

Matthew 5:14-15 – “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.”

June 30, 2009

Greetings -

This week's sermon was in part based on Matthew 5:14-15, verses that have been heavy on my heart for the last couple of years. The challenge for us to be a “**light of the world**” is a pretty major undertaking especially if it includes making sure that light is seen in the community around our church.

What do people see when they see our church as they go past Grant and Monroe or look at us from across the parking lot or down the street? Do they see a warm place that they want to visit? Do they sense that there is a lot of love inside and it's a safe place for their kids to learn? When the youth are playing out in the parking lot, is it something the neighbors want to join? Are we letting God shine through?

*For most of the past two years we have been meeting weekly to pray for the work of our church...for the programs and the ministries and the people that come and for God to lead us to what is next. **And** for the Holy Spirit to be alive and active in our midst and to encourage all of us to go beyond our comfort zone to help reach more people and together grow in Christ.*

I don't know if everyone has the vision for this summer's Sizzling Summer Spree, but it has the potential to be an amazing three-day event. There will be music and food and teaching and fun all in the FPC parking lot and all in the name of Christ. Then on Sunday morning, we will use the tents to hold a worship service. All this should be a very inviting light for the neighbors to see and want to investigate.

For several months the event has been lifted up in prayer and the plans have taken form and money has been raised. The youth and some adults are on board. **But** with a month to go there is plenty of room for more hands and feet and hearts to be involved, please consider helping where you can.

Here is a list of some things that still need attention:

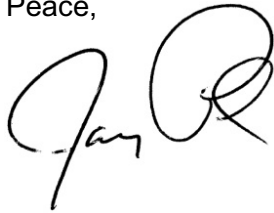
- Prayer – for details to come together; for neighborhood children to come; for those the children will share their experience with; for the organizers and the people that will help
- Prayer walk (7/10 @ 7:30 am) – continue to “prepare the soil” for God's seeds to be planted
- Distribution of invitations (week of 7/13, 5:30-7:00 pm) – walk the neighborhoods and invite children / talk with parents
- Event needs (7/22 – 7/24)
 - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1:00-5:00 pm bathroom & hall monitoring in church (*you could sit and read a book!*)
 - Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 1:00-5:00 pm, need person equipped to do general first aid to stay on site.
 - Friday 4:00-5:00 pm setting up for the BBQ
 - Friday 5:00-6:00pm serving food for BBQ
 - Friday 8:00 -10:00pm general clean-up- chairs back inside church, sound system, take down posters, etc.

- Saturday (7/25) 9:00am-11:00am final clean-up, tear down 20x20 and 20x40 tents
- Church needs (7/26)
 - Sunday 8:00am set-up for outdoor church services
 - Sunday afternoon tear-down of chairs and sound system after the 2nd service
- Prayer – for the Holy Spirit to do a mighty work through us; for our willingness to warmly embrace visitors.

Yes, the to do list seems a bit long. **Yes**, being a light could be viewed as burdensome. **Yes**, God's call is not always what we are planning. **Yet** I believe that this event is call from God and somehow his work will be accomplished through us.

If you have a few hours you can give to help FPC's light shine, please touch base with Alisha Finn -- lishp3578@gmail.com or call 427-9565.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Peak". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jay Peak

Finding
Purpose in
Christ
First Presbyterian Church
of Endicott, NY