



“We have this hope, as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul.” Hebrews 6:19



Asking “Why?” instead of “Why not?”

One of my Lenten goals is to live simpler. It doesn't seem like that hard of a thing to do. I would eliminate excess, stop giving in to every immediate desire. For me, this is about self-control. I always want to get candy or a Coke while I am at the grocery store even though I know I don't need them. I always want to stop at McDonalds for a McChicken and fries when I am hungry even though I could just wait and eat something at home. The problem is the stuff I don't need is too easy, too convenient, that I can easily justify giving in. “Oh, it's just a dollar. Who's it going to hurt?”

Little did I know that each time I gave in, I was creating a pathway in my mind, making it easier and easier to give in. Think about it this way. If I practice the piano everyday for a year, my mind would learn to look at notes on a page and tell my fingers where to go. Each time I practiced it would become easier to play because I was doing it all the time. My mind would adjust and change to suit my piano playing. The problem is that your brain works the same way with giving into temptations. Each time you give in to a temptation, it becomes easier the next time then before you know it you have lost control of it.

I didn't realize what a struggle resisting these temptations would be. The simple life isn't so simple after all. You become used to giving in. I thought that they would be easy to stop and then I could move onto the bigger things I needed to work on. But I still find myself fighting with the little temptations that are constantly whispering in my ear.

Can I stop?

Jesus said “For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.” In order to make my life simpler, to love God more and sin less, I am going to have to lose my life of sin. This means, the way I live now, giving into temptation and sin, will have to pass away if I am going to live in Christ. This is the most difficult of Jesus' teachings because it asks you to give up doing what you are used to, to give up the sin that comes naturally.

One of the techniques I have started practicing is simply taking a breath. Temptation always has the upper hand when I don't think about my actions. It's the opposite of Nike's famous tagline “Just do it.” Take a breath and think why. Ask yourself is it really necessary, can I live without it. Temptation has had it easy because we give in too quickly without thinking it through.

Along with that immediate response to temptation, start to pray more. There are many spiritual practices that we can immediately turn to when we feel the draw of temptation on hearts. Repeat the words “Lord, have mercy on me” over and over until the temptation of sin stops calling. Have a close friend hold you accountable for your actions, someone you can call that can talk you through your struggle. Sing a spiritual song instead of giving in to a temptation.

Resisting temptation is hard. It requires that we change do things each and every day. Realize that God is with you and that you can always turn to him when the world is trying to drag you down.

Deacon's Corner

The Deacons will be sponsoring an **Easter Breakfast** on Easter Sunday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m. Starting February 28, there will be sign up sheet so we can have a good count for food preparation. Please reserve your spot! We hope to see the entire church family fellowship during this breakfast as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord!



March Birthdays

3rd Gray Marshall
 12th Bruce Molsberry
 18th Meaghan Molsberry
 24th Roberta Troyer
 26th Sarah Landis
 27th Cindy Shelton
 Nancy Glass
 Howard Lewis



More dates to remember...

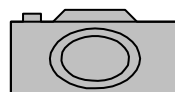
On Sunday March 7th, we as a congregation will take the time to celebrate the gifts of the women in our church. The Presbyterian Women will lead worship that Sunday with our Choir Director Rebekah Lawson preaching the sermon. This will be a wonderful opportunity to lift up the hard work of our women over the years. We are very appreciative.

Hope Church's 49th Anniversary Celebration will be celebrated on March 14th. We will be lifting up the ministry and love of this congregation during worship. Four speakers have agreed to speak about their memories of being a part of this congregation over the years. The speakers will be Jo Wier, Chuck Maxwell, Foster Jensen, and Dionne Molsberry. Please join us in the celebration.

Following the 49th Anniversary Celebration Worship Service on March 14th, there will be a pitch-in luncheon. Please bring a dish to share so that we can continue to praise the Lord for his work in this congregation.

What God? Learning how to listen to God study will continue until March 23rd. Please make the effort to attend this class which helps to open our ears and minds to God's presence in our lives. It is held Tuesday mornings at 10:00AM and Sunday mornings at 9:15AM.

On Sunday March 28th, Hope Church will celebrate Palm Sunday which marks the beginning of Holy Week, the week that Christ was tried, crucified and resurrected. On Palm Sunday, we will join in the celebration of Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. Then on April 1st at 7:00pm, we will have a special Maundy Thursday Service joined by Clayton Presbyterian minister David McDonald. The next day at 7:30pm, a Good Friday service will be held at Clayton Presbyterian Church and our pastor Gray Marshall will be preaching. This will be an opportunity for us to join with Clayton in walking the difficult path towards Easter.



The Session has approved the creation of a new pictorial directory for our congregation. The pictures will be taken on June 8th of this year. If anyone is interested in helping to put this directory together, please talk to Pastor Gray about it. We also need recent photos of the church and/or church activities that we can make a part of this directory.



News from our Treasurer, Janet Frank

Contributions for January 2010	\$7,768.35
Refund Check from overpayment to IRS	1,459.78
Total Deposits to Huntington Checking Account	9,228.13
Invoices & Checks cleared for January 2010	\$7,233.44

As of January 31, 2010:

Balance of Huntington Checking Account	\$36,594.33
Balance of National City Savings	1,507.11
Balance of National City CD	10,716.96

(this CD will mature on April 13, 2010)

PerCapita Collection **1,064.40**

Update on Haiti Relief

Presbyterian Disaster Relief (PDA) is reporting more than a half-million dollars has been contributed in emergency relief to the devastated nation. These donations (through One Great Hour of Sharing offerings and direct donations through the PDA) have helped to establish 15 food and water distribution stations, distribute 20,000 tents, and provide other needed supplies and services. Plans for long-range recovery needs are being developed. Presbyterians are contributing to Haiti relief in many other ways, from the assembly of health and personal hygiene kits to grants for a hospital and an affiliated nursing school.

Hope United Presbyterian Church
1331 Section Street
Plainfield, Indiana 46168

Office Hours: 9:00am-12:00pm, Mondays/Tuesdays
Email Address: hopechurch@hopepresplainfield.org
Website: hopepresplainfield.org



“Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine...You are precious and honored in my sight, and...I love you.”

Isaiah 43:1,4