



The Good Tidings

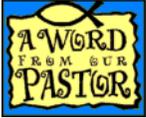
Arena Congregational Church

January 2018

CELEBRATING OUR PAST-EMBRACING OUR FUTURE

Affiliated with the Wisconsin Congregational Association

Thoughts from here and there...The Ten Commandments for Getting along with Other People



Here are ten suggestions that you might use in 2018 to get along with people. People includes family, friends, church members, and even enemies.¹

Take ten and apply them. You will find meaning and success.

1. Keep skid chains on your tongue. Always say less than you think. Cultivate a low, persuasive voice—how you say it often counts more than what you say.
2. Make promises sparingly, and keep them faithfully, no matter what the cost.
3. Never let an opportunity pass to say a kind and encouraging word to or about somebody. Praise good work, regardless of who did it.
4. Be interested in others: Their pursuits, their work, their homes, and their families. Make merry with those who rejoice; with those who weep, mourn. Let everyone you meet, however humble, feel that you regard them as a person of importance.
5. Be cheerful. Don't burden or depress those around you by dwelling on your aches and pains and small disappointments. Remember, everyone is carrying some kind of burden.
6. Keep an open mind. Discuss, but don't argue. It is the mark of a superior mind to be able to disagree without being disagreeable.
7. Let your virtues, if you have any, speak for themselves. Refuse to talk about the vices of others. Discourage gossip—it is a waste of valuable time and can be destructive and hurtful.
8. Take into consideration the feelings of others. Wit and humor at the expense of another is never worth the pain that may be inflicted.
9. Pay no attention to ill-natured remarks about you. Remember, the person who carried the message may not be the most accurate reporter in the world. Simply live so that nobody will believe him or her.

¹ Reprinted from "The Presbyterian Witness," First Presbyterian church, Ironwood, MI

Disordered nerves and bad digestion are a common cause of back-biting.

10. Don't be anxious about the credit due you. Do your best and be patient. Forget about yourself, and let others "remember." Success is much sweeter that way.

Sermons for January

SERMON — The Sermon Schedule, "Marks of a Christian," are taken from The Sermon On the Mount by Jesus in Matthew 5-7.



SCHEDULE

January 7, Epiphany Sunday, Baptism of Our Lord, Communion Sunday:

Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 3, Sermon Title: When Less Is More

With less of you there can be more of God. It is a matter of choice.

January 14, Human Relations Day Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 4, Sermon Title: Lost and Found

No matter how precious may be what you have lost, there is one if found, is the most precious of all.

January 21 Ecumenical Sunday: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 5, Sermon Title: Proud Owners

It cannot be bought. It cannot be earned. It is the most important gift.

January 28: Lesson: Matthew 5.1-2, 6, Sermon Title: Satisfied Hunger

Hunger for food is a universal need. What if you hunger for more than food?

My goal for 2017 is to accomplish the goals of 2016 which I should have done in 2015 because I made a promise in 2014 and planned in 2013.

~Mikey



Special Days in the Secular and Church Calendar

- January 1, New Year's Day
- January 6, Epiphany of the Lord
- January 7 (S), Communion Sunday, Epiphany Sunday, Baptism of the Lord
- January 11, Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- January 14 (S), Human Relations Day
- January 15, Martin Luther King, Jr., Day
- January 18, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25)
- January 21 (S) Ecumenical Sunday, Annual Church Meeting, Potluck Dinner
- January 28 (S)
- February Black History Month

Promise and A Prayer

A Promise

For whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith, (1 John 5:4, NRSV).



A Thought

To conquer the world means to be able to meet any situation with confidence and hope. Faith is the means by which you conquer. But it is not faith in anything, but faith in God. There is only one way to develop faith. Faith is to begin with a gift. God gives to each of us a measure of faith (Romans 12:3). The growth of faith is your personal responsibility, For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And

how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" But not all have obeyed the good news; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed our message?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ (Romans 10:13-17, NRSV). If you do not hear the preaching of Jesus Christ faith is limited or even non-existent. Paul is really speaking of worship, which, if possible, takes place within the faithful congregation; or at least is using alternative resources that are available to you.

A Prayer

God I want to be victorious over every doubt, every experience, every situation that life may throw at me. Help me to grow a faith that overcomes the world. Amen.



Spotlight on the family

The Right Stuff¹

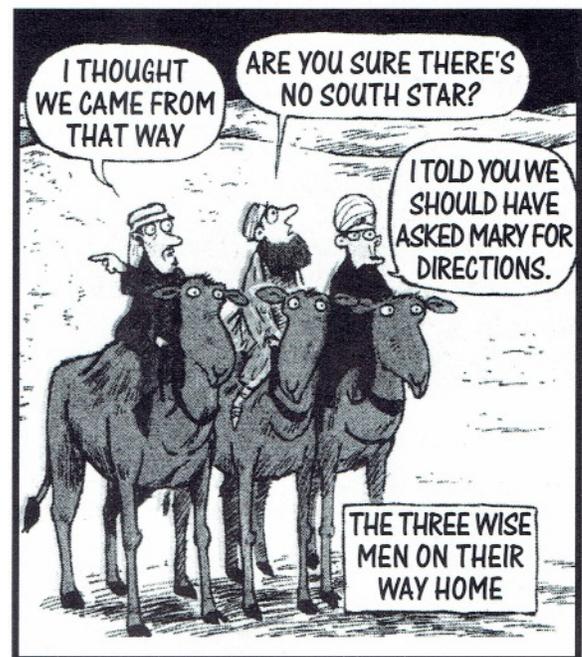
As a parent, I Will:

Respect and honor you-and expect you to treat others with that same respect and honor.

¹ Adapted from 9 Myths That Damage a Child's Confidence by Pat Holt (Harold Shaw Publishers). Copyright (© 1999 Children's Ministry Magazine, RO. Box 481, Loveland, CO 80539-0481.

SPEED BUMP

by Dave Coverly



from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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THE GOOD TIDINGS is a monthly publication of the Arena Congregational Church, 383 Oak St., PO Box 125, Arena, WI 53503-0125.
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Impart to you the freedom to express your feelings-and expect you to respect others' feelings.

Give you the freedom to express your wants and needs-and expect you to respect others' wants and needs.

Honor your unique qualities without comparing you to others-and expect you to respect the uniqueness of others without comparison.

Teach you how to learn and grow from your mistakes-and expect you to allow others the same opportunities to learn and grow.

Show you the love of God with my unconditional love for you-and expect you to show others God's love.

Copy "The Right Stuff" onto card stock for you and your child as a reminder of the responsibilities you both share.

Head Usher Jim Favreau, 753.2334 and Ray Johnson, 753.2845



Meetings

Governing Board: Second Monday, January 8, 2018, 6:30 p.m.

Men's Breakfast: Third Saturday, January 20, 2018, 7:30 a.m., at Grandma Mary's.



Greeters

January 7 – Ray and Colleen and Family

January 14 – Joe and Carol Hodgson

January 21 – Judi Salava

January 28 – Steve and Karen Wilkinson

February 4 – Jeff and Joanne Brown Family



Adult Study Group

Our adult study group will be held at the Wilkinson's, 817 Brown St. on Wednesday, January 3 at 6:30 p.m. Our study guide is "John: The Way to True Life" by Douglass Connally. On January 3 we will explore John, chapter 13, "The King's Last Acts." The questions are, "What acts so you want to be remembered for? How consistently do you do what you want people you love to remember?"



Worship On Compact Disks

The Worship Services are recorded each week on a CD so that you may share in the fellowship and enjoyment of worship. If you would like to listen to a service to share the music, pray the prayers and learn from the sermon call either Steve *(Continued on [page 4](#))*

Officers for 2017 - 2018

Governing Board

President: Jim Favreau, 753.2334

Vice-president: Joanne Brown, 753-



2316

Treasurer: Steven Wilkinson, 753.2131

Clerk: Joe Hodgson, 753-2520

Financial Secretary: Ray Johnson, 753-2845

Church Secretary: Steve Wilkinson, 753.2131

Officers

Sunday School Superintendent, Karen Wilkinson, 753-2131

Choir Director, Leslie Shultz, 574-0707

Recipe of the Month

Easy Blueberry Pie (a family favorite)

From the recipe files of Helga Shultz

One graham cracker crumb crust

8 ounces cream cheese (room temperature)

2 eggs

1/2 cup sugar

1/2 teaspoon vanilla

1 can blueberry pie mix

Beat cream cheese well. Add the eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Gradually beat in the vanilla and sugar. Spread over crust and bake in preheated

375 degree oven for about 20 minutes. When cold cover with the blueberry mix.

Serve with whipped cream.

Also can be made with cherry pie mix.



Wilkinson, 753-2131 or Pastor Shultz, 574-0707 and a CD will be delivered to you. Let us know if you need a CD player.



Missions

We are supporting the Congregational Mission of Jardin America with a gift of \$40 a month through the missions program of the National Association of Congregational Christians. We also contribute \$50.00 a month to the Arena Food Pantry, and \$25.00 a month to the Food Pantry at the Spring Green Community Church. Thank you for your support of our local and foreign mission projects.



Something to Think About

I hope that in this year to come, you make mistakes. Because if you are making mistakes, then you are making new things, trying new things, learning, living, pushing yourself, changing yourself, changing your world. You're doing things you've never done before, and more importantly, you're doing something.

~Neil Gaiman



Humor

A minister was planning a wedding at the close of the Sunday morning service.

After the benediction he had planned to call the couple down to be married for a brief ceremony before the congregation. For the life of him, he couldn't think of the names of those who were to be married.

"Will those wanting to get married please come to the front?" he requested.

Immediately, nine single ladies, three widows, four widowers, and six single men stepped to the front.

docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net - from pg vargis



"Nature is a gift from God and every blade of grass is a sermon," a preacher told his summertime congregation.

The next day, the minister was mowing his lawn when a member of the church came along.

The parishioner stood and watched his pastor mow for a while. Then, nodding his head in approval, he said, "Way to go, Pastor, cut 'em short."

The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net> Received from Doc's Daily Chuckle.



Because the oven was overshooting the set temperature, I shaved a few minutes off the cooking

time for my muffins, set the timer and asked my husband to keep an eye on them while he did the dishes and I dusted.

Not long after, I smelled something burning and dashed into the kitchen.

"Are those my muffins burning?" I asked Pete.

"Yes," he said as he calmly wiped a dinner plate.

"Then why are they still in the oven?" I cried.

"Because," he replied, "the timer hasn't gone off yet."

docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net - from Da Mouse Tracks



A Kansas tornado hit a farmhouse just before dawn one morning. It lifted the roof off, picked up the beds, on which the farmer and his wife slept, and set them down gently in the next county.

Suddenly the wife began to cry. "Don't be scared, Mary," her husband said. "We're not hurt."

Mary continued to cry. "I'm not scared," she responded between sobs. "I'm happy 'cause this is the first time in 14 years we've been out together."

The Good Clean Funnies List <gcfl-info@gcfl.net> - Received from Big Mac Clean Joke Attack.

I AM THE NEW YEAR.



Deuteronomy 11.12

"...the eyes of the Lord thy God are always upon it, from the beginning of the year even unto the end of the year."

I will help you to say goodbye to the previous year filled with "yesterdays" and comprised of Disappointments and surprises Losses and gains Failures and Successes Defeats and victories A year which may be remembered by recalling...

Fleeting moments

Delightful memories and good times

The sobering reality of missed opportunity The insight gained from daily living The unexpected surprise of reconnecting with old friends.

The joy of sins forgiven

Golden words fitly spoken (Proverbs 25:11) And the fruit of obedience and pleasing the Lord Yes, the old year is a time in which we can recall with gratitude...

Blessings, protection, and rewards from the Providential hand of God Grace that was sufficient for our every need Mercy received when justice would have just as easily been fitting for us.

And realizing that even bad things that happened could have been worse...much worse.

May your past productively transition to the future as you experience...

The warm daylight of lessons hard learned, and the fading sunset of the pain that was long endured while living through them.

The priceless value found in genuine friends, and the sober understanding of the shackles of superficial people who merely use us.

The glorious journey of...

The unmatched wealth in reading and studying the Bible
The unparalleled stability of Christian fellowship
And the unrivaled enjoyment of serving the Lord.

And as you experience the wise departure from...

The comfortable enticement of procrastination
The deceptive decoy of excuses
The childish pleasure of pettiness
And the dull applause of mediocrity.

I AM THE NEW YEAR.

I am...

The challenge of new goals

The desire for spiritual growth

The continual burden for lost souls

The anticipation of answered prayer

And the eager expectation of Christ's soon return for His Bride, the Church.

I am the New Year, I may only be lived one moment at a time.

I am replete with the unknown
and rife with...

Opportunities to trust

Unexpected moments of blessing and delight
Satisfaction for spiritual truth and hunger
Motivations to give of your time and effort to people and projects
And the joy and privilege of serving the Lord in new and exciting ways.

YES, I AM THE NEW YEAR!

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Soren Kierkegaard, the 19th century Danish religious philosopher, told a story about a town where only ducks live. Every Sunday the ducks would waddle out of their houses and waddle down Main Street to their church.

They waddle into the sanctuary and squat in their proper pews. The duck choir waddles in and takes its place, then the duck minister comes forward and opens the duck Bible.

He reads to them "Ducks! God has given you wings! With wings you can fly! With wings you can mount up and soar like eagles. No walls can confine you! No fence can hold you! You have wings. God has given you wings and you can fly like birds."

All the ducks shouted "AMEN!"...and they all waddled home.¹

¹ from Laugh & Lift docsdailychuckle@freegroups.net

Too often we let the world's definitions determine what versions of the "truth" the church will offer, even to the point of accommodating fanciful standards of moral behavior and character. Today, for example, many perceive personal and communal "integrity" as a luxury they simply can no longer afford. For these the "Golden Rule" (Do unto others as you would have them do unto you), long observed mainly in the breach, has pitched down a steeply declining grade of mineral - defined by cheapened values and identified by cheaper ores. There is the "Silver Rule" - "Do unto others as they have already done unto you." Then the "Bronze Rule" - "Do unto others as you fully expect them to do unto you." Then the "Copper Rule" - "Do unto others before they do unto you." And finally the "Iron Rule" - "Do unto others and cut out." These latter rules fit all too precisely into our current, competitive, cut-throat culture.¹

¹ Homiletics Online HOMILETICSONLINE, Uh-Huh!, 11/24/1991, Used with permission

**Thanks**
for a **great year**

THE LORD'S SUPPER



Communion January 7

If you are unable to attend and would like Communion, please contact Pastor Shultz, 574-0707, and arrangements will be made to deliver communion to you.

Annual reports should be turned in to Steve or Karen Wilkinson as soon after the first of January the as is possible.



ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Business Meeting



On January 21 during worship we will have our Annual Business Meeting. A potluck dinner will follow the Annual Meeting in the fellowship hall.



POTLUCK DINNER

THE GOOD TIDINGS

Arena Congregational Church
383 Oak St
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Many people serve God and our congregation in many ways. All are volunteers. You serve as an Officer, a member of a Board or Committee, caring for children, greeting and ushering, lay reading, and much, much more. Thank You! Thank You! We are a strong and vital congregation living out our faith and covenant relationships. Thank You!