

FRIEND2FRIEND

A PUBLICATION OF FRIENDSHIP PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PC/USA | www.fpcchicago.org

Palm Sunday Reflections

Throughout this Lenten season we have been following Jesus' journey to the cross through the gospel of John, seeking God in the stories of disruption and disorientation while grounding ourselves in the celebration of communion each week.

On Palm Sunday, as we heard of Jesus' disruptive entry into Jerusalem, we also heard stories of disruption and God's new reality from our own folks.

The Parade by Cal Dennison

During our 30 year friendship, Ralph and I would meet regularly just to talk about stuff. Politics, the church, real estate. The conversation always started out in superficial terrain and slowly moved into disputed territories. Nothing like a good argument over a beer to keep life interesting.

He always managed to lure me out of my comfort zone by proposing outlandish things. Stuff, projects, ways of thinking and doing that I had never

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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

April Fool!

We were told to expect some April Fool's surprises, since Easter would fall on April 1st. Imagine our surprise when our pastors showed up in T-Rex costumes to kick-off our Easter worship. There's a message here—something about coming back from the dead...

In spite of dreary weather, our space was warm and welcoming due to the amazing working artistic talent by many members on Saturday.



Decked out in flours and 'stained glass' windows, Friendship was perfect setting for a joyful Easter celebration.

After worship, the kids were sequestered in our "office" room and everyone was invited to help hide Easter eggs inside for the traditional Easter egg hunt. The kids were given baskets to hunt and a great time was had by all!



Racial Justice Study & Action Group

“True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see than an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasy on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr.

This year, on the third Sunday of each month, a group of about 10 Friendship folks meet to dive deep into issues of systemic racism in the United States. In our efforts to join the movement for racial justice as faithful Christians, we strive to form a community of care, accountability, learning, and action.

(cont. on page 4)

The Immigrants

Years ago, they came from
different lands

To build a new country with
willing hands,

Asking nothing but a chance
to be among us,
in a land that's free.

And still they come...

To find a place where they
can belong

Yet keeping their love for
their homelands strong,

Still asking nothing but a
chance to be

In a country that is strong
and free.

—Paul Madsen, 11/4/17

New Deacon Installed

On Easter Sunday David Fisher was installed as Deacon. He completes our board of deacons, filling a one-year vacancy. We are thrilled to have David take on this role at Friendship. He has already started his duties in the area of congregational care.



Prophetic Collage at the NEXT Church National Gathering

At the end of February, I headed to the NEXT Church National Gathering in Baltimore, MD for my first time. According to the website, “The NEXT Church National Gathering is filled with church leaders (pastors and lay people) sharing stories of their experiences of ministry, new ideas they are trying, and honest conversations about ministry today.” The theme for the 2018 gathering was *The Desert in Bloom: Living, Dying, and Rising in the Wilderness*, which was inspired by God’s promises of restoration in Isaiah 35.

I went to facilitate a workshop, called *Collaging the Impossible Future* about how collaborative collage is a way to engage our prophetic imagination. According to theologian Walter Brueggeman:

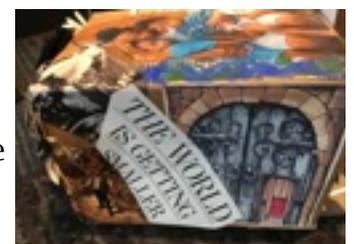
The prophet engages in futuring fantasy. The prophet does not ask if the vision can be implemented, for questions of implementation are of no consequence until the vision can be imagined. The imagination must come before the implementation.

Mixed media collage sparks our imaginations and asks us to create a new world with the materials of the existing world. In collage, we do not create out of nothing but instead, like God in the beginning, we create out of the welter and waste separating the paper from the fabric and the paint from the glue. A new image emerges out of the chaos.

For the workshop, we took Isaiah 35 as our collage inspiration. Each participant started their own collage on a cardboard box. After 15 minutes, I invited

the participants to pass their boxes to the person to the left. Now, they continued collaging on the box already in process. We continued passing the boxes until each person at the table had marked on each one.

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The Parade *(continued from page 1)*

considered. He did it blatantly – in ways designed just to get me to react, and I always fell for the bait. I learned that Ralph liked to agitate. He learned that I could be stubborn and lazy at times. I did not agree with a lot of his ideas but we shared a common belief that positive change meant trying new things....

Somehow during one of these conversations, he talked me into walking in the Chicago Gay Pride Parade with the Welcoming Churches Coalition. I do remember trying to wiggle out of it. First thing I said was "I'm not gay – I'm just another chubby old white straight guy." He said so what.

My second excuse was my chronic back pain. There was no way that I was capable of walking three miles in a parade. Actually it was an arthritic hip that was causing the pain, but for some reason I wouldn't figure that out for another few years. He said no problem – I could ride on the truck.

I was fresh out of excuses. Oh, it wasn't that I didn't support the cause. I did—at some non-specific, not very well thought out level. No, I was just being lazy. He wouldn't have any of it.

So the next Sunday afternoon, I found myself standing on the deck of a flatbed truck holding a sign with the name of a church on it. In the middle of a dense, loud, wildly dressed crowd. It was a spectacle. People were yelling, singing, chanting, dancing. Something to behold. I'm not wild about crowds and was grateful to be high above it all on the truck.

All the crazy behavior around me made me feel detached. My mind began to wander. What was my connection to this scene or to these people? What did we share really? Was I there just because Ralph pressured me into it? No ...Despite my aversion to crowds, I was drawn there to witness and support their energy. They were celebrating life, happy to just be who they were, whatever that was, in the open, without asking permission or forgiveness.

Despite our obvious differences, I could relate to that need to just be accepted as a desire and right that I shared with all of them. We were connected by our common humanity. What more did I need? Even if I couldn't walk three miles or dance that day, I felt a similar need to celebrate in that moment. And I felt a profound sadness because I knew that my journey for acceptance had been much easier than many of those around me.

Ralph had badgered me to put my body in a place where my mind would see with a different lens. I could have tried harder to wiggle out of it by I didn't. As the truck slowly rolled down the parade route, I keep trying to figure out why I had come and what did it mean?. I can be dense sometimes.

(continued on page 5)

Night Ministry 2018 Health Outreach Bus Schedule:

Sunday, April 29

Sunday, May 27

Sunday, June 24

Sunday, July 29

Sunday, August 26

Sunday, September 30

Sunday, October 28

Sunday, November 25

Sunday, December 23

Join us for after Worship the last Sunday of the month to help prepare a meal for The Night Ministry.

For the winter/cold season, we make sandwiches and bag cookies, to go with fruit and hot soup or chili, that we serve the homeless and hungry in Uptown alongside the Health Outreach Bus. Donations of peanut butter & jelly, sandwich size zip-loc bags, plastic shopping bags and cookies are welcome!

If you are interested in serving a meal with the Health Outreach Bus, contact Emily Sutton at 847-373-8419 or sutgrp@gmail.com.

For more information about **The Night Ministry**, visit: 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.

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2018 Crib Dinner Schedule:

Saturday, April 21

Saturday, May 19

Saturday, June 23

Saturday, July 14

Saturday, August 18

Saturday, September 22

Saturday, October 27

Saturday, November 24

Saturday, December 29

If you'd like to help by supplying food, or serving it at **The Crib**, talk to Kathy Stear at: 773-631-6685.

For more information visit: www.thenightministry.org

Racial Justice Study & Action Group (cont. from p. 2)

We started with the book, *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson, which is about the Great Migration. In April and May we will focus on The Poor People's Campaign - both the campaign led by Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 and the current revival led by Rev. William Barber and Rev. Liz Theoharris. Together we will decide how we will get involved with the Poor People's Campaign in Chicago. Find out more at www.poorpeoplescampaign.org

Here are some upcoming opportunities to engage:

April 18: 9:50-10:30 am:

Neighbors for Affordable Housing supports 5150 building @ City Hall

April 21, 12 pm -4 pm: Canvassing with Neighbors for Affordable Housing @ Jefferson Park

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Prophetic Collage (continued from page 2)

Afterwards, we walked around the room to look at all the finished cardboard box collages and together, we reflected on the process and the finished pieces. The boxes were full of color and texture and the participants were full of joy and imagination.

As science fiction writer Ursula K. LeGuin reminds us, "We will not know our own injustice, if we cannot imagine justice. We will not be free if we do not imagine freedom." Through our hearts, hands and gut, the Spirit lead our prophetic visions. We got our hands sticky with glue and covered in paint. The work of the prophet is always messy. In a "futuring fantasy," we imagined freedom and justice. Together, we shared a vision of God's kingdom, an impossible future:

where deserts bloom,

where families aren't separated by borders,

where prisoners are free,

where the first are last and the last are first.

All of this imaginative and prophetic work is the work of the church. We must be bold in our visions. Together in conversation and collaboration with God and with each other, worlds will emerge that are more beautiful and complex than we ever could have imagined alone.

Facilitating this workshop, filled me with hope. There are so many creative, compassionate and courageous leaders in our church. I was reminded how important it is to encourage and nurture imagination everywhere I go. And at the end of the 3 days, I was glad to return to Friendship where creativity and collaboration are valued.

—Rev. Sarah Jordan

Good Friday Collaborative Collage

A few of us at Friendship took the opportunity to have Sarah lead us in this same process as we worked on a piece for our Good Friday Contemplative Service, using as our inspiration Marc Rehula's meditations from the perspective of the three Marys -- Mary, mother of Jesus, Mary, wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

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Good Friday Collaborative Collage (continued from page 4)

Marc's writings were hugely inspiring, as were the results of our labors, all of which made for a beautiful, creative, and meaningful Good Friday worship service.

The process taught us how difficult it is to give up control, how trusting in collaboration with others yields surprising results, and how creative effort brings joy. —Emily Sutton

**The Parade** (continued from page 3)

I was reminded at the moment of an old quote --- how 80% of life is just showing up! Action, however small, limited and lame, is more powerful than committed silence can ever be. How important it is to not just silently believe in something but to put your body and energy behind it. To not just worry about hunger, but to make sandwiches and soup and get them in the hands of a hungry person. To speak up in the presence of bullying rather than just turning your head.

Or to put it as James did --- What good is faith without works? Ralph pushed me in the right direction that day.

Peacemaking by Lora Burge

We came armed with candles, crosses, memorial ribbons, prayers and songs. To fill up the street and tell a different story, to call for a different ending.

We were standing outside a fortress. The U.S. embassy in Tegucigalpa (Honduras) is a towering compound with high walls around it. It is not welcoming. It has long been a staging ground for US-sponsored projects and operations in the region. In very real ways, this building represents earthly empire. And the empire did not disappoint. To our crosses, they brought riot shields. Our memorial ribbons and signs were met with helmets and batons. And our candles, lighting the way both in a dark night as well as a very dark chapter in the Honduran story.

Why did I come? How did I get to be here at a prayer vigil and action outside of my own embassy in Tegucigalpa?

(continued in column to right)

Wake Me When It's Over

This man is on a mission
 Who seems to be constantly fishin'
 For ways to run up a big score,
 Like an uninvited guest
 Who's become a big pest --
 Can somebody show him the door?
 More than one year along
 In this unending song
 You no longer can stand to hear,
 It is not a guess
 This is not the old west
 Waiting for the cavalry to appear;
 Oh, to be in a field of clover --
 Please wake me when it's over!

—Paul Madsen 2/1/18

Peacemaking (cont.)

I came because the empire is doing what it does best: bullying, intimidating, using force and too much of it to hurt those who walk in the ways of justice, peace, and love. I came because I cannot stand by and watch more prophets, priests and children of God be beaten, harassed and killed by a repressive regime backed strongly by my own government.

38 years ago yesterday:
 March 24th, 1980, Monsenor Oscar Romero was assassinated while saying mass in a hospital chapel in San Salvador, El Salvador. The day before he preached a homily calling on Salvadoran soldiers as Christians to stop the repressive violence and violations of human rights.

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Peacemaking *(cont. from page 3)*

The next day he was dead. Being a prophet and an outspoken advocate for justice in this region is deadly. He was not the first nor the last clergy martyred for defending the lives of the flock.

We stood in the street proclaiming very similar things: stop the repression. Stop the impunity. Stop the corruption. Stop violating basic human rights.

One priest did appeal directly to the security forces: stop the repression. Stop participating in the corruption. Stop committing human rights violations. You are fellow Hondurans. You are only being used to further the wishes of a dictator.'

I was simultaneously inspired and embarrassed. These people standing on a chilly dark night are non-violently demanding justice and peacefully showing that there is another way. I am inspired and encouraged. They will not capitulate to the darkness.

And I'm embarrassed. Because all of the things and ideas that this big embassy building represents, the dictatorships and oligarchs that it continues to support in this region, the billions of dollars and arms that it sends to uphold unjust governments.

But we are here and we will be here: Stop the repression. Stop the militarization. Remember what it means to love your neighbor.

An image haunts me from that night. A young girl—maybe 5 or 6 years old—
(continued on p. 7)

Presbytery of Chicago, February 10, 2018

The February 10 Presbytery of Chicago Assembly was at the First Presbyterian Church of Evanston, Illinois. Even with the start time of the meeting being pushed back from 9:30 to 11 AM to accommodate travel after the heavy snowfall on Friday it was a smaller group than usual. The 150-year anniversary of First Evanston was celebrated at the Assembly with the viewing of a video about the church's history.

Early in the meeting the Rev. Susan Krummel was installed as the Executive Presbyter of Chicago Presbytery. In the afternoon, Rev. John Chu from Faith Community Presbyterian Church in Chicago was installed as the Moderator of the Chicago Presbytery. His congregation co-hosted the assembly with the Evanston group, so there were a lot of familiar faces at the meeting.

The Assembly voted to close two churches in the Presbytery. One was Christ Church of North Riverside and the other was the First Presbyterian Church, Des Plaines. First Des Plaines was part of the Northwest Fellowship of Presbyterian Churches with whom we discerned our vision for the future. They chose not to join with us in the merger that formed Friendship Presbyterian. The church will be closing in March 2018. First Des Plaines had a \$5000 investment called the John W. Schaeffle Memorial Fund which passes to the Presbytery upon their closure. It was necessary to vote to receive the fund, which was approved.

The Assembly voted to approve the 2018 budget. Assumptions underlying the 2018 budget are that it must support the Presbytery's vision, mission, priorities, and goals as well as reflect and support the Presbytery's organizational structures and facilities. The budget must be realistic so that the Presbytery lives within its means, and it must be clear and easily understood by the Presbytery Commissioners.

An overture to the General Assembly directing the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation to divest from fossil fuel and to actively invest in securities that focus on renewable energy was approved after some vigorous debate.

At lunch we were supposed to sit at tables with folks from our Commission on Ministry Region 2. That group is mostly made up of NW suburban churches. Instead, we chose to defy the order of the day and go to Region 3 which has a number of churches that we know, of similar size and outlook to Friendship, and in the area of the city to which we are looking to relocate. We engaged with that group around the topic of mission, discussing the differences between mission, evangelism, and service.

It was reported that Nanette Sawyer was called to the Associate Pastor position of Discipleship and Small Group Ministry at 4th. The Parish Associate relationship with

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Presbytery of Chicago *(continued from page 6)*

Friendship and Frank Fisher has been approved. The Presbytery Coordinating Commission has approved the formation of an Administrative Team that will combine the work of Business Affairs, Staff Personnel, and Stewardship and Financial Development. Rev. Andrea Denney was among those elected by PCC to serve on this new team. Stated Clerk Barbara Bundick will retire at the end of September and a stated clerk nominating committee was formed.

An office relocation team has been established to determine if the Presbytery should renew or relocate when the current lease expires in April 2019. There was a report from the litigation task force on the status of the Presbytery's lawsuit, which is going to settle. The Safe Boundaries Policy was received for first reading. Revisions have been made to shorten the policy by removing redundant examples.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen Stear, Presbytery Commissioner

A Conversation with Ralph Intagliata

Jim Lifton: Some folks in the Friendship community don't know you very well, and I was hoping you'd share a little about yourself.

Ralph Intagliata: Sure, I'd be glad to. Ask away.

Jim: How have you been involved in the church, and in the community and beyond?

Ralph: I've been an elder, was on the task force that created Friendship, served on a committee for Presbytery, and was a Commissioner to the denomination's General Assembly in 2016. I've been involved with the hunger walk and Appalachia Service Project. I do some mentoring and volunteer with the Crisis Hotline. I belong to the United States Tennis Association.

Jim: How would you describe your gifts?

Ralph: I consider myself an idea-generator and a problem-solver. I think I'm hard-working and I try to be friendly. I'll leave it to others to judge whether or not I've succeeded.

Jim: Well, I can vouch for you all the way around.

Ralph: Thanks.

Jim: What do you love to do?

Ralph: Play tennis - I'm a pretty good at it -- and travel. Work with people to help others, try new things, and come up with creative ways to solve problems.

Jim: And what gives you energy?

Ralph: Working toward a goal that I think is important and, of course, achieving the goal. Seeing people act out of love energizes me as well.

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Peacemaking *(cont. from page 6)*

sat atop a concrete garden bed that separates the front walk of the embassy from the street. She was calmly taking in the scene. Only a few feet behind her, rows and rows of men in fatigues and riot gear. I wonder how much she understands. I wonder what she thinks of the men with guns. And what do they think of her.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Poor People's Campaign by
Emily Sutton

It started with an invitation - 3 years in a row. Shawna invited me to participate in the Wild Goose Festival, which is held in North Carolina each summer. It was a 'come and see' invitation. I was curious and decided I had to check it out, it was the type of experience that appeals to me - camping, learning opportunities, music and art. I invited Liz to go with me, so I'd have a buddy on this adventure.

The Wild Goose Festival is an art, music, and story-driven transformational experience grounded in faith-inspired social justice. We were newbies, and volunteers - it was an amazing 5 days with folks from all over who were diverse, accepting, inspired, caring and seeking spiritual experience together.

The third day we were having breakfast and heard others talking excitedly about William Barber, who was scheduled to speak that morning. I didn't know who he was, but felt a pull - I

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Poor People's Campaign (cont. from p. 7)

wanted to see and hear this man. So much so that when volunteers were asked for to wash up after breakfast, something I would naturally jump into action on, I did not respond. Liz did. I felt a bit guilty at the time, but now it puts me in mind of Martha & Mary.

So I was able to stand with the crowd gathered to hear Rev. Dr. William Barber speak. He was eloquent and mesmerizing. He spoke truth, spoke to the concerns and reality of our nation's political and economic situation and commonality of experience amongst the greater percentage of the population who are suffering from inequality, institutional racism and economic injustice.

It was so inspiring and impassioned. Rev. Barber assured us that God had always and will always raise up leaders for humanity from our ranks -- from Abraham through to Christ, to disciples and Christian leaders since -- and he named each in succession, to a crowd that was cheering louder with each name.

That was my first experience. I had not heard the words 'Poor People's Campaign'. Not until October 12th, when I attended a gathering of mostly faith leaders from all over Chicago & suburbs at the Stone Temple Missionary Baptist Church on the west side. Rev. Dr. William Barber and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharris were featured speakers.

They were issuing an invi-
(continued in column to right)

A Conversation with Ralph Intagliata (continued from page 7)

Jim: Are there any skills you'd like to develop?

Ralph: I enjoy music, and would like to learn to play an instrument; maybe become a better singer. Also, I'd like to try my hand at preaching.

Jim: What are your aspirations for Friendship Presbyterian Church?

Ralph: I hope there will be additional mergers and we'll end up with a multi-cultural congregation. Finally, I hope we're a meaningful part of a theological shift in Christianity.

Jim: I understand growth and diversity, but what do you mean by "theological shift"?

Ralph: For me, it's how we think about and respond to God, though it might be different for you. Give it some thought and we'll talk about it down the line.

Jim: Thanks. I'm looking forward to it.

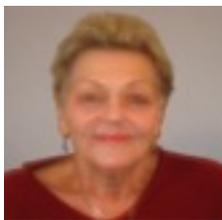
—Adapted from Ralph's responses to the FPC Risk Taking Mission Survey, May 2009

Poor People's Campaign (cont. from left column)

tation to all of us to join the Poor People's Campaign: a national call for moral revival. Chicago was one stop of a nationwide tour, to spread the word and engage Americans who have been divided to stand together against the "triplets of evil" -- militarism, racism, and economic injustice -- to insist that people need not die from poverty in the richest nation to ever exist.

There is action planned across the country this summer -- a season of peaceful protest and civil disobedience -- demonstrating the power of people coming together across issues and geography and putting our bodies on the line to the issues that are affecting us all.

Welcome to the Poor People's Campaign!



Marion Louise
(Mickey)
Leavy

Born August 3, 1938 passed away February 25, 2018

Mickey was co-founder of OIPA (Old Irving Park Assn), IPHS, and a member of the IPGC (Irving Park Garden Club). She loved animals, gardening, nature, and was an avid reader.

In Memoriam



Rita Marie
Schaerli

Born August 18, 1927 passed away March 6, 2018

A career teacher in Chicago Public Schools, Rita volunteered with multiple organizations and ministries. She loved the peace and beauty of the North woods, read widely and was a life time scholar.

Question of the Month

Question: *How should a Christian view gun control?*

Answer: The recent shootings across the United States have caused much heartache. The senseless and tragic incidents have also renewed the intensity of discussion regarding American gun laws. Politicians, sportsmen, and theologians have all weighed in on the issue of gun control. Guns are readily available in the U.S., and ownership is protected by the Constitution. How should a Christian view gun control? What does the Bible have to say that would apply to gun control?



The Bible was written long before the invention of any type of gun, so the phrase “gun control” will not be found in Scripture. However, the Bible records many accounts of wars, battles, and the use of weapons. Warfare is presented as an inevitable part of living in a fallen world (*Mark 13:7; James 4:1*), and weaponry is a necessary part of warfare. Weapons in the Bible were also used for personal protection. In some parts of Israel, robbers were common (see *Luke 10:30*), and many people carried weapons when they traveled. Carrying a weapon for self-defense is never condemned in the Bible. In fact, it was mentioned in a positive light by Jesus Himself on one occasion (*Luke 22:35-38*).

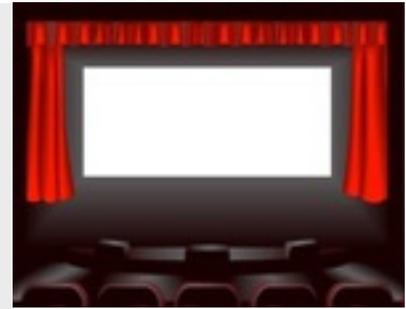


Christians are called to submit to governing authorities, and they are to obey the laws of the land (*Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17*). This would have to apply to gun laws too. If American gun laws change, American Christians should submit to these changes and work through democratic means toward any desired alternatives. The Bible does not forbid the possession of weapons, and neither does it command such possession. Laws may come and go, but the goal of the believer in Jesus Christ remains the same: to glorify the Lord (*1 Corinthians 10:31*).

Another biblical principle to consider is that “all who draw the sword will die by the sword” (*Matthew 26:52*). Jesus said this to Peter when Peter tried to mount an imprudent “defense” of Jesus against the mob that had come to arrest Him. Peter’s actions were not only futile against such a “large crowd armed with swords and clubs” (*verse 47*), but his rash behavior also belied Jesus’ submissive attitude (*verse 50*) and worked against the fulfillment of Scripture (*verse 54*). There is “a time for war and a time for peace” (*Ecclesiastes 3:8*), and Peter confused the two.

Christianity supports personal freedom. Romans 14:1-4 indicates that, when Scripture does not clearly address a particular issue, there is freedom for individual choice. America has historically embraced the concept of personal freedom that resonates with this principle, and the founding documents

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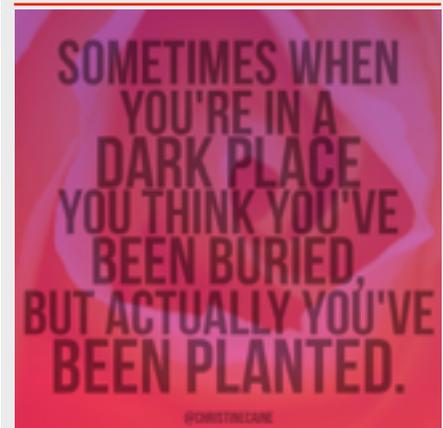


**First Friday Films
@ 7pm
@ the train station**

Friendship’s movie & discussion series happens on the first Friday of the month.

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

Plan to join us on May 4 and June 1 for our next movies.



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Special Dates Coming Up

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Easter/April Fool's Day | 04/01 |
| World Health Day | 04/07 |
| Int'l Plant Appreciation | 04/13 |
| Titanic Remembrance | 04/15 |
| Tax Day | 04/17 |
| Volunteer Recognition | 04/20 |
| Earth Day | 04/22 |
| Administrative Professionals Day | 04/25 |
| Arbor Day | 04/27 |
| National Honesty Day | 04/30 |
| Nat'l Humor Month (April) | |
| Keep America Beautiful Month (April) | |
| National Poetry Month (April) | |

Racial Justice Study & Action Group *(cont. from p. 4)*

April 24, 7 pm: Poor People's Campaign Call with SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice) @ online

Running until **April 29:** The Hangman @ the Gift Theater

May 10, 7-9 pm: Neighbors for Affordable Housing meeting @ the train station

May 20: Racial Justice Study & Action Group

Email Rev. Sarah Jordan at resident.fpcchicago@gmail.com with any questions or opportunities for engagement.

What can you do with your old or torn fur coat?

Marilyn Sherman is collecting old fur jackets and stoles for a group that makes coats for dogs. This is the only material that will keep them warm in winter.

Question of the Month *(continued from page 9)*

guarantee wide freedoms regarding firearms.

Some point to Matthew 5:9, in which Jesus pronounces a blessing on the peacemakers, and apply it to the issue of gun control. The idea is that guns are antithetical to peace. This may be more of a philosophical or political idea than a theological one, however. There is nothing theologically, or even logically, that links guns to a lack of peace; sometimes, guns help *maintain* civil peace.

Debates over whether to control guns or how much to control them depend largely on political and philosophical arguments, not moral ones. This is not to say that there is no moral component to the issue. Obviously, the gun itself is amoral, an object that can be used for good or for evil. More important is the morality of the person wielding the gun, and that is too often the missing consideration in the gun control argument. The fact that some sinners use guns to commit sin does not mean guns are the problem. Sin is the problem, and that's a moral and spiritual issue. Since the very beginning of humanity, people have been killing other people, with and without weapons (*see Genesis 4*). Taking a certain weapon out of circulation might make murder more difficult but by no means impossible.

As far as the Bible is concerned, the use of guns is a matter of personal conviction. There is nothing spiritual about owning a gun or knowing how to use one. There is nothing wrong with protecting oneself or loved ones, even if it involves the use of weapons. We need not pretend there is never a need for guns, but pointing a gun at a person should always be a last resort. We should seek to neutralize threats without violence whenever possible.

So, how should a Christian view gun control? With the authority God has entrusted to it, the government has the right to allow or disallow gun ownership to whatever degree it deems right. We, as citizens, are called to submit to whatever gun control laws the government institutes. This is not, however a statement on the wisdom of gun control. There are good reasons to allow law-abiding citizens to own guns. Ultimately, guns are not the problem. Sinful people are the problem.

—Got Questions Ministries

Learn How to Pray

1. Jesus withdrew to pray. (*Luke 5:16*)
2. Jesus fell on his face and prayed. (*Matthew 26:39*)
3. Jesus prayed for God's will. (*Matthew 26:42*)
4. Jesus got up early to pray. (*Mark 1:35*)
5. Jesus prayed to His Father. (*Matthew 6:9*)
6. Jesus asked for protection. (*Matthew 6:13*)

(continued on p. 11)

Ten Ways to a Better Life

People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered.

Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies.

Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable.

Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest men and women with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest men and women with the smallest minds.

Think big anyway.

People favor underdogs but follow only top dogs.

Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight.

Build anyway.

People really need help but may attack you if you do help them.

Help people anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth.

Give the world the best you have anyway.

Learn How to Pray (continued from page 10)

7. Jesus praised God in the storm. (*Matthew 11:25-26*)
8. Jesus prayed for faith. (*Luke 22:32*)
9. Jesus prayed for us. (*John 17:9*)
10. Jesus forgave. (*Luke 23:34*)



Each New Day

What if yesterday had it's sorrows,
 What if your day was diffused by grief,
 What if it rained when you wanted sunshine,
 What if you labored without relief.

It doesn't matter what did befall you,
 It doesn't matter what might have been,
 For God puts our yesterdays all behind us
 And every day lets us start over again.

— Ruth Scarbrough

Quotables

**On this road called life,
 you have to take
 the good with the bad,
 smile with the sad,
 love what you got,
 and remember
 what you had.
 Always forgive,
 but never forget, learn
 from your mistakes
 but never forget.
 People change.
 Things go wrong.
 But just remember,
 the ride goes on.**

The best portion of your life will be the small, nameless moments you spend smiling with someone who matters to you.

“From the end spring new beginnings.” —*Pliny the Elder*



Bible Quiz

In John 10, what metaphor does Jesus use to describe himself?

- A. "I am the gate ..."
- B. "I am the good shepherd ..."
- C. Both A and B
- D. Neither A nor B



Answer: C (See John 10:9, 11.)

Narrative Lectionary April/May 2018

- Apr. 1: *Easter*
Resurrection
John 20:1-18
Psalm 118:21-29
- Apr. 8: **Thomas**
John 20:19-31
Psalm 145:13-21
- Apr. 15: **Paul's Conversion**
Acts 9:1-19a
Matthew 6:24
- Apr. 22: **Paul and Silas**
Acts 16:16-34
Luke 6:18-19, 22-23
- Apr. 29: **Paul's Sermon at Athens**
Acts 17:16-31
John 1:16-18
- May 6: **Partnership in the Gospel**
Philippians 1:1-18a
Luke 9:46-48
- May 13: **The Christ Hymn**
Philippians 2:1-13
Luke 6:43-45
- May 20: *Pentecost*
Rejoice in the Lord
Philippians 2:1-13
John 14:16-17
- May 27: **Ten Commandments**
Exodus 19:1-6;
20:1-2
Matthew 22:34-40)



Community Prayers

We offer prayers of comfort for the families and friends of Mickey Leavy, Rita Schaerli and Ethel Kucera on their recent passing; for Vi, who lost her significant other; for Cassandra on the loss of her mom; and for Matt on the loss of his grandmother; prayer of comfort for Deanne's aunt & family on the loss of her uncle.



Prayers of celebration and blessing for newlyweds Conor & Casey; for Bobbi & Debbie attendance at the Lyric Opera; for the student March and for young people standing up.

Prayers for healing and strength for Lynn, suffering from serious health issues; for Liz's unit at work, struggling with anxiety and fear under pressures from above; Dawn and Bobbi's cousin, both dealing with lung cancer; for Teresa's father-in-law, Ray; for Chris Cahill, recovering from surgery; for Bobbi having cataract surgery.

Our joys include: Jim's visit with Faro; Shirley's presence with us at Bible Study; Jim's older son's engagement; Mila and her High School Basketball Team who are State Silver Champs in the Special Olympics and for both Mila & David's participation in the Special Olympics; Ellie & Alex heading to Broadway; Deanne getting a hi-five from Ellie along with "You're really a good person!"; Beth's meeting with the Committee for Preparedness for Ministry; having Mark & Mary with us; Becca's receiving 3 job offers, and accepting the one she really wanted;

We offer prayers of hope for peace in North Korea; hope for finding joy for Therese, Mark & Mary Cramer's granddaughter, in her relocation back to Illinois.

We pray for wisdom as we go to the polls.

Our prayers are with Maria in her disappointment at having surgery delayed again; and with those struggling with depression and mental illness; for Jordan's cousin's 4 year old daughter, diagnosed with type 1 diabetes; with Barb, who received a cancer diagnosis; and with Cathy & Roseanna, who have bills in probate.

Continued prayers for Mila, Owen, Mick, Luellen, Phyllis and Mark Cramer, hoping for answers regarding his eyes.

We ask God's presence with those wounded in Syria by gas attacks, and those wounded in our own city; for clarity for Megan's colleague who received suspicious test results; with friends and families of the 15 members of the Broncos Jr. Hockey Team who died in a bus/truck collision; with families of 150 folks taken in Tennessee in an ICE raid and elsewhere.

Thanksgiving for Shawna's parents' 45th wedding anniversary; safe travel for Bobbi's cousins, coming from Texas to Michigan.