

February 18 & 25, 2018

MARK'S MESSAGE

Walking with God

It's disheartening to discover that walking with God isn't a walk in the park. Every now and then we find ourselves hanging on for dear life at the edge of an abyss.

That was the experience of the Old Testament prophet Habakkuk. He is famous for having a name that's hard to spell and hard to pronounce – and for writing poignantly about the hardest moment in his life. Israel was about to be invaded. Habakkuk's world was caving in. Everything safe and predictable was vanishing.

Where was God in the middle of this disaster? What Habakkuk came to understand is that God was, quite literally, in the middle of that disaster. God was working out the next chapter of Israel's history, and working out the details of Habakkuk's personal history as well.

Several species of mammals are renowned for their aerobatics. The red deer that is common to the Middle East has astonishing sure-footedness, especially along ridge-lines that would terrify most people. The goats pictured here seem to have watched *Spiderman* a few too many times. Do they fall from time to time? Yes, they do. But they are stunningly resilient and quickly resume their climbing.

Habakkuk came to trust that God was able and willing to give him a vital gift: the ability to journey to life-threatening, peace-shattering places, yet to come back alive and tell the story.

You may be going through a disaster. Be assured that God is there with you in the midst of that storm. During this Lenten season, be reminded that we weren't made for walks in the park. Our call as Christians is to go up on the heights, at times to fall, yet resume the climb with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. And to know that wherever we are being sent, God is always walking before us.



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CALENDAR

In Christ,

The FPC Care Portal had one of its more interesting cases two weeks ago. The need came out for infant car seats for a one-year-old boy and his three-year-old sister who had been removed from their home and were placed in a foster situation. One used seat had been offered by another church and we were going to buy the second one. After delivery of the old one, it was determined that it was to "expire" in two weeks, so we bought two matching seats instead. We took them to a young couple in a nice home in the northern part of town and they were most grateful for our gift. The two little kids were darling and personable and also very excited about their new seats.

When the wife asked me what church we were with and I replied that it was FPC, she said, "Oh, I teach at Lincoln so we know all about your church. We appreciate everything you have done for our school and our teachers!"

The story continues. The St. Francis caseworker had just pulled up shortly before we got there. She was delivering a two-week-old preemie who had just been released from the hospital after he reached the weight of 4 pounds. I have never seen such a tiny, beautiful baby. This young couple had said without hesitation that they would take on this third child on an emergency basis.

This is an example of the best work of the Care Portal concept: an efficient partnership between a church which is willing to reach out, a caseworker who is dedicated and caring, a couple who gives of themselves in an extraordinary way, and innocent young children who are in desperate need of another chance. But it couldn't come together without the guidance of a Loving God. FPC lives the motto of Care Portal: "Every Church Doing a Little."

LENTEN LUNCHES



First Presbyterian Church 2018 Lenten Lunch Series

Wednesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

"To the Least of These"

"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

- February 21** Salthawk Community Support: Nikkee Byard
Serving the needs of Hutchinson H S students
- February 28** Sexual Assault / Domestic Violence Center: Donna Davis
Serving those in very difficult situations
- March 7** Care Portal (Reno County): Jocelyn Busick
Serving the needs of Foster Care Families
- March 14** Hutchinson Community Resource Officers:
Stephen Shaffer, Darrel Tossie, Anna Ruzhanovska
Serving the neighborhoods and families in Hutchinson
- March 21** Hutchinson Salvation Army: Capt. Matt & Marisa McCluer
Serving the needy in Hutchinson

Call or email your reservations by 12:00 noon the previous Monday to 665-5549, ext. 101, or rita@fpchutch.org. You also can mark "LL" on your connection card on Sunday.





Did you know that it's our duty as a Christian and disciple of Jesus to help build the Kingdom of God? It may sound like a huge task, but it's easier than you think. You can help build the Kingdom by starting to put these key principles in your home, personal life, workplace/school, community, and church into action.

1. Building the Kingdom of God at Home

First, we need to build the kingdom at home. We need to become kingdom minded to do this and it happens by renewing of our mind. *"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is good and acceptable and the perfect will of God."* – Romans 12:2. You and I have to be the godly, kingdom-minded example within our homes because wherever you lead, your family will follow.

2. Building the Kingdom of God in Your Personal Life

Second, we should build the kingdom in our own personal life by being an example to our friends. This won't always be easy, life is hard, we have our ups and downs but the way we live our lives has a huge influence on our friends, even if we don't think it does.

3. Building the Kingdom of God at Work/School

Third, you are a light for Christ at work or school and your actions need to reflect that. That doesn't mean that you have to speak about Christianity or religion or force the Bible on people. However, your co-workers, supervisors, fellow students, teacher and coaches should be able to see Christ in you! You should be a shining example of Christ at work and stand out from the rest of the crowd. It's not what you say; it's what you do. It's not who you are, it's Christ within you.

4. Building the Kingdom of God in Your Community

Fourth, we can build the kingdom in our community. We can do so by meeting a need in the community either directly or indirectly. No matter which way you choose to meet a community need, do something to improve your environment. It's a great way to be a light wherever you are.

5. Building the Kingdom of God at Church

Fifth, you should build the kingdom at your church. We can all do that by sharing your talents with the church. We all need to take a higher position than just being a non-serving member of our church. God has called us all to serve His holy Kingdom in some way. This isn't a spectator sport — it's a get-on-the-field-of-play deal!

So my friends, we all have to do our part in building the holy kingdom. There are many areas where this can be done. You can make a difference in someone else's life. We are called to be disciples of Jesus, which means that we need to bring others to Him. A wise pastor once said, "When you get to heaven, who can you say you helped get there?"

CHURCH SOCIAL



Grab a buddy and your bowling shoes for a fun time at The Alley on Thursday, March 15, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. The cost for bowling is \$10 which includes your shoe rental. There will be pizza and pop (goodwill offering) so come join the fun whether you bowl or not! Please contact Rita (rita@fpchurch.org or 620-665-5549, ext. 101) by Friday, March 9, with your reservation. Please let her know if you are bowling or coming for pizza & fellowship so we can have enough lanes and pizza. — The Social Committee

PARISH PERSONALS

- Deepest sympathy is expressed to the family and loved ones of Doris Poltera, who died February 4.
- Thank you for your generous contribution to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Hutchinson. Every dollar invested in a Boys & Girls Club returns \$9.60 in economic benefits to the community. Your gift will make a difference to over 1,000 youth at our Club and your gift will benefit our community. We appreciate your commitment to giving youth hope and opportunity. We thank you for your support. Sincerely, Skip Wilson, Chief Professional Officer
- Dear FPC,
I want to take the time to thank you all once again for awarding me this scholarship money. It is so very appreciated each semester here at KU. The money you have generously given to me goes to great use with my tuition and books. This church has been such a support system for me and my fellow graduates and I am so proud and grateful to come from a place as caring as FPC. Thank you once again. Sincerely, Madelyn Fee
- Thank you so much for the prayers, the cards, the visits, the texts and emails, plus the gorgeous flowers brought to me from the Deacons. Carol and I had a great visit. I'm so glad to be home. Thank you.
— Margaret Kennedy

BLESSING BOX

With the changing weather and colder temperatures, we will be using our Blessing Box for warm winter supplies for those in need in our community! We are collecting warm hats, scarves, gloves, and warm socks for children, youth and adults. New or clean and gently used items will be accepted, and we ask that they are bagged in zip-loc bags and labeled by size if possible. Donations can be dropped off in the church office during the week, or in the designated tubs around the church on Sunday mornings.



Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities — 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Come and join us for *"The Wired Word"* in the Cornerstone Room
"The Psalms — Glorifying the Lord", Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller, Large Conference Room

"The Parables of Jesus"

We will continue our new study with Chapters 3-4 of Max Lucado's book, "Anxious For Nothing" at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, February 20, at Jay and Michele Lane's house. After that, the next meeting will be at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 6, at Chery Lackey's house. All are welcome.



A New Adult Inductive Bible Study on

The Acts of the Apostles

"Witnesses of the Faith"

begins soon ~ Sunday mornings ~ 9:30-10:15 a.m.

Large Conference Room

Acts records the history of the early church following Jesus' resurrection to about AD 100. The New Testament book of the Acts of the Apostles includes Spirit-filled disciples at Pentecost to Paul teaching in a Roman prison. Participants will study violent mob scenes, stonings, shipwrecks, prison escapes and earthquakes. They will witness healings, visions, trials and sermons in the most unlikely places. A new lifestyle emerges. Ordinary people did extraordinary things as they responded to the risen Lord.

A study guide compiled by Pastor Mark Miller guiding this adult course will be available soon.

KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

- Kyle Keast
- Margaret Kennedy
- The family of Doris Poltera, on her death

For all FPC shut-ins

For Trinity Presbyterian Church, Wichita (2/18/18)

For First Presbyterian Church, Harper (2/25/18)

PRAYER
changes things

BIRTHDAYS

18	Kelly Lackey	27	David Ward
18	Erin Prater	28	Payton DeMeyer
18	Sue Redd	1	Rodney Elliott
18	Kevin Schuessler	1	Madelyn Fee
21	Phyllis Bell	1	Will Jackson
21	Dianne Coons	1	Janey Munds
22	Jim Martens	1	Phil Schmitt
22	Autumn Westfall	2	Rex Byer
23	Max McQueen	2	Ann Sellers
23	Merle Starr	2	Anne Sellers
24	Lauren Denison	2	Dee Ann Showalter
25	Angie Ontjes	3	Shirley Woods
26	Bill Small		



Our trip to Planet Wisdom in Kansas City last weekend was amazing. We heard great speakers, awesome worship led by Local Sound from Nashville, fun and laughter with The Skit Guys and God's Holy Spirit moving and challenging us throughout this event.

I thought it would be cool to read some thoughts from our young people about the weekend.

"I had a lot of fun this weekend. Just being able to escape the world and go to a place full of the Holy Spirit and Godly people was inspiring."

"Planet Wisdom was amazing. I learned over the weekend that I am loved and value in my youth group and church. I learned that we are all gifted by God in some way. It was so good to be able to be open and honest and listen to real truth being spoken over my life by my friends and leaders."

"There is no better feeling than having a weekend away from all the daily distractions back home and just to be able to focus completely on our amazing God. This weekend allowed for more than just my relationship with God to grow but also my relationships with the whole group. One of the most powerful times was when we shared together as a group about a lie about ourselves that had been spoken to us and then when our group spoke truth into our lives there was a real peace for us all. Tears flowed as healing and restoration took place around our table!"

"This weekend I realized that church is much more than a social gathering; we are family. We have each other's backs when we are down and we are there to pick each other up and help each other grow closer to God, each and every day."

These times away are so helpful and life-changing for our young people. I just wish more could or would take advantage of them. It is such a blessing to see our young people grow in their faith and rely more and more on God as they open up their hearts to Him.

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, February 26**, for the issue covering March 4–17.

Chancel Flower Calendar

February 25, March 18, April 15, 22, May 6 and 13 are open on the Chancel Flower Calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Janice in the church office: janice@fpchurch.org or 665-5549, ext. 106 (afternoons), by the preceding Monday.

CALENDAR — FEBRUARY 18 – MARCH 4

Sunday, February 18, 2018—1st Sunday in Lent

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Amanda Jackson, 474-2286

Preacher Mark Miller (8:15 & 10:30): Phil. 1:1-2; 4:6-7,23

Preacher Keith Neill (9:00): John 4:25-29

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
8:45-10:15	ReFresh Café open	Refresh Café
9:00 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Chancel Choir	Chapel
9:30 am	Adult Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
2:30 pm	American Guild of Organists	Sanctuary
5:00 pm	Ulster Project meeting	The Basement

Monday, February 19

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:30 am	PSK Coordinating Team	Lg Conf Room
4:00 pm	Hutch Rec. karate class	Calvin Hall
6:30 pm	Session meeting	Large Conference Rm
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 301	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 20

9:00 am	Koinonia Women	Large Conference Rm
1:30 pm	Bible study	Lane's house
4:00 pm	Hutch Rec. karate class	Calvin Hall
6:30 pm	Basketball	Calvin Hall

Wednesday, February 21

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Conference Room
12:00 pm	Lenten lunch	Fellowship Hall
3:30 pm	LOGOS	
5:30 pm	FPC Bells	Choir Room
6:15 pm	Confirmation class	Large Conf Room
7:00 pm	Youth Group	The Basement

Thursday, February 22

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
4:00 pm	Hutch Rec. karate class	Calvin Hall
6:30 pm	Basketball	Calvin Hall

Friday, February 23

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Kids' Cave
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Sunday, February 25—2nd Sunday in Lent

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Margie Miller Dick, 662-0315

Preacher Mark Miller (8:15 & 10:30): Phil. 1:3-6,12-19,21-26;

2:1-2; 4:1, 4, 10-19

Preacher Keith Neill (9:00): Ephesians 3:12-20

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
8:45-10:15	ReFresh Café open	Refresh Café
9:00 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Chancel Choir	Chapel
9:30 am	Adult Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor

Monday, February 26

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
4:00 pm	Hutch Rec. karate class	Calvin Hall
7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 301	Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, February 27

9:00 am	Koinonia Women	Large Conference Rm
4:00 pm	Hutch Rec. karate class	Calvin Hall

Wednesday, February 28

8:30 am	Exercise class	Kids' Cave
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Conference Room
12:00 pm	Lenten lunch	Fellowship Hall
3:30 pm	LOGOS	
5:30 pm	FPC Bells	Choir Room
6:15 pm	Confirmation class	Large Conf Room
7:00 pm	Youth Group	The Basement

Thursday, March 1

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
12:00 pm	Congregational Conn.	Conference Rm
4:00 pm	Hutch Rec. karate class	Calvin Hall

Friday, March 2

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Kids' Cave
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Sunday, March 4—3rd Sunday in Lent

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Martin Miller, 727-4499

Preacher Mark Miller (8:15 & 10:30): Philippians 1:3-8

Preacher Keith Neill (9:00): Philippians 3:12-16

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
8:45-10:15	ReRefresh Café open	Refresh Café
9:00 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
9:15 am	Chancel Choir	Chapel
9:30 am	Adult Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor





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