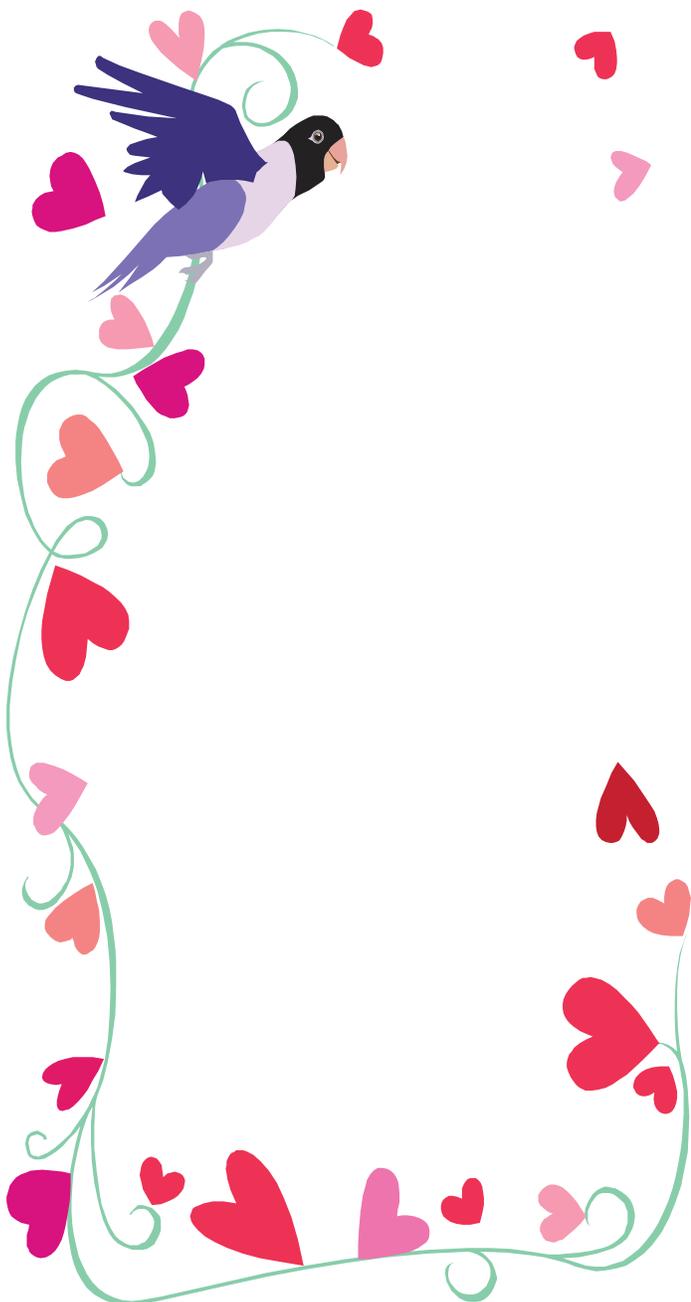




To submit articles, e-mail a word document to barb@intracsystems.com



Ash Wednesday Service

We will be having a very unique meditative service on February 10 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us.

Lenten Luncheon Schedule

A few of the area churches are taking part in the Community Lenten Luncheons. Below is the schedule where they will be held each week. They are every Wednesday at noon from February 17 through March 16.

- February 17 – Fairview United Methodist
- February 24 – St. Stephen’s Episcopal
- March 2 – Fairview Presbyterian
- March 9 - Fairview United Methodist
- March 16 - Fairview United Methodist

Thank you to our Deacons for providing lunch here on March 2!

Chuck's Chatter

It would be hard for me to overstate how excited I am about the upcoming Sunday school class for adults that begins this Sunday.

We are calling the class (and when I say “we” I mean me) The Great Adult Sunday School Class. Can you say “pompous”? Yes it is a little over the top, but I think it is going to be a “great” experience for those who attend. (Did you see how I did that? (A “great” experience!)

Here is why I am excited, I think that too many of us have never understood that following Jesus impacts every aspect of our lives. Being a Christian is not just something we believe, it is something we live. This Sunday in worship we will be receiving seven new members. When session talked with them about joining we asked them what they thought it meant to make Jesus the lord of their lives. It is simple really, at least theoretically, it means to follow his lead.

That means more than going to church or saying our prayers. It means that we care about the things God cares about. Think for a minute about what God might care about.

- Does God care about the slow steady destruction of the created world that he gave to us? I think so, and so should we.
- Does God care about people living in war torn places who are fleeing to find safety and better lives for their kids? I think so, and so should we.
- Does God care that here in America, the most Christian nation on earth, that racism still runs wild? I think so, and so should we.
- Does God care about the level of violence in the world, about extraordinary levels of gun violence and incarceration in America? I think so, and so should we.
- Does God care that so many Muslims hate Christians and so many Christians hate Muslims? I am sure of it, and so should we care.

These are the issues that are shaping our world. If we turn our heads and close our eyes, how will Jesus have any impact. I know the issues are big and complicated. I know we don't have all the answers. I

know that it is easy to get overwhelmed by it all. But still, I think following Jesus clearly involves being, as Jesus called us to be in the Sermon on the Mount, “the salt of the earth and the light of the world.”

Our ignorance and silence about these matters contributes to the darkness.

This pompously named Sunday school class aims to address some of these big issues.

The syllabus for this class is included in this flyer. The class will cover diverse topics and include excellent teachers who will inform us about the issues, and help us to cope with our own issues.

Jenna Copeland will start us off this Sunday with the first of two sessions on “Mindfulness”. It may not sound like that topic fits in with all the issues I have just mentioned, but if we cannot slow down, pay attention to our own emotions and listen for the still small voice of God, we will not likely be very effective in making much of a difference for the Kingdom of God.

Jenna is one of our newer members, and a new mom. She is also a Licensed Professional Mental Health Counselor with Erie VA Medical Center in the Behavioral Health Clinic who began teaching mindfulness as part of her therapy for those suffering from PTSD. Mindfulness is the first step to making positive changes, we can't change what we don't acknowledge or are aware of first.

Each week in the church Enews, we will highlight the upcoming speakers and their topics. I hope you will join us as we struggle toward living a faith that is more engaged with a world with lots of troubles.

Love Ya - Pastor Chuck

People to Pray for

Amy Tessier's niece Angelina Polk - her dad Jim Polk died in a terrible accident a couple weeks ago.

Terry Limburg is very frail and not doing well. Prayers for her, and Richard.

Nancy Pickens - health issues

Two of Carissa Iszkula's relatives have a rare genetic form of stomach cancer - prayers for them and their family

Sue Howland - was diagnosed with stage four cancer, everywhere through her body. Prayers for her and her family.

Stephanie Borland's Uncle Jack Bell - a spot was discovered on his pancreas - possible cancer.

Terry and her son Matthew. Matthew is autistic, and they are both going through a difficult time right now.

Anna Mae Traut's son-in-law Carl Schnaufer has a malignant brain tumor that is inoperable. Prayers for peace for him and his family.

Continued prayers for Hagan Hetz and his family

Joys

2 new babies were born in December!

John & Cary Borland had a baby girl - Leah Jane

Jake & Sara Tobolewski had a baby boy - Cole Masten

Eric Scandale and his girlfriend Tracy had a baby girl on

January 25 - Elise Jayla Scandale

Weddings!

Aleks Zaytsev and Susan Nelson were married on January 17

Jill Mando and her fiance Bill Blair will be married on March 12

Congratulations to all!!

In a Different Voice

(a monthly column written and submitted by Judith Johnston)

Strange, interesting, weird, charming, scary — as America becomes increasingly diverse, we are confronted by more & more people whose ways are not our ways. Yet, God seems to have spoken to his children in many different places at very different times. Some of these diverse views will be featured each month to encourage a healthy curiosity about other spiritual writings and to open us up to possibilities for a larger spiritual awareness.

Political repression is the **persecution** of an individual or group within society for **political** reasons, particularly for the purpose of restricting or preventing their ability to take part in the **political** life of a society thereby reducing their standing among their fellow citizens.

Religious persecution is the systematic mistreatment of an individual or group of individuals as a response to their **religious** beliefs or affiliations or lack thereof. The tendency of societies or groups within society to alienate or repress different subcultures is a recurrent theme in human history.

In 626 A.D., a delegation of Christian monks from St. Catherine's Monastery (Sinai, Egypt) came to Prophet Muhammad and requested his protection.. He responded by granting a charter of rights to cover travelers as well as those living under Islam rule. It is summarized below.

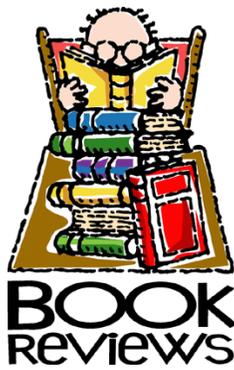
No compulsion is to be on them. Neither are their judges to be removed from their jobs nor their monks from their monasteries. No one is to destroy a house of their religion, to damage it, or to carry anything from it to the Muslims' houses. Should anyone take any of these, he would spoil God's covenant and disobey His Prophet.

If a female Christian is married to a Muslim, it is not to take place without her approval, nor is she to be prevented from visiting her church to pray. Their churches are to be respected. They are neither to be prevented from repairing them nor the sacredness of their covenants. No one of the nation (Muslims) is to disobey the covenant till the Last Day (end of the world).

A remarkable aspect of the charter is that it imposes no conditions on Christians for enjoying its privileges. It is enough that they are Christians. They are not required to alter their beliefs, they do not have to make any payments and they do not have any obligations. This is a charter of rights without any duties.

(Google St. Catherine's Monastery for additional information.)

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." (Heb 13:2)



The Lacuna

by

Barbara Kingsolver

2009

The Library of Congress quotes the publisher's summary of this 507-page, can't-put-down paperback: "The story of Harrison William Shepherd, a man caught between two worlds—Mexico and the United States in the 1930s, '40s, and '50s---and whose search for identity takes readers to the heart of the twentieth century's most tumultuous events."

The fictional life of Shepherd is shaped by his encounters with historical characters and events, among them artists Diego Rivera and Frida Kahlo; anti-Stalinist Communist Lev Davidovich Trotsky; Pearl Harbor; World War II; and finally the senators involved in the despicable Committee on Un-American Activities, also known as the McCarthy hearings. Shepherd, left to grow up on his own, having an indifferent, then absent American father and a Mexican mother best described as a trollop, was engaged in various occupations as cook, plaster mixer, typist, secretary, and best-selling author. These granted him entry into historical lives and events, beginning with the Mexican Revolution (1910-1920), and concluding with the McCarthy hearings (1954).

During interrogations, the Committee on Un-American Activities reduced the international post-World War II complexities to a simplistic world view of Americans being 100% Good People (loyal Americans) or 100% Bad People (Russian Communists). The Committee rooted them out by denying Constitutional rights and protections and calling the process "patriotic," although the majority of the accused were not, nor ever had been, Communists. Shepherd's entanglement with the Committee involved a statement made by one of his characters in his best-selling novel, that that the Committee twisted into a declaration of his political views.

History buffs will gain insights into what possibly happened in private conversations and closed meetings with Trotsky and his supporters. Kingsolver inserts numerous *New York Times* articles into the narrative to give credence to these fictional conversations and meetings.

Her creative descriptions of food and fashions, economic contracts, and cultural mores delight and surprise, and her unusual sentence structure brings the reader to reflective pauses throughout the book.

"And what," you may ask, "is a lacuna?" Simple definition: an opening. Kingsolver moves the reader through many openings, from pre-historic Mexico to post-war America, lavishly arching each opening with complex and unforgettable characters.

Service of Remembrance

We will have our annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday, February 14. We will remember those we lost last year:

*Sally Palo, Bob White. Steve Bowers, Debbie Smith,
& Eleanor Sample.*

If you would like to have a loved one mentioned, please let Chuck or Amy know.



Second Annual Painting Event

Proceeds will serve as scholarship funds for Youth Group trips/events.

When: Saturday 2/27/16, from 6-9pm

Where: Fairview Presbyterian Fellowship Hall

What: A group of 30-45 church members, family, and friends can gather together for fellowship, wine, and painting! This year the class will be taught by local artist Brian Payne and he has developed a unique painting for this event (see above). This painting has been designed for novice painters, no experience necessary. The cost to participate is \$40, \$10 of which will come back to our Youth Group.

If 40+ painters sign up Brian will give us back \$15 per painter!

How: You can sign up by submitting a form located on the information table in the Lobby, or in the Sunday bulletin. The form along with payment in full by cash or a check made out to "Fairview Presbyterian Painting Event" in the memo can be left on Amy's desk or in the collection basket.

Please feel free to bring a bottle of your favorite wine to share. Wine glasses will be provided. Questions can be sent to Heather Adams at hapa005@gmail.com. See you there!



Don't you just love these candies?! The orange ones and the yellow ones are my personal favorites. I usually pass on the other ones – unless I'm really desperate. Now, if they made them in chocolate, I'm afraid I'd not share any!

United Way Erie Free Taxes

The church is once again a site for United Way Erie Free Taxes. They will be here Tuesday & Wednesday evenings from 4 -8 pm beginning January 27th. Any 2015 households with incomes of \$54,000 or less qualify for free Federal, State, & Local income tax returns.

Please call 1-888-829-5680 for an appointment.

Ash Wednesday Service

We will be having a very unique meditative service on February 10 at 7 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please join us.

The Great Adult SS Class

February 7

Mindfulness – Jenna Copeland

February 14

Mindfulness – Jenna Copeland

February 21

No CLASS – Pastor Chuck on study leave

February 28

Peace and Non-Violence – Sister Ann Muczynski

March 6

Peace and Non-Violence – Sister Ann Muczynski

March 13

Recovering from a loss – Dennis Chudzinski – Hospice Chaplain

March 20

Race in America – Markus Atkinson

March 27 – Easter – No Class

April 3

The Climate Change Crisis – Steve Porter

April 10

The Climate Change Crisis – Steve Porter

April 17

Tolerance & Diversity – Alieu Nyassi

April 24

Understanding Islam – Niken Astari, Sahana Rijiyah, Sheik Mazin Al-Sahlani

May 1

Understanding Islam – Niken Astari, Sahana Rijiyah, Sheik Mazin Al-Sahlani

May 8 - Dealing with end of life issues????



February 2016

31	9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Congregational Mtg 6p Youth Group	Feb 1	6p Senior High YG 6:30p Choir Practice 7p Little League	2	4p Erie Free Taxes 7p Tai Chi	3	4p Erie Free Taxes 7p Administration	4		5	10 Food Pantry Set-Up 1:30p Neuro-Rest.	6	10 Clothes Closet 10 Food Pantry 10 Tai Chi
7	8 Lions Club Breakfast 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6p Youth Group	8	6p Senior High YG 6:30p Choir Practice	9	4p Erie Free Taxes 7p Tai Chi	10	4p Erie Free Taxes 6p Daisy Troop 7p Ash Wednesday Service	11	Valentines Dinner Set-Up 6:30p Session 6:30p Daisy Troop	12	1:30p Neuro-Rest. 6p Valentines Dinner Dance	13	10 Tai Chi
14	Valentine's Day 9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Wirth Party	15	President's Day 6p Senior High YG 6:30p Choir Practice 7p Lions Club	16	4p Erie Free Taxes 7p Tai Chi	17	4p Erie Free Taxes 6p Daisy Troop	18	7p Deacons 7p Trustees	19	1:30p Neuro-Rest.	20	9 Girl Scout Cookie Pick-Up 10 Tai Chi
21	9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6p Youth Group	22	6p Senior High YG 6:30p Choir Practice	23	4p Erie Free Taxes 7p Tai Chi	24	4p Erie Free Taxes	25		26	1:30p Neuro-Rest.	27	10 Tai Chi 6p Cocktails and Color
28	9:15 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 6p Youth Group	29	6p Senior High YG 6:30p Choir Practice	Mar 1	4p Erie Free Taxes 7p Tai Chi	2	12p Lenten Luncheon 4p Erie Free Taxes	3		4	10 Food Pantry Set-Up 1:30p Neuro-Rest.	5	10 Food Pantry 10 Tai Chi

