

The Reformer

Lawyersville and Sharon Reformed Churches 178

Mission Statement: As disciples of Christ, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to join together to worship God, to study his Word, and use our gifts to extend God's grace and love to others.

FEBRUARY 2017

What's Inside:

Interim Pastor's Page
Church Review
Calendar of Events
Children's Fun Page
Birthdays-Anniversaries



LRC - Church Service
9:00 A.M.

Sunday School
following worship

SRC - Church Service
11:00 A.M.

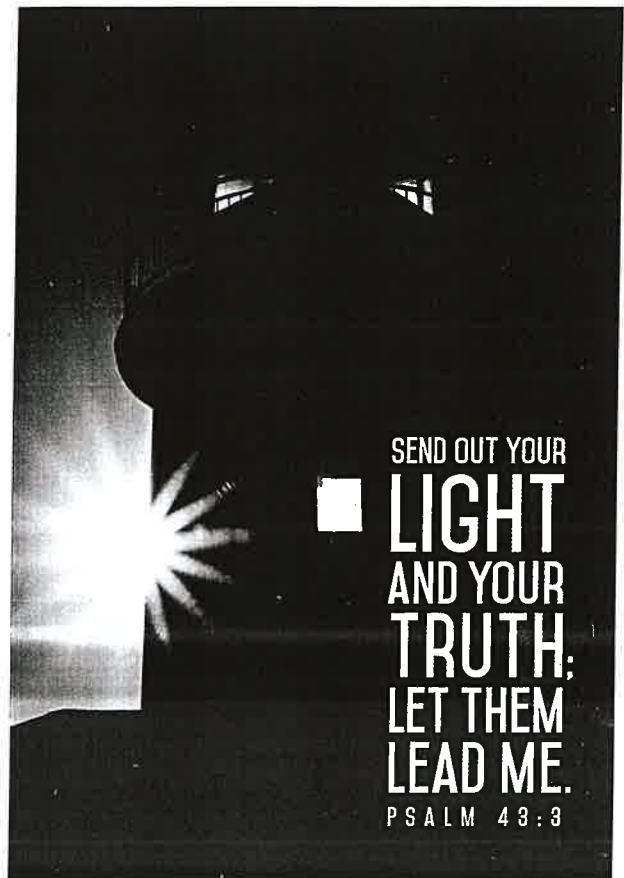
Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Rev. Paul Ferenczy

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FEBRUARY 2017



Special dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, *February 5, 2017*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2017*
- Presidents Day, *February 20, 2017*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 26, 2017*

Moments of Eternity

(by The Interim Pastor)

I was just getting used to summer when all of a sudden fall fell on me. Then I got used to the joyful colors of autumn and snow flakes interrupted my joy. Before I knew it, someone flipped the switch and it was spring. I just got used to writing 2016 and quick as a wink it was 2017. Does it ever end? Where does the time go? The seasons fly by, one minute after the other. Just as you get used to one, another replaces it. Not only is it difficult to keep up with the changes, it's down right scary.

Change is inevitable. That's true for the seasons as well as life itself. The world around us, circumstances, people, situations are constantly changing. Some to the good and some not. I find myself thinking: "I thought I knew that person, but he's changed." Or - "I had little hope for that one, but she's changed!" Or - "Just when you find something you like, they go and change it!" Change can be frustrating, surprising, difficult, scary, sad, joyful and inevitable.

Change is a very important part of the Christian faith. We are called to change. In fact, there's an underlying truth that indicates where there is no change, there's trouble. In writing to the Corinthians Paul says that we who know Christ and through his Spirit behold God's glory are being changed one degree at a time into the likeness of Jesus. Now there's a surprising and joyful thought! Paul also tells us that someday, the trumpet will sound and in an instant we'll all be changed. That will surely be a great day!

Meanwhile, we have to put up with the frustrating, surprising, difficult, scary, sad, joyful and inevitable changes all around us. We have to be ready for it. Jesus did warn us that we never know from one moment to the next what God may have in mind for us. Today may be our last day or the beginning of a whole new situation through which we must walk.

Besides being inevitable, change is also constant. The great philosophers of all the ages have said as much. But every now and then, amid the constant changes going on, I find that there comes a moment when time stands still. I call those - moments of eternity. Those are times when God touches our souls or we touch his. The writer to the Hebrews must have felt such a moment when he discovered and wrote: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. I sometimes feel those God-filled moments when I stop and reflect upon all that is changing and assure myself with the truth that God doesn't change. He remains faithful to his promise of love, mercy and forgiveness toward us. That's nice to know, especially when every thing else around us is so uncertain.

By the time you finish reading this article, you will have changed. The world around you will have changed. There are changes going on that will affect your life, changes of which you are not aware. But perhaps, if you let it, this can be one of those moments of eternity for you - a moment in which your soul is touched by God and your heart senses that assurance and certainty, that God changes not. Let the power and meaning of these words sink in - He is the same yesterday, today and forever.



Prayer Requests

Church

Lewis Ward/pace maker/new home
 Jean Wormuth/home
 Muriel Homes/St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 Jan Liberti/chemo treatments/done
 Allen Proctor/heart surgery recovery
 Lois/Lola's sister/A-Fib/Pace maker
Family/Loved Ones

Sympathy to the Stanton Families. George and Barbara Stanton's daughter and son-in-law were killed in car accident leaving behind 4 children.

Ava Baker/2 year old/brain tumor
 Nelson Castro/bone cancer
 George Eiholzer/aggressive facial esophageal cancer
 Linda Slater/cancer
 Prayers for the Kablean Family
 Donald Bennett/cancer
 Rehberg Family/health issues
 Nadine/diabetes complications
 Betty Revis/blood clot in thigh/therapy
 Debbie/testing
 Marty/Joan's brother/tests
 Donald & Lester Wilsey/health issues
 Rex Smith Sr/health issues

I

Those homebound/in nursing homes:

Helen Holmes (LRC)
 153 Hansen Rd.
 Cherry Valley, NY 13320

Community

All Teachers and students
 Family situations impacting students' performances in school
 Grand-parents serving as guardians for their grandchildren
 All families impacted by alcoholism and/or substance abuse
 Increased heroin addiction in our county
 All families and marriages in crisis
 All children suffering from physical, emotional and/or sexual abuse
 All God's children impacted by hunger and food insecurity
 All soldiers (esp. those deployed) and their families

Nation and World

Crisis of refugees and migrants
 Extremists' intolerance and violence
 Persecuted Christians
 The global economy
 All unrest in God's world
 Local, state national and world leaders
 Peacemaker groups
 Healing from election results/coming together as a great nation

Please let me know of any updates or additions so we can direct our prayers to them.

Josephine King (SRC)
 418 Ridge Rd.
 Broadalbin, NY 12025

Richard Nirschl (SRC)
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 7 Timmerman Ave.
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Muriel Holmes (LRC)
 St. Johnsville Nursing Home
 7 Timmerman Ave.
 St. Johnsville, NY 13452

Start digging!

Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, "Make this valley full of ditches" (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won't rain.

Before the people's need was supplied, they had to trust God and act.

The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!



[image above: SHOVEL_15152, SHOVEL_15152C]

Extravagant love

The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is "no mild, tepid thing," writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe* (Zondervan). "It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free. This love is extravagant."

In all his glory

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, many Christian churches celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. After telling his shocked, uncomprehending disciples that he would die and rise again, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus appeared to be glowing! "He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light" (Matthew 17:2, ESV).

Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (verse 5). Jesus' disciples fell to the ground, overcome by fear. But Jesus touched them, told them not to be afraid and led them down the mountain.

The disciples witnessed firsthand the glory and Godhood of Jesus, who would soon die for the sins of the world and rise again to give us life.

You are cherished

We must understand that God does not "love" us without liking us — through gritted teeth — as "Christian" love is sometimes thought to do. Rather, out of the eternal freshness of his perpetually self-renewed being, the heavenly Father cherishes the earth and each human being upon it. The fondness, the endearment, the unstintingly affectionate regard of God toward all his creatures is the natural outflow of what he is to the core — which we vainly try to capture with our tired but indispensable old word "love."

—Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover these four-letter answers. When read from top to bottom, the first letters reveal a phrase related to the children of Israel's wilderness experience.



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1. Camping shelter _____
2. To track wild game _____
3. Home to Adam and Eve _____
4. Middle Eastern tree _____
5. A form of precipitation _____
6. To follow commands _____
7. Martha's sister _____
8. A false god _____
9. Israel's first king _____
10. Valley in 1 Samuel 17 _____
11. Unable to hear _____
12. Smaller than an ocean or sea _____
13. Jezebel's husband _____
14. Mount climbed by Moses _____
15. Morning's light _____

Answers: 1. tent 2. hunt 3. Eden 4. palm 5. rain 6. obey 7. Mary 8. idol 9. Saul 10. Elah 11. deaf 12. lake 13. Ahab 14. Nebo 15. dawn
The promised land



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



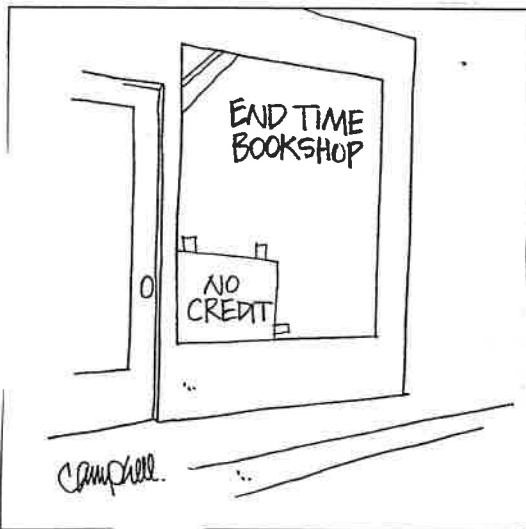
FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY

- 3 Rena Cooper
- 3 Gina Proctor
- 4 Betty Cullen
- 7 Harold Hall
- 23 Heather Steidle

FEBRUARY

- 14 Jeff & Adriene Cullen



The cost of hiding our light

A Los Angeles restaurant owner recently discovered that a neon light had been covered — without being disconnected first — during a construction project 77 years prior. The calculated electricity cost to run the hidden light all that time was \$17,000!

People don't intentionally hide light; that would be counter-productive, not to mention wasteful. Yet when we shrink back from sharing Jesus' good news, we do indeed hide "the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14) that is in us. When we're too modest to use God-given talents such as singing, playing piano or reading to bring others joy, we hide our light. When we put our own wants ahead of meeting someone else's needs through giving and serving, we hide the light of God's love. And at what cost?

"Let your light shine before others," Jesus says, "that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (verse 16).

**Love
The
Lord
Your God
And
Hold fast
To
him**

Kid's Page

Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir.
6. Wash and cut the mint. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

(1) You really like ice cream! _____



(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____

(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____

(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____

(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____

(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____

(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____



"Honor _____ and



_____, and _____ your

_____."

Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV

Food donations

Thank you to all who contribute donations of Food for the Food Pantry, held at the Baptist Church. We know, due to the economy, that there is an increase in requests. Some who have donated in the past find themselves in need of help. Please continue to give as you are able. Thank you for participating in this ministry of care. First Sunday of each month.



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E-mail lola756@wildblue.net
Deadline: February 22nd. Thanks to all for your information and contributions.

MEMO BOARD

February
5,12,19,26

LRC Worship 9:00 A.M.
Coffee hour following church
SRC Sunday School for all ages 9:30 A.M.
SRC Worship 11:00 A.M.
Coffee hour following church
Joint Consistory Meeting @ 5:30 P.M. @ LRC
LRC Consistory @ 5:15 P.M.

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16

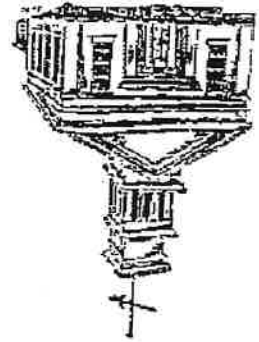
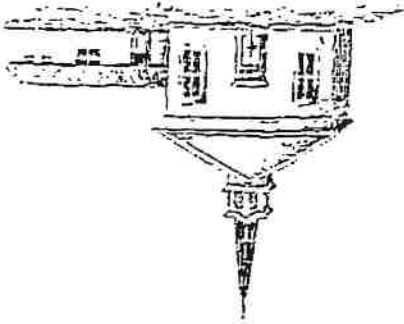
The gift that gives

Love ever gives,
forgives, outlives
and ever stands
with open hands.
And while it lives, it gives.
For this is love's prerogative —
to give, and give, and give.
—John Oxenham



Giving credit where due?

Running late for a meeting, a man circled the block, looking for a place to park. Desperately, he raised his eyes toward heaven and prayed, "Lord, if you'll find me a parking spot, I promise I'll start going to church again."
Just then, a car pulled out of a space right in front of the man. "Never mind," he said to God. "I found one!"



LAWYERSVILLE and SHARON REFORMED CHURCHES

P.O. Box 421
Cobleskill, NY 12043

God's conversation hearts

Those familiar conversation hearts that show up every February can be more than just trite romantic or friendly sayings. Use them to remind you — or to teach a child — of the greatest love of all: God's love for us, which empowers our love for others. For example:

- ♥ TRUE LOVE: What love is truer than giving up one's only Son so people might have everlasting life? (John 3:16).
- ♥ BE MINE: Jesus knows us intimately, as a shepherd knows his sheep. No one can snatch us from him (John 10:27-29).
- ♥ FOREVER: God loves us with an "everlasting love" (Jeremiah 31:3).
- ♥ LOVE ME: The greatest commandment is to love God with our whole being (Luke 10:27).
- ♥ TRUST ME: "Let not your hearts be troubled." We can count on Jesus, now and for eternal life (John 14:1-3).
- ♥ SWEET TALK: God's words are sweeter than honey (Psalm 119:103).
- ♥ BE GOOD: We show our love for Christ by keeping his commands (John 14:15).
- ♥ CALL ME: God longs to be in fellowship with us. We can talk to him anytime in prayer (Jeremiah 33:3).
- ♥ FRIENDS: The greatest love involves laying down your life for your friends (John 15:13) — precisely what Jesus did.
- ♥ #1: "We love because [God] first loved us" (1 John 4:19).