

Week of January 29, 2017

Fitting In

Where can I belong?

At First Pres

The Church Mouse Has a Question

DEAR MISS MANNERS: Recently I've been observing congregation members interrupt the office manager's Sunday worship and fellowship time to ask her to take care of church business matters. Maybe they don't realize that Sunday is a day of rest for her, or that she is a member of the congregation just like them in addition to being an employee. What suggestions do you have to remedy this?

Signed, *The Church Mouse*.

GENTLE READER: It is always tempting to seize a moment to handle a business matter when the person who could handle it is in close proximity. But where will this lead? "Oh, excuse me, Your Honor. I know this is your daughter's wedding, but could you take a look at this summons I received?" Indeed not. Your office manager could come to worship in disguise or wear a sign around her neck stating The Office is Closed. But, Miss Manners believes the best way to address this is by placing a notice in the weekly bulletin. Perhaps the office manager will shed a tear of thanks at your kindness while she types the announcement.

Signed, *Miss Manners*

(As an aside from the office manager, who did not write this announcement, there is a letter slot in the office door, please feel free to drop things through for my attention.)



Study & Prayer Groups

WOMEN'S Groups

JUST AMONG MOMS- a kid-friendly time for Moms with pre-school children, Meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. Led by Leila Griggs phone 484-333-4061. Various Christian themes and Bible topics will be discussed along with time together with other women in the same stage of life...busy!

PRAYING MOMS -- The time has changed -- it is now the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 1:30pm at the Rolands.

MEN'S STUDY GROUPS

TUESDAY MORNING Retired Men's Group, year-round, 9:00 am, Giannotti's Wyomissing (back room). This group also welcomes non-retired men and we share the teaching responsibility.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 2 | Courtney Stevens
Theresa Hollenbach | |
| 3 | Anne Gerhart | |
| 5 | Philip Wolfe | |
| 7 | Prescott Hills | |
| 8 | Kevin Cooper
Irene Kroll | |
| 12 | Jim Mutimer
Summer Lileck
Jack Lorish | |
| 13 | Jim Itin | |
| 15 | Nancy Hills
Margaret McAllister | |
| 16 | Gloria Taylor | |
| | | 17 Pat Taylor |
| | | 23 Lila Bertolet |
| | | 24 Audrey Hills
Katherine Scheese |
| | | 25 Joan Itin
Ada Gochnauer
Sarah Shuey |
| | | 26 Madelyn Geyer |
| | | 28 Lynn Macadangdang |



A Call to Prayer & Fasting

As you are aware, First Presbyterian is going through some major changes. We feel that these are not things that we can tackle on our own without divine intervention. Therefore, we as a church, with the leadership of Session, would like to ask you to have a concentrated period of prayer, repentance and fasting from now until Easter.

Throughout the Bible, when people sought the Lord's favor, they often did so with a period of prayer and fasting. Esther, her maids, and all the Jews in Susa fasted before she went before the king, Moses fasted when he went up Mt. Sinai to receive the law, and all Israel fasted when they were expecting to be attacked by enemy armies.

We are not asking you to not eat for the next two months, but similarly to what you did before Christmas, we are asking you to pray wholeheartedly for our church and add fasting to it one day a month for the next three months. The church will be open from 8-3 on the first Wednesday of the month from now until Easter in April for you to pray in the Sanctuary if you would like.

By taking our eyes off the things of this world through prayer and biblical fasting, we can focus better on Christ. Matthew 6:16-18 declares, "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you."

Please pray specifically through the following requests:

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

- That God will bring His person before the committee.
- The Committee will recognize this person.
- The Committee will be of one mind in the decision.

THE NEW SITE COMMITTEE:

- All our planning and work is for the Glory of God and His kingdom.
- Our Committee would receive guidance and wisdom in all the work we are doing to determine a location.
- We would be able to see God working in all our circumstances.
- That God will open our hearts, minds and eyes to new possibilities and concepts for a vital future for our church.

THE REPURPOSING THE BUILDING COMMITTEE:

- Wisdom in working through the process of determining the Lord's next purpose for the building.
- Wisdom in finding the best outcome for the organ and those who have interest and attachment to it.
- Wisdom and God's plan for us to be able to worship Him through the transition of the building sale and a new location.

NEW WORSHIP & MINISTRIES COMMITTEE:

- That the Lord will make clear what HIS mission for FPC is going forward, including identifying specific target groups.
- That we will all have the necessary courage to make changes and try new things in the interest of reaching unsaved people. That it will not be about ME but about THEM.
- That fear for the future will have no home in us...only God-seeking wisdom.
- That we will not grow weary, but be encouraged that God is at work!

TIPS TO A SENSIBLE YET EFFECTIVE ONE-DAY-LIMITED FAST:

- Moderation in all things is the key. Plan on eating infrequently and in small amounts throughout your day.
- Avoid stimulants, like caffeine (a morning cup is fine). Water and pure fruit juices are your best bets.
- Stay with simple foods, such as bread, cheese, water, unprocessed fruit or vegetables.
- If you have health concerns, consider fasting from activities rather than food, and spending that time in prayer instead.
- If you cannot pray and fast on the first Wednesday of the month, choose another day.
- Fasting is not a way to earn God's favor by getting Him to do something for us. Rather, the purpose is to produce a transformation in us — a clearer, more focused dependence upon God.