



Greetings in the Name of Christ!

In today's world, we have instantaneous access to news and other information. I can compare weather predictions by going to weather.com, wfsb.com, or Googling "weather". I'm not sure why, but my phone now buzzes whenever a news alert has been posed by CNN. The alert appears on the screen of my phone. When I'm not sure how to repair something, whether in my house or in my car, I go to YouTube and watch a video that shows me how to do it.

Quick access to information has its benefits. We don't have to wait until the six o'clock news to find out about significant events. I no longer have to wait for the "Year Book" to update my edition of World Book encyclopedia until it is a bit more current. But have you ever asked yourself whether there are downsides to having access to so much information so quickly?

One of the problems with being bombarded with information is that I often tune out or ignore some available information. I find my brain overloaded, so I stop accessing it. Last Saturday evening, I took great pleasure in washing my car, having high hopes that it would remain clean for the next week or so. On Monday morning, I had to drive through showers on my way to work. On Tuesday morning, the roads were treated with sand and salt because of the inch or so of snow that fell. I very easily could have saved \$8 by looking at the weather report on my computer, on my phone, or even in the newspaper (yes, I still get a "real" newspaper every morning...). But I never did, and merely "hoped" when washing my car that it wouldn't rain or snow for the next week!

Another downside to having instantaneous access to information is that we think we're experts on matters that are best left to others. Because of YouTube, I sometimes think that I can repair any car or household appliance as well as a technician who has years of schooling and on the job training. I have to consciously avoid the temptation to consult WebMD rather than my doctor, who has known me and cared for me for years.

God has blessed us with access to all kinds of information almost instantaneously. The irony is that all the information sometimes causes us to think that we have dominion and control over everything in our lives and in our world. We need to remember that information is NOT a substitute for faith and trust in God! Surfing the Internet for guidance or advice is NOT a substitute for prayers seeking God's guidance in our lives! And while Facebook and other social media sites are nice for keeping up with family and friends, they are NOT substitutes for the fellowship we share when we gather for Worship and other church activities!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Mike

February Sermons



February 4, 2018 Mark 1:29-39 “Getting Out There”

Jesus conducted his earthly ministry in an interesting way. Immediately after he began his work, word of his miracles spread quickly. People would have traveled great distances to seek him out. But much like a doctor from decades ago, Jesus made house calls. He didn't, for the sake of time efficiency or because of the expense, expect people to come to him. He reached out to them by going to where they were, rather than expecting them to come to him.

February 11, 2018 Mark 9:2-9 “Why Do We Always Need To Say Something?!”

Have you ever regretted something you said? Peter probably felt that way after the comment he made to Jesus, Moses and Elijah during the Transfiguration. When faced with an unexplainable or scary situation, we oftentimes find ourselves making a very irrelevant comment. But Jesus didn't focus on Peter's comments. He accepts our humanity, and just continues to use our efforts for the Kingdom of God.

February 18, 2018 Mark 1:9-15 “Temptations Are Always There”

After his baptism, Jesus was led into the wilderness and tempted by the devil for forty days. The fact that the Son of God would have to face temptations prior to beginning his earthly ministries is a reminder to us that we, too, will face challenges many times in our lives. Therefore, we should not despair when things get difficult, but rather keep the faith and learn from those experiences.

February 25, 2018 Mark 8:31-38 “God's Way Is Different From Earthly Ways”

On this, the second Sunday in Lent, we are reminded that the human definition of success is not the same as God's definition of success. Peter challenged Jesus' explanation of future events. Being a member of Jesus' team, Peter expected that God would enable them to be victorious from an earthly perspective. Jesus reminds us to be careful about measuring the success of our ministries in human terms.



DAILY BIBLE READINGS FEBRUARY 2018



Come Together in Faith and share the Joy of the Lord.

- | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Genesis 37:1-36 | 11 Genesis 47:1-31 | 21 Joshua 2:1-24 |
| 2 Genesis 39:1-23 | 12 Genesis 48:1-22 | 22 Joshua 3:1-17 |
| 3 Genesis 40: 1-23 | 13 Genesis 47:29-50:26 | 23 Joshua 4:1-5:1 |
| 4 Genesis 41:1-36 | 14 Psalm 51 | 24 Joshua 6:1-27 |
| 5 Genesis 41:37-57 | 15 Psalm 52 | 25 Ruth 1:1-22 |
| 6 Genesis 42:1-38 | 16 Psalm 73 | 26 Ruth 2:1-23 |
| 7 Genesis 43:1-34 | 17 Psalm 108 | 27 Ruth 3:1-18 |
| 8 Genesis 44:1-34 | 18 Hebrews 11:1-22 | 28 Ruth 4:1-22 |
| 9 Genesis 45:1-28 | 19 Hebrews 11:23-40 | |
| 10 Genesis 46:1-34 | 20 Joshua 1:1-18 | |

ALL IN THE FAMILY...

Betty Salerno had another hospital stay, is doing much better and is now in rehab. Our prayers for your continued health continue for you Betty... *Nettie Fairchild* is coming along. Several parishioners have been in touch with her and report that her spirits are high as is her unique humor. Keep up the continued good work and we hope to see you come spring... *Elaine Fiermonte* has had her surgery and is improving... *Tammy Johnson* is doing nicely after her hand surgery... *Scott Johnson* had a bout with pneumonia, but is better now and back to work... We received news that our long time friend *Dorothy Hall* passed away on Saturday, January 27th. Our thoughts and prayers go with her and to her son, Robert.

As always, please remember to keep all our shut-ins in your thoughts and prayers.

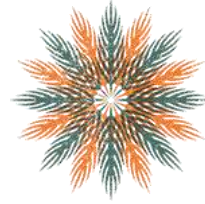
ANNUAL MEETING – Feb. 18th

There will be business meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, February 18th, immediately following the worship service. A budget for 2018 will be proposed and considered at that time.

Our annual *Valentine's Day Celebration* will take place on Sunday, February 11th. As in the past, please bring Valentine's cards for others in the congregation. But this year, we ask that you NOT sign the cards. Just write a few words about the recipient, and let your card be from a "secret admirer."



FEBRUARY 14TH



Ash Wednesday prayer

Merciful God, you called us forth from the dust of the earth; you claimed us for Christ in the waters of baptism. Look upon us as we enter these Forty Days bearing the mark of ashes, and bless our journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; our prayer, the chant of humble and grateful hearts.



LENTEN LUNCHEONS

The season of Lent is fast approaching! Ash Wednesday this year is on February 14th. As you may recall, the churches in Plymouth sponsor a series of Tuesday Lenten Luncheons at different churches around the town. The schedule is as follows:

- Feb. 20: St. Paul Lutheran Church
134 Main St. – Terryville
- Feb. 27: Plymouth Cong./FBC Churches
10 Park St. – Plymouth
- Mar. 6: St. Maximilian Kolbe RC Church
Lyceum – 181 Main St.
Terryville
- Mar. 13: Terryville Congregational Church
233 Main St. – Terryville
- Mar. 20: Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
8 Maple St. – Terryville

THE MUSIC CORNER

FEBRUARY 2018



My heart, O God, is steadfast, my heart is steadfast; I will sing and make music. Psalm 57:7

With the hectic pace of Thanksgiving and Christmas barely behind us, we enter into the season of Lent and Easter. The Choir is dedicated preparing anthems for these seasons of the Church calendar. These rehearsals are just beginning and will continue through the Lenten season.

This year the Ash Wednesday service will be held at First Baptist Church; our friends from the Congregational church will join us. Their Choir has been invited to sing with us for the anthem.

In like manner, the Congregational Church choir has invited singers from the area churches to sing a Palm Sunday cantata to be performed at 2:00 pm on Palm Sunday. Rehearsals will be on Sunday evenings.

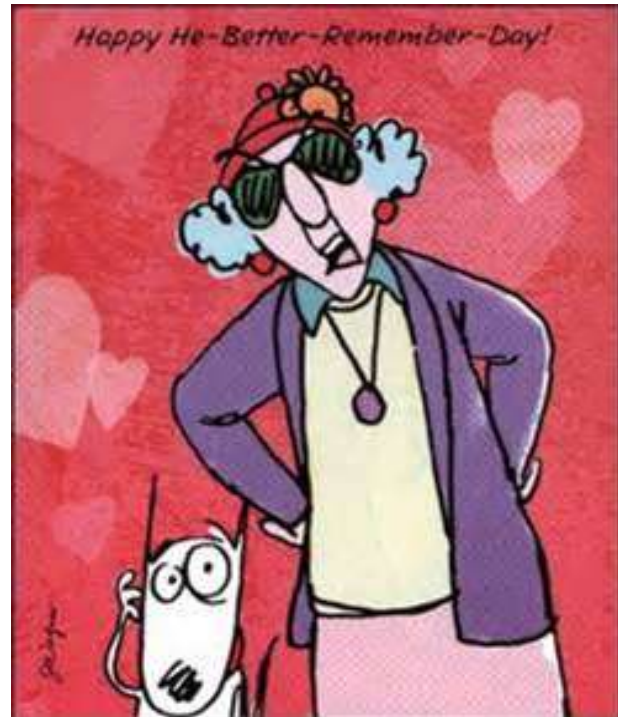
If you like to sing but can't commit to every Sunday, consider joining rehearsals for a season (Lent/Easter) for an event (Palm Sunday cantata), or a given day (Ash Wednesday).

We welcome all voices!

Julie



Tammy Johnson	2/9
Aaliyah Collins	2/13
Bob Geckler	2/17
Dennis McGavran	2/20
Allyson Dellaquilla	2/23
Michella Rose	2/24
Latasha Mbabali	2/26
Robert & Cheryl Nottbohm	2/23
Alan & Essie Petty	2/24
Scott & Tammy Johnson	2/28



MOMENTS OF MEDITATION NOW ON PODCAST

**Listen to M.O.M. with Pastor Mike
firstbaptistplymouth.ecucomm.ro
and clicking on the podcast link .**

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

†PURPOSE†

“God calls us together; we seek to respond to His word as disciples of Jesus Christ by ministering to one another, to the community in which we live, and to all humanity.”



The Record



February

February 2018
Inside this Issue:

OFF THE RECORD
February Sermons
Daily Bible Readings
All in the Family

The Music Corner
Kid's Page
Birthdays
Anniversaries

First Baptist Church
2-4 North Street
P.O. Box 121
Plymouth, CT 06782
860/283-6181

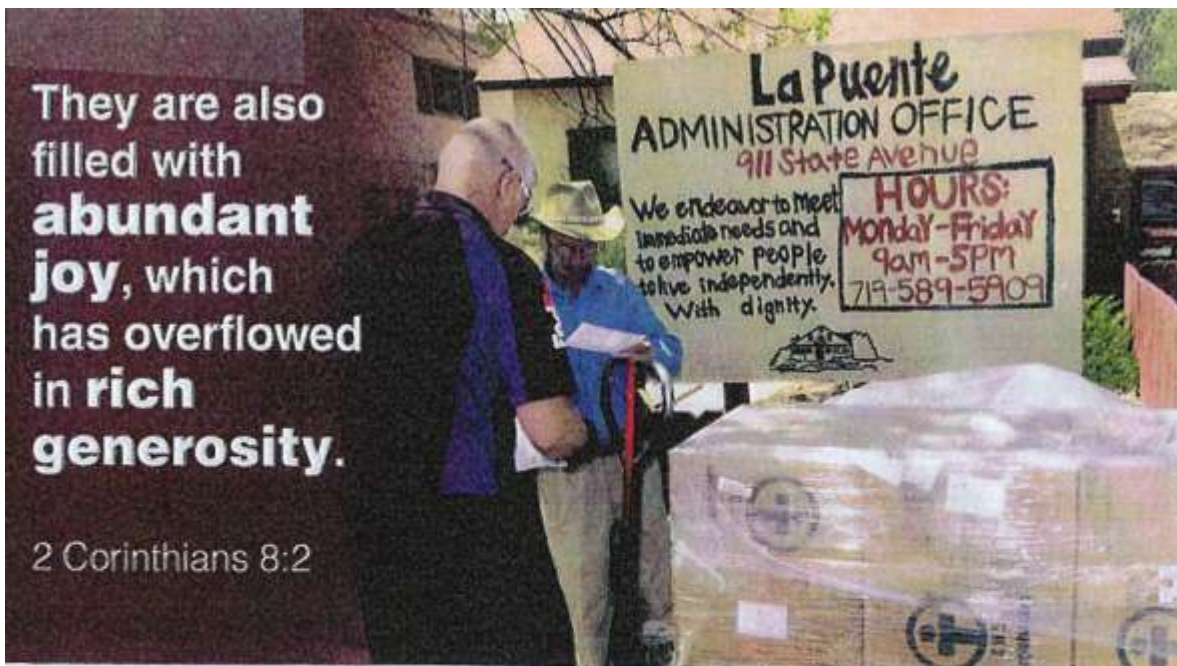
Church Office: (860)283-6181
Hours: Tuesday & Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 Noon
Church e-mail: fbc24@sbcglobal.net
firstbaptistplymouth.ecucomm.ro

Return Service Request

Dated Materials – Deliver Promptly to:

They are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

2 Corinthians 8:2



CWS Blankets: because our neighbors deserve warmth and comfort

For 35 years, the nonprofit organization La Puente has provided vital resources and services to people in crisis in Colorado's San Luis Valley.

Your support meant that we shipped CWS Blankets and CWS Kits to La Puente in 2016. The supplies were distributed to La Puente's homeless shelter and to residents in the San Juan Mountains living in the area known as the "flats." Many homes in the flats don't have running water or electricity. Most use firewood as their main heat source. In this high-altitude climate, winter temperatures can drop to life-threatening lows. Firewood can run out before winter ends.

Robert Lockwood, the Rural Outreach Initiative's Case Manager for La Puente, travels the flats and meets with the families living there. He provides resources when he can and always passes along essential information about where to access needed services. Last winter, Robert distributed all of the warm, wool Church World Service Blankets and Hygiene Kits he had on hand.

Jesus said, **"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"** (Matthew 6:21). God has blessed us with so much, and we have much to share. Share this love by providing CWS Blankets to those in need. Each blanket costs only \$10, but these blankets can be a vital resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement.