

Princeville Presbyterian

★ JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER ★

"Tomorrow is full of promise." The Quaker on the oatmeal package above the saying looked up at me somewhat expectantly, as though I should know what was meant by this saying printed below his image. I frowned skeptically.

It was only too clear that this saying was intended as a "day-brightener", as a way to inject hope and good will into a morning before it filled up with responsibilities. Heaven knows this world needs hope, but a bowl of oatmeal, however satisfying for a few hours, was not going to convince me that 'tomorrow is full of promise' – not even one aided by a Quaker with a knowing 'Mona Lisa smile'. It was a statement that hung out there in the air by itself and raised more questions than it offered hope. What promise? Promise to what? What assurance? . . . I wasn't buying it.

A Promise must be anchored to something true, real – and as nearly as I can tell – personal. A promise must be made personally, that is, person-to-person. It is not made by something, it is made by someone. The Universe doesn't make a promise, the planet earth doesn't make a promise. While we might speak of the 'rising sun bringing promise to warm the earth', it is a mere colloquialism; the sun himself makes no promise. The promise to "love you for better or for worse until death us do part" was not made by a diamond ring or a marriage license or a house, it was made by a someone. A promise is made by a person (and probably not by a corporation that makes oatmeal.)

Ultimately a promise must be fulfilled personally as well.

Just so that there is no mistake, let me confirm that *Tomorrow IS full of promise*. I genuinely believe that. But the reason I believe it is because I know that there are promises anchored to Someone true and real and personal who is able to fulfill them. Consider five such promises:

January Events

- 3rd, 17th – Food Pantry
- 5th – Men of Iron
- 6th – AWANA Meeting
- 8th – Deacons/Session
- 10th – Budget Meeting
- 12th – W.O.W. Brunch
- 20th – Fellowship Meal
- 22nd, 29th – W.O.W.
- 26-26th – R&L Presbytery
- 27th – Rockin' Seniors

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. (Ezekiel 37:12)

Whoever believes in me, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' (John 7:38)

If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. (John 10:9)

I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. (John 11:25-26)

If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. (John 14:3)

Promises like these are found in every covenantal prophecy set forth by the living God. Listing such promises would take up several pages of this newsletter, and with each one we could rightly envision the Lord raising his hand and making an oath to assure our hearts. Since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself (Hebrews 6:13). Such promises fill tomorrow and the next day (and every day after it . . .) with hope.

Rolling into the new year, more than likely will feel no different from the old year because we carry much of the old in with us. But as we step into the new year looking into the word of Life, each day is as different and better than the day before because our Salvation is closer than when we first believed. We are closer to the promise of Jesus' return to make all things new, to wipe the tears from our eyes, to remove sorrow from our lives, to make "everything that's sad come untrue". Those are promises in Jesus Christ which make our Tomorrow very full.

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom [I] proclaimed among you, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes. For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

2 Corinthians 1:19-20

Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ,

Chris

Happy New Year

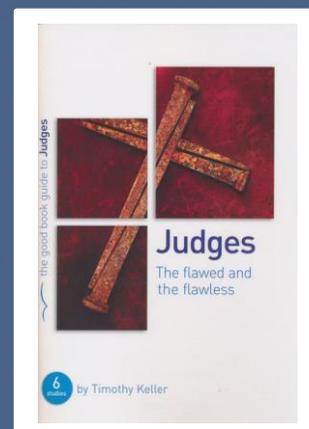
Happy New Year! For many a new year marks a time of making new resolutions, setting up some new goals, or perhaps taking up a new challenge. The latter is exactly what is in store for me as we kick off 2019.

As you are aware I am transitioning into the role of coordinator for the Women's Ministry. I praise God that I have had a wonderful teacher to guide me into this position, that teacher being Amanda Keighin. Amanda's knowledge and understanding of the Word is astounding and she will undoubtedly be a great source of comfort and wisdom for me in the year ahead. Together Amanda and I have chosen a study to ring in 2019. This, my dear Sisters in Christ, is where I am going to ask you to consider taking a challenge with me! January 22nd we are starting a new study. The title of the study is "Judges – the Flawed and the Flawless". It is a six week study that will be exciting, but not easy. It will be a challenge! Judges shows us a God who is relentlessly loving to unlovely people; a God who continually rescues people from consequences of their own flaws and failings; and a God who points forward to the flawless Leader and Savior who he will one day send.

Please consider joining us on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 to challenge yourself this year. Let's dig deeper into the Word of God together. The door is always open, there is always room, and we would love to have you!

Love in Christ –

Teresa Snodgrass



Heavenly Mindedness

Call To Confession: Colossians 3:1-5

If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.

Prayer of Confession:

Almighty God, We have come before you to worship you, but as we speak words of worship and sing songs of praise, we are reminded by your Word that we are to have no other gods before you. We have fallen woefully short of keeping this great command. Our worship of you is neither consistent nor wholehearted. You have called us to set our minds on things above, yet we habitually allow our minds to slip back toward things of earth: the fleeting pleasures that this world offers us in food, sexual immorality, and entertainment; the seeming glory it grants us in reputation, success, and money.

Lord Jesus Christ, we have often doubted that you could rescue our souls. We create elaborate systems of salvation to comfort ourselves in our desperate condition. Some of us have learned to live in blindness toward the sin that so easily ensnares us, assuming that we are better than we are and smugly satisfied that we are not like other sinners. Others of us have established rituals of self-hatred to cope with the sin that we find in our hearts, hoping that if we just work hard enough, you might find it possible to forgive our insidious and constant sins. One thing we have in common is that none of us sees our own sin clearly. Instead we make too much or too little of it, and thereby obscure our view of your cross.

Holy Spirit, lead us back to the good news of the gospel: that all our sin has been put to death, fully and finally, by Christ on the cross. Help us to see the reality of our justification: we have been raised with Christ, and our relationship with God has been secured as beloved children. Help us to put to death the remaining sin in our hearts, but give us the confidence to admit that our struggle with sin is ongoing, and will be so until you glorify us. Give us bold faith that lingers at the cross longer than we linger over our sins. Entice us with the good news from above, so that our worship might flow from transformed hearts enraptured by a God who loved us first. Clear our spiritual vision, we pray, that we might see our souls as hidden with Christ on high, our Savior and our God. In his name we come, amen. *[From Prone to Wander]*

Assurance of Pardon: Isaiah 12:1-3

You will say in that day: "I will give thanks to you, O LORD, for though you were angry with me, your anger turned away, that you might comfort me. "Behold, God is my salvation I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the LORD GOD is my strength and my song, and he has become my salvation."

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Matching Fund Raiser

As you may be aware, renovations are being done in the manse to ready it for our new pastor and his family. Someone has stepped forward to provide a way to defray the cost of that work.

Contributions to the manse renovation will be matched by an anonymous donor up to a total of \$5000. This is a wonderful opportunity to double your gift. Please pray about this and let's take advantage of this generous offer.

To be assured your contribution is counted please mark it for "Manse Renovation" on an envelope or on your check.

In late fall of 2013, I was in the church basement tidying things up. I was in the room that may have qualified as the craft room where the teacher's supplies were stored and I felt lead to do more in some way for the Lord. I had such a strong and overwhelming feeling that I was being called to do "something". That very day, I wrote on the chalkboard in that room, "Here I Am Lord, Send Me". I prayed about it and walked away, leaving it in the Lord's hands but having a bit of nervousness in my stomach. In January of 2014, I plopped down in the Pastor's office chair (which was a usual activity for me) and asked Pastor Jacob if it would be possible to have our Bible study here at the church. A group of us had been meeting at Michael Webber's home and we were just plain out of room. We wanted to open it up for others to come. Jacob's response was quick and to the point. He said, "Sure, but only if you will be the coordinator of Women's Ministry at the church". And there it was! The Lord had answered my plea and had given me a calling. I went home and prayed about it. We talked about what all would be expected and what that might look like. And then, in March of 2014, Women Of the Word began! What an absolute joy it has been to grow, and teach, and laugh, and cry alongside all of you. The Lord has used this opportunity to serve him in so many ways. He has transformed my heart, and mind, and life through His Word that we have studied together.

In the summer of 2017, I found myself with this very same feeling of being called and led to do something big for the Lord. I began praying for what this would look like. The Lord opened a few opportunities for me but none of them seemed the right fit and I knew I was holding back because change is really hard. In late February of 2018, the Lord placed a job opportunity in front of me. It would mean full-time ministry and I was beyond excited. The catch, it was in Georgia! I committed to the process and told the Lord I was ready. Whatever he had in store for me, I was willing to go and do. I had a phone and video interview and it seemed as if everything was in place. It had come down to me and one other candidate. There were weeks of waiting and while I was waiting, the Lord did something unexpected. He rewarded my commitment to him and my willingness to go and serve him with something far greater than I could ever ask or imagine. You see, I had been praying (along with many others) for someone to do life with. I desired to be married again and serve the Lord alongside someone. This is what the Lord gave me. While I was waiting (now remember that I said I was willing to go wherever the Lord wanted to send me), the Lord brought Jason into my life. After Jason and I had begun dating, I received an email that the church in GA had decided to go with the local candidate. Praise the Lord because I had now been called elsewhere.....

To be continued... Love, Amanda~~

Summary of Session work from December 2018

The Session meeting was opened with a devotion from Titus 2 where we are told that the light of salvation has appeared in Christ's incarnation and will appear again at his second coming; which lights the path of the whole church and teaches her to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord. The session then attended to the regular business of the church minutes, treasurer's report (noting our deficit), and correspondence in which we received a transfer of membership for John Meuser and a Presbytery request for support for church planting work in Chicago (denied). John Underwood and Kirk Potter were designated as delegates to the Presbytery meeting in January.

Much of our other work was routine – approving the use of the parking lot for an event in January, and the use of Fellowship Hall for a different event in April. Reviews and approvals were given for teaching materials and leadership for the Women's ministry, and approval was given for two of our women to attend Leadership training in Atlanta in February. The date of January 10 was confirmed for working on the 2019 Church budget. We then worked through matters related to relocating Chris and Emily Carpenter to Princeville.

A season of prayer was engaged in for the congregation before adjourning for the evening.

The next Session meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2019 at 7:00 pm. Session meetings are open for congregational members to attend unless there are matters to be discussed that require the protection of personal reputation.

January 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 NO AWANA Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	3 Food Pantry @5pm	4	5 Men of Iron @7am
6 Communion AWANA Meeting @Noon PSC Mtg. @7pm	7 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	8 Deacons @6:30pm Session @ 7pm	9 AWANA @ 6:15pm Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	10 Budget Meeting @9:30am	11	12 Women's Brunch @ 10am @ Michael's
13	14 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	15	16 AWANA @ 6:15pm Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	17 Food Pantry @5pm	18	19
20 Fellowship Meal @Noon	21 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	22 <i>Carpenter's Arrival</i> W.O.W. @ 6pm	23 AWANA @ 6:15pm Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	24	25 R&L Presbytery Aurora, IL	26
27 Rockin' Seniors	28 Prayer Group @ 9:30am	29 W.O.W. @ 6pm	30 AWANA @ 6:15pm Prayer Service @ 6:30pm	31		

Prayer Warriors

Yess Family
Harwood Family
Heck Family
Carpenter Family
Church Elders & Deacons
W.O.W Ministry, Men of Iron Ministry
AWANA Ministry
Sunday School Teachers
Fellowship Team

Our Missionaries:
Jeff & Marilyn German

Birthdays

1st – Morgan Powers
2nd – Kailee Keighin
11th – Jennifer Freres
17th – Jeff German
20th – Edith Endress
Eleanor Powers
23rd – Butch Gardner
26th – Mary Scott
Hunter Harwood

Anniversaries

5th – Russ & Cathy Hyde
6th – Randy & Teresa Snodgrass