

# Upcoming Events:

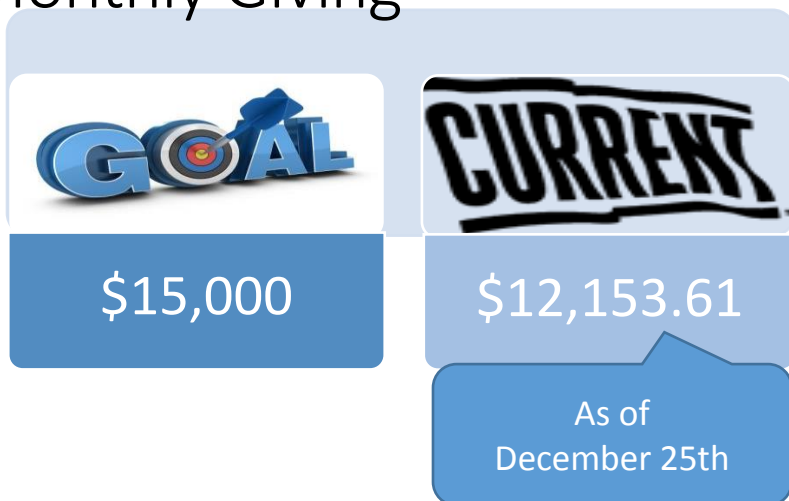
Women's Prayer  
Every Tuesday 10 am  
Contact: Eilene Anderson or Pat Porter

Revolution  
Every Wednesday evening from 7 – 8 pm  
@ the Blue Church  
Contact: Darryl Vaughan

Sew Friendly Quilters  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of every month  
@ the Blue Church  
Contact: Pat Porter

Prayer Meeting  
3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month  
@ the Blue Church  
Contact: Eilene Anderson

## Monthly Giving



Please visit our website @  
[www.rochesterlife.org](http://www.rochesterlife.org)

**January 1, 2017 – Pastor Leif Holmes**

**Title: Mirror Image**

**Text: Judges 13-16**



**Questions to Consider:**

- Read Matthew 11:28-30 (below):

*“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”  
Matt. 11:28-30*

- What does keeping company with Jesus look like?
- Why does it seem so difficult to actually do?

- Read James 5:13-16 (below):

*Are you hurting? Pray. Do you feel great? Sing. Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you’ve sinned, you’ll be forgiven— healed inside and out. Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. James 5:13-16*

- What are Christians to make their “common practice?”
- Why does this seem so difficult to do?
- What is God’s promise to the person who does?

- Mirror Image #1 – Compromise

- What miraculous events surrounded Samson’s birth? (See Judges 13)
  - Who else’s birth announcement was similar? (See Luke 2:8-14)
  - How did Samson grow up? (See 13:24-25)

- Samson dishonored his family, his people and God, despite his godly heritage and upbringing.
  - How do you explain this in light of 13:7 and 13:24-25?
  - Where did Samson go to find a wife?
    - What was wrong with that? What does Timnah symbolize?
    - The more time you spend there, what 2 things happen?
  - What is his parents’ reaction?
- Mirror Image #2 – Selfish
  - What is the connection between compromise and selfishness?
    - What is the difference between selfishness and a healthy positive self-image?
    - How does sin blind us to the truth?
  - Despite Samson’s sinful conduct, what was God doing behind the scenes? (See 14:4)
    - How does God use Samson’s disobedience and failures?
    - What does this say about God’s heart and character?
    - Read Psalm 139.
      - Do you find this psalm comforting or terrifying?
      - Why?
    - Is God ever surprised by our failures and sins? Read Romans 5:8.
  - Why didn’t God warn Samson about Delilah?
- Mirror Image #3 – Forgiven
  - Though it appears Samson repented and was forgiven by God, why did he still have to suffer punishment?
    - How did Samson’s loss of his eyesight demonstrate God’s principle of “what you sow you will reap?”
    - What was going on in Samson’s heart while he was grinding grain in the Philistine prison?
    - What was important about Samson’s hair growing back? (What 2 things did it symbolize?)
  - How/why is TRUE repentance a process rather than a 1x event?
    - Did Samson demonstrate this? Why or why not?
    - What does the Bible mean when it says to “bring forth fruit worthy of repentance?” (Matt. 3:8)

***“And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. So don’t fool yourselves.”  
James 1:22 (The Living Bible)***

**Podcasts of today’s message as well as past messages can be found @  
[www.rochesterlife.org](http://www.rochesterlife.org)**