



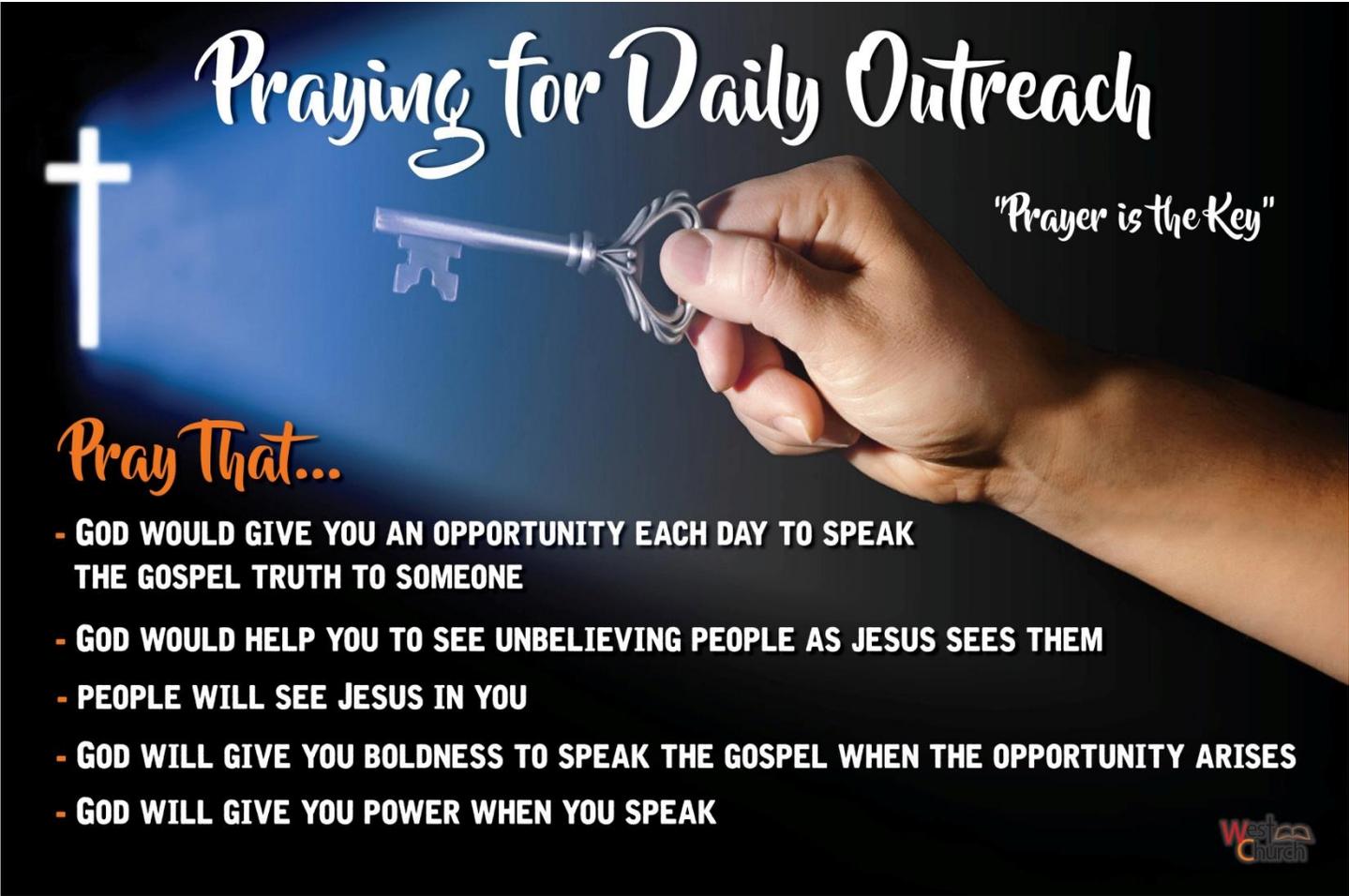
THE WIND OF THE SPIRIT AT WEST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

WEST WINDS

Peabody, Massachusetts

February 2017

HAVE YOU MADE THE COMMITMENT TO PRAY?



Praying for Daily Outreach

"Prayer is the Key"

Pray That...

- GOD WOULD GIVE YOU AN OPPORTUNITY EACH DAY TO SPEAK THE GOSPEL TRUTH TO SOMEONE
- GOD WOULD HELP YOU TO SEE UNBELIEVING PEOPLE AS JESUS SEES THEM
- PEOPLE WILL SEE JESUS IN YOU
- GOD WILL GIVE YOU BOLDNESS TO SPEAK THE GOSPEL WHEN THE OPPORTUNITY ARISES
- GOD WILL GIVE YOU POWER WHEN YOU SPEAK

West
Church

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

This year we met for our Annual Meeting on a Saturday morning, a new day of week and a different time of day for our Church. But with this change God still met us there. Together we looked back over 2016, remembering what our Lord has done, and we looked ahead to 2017 with confidence in His faithfulness. The Spirit was very present.

Prior to the meeting we enjoyed a time of fellowship over a continental breakfast. It was a good way to start the day together and launch us into the meeting.

During the course of the meeting, the membership approved two faith budgets: 1st, the General Budget of \$351,504.00; and 2nd, The Missions Budget of \$193,010.00. We know these two budgets will require the Lord's provision and the faithful stewardship of us all as we gratefully and joyfully give back to Him throughout the coming year.



TRAINING TIME – FEBRUARY 20

Massachusetts Family Institute presents a *Regional Advocacy Training Session* on **Monday, February 20th from 7 to 8 pm at West Church**. During this time attendees will learn how to reach out to state representatives and senators on issues impacting families throughout the states. Issues include: recreational marijuana law, bathroom and locker room law, and Planned Parenthood in schools.

Please RSVP to Michael King at Massachusetts Family Institute if you plan to attend:

➤ michael@mafamilly.org or 978-204-9131

The snow cancellation date for this event is Monday, February 27th.

Massachusetts Family Institute Contact Info:

- 781-569-0400
- www.mafamily.org
- info@mafamily.org

WEST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH 2017 BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND STAFF

Please pray for the volunteers as they serve the LORD this year through their ministry to our church.

And Jesus called them to Him and said to them, "You know that those who are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great men exercise authority over them. But it shall not be among you; but whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man also came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Mark 10:42-45

SNOW POLICY

There will always be a worship service on Sunday morning at 10:30 am for those able to come to church.

Sunday School is cancelled from time to time due to inclement weather and poor road conditions. Cancellation notices will be posted on:

- West Church's Facebook page (www.facebook.com/westchurchpeabody)
- WBZ-TV
- My TV38
- www.cbsboston.com
- 7NEWS (NBC)
- Channel 56(CW)
- www.whdh.com



BE STRONG
and
courageous
Deuteronomy 31:6

PIONEER GIRLS NEWS

The month of January flew by at Pioneer Girls! With our “Be Strong and Courageous” theme, we are focusing on five different heroines of the faith. January’s heroine was Deborah. Her story is a challenging one to teach to young girls, but powerful. God used Deborah to carry out his will and she obeyed with complete faith in Him. We pray that each of our Pioneer Girls can learn to have that same faith in God and obey Him in all areas of their lives. In February, we look forward to studying another heroine of the faith: Ruth.

On February 1st, the Pioneer Girls will arrive to discover that it’s our annual Birthday Bash. They will play Superhero Ultimate Frisbee, unfreeze a frozen superhero using squirt guns, enjoy birthday superhero cupcakes and ice cream, and end the evening creating a mosaic framed masterpiece of Deuteronomy 31:6 so that they can keep our theme verse in a visual spot at home and be reminded:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified... The LORD your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.”

There will be no Club Meeting on February 22nd for School Vacation week.

Thank you for praying for the Pioneer Girls ministry. It is a blessing to serve God by loving these girls!

ALL CHURCH SURVEY

On Sunday, February 5th, an All Church Survey will be launched. The purpose of this survey is to help our church reflect on its present life and help us plan for the future. A congregational survey provides us with useful information about the congregation’s needs, its’ demographics, and what it wants in a leader. The last All Church Survey was completed in 1988.

The All Church Survey will be available in an online format which allows for the results to be analyzed through a computer program rather than manually. Additionally this online format allows for you to take it at home as your schedule permits. The Survey is anonymous. Please answer all questions that are applicable to you.

Directions will be included in the bulletin each week during the month of February. If you do not have access to the internet or do not feel confident in your computer skills, computer stations will be available on Sundays following the Worship Service in Lyons Hall. Volunteers will be available to assist and answer any questions that may arise while you take the survey. The survey will be open through February 28th.

Thank you for your participation!

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY: KINGDOM KIDS

*Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.*

*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.*

Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

Psalm 127: 3-5

Each Sunday more than 25 children (nursery – grade 4) attend Kingdom Kids during the Worship Service. This is a time when children enjoy learning how to deepen their relationship with Jesus through Biblical teaching, and have fun building community with each other.

Kingdom Kids meets in 4 different age group classes: Seedlings (ages 0 -2), Sprouts (ages 2-3), Buds and Blossoms (ages 4-6) and Oaks (grades 1-4). Serving these children each Sunday are 8 volunteers who prepare lessons and crafts and lead and care for the children of West Church and guest families during the Worship Service.

Scheduling has become difficult as some volunteers are serving in multiple age groups and multiple Sundays each month. In addition some of the age groups have more volunteers than other groups making their ministry rotation once every 10 -12 weeks compared to once every 6 weeks.

To help ease the burden the CE Committee is seeking 64 volunteers to step forward to volunteer in one of the four age groups. This large number of volunteers will result in a volunteer serving once every 8 weeks. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to serve in one of the age groups. The CE Committee is asking volunteers to commit to teach twice from March – June (two 8 week rotations) in one of the four age groups. Information and sign up forms will be available in the lower narthex on Sunday, February 12th and Sunday, February 19th. The goal is to start the new scheduling rotation cycle on Sunday, March 5th.

WHAT OTHERS ARE SAYING ABOUT KINGDOM KIDS

I love it that our kids love going to church! Kingdom Kids is a huge part of that. They look forward to the time that is prepared especially for them. I know it's a luxury that not all churches have. We are blessed to be able to offer our children a learning experience that is appropriate for their age level.

~Mother of three children who attend Kingdom Kids

It is a blessing to spend time with the kids (for me 2's&3's). I am there to teach them, but the Lord always teaches me through them as well!

~Volunteer

Our kids love Kingdom Kids and we love being able to enjoy the sermon knowing they are learning about Jesus too and having fun. The volunteers' love for Jesus and the children are what make the program so wonderful.

~Mother of four children who attend Kingdom Kids

SCRIPTURE MEMORY CHECKPOINTS

Scripture Memory Checkpoints will take place today and on Sunday, February 5th and Sunday, February 12th following the Worship Service. All are welcome to join in the Scripture Memory Program and meet with a Listener (on those dates) to confirm their knowledge. Please meet in classroom #1 with your Scripture Memory Journal and Bible following the service.

ROCK SOLID NEWS

Rock Solid will meet Sunday nights, 6 – 8:30 pm:
February 12th, 19th, and 26th

Snow Camp at Berea: February 3rd-5th

We will meet at the church at 3:00 pm on Friday,
February 3rd. We will return to the church on
Sunday, February 5th at 3:00 pm.

WHY 17: Youth Event

W: Worship of God

H: Holler for Hockey

Y: You be You

17: February 18, 2017

We will meet at the Free Christian Church (31 Elm Street, Andover) at 4:30 pm for a night of fellowship and worship and then attend a hockey game at Merrimack College at 7 pm. Cost - \$10 per student - includes a pizza dinner and the hockey game.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Saturday, February 18th at 7pm

Hockey Game at Merrimack College

Tickets: Adults \$10 & Students \$5

Contact the office for more information.

FOOD DONATION – THANK YOU!

On Monday, January 30th two staff members from Citizens Inn (formerly Citizens for Adequate Housing) came and picked up more than 10 boxes of donated food items for one of their residences. On Tuesday, January 30th Citizens Inn posted the following on their Facebook page, *“We could not do what we do without the support from the local community. Big thank you to West Church for organizing a food drive within the parish! All of this will be able to stock the pantries at Citizens Inn Transition and Citizens Inn Between.”*



TEACHER TRAINING TIME

The Sunday School Ministry will be hosting a training time for all volunteers who minister to children and youth at West Church. The focus of this time will be based on *Creative Bible Teaching* by Lawrence O. Richards. The training will be on Saturday, February 11th from 9 am - noon and will include hands on activities, discussion, and lecture. Please contact the office for more information or if you wish to attend.

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 19th: Pioneer Girls Sunday
- March 19th: Cakes, Cards and Concerns
- April 9th – 16th: Holy Week



MINISTRY PRAYER CALENDAR

Please use the information below to daily pray for the ministries of West Church.

Sunday

- Commitment to Pray for Outreach
- Kingdom Kids & Nursery***
- Rock Solid***
- Sunday School***
- Ushers & Greeters***
- Worship Team***

Monday

- Every Man a Warrior
- Gideon Ministry
- Haven from Hunger*
- Nursing Home Ministry***
- Pulpit Committee**

Tuesday

- Board of Deacons & Deaconesses*
- Board of Trustees*
- Community Outreach Committee*
- Nursing Home Ministry***
- Prison Ministry

Wednesday

- Christian Service Brigade***
- Girls' Growth Group***
- Pioneer Girls***
- Vacation Bible School
- Women's Bible Study***

Thursday

- Christian Education Committee*
- Missions Committee*
- Home Fellowship Groups**
- Missions Prayer Watch*
- Food Pantry

Friday

- College and Career Ministry *
- Compassionate Ministries
- Media Team
- Young at Heart

Saturday

- Gain Sewing Ministry*
- Marriage Builders*
- Nominating Committee
- Potpourri
- S.A.L.T.*

*And pray for us,
too, that God may
open a door for
our message, so
that we may
proclaim the
mystery of Christ. ..
Colossians 4:3*

* Meet 1x per month
** Meet 2x per month
*** Meet Weekly