



The Cross & Flame



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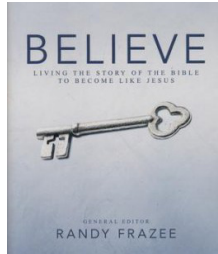
January 2019

Pastor's Ponderings

BELIEVE: Living the Story of the Bible to Become Like Jesus

by Randy Frazee

This new preaching series and study group curriculum will begin on January 6.



Grounded in carefully selected scripture - like *The Story - Believe* is a church-wide spiritual growth experience for all ages, taking each person on a journey, showing how to think, act, and be more like Jesus. The format is flexible, consisting of an introduction and three 10-week modules revealing the key beliefs, practices, and virtues of a Christ-follower. The accompanying age-appropriate curricula, as well as a rich assortment of printed and digital tools, make this a powerful church-wide discipleship program.

This affordable, customizable, and easy-to-use experience starts with The Bible. Each chapter focuses on one of the 10 core beliefs, 10 key practices, and 10 essential virtues that have unified believers around the world for over 2000 years.

The first 10 weeks will take us from January 6 through March 10 as we look at 10 Core Beliefs. We will then take a break to focus on a Lenten Study. After Easter, we will resume *Believe* with 10 weeks focusing on Key Practices. The final 10 weeks on the theme of 10 Essential Virtues will be scheduled for early Fall.

Copies of the text will be available by Dec. 30 for \$5 each (YES! I found a really good sale!)

Annual Meeting

On Sunday, February 3 at 12pm, we will hold our Annual Meeting. The purpose of this gathering is to look back at our programmatic accomplishments and financial picture, and look ahead to the ministry opportunities and financial plans for 2019.

Please plan to stay after worship to join in a fellowship Brunch. Please bring a dish to share!!! The meeting portion will begin shortly after noon.

Office Hours and Pastor's Availability

I am very thankful to all of you who have been praying for my continued healing and recovery. As of October 1, I have been fully back to work (following my Spiritual Renewal Leave), preaching, leading studies, attending committee meetings, fulfilling my administrative responsibilities, etc. However, I have not been keeping regular office hours due to the need to manage my energy level and stamina.

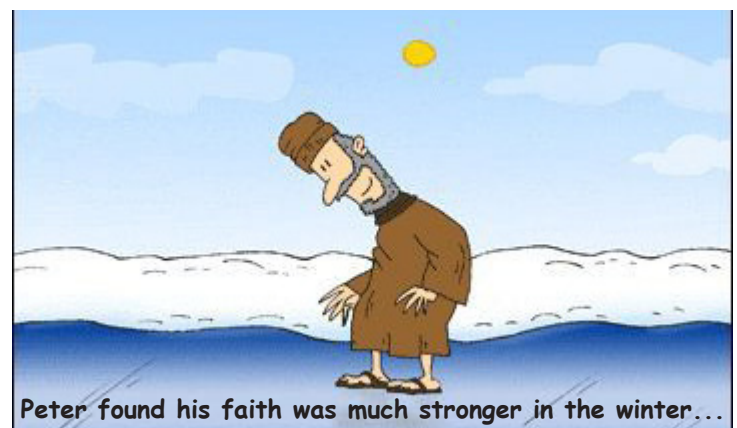
In January, I will start to resume a regular presence in the church building on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8am to 1pm (with the exception of being at Artis from 11 to 11:30am on Wednesdays). I welcome anyone who wants to stop in and visit during those times.

While my scheduled hours are limited, I am often in the church building at other times. Please know that when I am not in the office, I am often engaged in church work including office tasks (on my laptop), Study Group preparation, responding to emails and phone calls, making Pastoral Visits, and attending church-related meetings.

If you would like to be in touch or schedule an appointment outside of those hours, I would be happy for you to contact me by phone or text at 845-522-1233 or email at UMCBPastor@gmail.com.

Blessings,

Pastor Kent



"Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives."

January

January Events

Jan 2, 7pm	Trustees Committee
Jan 9, 5:30pm	L&P Board
Jan 16, 6:15pm	Prayer Meeting
Jan 16, 7pm	Faithful Stewards Committee
Jan 19, 8am	Men's Breakfast
Jan 25, 6pm	Community Dinner
Jan 25, 7pm	Youth Night
Jan 30, 7pm	Finance Committee

Weekly Calendar

SUNDAYS:

9:30am	Worship Service/Sunday School
11:30am	Communion at Artis

MONDAYS:

10am	Monday Morning Quarterbacking
4:30pm	Sewing for God

TUESDAYS:

7-8:30pm	Pastor's Bible Study Group
7:30pm	AA meeting

WEDNESDAYS:

10am	Learn & Play Chapel
10:30am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
11am	Faith Talk at Artis

THURSDAYS:

10am	Pastor's Bible Study Group
7:30pm	Al-Anon meeting

SATURDAYS:

7pm	AA meeting
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January Birthdays

3 rd	Bekah Gerlach
12 th	Michael Luzzi
16 th	Bill Beagle
20 th	Shina Kim
24 th	Paul Dineen
25 th	Shanta Kapadia
28 th	Shirley Gilkerson Lydia Wezenski
31 st	Haley Mazzucco



January Anniversaries

13 th	Guy & Mary Marszalek
24 th	Bob & Conny Umile



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship & Sunday School - 9:30am
(No Sunday School first Sunday of the month)

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Tues thru Thurs 9:00am-2:00pm

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The 15th of every month -
Please send article to Lori Cartwright
at loriahcart@gmail.com

Missed a Sunday? Unable to attend worship?

You can catch the weekly sermon video at
www.umcbranford.org



Happy New Year!

Thank you to everyone that attended or helped in some way to make our "Night in Bethlehem" a success. We had over 180 people that visited the marketplace, sampled food, visited and rode the donkeys, and were able to take a picture in the stable. It was a fun evening and a good reminder of what we are celebrating during the Christmas season.

January will be a relatively quiet month at Learn & Play. Our monthly themes will be architecture, snow, and polar animals. Our Bible theme will continue with the Fruits of the Spirit, with this month's focus on kindness. At the end of the month, we will start getting ready for our Soup-er Bowl collection at the beginning of February.

L&P Fundraisers

Help L&P earn much-needed supplies in the course of your regular shopping!

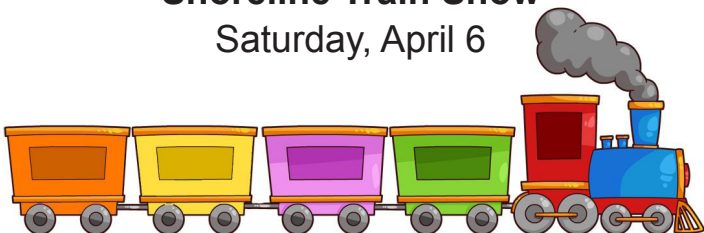
ShopRite for Education:

Register at www.shopriteforeducation.com or at the store. **L&P's school code is 56481.**

Big Y Education Express:

Register at www.bigy.com/rs/EducationExpress or visit the service desk at your local store. **L&P's school code is 9621.**

Save The Date! Shoreline Train Show Saturday, April 6



"Where the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Power of the Holy Spirit converge to change hearts and lives."

thank you

Dear UMC Branford:

I appreciate your thoughtfulness at Christmas.

Thank you for the generous Christmas bonus and for the gifts, delicious treats, and beautiful cards with kind messages that were left for me in the office.

Brenda Prunty

Thank you to the UMC, Branford congregation for the Christmas Bonus I received on the 23rd. Your generosity and thoughtfulness are very much appreciated!

Blessings,

Pastor Kent

Youth Night

Our monthly youth night is a time for fun and fellowship!!! All youth from our church (6th-12th grades) are encouraged to attend and bring their friends. We meet in the church basement from 7 to 9:30pm; snacks are provided. Ping pong, air hockey, foosball, and video games are all available, and we'll continue to add other activities in the future.

The date of our January Youth Night will be Friday the 25th!



LOOKING FOR YOUR TABS!!

Collecting soda can tabs is an easy way to support the Ronald McDonald House of Charities of Connecticut and Western Massachusetts. Just remove the tab from each can before it goes in your recycle bin. Then place them in the collection jug in Connector Hall.