

**LAMPSTAND
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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TO KNOW JESUS AS SAVIOR AND
LORD AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN.

Nonprofit Organization

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Decatur, IL 62521

Permit No. 143



*His master said to him,
'Well done, good and faithful servant.
You have been faithful over a little;
I will set you over much.
Enter into the joy of your master.'*



Sunday Morning Worship

Worship Service 10:45

Also available WVMBR.com

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School

9a via Lampstand Church FB

June 30, 2020



MEETINGS!

For the Month of
July there are no
scheduled meet-
ings.

July 12

Movie and a Picnic

July 28

Youth Concert

The Chimes

PANDEMIC PURGATORY

So how are you out there in PANDEMIC PURGATORY? Purgatory is a theological construct of the Catholic Church where souls go after death who have died in grace must get rid of their sins before attaining heaven. It is a place of "limbo" which also by definition is an abode in the afterlife for souls excluded from full blessedness, but not condemned to punishment. "Limbo is also defined as a state or place of confinement, and a state of oblivion or neglect. So - for a good portion of the world, not just 655 S. Airport Rd., we are living in Pandemic Purgatory and we are in limbo between worlds as we go through transitions and paradigms shifts.

There you go. Some homework to look up a few more terms to be looked up by candlelight in your "house arrest" state of being, and possibly for "boredom therapy." So how about a few memos from pandemic purgatory.

WHEN THE DARKNESS BEGINS TO CLOSE IN AROUND YOU, A FRIEND CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THE CANDLE HE CARRIES.

As I sit here in my personal pandemic purgatory, I am wondering how many of you are sitting in your own personal pandemic purgatory as you read this by "candlelight" in the midst of "life" as we know it.

I have had a lot of time in the past three months to think about things including where I've been and what I've done in the past 48 years. You see, on June 26th (Gail Rennert's Birthday), I will have been an ordained pastor for 48 years. During that time, I have probably written about 900 newsletters (some of which are absolutely genius - of course, I always grade my own papers, just like you do). I also have probably written and delivered about 2000 sermons (once again, some of them God is even proud of, and once again I am still grading my own papers).

I have also done a "ton" of Bible Studies and covered 4 of the 5 books of the Torah - Leviticus being the only one that I slept through. Joshua, Judges, and Ruth as well. I and II Samuel and Kings when I went through the lives of Saul, David, Samuel, and some of the other kings as I looked at Elijah and Elisha. I have covered some of the prophets thoroughly and others have been like meteors across the sky.

In the New Testament I have covered Matthew and John and Revelation. I have also picked up on the "Issues of Life." I have covered most of the letters of Paul in all of these studies since he references most all of what I have taught over the years.

In the midst of all this I also have managed and led two churches – one in Kentucky (23 years) and one in Illinois (22 years - that would be you.) I have been the good guy and the bad guy depending on who you talk to in the circumstance of the time. In reality, I am just the guy.

To some I am a prophet. To others I am an idiot and full of it. You can decide. My life is the sum total of the words I have set down on paper or delivered, and you and others have received either by listening or watching or in the case of newsletters – reading, and their truth to me, and to those who have received them.

There are a few loose ends. The Great Banquet is one of them. After serving on over 350 Banquets, not to mention writing the "darn thing", and starting over 50 movements, and also the Awakening, I don't know where it goes from here as we sit in our pandemic prisons and so the GB is also in purgatory across the country. I think of the 40 or so prison GBs I have done (that's about 6 months of hard time for Jesus' sake in prison), and what it is like to be in prison. Since we have been under "house arrest", I have come to a few conclusions on Jail time.

Time does not move in jail. It does not crawl, it does not slither, it does not budge. There are no watches, or clocks, and no way to tell the passage of time. In prison, time-sense (pandemic prison is much the same) becomes atrophied quickly, and not all prisons have bars. Prison living can leave a person feeling disembodied, and a person can go "stir-crazy" in a short time; and to them it's a long time.

So, when we went into prison, we brought the lighted candle so we could be identified as friend with a "lighted candle".

WHEN THE DARKNESS BEGINS TO CLOSE IN AROUND YOU, A FRIEND CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THE CANDLE HE CARRIES.

So, to all my friends – this is Jack SIGNING OFF. "STILL CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS."

31 Days of Encouragement in July

Every morning at 7a in July one of your Church Leaders or staff will be giving an encouraging word for the day on FB.

Please tune in!

If you are going to be stupid you better be tough!

ATTENDANCE			
	2018	2019	2020
January	226	204	204
February	228	228	216
March	254	225	215
April	302	279	0
May	241	227	159
June	242	231	
July	227	201	
August	286	212	
September	233	234	
October	226	232	
November	252	214	
December	251	260	

Loan Balance as of end of May 2020 \$609,896.81
Capital Fund Contribution Through May 2020 \$36,930.90
Expenses through May 2020 \$44,109.60 \$11,453.11 Interest \$32,656.49 Principal
Capital Fund Checking Account End of May 2020 \$24,173.06 Giving thru May 2020 \$196,222.89 Expenses through May 2020 \$177,500.636

<u>JULY BIRTHDAYS</u>	
Christy Rickman	04
Allena Vest	04
Marsha Creek	05
Noelani Downing	05
Mike Fitzgerald	05
Nancy Hart	05
Joan Nelson	05
Melysa Niebrugge	06
Brian Lockwood	07
Timothy Renfro	08
Braiden Rodgers	09
Craig Cox	11
Drayton Gadberry	11
Emily Morthland	11
Dan Rennert	11
Lucas Walker	11
Issabella Charles	12
Florence Chappell	14
Cameron Nickerson	14
Gale Stenger	14
Dave Haycraft	16
Thomas Renfro	20
Rita Rupert	20
Steve Wood	20
Amy Newsome	21
Hayden Martincic	22
Merle Morgan	24
Matt Kuzel	25
Ben Schultz	26
Tenecia Sigler	26
Bradley Wilson	26
Isaac Morthland	27
Bethany Cisco	28
Judy Perkins	28
Cori Cavanaugh	29
Joey Cavanaugh	29
Danielle Garrett	29
Corey Crafton	31
John Morthland, Sr.	31
Courtney Sollman	31
Katie Sparr	31

July Family Fun

July 12th—Movie and Picnic

July 28th—Youth Concert

Details will be announced soon!

FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry is open and available for our Lampstand Family. Contact Norma Davidson at 855-7469 for more information.

JULY ANNIVERSARIES

Jack & Berta Pitzer	04
John & Becky Sadomytschenko	14
Brian & Jodi Lockwood	16
Kory & Ashlyn Henke	17
Mike & Gina Fitzgerald	22
John & JoElla Morthland	28
Rob & Pam Erwin	29

Remember the Bees! There's always more going on that meets the eye.