

The Bell-Tower NEWS

Florissant Presbyterian Church

April 2020

*Enter as Guests, Leave as
Friends, Return as Family*

PARADOXICAL FEELING

As a people of faith in a pandemic, we are confronted with an awkward paradox. At this emotionally and socially traumatic time when we need the support of our church family the most, we have to be separated from them. Our church family are the people that many of us have trusted and relied on to point us to God's love and hope, yet now our gatherings have been suspended or closed to slow the spread of COVID-19. Our Holy Week celebration will change this year because we simply don't have the choice to do what we've always done.

Was it really only a bit more than a month ago that we observed the start of holy Lent by marking ourselves with ashes and hearing those humbling words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return?" Ash Wednesday feels like a lifetime away from where we are now. Maybe you feel that way too.

It was only seven weeks ago that the worship commission met to plan our Holy



Week and Easter services and, at that point, we had no reason to believe we wouldn't be doing those services the way we'd always done them at FPC. It was only three weeks ago that we gathered for a "normal" Sunday morning worship in our beautiful sanctuary. We had no way of knowing that that Sunday would be our last normal Sunday morning for what appears to be an extended period. And, it was only two-and-a-half weeks ago that we received the guidance of the Presbytery of Giddings Lovejoy to suspend all in-person worship and cancel all church activities to slow the virus' spread.

Grief and uncertainty have washed over us as a congregation. There is a grief in the loss of the traditions and rituals in our normal holiday services we had planned for Holy Week and Easter. There is uncertainty about how we will remind each other of the resurrection hope that is at the heart of who we are as disciples of Jesus Christ? The Session has brought



their creative energy to these pressing questions: How will we support and sustain our church now? How will we be the body of Christ for and with one another in this pandemic? Please look for emails, on our website, and on Facebook for updates on how we will worship at safe distances and how we can virtually share our faith together on our phones and computers. As the pandemic unfolds, we hope to respond in responsible and faithful ways to keep each other safe and still share in the joy that “Christ is risen!”

God only knows what April will hold, yet if this has been the beginning, then what will come we can be sure will be spiritually and physically challenging, but I am confident that we will respond with faithful, grace filled experiences of being united as a church. The leadership at FPC will continue to find creative ways to be connected with you and one another even during this season when we are physically set apart. We have to make these sacrifices to show our love and care for each other’s physical health and wellbeing. During this COVID19 pandemic, there is a way that we can each bear witness to our Easter faith. By staying connected to one another, we witness that our faith in Jesus Christ enables us to live in a way that in the midst of fear there is hope, in the midst of panic there is peace, in the midst of uncertainty there is faith and in the mist of death there is resurrection.



Stay safe, keep your social distances, and pray often.

Christ Is Risen- He Has Risen Indeed,
Pastor Sean

CLERK’S REPORT

The monthly Session of Florissant Presbyterian Church was cancelled. However, there was a called meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the side room of FPC’s Harmon Hall.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and chart a way forward at least for the next few weeks at FPC regarding our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Treasurer’s Report: A 2020 budget was approved. It was based on 2019 spending and expenses and anticipated income and expenses for 2020. Remember all financial reports are posted on the bulletin board outside the office.

COMMISSION REPORTS and Committee reports were postponed.

Pastor Sean closed the meeting at 8:25 pm with prayer.

– *Candy Shelton, Clerk of Session*

CHURCH NEWS





PER CAPITA -Per Capita for this year is \$32.00/person. We would appreciate it if everyone could complete this task by July 1st. Thanks for your support.

PRAYERS - Rich, Mike, Georgiana, Doris, Carol, Sara, Jon, Ester, Pamela, Mary's brother, Barb's son-in-law Cliff, Sue's friend Lill, Ruth and her great grandson, Sue and her brothers-in-law Jeff and Shawn and her sister Lynn.

BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Sue Kohler
- 12 Pamela Tumminia
- 14 Lauralyn Rosenberger
- 15 Wilma Thiedke
- 16 Candy Shelton
- 21 Vickie Goehri
- 29 Everett Flaker

**Happy
Birthday**

Palm Sunday at The FPC Drive-In-Worship

We are going to have a "Drive-in-Worship" this Palm Sunday, April 5th at 10:15. With the suggested restrictions on gathering in groups being extended, Florissant Presbyterian is going celebrate

the start of Holy Week from the comfort and safety of our own cars.

Many of us remember packing up the car with family and friends and going to see movies at a drive-in-theatre. You could stay in the comfort of your own car and see the shows. We at FPC have adapted that idea to our situation, to be able to worship together while keeping a safe distance from each other by remaining in our cars. This is a way for us as a church family to worship together to start Holy Week, while situated in a healthy and safe space.

When we gather in the parking lot for worship on Sunday, this is how we will proceed:

We will worship near the picnic pavilion in the back lot of the church. Someone will direct you to a specific space to park. We will be parking in every other space so that we have plenty of distance between us. Then we will stager the cars in rows to get the best position so that everyone will be able to see and easily hear (hopefully it won't be windy). We can worship safely and responsibly in our cars, but you must always make the final decision about what is right for your health and please stay safe at home if you feel at risk. Prayerfully discern what is right for you.

During this Covid-19 pandemic of 2020, FPC is going to try new and imaginative ways to stay connected, support one



ABCDEF GHIJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXYZ

ZYXWV UTSRQP ONMLK JHGFED CBA

ABCDEF GHIJK MNOPQR STUVWXY Z

ZYXWV UTSRQP ONMKJI HGFEDCB A

ABCDEF GHIJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXYZ

ZYXWV UTSRQP ONMLK JIHGFDC BA

ABCDEF GHIJK LMNOP QSTUV WXYZ

ZYXWU TSRQP ONMLK JIHGFED CBA

ABCDF GHIJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXYZ

ZYXWV USRQP ONMLK JIHGFED CBA

ABCDEF GIJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXYZ

ZYXWV UTSRQP ONMLK JIHGFDC BA

ABCDEF GHIJK MNOPQR STUVWXY Z

ZYXWV UTSRQP NMLK JIHGFED CBA

ABCDEF GHIJK LMNOP QSTUV WXYZ

ZYXWV UTSRQP ONMLK JIHGFEC BA

BCDEF GHIJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXYZ

ZYXWV UTSRQP OMLK JIHGFED CBA

ABCEFG HIJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXYZ



ZYXWV UTSRQP NMLK JIHGFED CBA

ACDEF GHIJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXYZ

ZYXWV UTSRQP ONMLK JIHGFDC BA

ABCDEF GHIJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXZ

ZYXWV UTSRQP ONMLK JIGFED CBA

ABCDEF GHJK LMNOP QRSTU VWXYZ

ZYXWV UTSRQP ONL KJIHGFED CBA

RIDDLE

A father is 62 when his daughter is 36. How many years has it been since she was exactly one-third his age?

Riddle: 23. She was 13, he was 39

Feed your faith and doubts will starve to death. - Debbie Macomber

He is Risen!