

The Flame

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Pastor's Moment

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, that some of its noisiest authorities insisted on its being received, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only."

Charles Dickens, *A Tale of Two Cities*

Charles Dickens was a champion of the poor in his life and in his writings. His childhood included some of the pains of poverty in England, as he had to work in a factory as a child to help his family. His father, John Dickens, continually lived beyond his means and eventually went to debtors' prison. Charles was forced to leave school and began working ten-hour days at Warren's Blacking Warehouse, earning six shillings a week. In his day, he was looking at the brutality of English law and how it was carried out with impunity. And as things tend to do when left unchecked, laws became the will of the stronger person and the consequences were not at all proportionate to the infraction. In our culture, things really haven't changed much. There is still the weaker and the stronger, whether its economic (capitalism) or status difference (high society and poor) it makes no difference. The wealthy get away with things that the poor and underprivileged would never be able to. Let's look at Wells Fargo. The **Wells Fargo account fraud scandal** was brought about by the creation of millions of fraudulent savings and checking accounts on behalf of Wells Fargo clients without their consent. Since the day the fraud was exposed, the CEO resigned, settlements and fines now total about 2.7 million dollars to date, but not one person went to prison. This case is just an example, picked randomly to prove a point. So what do we do, how do we address it? Let's take a cue from *A Tale of Two Cities*.

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(Pastor's Moment, continued from page 1)

Dickens did not want to see England go down the same road as France, which was now in the midst of the French revolution. His solution was to keep the dialogue open and encourage/fight for change. Polarization will get us nowhere, as we have witnessed in our country. What will get us somewhere is to keep the injustices on the front burner so that those in power know we will not back down.

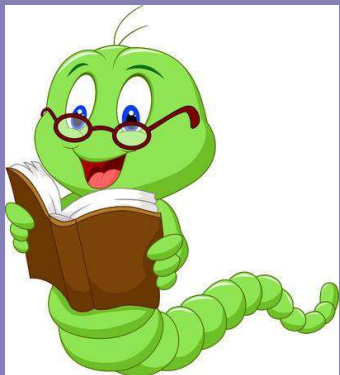
Jesus said in Luke 4:18, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free."

Let's go and do likewise.

Pastor Jim

Adult Sunday School

We have been meeting all summer and would love to have more join us on Sundays at 9:15 am! *The Path to the Cross* by Ray Vander Laan is the material we are using. He guides us through the land of the Bible and illuminates the historical, geographical, and cultural context of the sacred Scriptures.



Bookworm Club

OUR LAST MEETING WAS JULY 8TH. NOREEN BAILEY LED THE DISCUSSION OF *THE WOMAN IN THE WINDOW* BY A.J. FINN.

OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE 8/12/19. WE WILL BE DISCUSSING *THE TENTH CIRCLE* BY JODI PICOULT. ANY QUESTIONS, CALL IDA MARIE AT 563-289-4675

Note: The Fellowship Team hopes to have a meeting as soon as all are back from summer vacations!



The Narrative Lectionary

Hebrews:

August 4: Hebrews 9:1-14 (Matt 12:1-6)

August 11: Hebrews 11:1-16 (12:1-2); (Matt 8:5-10)

Creeds (3 weeks):

August 18: Gen 1:1-5; Matt 6:30-34

August 25: John 1:1-18; 1 Cor 1:18-25

September 1: Acts 2:1-18; Matt 28:17-20

Supplies Needed:

8 1/2 x 14 copy paper

Swiffer Wet Jet Fluid

Thanks!



The August meeting is Thursday, August 22, at 1:30 at the church. Kay Basham is giving the program. All women of the church are invited and welcome to bring a friend!

The Spoon River District fall meeting is Saturday, September 14, at Christ United Methodist Church in East Moline. Please make your calendar and plan to attend. It is especially nice that it is nearby.

As a group we have been expanding how we can serve women, children and youth in our community. We collected sharpened pencils and erasers for Riverdale elementary. For the middle school we collected deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, etc. We provided snacks for the high school teachers and staff. We also made desserts for the Port Byron fire department for one of their weekly meetings. These have been ways we can show that we appreciate and love our neighbors.

Notes from the Trustees:

We have developed a list of projects for the church, parsonage, and grounds that has been prioritized by need and/or availability of financing. Some of these projects require a "volunteer labor only" commitment consisting of a "few minutes" up to "a few hours". These projects include the following:

Install GCFI duplex at the kitchen serving counter and split the two outlets into separate circuits so that breaker doesn't trip (duplex already purchased)

Replace the duplex behind the Bunn coffee maker (parts already purchased)

Repair NE ceiling fan in fellowship hall

Weed the prayer garden

Weed the front flower beds along the west side of the sanctuary

Caulk windows on southside of Sunday school wing (caulking already purchased-see Rick M.)

Rehang doors in the High School Youth room/Library

If you are available for a "block of time" and would like to tackle one of these projects, please contact either Pastor Jim or Rick Munson (309-236-3470) for details. If you would like to see the complete prioritized list, contact Rick Munson.

This year's Christmas Traditions will be held on December 7, 2019.

Next Meeting: August 27th at 7 pm.

Please contact Bree Heim (309-732-6085, illzou9891@yahoo.com) or Kathy Mahraun (646-729-3919, kmahraun@gmail.com) for more info or to volunteer for this event!

The August Spotlight on Missions is 'Stand Down for Homeless Veterans'. This event helps provide homeless veterans with medical and dental checkups, access to showers, haircuts, food, clothing, shoes, and blankets.

Homeless veterans are also invited to sleep over at this event. It's an event where veterans can also have contact with agencies such as Veterans Administration, Social Security, Legal Aid and many others. Usually, the time between setting up an appointment and actually meeting with an agency can be six to eight months; at the Stand Down, veterans can get appointments set up and even talk to someone about services that same day.

During the month of August we will have a collection box and a list of needed items to be distributed to veterans at the Stand Down. Thank you for any donation you can make to help our homeless veterans.

Spotlight on Missions collections have been as follows: June – school supplies for Riverdale Students, \$80; July – Casa Hogar, \$120. There was also a collection box for school supplies for Riverdale students.

The Mission Team served a meal at Mt. Zion on July 11. Thank you to everyone who donated items for the dinner and to those who helped to prepare and serve the meal.



Sunday, August 11!

Camp Celebrations

Recognition of those who received Bibles

Special time of prayer for all students preparing to go back to school



GROW: A Student Ministry of Port Byron First UMC for Middle and High School Students

ANY student in 6th—12th grade are welcome to join us on Wednesday nights! A meal is provided at 7 p.m.

We will kick off our year and welcome students back on Wednesday, August 21 from 7—8:30 p.m.

A GROW informational parent meeting will be held Wednesday Sept. 4th at 6:15 p.m.



Sunday morning discipleship groups for children and youth will begin again Sunday September 8th from 9:15-10:15 for preschool-12th graders!



Tuesday, August 20th - 10am-5pm

Enjoy free hot dogs and ice cream (served noon-4pm) while shopping the yard sale!

11am – Fran Riley from Channel 6 (KWQC)

(event will air that same day at 6pm and 10pm)

Additional yard sale days:

Friday, August 23rd - 9am-5pm & Saturday, August 24th - 9am-noon

DONATIONS APPRECIATED! Yard sale items may be dropped off the following times:

Monday, August 19th (noon-6pm)

Thursday, August 22nd (10am-2pm)

Friday, August 23rd (8am-11am)

Held at the First Methodist Church – 9412 228th Street North, Port Byron

Proceeds all support the new building for Helping Hands!



Ann's Helping Hands, Inc. NFP
501(c)(3)
E-9923-5201-01 27-0489674

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Text the message
@pbgrow to 81010



first_um_youth



Port Byron First UMC Youth and PB
First Children Ministry

If you have something for next month's newsletter, please email Danielle Scott at danielle3829@msn.com.