

## Monday Minders – July 18, 2016

First Presbyterian of Hector & Lodi Presbyterian Church

Dear members and friends,

These past three Sundays, I have been preaching on 2 Corinthians and its message of reconciliation. In light of all the news of late, these words from the apostle Paul that we heard this past Sunday seem especially relevant:

*<sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.*

The source of our faith and hope comes from God who has given us the good news of God's love. We are called through our lives to shine that light in the dark places of our world. All of us can do it, even if we seem to be fragile and weak as clay jars.

On Sunday, the Hector youth, who went on this summer's mission trip to Philadelphia, shared their special moments from the trip. Each story told of the ways they were shining the light of God's love. I must admit I was so proud of all of them – for their keen observations, their openness to see God at work in even the most difficult places, and their willingness to volunteer to help.

Several mentioned their volunteering at Breaking Bread, the daily meal served by our host, Broad Street Ministry. Everyone is welcomed in to enjoy a nutritious, sit-down lunch or supper. There is always enough food. Our youth helped serve over 300 meals each day.

Speaking of food, two more bright lights to share. This past Friday, 40 families in Hector were served at the Mobile Food Truck by a small but dedicated group of volunteers. And this coming Thursday we will have our monthly Hector Food Pantry.

A bright light in the Lodi community is Food-4-All, a food pantry operating every Saturday at Lodi Presbyterian Church. This mission, operated by the community and hosted by our church, serves 20-30 families each week. In the year-end report, the following accomplishments were noted:

- Making local fresh food available to the local people and educating many on the uses of these foods through recipes and samples handed out.
- Providing a hyper-local outlet for produce from area farms and acting as a liaison between these farms and the local population.
- Providing a weekly gathering place for people to sit and talk to neighbors and to share problems they might be having. And similarly, becoming a vehicle for bringing some struggling community members in touch with the church that is hosting us.

- Participating in many community events including the Lodi July 4th parade, the Lodi Tractor Show, the South Seneca Health and Safety Fair.
- Providing a place for local people to give back to the community in a way they might never have had otherwise, young people included.
- Acting as an avenue for the community to rally support around one particular family in crisis which probably would not have happened otherwise.

Thank you to all who volunteer their time and money to support God’s mission in our communities and around the world, all the ways you *“let light shine out of darkness.”*

Grace & peace,  
Pastor Jim

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This week (7/18 – 7/24)

Tue: Bone Builders @ 8:30 am (Hector)

Wed: Men’s Breakfast @ 8 am (Toni’s Diner & Hector)  
Bone Builders @ 10:30 am (Hector)  
Choir rehearsal @ 7:30 pm (Lodi)

Thu: Food Pantry @ 8 am (Hector)  
Choir rehearsal @ 9 am (Hector)  
Office for the Aging luncheon @ 12 noon (Hector)  
The Heat Is On! @ 7 pm (Hector)

Sat: Lodi Food Pantry @ 3pm (Lodi)

Sun: Worship  
@ 9:30 am (Hector)  
@ 11:15 am (Lodi)

Hector worship leaders for July:

Ushers: Lois Carter & Sally Jo Smith

Liturgists: Amy, Lexi & Bri DeRaiche (7/24), Lois Carter (7/31)

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Looking ahead:

# Attic

# Sale



Fri, Aug 12 = 8 am – 4 pm

Sat, Aug 13 = 8 am – 4pm

Sun, Aug 14 = 11 am – 3pm

Bring items to Fellowship Hall: Mon – Thu (Aug 8 – 11) / 9 am – 2 pm

*Be ready to say "yes" when asked to help!*

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## **Vacation Bible School 2016**

(August 15 – 19)



See Shelly Gimbar or Pastor Jim for more information.