

The Messenger



A Newsletter of the
Genesee 1st Congregational, United Church of Christ, Inc.

March – April, 2017

Volume 11, Number 6

Notes from Life's Pathway

Practical Christianity 101

*"Make me to know thy ways, O Lord;
teach me thy paths."*

Psalms 25: 4 (RSV)

A friend of mine often says to me "Keep Looking Up!" Most certainly he means to keep up a positive attitude as I walk this pathway we call "life." Scott Peck, in his book The Road Less Traveled, begins with a simple – yet very profound – fact of life: "Life is difficult." As Christians, we are not immune from being impacted by the man-made problems of the world: crime, racial injustice, family unrest, pollution, ... We "Christians," literally the "followers of Christ," are not to be conformed to this world, but we are to be transformed by the renewal of our minds, that we may prove what is the will of God, what is good, acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12: 2 – RSV) We have been changed by Christ. We have been given an attitude adjustment and, most profoundly, we have been given – in God's word – "tools" to begin making a difference in the world. Knowing that "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us," (Romans 8:37 – RSV) we can and must make a difference. We can be an effective witness to others. We can "Keep Looking Up!"

A positive attitude is great! It is certainly something we should all strive for. Yet, being the practical literalist that I usually am, I asked myself the following question. Should we really walk around with our heads in the clouds; looking, perhaps, for our "redemption to draw nigh?" (Luke 21:28 - KJV) If we did, some would see us as overly-pious and "stuck-up," certainly not as a very good witness. Also, consider of what earthly value we would be for God's kingdom if we never came down-to-earth to make practical, day-to-day, decisions. Being practical, there are also issues involving safety. If we walk along life's path and keep looking

- Please see **Pathway**, page 4

Don't miss it!

Easter Sunday service

10:30 AM

Sunday, April 16

Come to church to Praise the Lord and celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our Genesee Church choir will give a special musical presentation.

SPECIAL LENTEN EVENTS

Lenten Study on the "Meaning of Resurrection" (Wednesday nights from March 8 thru April 12 at 7 – 8:30 PM). You are invited to come to Pastor Peter and Judy's home in Wales – a nice "middle ground" between both congregations – for this class. [251 Lincolnshire Pl. – from Hwy. 83 northbound, turn right at the Hwy 83/Hwy 18 roundabout - onto Hwy 18 - and immediately turn right on the next street to the right.] Please let Pastor Peter know if you are interested in coming so that they know how many to expect.

Maundy Thursday (April 13 at 6 PM). Please come to Hartland UCC [Capitol Dr. at Church St.] for a time of fellowship - followed by the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The meal is a potluck. Bring something special to share with those at your table.

I hope you can find time to participate in these opportunities.

Blessings to all, Pastor Peter

**Please highlight these dates
on your personal calendar.**

THINK SPRING!

In February, we were given a taste of Spring. Soon the birds will be chirping, the flowers will be budding out, squirrels and people will be scampering. We welcome both well-seasoned members and new friends to this March-April, 2017 edition of the Messenger. Beginning on Sunday, February 5, our service time changed to 10:30 AM. This 10:30 AM time will continue through the end of July. This is to accommodate a rotating worship schedule with Hartland UCC, whom we share our pastor with. Our Sunday School is held during the service. The children come to church with their parents/guardians and are released to go to classes after the "Time with the Children." Join us for worship this coming Sunday.

Two Great Events

15th Annual Pig Roast & Luau

Tired of that home cuisine? Make your meal...

An Experience to Remember!

Saturday, July 15, 4 – 7 PM
Genesee Church Education Center

Great Food! Children's games. Get a complete Pig Roast meal with all the fixin's. Chicken will also be available. Desserts and beverages are extra.

Prize Drawing at 7 PM

Meal Ticket (Advance) Prices:* \$12 for adults.
 \$10 for seniors (age 62+), \$8 for children (ages 5 – 9).
 *Add \$1 per ticket for "at-the-door" prices.

Tickets are available on, and after, Sunday, April 9.
 Call a member, or the church office at **262-968-3849**.

6th Annual Genesee Church Car Show Saturday, August 12, 10 AM – 3 PM Raffle: 3 – 3:30 PM

Genesee Church Education Center
W306 S5075 Church St., Genesee, Wisconsin

\$8.00 Donation per car
HUGE PRIZE DRAWINGS

- **FOOD ON SITE:** Brats / Hot dogs, Sweet corn
- **Dash plaques for first 100 cars**

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From the Pastor



My father once shared a story from his childhood about what his father would do when he found his sons fighting with each other. He would send them out to cut wood. Of course, in those days there was no chainsaw. Logs were cut to fireplace length by the use of a crosscut saw. In the hands of skilled sawyers, such a saw could work its way through a thick branch with relative ease. I must add another modifier to "sawyer." The two on either end of a crosscut saw must be skilled and **cooperative**. It works like this. Each sawyer must apply the opposite force in rhythm; first one way, then the other. It is always pull and wait as the other pulls the blade across to his end. Then he – or she – must pull again. If one tries to pull too soon, it will impede the progress of the sawing and if one tries to push while the other is pulling the blade will bend and bind itself in the kerf "freeze" in place.

This practice of making Dad and his brother go out to cut wood, was the ideal "punishment." It not only imposed a cost upon the offenders but also encouraged reconciliation. Unless my grandpa's bickering boys found a way to cooperate they would be in each other's company for a longer time than they would have wanted, and if they cooperated, they were resolving their difference by working well together.

I should also add that Dad spoke of his mother had a favorite punishment when children were at odds with each other. She would make them look up Psalm 133 which begins: **"Behold how good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"** (This holds for sisters as well, of course!)

Like sawing a log, unity is not accomplished by eliminating or vilifying opposing forces. True unity is accomplished by harmonizing differences and recognizing value in the position of those who disagree.

At the risk of being political, I wish to suggest that the "air" in the debates we find in the public sector are bringing about a false sense of unity, if they seek alliances by naming a common enemy, or if they lay blame on those who hold opposing positions, making them scapegoats for the world's "mess." Perhaps the factions of too many arguments would do well to look up Psalm 133 and then go out together to cut wood!

Pastor Peter

e-mail: stmartpb@msn.com

(c) 262-720-6939; (h) 262-201-4033

Service Opportunities

CLEANING GOD'S HOUSE

A list of the job duties, as well as a signup sheet, is posted in the church entrance. You and your family/team will sign-up to clean for a ONE MONTH period. We supply all the equipment you will need. Scott Burdette, 262-968-3830, has a key and can answer any of your questions. A special "thank-you" to the Groskreutz family, for cleaning our church in January and February. Thank-you in advance for your service.

March – YOUR NAME HERE

April – YOUR NAME HERE

May – YOUR NAME HERE

June – Maddie Schmidt

July – Groskreutz family

August – Groskreutz family

MARCH-APRIL-MAY ushers

The following teams are **scheduled** to usher on Sundays in March, April and May. Arrive by 10 AM. Hand out bulletin, greet people, light candles and take collection. Bring treats for those who stay to visit after the service. For the latest update, or if you are unable to fulfill your commitment, please notify Diane Sickels at 262-968-3954. Also, call to fill one of the "OPEN" spots.

March 5	Donna Vanderhei / OPEN
March 12	Katlin Carlson / Amber Carlson
March 19	Clarice & Jerome Applegate
March 26	Kim Sussek / Clara Honeyager
April 2	Mike & Rhea Whiteley
April 9	B. J. & Angela Williams
April 16	Sam & Sherra Meeth
April 23	Bob & Glenda Williams
April 30	Donna Engnath / Barb Stachowski
May 7	Tom & Donna Zivney
May 14	Greg & Debbie Chesney
May 21	Rich & Rochelle Groskreutz and family
May 28	Ron & Kris Kingery

HOPE CENTER – 2017 service dates

A special thank-you to those who helped our church serve the meal at Hope Center on Wednesday, October 19. Our 2017 dates are Wednesdays March 22 and October 18. Put these dates on your 2017 calendars. Thank you for your service.

GENESEE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 6:30 PM at the Genesee Town Hall, Genesee Depot

Events Calendar

MARCH-APRIL events

Listed here are the dates of meetings, holidays and events in March, April and early May. All dates are correct at the time of publication. All events are at the Ed. Center, unless otherwise noted. See individual articles for details.

MARCH

- WE 1** **ASH WEDNESDAY**
7 PM service at Hartland UCC
- SU 5** 10:30 AM service at church w/ communion
Kid's Day / Parent's Time Off – Part 2
10 AM – 2:30 PM
- MO 6** Deacons – 5:45 PM
Executive Board – 6:30 PM
- TU 7** Genesee Cemetery Association Annual Meeting, Genesee Town Hall – 6:30 PM
- WE 8** Lenten Study – "Meaning of Resurrection"
Home of Pastor Peter and Judy, Wales
7 – 8:30 PM [through WE, April 12]
- SU 12** Daylight Saving Time begins
"Spring Ahead ONE hour"
- WE 15** Lenten Study – 7 - 8:30 PM, Wales
- FR 17** **ST. PATRICK'S DAY**
- MO 20** **1ST DAY OF SPRING**
Vernal Equinox – 5:29 AM CDT
- WE 22** Serve meal at Hope Center – 5 PM
Lenten Study – 7 - 8:30 PM, Wales
- SU 26** One Great Hour of sharing offering
- WE 29** Lenten Study – 7 - 8:30 PM, Wales

APRIL

- SA 1** **APRIL FOOL'S DAY**
- SU 2** 10:30 AM service at church w/ communion
- MO 3** Deacons – 5:45 PM
Executive Board – 6:30 PM
- WE 5** Lenten Study – 7 - 8:30 PM, Wales
- SU 9** **PALM SUNDAY**
10:30 AM service at church w/ communion
- WE 12** Lenten Study – 7 - 8:30 PM, Wales
- TH 13** **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
Potluck meal, fellowship, Lord's Supper
6 PM – Hartland UCC
- FR 14** **GOOD FRIDAY**
- SU 16** **EASTER**
- SA 22** **EARTH DAY**
- SU 23** Newsletter Copy due
- FR 28** **ARBOR DAY**
- SA 29** Southeast Association, UCC Annual Meeting
Trinity UCC, Brookfield - 9 AM – 3 PM

MAY

- MO 1** **MAY DAY**
- TH 4 – SA 6** Rummage Sale: 9 AM – 5 PM daily
- SU 7** 10:30 AM service at church w/ communion
- MO 8** Deacons – 5:45 PM
Executive Board – 6:30 PM

Pathway – from Page 1

up, we will miss the BIG pothole – figuratively or literally – that is directly in front of us! Certainly, we would be terrible drivers, failing to see the warning signs up ahead, the overly-pious driver coming up fast on our tailgate and the 12-point buck coming at us from the right.

Being a practical Christian means keeping a good balance between the heavenly and the worldly. Just as a tool only has value to us if we can use it, our Christian walk must be useful for ourselves and others. I once taught a fifth and sixth grade Sunday School class. The theme for the month was “The Ten Commandments,” (see Exodus 20) I told the class it is important to learn the ten commandments so that we know what God expects of us. “The real test will not be whether you can tell me the whole list of commandments next week. It will be, when I ask you 20 years from now, whether or not you have tried to live by them.” Billy Graham, speaking of the balance a Christian needs to make between worldly and heavenly things, once said that a Christian needs to “carry a Bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other.” Yes indeed! Until the day we walk the streets of the heavenly city, we are very much a part of the world.

Let's all be careful out there! Look down, occasionally, so that the next available sin is not a pothole to fall into. Look back so that you may rejoice in your past triumphs – praising God for the victories – and learn from your mistakes. God forgives you. Look to the right and left for dangers that could alter your “straight and narrow” Christian life-path. Look ahead to greet others. And, last, but never least, when you are in a safe place, away from life's cares, take time to look up and marvel at the magnificence of God's creation all around you.

I'll meet you on the path.

Scott W. Burdette

- February, 2017



BUILDING RENTAL AVAILABLE

Do you have a large family gathering, wedding, birthday party, etc., but not enough room to host it? Both our Education Center and Church are available to responsible parties. Call the church office at **262-968-3849** for details and a rate schedule.

EXPLORE GOD'S WORD DAILY

Copies of the devotional booklet: *“The Upper Room”* for March-April, 2017 are available in the church entrance. On every page is an inspirational reading and accompanying Bible verse for each day.

A SPECIAL MESSAGE TO OUR SHUT-INS

It has come to our attention that those who are shut-in may like to have communion served to them. If you are a shut-in, and you would like to receive communion, contact our church deacons or the church office.

Diane Sickels, deacon - **262-968-3954**
Church Office - **262-968-3849**

CAN YOU HELP?

Starting the 2nd Sunday of March, we will be collecting food on the second Sunday of each month for the local food pantry. This is a **“mission”** project right here in the Genesee / Wales area and we hope you will find it something that you can support. Our suggested food for March will be **MAC & CHEESE**, but we will be happy to receive any item you care to donate. Each month we will suggest a different item, but any foodstuff is usually needed at the pantry. We are still collecting the Sentry receipts from the Albrecht store in Delafield. Those proceeded are also forwarded to the local pantries as available. **Look for the BASKET in the back of the church.**

Contact **Marleene Bloom** at **262-968-3893** if you have any questions. Marleene will deliver these items after each collection date.

GENESEE CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE

Thursday, Friday, Saturday, May 4,5,6
9AM – 5 PM daily at the Education Center

Donations will be accepted on and after Sunday, April 2. Check weekly updates and announcements for details.

MORE BULLETIN BLOOPERS

Hymn: “I Love Thee My Ford.”

Miss Charlene Mason sang “I Will Not Pass This Way Again,” giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Join us, following the service, for coffee and conversion.

A FINAL NOTE 🎵

The deadline for the May-June, 2017 edition is Sunday, April 23. To submit an article, event information, or to receive your newsletter via e-mail, send e-mail to: LTLBURD@aol.com. Articles submitted in person need to be typed or written legibly.

Scott W. Burdette



Puzzle Challengers

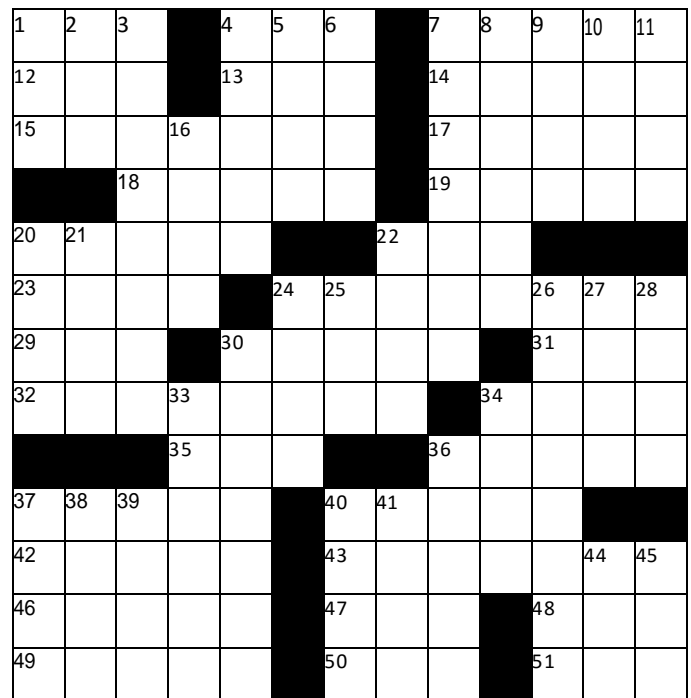
ACROSS

- 1 Roadhouse
- 4 What a cow chews
- 7 Duties
- 12 Pekoe, e.g.
- 13 Mine Extract
- 14 Up to the time that
- 15 Odd
- 17 Say
- 18 Passenger
- 19 Fragment
- 20 San Antonio shrine
- 22 Pub brew
- 23 Belfry dwellers
- 24 Slum building
- 29 Compass point (abbr.)
- 30 Sources
- 31 Grant's opponent
- 32 Meetings
- 34 Alert
- 35 Fitting
- 36 Transplant
- 37 Oscar winner _____
Berry
- 40 Uncovers
- 42 Atlantic or Pacific
- 43 More unpleasant
- 46 Dishonor
- 47 Snip
- 48 Pro-gun org.
- 49 Moderately warm
- 50 Overhead trains
- 51 Happy

DOWN

- 1 That thing's
- 2 Fishing aid
- 3 Tells (a story)
- 4 Owned apartment
- 5 Yearning
- 6 Bambi, for one
- 7 Scuffles
- 8 Song of praise
- 9 Night twinkler
- 10 Flying toy
- 11 Toboggan
- 16 Goals
- 20 Lincoln, et al
- 21 Rural road
- 22 Picnic nuisances
- 24 Horn blast
- 25 Age
- 26 Passing, as time
- 27 Infamous fiddler
- 28 Camper's home
- 30 Matured
- 33 Spicy sausage
- 34 Exited
- 36 Relaxes
- 37 Emcee
- 38 Pain
- 39 Bound
- 40 Fairy tale starter
- 41 Singer _____ Simon
- 44 Period of note
- 45 Beam of light

Genesee Church Crossword Puzzle



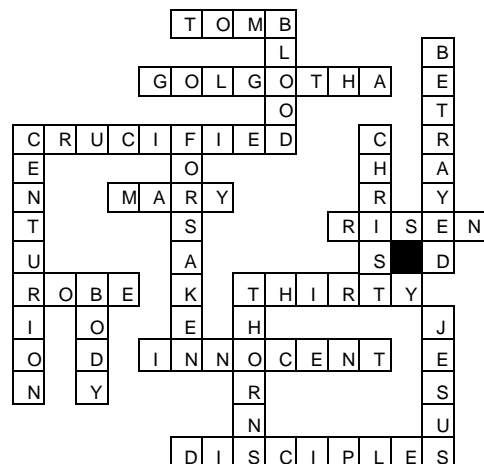
Answers to previous puzzles in January-February Messenger

SCRAMBLED EGGS

Oops! I dropped 28 "EGGs" into a familiar Bible verse. Find each "EGG" and circle the individual letters in the "EGGs." The un-circled letters – in order – will spell out the Bible verse.

E B E L E E S S E E D E
A G G G R E T E G G H G
G E G M E G G E G E E G
K E F O G R T E H E E Y
E S E G G H G A L G G E
L G I N E G G H E G R E
G I G T G G E T G H E G
E A E G G G G E R T H G

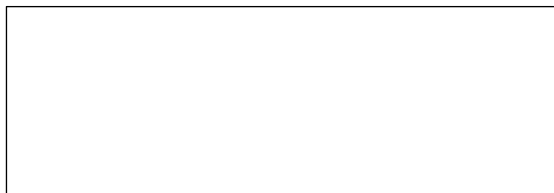
H	A	P	P	Y	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S
I	R		O	O	O	E	A		P	O		
P	E	A	R	L		R	E	L	A	P	S	E
P	S		T	A	R	O		T	U	L	S	A
O		C	A	N	D	Y	C	A	N	E		R
S	C	O	L	D		S	O		T	G	I	S
	E	M		A	M		S	T		A	R	
C	O	P	A		I	X		R	I	T	E	S
O		A	B	O	R	I	G	I	N	E		P
M	E	N	U	S		A	M	E	S		L	R
B	R	I	T	A	I	N		S	E	P	I	A
	I	O		M	L		S	T	R		O	N
A	N	N	U	A	L	M	E	E	T	I	N	G



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NEWSLETTER MAR/APR 2017

TIME VALUE MAIL
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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Join us for a special...

Easter service

Sunday, April 16

10:30 AM

10:30 AM Sunday Worship
Sunday, February 5 –
Sunday, July 30

Sunday School
- during the worship time