

Paul's Perspectives:



Have you ever prayed a prayer of lament? Lament is the pouring out of complaint and misgiving. Usually the prayer has to do with pleas for fairness, understanding, and queries about 'how long' the trouble will last, or cries for answers to those burning 'why' questions.

It takes a great deal of gumption and grit to come to God with your doubts, animosities, and complaining's. Most are very hesitant to do so, but sometimes things are so awful, that your mind lets loose with lamenting. Maybe it doesn't come from your lips, but you can't squelch the thoughts. I have news for you, God knows your thoughts as well as your verbalizations.

But take heart! More than half of the 150 Psalms contain laments. God heard them all - and He sent no lightning bolts of judgement. They are examples of people being completely honest and forthright before God. Which is exactly what God would prefer - rather than any glossing over of our real feelings. God would have you and I to be real with Him.

In this pandemic has there been times of frustration, heartache, disappointment, and unwarranted difficulty? Have you brought them to the throne of grace? You should, and its OK to say it like it is.

We are in a series of messages on the book of Job, and I will soon speak about Job's lamenting as to his suffering, and that seemingly with out meriting such a calamitous condition. In chapter three He will pray that the day of his birth be forever cursed, forgotten, and lost in deep darkness. And then He will spill out a series of 'why' questions for which (for Job) there are no immediate and satisfactory answers. He even asks for death as a cure for his misery, but it does not come.

Thank God that he does not answer some of our pleas - made in times of desperation and troubled thinking. It was a most wretched time for Job, but an important scenario of events, beyond Job's comprehension, were at work, and although it was nearly unbearable at the time — good would ultimately come about. In our hardest moments, when we think heaven has deserted us, be assured God is close and listening, and will not allow anything to happen to us that we are not able to bear.

Jesus had such a moment, and He prayed, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Which by the way is a direct quote from Psalm 22).

Pastor Paul



You can watch Rev. Ray on your phone or computer every Sunday morning at 10:15 am on Zoom. (Our I.D. is 8493568945, Password 998736.) Just go online and get your ZOOM App. It's free!

Bible Study - Evening Bible study meets on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Monday at 7:00 pm. We are studying the book of Luke.



FYI...On Sunday, June 13th– Worship Hour time changes to 9:30 am for the summer months. When weather permits we will have Morning Worship Hour outdoors.

Sunday, June 6th– Worship Hour at 10:15 am. Special Music by Elmer Sparks.



Sunday, June 13th– Graduation Sunday
Worship Hour at 9:30 am.
The Church will be honoring one graduate.
Special Music by Steve Dolphin.
Coffee Hour and cake following the service.



Sunday, June 20th– Father's Day– New Membership Sunday. Worship Hour at 9:30 am. Special Music TBD. New members will be received during church followed by a Coffee Hour. Please join us to welcome our new members and celebrate Father's Day.

Monday, June 14th– Church Council Meeting at 7:00 pm.

Sunday, June 27th–Worship Hour at 9:30 am. Special Music by Jubilee.

Pastor Ray and Agneta would like to express a heartfelt thank you for the surprised gift given to them at our Spring Congregational Meeting. It was very kind and thoughtful and you are a loving and gracious congregation. Again thank you.

Lectionary Readings

6/6 1 Samuel 8:4-20; Psalm 138 Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 3:20-35

6/13 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
2 Corinthians 5:6-17; Mark 4:26-34

6/20 1 Samuel 17:32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; Job 38: 1-11; Psalm 107: 1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41

6/27 2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; Psalm 130; Lamentations 3:22-23; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15; Mark 5:21-43



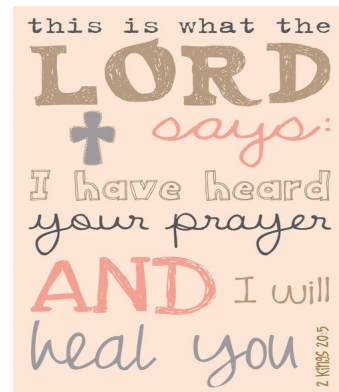
Prayers and Concerns



COVID19 Responders and Caregivers	Ed Manwing
Victims of Terrorism	Neely McNeal
Victims and volunteers of natural disasters worldwide	Dan Medkalf
Our Nation's Leaders	Stephanie Mutz
All military personnel and their families	Matthew Olson
Casa Bernabe Orphanage	Julie Pagan
Kristy Novak Enger	Torin Philips
Rachel Frashingbauer	Reid Shamus
Oscar Jacobs	Jack and Jeanie Smith
Tom and Lynn Koeper	5 year old Clinton
	Barbara
	Lois

Health Care Facilities:

Jean Moyer has a new address!
Oak Park Place 1700 Tuet Road
Apt. 1118
Burlington, WI 53105
Phone Number 262-758-6718



COUNCIL MINUTE HIGHLIGHTS



Pastor's Report

- Pastor Ray expressed a heart-felt thank you to the church for the gift that he was given during the Spring Business meeting.
- Pastor Ray made an appointment to visit Jean Moyer on May 18th who is in convalescence care.
- Pastor Ray will continue his Sunday sermon series on Job.
- Pastor Ray has requested his next vacation to be a couple of weeks in the Fall.
- Pastor Ray will be attending the NACCC Annual meeting, which will be on Zoom on June 19th and 20th.

Treasurer's Report

- **CURRENT MARCH, 2021 REPORTING:**
- Deposits (Income): \$8,535.00
- Withdrawals (Expenses): \$4,079.00

Fellowship Commission

- Graduation Sunday, June 13th coffee hour to follow services with graduation cake.

Mission Commission

- Rummage Sale on May 29th
- Signed up to serve food at Love, Inc. on July 19th

IT/Marketing Commission

- Discussed signage and banners for future events of the church.
- Marketing flyers for Memorial Day events have been printed and distributed.
- Kim Mingus will post Memorial Day events on several Facebook pages before the event.

Buildings and Grounds

- Offer of a pole saw for tree branch that needs to be removed.
- Contacted steeple repair, waiting for estimate.
- Must spray for mosquitos in courtyard soon.
- Plans to build a stand for keyboard for outside services

Council Meeting on Monday, June 14th at 7:00 pm.





**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF ROCHESTER**

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*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there I am in the midst of them."
Matthew 18:20*

[www.fccrochesterwis.com]

June 2021



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<i>All services are shared on ZOOM.</i>		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:15 am Church <i>Special Music by Elmer Sparks</i>	7 Bible Study at 7:00 pm	8	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 am Church <u>Graduation Sunday</u> <i>Special Music by Steve Dolphin/Coffee Hour w Cake after Church</i>	14 Church Council Meeting at 7:00 pm	15	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 am Church <u>New Member Sunday</u> <i>Special Music TBD/ Coffee Hour after Church</i> HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!	21 Bible Study at 7:00 pm	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:30 am Church <i>Special Music by Jubilee</i>	28 Bible Study at 7:00 pm	29	30			

Pastor Ray's Office Hours are Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

