

1st Presbyterian Church
100 South Pierce Ave
Mason City, IA 50401
www.1stpresbymc.com

Parent Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 4

December - 2009

Dates to Remember

Wednesday 12/2

Refuel @ 5pm

PYC @ 7pm

Saturday 12/5

Service Day

Jingle Bell Run/Walk 7:30am

Kid Craft Day 9 - NOON

Sunday 12/6

BLAST @ 9am

Confirmation @ 4:30pm

Wednesday 12/9

Refuel @ 5pm

Fill Gift-in-a-Jars @ 5pm

PYC @ 7pm

Sunday 12/13

BLAST @ 9am

Hand Out Gifts-in-a-Jar

Confirmation @ 4:30pm

Wednesday 12/16

Refuel @ 5pm

PYC @ 7pm

Sunday 12/20

BLAST @ 9am

Confirmation @ 4:30pm

Wednesday 12/23

No Refuel or PYC

Thursday 12/24

Christmas Eve Services

5pm - Lessons & Carols

11pm - Candlelight Service

Friday 12/25

Merry Christmas!

Sunday 12/27

No Confirmation

Wednesday 12/30

No Refuel or PYC

Sledding @ East Park 11am

Service Day!

Saturday, December 5

Jingle Bell Run/Walk @ Southbridge Mall

Kid Craft Day @ First Presbyterian Church

On Dec. 5th we're offering 2 chances to serve others in the community!

The Jingle Bell Run/Walk is put on by the Arthritis Foundation and helps those who are battling arthritis. We'll be meeting up at the Mall at 7:30am and helping out during the event.



Kid Craft Day is from 9-Noon and they're looking for middle school and high school volunteers. We'll be helping kids get into the Christmas season with crafts, games, and much more!

Around this time of the year we always look into doing several projects so the youth can realize how fortunate we are and how much of a difference we can make in the community. We'd love for you to encourage your teens to take part in one of these opportunities. Feel free to come along for a little bit or the whole time at either event.

Contact Nate if you are interested in taking part in either event.

Gift-in-a-Jar Fundraiser

Orders Due by Wednesday, December 9

Filling Orders - Wednesday, December 9 @ 5pm

Hand Out Orders- Sunday, December 13

Our Gifts-in-a-Jar Fundraiser is underway! Order forms are available, but we need your help to get orders and help us fill the jars.

Order forms are available online at www.firstpresbymc.com
(They make great gifts for teachers, neighbors, co-workers!)

On Wednesday, December 9 @ 5pm, we'll get together in the youth room and start to fill the jars and get them ready to hand out. Parents are welcome to come help us make the jars on Wednesday evening. All the supplies will be there, all we need to do is mix, pour, and label.

Thanks for your help!

When God Changes the Plan



Does your family live and die by a schedule or is constant, spontaneous change of direction the norm in your household? Both approaches to life offer advantages and disadvantages and reflect our own personalities as parents.

And depending on the personality of our kids, they may feel frustrated and insecure by even slight changes in the expected routine—or bored nearly to death by a rigid commitment not to violate the communicated schedule.

Whatever we personally feel more comfortable with, part of maturing as a Christian involves growing in our ability to trust God when He steps in and changes our plans. We hope to equip our kids with the tools to begin to do so, as well.

We're pulling our talking points this week from Mark 6:30-44. Jesus and the disciples had a very reasonable plan to go off by themselves and get some rest. Instead, they ended up in another marathon ministry session that led to a food crisis and what felt like unreasonable expectations from Jesus to fix it.

You know the story of the feeding of the 5,000. We hope a few of these questions will help you to talk with your kids about that story - and how to expect God to always give us the resources we need to do what He asks even when it is unexpected.

Talking Points

- Which do you feel most comfortable with—having a set schedule where you know what to expect or being spontaneous and changing plans as you go along? Why do you prefer one or the other?
- How do you think our family tends to operate—mostly according to plan or mostly changing the plan as we go along? Do you like the way we tend to operate or does it sometimes frustrate you?
- Sometimes we have plans to do things—good things—and then they get changed by circumstances beyond our control. How frustrating is that for you? Can you think of a time recently when that happened?
- Do you ever wonder if God is involved in changing those plans for us? Can you think of reasons He would step in and redirect us from what we set out to do?
- Mark 6 tells a story about Jesus and the disciples when they had a plan to go off to a quiet place by themselves and get some rest. Instead, the crowds of people found them and Jesus decided to change the plan and keep teaching. How would you have felt about this, do you think, if you were one of the tired disciples?
- Can you think of times when we changed our plans as a family to help someone in need? How did you feel about that at the time?

Film Watch - *The Blind Side* (releases Nov. 20, 2009)

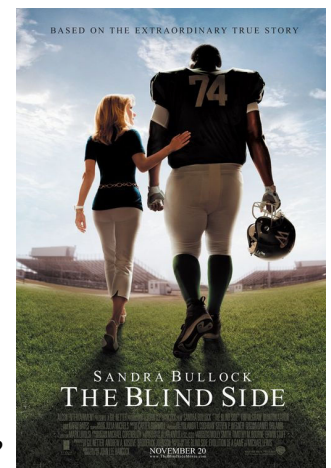
Genre: Drama, Adaptation

Rating: PG-13 (for one scene involving brief violence, drug and sexual references)

Synopsis: THE BLIND SIDE is a compelling, feel great drama that tells the true story of Michael Ohr, a homeless young black man who is welcomed into a Christian family. Leigh Anne discovers Michael and takes him in, putting him in a private Christian high school. As Michael slowly learns to trust Leigh Anne, he joins the football team, and it's a matter of time before he becomes a star player. Soon, college recruiters are calling.

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you done something as radically kind as what was portrayed in this film? Were you ever the recipient?
2. Why are we so quick to distrust what we can't see?
3. Have you ever considered yourself superior to someone else? What did you do about it?



Volunteers Needed!

We're always looking for volunteers to help with our programs, events, and trips. If you would like to come join us, provide snacks, or you just have a great idea or project, please contact Nate at (641) 512-8488