



—A congregation serving Christ and the community for over 100

years.

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March 2014

Prayer: Not a Weird Power but a Wonderful Privilege

The Erie Reader is a publication I enjoy reading and particularly the regular column titled, “News of the Weird.” Go figure! Recently in this column an article caught my attention. It was entitled the “*The Power of Prayer*” and focused upon a law suit filed by Nelson Modupe against the South African electric company known as Eskom. It seems that Mr. Modupe, who had recently affiliated with a church, had prayed successfully, it appeared, that there would be no costly blackouts or power reductions during the 2010 Soccer World Cup Games. He argued that his prayers had saved the company some 22.3 million dollars and that he was open to negotiations either for that amount or for an equivalent partnership in the power company. The kindest thing one could say about Mr. Modupe’s view of the power of prayer is that it was warped if not downright weird!

It is a certainty that such a view of prayer as a tool that possesses weird powers to bring one personal benefit is not scriptural. Ever the pragmatist, James in his epistle writes concerning prayer: “*You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.*” I would suspect that filing a law suit over “successful” prayer might well fit into James condemnation of selfish prayer. No, prayer is not some kind of personal requisition system for our wants, but rather it is conversation with our all knowing and all wise God. Making our requests known before God in prayer is indeed a part of prayer, but only a part. Even at that, such requests are to be submitted from hearts that are submitted to God’s will. This submission of will in prayer comes from an acknowledgment that prayer is a two way conversation with God. We speak of our desires, He speaks of his will! There are those times of course that this order is reversed in that He speaks to us, then we speak in response. Whichever way it plays out prayer is both talking with and listening to God. I suspect that most of us if we were to be honest would confess that we are better as prayer talkers rather than listeners. All too often in our rush we offer cursory praise and thanks, submit our prayer requisitions, and then if we pause at all to listen the pressures of life overwhelm our ability to concentrate long enough to discern God’s answer.

Now if the “gimme” view of prayer is a challenge in our lives, then this approaching Lenten Season is a most appropriate time to confess those portions of our prayer lives that tend to be “weird” and self centered. Since Lent is as much about taking on new practices in faith as it is about dropping old practices through confession, these weeks of Lent should be for us a time of reminding ourselves that prayer is indeed a real privilege. While God invites us to make our requests known to him in prayer, he also reminds us that such requests are to be within the parameters of his will. In an effort to remind us of the listening aspect of prayer, we are offering not only times of study about prayer here at Kingsley, but also times for prayer that is individual

and designed to quiet one before God so as to hear his still small voice speaking to our hearts. The study will center on Rev. Bill Hybel's book and DVD titled, Too Busy Not to Pray. Classes will meet on Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening for four weeks per the schedule found elsewhere in this newsletter.

That covers the study part of prayer, but we are also encouraging ourselves this Lenten Season to also practice prayer appreciating it for the wonderful privilege that it is. To facilitate the practice of individual quiet prayer that is a dialogue with God, the church sanctuary will again be open each Thursday during Lent, beginning March 6th and continuing through April 10th. Morning and evening prayers with a suggested self guide of scriptures and prayers will be provided each Thursday from 7-10am and from 4-6pm. Realizing that we are too busy not to pray, it is my hope that we will take advantage of both the study on prayer as well as the opportunity for prayer to reinforce in our individual spiritual journeys the wonderful privilege of prayer

In Prayer with and for You,

Pastor Harold



Sermons for March 2014

Sunday	10:30 am	
03/02/2014	"Faith is for the Birds" Luke 12:6-7, 22-34	Communion Pastor Harold
03/09/2014	"Called to Renounce Sin" Matt 4:1-11	Pastor Harold
03/16/2014	"Called to Refreshment" John 4:5-42	Pastor Harold
03/23/2014	"Called to Rebirth" John 3:1-17	Pastor Harold
03/30/2014	"Called to Restoration" John 9:1-41	Pastor Harold

Haven	Saturday ~ 6:00 pm	
03/01/2014	"The Logic of Faith" Luke 12:6-7, 22-34	Communion Pastor Harold
03/08/2014	"Help in the Wilderness" Matt 4:1-11	Pastor Harold
03/15/2014	"Spiritual Gatorade" John 4:5-42	Pastor Harold

03/22/2014 "Night School with Jesus" John 3:1-17

Pastor Harold

03/29/30

Guest Speaker

Adult Sunday School

SHOULDN'T A CHURCH SCHOOL CLASS

- ...be enjoyable?
- ...offer an intellectually stimulating opportunity to make sense of the Bible?
- ...strengthen faith for life in today's world?
- ...be welcoming and affirming of diversity?

THE SOUND BYTE CLASS says "yes" to these questions every Sunday. *

Join us as we attempt to be thinking and faithful followers of Christ. **OUR CURRENT STUDY** asks, "Is St. Paul appealing or appalling? Join us at *9:30 am in the parlor.

FELLOWSHIP AFTER CHURCH ~ We offer refreshments in the parlor after church on Sunday morning. This is a time to chat with visitors and friends and we invite you to join us.

For those who provide refreshments there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to choose a Sunday of your choice to prepare snacks: cookies, crackers, whatever you like, plus coffee, tea, sugar and cream, napkins...

Mary Anne, our child-care attendant, is available during worship from 9:30 am to noon for children ages infant to five years.

Lenten Prayer Opportunity

Our surroundings can make a difference in how we feel and this is certainly true of Kingsley's beautiful sanctuary. Wishing to capitalize on this blessing we have, once again the church sanctuary will be open for Individual self-guided prayer on **Thursdays from 7am-10am (morning prayers) and from 4:00pm -6:00pm (evening prayers) beginning March 6th and continuing through April 10th.**

Plan on taking advantage of as many of these times as you can and engage in the quiet dialogue of prayer with God. Light a candle if you wish, pray the prayers provided as well as your own and sit in quiet reflection allowing God's presence and peace to fill your being.

Come often at your convenience stopping briefly or tarrying for a time. Remember we are too busy not to pray!

IF YOU LIKE TO SING, PLEASE COME AND SING WITH US. Choir practice is held at 6:30 pm on Thursday evenings. We welcome new singers.

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE March 5 ~ A combined service of several churches will be held at First United Methodist Church, 7th and Sassafras Streets at 7:30 pm. The combined choirs will meet at 6:30 for a short practice.

THE HAVEN monthly planning meeting meets the 2nd Saturday of the month at 5:00 pm (Mar 8)

OPEN MIC NIGHT is on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 7:30 in the Haven after worship hour. It's your turn to offer a talent, praise and testimony (Mar 8).

CHECK THE BOOKS IN THE CHAPEL AREA FOR SOME GOOD READING. Take out and return books for fun and comedy, enrichment and inspiration, and some for just pure entertainment.

**HELPING OUR NEIGHBORHOOD, THE LIBERTY HOUSE AND THE REFUGE.
ON-GOING EUMA NEEDS:**

An item that always tops our list of needed items is undergarments. The Refuge, Liberty House, Project Hope Outreach and the Rainbow Connection consistently report a need for *new* socks and underwear for men, women and children. These items are distributed *free* to our residents and those in need. We appreciate any assistance. Donations can be dropped off at the EUMA office at 1033 E. 26th St., Erie.

We will be helping our neighborhood schools again this year by collecting hats, gloves, mittens and scarves. Start now, watch for sales! Please put items in the E/G box in the back of the sanctuary. Watch the Sunday bulletin for specific items needed at the Liberty House and the Refuge. But...they can always use these things: paper towels, cleaning products, men's shaving items, boxed tissues, personal products. Thank you for participating in this program.

EMERSON GRIDLEY is also collecting *Box Tops for Education*. Please check your boxed food for small coupons. Clip them and put them in the box marked *Box Tops for Education* which is located in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you.

Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 am. **Set clocks ahead** one hour Saturday evening.

Worship that Rocks Saturday 6:00 pm

Worship with us Saturday night at
The Haven with "Reigning Grace"



Worship that is designed to allow you to experience God's blessing in an informal relaxing atmosphere. Family friendly with refreshments served at a nominal cost. A meaningful message, lots of music and you may sing if you want. Enjoy a coffee and dessert while Reigning Grace leads in praise. Communion offered 1st Saturday.

OPEN MIC night will be held the second Saturday of the month after the worship hour in the Haven. Please join us March 8, 2014 at 7:30 pm. Come out and share your talent or listen to the talents of your friends and neighbors. If you like to play an instrument, read poetry, do a reading or tell a joke (tasteful, of course), just stop in. Refreshments are available at a nominal cost.

Haven planning meeting: Second Saturday of the month, at ~ 5:00 pm. (March 8, 2014)

REMINDER: There is a POP machine in the basement near The Haven. Quench your thirst when you are working in the church, or just pause for a refresher on your way out. **Bring the cans back to the church and we'll see that they are recycled.** Thanks! Please, no plastic containers.

Lenten Study Opportunity

Once again this year we are offering a Lenten Study to aid us in our spiritual journey during this important time of the church year. We will be using Bill Hybel's book To Busy Not to Pray. Since prayer is the lifeblood of our Christian life, we might say that we are all too busy **not** to participate in this study! To make the study more convenient and hopefully involve more people, the study will be offered two different times.

It will be offered **Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am:**

March 18th, March 25th, April 1st, and April 8th.

The study will also be offered **Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm:**

March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, and April 9th.

This study includes a DVD presentation as well as a book and workbook. For those who care to do so a basket for a freewill offering will be available to cover material expenses. Such offering is not required and we want everyone who is interested to participate in the study. To assist us in planning please use the form below to indicate your plans for attending this study. You may also call the office at 459-3205 to indicate your intentions to participate in this study. Please detach and return lower part to church office or call 459-3205

I (we) plan on attending the Lenten study: Tuesdays 10am _____ Wednesdays
7pm _____

Name (s) _____ Phone

Note: If you have to miss a session, please feel free to come to the same one offered at a different time so that you won't miss any.

Many thanks are in order for the gift of \$859.15 for EUMA, and \$34.00 for Liberty House. These gifts continue to help people within our mission programs. Cheryl Davis, Executive Director, EUMA

ORDER FORMS ARE HERE FOR EASTER CANDY, Remember to take orders at your work or from friends for Easter candy. All orders must be in to Lois or Nels by Sunday, March 9. Please see or call Lois or Nels if you have a question or want to place an order.

Also: We have a few bags of pecans left. Let's finish this sale:
Cinnamon pecans \$9.50 Glazed Pecans \$7.50

CrossOver Teens

New Testament Read-a-thon

Feb 17, 2014... to raise funds to go to the SonLife conference called "MUVE" June 23-28, 2014
SonLife is a ministry dedicated to training people to *Become and Make Disciples of Jesus Christ*.

At this weeklong conference they will teach the students:

- Evangelism (Communicating the good news)
- Apologetics (Defending the faith)
- Street witnessing techniques
- Peer ministry

After the training they hit the streets of Chicago in teams and put it into practice. Every Youth Leader I talk to says this is THE BEST event they take their teens to. I've wanted to attend for YEARS.

To make this trip possible we need people to invest in the teens.

**Our goal is to read 100 chapters of
the New Testament on March 10 or 11.**

If you invest:

\$.25 a Chapter that = \$25 for a teen to attend.

\$.50 a Chapter = \$50. \$1 a Chapter = \$100

\$2 a Chapter = \$200

Please prayerfully consider helping make this valuable training possible.

I will invest \$_____ a chapter up to \$_____ in the Discipleship and training of our CrossOver teens.

Name _____

Email address _____

Please make checks payable to: "Kingsley Church." Memo: CrossOver.

You can learn more about this conference by going to wemuve.com

YOUTH NEWS

**CrossOver is the Youth group for: FOUR United Methodist Churches:
(Kingsley, Simpson-Cascade, Henderson and San Juan).**

CrossOver 2014 - Tuesday 6:30-8:30 unless otherwise noted.
yfcrob@gmail.com. Facebook: CrossOver Youth Erie. 7-12th graders

Growth point:

Listen to WCTL 105.9, 106.3. & Family Life Network... 98.7 (12:30 & 1:30pm)

March

At the Haven. 9th and Cranberry.

- 4** Meeting at the Haven
- 10 or 11** Read-a-thon rescheduled. Religious Release time – excused absence from school.
- New Testament Read-a-thon. 10am-5pm. Fund Raiser for MUVE and Growth event
- 18** Meeting at the Haven
- 21 Friday** Winter Jam. Concerts in Pittsburgh. We need drivers.

LeCrae, 10th Avenue North, Newsboys, Colton Dixon, Thousand foot
Krutch

We will pick you up at your schools starting at 1 pm, You need a permission slip from your parents **for the school** **AND** one for YFC/ CrossOver. Bring \$10 cash for the Concerts - you pay at the door, bring \$10 for gas, and \$ for dinner (or bring your own food to eat for dinner). We will not be getting back until very late - like 1:30 am. We will drop you off at your houses.

Dress warmly - we may be waiting outside for an hour!!!

March 25 No Meeting

June 23-28, 2014 MUVE Conference in Chicago

“Could it be that You would really rather die than live without us?”

Michael Card

Be Blessed. Be a Blessing

*“When you feel like you’re drowning in life,
don’t worry, your Lifeguard walks on water.”*

Spring ahead !

Daylight saving time begins Sunday, March 9 at 2:00 am.

Set clocks ahead one hour Saturday evening.

Kingsley United Methodist Church ~ Weekly Schedule ~ March 2014

SUNDAY	ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL	
9:30am	WORSHIP (Communion 1 st Sunday	
10:30am		
MON-FRI	KIDS CAFÉ	3:30-5:30pm
MONDAY	NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (Mar 3).....	7:00pm
TUESDAY	FINANCE & COUNCIL (2 nd Tuesday)	6:00- 7:00pm
	YOUTH ~ CrossOver.....	6:30pm
	W.E.B Women~ (Mar18)	7:00pm
WEDNESDAY	(Home School) Girl Scouts	
2:00pm		
THURSDAY	CHOIR	6:30pm
	WORSHIP Committee (4 th Thursday)	
7:30pm		
SATURDAY	THE HAVEN, Music, Coffee, Fellowship.....	6:00pm
	Haven Planning meeting, 2 nd Saturday.....	5:00pm
	OPEN MIKE NIGHT Haven, 2 nd Saturday	7:30pm

“A coffee-house worship service that rocks!” Child care available

Staff

PASTOR ~ Rev. Harold W. Blair

CHOIR DIRECTOR ~ Lois Sandberg

ORGANIST ~ Joe Kubiak

SECRETARY ~ Carol Mullen

COORDINATOR OF KIDS CAFE ~ Candi Ames

YOUTH COORDINATOR ~ Rob Ames

CHILD CARE ATTENDANT ~ Mary Anne Haeseker

Our vision is: "That all people will be ignited, fueled and sustained by love and faith."