

## Third Presbyterian Church

1221 Custer Avenue  
Rockford, IL 61103  
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# Third Pres. Times

Volume 19 | Issue 5

May 2019

God Bless Mother's

Proverbs 31:10-31



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WTPB - LP 99.3 FM

Check us out on Facebook at  
Third Presbyterian Church of Rockford!

## CALENDAR

Calendar Page

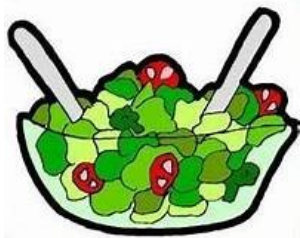
## Coming Soon

### North End Square Community Garage Sale May 18 9am—3pm

The North End Square Neighborhood Association is partnering with Signal Hill Neighborhood for a Spring garage and plant sale. It's no secret that shoppers like to go to neighborhoods where lots of households are involved in offering all kinds of treasures. Come shop for some super deals!



Want to participate? Grab a box and clean out your closets and drawers. Cost is \$5 per house to cover advertising and maps provided to shoppers. They will also be marketing via social media outlets. Email Vicki Fogel (nesnapresident@gmail.com) for a registration form.



### Women's Association Salad Luncheon June 5 at 12:15 PM

Join us for a salad luncheon, followed by a presentation by Janet Biljeskovic, from Catholic Church Charities. She will bring an understanding about "refugee resettlement." Please join us for a fun afternoon of fellowship, delicious food and new this year, themed raffle baskets. Please bring a salad to share. Cookies and coffee will be provided. If you have questions, call Heather Genrich (815-877-4948) or Sue Gustafson (815-229-0710).

*"We are a caring Christian community,  
actively committed to sharing God's love in our  
daily lives through worship, education, service and  
fellowship."*

## Welcome to the Season of Easter



During Easter season, we reaffirm the truth of the Resurrection as we live it out in real time.

**May 5 ~ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Confirmation Sunday**  
The Lord's Supper  
"Captured and Confessing"  
Reception following worship

**May 12 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Honoring Mothers and Others**  
"All My Trials, Lord"  
Recognition of Women's Service

**May 19 ~ 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Promotion Sunday**  
Sacrament of Baptism  
9:00 Breakfast for Everyone

**May 29 ~ 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**Memorial Day Weekend**  
"From 'They' to 'We'"  
Remembering and Honoring Loved Ones

## Coming Events

**THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER | MAY 2, 2019**

**Riverfront YMCA 7 am**

★ PRAY FOR AMERICA ★

# LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE ONE ANOTHER. JUST AS I HAVE LOVED YOU JOHN 13:34

Join with others for a light breakfast and offer prayer for our nation and community.

All are welcome!



On Saturday, **May 4**, members of the Session will gather with our confirmands and their families to celebrate their decisions to confess their faith in Jesus Christ and begin their journey as adult members of Third Presbyterian Church.

On Sunday, **May 5**, confirmation will take place during worship. Afterwards, the Deacons will host a reception for the confirmands in the dining room. Come and celebrate what God is doing in their young lives.

**Spring**  
Craft & Vendor Fair

**Saturday, May 11**

**10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

Come check out the many talents of 3PC, the community and various vendors.

## West Side DAY Camp

For all children entering Kindergarten through 6th grade

**Monday, June 24—**

**Friday, June 28**

**9:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Lutheran Church  
of the Good Shepherd**

*This is a joint mission between  
Third Presbyterian*

*Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd  
United Lutheran Church and  
St. Bernadette's Catholic Churches*



**Rockford Park Players**  
present games and  
activities which teach children  
violence prevention  
and positive life-building skills.

**Registration available soon.  
NO COST!**



*Volunteers are needed to help with  
snacks, music, crafts and story time.*





## Church News

### Third Pres. Community Garden

Get ready. Spring is here and the earth is warming. Time to begin planning a garden! Choose plants or seeds that you will enjoy harvesting. Choose a garden bed to care for. The garden will be tilled during outside clean-up and ready for planting. Call or text Cindy Miner at 815-543-2070 or the church office at 815-962-7889 if you would like to "claim" a bed for the season.



### Attention Graduates

Graduating? Whether it's from high school, college or graduate school, we ask you to notify the Education Committee to be acknowledged on Promotion Sunday, May 19! We also want to feature you in the June Newsletter. We're proud of you, so please contact Jeannette Sheehan or the church office at 815-962-7889.



**Sponsor Flowers for Worship** for just \$20! This is a nice way to honor or remember loved ones. Sandy Smith will order your flowers and see that they are placed in the sanctuary. Call Sandy at 815-397-3650.



**Deadline** for June is Monday, May 20th.  
**Mailing Date: Tuesday, May 28.**

We would love to include your activities and news in the church newsletter and need you to let us know what's happening.

## Coming Events

### *Mother's Day – May 12*

Remember mom on her special day! All mothers will receive a token of our love and esteem during worship!

### "A Real Big Breakfast" and Promotion Activities Sunday, May 19 at 9am

**PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST!**



The men of the church will fill your plate with hotcakes, sausage, and goodness! Cross your fingers and there may be biscuits and gravy as well!

During Breakfast: Activities and recognition of Sunday School classes, presentation of Promotion Certificates. (Last day to get your \$15 early registration discount for Stronghold Camp.)

During Worship: Recognition of Sunday School teachers, our graduates, the choir, presentation of outstanding attendance awards and Bibles to next year's class of 3rd graders.

## Church News



"He has risen indeed! Halleluiah! Thanks to all for the thoughts and prayer for our family!  
*In Christ, The Bergquist Family*

Happy Easter! Thank you for all the prayers and support. God Bless.  
*Kim, Sidney and Family*

Dear Pastor Steve: I wanted to thank you for a touching service to celebrate and remember my father, Gary Jones. I imagine him grinning ear to ear. It was clear that you knew dad, were friends and your words came from the heart. I would appreciate if it you would pass on my gratitude to the 3rd Pres congregation, my childhood church family. that their hugs gave me strength.

*With warm wishes, Kim Williams*

## With Heartfelt Sympathy

Florence Swinson who passed away April 12.  
Richard Warren who passed away April 12.  
Louise Diamond who passed away April 15.

### Summer Special Music

During the summer, we get creative with special music or presentations during worship. Are you blessed with a special talent? Would you like to play, sing, act or read poetry for us on Sunday? We would love to hear your talent! If you have any questions, talk with Pastor Steve or call the church office.

## Group News



**Dorcas Circle** meets Thursday, May 9, at 9:30 AM at church. Contact Alyce Lutzow at 815-962-1194 for more information.

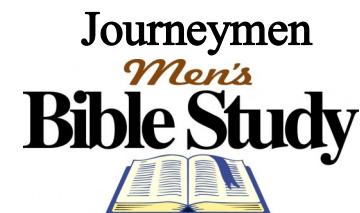
**Lucia Circle** meets Tuesday, May 28 at 1:00 PM at the church. Need information? Call Laura Chiodini at 815-654-8780.

### Piece Corps Sewing Group

All women are welcome! If you can cut fabric, sew or tie a knot, you can help with our quilts. Or just come for lunch and good company. We will meet Wednesday, May 8 and 22 at 9:00 a.m. until about 1:30 pm. Lunch is at 11:45 am.



**Faith Builders Women's Study** ~ Bonded through prayer, education and fellowship, we grow through study and sharing. Meetings are every Thursday at 9:45 AM at the church. Questions? Call Lu Willsey at 815-963-8588.



Men's Bible study meets on Wednesdays, May 8 and 22 at 10:45 AM. We finish with lunch with the women of Piece Corps.



Last month you gave **FIFTY** pounds of food to the pantry!!! Let's see if we can surpass that in May with the **Pantry Peanut Butter Drive**. Their goal is to collect 12,000 jars of peanut butter.

Pantry use grows during the summer when children do not receive school lunches. A jar or two of PB is included in every food bag in the months of June, July and August. Bring jars of peanut butter...OR...for a donation of \$20, the Pantry can purchase a CASE of peanut butter (at cost)!



### WTPB-LP News



One of our newest shows on 99.3 FM is Don Ferguson's "Music from Hollywood and Broadway", airing at 10 am on Monday and Friday and at 4 pm on Wednesday and Sunday. During each of these one hour programs, you will be able to hear music from Broadway or Hollywood along with Don's introduction and retelling of the story between each of the songs. Some of the songs you will hear include "Bye Bye Birdie", "Camelot", "Oklahoma", and "My Fair Lady." Learn more at our website <http://www.wtpblp.com>.



As Spring and warmer weather approach, please use **caution** when driving around the church, including the alley and the park as more children will be out playing.

Listen to WTPB-LP 99.3 FM!  
Your easy listening station.



May 1 Joyce McLaughlin, Isabelle Gray  
May 2 Rikk Lingelbach  
May 3 Elana Schelling-Tufte  
May 4 Mary Bergquist, John Watton  
May 5 Kenny Michaelis  
May 6 Abby Rose Ponder, Royal Wurm  
May 7 Donna Peterson  
May 8 Lillian Hanson, Tim Marsh, Vernon Taylor IV  
May 10 A'lisa Barbour, Max Keeling, Jacqueline Vandercreek  
May 11 Evan Archer, Alyce Lutzow, Earl Lutzow  
May 13 Brandon Chiodini  
May 15 Alexander Bertolasi, Mary Smith  
May 17 Matt Vossberg  
May 18 Joyce Pearse  
May 19 Kelly Smith, Eric LaPier  
May 20 Brian Hollenbeck, Hudson Insko  
May 21 Mackenzie Wurm  
May 23 David Kportufe, Shannon Shields  
May 24 Brad Facer  
May 25 Ivy Bowen, Mary Hartshorn, Brandon Haven  
May 26 William Gross, Murray Hanson, Lewis Haven  
May 28 James "JD" Schwager, Jr.  
May 29 Lucas Peck  
May 31 Cindy Watton, John Bonne, Christine Cavin, Kylene Gray

*Happy Anniversary*

### Congratulations!

**Harvey and Gerri Flynn** will celebrate 42 years of marriage on May 5.

## Thinking Aloud

### *What In the Name of God?*

Given some of the things we've seen on the news recently, do you ever wonder: "Are people really killing others in the name of God?"

The bombings in Sri Lanka aimed at Christians. The attack at a mosque in New Zealand targeting Muslims. The shooting at a synagogue in Philadelphia directed against Jews.

These three events have nothing to do with the God we conceive of or God's will; or from any kind of sane intention to "honor God."

In truth, I don't believe these or countless other acts of "religious violence" have anything to do with God at all. Those who make this kind of claim are either deluded or lying. Indeed, they are actually acts of *violence against religion*.

It is important to realize that tragedies like these are concocted for reasons like this:

- "I want or my group wants attention or influence."
- "I want or we want what you have."
- "We get a thrill - a rush - out of terrorizing people."

Let me explain.

For most of human history the kind of separation that our culture has created between religion and politics did not exist. There was no distinction between the *sacred and the secular*. *"There was just - Life. You could say that religion was part of everything. Bringing children into the world and building a pyramid could each be seen as sacred activities. So could planting a garden, sailing safely on the seas, and the death of loved ones."*<sup>1</sup>

As societies developed, advances in agriculture allowed people to settle, live together in larger numbers and develop communities. People who were so motivated were able to turn to taking from others to survive and gain wealth. Hijacking someone else's food is easier than raising it yourself.

## Church News

**News Flash!**



### **June 2 Habitat for Humanity Day June 15 Habitat Build Day**

On Sunday June 2nd, we'll hear about FaithBuilds, a project to complete five new homes for families in Rockford. The Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity will share in worship as we celebrate God's work of providing shelter.

On Saturday June 15th you will have the opportunity to work on one of the houses with friends from Third.

Question? Contact Bill Leber (815-979-3521) or Lorie Michaelis (815-654-8948).



### **Cheer for the Home Team!**

**Men's Softball** plays Monday evenings at Sportscore on Elmwood.





## Easter Thanksgiving



Here is a shout out and words of gratitude to all who added to our Easter celebration:

To the **Night Crusaders** for their powerful message of reconciliation in Christ entitled "Scars." Thank you to Jalen Craglione, Aurora Insko,

Macy Olson, Jacob Minnier, JV Murray, Nicole Facer, and their leaders Dan, Liz, Chris, Jeannette and parents.

To the **Squires** for their hospitality and a wonderful breakfast: Charley Murray, Corbin and Liadan Gray and their leaders Heidi and Eric as well as Tracy and Pat Murray, Chris, Stacey and Sean.

To **Hudson Insko** for the special music during worship.

To **Julie, Laura and Lori** for preparing our primary children to sing and for the children: Emily Monroe, Jace Leber, Morgan Milner, Becca Truitt, Zachary and Savannah Kujat, Aurora Layng, Emma and Ethan Archer.



## by Pastor Steve

Likewise, people who took part in both attacking and defending assets like food, or crops, or cattle, discovered the adrenaline rush of battle. The warrior mentality was incredibly powerful - especially for men. We see traces of that today in games like football and ultimate fighting as well as in the military.

Victory and success was ascribed to the might of the gods that people worshipped. Defeat was ascribed to the faithlessness of the losers. And yes, religious motivations were given to enterprises in order to justify them. Spain sent priests to the New World in the 17th century to open cultures for exploitation. Slaves in the American south were preached to from the New Testament to ensure their faithfulness to the masters. While it isn't as deadly as bombing a mosque, I believe the current love affair between American Evangelicals and the new wave of authoritarianism fits into this pattern. 'God is putting His stamp of approval on our way of thinking.'

The Psalmist says this in Psalm 133:1

*"Behold how good and pleasant it is  
when brothers and sisters dwell in unity."*

Jesus Christ, our risen Lord, would have us live into this truth. He would certainly have us share compassion with all who suffer, regardless of their identity, nationality, or religion. And he would have us continue to pray, and then act, so that God's will would be done "on earth as it is in heaven."

As light shines forth from the empty tomb,

*Pastor Steve*

1 Karen Armstrong, in Fields of Blood: A History of Violence and Religion

# PALM SUNDAY and EASTER



“Hosanna in the Highest!”  
“Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the Lord.”



**Hot Cross  
Holy Communion**



**LOOK  
HOW  
JESUS  
CHANGES  
THINGS!**

