

## FRIDAY UPDATES February 23, 2018

**BABY SHOWER FOR THE BENNETTS** – A reminder that during the month of February, we are collecting gift cards for Sara and Paul Bennett. Sara is due mid-April (a girl!) Sara said that Target gift cards would be very helpful as they can buy diapers, clothes, formula—basically anything they may need for the baby. On Sunday, March 4, we will have a shower during coffee hour. We will connect with Sara, Paul and Andrew via video chat. After the shower, I will place all the cards in a package and ship it to Sara and Paul. If you want to help, here's what we need you to do:

- 1) Purchase a gift card and a greeting card (suggested gift cards are Target, Visa or Mastercard (no fee), and Amazon).
- 2) Sign the greeting card, and place the gift card in the greeting card and seal it.
- 3) Drop the sealed card off in the office, place it in the offering plate on any Sunday in February, or bring it to the shower on Sunday, March 4.

*If you prefer, you may instead write a check to the Bennetts.*

**LENTEN STUDIES & SOUP** – continues every Wednesday in Lent at 6 PM. Seven of us met this past Wednesday and had an open discussion about 'Grace' and enjoyed the fellowship. We would love to see more of you attend. If you are only able to come to the Stations of the Cross and then leave, that is perfectly acceptable. Or, if you can't make it by 6, you can still arrive late and join us.

**FLOOD WATERS** – Another weekend of high water, and uncertainty as to how high it will get. Depending on from which source you seek your information, you get varying predictions. We are going with the official National Weather Service prediction of a crest of 41.5 ft on Monday morning. Last weekend, the river crested in Marietta at 37.9 ft, and we saw a small amount of water in the church basement (where our heaters are.) If the water reaches the predicted crest of 41.5 ft, this may flood our basement and impact our heaters. Our Jr. Warden, Cliff Essig, as well as Dennis Boettcher, went down to the basement and reviewed the situation. Cliff just spoke with Morrison Inc and they will be coming in later today to remove the electronic parts of our two heaters in the basement. Because of the flood prediction, **a decision has been made to cancel church service for this Sunday, February 25.**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** this week to Dee Crim (2/22), Dennis Boettcher (2/26), and Gant Bleakley (2/28).

**PRAYERS** – Heavenly Father, thank you for the blessings you give us. We ask for your healing touch on those suffering from physical, emotional, and mental illnesses. Today, we also pray for those facing the prospect of high water invading their homes and businesses.<sup>1</sup> "Lord, all around us the waters are rising. I feel so helpless, for I cannot stop the rain from falling or the waters from rising. I feel so powerless, for the current is strong and my body is tired. I feel so empty, for our possessions are floating away or anchored in the muddy water. Lord, all around us the waters are rising. Grant me your strength, since mine is somewhere downstream. Grant me your patience, since mine is drowning. Grant me your perspective, since my loss is in replaceable things, not irreplaceable grace. Give me eyes to see how precious your gifts are: family and friends, faith and mercy. And Lord, when the waters rise around me in my spirit, and my faith and hope are swept downstream, help me to remember how you got me through this flood." In Jesus' name we pray, *Amen*.

*Tracy*

<sup>1</sup>The Rev. John G. Hamilton, FPC, Rochelle, Ill.