

The Bell-Tower NEWS

Florissant Presbyterian Church

October 2020

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

Being the church is going to be different as we move forward into October with November's elections on its heels. Will we be a church that will go through these challenges together? Will we be grace-full? What does it mean to be the body of Christ to our neighbors in a time of social isolation and racial injustice? How do we share our faith to whole new generations and with their experiences of a global pandemic? Because there is such disunity, division and lack of trust in our fractured world, I suggest, we are called to be even more united in our mission and ministry moving forward.

It's hard to reach a consensus among any congregation let alone in our current social and political environment. Much of the angry divisiveness and wide divisions we are experiencing locally and nationally are the destructive fruit of fear, hate, resentment, and a sense of helplessness in the mist of rapid unprecedented changes. If we allow ourselves to be swept up in these winds of division, we may find ourselves being twisted to the point of snapping. It is often

uncomfortable discerning what to share and what not to regarding contemporary issues. Yet, our call to speak with a humble, consistent, and loving voice on behalf of the Christ's mission of reconciliation and love is clear.

Being the Body of Christ to others means doing together what none of us can do alone. This humble unity is central to continuing and building on the new service and food ministries we've started together and adapted even in the pandemic. It is about intentionally honoring those distinctively different qualities that make each of us who we are, but, at the same time, not allowing differences to become impediments to our engaging in a conversation, deliberation and discernment that help us move forward to serve God and our neighbor.

We're not all going to believe the same thing. We're not all going to hold the exact same views or values. That is something which clearly is unattainable and not even biblical, but I think there is a unity in the

Spirit that is unseen but that reaches and connects us. The Spirit of Christ does really tie all of us as one. At Florissant Presbyterian Church, I hope we can dedicate ourselves to creating an accepting space where we can all sit down as one in hospitality. To be a church where we engage each other and then stretch ourselves so we can all grow as an expression of our different experiences yet common faith. We all need to commit to creating a greater sense of faithfulness and unity in Christ's mission and ministry especially in our polarized, politized, pandemic fractured World.

October will bring challenges, changes and questions about how to be faithful to God in our unprecedented times. I'm hoping that in this changing and challenging month that each of us will more greatly value the simple power of reading the bible and engaging in prayer together. When we are united in faith and mission, we can then create open conversations about serving faithfully together rather than bickering separately about politics and policies. Our faith journey challenges each of us to read the Scriptures, to pray about Christ's message, and then challenges us to live it out- together.

In One Faith, One Hope, One Baptism,
Pastor Sean

CHURCH NEWS

Mobile Market - We had a beautiful day for our first Mobile Market. Over 25 volunteers came to help. We gave away 145 boxes of food to the community. That is 3,625 lbs. of food. We helped to feed 268 people, 107 of which were children. The remaining 47 boxes went to TEAM.

Thank you so very much to all who helped make this a success. A thank you goes out to the St. Louis Area Foodbank for providing the pre-packaged boxes of non-perishable food.

Our next Mobile Market will be on Saturday, October 17. It is a blessing for our community and our church.



Grab N Go Supper - During our last Grab N Go Supper we gave out 154 sack meals. We also gave out 11 Bibles and 34 children's Bible activity books.

Our next Grab N Go Supper will be on Oct. 8th from 5:30-7:30pm. Come out and join us. We need volunteers on Wed. morning at 10 am and Wed. evening at 6:30 pm and on Thurs. starting at 4:30 pm. Or just stop by for dinner at 5:30.



BIRTHDAYS

- 5 Kevin Ruyle
- 18 Arlene Arseneau
- 20 Alan Wilkis
- 24 Stefanie Thoes
- 25 Amanda Denno
- 27 Carol Parks
- 28 Jacob Krohn



ANNIVERSARIES

Mike & Trish Farano
Married 15 years October 22

IN LOVING MEMORY

Bill Murray

PRAYERS

Jon, Marilyn, Mike, Doris, Carol, Sara, Pamela, Georgiana, 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 Shaw and her sister Lynn.

