

**First  
Presbyterian  
Church**

**Church  
Happenings**

- COMMUNION  
Jan. 5
- SESSION MEETING  
Jan. 15 @ 4 p.m.
- OFFICE CLOSED  
New Year's Day
- CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING  
Feb. 2  
immediately after  
worship



**January  
Servers**

**Lay Liturgist:**

Polly Matlock

**Greeter:**

Rob McClintic

**Ushers:**

Larry Clark

Dennis Shepherd

**Refreshments:**

Terri Pleak

**Counters:**

Larry Clark

Dennis Shepherd

# The Call

## January Newsletter



www.fpcgburg.org

### Wally Words (Borrowed)

Occasionally, thoughts or reflections from another religious tradition can startle us with simple clarity. Such was the case for me when I stumbled on a collection of quotes by the Dalai Lama. He was taken from his parents' home when he was just 6 years old. When he was 15, he was made a military commander and a diplomat. At 25 he was forced to leave Tibet for India. Today the Dalai Lama is over 80 years old. His life has not been easy. But instead of deep worry lines on his face, mischief and humor dance in his eyes.

What has been the cause of this man's tenaciously positive attitude? In light of his sufferings and the sufferings of his people how does he maintain his rational view of the world? Perhaps a couple quotes can help us understand.

"Be kind whenever you can -- which is all the time." Well, okay, I can be kind when a situation presents itself in a way that activates my kindness button. But there are other stimuli that trigger a different programmed response. So I ask myself: what is it going to cost to be kind when I would be justified in reacting with angry words or actions? What would it cost?

"People exist to be loved; objects exist to be used. The world is in chaos because these things are the other way round." I love certain foods, but food should be for health. Love should be for the one who prepared it and for the One who made that food possible. Do we love the car? Or the person riding with us? Do we love the home/church/school, or do we love people there?

I would suggest that fear prevents us from doing these two simple things. Remember the angel's words to Joseph and to the shepherds: "Do not be afraid." On one level I think this means don't get defensive toward a divine messenger. On another level, I think about how much fear plays into our life.

Continued on Page 3

**The Annual Congregational Meeting  
has been set for February 2nd  
immediately following worship service.**



## Presbyterian Women



Friendship & Talent had a nice turn-out!

Our final Friendship and Talent luncheon in December took place on the 11th and it was a Christmas celebration. Lunch was made and served by Jean Long. We had delicious potato soup and egg salad sandwiches. For dessert we had brownies. Yum, it was a great meal. Following our meal we had a very short meeting with devotions given by Melinda Weaver.

Friendship & Talent will take a hiatus for the next couple of months. We look forward to meeting again in March. Stay tuned...

*"Gospel is for people who want to take a new look at the book of Romans and its explanation of the Gospel in a fresh and engaging way."*

## In the Church Library- Mike Gommel

### **BLOTCH**

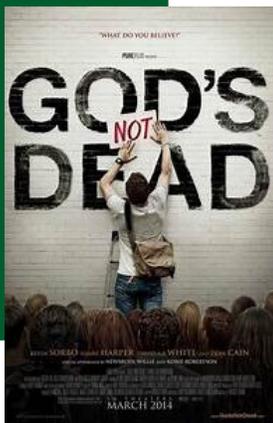
**By Andy Addis**

Blotch is a boy who lives in a kingdom where everyone has blotches on their skin. Hoping to find someone who knows how to get rid of the spots, he finds only people who hide their spots, ignore them, or blame them on others. Only when he meets a humble stranger does Blotch find a solution, one that requires a sacrifice that changes Blotch and his family forever.

### **#GOSPEL**

**By Daniel Rice**

We live in a world suffering from a relentless bombardment of information. Five to ten seconds is usually all the time we are given to persuade someone that what we have to say is worthy of his or her time. Through current cultural references, compelling narratives, and true stories, *#Gospel* is for people who want to take a new look at the book of Romans and its explanation of the Gospel in a fresh and engaging way.



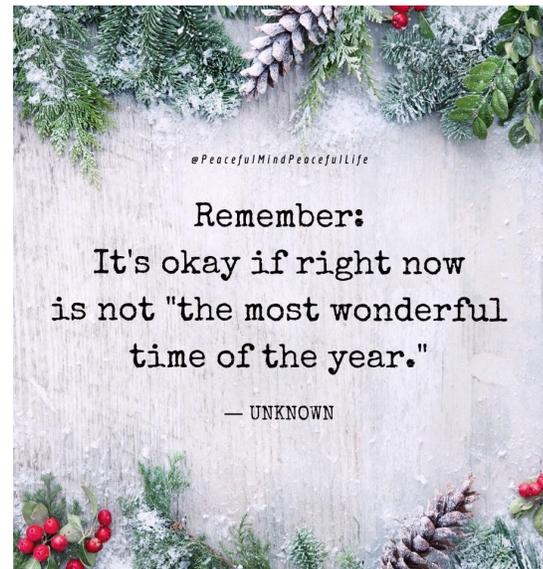
### **GOD'S NOT DEAD (DVD)**

After a deadly fire rips through St. James Church, Hadleigh University leaders use the tragedy to push the congregation off campus, forcing the church to defend its rights and bringing together estranged brothers for a reunion that opens old wounds and forces them to address the issues that pulled them apart.

Can be found in the church library!

## Wally Words continued

Fear has the power to trap us into never changing and never taking risks. Fear can turn us against one another. Fear can teach us to hoard our resources instead of trusting that we have enough to share. Fear can paralyze our imagination and become part of our narrative. Then the messenger of God breaks into the world and the angel's first words are "Do not be afraid." And so Joseph took Mary and the baby and fled from Herod's coming genocide, fled into the arms of another country. That took courage. And there are people of great moral courage today, people living by faith, being kind all the time; and remembering to love people and use objects. I pray we find courage in the story of this season and have faith that God is creating a way for his people, even if we cannot see the way at this moment.



@PeacefulMindPeacefulLife

**Remember:**  
It's okay if right now  
is not "the most wonderful  
time of the year."

— UNKNOWN



May we find happiness, love, and contentment in the coming year. Be kind; and love the people in your life.

God's Blessings,

*Wally*

765-278-3749

revwwilson@gmail.com

Kay and I want to thank our church family for your gift of love at Christmas. We are grateful for the coupon to eat at one of our favorite restaurants!

Your appreciation is encouraging to us.

Thank you!

- Kay and Pastor Wally

## January Prayer Focus

It is the time to make resolutions for the new year. I always dreaded making the resolution to quit smoking because about an hour after the new year began, I lit another cigarette. By the way, I finally quit smoking, but I also quit making New Years' resolutions.

I never gave a thought to praying for my resolution. Maybe that is an idea we should consider for 2020. Make a prayer for help with something you want to change, then after you say "amen" sit back and wait for an answer. You have already slowed down the pace of your life to have a conversation with God. Notice I said "conversation."

P.S. While you are waiting for an answer, don't forget to pray for others in need.

**Prayer:**

**God, here I am in my imperfection. Do with me what you want, and I will await your answer. Amen**

*Polly Matlock, Care of Parish*

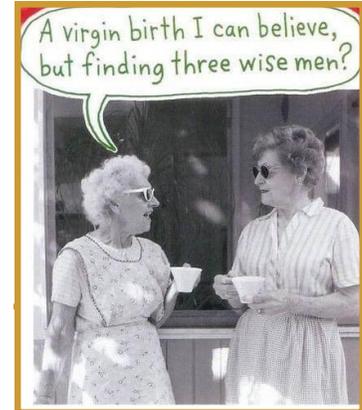


## Our Mission Statement

We are a welcoming family of faith,  
Celebrating Christ's presence  
Worshiping God with joy,  
Nurturing the life of each individual,  
Carrying Christ's message to all the world, and  
Seeking to live God's word by serving others.

First Presbyterian Church  
202 N. Franklin Street  
Greensburg, IN 47240  
Phone: 812-663-2197  
Fax: 812-663-9381  
E-mail: [fpcgburg@etczone.com](mailto:fpcgburg@etczone.com)

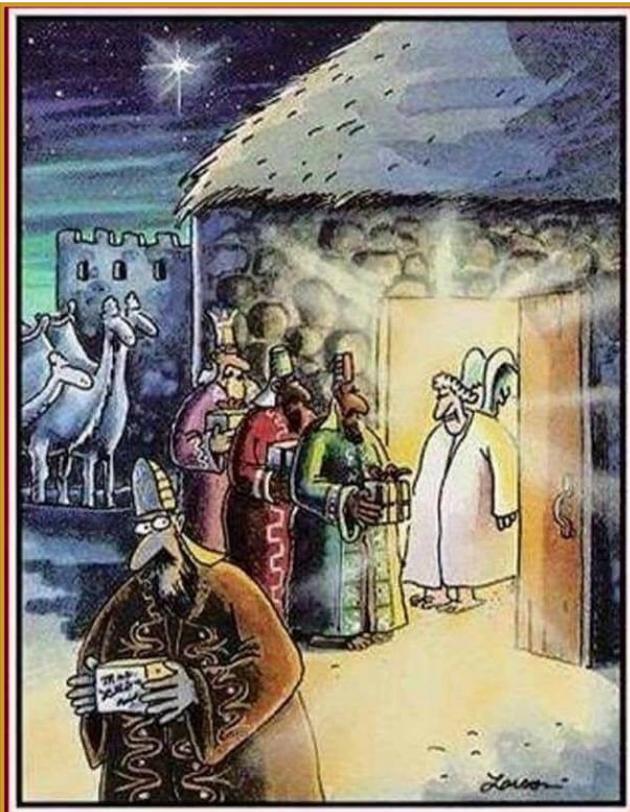
**Per Capita 2020**  
**41.39 per person**



### A note from Trustees:

Projects for 2020-

- \* Wash, waterproof, and paint cement block walls along alley and staff parking lot.
- \* Paint steeple louvers and trim of church.
- \* Paint and refresh men's restroom/women's restroom and replace kitchen carpet on Reception Hall level.



Unbeknownst to most theologians, there was a fourth wise man, who was turned away for bringing a fruitcake.