very positive responses. Our first wedding is on the calendar! Several inquires have come from those shows and we are hopeful for more bookings. If you are interested in learning more about this outreach and fundraising effort, please pick up an "As You Prepare To Marry" brochure on the table in the East entry or on the table in the narthex. If you have questions, please talk with one of us. Please pray for this ministry effort on the part of FPC. Pam and Pam

SCRAPBOOKING CLUB

Join us for some fellowship and fun at our Scrapbooking/Crafting Group! We meet in the Fellowship Hall and the cost is \$5. Set-up, clean-up, drinks, and tableware are provided. Sharing snacks & ideas with each other and catching up on all the things happening in our lives makes this evening go very quickly. Feel free to bring any type of project that you have to work on. And remember, we meet from **6pm to 11pm.**

2015 DATES

March 27th April 24th May 29th June 26th No July August 28th
 September 25th October 23rd November 20th No December

I look forward to seeing you there, Brittany Rice scrap.brittany@comcast.net

Wedding Shower For Katie Rice & Justin McCloskey

When: Saturday, March 28th

Time: 11:30-1:30 p.m. BRUNCH

Registered at: Bed Bath and Beyond, Target and Menard's,

*Given By Mary Ann Dentino, Lynett Heritz, Darlene Seufert
 and Chris Wukovits Regret ONLY. Thank You.*

Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary: If you would like to provide an Easter lily in memory of someone or to celebrate an event or just "because", please send cash or check to Deborah with your message for the bulletin. Each lily will be \$10. Deadline to purchase is March 29th.

Please join us for Holy Week Worship



On Palm Sunday, March 29, we will celebrate Christ's entry into Jerusalem. Children will again be invited to process with palm branches at the beginning of the service. Dyan will provide a "How too" on turning your palm into a cross.

On Maundy Thursday, April 2, we will remember the events at Christ's Last Supper, hearing and singing the story and gathering for communion.

On Easter, April 5, we will celebrate Christ's Resurrection with a joyous service of music, lilies, and communion.

Prayer Group Meets to unite in prayer weekly. Requests for prayers can be made to Janet Freeman. jfree930@aol.com *Isn't it awesome that we have church family members who remember us not just on Sundays!*

POSTAGE STAMPS are still available for purchase. Last year your purchases helped raise over \$500 for the Deacon's Christmas Shopping. Contact Carole with any questions or orders.

Lenten Devotionals: This year's booklets focus on the Psalms and are available in the office through Debra or from Judy Green. The cost of each book is \$1.00.

CHURCH STAFF
Transitional Pastor

Steve Braden

revsbb91@gmail.com

Church Secretary

Debra Leonard

Debrafcpmishawaka@gmail.com

Financial Secretary

Joan Horvath

Joanfcpmishawaka@gmail.com

Organist Michael Duryea

mduryea@nd.edu

Custodian Ken Vargo

Pastor hours: varied, please check Sunday Bulletin, or call for appointment

Secretary hours: 9 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

Financial Secretary hours: Monday & Thursday 8 - 11:30 a.m.

Contact us at (574) 259-7874 or fcpmishawaka@gmail.com



mail address: First Presbyterian Church-Mishawaka
 P.O. Box 744
 Mishawaka, Indiana 46546-0744

Newsletter deadline is March 17 at noon. Please send information for February newsletter to Sue Rice at suce@aol.com or mail information to Debra, the church secretary.



Church Officers and Committees

Session: Angela Bellinger, Judy Green, John Martz, Ron May, Bruce McClure, Darlene Seufert

Board of Deacons: Bill Bellairs, Tom Camren, Lynett Heritz, Carole Polk, Bill Walter, Chris Wukovits

Facilities and Operations

John Martz, chair (elder)
 Ethan DeMaegd, Dick Dentino, Chuck Wukovits

Book Club: Judy Green

Clerk of Session: Teresa Primmer

Christian Education: Darlene Seufert

Finance: Ron May, Chair

Mission and Evangelism:

Angela Bellinger, Chair

Nominating: Dave Sulak, Chair/Elder

Personnel: Bruce McClure, Chair

Prayer Chain: Lynett Heritz

Presbyterian Women: Darlene Siefert and Teresa Primmer

PWNS Board: John Rice, Chair

Scrap Booking: Brittany Rice

Special Gifts: Sue Rice, acting chair

Stewardship: Ron May, Chair

Treasurer: John Rice

Worship and Music:

Judy Green, Chair

John & Sue Rice welcome our church family to the wedding of Katie Grace to Justin Ora McCloskey on April 11th, 2015. The nuptials will take place at half past three. A planned group picture will take place after. Please join us on this most joyous day and share blessings with our children.

NEWS FROM MAC

The MAC Food Pantry at Albright Church continues to serve the Mishawaka community during the prolonged, bitter winter.

In January MAC churches' volunteers worked along side members of the Granger Community Church helping unload boxes of food delivered to the Albright Food Pantry. This is an annual event of the Granger congregation. This donation helps to keep the Pantry shelves filled at a time when donations fall somewhat following the holidays.

Thank you to all who donated to the "Souper Bowl" project. These weekly donations are a blessing to families whose resources are stretched during the winter months.

One Body, One Spirit is the theme for the 2015 *Church Wide Gathering* in Minneapolis, Minnesota, June 18-21, 2015. The good news is that Minneapolis is close enough to drive, the better news is this Gathering will be much more affordable. Registration opens January 15, 2015. For more information log onto www.presbyterianwomen.org/gathering.

Just a reminder that the One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected on Palm Sunday.

Hope does not disappoint us because God's love had been poured into our hearts. Rom. 5:5

One great hour of sharing

By God's grace, each day is a gift, an opportunity for a new beginning. Through abundant and generous gifts to OGHS, for many years, Presbyterians have faithfully heeded God's call to serve people seeking to reclaim and restore their lives. Your gift to OGHS is a gift of hope. Your gift allows Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to restore communities around the world affected by natural and human-caused disasters. Your generosity helps the Presbyterian Hunger Program work with Presbyterians and other partners to alleviate hunger and eliminate its causes in this country and internationally. Your sharing makes it possible for Self-Development of People to affirm the dignity of all by assisting in the empowerment of economically poor, oppressed, and disadvantaged people.

Our congregation will receive the OGHS offering on Palm Sunday, March 29. Plan to give generously.

Presbytery of Wabash Valley Update

Our presbytery, like many others, is in the process of restructuring and downsizing. The current structure and staffing has become unsustainable, and the presbytery decided a couple of years ago that it needed to more clearly define its mission, and examine how current programs and staff – including the Geneva Center – fit that mission. The Joshua Journey task force was formed to accomplish this.

The first year was devoted to clarifying our mission. Led by then-synod executive Carol MacDonald, the task force held a series of retreats, circulated questionnaires to every congregation, and gathered data. It proposed a new mission statement, which was adopted by the council and the presbytery:

*Nourished by the living waters of Jesus Christ,
we awaken, enliven and enhance worshipping communities
to courageously extend their branches
and bear new fruit in the Spirit.*

The mission of the presbytery was to “awaken, enliven, and enhance” the mission of congregations. Rather than being a “mission agency” itself, with its own programs, the presbytery was to focus on supporting Christ mission at the congregational level.

The next question was how to implement that vision. The presbytery formed a different task force, “Joshua Journey 2,” to make a proposal as to (1) whether and how the Geneva Center was a cost-effective way to accomplish that mission, and (2) what the presbytery's structure and staffing should look like to accomplish the mission. Those two questions were closely related, because the presbytery has been devoting major financial resources – many drawn from its reserves – to make the Geneva Center mortgage payments and to keep it operating as a camp and conference center. The Joshua Journey 2 task force was not of one mind about these questions, but the majority eventually proposed to try to “spin off” Geneva Center into a separate non-profit organization, and to drastically reduce the presbytery staff – eliminating the position of general presbyter, reducing the stated clerk to quarter-time, and operating with several geographically-scattered half-time staff. This proposal was met with serious questions. While the proposed spin-off of Geneva Center was adopted, the restructuring plan was not. Instead, a third group was convened to review the proposed structure and staffing. The third group will present an interim report at the February assembly, and a final report later.

On another note, Frank Vardeman, our general presbyter, has had some serious health issues. While awaiting knee surgery (his third one in the last few years), he was diagnosed with a tumor on his spine, requiring two emergency back surgeries. The tumor was non-malignant, but the surgery left him temporarily paraplegic. He is currently undergoing in-patient rehabilitation in Michigan City, his home town.



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 </p> <p>Greeters: Bill B. ushers: Ethan D. & Dan B. W. Leader: Judy G. communion</p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>Dr. Seuss Day</i></p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>bell practice 7 pm</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>World Day of Prayer</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Spring forward change clocks</p>
<p>8 </p> <p>Greeter Bill B. ushers: Carole P. & Bill B. W. Leader: Darlene S Session</p>	<p>9</p> <p><i>Deacons Meeting 7pm</i></p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>bell practice 7 pm</i></p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 </p> <p><i>PWCT 9am Circles/bible study Brunch 10am</i></p>
<p>15 </p> <p>Greeter: Bill B. ushers: Michael G. & Judy S. W. Leader: Chris W. Book club 2pm</p>	<p>16</p> <p>wearing of the green” became the norm in 1798 - -</p>	<p>17</p> <p>BLUE use to be the color. <i>Happy St. Patty’s Day Newsletter deadline</i></p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>bell practice 7 pm</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 </p> <p><i>Sewing cut out 9 am</i></p>
<p>22 </p> <p>Greeter: Bill B. Special Music: Bells Ushers: Greg P. & Janet F. W. Leader: Chuck W. Guest Pulpit: Marvin Dandurand</p>	<p>23</p> <p><i>Elizabeth Circle 7 pm</i></p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p><i>Ruth Circle 7 pm</i></p>	<p>27</p> <p><i>Esther Circle 1:30 pm Scrapbooking Club 6 to 11 p.m.</i></p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Shower for Katie Rice 11:30 am</i></p>
<p>29</p> <p>Greeter: Bill B. Ushers: Neil S. & John H. W. Leader: Judy S. PALM SUNDAY One Great Hour</p>	<p>30</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;"><i>One great hour of sharing</i></p>	<p>31</p>		<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>

Presbyterian Weekday Nursery School March is always a happy, fun month with the visit of our wee little leprechaun Michael Finnegan. He leaves his mischief and footprints every where. Spring brings about change, snow melting, longer days, eggs, butterflies and Jesus, how people get about, transportation. (the children always like making helicopters!) And at the end of the month an Easter celebration. Jayne Wurz