

July 23 & 30, 2017

MARK'S MESSAGE

I Am Who I Am

When Moses met God at the burning bush, he received the job assignment of leading the Hebrews out of Egypt. Moses asked, "Who are you, Lord?" Or as he puts it in Exodus 3:13, "When the people ask, 'What is your name?' what should I tell them?" In Hebrew culture to inquire about someone's name was to ask about his or her character and identity. In other words: "God, exactly what kind of God are you?"

God's answer in Exodus 3:14 is one of the most mysterious sentences in all of human literature: "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites. I AM has sent me to you." What exactly is God trying to say here? "I AM WHO I AM" (which is often capitalized in English translations) represents just four letters from the original Hebrew text: YHWH. These four letters comprise God's personal name. They appear 6,807 times in the Old Testament and are usually translated "Lord."

Truth be known, we don't really know what these four letters mean. We don't even know how they are to be pronounced. Many centuries ago, Jewish rabbis concerned that the people might take God's name in vain if they should mispronounce it stopped speaking the four letters altogether. When Hebrew is read aloud today, either *Adonai* ("Lord") or *Ha Shema* ("The Name") is substituted for YHWH.

The best guess of Bible scholars is that God's four-letter response to Moses should be pronounced and written as: Yahweh. Some scholars believe Yahweh should be translated, "I am who am." In other words, God is God and we are not. He is the ultimate Being in the cosmos. Others prefer, "I am who I am." That is, "Moses, who I am is none of your business." This would be an expression of God's impenetrable identity. Still other scholars believe Yahweh means, "I will be there with you," or "I am all you need."

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NEW MEMBER

If you need a good dose of inspiration and some thoughts to contemplate, sit down with one of our newest church members — **Melody Cole**.

Melody moved from Winfield, where she grew up, to Hutchinson two years ago. Her mom always makes a point of going with Melody to visit a Presbyterian church the first Sunday of a new move. Well, we were the blessed recipients of that visit.

On August 23, 2015 — her grandma's birthday — she decided to attend church as a way to honor her grandma's memory and she decided to attend FPC regularly after that day. "My grandma once said that God was first in her life, music second and Grandpa was somewhere up there high on the list too! That really resonated with me because she lived her life that way. That list is incredibly important to me, too!"

Melody finds it meditative to color posters and greeting cards. She also likes spending time with family and friends.

One of her favorite plays is "The Wiz" (Motown version of The Wizard of Oz) and she quotes a statement The Wiz made as she was ready to go home. "Dorothy, home is not where you live, it's where you love." The last time she heard that she knew she was home at FPC. She attends the adult Sunday School class that Pastor Mark teaches. She is very curious and thoroughly enjoys fellowship, especially The Refresh Café.

She seems to tackle life with grace, faith and Christian love.

Thank you, dear Melody, for helping us learn from you as you live your faith.

SUMMER FUN ZONE

We have had a great summer of fun down at FPC for all the kids involved in our program. Max McQueen and a team of youth volunteers have kept 22+ kids energized, busy and happy with a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon that have been packed full of fun and learning about different Bible stories.

The kids attending have been from K through 6th grade and they have played softball, basketball, soccer, crazy team games, nail art and bracelet making for the girls, as well as art project, making their own colorful slime and I know all the parents loved seeing that come home!!!

Our Summer Fun Zone came to an end on July 20 after 11 successful action-packed days over a 6-week period. A BIG THANKS goes out to Max and his team; you all did an awesome job!



Spiritual Oxygen: Are You Getting It?

"Breathe in...breathe out....". You do it 12-14 times a minute without thinking, don't we?

Breathing is a miracle we don't stop to think about very much. We just do it. It keeps us alive. Do you know that God has given us as Christians a way to "breathe spiritually" for our spiritual well-being? Spiritual breathing, like physical breathing, is a process of exhaling the impure and inhaling the pure. It can become a way of life; in fact it needs to become a way of life.

For many of us as Christians we don't understand this concept and as a result we live our lives on a spiritual roller coaster. On our own we may at times have a fresh start in life only to lose it again – negative thoughts, angry words, slammed doors. How could this change?

Perhaps it could change by us learning to breathe more of God's grace and love into our lives. Think of it like this: you "exhale" by confessing your sins as soon as you become aware of it, and claim God's forgiveness. Then, you "inhale" by asking the Holy Spirit to once again control and empower you to help you from returning to that sin.

Usually we don't give much thought to our physical breathing but spiritual breathing is something that requires conscious action – a readiness to "exhale", or confess our sin, and to "inhale", or trust God to fill us with His Holy Spirit. We need to develop a God-consciousness, which in turn serves to keep the revived heart spiritually focused.

We need to be continually filled by the Holy Spirit. We read this in Ephesians 5:18 — "Keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit". So what stops us? What's our excuse?

Today, are you ready to ask the Holy Spirit to direct your life? Let Him fill your life and experience the difference!



KEEP IN PRAYER

For those in the hospital or hurting

For all FPC shut-ins

For First Presbyterian Church, Dodge City

(7/23/17)

For First Presbyterian

Church, Harper (7/30/17)



BIRTHDAYS

23	Bonnie Baker	29	Ted Ronen
23	Wayne Unruh	29	Joyce Sunner
25	Greg Meredith	31	Maggie Starr
26	Tonya Cline	1	Jay Lane
26	Doxie Keller	1	Steve Mills
27	Katie McDonald	1	Ivy Newton
28	Marla Eriksen	2	Graham Fluck
28	Kathleen Fee	2	Tim Lackey
28	Sylvia Quint	3	Julie Reneau
28	Jackson Swearer	4	Al Albright
29	Chris Barnes	4	Paul Dillon

Looking for a new book to read this summer? Check out the FPC Book Store in the Parlor! We have some great books from the Christian best seller list. Feel free to come in and browse any time and pay for your purchase in the church office. Happy reading!!

PARISH PERSONALS

- FPC —

I want to thank the church for the beautiful gladiolas delivered by Deacon Martin Miller. I'm the proud owner of four new heart stents after a two-day stay at Hutch Hospital. — Galen Green

- Thank you to Margie Miller Dick and Martin Miller for delivering the beautiful flowers from the church the day I joined. It was a lovely day! Joyfully, Melody Cole

- Dear Friends [Yoga Group]:

Thank you for your gift to support the Food 4 Kids program. Your contribution makes a difference to thousands of Kansas children facing hunger. Since 2004, the Food 4 Kids program has provided hunger relief to children who have been identified as having very little or nothing to eat over the weekend when school breakfast and lunch are not available. During the 2015-16 school year, the Kansas Food Bank provided more than 197,000 packets of food for these at-risk children. With the help of partners like you, together we can continue to provide this much needed food resource for students all school year long. We are grateful for your generosity, dedication, and support of Kansas kids. Respectfully, Brian Walker, President & CEO, Kansas Food Bank

- Dear Mark and the First Presbyterian Church Family:

Thanks so much for your contribution directed toward Salthawk Community Support. We are humbled and grateful to be the recipient of such wonderful generosity!

With the support of generous people like you, we will continue the important work already begun. These funds will be invested in the Site Coordinator's position so she can continue to form supportive and trusting relationships with the students. Through her leadership, we will be meeting the needs of low income and struggling students, providing lunch funds, shoes, underwear, coats, hygiene items and other basic needs the kids have been doing without. In addition, the mentoring and tutoring program implemented under the leadership of the Site Coordinator will continue, offering the opportunity for volunteers serving in these roles to be trained and supported as they are matched with struggling students.

Without you, this important program will cease to exist and the needs would not be met. We believe strongly that changes made to the lives of these youth *now* will have a lasting impact as they graduate high school. Providing a solid foundation upon which they can stand as they take those first important steps into the future will have a positive impact, not only on their lives, but on our community.

Again, on behalf of all the churches, organizations and individuals who are working so hard to keep these efforts alive at Hutchinson High School, please accept our sincere thanks for your investment in this program. Most sincerely, Faye Summerville, Church Administrator, Trinity United Methodist Church

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

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

"The Wired Word", Facilitated by Bob Fee, Fellowship Hall

"The Psalms — Glorifying the Lord", Facilitated by Pastor Mark Miller, Large Conference Room

"The Parables of Jesus"

Our next small group meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 25, at Darrel McCool's house. We will continue our study of the Parables of Jesus. Everyone is welcome.

OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Early Learning Center

The Early Learning Center at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church has position openings. Some current staff will be going back to school soon, so full and part time help is needed for the ELC, working with children from infants to preschool age. If you are looking for something to do and love small children, please call ELC, (620) 259-7111, or stop by the church or call (662-5642) during office hours, 9:00-4:00, and ask for JoLyn or Brenda.



Communities That Care promotes healthy youth behaviors through mentoring, substance use prevention, strengthening families and youth leadership. We also train and screen all of the volunteers who would like to help in USD308.

There will be a huge need for volunteers this year at Lincoln, listening to students read, helping in a classroom or being a one-to-one mentor, not to mention helping at the school in general. A training session for potential Lincoln volunteers will be July 27, 6:00 p.m. at the USD 308 Administration Center.

If anyone has questions, please do not hesitate to contact Lisa at (620)615-4018. Thank you so much.

Last Call for 2017-2018 Backpack Give-Away!

It's back to school time at First Call for Help! We are gathering school supplies for all Reno County students as they begin a new school year. If you would like to donate school supplies, please take them to 721 W. 2nd, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. **no later than July 21.** Thank you for your support!

Suggested items: pencils, pens, zippered pencil bag, plastic pencil box, large erasers, spiral notebooks, colored pencils (24 count), wide-ruled notebook paper, composition notebook, 2-pocket folders, 4 oz. glue, glue sticks, markers, crayons (24 count box), scissors (5").



OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

Making a Difference: Putting Our Faith Into Action

It was so good to have Darla Fisher join us at First Presbyterian last Sunday to speak to us about making a difference and how our partnership with them at Lincoln School has had an impact in the whole community.

So if you didn't make it along to church on Sunday you will have missed the challenge that I put to everyone. On Sunday, August 13, there will be our usual 8:15am worship in the chapel but there will not be a 10:30am worship service. Instead, our Mission Committee wants anyone who is able to join us at Lincoln School at 8am to weed, paint and generally tidy up the school grounds in preparation for school starting that next week. We will also paint a house that Interfaith Housing has been working on just a block away from the school.

So no matter what age you are we can find a job for you. It could be as part of the house painting crew or sweeping, weeding the playground and walkways, or painting soccer posts and railings. It may be handing out water to the volunteers or helping us cook hot dogs for everyone when we finish.

Our hope is to work until 11:30am, have our hot dogs and head for home, a good shower and put our feet up! We are so pleased that a few people from the Lincoln neighborhood will join us to have the school looking great for the beginning of term.

This is a wonderful opportunity to really be the hands and feet of Jesus, to get out of our pews and leave the church and become the church in action.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! Email Keith at keith@fpchurch.org to sign up for the following:

- House painting
- Painting soccer goals and railings
- Sweeping the area around the kids' activity play area
- Removing weeds from the sidewalk, car parking area and the entrance to the school.

Our goal is to have 100 volunteers making a difference on that Sunday morning. Sign up and be one of our 100 workers.

Thank you.
Keith



CHURCH OFFICE NOTES

Chimes Note

Deadline for next issue of *Chimes* will be **10:00 a.m. Monday, July 31**, for the issue covering August 6-19.

Chancel Flower Calendar

August 6, 20, September 17 and 24 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 665-5549, ext. 106, or janice@fpchurch.org, by the preceding Monday.

CALENDAR — JULY 23 - AUGUST 6

Sunday, July 23, 2017

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Anne Sellers, 663-4998

Preacher Mark Miller: Psalm 117

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

Monday, July 24

- 8:30 am Exercise class Calvin Hall

Tuesday, July 25

- 1:30 pm Bible study McCool's Home
- 7:00 pm Financial Peace University Lg Conf Rm

Wednesday, July 26

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

Thursday, July 27

- 7:00 am Men's Bible study Parlor

Friday, July 28

- 9:00 am Walk-a-mile class Calvin Hall

Sunday, July 30

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Misti McLain, 259-6977

Preacher Keith Neill: Matthew 22:9

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

Monday, July 31

- 8:30 am Exercise class Calvin Hall

Tuesday, August 1

- 7:00 pm Financial Peace University Lg Conf Rm

Wednesday, August 2

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

Thursday, August 3

- 7:00 am Men's Bible study Parlor
- 12:00 pm Congregational Connections Conf Rm
- 1:00 pm PSK/Synod meeting Large Conf Room

Friday, August 4

- 9:00 am Walk-a-mile class Calvin Hall

Saturday, August 5

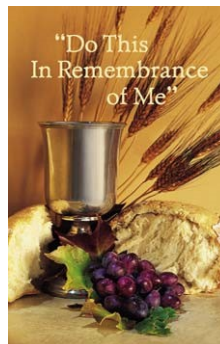
- 6:00 pm Scout troop dinner Fellowship Hall

Sunday, August 6

DEACON OF THE WEEK: Beth Southern, 669-1270

Preacher Mark Miller: John 4:25-42

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



Communion

will be served in both services of worship, 8:15 & 10:30 a.m., Sunday, July 23

FOOD BANK/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 August 6. We also will collect donations for New Beginnings. Suggested items are: **laundry soap, dish soap, tall kitchen trash bags, 33-39 gallon trash bags & magic erasers.**

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."*



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The simplest and perhaps most compelling insight is that God may have wanted His people to think about Him every time they took a breath. Try it. Breathe in: *Yah*. Breathe out: *Weh*. “Yah-weh.” “Yah-weh.” God’s name may represent a constant reminder that He is closer to us than our next breath, and that He is the One who in fact keeps us breathing.

The average person takes about 20,000 breaths a day. We are hardly conscious of most of those breaths while we are awake, and not conscious at all of our breathing while we sleep. But from time to time – perhaps whenever we sigh deeply or breathe heavily – we can experience a profoundly spiritual moment. We can pause and remember that God is God.

In Christ,