

## Pastor Ray's Ramblings:

When I was in elementary school we always began the school day with prayer and a few songs. I remember one that I enjoyed singing was called "Dare to be a Daniel."

This song was written by Philip Bliss in 1873 for his Sunday School class at the First Congregational Church of Chicago Illinois. Here are the lyrics:

Standing by a purpose true,  
Heeding God's command,  
Honor them, the faithful few!  
All hail to Daniel's band!

*Refrain:*

*Dare to be a Daniel*

*Dare to stand alone!*

*Dare to have a purpose firm!*

*Dare to make it known*

Many mighty men are lost  
Daring not to stand,  
Who for God had been a host  
By joining Daniel's band

*Refrain:*

Many giants, great and tall  
Stalking through the land,  
Headlong to the earth would fall,  
If met by Daniel's band.

*Refrain:*

Hold the Gospel banner high!  
On to vict'ry grand!  
Satan and his hosts defy,  
And shout for Daniel's band.

*Refrain:*

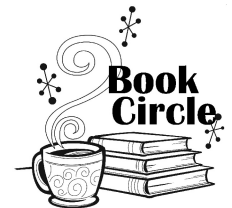
Singing these words with gusto as a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grader is done with not much consideration of the very serious demand of



the lyrics. When one studies the life of Daniel. Determining to keep the faith in a culture that is increasingly hostile to the beliefs of that faith will require us to have a faith like Daniel had. All the people of great faith in the bible remind us that when God judges a nation, the righteous will suffer along with the wicked. As our culture continues its downward march into further decadence we all will to varying degrees have to respond to conflicts of conscience. We can stand against our culture with a redemptive mind set or we can assimilate and blend into culture; we can go with the flow, arguing we all have to live and try to get along. We could argue that we should never be known for what we are against. God challenges us to really know what we are and believe so that when it comes time to say, "This far and no farther", even if we are alone, we instinctively do so. I pray that the gusto I sang that song with as a relatively naive little child will become firm resolve if and when the pagan powers of culture say "submit to us or else." Let us all be in prayer together for the facing of the days ahead.

## Book Circle:

Book Circle will begin again on Tuesday, March 19, 10:00 a.m. at the home of Ann Werner. We will organize and if anybody has a book they would like to bring and talk about that would be fine. If you know of somebody who would like to come and doesn't see the bulletin or Carillon please invite them.



## Women's Fellowship:

Following worship on Sunday, March 24 we will be serving a Goulash Luncheon. A free-will offering will be received for the Wood Shop. All are welcome and encouraged to join us for this delicious time of good food and fellowship.



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**SCRIP:**

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Thanks! To all the people who participated in the SCRIP program in 2018. The program was able to write a check to the church for \$2,000. Even though sales were slightly down in 2018, we were able to write a check for \$500 more than 2017 because I did not restock the cards that were only purchased once or only at Christmas. Don't worry! We will always have plenty of the favorites including the local eateries, Walmart and gas cards. We will also have a good selection at Christmas. Thanks for your continued support in 2019. Susan Stewart

**"ConGo Enjoy-Meant" Events**

We are "ConGo" (Christians on the Go) and meant to go and enjoy good food and fun activities together!

"Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." Neh. 8:10



"Go and enjoy":

**March 10- Tacorama and Hymn Sing 5:30-7:00pm-** A fully stocked taco bar will be provided as well as another inspiring hymn sing and of course trivia while we eat! If anyone would like to provide one of the food items for the taco bar that would be great!

**April 27- Vaudeville Show at the Dogwood 7:00pm-** Another fun outreach variety show from CONGO to the community.

**May 18- "Congo-Que" with Professional Barbequer Mark Wescott ("Smokin' Good Time BBQ")-** More details TBA but put it on your calendar!

**EASTER FLOWER ORDER**

\_\_\_\_\_ **6" Pot Easter Lilies (5+ blooms):**

to be used in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday,  
April 21, 2019



\_\_\_\_\_ Following the worship service, I/we will  
pick up our flower(s).

\_\_\_\_\_ Following the worship service, the Altar Committee  
may take care of my/our flowers in an appropriate way.

**Given by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

*or*

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

This completed form, along with your payment for each flower ordered may be placed in the offering plate, or in the church office by **April 5, 2019.**

**March Birthdays**

- 1 Jim Morse - Linda Shively
- 7 Peter Lindner - Susan Zeerip
- 13 Maggie Sweet
- 14 Stacey Church - Karla Johnson
- 19 Betty Speet
- 21 Barb Clark
- 23 Bernie Denney - Al Smalligan
- 30 Ann Jeannero - Kelly McKivitz - George Purvis
- 31 Nancy Smalligan



**March Anniversaries**

- 24 David & Mary Zeerip
- 26 Jerry & Helen Miller
- 31 Rick & Wendy St. Peter

