

Announcements

We extend a warm welcome to all who worship with us today. If you are a visitor, please feel free to pick up a blue informational folder outside the entrances to the sanctuary to learn more about our church. Also, please fill out a visitor card and place in the offering plate so we can have a record of your visit. Thank you.

Children's Ministry Coordinator. By the Lord's grace, Chelle Spencer will be our new volunteer children's ministry coordinator. Chelle has a background in children's ministry and a heart to see our children cared for and disciplined into spiritual maturity. She will begin soon, helping to give support and leadership to this important part of the church's ministry. Please join in welcoming her to this role!

Missions Moment. After Jesus' resurrection one of His last commands to the disciples was "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation." We members of First ARP Burlington can obey this instruction by literally doing that or by our weekly offerings as we gather to worship Him. Do you know who receives the money you contribute? Do you know how much each outreach receives? Do you pray for these people regularly? Do you know who they are or what their needs are? How can you learn more about them? Take the time to check the attractive, informative bulletin board in the hallway between the Sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall. Make a note of which efforts are local and which ones have a much more distant outreach. When you receive your copy of our 2014 church directory check the back pages to find answers to these questions. Take time to read the posted materials in the hallway to make your prayers for these fellow Christians more effective.

InterVarsity. New Time: Sunday, February 23rd at 1:30. New Location: Elon's Numen Lumen Pavilion. Please let Christy Gregory know if you are able to provide a **dessert or drink, or if you are able to join us.** It is a blessing to the students to have people in the area who know them and care about them. The topic for February is prayer and we will be doing a prayer walk together.

Missions Pot Luck. March 9th there will be a potluck for Connie's mission trip report. Please save the date and come to hear and see what God is doing in Trinidad!!

Young at Heart. Unfortunately we had to cancel YAH in January due to the weather, but we have rescheduled Ann Baker from Meals on Wheels to speak on March 25. Sheri Henderson from the Boys and Girls Club will be speaking on February 25. The menu will still be baked spaghetti, salad, rolls and dessert. Plan to come!

Ministry Information

Nursery

Today: Christy Gregory and Jessica Richardson
Next Week: Myrleann Schwerin and Macon Baird

Children's Church:

Today: Jan Burwell and Betty Bessette
Next Week: Dot Hutelmyer and Lynn Limon

Elder/Deacon Counter:

Today: Tim Bessette
Next Week: Gene Parks

Deacon on Duty

Today: Glenn Owens
Next Week: Mark Vestal

Elder Greeter

Today: Bill Haynes
Next Week: Jim Knox

Tithes and Offerings for February 9:

General Fund \$ 1,807.70

The Session

Moderator: Rev. Bryan Gregory
Vice Moderator: Gene Parks
Clerk: Jim Knox

2015: Jim Knox, Gene Parks
2017: Bill Haynes

The Diaconate

Chairman: Glenn Owens
Vice Chairman: Tim Bessette
Secretary: Doug Glass

2014: Glenn Owens, Mark Vestal
2015: Doug Glass, WD Yarbrough
2016: David Newton, Tim Bessette

Congregational Officers

Trustees: Jim Knox, Steve Kyaw, Gene Parks
Congregational Chairperson: Dot Hutelmyer
Congregational Treasurer: Laurene Howington
Congregational Secretary: Jim Knox

Women's Ministries

Women's Ministries Coordinator: Christy Gregory
Morning Bible Study Leader: Lillian Fuller
Evening Bible Study Leader: Dot Hutelmyer

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Bryan Gregory
bryan@firstarpburlington.org

Music Director / Organist: Ed Limon
limonfam6@hotmail.com

Pianist: Julie Snow
jsnowmagic@aol.com

Administrative Assistant: Gloria Hendry
gloria@firstarpburlington.org

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First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church

The Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

February 16, 2014

Preparation

Silent Meditation

There may be circumstances in your earthly lot which at this moment are peculiarly trying. You look around and wonder how this or that circumstance will terminate. At present it looks very dark--clouds and mists hang over it, and you fear lest these clouds may break, not in showers upon your head, but burst forth in the lightning flash and the thunder stroke! But all things are put in subjection under Christ's feet! That which you dread cannot take place except by His sovereign will--nor can it move any further except by His supreme disposal. Then make yourself quiet. He will not allow you to be harmed. That frowning providence shall only execute His sovereign purposes, and it shall be among those all things which, according to His promise, shall work together for your good. None of our trials come upon us by chance! They are all appointed in weight and measure--are all designed to fulfill a certain end.

Joseph Charles Philpot (†1869 A.D.)

Prelude

Julie Snow

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

Call to Worship — Psalm 107

Minister O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
for his steadfast love endures forever!
Let the redeemed of the Lord say so,
whom he has gathered from the lands,
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.
Some wandered in desert wastes,
finding no way to a city to dwell in;
hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

People **Then the cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he delivered them from their distress.**

Hymn of Preparation 9

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

Austrian Hymn

Adoration

Invocation

Hymn of Adoration 25

Immortal, Invisible

St. Denio

Confession

Corporate Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your lovingkindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Silent Prayers of Personal Confession

Assurance of Pardon — 1 Peter 2:24

*He himself bore our sins
in his body on the cross,
so that, free from sins,
we might live for righteousness;
by his wounds we have been healed.*

Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen. Amen.*

Proclamation

New Testament Reading

1 Peter 3:8-22

⁸ Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹ Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing. ¹⁰ For, "Whoever desires to love life and see good days, let him keep his tongue from evil and his lips from speaking deceit; ¹¹ let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their prayer. But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

¹³ Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸ For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹ in which he went and proclaimed to the spirits in prison, ²⁰ because they formerly did not obey, when God's patience waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through water. ²¹ Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²² who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers having been subjected to him.

Minister The Word of the Lord
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Anthem

One Voice

(Dismissal to Children’s Church)

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 30:25-31:18

²⁵ As soon as Rachel had borne Joseph, Jacob said to Laban, "Send me away, that I may go to my own home and country. ²⁶ Give me my wives and my children for whom I have served you, that I may go, for you know the service that I have given you." ²⁷ But Laban said to him, "If I have found favor in your sight, I have learned by divination that the LORD has blessed me because of you. ²⁸ Name your wages, and I will give it." ²⁹ Jacob said to him, "You yourself know how I have served you, and how your livestock has fared with me. ³⁰ For you had little before I came, and it has increased abundantly, and the LORD has blessed you wherever I turned. But now when shall I provide for my own household also?" ³¹ He said, "What shall I give you?" Jacob said, "You shall not give me anything. If you will do this for me, I will again pasture your flock and keep it: ³² let me pass through all your flock today, removing from it every speckled and spotted sheep and every black lamb, and the spotted and speckled among the goats, and they shall be my wages. ³³ So my honesty will answer for me later, when you come to look into my wages with you. Every one that is not speckled and spotted among the goats and black among the lambs, if found with me, shall be counted stolen." ³⁴ Laban said, "Good! Let it be as you have said." ³⁵ But that day Laban removed the male goats that were striped and spotted, and all the female goats that were speckled and spotted, every one that had white on it, and every lamb that was black, and put them in the charge of his sons. ³⁶ And he set a distance of three days' journey between himself and Jacob, and Jacob pastured the rest of Laban's flock. ³⁷ Then Jacob took fresh sticks of poplar and almond and plane trees, and peeled white streaks in them, exposing the white of the sticks. ³⁸ He set the sticks that he had peeled in front of the flocks in the troughs, that is, the watering places, where the flocks came to drink. And since they bred when they came to drink, ³⁹ the flocks bred in front of the sticks and so the flocks brought forth striped, speckled, and spotted. ⁴⁰ And Jacob separated the lambs and set the faces of the flocks toward the striped and all the black in the flock of Laban. He put his own droves apart and did not put them with Laban's flock. ⁴¹ Whenever the stronger of the flock were breeding, Jacob would lay the sticks in the troughs before the eyes of the flock, that they might breed among the sticks, ⁴² but for the feebler of the flock he would not lay them there. So the feebler would be Laban's, and the stronger Jacob's. ⁴³ Thus the man increased greatly and had large flocks, female servants and male servants, and camels and donkeys. ^{31:1} Now Jacob heard that the sons of Laban were saying, "Jacob has taken all that was our father's, and from what was our father's he has gained all this wealth." ² And Jacob saw that Laban did not regard him with favor as before. ³ Then the LORD said to Jacob, "Return to the land of your fathers and to your kindred, and I will be with you." ⁴ So Jacob sent and called Rachel and Leah into the field where his flock was ⁵ and said to them, "I see that your father does not regard me with favor as he did before. But the God of my father has been with me. ⁶ You know that I have served your father with all my strength, ⁷ yet your father has cheated me and changed my wages ten times. But God did not permit him to harm me. ⁸ If he said, 'The spotted shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore spotted; and if he said, 'The striped shall be your wages,' then all the flock bore striped. ⁹ Thus God has taken away the livestock of your father and given them to me. ¹⁰ In the breeding season of the flock I lifted up my eyes and saw in a dream that the goats that mated with the flock were striped, spotted, and mottled. ¹¹ Then the angel of God said to me in the dream, 'Jacob,' and I said, 'Here I am!' ¹² And he said, 'Lift up your eyes and see, all the goats that mate with the flock are striped, spotted, and mottled, for I have seen all that Laban is doing to you. ¹³ I am the God of Bethel, where you anointed a pillar and made a vow to me. Now arise, go out from this land and return to the land of your kindred.'" ¹⁴ Then Rachel and Leah answered and said to him, "Is there any portion or inheritance left to us in our father's house? ¹⁵ Are we not regarded by him as foreigners? For he has sold us, and he has indeed devoured our money. ¹⁶ All the wealth that God has taken away from our father belongs to us and to our children. Now then, whatever God has said to you, do." ¹⁷ So Jacob arose and set his sons and his wives on camels. ¹⁸ He drove away all his livestock, all his property that he had gained, the livestock in his possession that he had acquired in Paddan-aram, to go to the land of Canaan to his father Isaac.

Prayer for Illumination

Sermon

Rev. Bryan Gregory

God’s Grace to Broken People: Laban Cheats but Jacob Prospers

Dedication

Hymn of Response
349

Trust and Obey

Trust and Obey

Affirmation of Faith — From Romans 1

We believe in the gospel of God – the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendent of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. Through him and for his name’s sake we received grace and are called to the obedience that comes from faith, for his glory alone. Amen.

Prayer of Intercession and Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

One Voice

Doxology

*Praise God from Whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

Charge and Benediction

Postlude