

# FRIEND2FRIEND

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC/USA | [www.fpcchicago.org](http://www.fpcchicago.org)

## Congratulations Andrea!

Friendship is joyously proud of our own Andrea Denney, who will be ordained on Sunday, July 2, 2017. Andrea joined Friendship and became our first intern in 2013 as Friendship became a teaching congregation. Her Seminary training was at Chicago Theological Seminary, concurrently with working full time and raising a family. Add her internship at Friendship to all that and you have a true Wonder Woman!

Andrea's energy, insight, and humor had added immeasurably to us as a faith community.

We have been tremendously blessed to have had Andrea as a part of our congregation and wish her and her congregation at Calvary United Protestant



Church in Park Forest every grace as they continue their faith journey together.

## FRIENDSHIP

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Mission: Building relationships that transform lives and glorify God.*

Join us for **Worship:**  
**Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**  
 at the Norwood Park Metra Station, 6088 N. Northwest Hwy., Chicago, IL 60631



## Outdoor Game Night!

On Friday, June 9th, Friendship folks turned out for an evening of fun, food and frolic. The warm weather was perfect for a water balloon free-for-all for those willing to get wet, while others played a stately game of croquet. Chef Han Kim grilled up tasty hotdogs with all the trimmings, and other treats included watermelon, grapes, veggies & dip, ramen salad, chips, and cookies.



Other activities included bean bag toss, hula hoops, jump rope (and Limbo), nerf guns, foam swords, sidewalk chalk,



and conversation — something for everyone. Definitely a winner!

See more pictures on page 4.

## Service Worship

Over the summer, Friendship will be designating one worship service per month to focus on service to our community as a form of worship.

Our first Service Worship will be held on June 25th. Instead

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### First Friday Films @ 7pm @ the train station

Friendship's movie & discussion series — First Friday Films — happens on the first Friday of the month. The theme of the series (and our worship theme for the next year) is journey.

Unless otherwise noted, the audience level will be adult. Once a quarter we will have a family film, appropriate for children and so noted.

June brought us a father & son road trip story that had some poignant as well as humorous elements.

Plan to join us on July 7th for our next movie (and snacks)!

### Friday Night Love Songs

is taking a few months off while we assess and reorganize our programming. Meanwhile, look for news and information on our website:

[fpcchicago.org](http://fpcchicago.org)

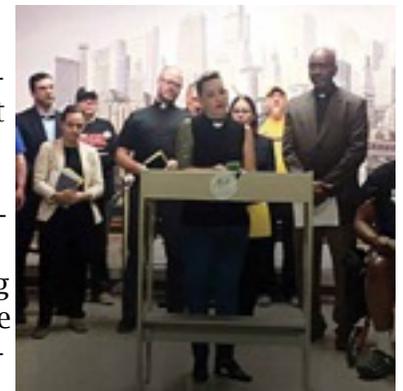
and/or sign up for our weekly enews:

[CLICK HERE](#)

## Lunch & Learn Heightens Awareness & Inspires Action

Friendship's new monthly program, Lunch & Learn, focused on Affordable Housing this Spring and brought to light the critical need in our city and surrounding communities. Along with this need are a large group of underlying and overlapping issues, which were noted in last month's article. As a result of our investigation, we have been able to become active in a number of ways to advocate for affordable housing:

- Pastor Shawna, Teresa Groat, and Emily Sutton have attended meetings of the Neighbors for Affordable Housing in Jefferson Park, and partnered with them in advocating for local affordable housing. We have also made our space available for them to hold their meetings.
- Mark Rinnan has been inspired to write a letter to his Alderman in support of affordable housing. We were encouraged to each write to our Aldermen to advocate, and contact information for each Ward Alderman was provided by our speakers.
- Kathy Stear, Liz Armstrong, Teresa Groat, and Pastor Shawna attended a city Zoning Board meeting to speak in support of zoning in favor of a multi-use development at 5150 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Jefferson Park, to offset the negative, noisy, and unreasonable faction. The good news — after a long afternoon, where all were allowed their say, the zoning board unanimously approved the request by the developer!
- Pastor Shawna, as part of a community group at a Chicago Housing Initiative press conference calling on Rahm Emanuel at the Chicago Mayor's Office to retract his statement that documented racists and bigots opposing the creation of the first affordable and CHA family housing on the northwest side "need to be heard" and are owed a more "collaborative" process.



*Members of Neighbors for Affordable Housing in Jefferson Park and supporters.*

### Service Worship *(cont. from p. 1)*

of a regular service, worship will be built around service to the community through our partnership with The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus. Worship will include the activities of making sandwiches, bagging cookies, and hard-boiling eggs for a meal to be served later that evening with the Health Outreach Bus in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood. We will be commissioned for our work, and have opportunity to reflect on and share our experiences. You are invited to bring White Tube Socks for The Night Ministry as well. We have been notified that there is immediate need for socks, which are handed out by the Health Outreach Bus, by the Street Medicine Team, and at The Crib. We will continue to collect socks throughout the summer, so bring them in anytime.

Future Service Worship may include a brief commissioning, work off-site at various locations followed by gathering back together later to share and celebrate our service experiences. If you have thoughts or ideas for service in the community, please let Pastor Shawna know.



### The Night Ministry Volunteer Update

The Night Ministry is incredibly grateful for the contributions of all of our wonderful volunteers in helping to provide housing, health care, and human connection to the most vulnerable in Chicago. Thank you for all you do!

### Health Outreach Bus Featured on Chicago Tonight

The Night Ministry's Health Outreach Bus was recently featured on WTTW's Chicago Tonight. The program rode along with the Bus to its Back of the Yards stop on a Thursday night in April. You can watch the clip at this link: [Chicago Tonight video](#)



### Health Outreach Bus Uptown Location Change

The Health Outreach Bus will be parking at a new location during its Sunday and Wednesday stops in Uptown. (This is the stop that Friendship serves.) The new location is at Clarendon and Leland, in front of Weiss Memorial Hospital (about 4651 N. Clarendon).

The new location will allow the bus to consistently and safely park in the same location, and will also have an awning we can use in inclement weather.

Join us after worship (11:45 a.m.) the last Sunday of the month to help prepare a meal for The Night Ministry. We make sandwiches and bag cookies, to go with fruit and hard-boiled eggs, that we serve the homeless and hungry in Uptown with the Health Outreach Bus. Donations of peanut butter & jelly, plastic shopping bags and cookies are welcome!

### Night Ministry 2017 Outreach Bus Schedule:

Sunday, June 25  
 Sunday, July 30  
 Sunday, August 27  
 Sunday, September 24  
 Sunday, October 29  
 Sunday, November 26

For more information about **The Night Ministry**, visit: [www.thenightministry.org](http://www.thenightministry.org)

### Meals at The CRIB

In addition to meals with the Health Outreach Bus, we also prepare and serve a small family-style meal to 20-25 young adults, many who identify as LGBTQ at The CRIB, an overnight shelter housed at the Lake View Lutheran Church.

### 2017 Crib Dinner Schedule:

Saturday, June 24  
 Saturday, July 29  
 Saturday, August 26  
 Saturday, September 23  
 Saturday, October 28  
 Saturday, November 25  
 Saturday, December 30

For more information on **The Crib** ministry, talk to Kathy Stear (773-631-6685).

## Without Love

Without love, there would be  
 no need to care,  
 Without love, there would be  
 no dreams to share.  
 Fill your mind with all you see  
 And fill your heart with all  
 that can be.

A sense of caring goes  
 a long way  
 A helping hand can make  
 a good day,  
 Respect for each other is what  
 I'm speaking of,  
 There will be no room for  
 mistrust  
 If your heart's filled with love.

--Paul Madsen, 4/14/17



## God Talk on Tap

God Talk on Tap is taking the summer off, and will be re-summing our monthly discussions in the Fall. Enjoy your summer!

## Outdoor Game Night (cont. from p. 1)



## Pastor's Message

Dear Friends,

This summer our Lunch & Learn focus is on INCLUSION, specifically for the LGBTQ community. We have done a great deal of work around welcome and Friendship but there is always deeper work to do! We will dig into the topics of Sexuality and Gender and how our varying identities can be more deeply understood and celebrated as people of faith.

In July our topic is: Bisexuality! Identities, Representations, & Attraction to More Than One Gender.



Beth Farias is preaching and our conversation partner and facilitator for our Lunch and Learn conversation is Cyra K. Polizzi!

Cyra is a theatre/film-creator, educator, and longtime activist. Called upon to present bi, queer, and feminist

works at conferences, events, and festivals around the world, Cyra strives to incorporate humor, intersectionality, and alternatives to oppressive compulsory actions. Cyra graduated with distinction from UW-Madison in Theatre, Gender Studies, and Environmental Studies. [www.cyrakpolizzi.com](http://www.cyrakpolizzi.com)

In August we will delve into the Transgender experience and how we can cultivate a real sense of inclusion and protected space for those who are Transgender, Gender Fluid and Gender Queer. There is much wisdom and delight to be found in the work of LGBTQ theologians and activists, and here are some thoughts from some of the great thinkers of our time to get your heads and hearts moving:

“The best thing about coming out is, it's totally liberating. You feel like you've made this incredible discovery about yourself and you want to share it and be open and honest and not spend all your time wondering how is this person going to react, or should I be careful around this person, or what will the neighbors say? And it's more. It's about getting past the question of what's wrong with me, to knowing there's nothing wrong, that you were born this way. You're a normal person and a beautiful person and you should be proud of who you are. You deserve to live with dignity and show people your pride.” ~Julie Anne Peters

“Sometimes it takes more than shouting it to show your pride. It takes more than a sign, a fabulous outfit, or a month of parades. Pride has to resonate from within; shine out to

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## The Summons

### Daniel's Prayer

*Then I turned to the Lord God, to seek an answer by prayer and supplication with fasting and sackcloth and ashes.*

—Daniel 9:3

Do you love your family, your community, your country enough to pray for it? I mean really pray for it, as Daniel prayed for Israel? Pleading in prayer and petition, in fasting, sackcloth and ashes?

Like Daniel, we find ourselves at a critical juncture in time. Powers are shifting. Our world is changing. Whatever we may think about the changes from a worldly point of view, it behooves us all to bring it to God in prayer.

Daniel was well grounded in his faith and the history of his people. He would have known of the men of Ischar, a tribe of Israel, who in an earlier time of uncertainty prayed to God and thereby “understood the times” (see I Chronicles 12:32). Like the “men of Ischar”, Daniel also prayed and received insight from the Lord; like the men of Ischar, he “knew what Israel” should do.

Daniel's will was aligned with God's will for not only his own life, but that of his people. Such alignment challenges us. Imagine the kingdom impact we could have for our communities and beyond if we only dared to set aside “our wills and

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**The Summons** (cont. from page 5)

our works” that we might discern God’s will and God’s work. As I ponder the times in which we find ourselves, I know that I don’t want to go “backward” to better days. Nostalgia can do funny things with our memory. Rather, I want to make a kingdom difference. I want to experience personally, for this presbytery, and for our country an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

I know that I can only receive the Holy Spirit if and when my life is shaped by, informed by, challenged by the Holy Spirit through prayer, engagement with the Word, service, and a life lived out in community.

We diminish the power of prayer, saying things like: “Well, if I can’t do anything else than I guess I’ll just pray.” Just pray?! Do we or do we not believe in the presence of the Holy Spirit at work in our lives and our world? Once again, Daniel challenges us to reflect on what it would mean to live in the Spirit. Daniel models for us how a prayer-driven, word-shaped life is a deliberate choice and intentional act of submission. In chapter nine, we are reminded through Daniel’s prayer of the faithfulness of God, the brokenness of our human condition, of the urgency to which we are called to pray. What becomes clear is that Daniel not only knew himself and his people, he knew and trusted in God’s faithfulness... even in the midst of the unknown.

Perhaps, the most challeng-  
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**Pastor’s Message** (cont. from page 5)

everyone around you. It has mean something to you and only you first before you announce it to the world.”  
~Solange Nicole

“Queer theology isn’t about pondering whether or not LGBT people can fit in with Christian communities. Instead, it’s about actively creating a new theology, one in which the Bible is interpreted through the lens of queer, trans\*, and gay/lesbian experience.” ~Brian Murphy

“When I realized my faith didn’t have to be a reaction, I realized that the question for queer Christians isn’t how they can fit in to Christianity, it’s what they have to offer Christianity, and the world?” ~Brian Murphy

“As I’ve developed in my queer and trans\* identity and in my understanding of the Bible, I have grown weary of the [clobber passage] conversations. It’s not that I can’t have them -- in fact, I can recite the answers in my sleep -- it’s that these conversations have become boring and draining. These conversations are distractions: They keep us bogged down in greek definitions and semantics while ignoring all of the beauty that queer and trans\* people have to offer the church!” ~Father Shannon Kearns

“Being human, Jesus must have had sexual feelings. Being divine, Christ lives in every individual of every different shade of sexual orientation and gender identity. LGBT-positive Christian images are needed now because of the ongoing homophobia in the church, but I have come to the conclusion that the queer Christ images are more than a reaction. They are a revelation.”  
~Kittredge Cherry

“I believe Christianity is queer because radical love lies at the heart of both Christianity and the queer experience.

Radical love, I contend, is a love so extreme that it dissolves our existing boundaries, whether they are boundaries that separate us from other people, that separate us from preconceived notions of sexuality and gender identity, or that separate us from God.

Radical love is at the heart of Christianity because we Christians believe in a God who, through the incarnation, life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, has dissolved the boundaries between death and life, time and eternity, and the human and the divine.”  
~Rev. Patrick S. Cheng, Ph.D.

“The only theology worth doing is that which inspires and transforms lives, that which empowers us to participate in creating, liberating, and blessing the world.”  
~Carter Heyward

"The members of The Fellowship of Affirming Ministries and I are speaking to our brothers who would condemn us—not because we are threatened—but because our young people who are same-gender-loving or transgen-  
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**Pastor's Message** (cont. from page 6)

der need to hear our voices, our children and our children's children need to hear that we have made it through the sadness of church rejection and we know that we stand fully clothed in the righteous love of God." ~Bishop Yvette Flunder

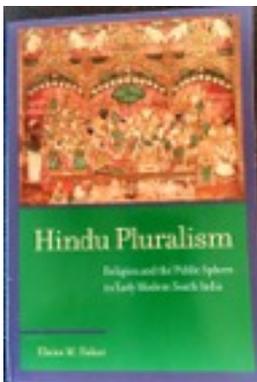
Join us for more conversation over lunch on July 9th and August 6th!  
—*Rev. Shawna*

**Newly Published**

Elaine M. Fisher, Assistant Professor in the Department of Religious Studies at Stanford University, has just published her book: *Hindu Pluralism, Religion and the Public Sphere in Early Modern South India*. In *Hindu Pluralism*, Elaine Fisher complicates the traditional scholarly narrative of the unification of Hinduism. By calling into question the colonial categories implicit in the term "sectarianism," Fisher's work excavates the pluralistic textures of precolonial Hinduism in the centuries prior to British intervention. Drawing on previously unpublished sources in Sanskrit, Tamil, and Telugu, Fisher argues that the performance of plural religious identities in public space in Indian early modernity paved the way for the emergence of a distinctively non-Western form of religious pluralism. This work provides a critical resource for understanding how Hinduism developed in the early modern period, a crucial era that set the tenor for religion's role in public life in India through the present day.



Elaine M. Fisher is the daughter of Rev. Frank Fisher and Joan Fisher. We heartily congratulate her on this career achievement!

**Quotables**

"What we do today, right now, will have an accumulated effect on all our tomorrows."

—*Alexandra Stoddard*

"Psychologists stress the development of the ego. The religious stress the process of losing the ego. Both are correct. A firm sense of one's individual identity as well as a growing sense of one's infinite identity are both essential components to psychological and spiritual health."

—*Patricia Hart Clifford*

"Learning is not attained by chance, it must be sought for with ardor and attended to with diligence."

—*Abigail Adams*

**The Summons** (cont. from page 6)

ing aspect of the passage is that we are told that "as soon as (Daniel) began to pray, an answer was given" (9:23). Yet, Daniel did not receive the answer immediately. God instead allowed Daniel to finish before having Gabriel, his messenger, provide response. Why would God do this?

Is it that the act of praying helps us to clarify the difference between our own personal desires and God's will? Or is it that God desires to be asked and sought before responding? One commentator has said: "One person's prayer brings about the restoration of the people of God, but it is a matter of releasing that restoration which God has already provided."

Perhaps, the practice of prayer involves all three elements: clarifying, seeking, and releasing. Daniel clearly was a man of deep integrity, yet when he prayed, he spoke of his own sins in addition to that of the people. Why would he do this? How might Daniel's prayer inform our own prayer? Daniel in his prayer has been described as being "desperate for God." In our present context, how are you desperate for God? What does it mean to be desperate for God?

**Holy Habit:  
Intercessory Prayer**

Dallas Willard in *The Divine Conspiracy* writes: "Asking is indeed the great law of the spiritual world through which things are accomplished in cooperation with God and yet in harmony with

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**The Summons** (cont. from page 7)

the freedom and worth of every individual." Asking anticipates a response. Asking can also have the power to move us to become part of the solution. Intercession is one of the ways that God invites us into the perichoresis (divine dance, relationship, and movement) of the Trinity. Indeed, God not only wants our prayers but through the Son instructs us to "ask, seek and knock." What we don't always realize is that as we ask, seek and knock, we begin to see through the eyes of Christ and desire the heart of God. Intercession is not easy. Often, it will engage us in a spiritual battle. At times, our trust may waver. But, let us not forget that in such times the Spirit will intercede for us with sighs too deep for words (see Romans 8).

Over the course of this week, use the Lord's Prayer as a vehicle for intercession:

**Prayer & Pondering**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

Spend some time thanking God. Ponder who God is and adore God's majesty.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Turn your intercession to God's purposes in the world. Where are you trying to bring your own kingdom in, rather than God's? Make confession.

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

Pray for your own needs and that of your community. Pray specifically and by name.

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**Pentecost Weekend at Friendship**

This year we enjoyed an extra measure of celebration of Pentecost. On Saturday, June 3rd, Friendship hosted The Many for an interactive evening of liturgy and music as we explored what Pentecost might mean for us in a country ripped apart by hate and fear of differences.

Pastor Shawna described this gathering as "an evening in which we share stories "... about the times God says, 'Hey you're all different and that's the way I like it.'"

The liturgy was augmented by dramatic activity illustrating the efforts of the people who thought having everyone and everything the same was the way God intended, but evolved to the understanding that God relishes diversity and difference, as demonstrated by the original Pentecost occurrence of peoples from many places and cultures and languages gathering together to receive God's Holy Spirit.



as we sang. Lighting candles and standing together in a circle around the room for a final blessing and sending.

Members of The Many include:

Darren Calhoun, Hannah

Rand, Kerry Anne Pritchard, Leslie Michele, Gary Rand, along with friends Kenji Kuramitsu and Lenora Rand. You can follow The Many at: <https://www.facebook.com/pluralguild-band/?fref=mentions>.



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**Pentecost Weekend at Friendship**

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Then on Sunday, June 4th, we gathered for our usual worship celebration, garbed in colors of flame and fire, with tongues of flame over our heads, filled with the fire of the Holy Spirit. Guest preacher, Kenji Kuramitsu, a seminarian and liturgist living in Chicago, delivered an inspiring and invigorating sermon. Follow him on Twitter @afreshmind.

After worship, our monthly Lunch & Learn: LGBTQ Communities & Intersectionality was led by Alicia Crosby, Executive Director/Co-Founder @ Center for Inclusivity. Alicia helped us to understand the spiritual, sys-



temic, and interpersonal harm people experience and think about addressing it in our community. More info at: [centerforinclusivity.org](http://centerforinclusivity.org).

We will continue our education and activity on this subject through the summer. Join us on July 9th and August 6th.

—Emily Sutton

*Celebrating the life of*  
**William R. Noble**

Born October 18, 1922

Passed Away June 7, 2017



Family and friends gathered for a memorial service at Friendship on Sunday, June 11th, for our good friend Bill Noble, to share stories and memories.

Bill's life was one of service — to his country, to his family, and to his church. Bill was a long time member of St. Andrew, one of our legacy churches, serving as an Usher for over 40 years, a role he continued at Friendship. An artist and a gentle soul, Bill's attitude was one of gratitude for all his blessings.



**The Summons** *(cont. from page 8)*

Forgive us our debts as we also forgive our debtors. Confess your grudges, bitterness, oversensitivity. Thank God for the gift of forgiveness. **And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

As you look ahead, notice the tasks ahead. Where might you get off track. Become aware of the ways in which you might be tempted to spin the truth, manage your image, live out of your false self. Pray for the Spirit to work in you to change you. Ask for courage and protection.

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.**

End your time of intercession with prayers of trust in God's goodness and his redemptive plan.

—From the *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*

~ Debbie Rundlett

If you are interested in receiving The Summons weekly via email, sign up [here](#). Or access the archive via the Chicago Presbytery website: [www.chicagopresbytery.org](http://www.chicagopresbytery.org)

**Self-Driven**

*Some people drive a hard bargain*

*Other people drive a sedan,*

*Some look for grounds for legal action*

*Others look for grounds in old coffee cans.*

*But, after all, it's just a lot of baloney.*

*You take spaghetti, I'll take macaroni,*

*No heavy tomes, let's try something that's lighter*

*Just a few short scribbled lines*

*From an old easy writer.*

—Paul Madsen, 4/17/17

## Special Dates in June

Donut Day	06/02
Pentecost	06/04
Running Day	06/07
Trinity Sunday	06/11
Corn on the Cob Day	06/11
Flag Day	06/14
Eat Your Vegetables Day	06/17
Father's Day	06/18
First day of summer	06/20
Music Day	06/21
Social Media Day	06/30



## Money Can't Buy

People who are considered "rich", believe that money can buy just about anything, with the right amount of "green". Consider these things that money can't buy:

- ✦ Manners
- ✦ Morals
- ✦ Respect
- ✦ Character
- ✦ Common Sense
- ✦ Trust
- ✦ Patience
- ✦ Class
- ✦ Integrity
- ✦ Love



## Live It Out

The greatest single cause of atheism in the world today is Christians who acknowledge Jesus with their lips, walk out the door and deny him by their lifestyle. That is what an unbelieving world simply finds unbelievable.

—Brennan Manning, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*

## Question of the Month

### Question: Who is the Holy Spirit?

**Answer:** There are many misconceptions about the identity of the Holy Spirit. Some view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force. Others understand the Holy Spirit as the impersonal power that God makes available to followers of Christ. What does the Bible say about the identity of the Holy Spirit? Simply put, the Bible declares that the Holy Spirit is God. The Bible also tells us that the Holy Spirit is a divine person, a being with a mind, emotions, and a will.

The fact that the Holy Spirit is God is clearly seen in many Scriptures, including Acts 5:3-4. In this verse Peter confronts Ananias as to why he lied to the Holy Spirit and tells him that that he had "not lied to men but to God." It is a clear declaration that lying to the Holy Spirit is lying to God. We can also know that the Holy Spirit is God because He possesses the characteristics of God. For example, His omnipresence is seen in Psalm 139:7-8. "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there." Then in 1 Corinthians 2:10-11, we see the characteristic of omniscience in the Holy Spirit. "But God has revealed it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God."

We can know that the Holy Spirit is indeed a divine person because He possesses a mind, emotions, and a will. The Holy Spirit thinks and knows (1 Corinthians 2:10). The Holy Spirit can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30). The Spirit intercedes for us (Romans 8:26-27). He makes decisions according to His will (1 Corinthians 12:7-11). The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Trinity. As God, the Holy Spirit can truly function as the Comforter and Counselor that Jesus promised He would be (John 14:16, 26, 15:26).

## Ten Commandments for Right Living

1. Thou shalt not worry, for by doing so thou shalt suffer the same disaster many times.
2. Thou shalt not try to dominate or possess others, for each person is responsible to God.
3. Thou shalt not desire after fame, for the burden of greatness are an affliction unto the spirit.
4. Thou shalt not desire after great wealth, for great wealth of itself does not bring peace.
5. Thou shalt relax, for great tension is an abomination unto the flesh.
6. Thou shalt have a sense of humor or thy years will seem much longer and more painful.

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**Ten Commandments for Right Living** (cont. from page 10)

7. Thou shalt love the beautiful and serve the good, for this is according to the will of heaven.
8. Thou shalt harm no other person by word, thought, or deed, regardless of cause; for to do so is to perpetuate the sorrows of this world.
9. Thou shalt not be angry at any person for any reason, for anger injures most the one who is angry.
10. Thou shalt remember that God is Creator and that you are a unique and important part of his created order, unlike any person who has ever lived.

**Spiritual Submarines**

Author Steve Farrar encourages Christian fathers to be spiritual submarines under the surface of their children's lives. "Through your prayers you have the ability to affect situations where you are not physically present," he writes in *Standing Tall*. "You may be undetected, but that does not mean that you are ineffective."

A man who puts on the armor of God and goes to war on his knees for his children is a force to be reckoned with. Farrar adds, "When it comes to battle... understand that you have been given awesomely powerful weapons."

**The Wooden Shoe of Worry**

The word sabotage has a fascinating history. Sabot is the French word for a wooden shoe. Sabotage was the act of throwing a shoe into machinery to stop work. Now it means any attempts to hinder production or spoil a product.

Satan tries to cast a wooden shoe into our souls to prevent us from accomplishing God's plan. That shoe is worry, which can crush the spirit, sour our disposition and interfere with Christian service. That's why Jesus instructs: "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself." (Matthew 6:34, NIV). Jesus isn't promoting laziness or indifference, instead, he encourages us to trust our Father, who provides for all our needs.

Be on guard, and don't let worry sabotage your faith!

**Bible Quiz**

The "Trinitarian formula" occurs only once in the Bible. In which New Testament book do we read "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit," and who said these words?

- A. Romans, Paul
- B. 1 Peter; Simon Peter
- C. The Acts of the Apostles; Luke
- D. Matthew; Jesus



Answer: D (See Matthew 6:1-19)

**The Best Father**

Unlike an earthly prince, God didn't take a high-and-mighty title, notes 17th-century British preacher Thomas Watson. Instead, God calls himself Father to encourage us to pray to him.

But God isn't just any father. Watson offers these reasons why God's "the best Father" can reform his children (Acts 9:11):

- He is the most ancient (Daniel 7:9).
- He is perfect (Matthew 5:48).
- He is the wisest (Romans 16:27).
- He is the most loving (Zephaniah 3:17; 1 John 4:16)
- He has unsearchable riches (Ephesians 3:8).
- He never dies (1 Timothy 6:16; Revelation 1:8).

**Doing Faith**

Faith is better understood as a verb than as a noun, as a process than as a possession. It is on-again-off-again rather than once-and-for-all. Faith is not being sure where you're going but going anyway. A journey without maps.

[As theologian] Paul Tillich said... doubt isn't

the opposite of faith, it is an element of faith.

—Frederick Buechner



## Drop It From Your Life

Drop the word “hate”... have only love.

Drop the past... keep the lessons.

Drop the idea that ‘I need to be perfect’.

Drop being a people-pleaser.  
Drop negative self-talk.

Drop gossip and judgment.  
Drop anger outbursts... revel in peace.

Drop company; photos.

Drop anxious... everything happens for a reason.

## Narrative Lectionary June 2017

June 4: **Pentecost**

Acts 2:1-4

Galatians 4:1-7

June 11: **A Hymn of Praise**

Psalm 100

John 1:14-17

June 18: **A Prayer for Help**

Psalm 13

John 6:35-40

June 25: **A Psalm of Trust**

Psalm 23

John 10:1-4

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## Community Prayers

Our joys include: greetings from Marian Lies, who sends her love, is doing well, and misses all her friends at Friendship; greetings from Laurie Guth, who misses being with us; Kathy’s brother and fiance getting married; Megan & Alex’s daughter’s baptism.

Our prayers continue for Mila, Owen, Luella, Mick, and Phyllis; for Therese Dudek, and Bill Dreyer; for Greta, Faro and Shirley.

We give thanks for: the journeys of all; for a good Mothers Day & great kids; for Mila, Ellie, and Alex’s various theater performances; for running a first 5K with granddaughter; for chosen family and the people we choose as family, when our own family are far away; for Chicago being a sanctuary city, and Sullivan High School in Rogers Park which has a majority of Syrian refugees enrolled, and is one of the top performing CPS schools; for Max Groat’s 25th birthday; for The Crib, Kathy’s coordinating, Maria’s first time, and the huge success of home-made baked goods.

We pray for God’s grace and presence with the people in our community who are frightened, prejudiced, and violent, and offer prayers of peace and scripture that encourages us to work for the good of the city where we live, for if the city prospers, so will we; for those in Egypt and the U.K.; with Mark Rinnan’s mother as she navigates the difficulties and confusion of aging.

Prayers for health and healing for Mrs. Barr as she deals with cancer; for Stephen’s mother, Dorothy, as she recovers from a fall, broken legs, and surgery; for Renee as she continues breast cancer treatment; for Marilyn as she recovers from a fall; Laura after having a lump removed from her leg; for Mickey’s daughters, Carron and Mary; for Paula, who is back in the hospital and facing possible surgery.

Prayers of gratitude for the opportunity to house and enjoy the Young Americans, and wish them safe journeys as they work their way across the country: for Kathy & Lois’ donation of paper products; for veterans and a holiday of remembrance and reconciliation; for the Innocent Project, their work to free those wrongfully incarcerated, and to change the system so it is not so damaging to individuals and communities.

Our prayers go out to all who are made to feel unwelcome or outsiders in God’s world; to all who are unable to be with us in worship; to all those who are embarking on vacations — safe travel and happy & restoring time away; and to those who have experienced and been affected by recent public outrages.

A great joy to host The Many for a special Pentecost worship and concert; Alex’s receiving 4 awards, and getting a role as understudy; to welcome guests and visitors, and voices we haven’t heard before.

