

Third Pres. Times

Volume 21 | Issue 5

May 2021



HER
CHILDREN
RISE UP AND
CALL HER
BLESSED

PROVERBS 31:26



Rev. Stephen L. Bowie, Pastor
815-962-7889
pastorthirdpres@yahoo.com
thirdpreschurch@yahoo.com
WTPB - LP 99.3 FM

“Practicing Christians – Lessons from the Book of Acts “

May 2 - Confirming Faith: Corbin Gray

“Making Sense of It All”

Worship Leader: John Gustafson

May 9 - Honoring Mothers and Others

“God Has Done Marvelous Things”

Worship Leader: Brad Facer

May 16 - Sunday School Promotion

“Come Further Up... Come Further In”

Worship Leader: Mary Hartshorn

May 23 - The Day of Pentecost

“Faiths Builds!”

Worship Leader: Pam Reed

May 30—Trinity Sunday

Memorial Day Remembrance

“High and Lifted Up”





May 1 Faith Builds Kickoff

On Saturday, May 1, Faith Builds house will begin at 3102 Holiday Drive in Rockford. Over the next few months a new home will appear there for Charae and her family. Faith Builds is a Habitat project in partnership with congregations like ours. On Sunday May 9th a video about it will be included in worship.

May 8 Work Day

On Saturday, May 8th, a crew from Third will spend the day working at Charae's home. Due to health restrictions a maximum of 8 people can take part. Contact Pastor Steve if you are interested.

May23 Habitat Mission Moment During worship

HFH Impact in Rockford in 2020

7 families bought homes that were completed
20 children gained stable housing
6 Habitat mortgages were paid off
\$170,000 in property taxes paid by Habitat homeowners
3 student scholarships were generated
140 volunteers served with Habitat
\$300,000 worth of volunteer hours were logged

Welcome New Members!



Mason Race called the church wanting to talk to the pastor about being baptized. He had recently given his life to Jesus Christ. He was received as a member at the February Session meeting and baptized on Easter morning!

Mason is a native of Rockford having also lived in Elmhurst. His parents own the Jade Court restaurant, “Chicago’s most treasured authentic Chinese cuisine.” He enjoys singing and is learning to play guitar. He hopes to learn how to effectively share the gospel with others. Mason enjoys skating, bicycling, and reading the Bible.

Laurie Frey-Baquedano recently became a member by reaffirming her faith in Jesus Christ-from her home in Santa Flora Chableka, Yacatan, Mexico, where she lives with her husband, Garpar. Santa Flora is near the northern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula. Laurie teaches high school and enjoys yard work, studying German, playing piano, reading U.S. history, cooking, and geneology. She has been part of The Door of Salvation Church of Merida.

Laurie is the daughter of Leona Frey and grew up attending Bethel United Church of Christ on Auburn Street. Her mother lives in Freeport near her sister. Laurie plans to visit her mother in May and will be worshiping with us in person one Sunday.

We rejoice when the Lord adds to our number!

Happy Birthday WTPB Radio

99.3 FM and at wtpblp.com <https://wtpblp.com/>

How old is old? Many of us have said or heard someone say, that as we grow older, the number of years you have to live to be “old” keeps going up! If you are older than 30 years old, you may remember when 30 seemed “really old.”

This is the time of year when we mark the birthday, or anniversary, of our radio station going on the air in the spring of 2005. So, that is 16 years ago. I guess our station is still relatively “new” or “young.”

We are most grateful for the acceptance and support from so many in the community over the years. During May you will hear our usual number of new programs. In addition, of course, you will be able to enjoy specials on Mother’s Day and Memorial Day.

Don Ferguson’s new programs this month on Music from Broadway and Hollywood are these one hour programs: The Music of Doris Day; the musical “Oh, Captain” starring Tony Randall; and the music of one of my personal favorites, starring Gene Kelly, Debbie Reynolds, and Donald O’Conner, “Singin’ In The Rain”! (These will air Mon and Fri 10 AM; Wed and Sun 4 PM)

Thanks, for listening!

Murray Hanson, Station Manager

Contact Changes...

Fred Fauerbach new email is fcf7428@gmail.com

Jeanne’s is fauerbach4@charter.net

Laura Chiodini’s email is lachiodini@gmail.com

John Seal, 2120 N. Monroe, #301, Arlington, VA 22207

Thinking out loud...

“Practice, Practice, Practice”

Praise, prayer, partnership and pursuits are four spokes on the wheel of discipleship that propel our connection to God through the saving work of Jesus Christ. Together they sustain the practice of our faith.

*The **praise** we offer to God demonstrates our gratitude for the redemption we have in Christ

*Our **prayer** engages us in an ongoing dialogue with the grace that sustains us through all things

*Our **partnership** with one another strengthens our sense of community and gives our faith common cause

*The **pursuits** into which we are led by the Holy Spirit define our impact on the world around us

The vitality of these four attributes allows the church – the vehicle in which we travel the journey together – to continue its vital mission: to proclaim to the world that *God in Christ invites us to live more abundantly than would ever be possible*. As the old hymn puts it, *We’ve A Story To Tell To The Nations*. Meanwhile, this pandemic has created a space in which the church, like the automobile industry, has gone hybrid and found alternate fuel sources and means of propulsion.

Like *Uber and Lyft* we have been able to meet people wherever they are. Like *RMTD* we have created regular ‘stops’ where people can pick up worship: 1221 Custer, Zoom #554 624 9951 and wtpblp.com. And while it may not be apparent if you haven’t been in the building lately, we have eliminated many of the potholes that made the journey uncomfortable : new carpeting and front steps.

I encourage you to stay connected to the fellowship. This coming summer will be the second one when we've faced restrictions on how we ought to gather. Nevertheless, pump up your tires, tighten your spokes. Let's keep rolling.

Pastor Steve

*Let us not be weary in doing good, for we will reap in due season,
if we do not give up. . Galatians 6:9*

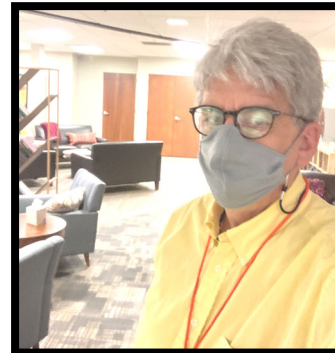
Who is that chaplain?



Family Peace Center

In March Pastor Steve began serving occasional shifts at the Family Peace Center in downtown Rockford. In order to do so, he completed 40 hours of training organized by the Illinois Coalition for Domestic Violence and Remedies, a local women's emergency shelter. Along with other volunteers he offered a listening ear, a cup of coffee, or a prayer to survivors of domestic violence, their children or members of the staff.

More than a dozen agencies are represented at the Center including legal services, sexual assault services, and children's advocates. Having all these services available in one place decreases the trauma that survivors experience when coming to be served. The Center operates through the Mayor's Office of Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking.



Easter Thanksgiving



**From: God
To: You**

Worship on Maundy Thursday includes a pantomime enacted by Debbie Geisler and Corbin Gray that illustrated the gift and sacrifice of Christ on our behalf. You may view it by following this link: <https://fb.watch/4SWiV-QtcD/>

**“Rise Up
and
Come Awake”**



Easter worship included drama by the combined Night Crusaders and Squires accompanied by the music of Adra Day and David Crowder. You may view it by following this link: <https://fb.watch/4SWmCNb25n/>

The Worship Committee is grateful for the actors, musicians, and worship leaders who worked to convey to us, in worship, the whole breadth of Christ’s journey to the cross and beyond.

The Worship Committee

Back to Playing Ball!

Third Pres. Softball Season started April 19. Games are every Monday evening at 6 and 6:50 pm at the Sportscore on Elmwood Road in Rockford. Watch the weekly bulletin inserts for game times and diamond numbers. This week we will be on diamond 3. Spectators may sit on the bleachers, stand in the grass or bring a chair. Remember to be socially distant and wear a mask at all times when not in your car.

After not playing at all last year, everyone is excited to be playing again and would love to have friends and family come and cheer us on. Questions can be directed to Don Hartshorn at 815-978-1291.

Notes from Session Tues. April 13, 2021

The Session continued a practice of praying through the membership roll at the outset of the meeting.

The Session examined Corbin Gray for the confirmation of his faith and voted to receive him into adult membership in Christ's church.

The Treasurer reported that the a positive stock market, reduced expenses, and the PPP plan has created a positive financial outlook at this time.

The Session authorized the Worship Committee to make recommendations regarding technical needs for hybrid worship.

Blackhawk Presbytery

The Presbytery created The Resurrection Fund to make decisions about assets from churches that have closed.

This and That



May is the Pantry's Peanut Butter Drive.

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 and jelly.

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 16! We also want to feature you in the June Newsletter. We're proud of you, so please contact Jeannette Sheehan 815-979-0045 or the church office at 815-962-7889. Info needed by May 7!



Third Pres. Community Garden

Get ready. Spring is here and we are almost ready to garden. We have four garden beds needing to be "adopted" by you.

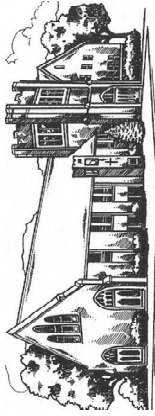
Choose plants or seeds that you will enjoy caring for and harvesting. Choose a garden bed to care for. The garden will be tilled during outside clean-up and ready for planting. Call or text Cindy Miner at 815-543-2070 or the church office at 815-962-7889 if you would like to "claim" a bed for the season.



May 1 Isabelle Gray
May 2 Rikk Lingelbach
May 3 Elana Schelling-Tufte
May 4 Mary Edwards, 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, Jacqueline Vandercreek
May 11 Evan Archer, Alyce Lutzow, Earl Lutzow
May 13 Brandon Chiodini
May 15 Alexander Bertolasi, Mary Smith
May 17 Matt Vosberg
May 18 Joyce Pearse
May 19 Kelly Smith
May 20 Brian Hollenbeck, Hudson Insko
May 21 Mackenzie Wurm
May 23 David Kportufe, Shannon Cassaro
May 24 Brad Facer
May 25 Ivy Bowen, Mary Hartshorn, Brandon Haven
May 26 William Gross, Murray Hanson, Lewis Haven
May 27 Loretta Keating
May 28 James "JD" Schwager, Jr.
May 29 Lucas Peck
May 31 Cindy Watton, Christine Cavin

Happy Anniversary

Harvey and Gerri Flynn— May 5
Brad and Laurie Claussen—May 22



Third Presbyterian Church

1221 Custer Avenue
Rockford, IL 61103
Return Service Requested