



FIRST BAPTIST NEWS

APRIL 3, 2018

“THOUGHTS OF SPRING”

By Dr. Rodney Kennedy

Staring out my office window, distracted from the last run through of my sermon, at what looks like twelve inches of snow on March 25th (It was only 8 actually) give my mind a metaphorical turn. Spring started days ago and yet here was all this white stuff on the ground. For a day it poured forth from the sky as if having an anger fit over the end of winter.

Since the stuff is so pure and white, I couldn't help but think that this late, last-gasp snow represents the last stand of angry white people across America. While they keep attacking gays, Muslims, immigrants, human rights, and almost everything that is diverse and good, our children and grandchildren are massing across the country to demand an end to gun violence.

Yes, the snow was here but it was soon gone. Winter is almost over, and Spring will have her time in spite of Winter's last all-out blitzkrieg. Mona van Duyn's poem, "Letters from a Father," flicks across my mind. The poet has given her father a bird feeder, but he has insisted it's a waste of money and that he'd buy poison and get "rid of their diseases." Then, something akin to a resurrection happens as the bird feeder attracts birds and the birds change the life of the grumpy old man. Instead of his constant complaint banter, now he writes, "You'd never guess the sparrow I've got here—House Sparrow you wrote, but I have Fox Sparrows, Song Sparrows, Vesper Sparrows, Pine Woods and Tree and Chipping and White Throat and White Crowned Sparrows. I have six Cardinals, three pairs, they come at early morning and night, the males at the feeder and on the ground the females. Juncos, maybe 25, they fight for the ground, that's what they used to call snowbirds."

I sip my vanilla latte, delete a sentence from my sermon, and smile at the idea of warmth and the arrival of all the colors of the human race. Welcome to Spring! And maybe, for some, welcome to the resurrection of what has been dead in your life.

WORSHIP SERVICES

10:00 A.M. WORSHIP & CHILDREN'S SS ■ 11:00 A.M. FELLOWSHIP TIME

APRIL 8, 2018, FIRST SUNDAY OF EASTER

DR. PHIL LADD — “BEHIND CLOSED DOORS”

John 20: 19-31

We live in a time of much fear and anxiety. Our fears and anxiety can make us feel like hiding behind closed doors. If we are not careful, it can take away our security and our sense of peace. However, because of the resurrection, there is one who can and will penetrate those doors, who shows us his hands and his side and encourages to experience his peace as we are sent out into our troubled world.

AREA III ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 14th, 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
First Baptist Church of Peoria, Fellowship Hall
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Gene Crume, President, Judson Univ.
Leading Worship: Huntley Brown, Musician
Cost \$30 — There's still time to register!

Sunday, April 15th

Be sure to join us for this special Sunday worship when Dr. Gene Crume and Huntley Brown will participate in the service. Also, Dr. Kennedy will lead a special Service of Healing & Wholeness at 11:30 a.m. in the Chapel. The Lord's supper will be served. The service consists of prayers for healing and wholeness, with anointing and laying on of hands.
All are invited

Contact us:

Dr. Rodney Kennedy, Interim Pastor
Mark Grizzard, Music Dir./Youth. Leader
Dr. Joshua Russell, Organist
Leigh Grizzard, Bell Choir Director
Sandy Johansen, Church Secretary

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THE MISSION OF FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO MINISTER TO OUR CONGREGATION, THE COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD, SO THAT ALL MAY EXPERIENCE THE LOVE AND GRACE OF GOD.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Barb Petroski Dottie White Rose Kimpling
Ruth Turner Pam Orrill Jim Ashton
Marvin Olson Rosemary Walk Alyssa Russell
Wally Webber Dorothy Cumming Mary Hinch
Ruth Collins Jacquelyn Kellogg
 Dick Sternberg (Jo Sternberg's husband)
 Peter (Grandson of Brenda Shay)
 Stephanie George (Brenda Shay's daughter)
Charles Baker (brother of Eleanor Shelton & Ellen Woods)
Don Middleton (son of Rev. Middleton, brother of Janet Middleton)

SPRING CLEAN-UP

SAT., APR. 7TH, 9:00 A.M. AT FBC
BREAKFAST AT 8:00 A.M., EVERYONE WELCOME!
FOR RESERVATIONS: RON JACOBS, 232-7023

DINING OUT GROUP

You are invited to join us at Olympia, 1301 West Pioneer Parkway Suite 125, Peoria on April 27th at 6:30 p.m. Please let Jen Dusek know if you will be attending or would like to attend. Ph: 231-6389, e-mail: the_j_family@yahoo.com. Thank you!

ABW CIRCLES

Circle of Friends will meet on Tuesday, April 17th, at 12:30 p.m. in the church parlor.

Evening Literature Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 17th, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor. The book to be reviewed is Stranger in the Woods by Michael Finkel.

YOUTH BAKE SALE APRIL 22

The youth group will hold a bake sale on Sunday, April 22nd after church in fellowship hall. Proceeds will go towards a mission trip to Denver in June, and a trip to Quest in July. Thank you for supporting our youth!

—Mark Grizzard, Youth Ldr.

SAVE THE DATE

Central Illinois Herpetological Society (CIHS) is hosting a reptile/amphibian fair on April 21 in fellowship hall, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$2 person, children under 2 free. There will be animals to hold and have photo taken with. There will also be voting on your favorite critter, so bring extra change, please. No outside animals, please. Thank you!!

—Jen Dusek

CONTEMPORARY ISSUES CLASS

SUNDAY, APRIL 22ND, 11:15 A.M.

Few issues are more contemporary or Christian than how we meet the health-care needs of those who don't have private insurance and can't pay their own way. In the Peoria area we have Heartland Health Services to thank for doing that; it serves more than 20,000 of our neighbors, the majority of them on Medicaid. How do they do it, and what would happen if Heartland did not exist? We'll ponder those questions at our April 22 Contemporary Issues Class with input from Charles Bandoian, Heartland's chief executive officer. The class will meet at 11:15 in the sanctuary.

—Barb & Bernie Drake