

Mendon Church
PO Box 188
Mendon, NY 14506

The Gleam

Mendon Church

February 2018

Deliverance from Prejudices

A Note from Pastor Hwang

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**Weekly worship
and Christian
Education
Sundays @10 am**

I am a night owl. I don't mind ordering hot wings at midnight to soothe my rumbling stomach and continue working for a couple more hours. I have fewer distractions and fun stuff going on at night, which helps me get things done faster than during the day. I've always loved to spend my evening and late-night hours having conversations with people (or even overnight in my adolescence), and combined with my habit of procrastinating, my preference for being a night owl has found solid ground in me.

When someone says to me, "Night owls tend to be creative types - many writers and musicians are night owls," I am tempted to reply immediately, "This is a compliment I love to hear!" But unless I know this person is also a night owl, I delay my response until I know their feelings on the matter. The cultural norm is actually against night owls, expressed moderately in the phrases "the early bird catches the worm" and "early-to-bed, early to rise, makes a man" and more judgmentally with thinking like "night owls eat garbage foods and never exercise, which explains their entire life style" or "they behave less ethically because they are chronically tired."



I don't believe night owls behave less ethically due to their tiredness. I don't consider that they're responsible for more bad things in the human world because so many bad incidents take place in the darkness of the night. The notion that there are more early birds than night owls in the world does not justify marking them as lazy or unsociable.

The same kind of prejudices are found between introverts and extroverts, vegans and meat-lovers, rationalists and romantics, and so on, in which one value is considered superior than the other. Interestingly enough, the value system varies depending on the socio-cultural norms of the society. For example, in many Asian countries where the majority of people are introverts, extroverts are often considered overtly brash or too straightforward. On the contrary, introverts in the US are looked suspicious or even dangerous.

I believe these kinds of prejudices have a great impact how people in the periphery develop their self-identity, which results in a guarded lifestyle and relationships. The bad news is that

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Tithing Envelopes Available

If you are interested in receiving tithing envelopes to take home, they are now available. Please note that unlike the past, these envelopes are NOT assigned to a specific person, nor are they dated—they are the same as what you will find in the pews.

Please remember to write your name on the front of the envelopes to ensure your contributions are recorded properly.

Help yourself to as many envelopes as you'd like—they are on the table outside of the church office.

Missionary Update— Ibrahim S.

An excerpt from the latest update from Ibrahim S., our missionary to the Middle East:

Dear friends and partners,

There is hope in my heart. There is a great anticipation for what the Lord is going to do.

My theme for 2018 and beyond is HOPE. Let's step out in faith together, our dear prayer warriors and financial supporters, to claim God promises for our individual lives and for our collective Lighthouse vision to help and enable 100 families to a dignified living by owning their businesses and be the Lighthouse of the Greatest NEWS ever of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Basically you and I are re-defining who is a missionary in the MENA region. Mary and I are forever grateful and in need of your prayers and financial support. Thank you. Shukran in Arabic.

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever!
Amen. Eph. 3:20,21

Let's Believe,

Ibrahim S.

Grace Choir Resuming Rehearsals

The Grace Choir has resumed rehearsals on Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm. The first concert of the year will be held on March 9th at Mendon Church. All are welcome to join, regardless of prior experience. If you are considering joining, contact Joe Taff directly at taff.joseph@gmail.com or (617) 913-4730.

Family Bowling Night—Feb. 25th

Our annual family bowling night at Miller Lanes will take place on February 25th at 4pm. The cost is \$13 per person, and includes 2 bowling games, shoe rental, pizza, and soda. A sign-up sheet is located in the Welcome Center.

2018 Deacons

Deb Bendschneider
Laima Beck
Ginger Brown
Susan Clark

Clif Genge (Moderator)
Connie Kellogg
Laurie Koek (Secretary)
Phyllis Shoots

2018 Committee Heads

Buildings & Grounds

Gordy Benoit

Clerk of Session

Kevin Koek*

Discipleship

King Beck*

Missions/Outreach

Jim Shoots*

Nominating

Wendy Hurley*

Personnel

Wendy Hurley*

Parish Life

Gregg Miller*

Worship

Chris Jones*

Treasurer

Patric Donaghue

(*Indicates Session Member)

Deliverance from Prejudices (continued from page 1)

the social bondage imposed on the individuals can hardly be broken and deeply affects their lives. No one can overcome the negative images imposed on them entirely.

This is the point we may understand the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The more we grasp the powerful impact of the prejudices and the circumstance to which our lives are exposed, the more we are able to appreciate the power of the sacrifice of Jesus to deliver us from our bondage. The Good News of God in Christ is not given to us in a vacuum but as the very answer to our chaotic reality. Ephesians 5:8~10 says, "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light, for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth. And find out what pleases the Lord." Anyone who finds the Gospel penetrating the very yoke of life—turning it to the hope of new creation—and who can even embrace the harassers as they too are the captives of the culture, is the one who walks as a child of light.

Q&A With Pastor Hwang

Pastor Hwang will meet with the congregation after the service on Sunday, Feb. 25, to answer any questions about his position as Designated Pastor.

Lenten Devotionals

Devotionals for the 2018 Lenten season are now available. You can pick up your copy from the table outside the church office.

21 JAN 2018

DEAR PEOPLE OF MENDON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
THOUGH LYNN AND I HAVE BEEN LONG AWAY,
YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO NURTURE AND CARE
FOR US. I SO APPRECIATE, AND LYNN DID ALSO,
YOUR ATTENTION TO, AND CARE FOR HER
DURING HER LONG ILLNESS.

THE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS YOU SENT TO
GRACE LYNN'S MEMORIAL ARE JUST
ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF A COMPASSIONATE
CHURCH AT WORK. THANK YOU.

- RAYMOND WILLARD

Birthdays

Patty Coates	2/3
Kingsley Beck	2/7
Alex Kerekes	2/8
Nathan VandenBout	2/9
Ryan Baronsky	2/12
Bradley Miller	2/12
Michael DeTraglia	2/16
Susan Clark	2/18
Phil Kellogg	2/18
Theodore Hodownes	2/23
David W Smith	2/24
Paige Burnett	2/25
Florence Parker	2/28

Anniversaries

Ron and Sandy Desassure	2/10
Tracy and Jackie Main	2/1

Prayer Requests

MaryAnn Turner as she recovers from knee replacement surgery

Kate Morrell (friend of the Kelloggs) as she continues to recover from a stroke

Dorothy Stubbings, who is going through medical issues

Doris Naundorf's friend Walter

Shirley Snyder's sister-in-law

Tara Nickel's friend, Chris

Cindy Westfall's mother & sister

Those who are homebound: Susan and Allen Beauregard, Norma Glamack, Doris Naundorf, Shirley Snyder, and Ann Wood

Our Missionaries: John and Beaj Reed with SIM; The Shalhoub's with the Navigators; The Robinsons in Haiti; The McKees with SIL/Wycliffe

Our College Students: Jonathan Alcorn, Jessica Apthorpe, Alex Baronsky, Brooke Cheyne, McKensie Galusha, Katie Kerekes, Jenny Moore, Meredith Rogers, Kyle Schultze and Julia Smith

Those in the Military: Killian Anstee-Sgt. US Army, currently stationed/Ft Polk, La.; Garrett Koek - Captain US Army, currently stationed/Ft Stewart, GA ; Michael Spillane, US Army Reserve, currently stationed/NC