

Intro - Giver or Taker?

The “Train Line of Dishonesty” & The Definition of Stealing - *If you define stealing as "trying to get as much as possible while giving as little as possible," note that we all travel on this “railway line” at times.*

- **Reflecting on the Definition:** Isn't just thinking about bank robberies or house break-ins.
- **Identifying the "Stations":** There are "stations" on this line like gossip, laziness, and using people. On the line of dishonesty, we easily justify these in our daily lives.
- **The "Taker" Mindset:** Why is it so natural for the human heart to default to being a "taker" rather than a "giver"? There is plenty of cultural pressure in 2026 American Consumerism.

Integrity in the Workplace (Employees & Employers)

- **For Employees:** Arriving late, leaving early, stretching breaks, or being passive in meetings is a form of stealing. Use your work hours to build a 'relationship of trust' if you desire to be a witness for Jesus.
- **For Employers/Leaders:** The Old Testament prophets and the Book of James heavily critiqued tightfisted landowners and employers. Business owners and managers need to pay employees based on the value of their workers instead of thinking what is the minimum they can get away with paying.
- **Work as Worship:** Whether your work is stocking shelves, making biscuits, or cleaning buildings, *all of it is serving the Lord. God is genuinely interested in your specific daily tasks!*

Everyday Stealing (Bills, Quality, & Plagiarism) *We often cut corners or withhold what is due in our personal administration and creative lives.*

- **Financial Integrity:** Romans 13:7 calls us to pay what we owe (taxes, revenue, bills). A 'late payment' is avoiding a financial obligation, which is a station on the line of dishonesty.
- **Cutting Quality:** We steal when we settle for a job that is "good enough," instead of striving for excellence. One test is if we would do it better if the task or job was for ourselves, then we are cutting corners we should not.
- **Originality and Humility:** I admit I'm using ideas from Rev. Colin Smith and *Our Daily Bread*. *We all get ideas from others, that is why we read, have libraries and go to school. Practicing transparency protects us from plagiarism and pride, and giving others the wrong impression.*

Micro-Stealing in Relationships & Families

- **The "Check-Out" Temptation:** If you "veg out," watch TV, or remain passive at the family dinner table or in meetings, you may be withholding an important contribution.
- *Stealing isn't just about money; it's about withholding our presence and energy from the people we love.*
- **Squandering Gifts:** Living for yourself or squandering your time, talent, and treasure is a form of stealing. God has placed you in a community, and God expects you to contribute.

The Gospel Shift: Takers into Givers

- **The Ultimate Contrast:** John 10:10, sees Satan as the ultimate "taker" and Jesus as the ultimate "giver" which clarifies the spiritual battle behind greed and generosity.
 - o *Satan (the ultimate taker who steals, kills, and destroys) with*
 - o *Jesus (the ultimate Giver who lays down His life).*
- **Characterized by Integrity:** Nehemiah 7:2 describes Hanani as a man who "feared God more than most men do," and Jesus' critics recognized He wasn't swayed by men. Be a person whose seriousness about faith "stands apart from the crowd."
- **The Dynamic of the Gospel:** The gospel is "not a set of instructions on how to change," but a "new dynamic of life." Your life needs the Holy Spirit living inside you to actually change you from a taker into a giver. Willpower alone is not enough. This is a life long surrender.



August 23, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1100 CALVIN ROAD // ROCHELLE, IL 61068
PHONE: 815-562-7053 WEB: PLACEFORGRACE.COM

WELCOME

August 23, 2026 - 9:00am

Welcome and Announcements - Kurt Wolter

Time of Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship - from Psalm 8 - Kurt Wolter

L: O God, your name is majestic in all the earth;

P: Your glory is chanted above the heavens.

L: You have crowned your people with glory and honor;

P: We give all praise to you in response to your grace.

L: Let us worship God.

Song: Come, Now is the Time to Worship

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Merciful God, we confess that we break the eighth commandment, "You shall not steal", by taking what is not ours, by telling what is not true, by withholding what is owed, by wasting the resources You gave us, and failing to respect our neighbor's property and hard work. Forgive our greed and dishonesty. Restore us through Christ to live in fairness, justice, dignity, truth, and generous love. Amen.

Song: Great is Thy Faithfulness

Scripture: Exodus 20:15 - Rachel Thorson

Skit: My Name is Gossip

Sermon: The Struggle for Integrity (The Eighth Commandment: Not Stealing)

Song: My Worth is Not in What I Own

Prayers of the People

Offering and Doxology

Song: Lead Me To The Cross

Blessing : Now through the Grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God, and the presence and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, go in peace. Amen.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Please keep our nursing home and rehab residents in your prayers. We list them here with their addresses - they would love to get a note or card!!

Franklin Grove Healthcare, 502 N. State Street, Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Teddie Pohl
Mildred Danekas
Gary Williams
Bruce McKinney

Hawthorne Inn 2201 Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068

Shirley Villa
Judy (Nelson) Messer
David Guest

Liberty Village 2203 E Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068

Codelle Leonard
Nancy Detig
Jan Hann
Clyda Lamb
Doyle Curtis
Joanne Mayes

Flagler Heath and Rehab Center 300 Dr. Carter Blvd. Burnnell, FL 32110

Pearl Fromm

Brighton Gardens of St. Charles 600 Dunham Road Room 326 St. Charles, IL 60174

Bill Frederick

Did you know ... we email out a newsletter every Tuesday afternoon.

If you would like to get our weekly newsletter, please email Sara at sara@placeforgrace.com and we can get you added on the list! We do mail a hard copy out every other week to those not able to get the email version. If you would prefer to receive your newsletter that way, please let the office staff know and we can get you added to that list.

Interim Pastor- Mark Hughey
Worship /Pastoral Care—Xav Valdivieso
Office Coordinator/DCE - Sara Slattengren
Secretary/Receptionist - Midge Berg
Financial Secretary - Karen Hauck

Church Web Site: www.placeforgrace.com

E-Mail Addresses:

Mark Hughey:
mark.hughey@placeforgrace.com
Xav Valdivieso: xjvaldi@placeforgrace.com
Sara Slattengren: sara@placeforgrace.com
Karen Hauck: karen@placeforgrace.com
Midge Berg: midge@placeforgrace.com
Church Office: info@placeforgrace.com

Office Hours: M-Th 9a-4p
Fri 9a-12Noon

Church Calendar

SUNDAY, August 23

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour,
Adult Ed
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, August 24

10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth
Group

WEDNESDAY, August 26

11:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

THURSDAY, August 27

7:00 a.m. Kiwanis

SATURDAY, August 29

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SUNDAY, August 30

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour,
Adult Ed
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting



We are starting a new way to keep everyone's contact info - if you could please fill out this quick form for each student you have coming to youth groups at 1st Pres, we would appreciate it! Thanks!!

PARENT & STUDENT
MEETING

FOR PARENTS & STUDENTS : 6 -12TH GRADE
INVOLVED IN YOUTH GROUPS AT 1ST PRES.

JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT

- ✓ Youth Group Activities
- ✓ Upcoming Mission Trips
- ✓ Curriculum/Topics
- ✓ Special Events
- ✓ Confirmation Classes
- ✓ Volunteer Opportunities
- ✓ Winter Camps
- ✓ Summer Camps
- ✓ CIY for High Schoolers

✓ '26-'27 Schedule & Calendar

DATE: THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD
TIME: 6:30-8:00PM
LOCATION: CHURCH'S FELLOWSHIP HALL

QUESTIONS ON VOLUNTEERING, PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR MARK

1st Pres. Church
1100 Calvin Road,
Rochelle

sara@placeforgrace.com
815.562.7053



Discover how God used an Operation Christmas Child shoebox in my life ...



Being a Christian was hard where Saba grew up as a child. Sometimes it was dangerous. Her parents, church leaders, regularly faced intimidation to try to force the congregation to disband. Though there were ever-present risks to sharing the Gospel, the family proclaimed God's Word boldly. "We were praying that in times of poverty, discrimination, and persecution, we have Jesus Christ, who is our living hope," Saba said. "He listens to our prayers and answers them." That answer to prayer came through an Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift that gave Saba things she had wanted and needed. Hear how it also gave her a springboard to share the Gospel.

Shoebox Recipient Tour

Date: Sunday, August 30th, 2026

Time: 9 AM Morning Service

Place: First Presbyterian Church
1100 Calvin Rd.
Rochelle, IL 61068

Come and hear Saba share her story of how an Operation Christmas Child Shoebox impacted her life as a young girl. Every shoebox is a gospel opportunity for a child.

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