

the VOICE



JANUARY 2018

Volume 20 | Issue 1



Worship Services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

www.umc-cornerstone.org

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Start the New Year Right – with prayer!

From New Year's Day through Ash Wednesday, we'll be reading Mark Batterson's devotional book **The Circle Maker**, studying it in worship, discussing it in small groups and practicing in our homes and our lives. If you'd like to share your experiences, be encouraged and encourage others in their prayer lives, come join us on **Tuesday evenings at 7:00 starting January 9, or on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 starting January 3.** If you need help ordering a book or need more info, contact pastor Jim or the church office. Get ready – prayer opens up a world of possibility for the New Year.

SPIRIT LAKE FAMILY MISSION TRIP & INFO SESSION

Cornerstone families are invited on a weeklong mission trip to the Spirit Lake Nation Native American reservation in North Dakota from July 22-28, 2018. This is a great opportunity for families to serve on mission together! This trip is open to ages 10 and up, with anyone under age 15 accompanied by a parent.

The total cost of the trip will be \$500 per person, but we will do team fundraising to reduce the out-of-pocket cost. Spots are limited, so reserve yours as soon as possible by turning in your deposit of \$50 per person to Hannah Krog. Contact Hannah at hkrog1125@gmail.com or 443-370-8221 with any questions.

We will be going to Spirit Lake with a team from Epworth UMC who visits Spirit Lake every summer. If your family is interested in learning more about the trip, join us at noon on **Sunday, January 28**, for lunch and an information session with Andy Lindstrom, who leads Epworth's annual trip to Spirit Lake. Andy will share details about past trips and will answer any questions your family may have about Spirit Lake or the mission trip.



“SOUPER” BOWL CHALLENGE

On January 28th we will have our traditional “Souper” Bowl challenge which is held annually to collect money for the local Soup Kettle Ministry. The Soup Kettle Ministry is comprised of seven Elgin churches which open their doors and provide one hot meal per evening to anyone who feels the need to utilize this ministry. The Soup Kettles operate under the umbrella of the Elgin Cooperative Ministry Board of Directors and all operating costs come from donations. Because of food banks, government surplus, corporate donations and charitable contributions, the soup kettle ministry can provide nutritious meals for 80-100 persons each day. They can provide these meals for a fraction of what we might pay for a meal at home or at a fast food restaurant. However, **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED** to continue to make this service remain a reality.

The actual SOUPER BOWL CHALLENGE is a contest between the “girls” and “boys” competing with one another to collect the largest amount of money by weight and by amount to donate to this cause. Two large soup kettles (one labeled girls and one labeled boys) will be present on January 28th and we ask:

- 1) Save up all your loose change for the month (or longer) and place in one of the two kettles. Checks or bills are also gladly accepted!
- 2) Give up one fast food meal a week in January OR one meal out for the month, write a check and donate what you would have spent (don't forget the tip). Please write MOM in the memo space of your check and place in the offering plate any time during the month of January.

Note: If you will not be able to be present on Jan. 28th, please place your coins, bills etc. in a zip-lock bag, label it boys or girls and drop it off in the church office. It will be placed in the appropriate kettle on the day of the contest.

Designated MOM donations can be placed in the offering plate, made online or placed as in the oak box in the fellowship area.

Thank you.

Happy New Year, saints of Cornerstone!

'Tis the season to reflect back on Auld Lang Syne and to look ahead in hope, resolving to make positive changes and trust God with the details.

Our reflections in 2018 will include our celebration of 20 years of being the church on this land, in this building and among these people. If you had to identify 2 or 3 defining moments, highlights, or central commitments, what would they be? What does it mean that Cornerstone has been an instrument in God's hand for almost 20 years now? Feel free to share your reflections with each other, with the pastors, with the Celebration Team or the church office.

*As the year begins, we are going to focus on prayer, using Mark Batterson's book *Draw the Circle*. This is designed as a 40-day devotional, to inspire and encourage the practice of prayer in our private lives and as a congregation. Let's commit to having only one resolution this year: to be prayerful. Whatever bad habit we want to quit, whatever health step we want to take, let's resolve to pray and let's live by the power of prayer. Opportunities to gather together to study the book, our messages and to encourage each other as people of prayer will be found elsewhere in the newsletter and in Sunday bulletins. To start, let's simply resolve together that we will make 2018 a year of prayer.*

Then, as we start the year, let me invite a time of fasting. Throughout all time, God's people have recognized that fasting helps us to break free of sin and bad habits, helps us draw near to God, and helps us toward a rich and meaningful prayer life. Often my family begins the year with a fast known as "Daniel's Fast," drawn from description in Daniel 1 and Daniel 10 of fasts that Daniel (and his friends) undertook in Babylon. Whether you choose this form or another kind of fast, let's use this ancient practice to add meaning to our New Year and draw closer to God as it begins. If you'd like to connect with brothers and sisters who are making similar commitments, please contact one of the pastors or the church office.

Together, let's fill this house of God with a spirit of gratitude and trust: gratitude for what God has done among us and trust for what God will do in leading us into our future. Grab a friend who is trying to make sense of life in 2018 and we'll see you in church.



Pastor Jim Bell



Pastor J. Natarsha Gardner

WORSHIP SERIES

JANUARY 7	New Series: Prayer. Get Ready! Communion Sunday	Acts 10: 1-3
JANUARY 14	Write it Down	Habakkuk 2:1-3
JANUARY 21	Keep Circling Communion Sunday	Joshua 6: 1-4
JANUARY 28	Go - Set - Ready	Hebrews 11:8-10

PANTRY SUNDAY: JANUARY 14TH

The second Sunday of each month is designated as Pantry Sunday. We collect non-perishable food for the All Peoples Interfaith Food Pantry located at the First Congregational Church in downtown Elgin. Please add a couple extra items to your grocery cart on your next shopping visit and drop them off at the Collection Zone baskets located in the entryway of the church. A shopping list of most urgently needed items is also available there for you to take. Your participation is greatly appreciated!

DEAR CORNERSTONE FAMILY,

A big **THANK YOU** to all who donated, packed and prayed for the Children of Spirit Lake Indian Reservation Christmas boxes project. 1,113 boxes were assembled between the four churches involved. The goal was 1000, God is good. Thank you again and start thinking about next year. Let us know your thoughts

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY- HELP WANTED!

Camps Reynoldswood & Wesley Woods need Christian Summer Associates to fill the following paid positions:

Counselors Lifeguards Aquatic Directors
Shift Cooks Kitchen Assistants Maintenance Helpers

We need committed Christians to share their faith, encourage youth and staff, and build friendships.

These are Summer **JOBS**, not vacations--candidates will be expected to work all summer long, including holidays--June 1 through August 16.

For more information contact the church office or apply online:
www.niccamp.org/employment/

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Blake Bowen	15	Stella Brackemyer	28	Jeffrey Klemm
1	Ava Paretti	16	Helen Hitt	29	Joyce Mackall
1	Gama Aywa	16	Kory Kamp	29	Jason Jenkins
3	Aiden Landwer	17	Stephanie Gruner	30	Chris Erickson
4	Nathan Woodruff	17	Tristan Johnson	30	Wayne Peterson
4	Chadd Hoppe	19	Roger Bear		
4	Kim Lowery	20	Sue Spinnato		
5	Brianna Gardner	20	Shane Firsching		
5	Jo Williams	21	Tom Woodruff		
7	Raja Tilkian	22	Les Haworth		
7	Carl Rippberger	22	Jessica Woodruff		
8	Christian Walikonis	22	Keri Woodruff		
11	Kyle Beason	22	Patti Peschke		
12	Charles Horton	24	Donna Saurbaugh		
13	Lori Riba	24	Libby Paveza		
13	Scarlett Benjamin	24	Lauren Bell		
13	Sapphire Benjamin	25	Brian (Bo) Price		
14	Kristy Johnson	26	Al Schening		
15	Mackenzie Scott	26	Jessica Brandes		
15	Faith Bartlett	27	Dorothy Volpp		

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Harry & Deb McKinney	1/3/2009
Don & Eileen Leschke	1/8/1977
Dave & Jan Stokes	1/27/1967
Herb & Terri Lind	1/28/1978

Wisdom Keepers

JANUARY 17TH @ NOON

Please join us for “Lunch and a Program” on Wednesday, January 17th at noon for food, fun and fellowship!

If you are able to bring a dessert, please contact the church office. We look forward to seeing you!

Wisdom Keepers – Last Month

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON



OUR 20TH BIRTHDAY!

Next May, Cornerstone will turn 20 (hard to believe, isn't it?) This calls for a celebration! We should celebrate in worship, in our life of fellowship, and in a public event or events with our neighbors. This month's request is for housing for former Faith UMC pastor Don Keck and his wife Susie.

If you would be able to house the Kecks as they come to share our celebration, please contact the church office or Pastor Jim.

If you have any memories to share, please drop-off hard copies in the church office, or e-mail digital copies to Jeff Moore at jmem911@sbcglobal.net, or text/call him at 224-629-0050. If you would like to help with the plans for this celebration, please contact Pastor Jim.

BIBLE READING IN A YEAR

JANUARY BIBLE READINGS

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 01 Genesis 1:1-2:25
Matthew 1:1-2:12
Psalm 1:1-6
Proverbs 1:1-6 | 12 Genesis 26:17-27:46
Matthew 9:1-17
Psalm 10:16-18
Proverbs 3:9-10 | 22 Genesis 44:1-45:28
Matthew 14:13-36
Psalm 18:37-50
Proverbs 4:11-13 |
| 02 Genesis 3:1-4:26
Matthew 2:13-3:6
Psalm 2:1-12
Proverbs 1:7-9 | 13 Genesis 28:1-29:35
Matthew 9:18-38
Psalm 11:1-7
Proverbs 3:11-12 | 23 Genesis 46:1-47:31
Matthew 15:1-28
Psalm 19:1-14
Proverbs 4:14-19 |
| 03 Genesis 5:1-7:24
Matthew 3:7-4:11
Psalm 3:1-8
Proverbs 1:10-19 | 14 Genesis 30:1-31:16
Matthew 10:1-23
Psalm 12:1-8
Proverbs 3:13-15 | 24 Genesis 48:1-49:33
Matthew 15:29-16:12
Psalm 20:1-9
Proverbs 4:20-27 |
| 04 Genesis 8:1-10:32
Matthew 4:12-25
Psalm 4:1-8
Proverbs 1:20-23 | 15 Genesis 31:17-32:12
Matthew 10:24-11:6
Psalm 13:1-6
Proverbs 3:16-18 | 25 Genesis 50:1 - Ex. 2:10
Matthew 16:13-17:9
Psalm 21:1-13
Proverbs 5:1-6 |
| 05 Genesis 11:1-13:4
Matthew 5:1-26
Psalm 5:1-12
Proverbs 1:24-28 | 16 Genesis 32:13-34:31
Matthew 11:7-30
Psalm 14:1-7
Proverbs 3:19-20 | 26 Exodus 2:11-3:22
Matthew 17:10-27
Psalm 22:1-18
Proverbs 5:7-14 |
| 06 Genesis 13:5-15:21
Matthew 5:27-48
Psalm 6:1-10
Proverbs 1:29-33 | 17 Genesis 35:1-36:43
Matthew 12:1-21
Psalm 15:1-5
Proverbs 3:21-26 | 27 Exodus 4:1-5:21
Matthew 18:1-20
Psalm 22:19-31
Proverbs 5:15-21 |
| 07 Genesis 16:1-18:15
Matthew 6:1-24
Psalm 7:1-17
Proverbs 2:1-5 | 18 Genesis 37:1-38:30
Matthew 12:22-45
Psalm 16:1-11
Proverbs 3:27-32 | 28 Exodus 5:22-7:25
Matthew 18:21-19:12
Psalm 23:1-6
Proverbs 5:22-23 |
| 08 Genesis 18:16-19:38
Matthew 6:25-7:14
Psalm 8:1-9
Proverbs 2:6-15 | 19 Genesis 39:1-41:16
Matthew 12:46-13:23
Psalm 17:1-15
Proverbs 3:33-35 | 29 Exodus 8:1-9:35
Matthew 19:13-30
Psalm 24:1-10
Proverbs 6:1-5 |
| 09 Genesis 20:1-22:24
Matthew 7:15-29
Psalm 9:1-12
Proverbs 2:16-22 | 20 Genesis 41:17-42:17
Matthew 13:24-46
Psalm 18:1-15
Proverbs 4:1-6 | 30 Exodus 10:1-12:13
Matthew 20:1-28
Psalm 25:1-15
Proverbs 6:6-11 |
| 10 Genesis 23:1-24:51
Matthew 8:1-17
Psalm 9:13-20
Proverbs 3:1-6 | 21 Genesis 42:18-43:34
Matthew 13:47-14:12
Psalm 18:16-36
Proverbs 4:7-10 | 31 Exodus 12:14-13:16
Matthew 20:29-21:22
Psalm 25:16-22
Proverbs 6:12-15 |
| 11 Genesis 24:52-26:16
Matthew 8:18-34
Psalm 10:1-15
Proverbs 3:7-8 | | |