

Ilion Presbyterian News

January 2019

Pastor Rick Riggle

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Happy New Year!!!! If you hear it once you will hear it a hundred times; in fact we hear it so often that it feels like it loses its meaning in some fundamental way. What is a happy new year anyway? Why doesn't anyone wish us this after the first of the year? It is time to rethink things if you ask me.

So, this year, I want to wish you something different. I want to wish you today. And if you wonder what today is, let me tell you.

It is the moment of light surrounded on all sides by darkness and oblivion. In the entire history of the universe, let alone in your own history, there has never been another day just like it and there will never be another day just like it again. It is the point to which all your yesterdays have been leading since the hour of your birth. It is the point from which all your tomorrows will proceed until the hour of your death. If you were aware of how precious it is, you could hardly live through it. Unless you are aware of how precious it is, you can hardly be said to be living at all.

"This is the day which the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it". Or weep and be sad in it for that matter. The point is to see it for what it is, because it will be gone before you know it. If you waste it, it is your life that you're wasting. If you look the other way, it may well be the very moment you've been waiting for forever that you will be missing.

All other days have either disappeared into darkness and oblivion or not yet emerged from it. Today is the only day there is.

God's blessings to you all for today.

Pastor Rick

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Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Ilion,

I would like to thank you for selecting me to receive the D.V. Burnett Scholarship for the 2018-2019 school year. It is an honor to have been chosen and the financial assistance is greatly appreciated. The First Presbyterian Church of Ilion has done so much for my family and I over the years and it truly means a lot to me to have received this scholarship. I look forward to seeing many of you again soon this holiday season. Again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Zachary E. Williams

Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church of Ilion,

I hope this letter finds you all well this holiday season. I want to bring you all up to date on what is happening in my life. I am currently in my junior year at The George Washington University working closer to my degree in biomedical engineering. My time as a student is nearly complete and leaves me with many different paths from which I can choose. Over the past four years I have invested a lot of time and energy into my education. Now I want to invest part of my life into helping others.

This fall, on a recommendation from a friend I joined a Bible Study group sponsored by the Newman Catholic Student Center on campus. I've really enjoyed the time talking about my faith with other students. It's also been an interesting experience to meet Catholic students and be able to share our Presbyterian faith with others.

From my involvement in this Bible Study, I was given the wonderful opportunity to spend one week in Trinidad and Tobago doing mission work with FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). While in Trinidad and Tobago we will be working in a hospice care center during the day and in the evening, we will be mentoring middle and high school aged students.

Our faith calls us to continuously grow closer to God. This includes knowing Him, loving Him, and serving Him. This is a great opportunity to take part in service as we show God's people the love they are meant to encounter every day. Through this mission trip I hope to grow closer to Jesus Christ as I serve the people of Trinidad and Tobago in their spiritual and material needs.

Christ has called us all to be evangelists. Each person has a unique and critical role to play in God's plan. I write you today to invite you to join us on our mission in Trinidad and Tobago. You can join me in this mission in a couple dynamic ways – with your prayers and financial gift. I need to raise \$2,100.00 by March 1st to cover the necessary costs of the trip. I ask you to prayerfully consider joining me in my work in Trinidad and Tobago. In order to meet this goal as quickly as possible, one-time gifts of \$25, \$50, or \$100+ are greatly needed. There are no minimums or maximums and all gifts are greatly appreciated!

If you would like to join my mission support team, simply go online and donate by credit card or bank transfer at http://www.focusonline.org/goto/Zachary_Williams. Gifts made online and checks made payable to FOCUS are tax-deductible gifts. Feel free to donate as soon as you are able. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Thank you for your time and prayerful consideration!

Sincerely in Christ,

Zachary Williams

Liturgical Ministers for January

As this week is between the holidays, we don't have a lot of news. However, it's important that we keep in touch with Rick's message, our prayer list & our calendar for January with the birthdays.

Although it doesn't look like there is much going on with our renovation, keep your eyes open in the next couple of weeks. The secretary's office will be moving into the library to make room for the construction of the Vertical Platform Lift housing. I will ask everyone to be extra vigilant when you're here and if others outside the church (scouts, etc) are here, as we won't be able to lock things up. Thank you in advance for that.

We look forward to seeing you in church!

January 6

Reader: George Gullis
Greeter: Jean Smith
Usher: Christine Lawrence
Coffee Hour: Class Act
Servers: Sue Thomas & Jean Smith
Communion set-up: Denise Goodale

January 13

Reader: Lee Maley
Greeter: WT Lennox
Ushers:
Coffee Hour:

January 20

Reader: Steve Getman
Greeter: Lee Maley
Usher:
Coffee Hour: The Choir

January 27

Reader: Joan Matteson
Greeter: Lynn Backus
Usher:
Coffee Hour:

Prayer List:

- ◆ **Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.**
- ◆ Cody Adams, Dorothy Allison (Rick's M-I-L), Bob Bailey, Rosamond Bennati, John Burdick, Linda Cate, Mel Darling, the Devereese Family, Clifford Dibble, Beverly Doolen, David Flanagan, Mary Franklin, Sarah Getman, Marilyn Hext, Dave & Jane Jacquays, Norma Kelly, Dr. Aimee, Christine Lawrence, Bill Lennox, Barbara Maley, Kim Maley, Steven Maley, Marty March, Joan Matteson, Pat & Marge Moylan, Patrick O'Connor, Peg Olson, Gary & Jan Orendorf, Mike Orendorf & family, Leah Passalacqua, Josh Petty, Steve Price, Bea Raux, Millie Ritter, Henry Rocker, Dale Rohrer, Jane & Bob Smithson, Robyn Smithson-Damron, Angela Traglia, Diane (Selwood) Williams, Ricky Wilson & mom, Gretchen



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