



What's Up Wickliffe!

February
2018



What a beautiful day for a Penguin! "Pastor, what did you write!" "Did you write what I thought you wrote?" Yes, I did. I suggested this would be a beautiful day for a Penguin. "Oh my!" "Now, I am really concerned". "All this snow has gone to the Pastor's head and he is having a White-out!" "Let's put the Pastor on the Prayer List". "Heaven help him!"

Well, thank you for your concern and your prayers. But, I really meant it when I wrote this would be a beautiful day for a Penguin. And I was not referring to the YSU or Pittsburgh Penguins. "Uh, oh!" "Now, I am really concerned". "Forget the White-out". "Now, I think the Pastor has had a Brain-freeze!" Again, as I chuckle, I thank you for your concern. I guess I should explain what I am suggesting by my written statement.

I am well aware, many of us have had our fill of the cold and all the white stuff on the ground. After shoveling and scraping windshields and layering up our clothing and coats, we are more than ready for the next season. I understand. I agree with you. And I feel your pain.

This is not the first time you've read or heard me referring to nature's witness to God. By now, you may have concluded that I am by all accounts a Nature Lover. I admit it, everywhere I look, I can't help but see Nature's witness to God. Yes, even in Snow! In that Bird called a Penguin and in Snow, I am reminded about God and God's provision and plan for humankind. Please let me explain. No, this is not going to be a nature study on Penguins. However, our Biblical Witness does make several references to Snow.

Snow is clearly written about in the books of Exodus, Numbers, Job, Psalms, Isaiah, Matthew, Revelation and others. In the early books of the Old

Testament, Snow is associated with the disease of Leprosy. In Exodus, God tells Moses to put his hand inside his cloak and to pull it out. When Moses pulls out his hand, it is Leprous. To quote Exodus referring to the condition of Moses' Leprous hand it reads, "it had become as White as Snow" Exodus 4:6. Then God told Moses to put his hand in his cloak once more and pull it out. Moses did so and his hand was without the Leprosy. A miracle, yes. But, it was more than a miracle. It was a divine act of God.

It was more than simply a reference for visual comparison. In short, Leprosy was an indicator of Sin in a person's life. The thought was, if you had Leprosy you also had many Sins in your life. Today, we know Leprosy is a disease like other diseases. But, this does not mean our modern science has removed scripture's authority and meaning from the Bible's message. On the contrary. It actually confirms Scripture's view of our human nature and our need for God's salvation. Please, put your feet up and hang in there with me. **-continued on Page 2**

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How many times have we pre-judged someone by their outward appearance? People in the biblical period of time, judged people by the appearance of Leprosy. Even though it is extremely rare for us to see someone with Leprosy. Leprosy actually still exists in some small parts of the world. But, judging others and their Sins in life by their outward appearance before we truly know them. This is still very much a part of everyone's human nature.

Living in today's world, I agree. You must use all your senses and abilities to determine your safety and well-being wherever you go and wherever you are. All of us make judgements and decisions based on our need for safety and self-preservation. I understand this. But, more importantly, you should remember God understands this as well. All of us. Every single one of us has made and will make the mistake of falsely judging others. We are simply human. It is in our human nature. As well, it is not humanly possible for us to remove this aspect from our human nature.

It can only be removed by a divine act of God's will. Not that God actually removes our human nature or our propensity to pre-judge and judge others. No, God took care of our human nature another way. God cleansed us from the Sins of our human nature by using a costly and extremely expensive cleanser. Yes, that is correct. God white-washed us of our Sins by a cleanser called the blood of the Lamb. Are you starting to see a picture here?

It took an act of God to restore the hand of Moses. God performed a miracle upon Moses for the sake and benefit of Moses' own faith in God. Moses was aware of God's existence and also aware of God's presence in the world. Also, remember in reaction to Moses' awareness of God, Moses reflected in many ways his own feelings of unworthiness and inadequacy before God. First, Moses felt unworthy to be in the presence of God. Second, Moses felt incapable of relating to God. And third, Moses felt inadequate to be an instrument of God. So, God had to divinely act to suffice for the mistakes of Moses' own human nature. The very same mistake that is

present in all of us. Our own mistake that is deep within our own human nature which causes us to judge not only others. But, also causes us to pre-judge even God.

But, I did mention something about God's use of a Cleanser, right? You're correct! I did mention an expensive and costly cleanser. But, let me add. This cleanser actually does not cleanse us from the mistakes caused by our human nature. Our human nature, "is what it is" as they say.

No, this cleanser applies an ingredient that actually makes us aware of our mistakes -our Sin. This ingredient is called -the Holy Spirit. The cleansing of the Holy Spirit convicts us and makes us aware of the mistakes and imperfections of our human nature. Before God, we truly feel unworthy and inadequate. We know we are not mistake free. These feelings are also a part of our human nature.

But, this cleanser actually has, as they say -a double cleaning agent. Yes, that's right! A two for the price of one deal. This cleanser not only makes us aware of our mistakes and imperfections. This cleanser actually covers over the mistakes and imperfections of our human nature. It white-washes over the imperfections and mistakes of our human nature. You are correct again! It is that cleansing blood of the Lamb. It really is an awesome and powerful cleanser.

In fact, this cleanser is so awesome and powerful that in Psalm 51:7 when King David had fallen into one of his most grievous of sins. (Please take a moment to search and read the scriptures which precipitated King David writing this Psalm). King David felt deeply every bit of the pain, the hurt, the remorse, the unworthiness, the inadequacy and the conviction of knowing that his fallenness was openly and plainly before God. Knowing that every part of King David's human nature was in full and plain view of God. King David cried out "Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love". King David was feeling just like Moses; unworthy and inadequate before God. It was in the human nature of Moses and David to feel this way.

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You and I encounter the same feeling of unworthiness and inadequacy before God. You and I can identify with how Moses and David felt. You and I and every other human being are not capable of ridding ourselves of these mistakes and imperfections in our own human nature. We pray about our imperfections and we ask God to help us with our imperfections. But, in the end, we are not capable of ridding ourselves of our own human nature. Remember, "it is what it is".

When everything humanly possible is all said and done. We then realize why God acted on our behalf. God sacrificed his very own Son. God did for humanity what humanity could not do for itself. God through Jesus Christ paid the blood sacrifice necessary to pay the debt of our mistakes and our imperfections. Our awesome and powerful God performed a divine act for the sake and benefit of our own faith in God. God made a way possible by which we would not have to stand in the fear and retribution of God's judgement. God made a way possible for us to stand and live in the knowledge and presence of God. God made a way for us to live joyfully and thankfully knowing -God is with us. God made a way possible by which we would not have to suffer from the consequences of our very own human nature. God made a way possible by which we could live in the presence of ourselves and in the presence of others by forgiving ourselves and forgiving others. God also made a way for us to heal when we suffer from the hurts and pains caused by our own human nature.

When we stand before God with the Leprosy or disease of Sin deep within and upon our own human nature. Even then, God will remind us that through Jesus Christ, God acted by the power of his own divine nature to cleanse us and restore us in all the faith and knowledge that we are free from "ALL" the consequences of our own human nature. So again, King David's words should remind us and everyone. "Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow." Oops! There's that Snow word again.

I know you all are anxious to be rid of the Snow. What's that? What are you asking? Yes, I see. You clearly understand what I am saying about the Snow. But, where do the Penguins fit in? Well, ok. I am glad you asked. So, here we go. In fact, let me expand on this a little.

You see Penguins in our minds are categorized as a Bird. Correct? However, also in our minds, we think of birds as creatures that can fly. But, Penguins are a bird that can't fly. Right? You see, like the Penguins, we are creatures created by God. And yet, without God we can't fly either! Without God we would be spending our entire lives on the ground. I know, you're really impressed with my thoughts aren't you. But, think of this, God still provides for - all his creatures!

I know. You are still ungrateful and unappreciative of the Snow, right? Well, let me suggest something. If it wasn't for all the cold Snow and Icy roads outside, you wouldn't have all this time to put your feet up and put up with reading 3 pages of my unimpressive thought. Right? What? You're still begrudging the Snow? Isn't there something else "they" always say? Oh, yes. I remember now. As "they" always say, "Get over it!" Spring is just around the bend! Stay warm and be careful on the Icy roads. Now, let's get back to this "white-out" and "brain-freeze" you want to talk about.

~ Pastor Mark





FEBRUARY SCHEDULE



- Feb 4** **Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**
- Feb 11** **Transfiguration of the Lord**
 ♦ Installation of Church Officers
- Feb 14** **Ash Wednesday**
 ♦ Joint Communion Service with Ashes - 7:00pm
- Feb 18** **First Sunday of Lent**
- Feb 25** **Second Sunday of Lent**
 ♦ Benevolence Offering

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ *Sunday Schedules* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Greeters

- Feb 4 ***Volunteer Needed***
- Feb 11 Sherry & Kevin Yacucci
- Feb 18 ***Volunteer Needed***
- Feb 25 ***Volunteer Needed***

Worship

- Feb 4 Jamie Bryant
- Feb 11 Bill Wayland
- Feb 18 Dennis McMahon
- Feb 25 Janelle Truslow

Acolytes

Volunteers are needed for weekly acolytes.

Ushers

- 1st Week - Dennis McMahon, Nancy O'Hara, Bill Schoenfeld, Neil Truslow
- 2nd Week - Kevin Yacucci, Sherry Yacucci, Bill O'Hara, Ricky Witt
- 3rd Week - Bev Bagoly, Barb McKinney, Bill Wayland, *Volunteer Needed*
- 4th Week - Jamie Bryant, Debbie Marshall, *Volunteer Needed*, Bob Fabian
- 5th Week & Evenings - Bill O'Hara, Ron Salo, Dr. David Ritchie, Gary Booher
- Alternates - Bill O'Hara, Bev Bagoly, Nancy Truslow



2018 Per Capita is \$32.00. Per Capita informational flyers available at the church.

Church Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10am - 2pm
Church Website: www.wickliffepc.com
Secretary's Email: wickliffepc@gmail.com

Wickliffe Presbyterian Church
45 Idlewood Rd.
Austintown, OH 44515
P: 330-792-6441 F: 330-792-1006

TLCC Daycare and Preschool
Director, Norma Johnson
330-792-9048

Happy Birthday!
February 1 Nancy Truslow
February 12 Fran Cerny
February 19 Dennis McMahon
February 19 Janelle Truslow
February 21 Cathy Garstka
February 23 Ron Salo
February 24 Debbie Marshall
February 26 Dane Smith

Happy Anniversary
No February Anniversaries

Needle's Eye Soup Ministry
Beginning in May, large cans of beans and large jars of peanut butter are needed for Needle's Eye End of the Month care for the Elderly.

Check for your initials this month!

This month's initials are: G - I

Thank you for your generosity!
Donna Cooper



We received a generous donation and this wonderful note over the holidays. We thank them for thinking of us and for their thoughtfulness.

To our friends at Wickliffe,

We enjoyed a visit from Scott & Elmarie in October. Joined them for 2 nights at the coast also. They spoke at our church - they meet so many interesting people in the work they do. Please keep them in your prayers. They will serve Lord willing another 4 years in Lebanon.

Thank you for your newsletter. We do enjoy reading it and recognize many of the names of people we met so long ago.

May God walk with each one of you in the coming new year.

Kenneth & Susanna Robinson
(Rev. Elmarie's parents)



Wickliffe Presbyterian Church Financial Report - December 2017

11/30/17	Total Available Funds (checking/savings)	\$123,704.77
	Total Cash Received	8,241.50
	Total Expenditures	8,824.62
	Total Interest	3.11
12/31/17	Total Available Funds (checking/savings)	\$123,124.76

Account Balances:	<u>Savings</u>	<u>Checking</u>	<u>Benevolence</u>	<u>Memorial</u>
Balance as of 11/30/17	\$45,793.86	\$77,910.91	\$1,305.58	\$5,699.48
Deposits	0.00	8,241.50	0.00	0.00
Interest Received	3.11			
Withdrawals	0.00	8,824.62	0.00	0.00
Balance as of 12/31/17	\$45,796.97	\$77,327.79	\$1,305.58	\$5,699.48

Per Capita ~ Received - \$971.00 Paid - \$971.00



*You are invited
to
Celebrate the Gifts of Women
2018 Gathering
of
Presbyterian Women
of
Eastminster Presbytery*

Saturday, February 3, 2018
10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.
Registration at 9:30 A.M.
Luncheon at noon, cost \$5.00

Hosted at
Kent Presbyterian Church
1456 E. Summit St.
Kent, OH 44240





Plan to attend Celebrate the Gifts of Women, 2018 Gathering of women of Eastminster Presbytery. The gathering is open to all women of the Presbytery.



Join us as we celebrate the gifts women bring to God, the Church, and the community.



During our time together, we will share in worship, Bible study, the business of Eastminster Presbyterian Women, elect a Nominating Committee to select leadership, share ideas and conversation of how we serve our congregations, and fellowship over lunch.

Our guest speaker of the day will be **The Reverend Cathy Ulrich**, General Presbyter/Stated Clerk of Eastminster Presbytery.



Please **RSVP** to Rev. Sue Roseman at 330-607-0856 or office@fpchudson.org. If you have special dietary needs, please let us know.



In Step with Session.....

Winter....Yuck!!!! As you can see, we've been having quite a bit of bad weather at least causing one cancellation so far. As a Session, we've divided up the membership list between our 7 Elders to help get the word out when closings arise. Hopefully this won't happen often. If you are not receiving a call or wish not to receive a call, let our secretary Kathy know. Be aware to take caution when storms etc. appear. It's up to you, especially those who have a distance to travel, whether you want to make the trek.

I'm hoping that our members were made aware of the change in venue for our Christmas Eve Service. We tried to inform all in some way, shape or form. For those who are not aware, we take turns hosting with Christ Church having the honors this past year and Wickliffe in 2018. Christ Church was decorated so beautifully.

Just a note to all who help decorate at Wickliffe, we wanted to address the issue of decorating for this coming Christmas. A little early, but just wanted your ideas. We like the idea of CE bringing down the boxes and putting up the trees, but we were wondering how you feel about forming a committee to do the decorating during the week. We need to dispose of old decorations and update with a new look. Please let me know your feelings. Don't want to step on toes. If you agree to this, we need volunteers for this committee. We appreciate all those who have been willing to help in the past. We also feel we need new containers for the decorations. Bill and I are going to look into finding a good price.

We had a great attendance at our January meeting. Wanted to keep you informed on decisions and other discussions your Elders/Pastor brought to the table. Remember that January 28th we will be holding our Congregational meeting after Worship with a Luncheon to follow. Please bring a dish to share. We will be starting a fund raiser to raise money for windows (Sanctuary/ Narthex/TLCC). See Dennis for details. There are 45 windows to be replaced. We will be mounting the Flag in the Narthex that CE presented on Veterans Day.

We welcomed Elder Janelle who will be taking over Nominating. Not an easy job so, as days and months go by, give some thought as to serving either as a Deacon or Elder, etc. Jeff Bryant is our new Deacon and both will be installed on Feb 11th. Thank you to Ricky & Barb for their seven years of Service.

A discussion is being presented to have a "Family Dinner and Worship Service" on Wednesdays possibly once a month. We are checking with Norma and offering an invite to TLCC families. Much is still in the works, but we'll keep you informed as we move forward.

We will be hosting an Ash Wednesday Service February 14th @ 7:00pm. If there are any changes we will keep you posted.

We closed the meeting with prayer including a few of our members. This will be an inspiring moment to keep connected with those we haven't seen for a while. You're in our hearts always. Pastor Mark mentioned to keep him informed if we have anyone in mind beyond our membership who needs a visit from him. Don't hesitate to let the Church know.

Blessings to all and keep safe this Winter Season... Nancy O'Hara, Clerk of Session



Join Us for a Joint Worship Service at Wickliffe Presbyterian Church February 14, 2018 7:00pm

**East Area Presbytery includes these churches:
Canfield • Christ Church • Common Ground
First • Gibson Heights • Heritage • Hungarian
Poland • Westminster • Wickliffe**

Happy 90th Birthday to Fran Cerny on February 12!
If you would like to send her a card, it will sure brighten her day!



Please send cards to:

**Fran Cerny
c/o Greenbriar - Room 112B
8064 South Avenue
Youngstown, OH 44512**



MISSION NOTES FROM RWANDA!

THE REV. KAY DAY,

One of the international Mission Co-Workers we are getting to know!

Below you will find Kay's latest letter from Rwanda.

Please continue to hold her in prayer!

You may follow Kay's work at Kaydaysdiary.blogspot.com

You may also email her at mkayday@gmail.com

Happy New Year dear friends and family.

Hopefully this Christmas season has brought you blessings and joy. It certainly has for me. I was richly blessed by a Christmas visit from Thomas, my adopted son from Malawi. He traveled five days on numerous busses, through three countries to be here with me. What a Christmas gift! We celebrated Thomas' birthday on the 23rd and then had the opportunity to celebrate three Christmas services together, sharing preaching and leading worship. What a gift of ministry together. We hosted 14 for Christmas dinner, an international gathering from US, Malawi, and Rwanda. Then we took a wonderful two-day trip through Nyungwe National Forest to Lake Kivu, to show him more of this country and to just relax and catch up. We shared the trip with my faithful driver from the Protestant Institute of Arts and Social sciences. Bosco, and his young family. Having baby Smith along, age 4 months, add a delightful perspective. We all enjoyed his presence. One of the blessings in the sharing was to hear of God's opening the way for Thomas to study for his PhD through Aberdeen University. I was thrilled we have had this precious time. It was one of the best Christmas presents I have ever received.

Now it is time to face the New Year. None of us has any idea of what it will hold but we make plans and have hopes. My greatest plan is to return to the States for three months of visiting with many of you who support the ministry here and of sharing with you what God is doing. I will be available to visit in your churches during July, August and September. I know I will not be able to be all of you but I hope to see as many as possible. The Sundays are limited, so I offer them on a "first come, first serve" basis. I will schedule your church as the requests come. I will also have time during the week days for meetings with mission committees, vacation Bible schools and other smaller groups. The last time I was in the States, those mid-week times were some of the most fulfilling for everyone because they were more informal and allowed for more interaction. I ask that you prayerfully consider what might work best for your congregation. Please contact me individually through my email (mkayday@gmail.com) so we can consider possibilities.

My hope is that this new year will be filled with God's opportunities, in joy and struggles, that we will see that God is opening doors and providing ways for us to serve him more faithfully. My your New Year be filled with God's possibilities and blessings.

Yours in Christ's love,

Kay (Cathie to the family)

February 2018 Wickliffe Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Sundays</p> <p>9:30 am - Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 am - Sunday School (All Ages)</p> <p>8:00 pm - AA</p>				<p>1</p> <p>1:30 pm - BIBLE Study</p> <p>5:45 pm - T.O.PS.</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Jr. NBA</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 am - CHOIR Practice</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>5</p> <p>7:00 pm - AtAnon</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Goodtimers @ Denny's (Austintown) - 11:30 a.m.</p>	<p>8</p> <p>1:30 pm - BIBLE Study</p> <p>5:45 pm - T.O.PS.</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Jr. NBA</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00 am - CHOIR Practice</p>
<p>11</p> <p>DEACONS Meeting after worship</p> 	<p>12</p> <p>6:30 pm - TLCC Board Meeting</p> <p>7:00 pm - AtAnon</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>7:00 pm - Communion & Ashes</p> 	<p>15</p> <p>1:30 pm - BIBLE Study</p> <p>5:45 pm - T.O.PS.</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Jr. NBA</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 am - CHOIR Practice</p>
<p>18</p> <p>8:30 am - SUPPORT Meeting</p>	<p>19</p> <p>7:00 pm - AtAnon</p>  	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 pm - SESSION Meeting</p>	<p>21</p> <p>12:00 Noon - Esther CIRCLE</p>	<p>22</p> <p>1:30 pm - BIBLE Study</p> <p>5:45 pm - T.O.PS.</p> <p>6:00 p.m. - Jr. NBA</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:00 am - CHOIR Practice</p>
<p>25</p> 	<p>26</p> <p>12:30 pm - DISCOVERY Group</p> <p>7:00 pm - AtAnon</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	 <p>2018 Stated Presbytery Meetings</p> <p>March 6 - Heritage PC (Poland) - 3:00 pm</p> <p>June 5 - North Benton PC - TBA</p> <p>September 4 - Vienna PC - TBA</p> <p>December 4 - The Vine Fellowship (Copley) - TBA</p>		