

May 28 & June 4, 2017

MARK'S MESSAGE

Spiritual Fog

In 1803, the English pharmacist Luke Howard forever changed the way we talk about clouds. He suggested that clouds be classified into three groups. Layered clouds he called *stratus*. Fluffy clouds he named *cumulus*. And the high feathery ones he labeled *cirrus*. More than 200 years later, meteorologists and schoolchildren alike still use Howard's terminology.



Stanford professor James Trefil points out that an ordinary cloud, which may have the dimensions of several football fields, contains only about 25-30 gallons of water. That's *"about enough to fill a bathtub,"* he reports. Every time you stroll through fog, you're in the midst of a cloud that for one reason or another is on the ground. Trefil observed, *"If you walk 100 yards through typical fog, you will come into contact with only about half a cubic inch of water – not enough to give you a decent drink."*

But think of the power of those few water droplets. They have the capacity to blind our vision, ground our air traffic, and even momentarily separate us from each other. Spiritual fog is equally daunting. When we can't see God, or can't see what God is up to, or He seems asleep we can feel overwhelmed, even paralyzed. Everything stops. Such uncertainty definitely doesn't feel like being on cloud nine.

But whenever you find yourself blanketed by fog, literally or metaphorically, you can have this important assurance: You will get through this. The fog will lift. No earthbound cloud is a match for the sun.

And our deepest uncertainties about God's direction for our lives won't last forever, either – if we are willing to wait and trust. That's because no spiritual fog is a match for the Lord of heaven and earth.

Clearly in Christ,

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“For Such a Time as This”

As Jesus said, some challenges can only be confronted through prayer (Mark 9:28-29).

This is a personal invitation to our FPC congregation inviting you to join an ecumenical effort to support federal programs that are vital to hungry people struggling with poverty. The starting date is May 21 but joining the effort of prayer, fasting and advocacy can be done at any time on a personal basis. On the 21st of every month throughout the 115th Congress an ecumenical prayer and fast will take place led by ecumenical partners such as Episcopal Church, Bread for the World, and Circle of Protection. Collectively this campaign will challenge proposals to eliminate or defund proven anti-poverty programs at home and abroad.

Over one in ten Americans lives in poverty, and many government-funded programs support at-risk families with the nutrition and supplemental income that they need to survive. Overseas, foreign assistance and humanitarian relief ameliorate need in regions confronting famine and food insecurity, including South Sudan, Somalia, Yemen, and Lake Chad Basin. These programs are critical to the subsistence of millions of God’s children, and this year we will raise our voices to policymakers to protect these important initiatives.

As the call to prayer articulates, *“We fast to fortify our advocacy in solidarity with families who are struggling with hunger. We fast to be in solidarity with neighbors who suffer famine, who have been displaced, and who are vulnerable to conflict and climate change. We fast with immigrants who are trying to make a better future for their families. We fast in solidarity with families on SNAP, who often run out of food by the last week of the month.”*

May prayers and fasting set aside on the 21st of each month help us recognize the need to engage our hearts, bodies, and communities together to combat poverty.

CARE PORTAL

Care Portal requests continue to come in and we have been able to answer two in the last two weeks. Ron Sellers, Ed and Marj Johnson went to McPherson and delivered a kitchen table and four chairs and a high-quality mattress and springs, both donated by church members. The mother and three children live in a mobile home and the 8-year-old boy was thrilled to sit in the new chair and spin around. He exclaimed, “I can eat my food at a table now!” We had ordered two twin box springs and frames to go with mattresses the children had, and they were to be delivered the next day. When Ed saw the filthy condition of the existing mattresses and observed the little boy happily waving as we pulled away, he said, “We’ve got to add new mattresses to the order.” Through the generosity of FPC, the children are now sleeping on clean, new mattress sets, eating at a table instead of on a sofa, and the mom no longer needs the piece of foam she was using as a bed. With the Walmart gift card we gave to the social worker, the family was able to purchase the needed linens for the three new beds.

Another case was just answered early this week. Keith Neill and Darla Fisher, principal of Lincoln School, were aware of grandparents who had just taken in their three grandchildren. They simply did not have funds to buy food for five people. A generous Walmart card will help them purchase the needed initial groceries for their suddenly much larger family.

The stories are heart-breaking as the families in crisis in Hutchinson and surrounding communities are increasing. FPC members continue to help make a difference in the lives of a few of these people, and we appreciate all those who make donations to this much-needed outreach. ***Remember the motto of the Care Portal: Every church doing a little.***



It has been said that "People don't care how much you know until they know how much you care." I believe that same principle applies when it comes to sharing your faith. So let me ask you, do you care about those who do not yet know Jesus Christ? This burden for lost people will make all of the difference in how effectively you share the gospel. But only God can place this burden on your heart.

I can do as much teaching on the techniques of evangelism or how to answer difficult questions but that will all be useless if you don't care about lost people. No matter how inadequate you feel, if you have a heart of compassion for people it can make up for all that. Better yet, if you have this heart and also strive to reach out and share your faith then what a powerful combination that would be.

Matthew's gospel tells us that Jesus looked at the multitudes and was moved with compassion for them. This was the heart of Jesus for people. He cared about them. In spite of the busyness of His schedule, He always took time for the individual, like the woman who spent all of her money on doctors, without result, and thought that if she could touch the hem of Jesus' garment, she would be healed. And she was. The Lord stopped what He was doing and commended her for her faith.

Then there was Jairus, with his very ill daughter who later died and was resurrected by our Lord. He went out of His way to go and touch this little girl. John 3 tells us about Nicodemus, who came to Jesus by night. I am sure that the Lord already had a long and draining day. He experienced weariness like any other man would. Yet He took time for this religious leader who was seeking answers to his spiritual questions. Jesus always cared about people. We should as well.

Remember, at some point in your life, you were one of those people. So was I. Then God used someone to speak to me. That person touched my life and I responded to the message of the gospel. I need to ask myself and each of you if we are being one of those people in someone else's life? Are we being used as an instrument that God can use to touch those who do not yet know Christ?

Souls are of the greatest value to God and they should be to us as well. Jesus compared the multitudes to a crop that needs to be harvested. He said to His disciples, "Lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" John 4:35. God values every human soul. So much so that He sent His own Son to spill His blood for us. The souls of the multitudes are valuable to God, just as the crops are valuable to the farmer. Everyone is valuable. We need to see people as Jesus sees them. Each one is a soul that God values and cares about.



PARISH PERSONALS

- Linda and I would like to thank Terri & Mike McQueen for the lovely bouquet of flowers delivered to us after the death of my brother. Also, thank you to all our church family for the expressions of sympathy. — Don and Linda Graves
- Deepest sympathy goes out to Sam & Judy Ontjes and family. Sam's brother, David Ontjes, died May 7 in Chapel Hill, NC.
- Thank you to the Deacons for the wonderful flowers they brought me recently. — Barbara Roberts
- We are so grateful for all the volunteer help for the Soup Kitchen this month. Barbara Mencl helped us prepare and cook the meal served to 117 persons. Donna Kelley and Barbara Lappin helped us serve and drivers for the carry-out routes were Martin Miller, Mark Coberly, Shari Schuessler, Kriss Fee and Anne Sellers. Thank you all so much for your assistance. — Gene & Arlene Becker
- Dear Rev. Miller and the First Presbyterian Church Family:
Please accept our sincere thanks to you and the Wednesday LOGOS children for their generous contribution to support the efforts of the Matthew 25: Salthawks Ministry! Your support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to an even deeper partnership with your church as we serve together in this community. Most sincerely, Faye Summervill, Church Administrator, Trinity United Methodist Church
- We were so blessed by all your support and engagement. Very thankful to find a partnership that has a heart for our community and the "least of them" that are hurting and the children! We are excited about working with you more in the months and years ahead as we work to impact the Hutchinson community through economic, social and spiritual capital. — Electrex and SeatKing

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Financial Peace University

God's Way of Handling Money

Tuesdays, June 13 – August 15, 2017
(excluding July 4)

Large Conference Room, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

*Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller,
Robbie Gehling & Mike Petitjean*

What if members of First Presbyterian Church could live

out their God-given dreams without money being their limiting factor? How could the city of Hutchinson be transformed if we would learn how to handle our finances God's ways? What would happen if we were able to fund God's work through the church and have plenty to heavily support local missions and church programs?

Well, Financial Peace University (FPU) can help. Millions of people have gone through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University and have learned God's ways of handling money. Millions have worked out a plan, rewritten their stories, and changed their futures — all because of participating in Financial Peace University.

Financial Peace University consists of a nine-week video curriculum taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey, and it incorporates small group discussions that help encourage accountability and discipleship. FPU meets once a week and the course is just as fun as it is practical! Sign up and order your family membership kit on www.daveramsey.com. For more information please check out www.daveramsey.com or contact Pastor Mark Miller at (620) 665-5549, ext. 102, or Mark@fpchutch.org.



The logo for Financial Peace University features the words "Financial Peace" in a white serif font, with "UNIVERSITY" in a smaller, white, all-caps sans-serif font below it. A stylized, golden-yellow script element resembling a flourish or a part of the word "Peace" is positioned behind the text.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Adult Education Opportunities

"The Challenges of Life Together", Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller, Large Conference Rm, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

"The Wired Word", Facilitated by Bob Fee, Fellowship Hall, 9:30 – 10:15 a.m.

"Great Day Every Day — Navigating Life's Challenges"

Our next small group meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 30, at Jay & Michele Lane's house. We will discuss chapter 8 of the Max Lucado book "Great Day Every Day — Navigating Life's Challenges." All are welcome.

FROM THE MISSION COMMITTEE

The second of the Presbytery's special yearly offerings will be June 4 — Pentecost. This offering unites us in a church-wide effort to support young people in their faith, find new ways to minister to children at risk and develop leadership skills.

- ⇒ 25% goes to youth 12-18 for "The Senior Project" — a national endeavor
- ⇒ 10% Child Advocacy
- ⇒ 25% Young Adult Volunteers
- ⇒ **40% Stays here in our community !!!!** Look for inserts in the Sunday bulletin.

CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **Monday, June 5, 10:00 a.m.** That issue will cover June 11-24.

Chancel Flower Calendar

June 25, July 2 and 16 are open on the 2017 Chancel Flower Calendar. If you would like to provide flowers for worship one of these days, please contact Janice in the church office at janice@fpchurch.org or 665-5549, ext. 106, by the preceding Monday.

FOOD BANK AND NEW BEGINNINGS

It's time again for our monthly donation to the Reno County Food Bank. They are requesting **canned chicken or tuna, juice, pancake mix and syrup**. You may leave those items at any of the entrances to First Presbyterian. We will pick them up on June 4. We also will collect donations for New Beginnings. Suggested items are: **magic erasers, dish soap, large black leaf trash bags, and tall kitchen bags**.

Thanks, The Deacons

1 John 3:17-18 *"But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth."*

YOUTH GROUP

Life for our young people just seems to get busier and busier and this seems especially true at this time of the year. School finals, proms, graduation and parties, as well as for some its time to head off on our high school mission trip.

At youth group we have been busy cleaning up the neighborhood, enjoying a BBQ and having a great night of fun at The Alley. We have an amazing group of young people who love God, love life and love to share.

This Thursday 13 of us will board a plane in Wichita and head off to Downtown Hollywood to take part in a mission project that will challenge us and will change each of us for the better. I have no idea what God will say to us through this experience but I know it will be something that will change how we live our lives in the future.

Please pray for our high school students who are going to L.A.: Libby, Lillie, Olivia, Emma, Makenzie, Carson, Chandler, Jordan, Maddie, Lawson, Seth and our adult leaders Heidi and Keith. We value your prayers for safe travel, for us to stay healthy and that each of us will have our eyes and hearts opened by God.

We are looking forward to sharing with you all on June 11 in worship about our Mission Trip. You can also follow our L.A. mission adventure on First Presbyterian Facebook, so like our Facebook page and read about our daily experiences.



KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

- Sam & Judy Ontjes and family, on the death of Sam's brother, David Ontjes

For all FPC shut-ins

For United Presbyterian

Church, Sterling (5/28/17)

For First Presbyterian

Church, Winfield (6/06/17)



BIRTHDAYS

28	Grace Proett	5	Mary Buttram
30	Barb Lappin	5	Mabel Collins
31	Tom Roepka	5	Tanner Lackey
1	Ron Hansen	6	Rachel Hansen
1	Kristin Messick	6	John Withrow
1	Jenny Oswald	7	Brityn Bobo
2	Karan Evans	7	Susan Reece
2	Howard Houghton	8	Jim Davis
3	Andy Sellers	10	Orlie Martens
4	Judy Seltzer	10	Emma Ontjes

CALENDAR — MAY 28 - JUNE 11

Sunday, May 28, 2017

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Ann Sellers, 662-9510

Preacher Mark Miller: Mark 4:35-41

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
9:00 am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
9:00-10:15	ReFresh Café open	
9:30 am	Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
11:30-12:00	Book store open	Parlor

Monday, May 29—Memorial Day

Church offices closed

Tuesday, May 30

9:00 am	Yoga	Parlor
1:30 pm	Bible study	Lane's

Wednesday, May 31

8:30 am	Exercise class	Calvin Hall
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Conference Room

Thursday, June 1

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
12:00 pm	Congregational Connections	Conf Rm
TBA	Wedding set-up	Calvin Hall

Friday, June 2

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Calvin Hall
Early evening	Youth mission trip return home	
TBA	Wedding set-up, rehearsal	Sanctuary, Calvin Hall

Saturday, June 3

11:00 am	Wedding/reception	Sanctuary, C. Hall
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Sunday, June 4—Pentecost

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Carol Weidensaul, 669-8661

Preacher Mark Miller: John 20:19-23

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
9:00 am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
9:00-10:15	ReFresh Café open	
9:30 am	Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
11:30-12:00	Book store open	Parlor

Everyone is encouraged to wear RED to worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 4.

Monday, June 5

8:30 am	Exercise class	Calvin Hall
9:30 am	Book study	Large Conference Room
12:00-7:00	Blood drive	Calvin Hall
4:00 pm	Music staff meeting	Conference Rm
5:30 pm	Worship Committee	Conference Rm
7:00 pm	Worship practice	Sanctuary

Tuesday, June 6

11:00-6:00	Blood drive	Calvin Hall
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Wednesday, June 7

7:00-1:00	Blood drive	Calvin Hall
8:30 am	Exercise class	Parlor
9:00 am	Staff meeting	Conference Room
12:00 pm	Building & Grounds	Conference Room

Thursday, June 8

7:00 am	Men's Bible study	Parlor
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Friday, June 9

9:00 am	Walk-a-mile class	Calvin Hall
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Sunday, June 11

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Amanda Jackson, 669-5350

Preacher Mark Miller: Mark 1:9-11; Ephesians 1:11-14

8:15 am	Worship service	Chapel
9:00 am	Chancel Choir	Sanctuary
9:00-10:15	ReFresh Café open	
9:30 am	Christian Education	
10:30 am	Worship service/Kidz Church	Sanctuary
11:30 am	Fellowship time	Parlor
11:30-12:00	Book store open	Parlor

Communion

Sunday, June 4

8:15 and 10:30 a.m.



American Red Cross Blood Drive

@ FPC (Calvin Hall)

Monday, June 5 — 11:30-6:30

Tuesday, June 6 — 11:00-6:00

Wednesday, June 7 — 7:00-1:00

LOVE GOD. LOVE PEOPLE.



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