

Exodus 20:17 The Struggle for Contentment: “*Do not covet....*”

1. The Root of Discontentment

- **The Heart's Desires:** Coveting isn't just wanting something nice; it's believing the lie that God's present provision is insufficient for our happiness.
- **The Mirror of the Law:** When we look closely at the Tenth Commandment, we realize none of us can keep the law perfectly in our own strength. Discontentment reveals where we trust our current circumstances more than God's promises.

2. Contentment Is Learned, Not Inherited

- **A Spiritual Practice:** In Philippians 4:11, Paul writes, *"I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content."* Contentment isn't a personality trait; it's a discipline cultivated through daily trust in God.
- Philippians 4:11–13
- **Shifting Perspective:** Discontentment focuses on what is missing, while contentment rests in who is present. Spiritual growth happens when we shift our focus from *what we lack* to *who God is*.

3. The Promise of Grace in Christ

- **From Duty to Grace:** The Law shows us where we fail, but Jesus gives us the power to obey. Christ fulfilled the Law on our behalf so that we can live out of love rather than obligation.
- **Sustaining Power:** As Paul famously concludes, *"I can do all things through him who strengthens me."* Contentment becomes possible only when Christ Himself becomes our ultimate prize.

Practical Application for Spiritual Growth

- **Practice Daily Gratitude:** Start each day by naming three specific ways God has provided for you, training your heart to see His active goodness.
- **Guard Your Heart's Focus:** Limit spiritual distractions and comparison, focusing instead on the specific path God has laid out for your community and life.
- **Anchor Your Rest in Scripture:** When feelings of lack arise, return to God's promises of provision and peace



September 6, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1100 CALVIN ROAD // ROCHELLE, IL 61068

PHONE: 815-562-7053 WEB: PLACEFORGRACE.COM

WELCOME

September 6, 2026 – 9:00am

Welcome and Announcements

Time of Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship

L: As we gather, we come together as people of the cross and resurrection.

P: We come as children of the Father,

L: Reconciled by grace through the Son,

P: And filled with God's love through the Spirit.

L: We together worship the One Triune God. Amen.

Song: Praise to the LORD, the Almighty

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Gracious Father, in the Tenth Commandment, you warn us against desiring what belongs to others, emphasizing the need for us to find our contentment in you alone. We struggle with our unfulfilled desires and ask, O God, for your help to cultivate gratitude. Help us confess our struggles with envy and dissatisfaction to those who care about us, and to change our expectations to be in line with your will.

Song: Draw me Close

Scripture: - Exodus 20:17 - Sue Sevedge

¹⁷ “You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's.”

Sermon: The Struggle with Discontent (The Tenth Commandment: Being Content)

The Lord's Supper

The Apostles' Creed

Song: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Offering and Doxology

Song: Days Of Elijah

Blessing: Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Amen.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

Church Calendar

SUNDAY, September 6

9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour,
Adult Ed
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, September 7

Office Closed for Holiday

WEDNESDAY, September 9

11:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting
5:00 p.m. RACF Meeting
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

THURSDAY, September 10

7:00 a.m. Kiwanis
4:00 p.m. 2-5th Grade Youth Group

SATURDAY, September 12

7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SUNDAY, September 13

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

MOVING? Don't forget to give your
new address to the church office

Please join us in prayer. Every Sunday at 8:30 in the prayer room a group meets to lift our church in prayer as we go through this time of transition. We are asking God for His will, His way and His almighty favor. Stop in to hold our church in prayer.

Jeremiah 29:12 You will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

PRAYER LIST

We have a prayer chain that is texted to anyone who has requested to be on the list.

If you would like to be added to the text group, please let Sara know. sara@placeforgrace.com

We also LOVE Praising the Lord for what He has done through prayers. If you have a PRAISE Request, please don't hesitate to send that along, too!!

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.

September Adult Sunday School Series

“Contending for the Faith: A Three-Week Journey Through Jude”

Beginning **Sunday, September 13, 2026**, our Adult Sunday School class will launch a focused, three-week Bible study on the powerful and often-overlooked book of **Jude**. In just 25 verses, Jude gives the church a bold call to stand firm, stay awake, and hold fast to the gospel in a world full of distractions and distortions.

Across these three weeks, we will explore:

- Jude’s urgent message to believers
- The dangers of spiritual drift
- The beauty of God’s keeping power
- How to “contend for the faith” with both courage and compassion

If you’re looking for a short but deeply impactful study to strengthen your walk with Christ, this is the perfect place to be.

Join us — and bring someone who needs encouragement for the journey.

Choir will meet on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7th at 6:30 in the choir room.

Callie Ackland is going to lead the choir this fall!

If you are interested in joining, please reach out to Callie or just show up on Oct. 7th!



2026-2027

**2ND-5TH GRADE
YOUTH GROUP**

1ST PRES. CHURCH, ROCHELLE

4-5PM

SEPTEMBER 10 + 24
OCTOBER 8 + 22
NOVEMBER 5 + 19
DECEMBER 3 + 17

JANUARY 7 + 21
FEBRUARY 4 + 18
MARCH 4 + 18
APRIL 1 + 15 + 29
MAY 13

QUESTIONS? SEE SARA SLATTENGREN
SARA@PLACEFORGRACE.COM

Are you ready to study the book of JOY?! That's right - we are going to study the book of Philippians!

On Monday, September 14, at 10 a.m. our Women's Study Group will begin an eight week study with Joby Martin. What does lasting joy look like? Throughout our lives, we are sure to experience, highs and lows. So, how do we remain content with whatever life throws our way? In the book of Philippians, Pastor, and author Joby Martin will demonstrate that being with Jesus and belonging to his church fuels our joy and contentment in every situation. I hope you can join us and learn the secret to lasting JOY!

Please let Connie Dougherty know if you are planning to attend so we can get our books printed and bound. "I have learned the secret of true contentment. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any in every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:11-13.

NEW LIFE LIBRARY

Another one of those oldies but goodies, Angel Song by well-known Sheila Walsh and Kathryn Cushman. It's a story about a woman, Ann, who is now living her New York dream.

It starts out with her returning to her hometown of Charleston to see her sister, Sarah, receive her master's degree. But she ends up riding in the back of an ambulance, watching helplessly as her sister fights for her life. During this ride her sister talks to someone who is not there and hums a melody Ann has never heard before.

The unfamiliar, unearthly beautiful melody keeps finding Ann, first in the hospital chapel, then in her dreams, and finally in Sarah's empty house where she is staying. Of course, she is rather spooked out as a result. The other characters in the book who have a big effect on her are the two neighbors and a carpenter (of course an attractive Christian man) she knows from years back. They play a big part in the book!

God begins to reveal himself to Ann, both in her newfound friends and through supernatural events. As she discovers the very real presence of angels around her, will she finally open her heart to receive God's healing love?

This book was very hard to put down. A very good read.

Judy Schermerhorn of the Library Committee

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
Joanne Mayes

Liberty Village 2203 E Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068

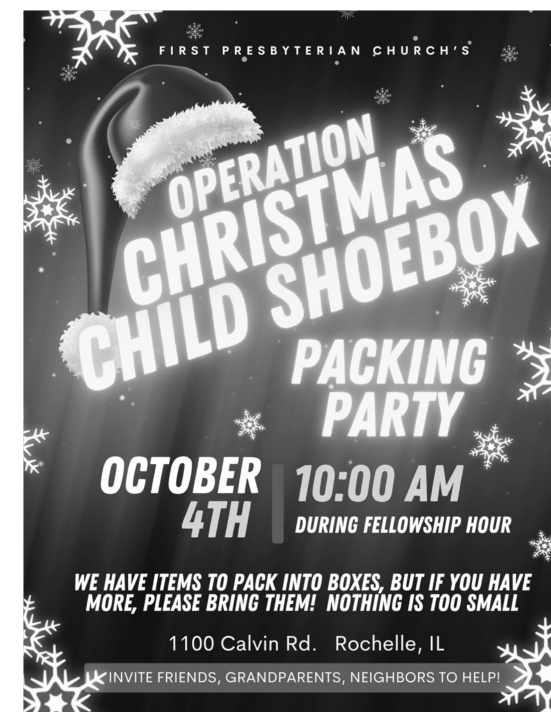
Codelle Leonard
Nancy Detig
Jan Hann
Clyda Lamb
Doyle Curtis

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



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:

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Karen Hauck: karen@placeforgrace.com
Midge Berg: midge@placeforgrace.com
Church Office: info@placeforgrace.com

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