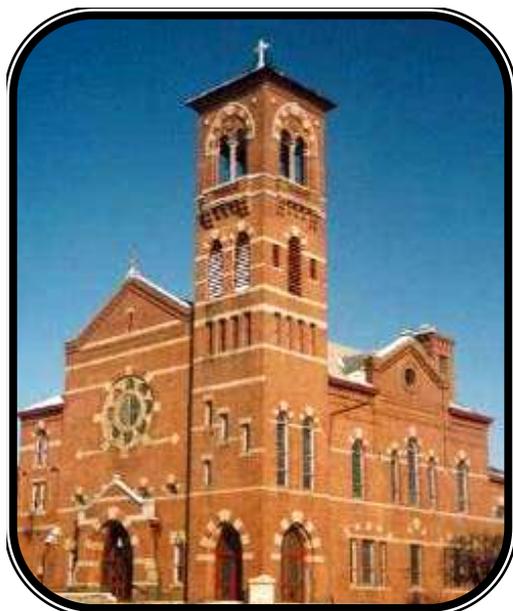


# THE CALL



## Church Happenings

Communion	Jan. 7
Trustee Meeting- 4:00 p.m.	Jan. 8
Worship Meeting-5:30 p.m.	Jan. 11
Session Meeting-5:30 p.m.	Jan. 23

Happy  
New Year!

## JANUARY SERVERS

### LAY LITURGIST:

Joe Curran

### GREETER:

Terri Pleak

### USHERS:

Roy and Linda Simpson

### REFRESHMENTS:

Polly Matlock

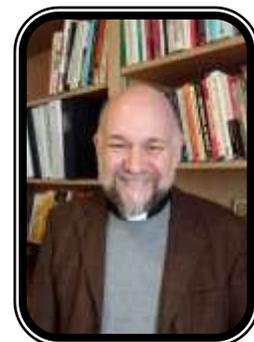
### COUNTERS:

Marilyn Woods & Larry Clark

## PASTOR LAWRENCE

### The Sacred Path Is a Winding Path

What is prayer? Why do we pray? What is the mechanism of prayer? What do we achieve when we pray? What do our bodies have to do with prayer?



When I was young I thought prayer was a form of telepathy. You think thoughts. God listens in. If you were lucky, or maybe highly developed, God answered back. I think some people probably still think of prayer that way and if you are one of them, good luck with that. Let me know how that works for you.

Part of my transformation in my understanding of prayer was encountering the labyrinth as a prayer form. It was 180° from what I had thought prayer was in my childhood. It was a form of prayer that involved your body as well as your mind. It was playful instead of being deadly serious. It was about being open instead of focusing on a checklist you had to get through. It was about the journey instead of being about a destination.



During this Family Faith Night Winter Session I will be guiding a group in praying the labyrinth. We are borrowing the walking labyrinth from Camp PYOCA for the session at no cost to us (your per capita dollars at work).

Some commonly asked questions:

Q: What if I get lost?

A: A labyrinth is different than a maze. There is only **one path in a labyrinth. You can't get lost.**

Q: Is this Christian?

A: Yes. Labyrinths have been included in Christian churches and cathedrals for centuries.

Q: How long will we be walking?

Continued on page 3



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

### Friendship & Talent

Because of the unpredictability of the weather, Friendship & Talent will not be meeting in January and February. But they will resume on March 14 with card signing and fellowship at 11:30 a.m., followed by lunch at noon. Our devotions will be a mission program from Bread of Life.

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our Annual  
Congregational Meeting has been  
scheduled for  
Sunday, February 25  
immediately following  
worship.

There will also be a  
pitch-in dinner.

A reminder to all 2017 Chairs of Committees:  
**Your Committee's Annual Report is due. Please**  
get them turned in to the office.



### IN THE CHURCH LIBRARY

Mike Gommel

#### THE CRUSADES

*By Thomas Asbridge*

Last month, President Trump affirmed that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel, which certainly stirred up controversy and unrest. This, however, is nothing new. People have always and continually fought for possession of the Holy City since it was founded (read the **Old Testament...**). **One of the** longest battles for Jerusalem is the subject of this book.

Nine hundred years ago a vast Christian army was summoned to holy war by the Pope. They rampaged through the Muslim world of the eastern Mediterranean seizing possession of Jerusalem, a city revered by both faiths. Over the two hundred years that followed, Islam and Christianity fought for domination of the Holy Land, clashing in a succession of brutal **wars**. **"The Crusades"** is the story of that struggle told from the perspective of both Christians and Muslims.

A vivid, fast-paced narrative history, it exposes the full horror, passion, and barbaric grandeur of the era, revealing how these holy wars reshaped the medieval world and why they continue to influence events today.

On a personal note, I'm not sure that the Holy Wars were all that holy.



## PRAYER FOCUS FOR JANUARY:

### Focusing on God

I must confess that in all the hubbub of the holidays, I forgot to compose a "prayer focus" for January. The very term hubbub explains why we do need the focus for a new month and a new year.

When we travel we focus on a road map, an atlas and the signs along the route. We carry a camera which to record the moments for later remembering. We also use binoculars from time to time to check scenery and wildlife. Do you see where this is going? We focus.

The time has not changed just because the number has changed to 2018. The focus still needs to be in place. God needs to hear from us or to read our thoughts as we refocus on all the cares of the world. The changes have not been great for a new year. There is still fighting in wars, fighting in political arenas, fighting in hospitals and nursing homes for the good health, fighting in families for love to continue, and fighting inside our souls to stay on the chosen path. Have I omitted anything? It's January, 2018 and time to focus on God.

#### The Sacred Path— Continued from page 1

A: The labyrinth is surprisingly long, because you are moving back and forth. Expect to be walking for a good 15-20 minutes if you walk at a leisurely pace.

**Q: What if I want to participate but can't walk well?**

A: I will have a couple hand-held labyrinths that people can use.

Q: Do I have to come to all 5 sessions?

A: No, each session can be appreciated independently, but I would recommend that anyone who wants to be involved attend the first session.



The Winter Session of Family Faith Night begins January 10. If you have **further questions, don't hesitate to contact me.**

Peace,

Pastor Lawrence



### Stewardship

Stewardship is all about making choices--as individuals and as our faith community. Our church is much more than pledging and giving our money to the Lord. It is about being faithful disciples, caring for and sharing all our blessings." The 2018 Stewardship Commitment form is included on page 6 if you have not yet filled out your form. Please consider prayerfully what YOU can share of the many blessings God has given you.

**Per Capita for 2018 is \$39.05 per person.**

## **Family Faith Night Winter Session**

**Our winter session of FFN will start on Wednesday, January 10 and continue each Wednesday through February 7. We will begin with a family meal at 5:30 p.m. and move to the FFN group you sign up for at 6:15 p.m. Listed below are the winter session groups for you to choose from:**

- **Meals on the Go** - Create food you can take home or share. There may be a nominal cost related with the group. (All Ages - Younger Children should be accompanied by Adults) - Linda Simpson

The first week will be a brainstorming session. We will create dishes that are quick and easy, that can be easily made in the time allotted.

- **Secrets of the Vine** - Scripture Study based in John 15. (High School Youth, Adults) - Carey Anne Curran

The class will explore the image of God as the Vinedresser in John 15 - from the care, tending, knowledge of the vine (us) and trimming, a Vinedresser does what he knows must be done for the health of the vine - and hence, the production of its fruit. The class is interactive, and study sheets will be part of the class. Bring your own Bible and a pen or pencil to make notes and fill in the study sheets as we navigate this wonderful image of God.

- **Labyrinth Prayer** - Explore prayer using a 30'x30' walking labyrinth. (All Ages - Younger Children should be accompanied by Adults) - Rev. Lawrence Lee

Pastor Lawrence's article in this newsletter explains very well what his group is all about. This promises to be a very interesting and soul searching experience.

- **Turning Scripture into Prayers** - Write your own prayers using scripture. (Middle School Youth, High School Youth, and Adults) - Dennis Shepherd

Have you ever written your own prayers? There may be some things you don't know about writing prayers or you may teach us something yourself. In this group, we will start with a short discussion about prayer. We will then look at Bible passages that are prayers. We will discuss and apply our insight by penning a prayer of our own based on a Scripture passage. There will be passages available or you may choose your own on which to base a prayer. Please join us and expand the ways prayers can be presented to God.

**Sign-up sheets are available on the Information Table in the Reception Hall for you to sign.**

## What Does 2018 Have In Store for You?

We are now starting the year 2018. What are your goals for this new year? Some make their own new year resolutions; some just try to do better and be better. I came across a list of things we should contemplate letting go of in the new year. Much of it makes sense so I thought I would share a few of them with you.

### Things to Let Go of Right Now

- \* Worrying about what has happened in the past or things you can't change. You only make yourself stressed and sick.
- \* The need to be in control or being perfect. No one's perfect
- \* Your insecurities; a negative body image; fear of failure; and the unknown.
- \* Let go of anyone and anything that doesn't make you happy. This includes a job you hate, or a bad relationship.
- \* Don't overschedule your life. Take time to relax and appreciate what you have.
- \* Don't worry about what others think of you and stop trying to make everyone happy. Take care of your self.
- \* Get out of your comfort zone. Life is full of new experiences.
- \* Let go of jealousy and unrealistic expectations.

These are just a few of those listed. To see the full list, go to:

[www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/smart-living/37-things-to-let-go-of-right-now/](http://www.msn.com/en-us/lifestyle/smart-living/37-things-to-let-go-of-right-now/)



## Church News and Updates

- \* Session has gained three new members for the class of 2020: Polly Matlock, Carey Anne Curran, and David Schlemmer.
- \* We are also saying good-bye to three retiring Session members: Dennis Shepherd, Larry Clark, and Terri Pleak.

### Some Happenings in 2017:

- \* Our new furnace has been installed for the nursery and upstairs classrooms. Yay!
- \* After all expenses, we netted a total of \$286 from the Thankfulness Banquet. These proceeds were donated to the Trustee expense account as a way of giving back to help with the church upkeep.
- \* The Train Show, held December 8, 9, and 10, brought in a total of 637 visitors over the weekend. 275 kids signed up for the drawing to win a free train set.
- \* Christmas Joy offering brought in a total of \$460 to date.
- \* Mike Gommel took over as our new Librarian and is doing a great job.
- \* The all new Family Faith Night began its Fall Session in October.
- \* We held a second annual Day of Caring and it was a big success thanks to Roy and Linda Simpson.
- \* Our annual picnic and outdoor service was great. Big attendance and perfect weather.
- \* The Mission Committee raised \$650 with their Chili lunches and another \$500 for their Ice Cream fundraisers. Money collected bought Aldi gift cards and was given to the Agape Center for families in need.

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## Stewardship Commitment for 2018

### Greensburg First Presbyterian Church

"Stewardship is all about making choices--as individuals and as our faith community. Our church is much more than pledging and giving our money to the Lord. It is about being faithful disciples, caring for and sharing all our blessings."

Please consider prayerfully what YOU can share of the many blessings God has given you.

The commitment/pledge form below asks that you consider your time, your talent(s), and your treasure. What can/will YOU share as we continue to work together as God's disciples?

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Grateful for God's many blessings and for the gift of His Son Jesus Christ, I (we) make the following commitment to support the mission of the church through our congregation.

Time: I (we) commit time to help with \_\_\_\_\_

Talent: I (we) commit to the talent(s) God has given us to help with \_\_\_\_\_

Treasure: I (we) commit financial support of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per week \_\_\_\_ / per month \_\_\_\_ / per year \_\_\_\_

*Per capita* for 2018 is \$39.05 per person.

**First Presbyterian  
Church**

202 N. Franklin St.

Phone: 812-663-2197

Fax: 812-663-9381

E-mail: fpcgburg@etczone.com



*Seeking to Live God's Word*

Visit us at:

www.  
fpcgburg.org

### Prayers

Each week, on Sunday, our church is praying for a member or family in our congregation, or whoever they request we pray for.

We are also selecting a church in the Whitewater Valley Presbytery each week to pray for as well.

**For the month of January we have selected:**

Virginia Garvey  
Molly Glaser  
Mary Gommel  
Mike Gommel

First Presbyterian Church,  
Fort Wayne, IN

Grace Presbyterian Church,  
Fort Wayne, IN

Trinity Presbyterian Church,  
Fort Wayne, IN

United Faith Presbyterian  
Church, Fort Wayne, IN

## 2018 Session

**2018**

**BETTY ZILICK  
MARILYN WOODS  
MARY STRADLEY**

**2019**

**JEFF LINCOURT  
ROY SIMPSON  
KATIE PRAIRIE**

**2020**

**CAREY ANNE CURRAN  
DAVE SCHLEMMER  
POLLY MATLOCK**

**CLERK**

**DARLEEN FOX**

**PASTOR**

**REV. LAWRENCE LEE**

THINKING ABOUT VOLUNTEERING YOUR TIME TO HELP A LOCAL ORGANIZATION?

- Bread of Life • 812-662-4887
- New Directions • 812-662-8822
- Meals on Wheels • 812-663-6099
- AGAPE Center • 812-222-4273
- Big Brothers, Big Sisters • 812-663-7556
- Kids Closet • 812-663-2084
- Decatur County Special Olympics • 812-663-4690

**Happy  
New Year!**

PLEASE KEEP THESE PEOPLE IN YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS:

### Shut-ins

**Anna Clemenz**  
Aspen Place — Room 405  
2320 N. Montgomery Rd.,  
Greensburg, IN 47240

**Bill Baumgartner**  
At Home, 924 E. Beechwood  
Ln., Greensburg, IN 47240

**Hazel Shonk**  
Morning Breeze  
950 Lake View Dr. Rm. 70  
Greensburg, IN 47240

**Barb Blare**  
Flatrock Nursing Home  
Rm. 107, Rushville, IN

**Pat Rooker**  
1555 N. Main St., Rm. H122  
Frankfort, IN 46041

YOUR PRAYERS DO  
MAKE A DIFFERENCE!



**Agatha (Aggie) Search**  
**Alice Rust**  
**Audrey (Rust) Hadler**  
**Brenda Oldham**  
**Carol Courtney**  
**Claude Bilbrey**  
**Clinton Shepherd**  
**David Prairie**  
**Don McKinney**  
**Eleanor Dixon**  
**Eva Westhafer**  
**The family of Iris Schiebler**  
**John Connell**  
**John Yale**

### PRAYERS

**Jonathan Friend-infant**  
**Kate Bausback**  
**Kathy Autry Miller**  
**Larry Baker**  
**Mary Gommel**  
**Merrilyn Gronau**  
**Michael Yarmuth**  
**Monique Rust-Metzing**  
**Naoyuki Furukawa and family**  
**Phyllis Hellmich**  
**Ruthann Smith**  
**Steve Gookins**  
**Suzanne (Batterton) McCoy**  
**Toni Prairie**

