



Calvin Presbyterian Church

The Courier

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Women's Fall Brunch Keeping Friendships Alive

By Jacquie Markowski & Ineke Loux



Marilyn Platt, Debbie Zuidema and Cathy Shreeve once again organized a cheerful event for nearly 40 women. Following prayer and a couple of good, old worship songs, we shared delicious food and

enthusiastic conversations. Marilyn had a whimsical game that got the giggles going and Debbie welcomed Ineke Loux as our special speaker.

Beginning with Psalm 19:14 Ineke started "*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart...*" and encouraged us to finish the verse with her. She mentioned that it is almost impossible to befriend or be a friend to someone without words. One exception is Job and his friends. Ineke noted that sometimes we can be a good friend by being with someone and saying nothing, like Job's friends when they sat silently with him.

However, once they started speaking, Job, in Job 16:2, refers to them as "sorry comforters."

We were challenged to find opportunities to meet new people who can become friends. There may be seasons in our lives when some friends part ways while other friendships remain for decades. Prayer keeps friendships alive. Are we prayer warriors with or for a friend?

Ineke motivated us to continue friendships by communicating in various ways - phone calls, cards, and making time to be together for coffee, meals, projects or activities. She recalled Exodus 33:11 where the Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as one speaks to a friend. Even a short phone call can become the highlight of someone's day or week.

Ineke held our attention with encouragement and practical ways of *Keeping Friendships Alive*. One of many ideas she shared was

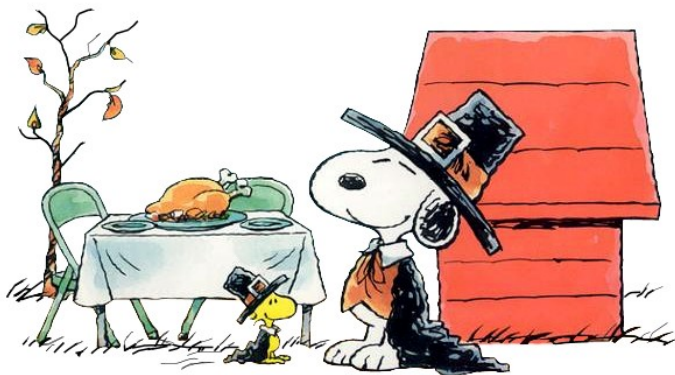
a "Party-On-The-Go," bringing all the party components to your friend; setting the table, enjoying the treats and one another, then packing all up and exiting.

The New Testament is full of letters. Letters and cards are more permanent reminders of our friendships and can be personalized with someone's name, meaningful sentiment or memory and/or a photo. Ineke showered us with many creative ideas to make and send cards easily. While there are some people out to demolish relationships, inspirational notes encourage and build up. Finally Ineke brought her own card creations for all of us to take and use to bring joy to one another.



ANNUAL THANKSGIVING POTLUCK SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 22 6 P.M. IN OLLEMAN HALL

Good food! Good friends! Grateful hearts! Sign up at church on Sundays or call the church office. Sign up to bring a traditional Thanksgiving dish. If possible, bring your own plates and utensils. If you'd like to help with planning, set up or clean up, talk to Vikki Leavengood. Tickets are \$1 per person, which helps us with necessary purchases and planning for the right number of people.



Craig's Corner

Worshipping God on Sunday Mornings

By Pastor Craig Kulonis

I remember some time ago when leading one portion of the Sunday morning worship that I asked the congregation why we come together on Sunday mornings. Within a few seconds Ben Eby spoke up and said "We come here to worship God." Right answer Ben!

As we have been studying the book of Isaiah on Sunday mornings, a recurring theme is, "Who are we worshipping?" Isaiah tells the people of God that their hearts had turned from the worship of the Holy One of Israel and they were worshipping idols.

Having been a pastor for twenty plus years and coming to worship services for about 30 years, I find that Sunday morning worship can become another "thing" in my week that I do, instead of it being a rhythm that is part of my daily life of worshipping God. Sunday morning is a beautiful occasion where God's people can gather together and celebrate the goodness and greatness

of our God and how good He has been to us all week long. Our Sunday morning worship really has less to do with what I want to get out of it, but is more about the privilege we have been given to know and love God together as His people. In Psalm 95:1-3 it says, "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all Gods."

Recently, I have begun to pray in the sanctuary from 9-9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. My prayers are often that we come with a desire and expectancy to meet with and give God glory. On one Sunday morning just a week ago, I was in the sanctuary praying and looked around the room and noticed about 5 other people from Calvin who were quietly sitting in a chair or pew, either praying or reading Scripture. It was a beautiful sight.

"Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!" (Psalm 95:6)

I would like to invite you to consider coming a bit early into the sanctuary in order to prepare your heart to be with the God who made us and loves us with an everlasting love. God is always at work in our lives. Are we alert to this truth, or has our gaze turned away from Him and we find ourselves dulled to His presence? Let's heed the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 95 above and come into his presence with thanksgiving. Remember the sage words of Ben Eby, "We have come here to worship God." If you need a bit more motivation as to why, read what Paul the apostle says in Romans 11:36:

*Everything comes from Him;
Everything happens through him;
Everything ends up in him.
Always glory! Always praise!
Yes. Yes. Yes.
(from The Message)*

Christmas Poinsettias

By Maggie Polizzo



The deacons are offering an opportunity for anyone in the church to add to the already beautiful Christmas decorations with the addition of

red poinsettias. Each plant will be in honor and/or memory of loved ones. We would like to cover the front of the sanctuary with poinsettias! Plants in 6" pots will be sold for \$5.00 each. This is not a fundraiser.

Poinsettias will be in place Sundays December 6—19. On December 19

people who purchased a poinsettia may take one or leave it to be delivered to one of the many care facilities in Corvallis.

You can order and pay for your poinsettia November 8—November 22. We will have a table at the back of the sanctuary on Sundays or call the church office during the week. The order form will include a place to say whether your plant is to honor someone who is living or in memory of a loved one who has passed. Your name and the name(s) of the person(s) you are honoring/memorializing will be on a bulletin insert published December 19.

Christmas Tea
Sunday, December 6
 Plan to join us
 in Ollerman Hall
 after worship.



Friends of the Family
Christmas Concert
Thursday, Dec. 3
7 p.m. @ LaSells
Stewart Center
Free Admission
Donations accepted

November 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 2 a.m.—set clocks back 1 hour! 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship	2	3 9 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study	4 10 Prayer 4:30 Women's Precepts Bible Study 6:30 Pioneer Club Youth Group	5	6	7
8 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship	9	10 9 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study	11 10 Prayer 4:30 Precepts Bible Study 6:30 Pioneer Club Youth Group	12	13	14
15 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship	16 6:30 Deacons	17 9 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study 5:30 Session	18 10 Prayer 4:30 Precepts Bible Study 6:30 Pioneer Club Youth Group	19 December Courier articles due in office	20	21
22 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship 6 Thanksgiving Potluck	23	24 9 Prayer	25 10 Prayer	26  Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
29 1st Sunday of Advent 8:30 Prayer 9 Sunday School 10 Worship	30	1 9 Prayer 1 Women's Bible Study	2 10 Prayer 4:30 Precepts Bible Study 6:30 Pioneer Club Youth Group	3	4	5

Be a Peacemaker Every Day

Most of us Christians like to think we are peacemakers. Christ lived and taught peacemaking and tells us that peacemakers are blessed.

So, how come there are so many conflicts where one or both parties are Christians?

Many of us do not carry with us **throughout each day** the commitment to be a peacemaker; that is, we are not really 100% committed to be respectful and kind to others all day long and to do what we can to prevent and resolve conflict and bad feelings.

Even if we want to carry this commitment with us throughout each day,

we **oftentimes just forget** about it. Something happens and our baser instincts come to the fore. We respond to what we perceive as nastiness with an angry or hurtful response. And by the time we remember our commitment to be a peacemaker, the damage is done.

Many times we would **just rather live with the conflict** than affirmatively trying to resolve it.

Often we **see the conflict only through our own eyes**. We are not able or willing to look at things from the other person's viewpoint. We need to stretch ourselves to put ourselves in

the other person's shoes and be willing to look at how we have contributed.

If we are in a significant conflict that has lasted for awhile, **we just give up all hope** of ever resolving it.

So, why not resolve to be a peacemaker every day? Just as each morning we thank God for giving us another day, we should ask God to help us be a peacemaker all day. Then we should be respectful and kind to everyone and, where there are misunderstandings, try to resolve them quickly. If we don't know how to solve a conflict, seek advice and help.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”
Matthew 5:9

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Sundays at Calvin

8:30 Prayer in the Prayer Room

9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10 a.m. Worship