

Ilion Presbyterian News

September 2020

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I have been thinking about the evening news lately. The world and everything that is going on makes it hard not to think about it. Actually, with the availability of news it isn't just the evening news anymore.

When the news comes on, hundreds of thousands of people all over the world tune in and watch it on their TV screens or their iPads or smart phones. Disasters and scandals, scientific breakthroughs and crimes of passion, perpetual wars and the perpetual search for peace, pandemics and racial unrest —people sit there by the millions often half dazed by the things that go to create each particular day. Some may even try to make some kind of sense of it or, if they can't find any sense, they will at least try to come to some sort of terms with it; try to figure out how it's apt to affect them for good or bad.

It occurs to me that there is also the news that rarely, if ever, gets into the media at all, and that is the news of each particular day of each particular one of us. That is the news we're so busy making that we seldom get around to sitting down and thinking it over. If something extraordinary happens we might think about it for a moment, but the unextraordinary, commonplace events of each day as they come along tend slip by almost unnoticed. That, to put it mildly, is a pity. What we are letting slip by almost unnoticed are the only lives on this planet we're presumably ever going to get.

We're all of us caught up in our own small wars. We have our crimes and passions, our failures and successes. We make our occasional breakthroughs. God knows we are searching for peace. It's all apt to happen so quietly and on so small a scale we hardly realize it's happening. It is only an unanswered letter. A phone conversation. A tone of voice. A chance meeting at the post office. An unexpected lump in the throat. Laughing till we cry. But these things are what life is all about. These things are what we as human beings are all about.

Maybe there's nothing on earth more important for us to do than sit down every evening or so and think that over, try to figure it out, if we can, or at least try to come to terms with it. The news of our day. Where it is taking us. Where it is taking the people we love. If nothing else, it is at least a good way of saying our prayers.

Peace be with you,  
Pastor Rick

**Read the newspaper and you are up to date; read the Bible and you are ahead of the times.**

It seems like the pandemic has stopped so many things, but here at First Presbyterian we keep moving forward. Always looking for new ways to spread the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. When you go by the church now you will see our brand new sign made possible by the Lennox family.

It has more capability than we know how to use yet but rest assured we are working on a steep learning curve to use it the best we can for the kingdom of God. Many thanks to so many people. Lynn Backus, Don Lamphear, and George Gullis for all their hard work removing the old sign and moving the flagpole.

I hope you will stop by soon to take a look.

Pastor Rick

Our blood drive on Friday was a success! Our goal set by the Red Cross was 21 units and we gathered a total of 18 whole blood products and 2 double reds for a grand total of 22. We rocked. The head nurse told me that every 20 seconds someone needs a transfusion. Scary thought, isn't it? Each whole blood donation has the potential to help up to 3 people; each double red up to 6 people. A special thanks to Sue Bartholomew for bringing along her daughter and son in law, both first time donors, and Janet Darling, another first time donor. (As well as Don L. and Rick, our double red donors!)



We have additional drives set up for October 8<sup>th</sup>, and another on November 18<sup>th</sup>. I believe the Red Cross will still be testing for covid antibodies during those drives as a benefit to those who are successful donors. If you are able to donate and haven't in a while, please consider it. Where else are you able to save up to 3 lives in as little as 20 minutes time?

**Don't grumble because you don't get what you want, be thankful you don't get what you deserve!**

### **MIS News:**

A hearty "thank you" and a virtual "hug" to all who helped support the food drive this summer. Twice I took over Rubbermaid containers full to the top as well as bags and bags of canned goods, pasta, and cereal. The kind ladies at Catholic Charities were beyond excited and thankful to receive our help. People have lost their jobs, or in the case of Remington next month, 700+ local people, people we KNOW, will be losing their jobs. In this time of social distancing, this was one small thing we did from a distance that will impact many - possibly within your own families. (As it is in mine.) I offer a personal thank you from me for your kindness and caring.

Special prayers go out to Fred & Jean Sullivan. Fred will be having serious heart surgery, and to Teenie Steele who was in the hospital for a blocked bile duct & a blood clot in the vein behind her liver. (Teenie is Lesa Decker's aunt & Lesa Steele's mother.)

Also prayers for Betty Foor who will be having hip replacement surgery on Sept. 2.

### **Prayer List:**

- **Men and women who protect us and our freedoms.**

Cody Adams, Joy Bagwell, Kiersten Barnes/Richard Davis, Linda Cate, Brianna Nicole, Travis Darling, the Devereese Family, Clifford Dibble, Allan Dickinson, Beverly Doolen, Shirley Dostal, (Rick's sister), Art DuBois, George Dunbar, Ralph Dupres, Lenore Ebersole, Jenn Eldredge, Phyllis Fasolo, David Flanagan, Sarah Getman, Fran Harrod, Marilyn Hext, Loren Hughes, Julie Hulser & Julie's granddaughter, Jocelyn, infant Grayson, Dave & Jane Jacquays, Dr. Aimee, Amanda Lawrence, Sharon Lennox, Barbara Maley, Marty March, Joan Matteson, Laureen Mitchell, Pat & Marge Moylan, Steve Price, Rebecca, Millie Ritter, Henry Rocker, Dale Rohrer, Barb Ropeter, Lorie Schrader, Jane & Bob Smithson, Angela Traglia, Kirsi Viskari, Darlene Whalen, Ricky Wilson & mom, Gretchen



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**Patience isn't so much about waiting as it  
is about how you behave while waiting....**

And how appropriate is this quote for our situation with this Covid-19 pandemic?  
Thanks to Susan Backus for these quotes for this month's newsletter. She says she has  
loads more, to keep watching!