



The Bell-Tower NEWS

Florissant Presbyterian Church

MISSION STATEMENT

- * Preaching and teaching the Bible with passion and love
- * Bringing the unchurched to a trusting and redemptive relationship with Jesus Christ
- * Nurturing our congregation
- * Serving the needs of our community



Living and Growing in Thanksgiving

As we draw closer to Thanksgiving and reflect on gratitude, I believe we all should desire and long to respond more completely to the One who has called, created, and blessed us to be truly thankful. Yet, how can we as individuals and a congregation be renewed or reshaped into living more thankfully and loving gratitude more deeply? While embracing God's desire for gratitude in our living (Ps.50:23), I want to suggest that living thankfully involves linking self-reflection and faithful discipline.

I believe our life together in the church offers us a safe and empowering place to grow in thankful living. How often do we listen for gratitude in the words of others? Can we start to more regularly speak words of thanks and thankfulness in ways that are not just reflexively but with sincerity, kindness, and love? Is it possible to avoid complaining, disparaging, or being divisive in our conversations and relationship? How do we resist the temptations to put down others to make our point or build up our position? A personal commitment to living with more thankful listening, speaking and acting can open the door for Jesus' Spirit of gratitude to transform and redirect our relationships and interactions towards living with more thanksgiving.

If you want to answer God's call to be thankful and even more to have your heart ready to truly celebrate Thanksgiving, I want to challenge you to become more aware of gratitude in your life. I want to invite the members and friends of Florissant Presbyterian to mark and monitor your own words, actions, and attributes for the next several days, even keep a diary if it would be helpful, of every time you say "thank you" and "really mean it". I invite you to recognize and record actions and attitudes of gratitude that arise in your heart and especially those that are then shown in your actions. As we reflect together on gratitude in our lives and the reasons we feel thankful, we can start to grow to be more prepared to completely and truthfully celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. A deepened commitment to living thankfully will change our individual character and the quality of our life together. Thankful living in the context of grace, love, faith, and hospitality gives a powerful witness to the One to Whom we are truly and eternally thankful.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving,

Pastor Sean



CLERK'S CORNER – Barb Spurgeon, Clerk of Session

On October 12th, the Session met for their monthly meeting. Rev. Sean Butler opened the meeting with prayer at 7:12 p.m.

The meeting started with a report from **Congregation Care**. Following this report **Church Life** shared that Stewardship would be from October 29 to November 26. The Craft and Collectible Fair will be on November 18.

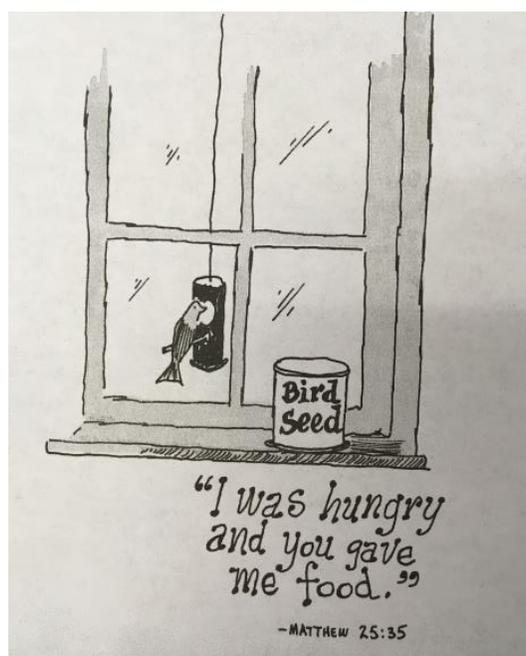
Church Operations told us that the fire suppression system in the kitchen would be updated. **Worship & Music** reported an upcoming meeting. Ellen Geerling is now our new Music Director.

FPCLC reports that their enrollment is down this year and they are in the middle of a fund-raiser. **Christian Education's** Breakfast with Santa will be coming in December.

Green Committee shared that we are fairly close to recertification as a Green Congregation.

The next Presbytery meeting will be on Saturday, November 4th at Oak Hill Presbyterian Church.

The meeting was closed at 8:12 p.m. with prayer requests and The Lord's Prayer.





NOVEMBER Birthdays

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Karen Lanning | 11 Samuel Hendrickson | 26 Lorraine Jaeger* |
| 5 Sara Williams | 14 Betty Walters | 27 Susan Denno |
| 8 Shirley Flynn | 16 Carolyn Mawson | 28 Doug Law |
| 8 Nancy Kaatman | 16 Sophia Butler | 28 Madeline Frank |
| 10 Janet Walsh | 22 Keith Lieb | 29 Paula Finke |

Happy 90th Birthday!

*Lorraine Jaeger

If you would like to send birthday wishes, Lorraine's address is
1101 Garden Plaza Drive #222,
The Bridge, Florissant, MO 63033

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Bill & Kay Bass, married 57 years on November 26
Bill & Barb Spurgeon, married 60 years on November 29

From the desk of...
Kay Laughlin

"The art of love... is largely the art of persistence."

Albert Ellis, American Psychologist and Writer, b.1913

On a recent morning television show, I saw a story which ended with the above quote, a description of love that I had never heard before. The story was about a lost engagement ring with a sizable diamond. The engaged couple lived close to a beach along Lake Erie where they often played volleyball in the sand with some friends. One weekend during a game, the ring slipped off the young woman's finger, much to her dismay. She, her fiancé and their friends searched the beach for the next two days but found nothing. They were at the point of giving up; they had no faith that any more searching would do any good. But, one friend encouraged them to not give up. On the third day, this determined friend rented a metal detecting device. He went into the water along the beach and the detector led him right to the ring. Indeed, "the art of love . . . is largely the art of persistence."

As followers of Christ, we are to walk a path of persisting love, a love that seeks to let the never-failing love of God prevail.

thankful
grateful
blessed





By/Betty Walters

Family, Friends and FPC

What would we do without family and friends?
Someone there to lend a helping hand
To show they care just means so much
With a warm hug and a loving touch.
The best place to find happiness is at FPC.
Pastor Sean makes FPC as wonderful as can be
To try to go through life alone is not the thing to do.
How wonderful it is to receive an, I love you.
When we're together it's such a pleasure
With a lot of memories and a lot to treasure.
Belonging to FPC, my life means so much.
I'm so glad that our lives have touched.
It's changed for the better, I might add.
FPC makes everyone happy there's no time to be sad.
God is our Fortress and will never stray or part.
Keep our Church Family in your prayers and in your heart.



FLORISSANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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FLORISSANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Paula Finke, Office Administrator
Angela Rugger, Director, F.P.C.L.C.
Ellen Geerling, Music Director



Church News

CONGREGATION CARE

Mariner Log- With a large load of cargo and a limited number of deck hands on board we managed to keep the ship afloat during the rummage sale. It was a task and is being discussed as to what the future holds for our rummage sales.

Thank you to everyone who donated items and a special thanks to all those who worked so hard on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We made \$651.31 the least we have ever made.

November 12th we will have our fall pancake and sausage brunch following worship. In addition to the pancakes & sausage we will have fresh fruit, juice, milk and coffee. Please plan now to enjoy good food and fellowship with all your church friends. No tickets, a basket will be on each table for your freewill offering.

With a wedding on Saturday November 25th, we will be decorating the church for the holidays on Sunday, November 26th following worship. We will then go to Gettemeier's for a late lunch.

A Christmas outing has not been selected, watch for details.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Breakfast with Santa - December 2nd from 9 am to 11 pm

Have your picture taken with Santa! Join us for a pancake breakfast with sausage, applesauce, orange juice, milk, and coffee from 9 to 10 am. There will be face painting and other fun activities. Bring the kids and grandkids to start the holiday season. There is special invitation to FPC Learning Center families.

Help is needed for table setup and decorating on Friday 12/1. On Saturday we need help for cooking, serving and clean up. Remember for the Easter Bunny Breakfast we had over 100 guests! Let Candy Shelton or the office Know if you can help.

Project Backpack - Advent through January 14, 2018

Project Backpack is a unique project designed to help children - the silent and forgotten victims of domestic violence. The Project Backpack organization provides backpacks that are age and gender appropriate to be distributed on the scene by police or social agencies so that children will have something to call their own as they make the transition to foster homes.

Christian Education Commission has chosen Project Backpack as the recipient of this year's Angel Tree gifts. Suggested items include: Children's clothing (pajamas, t-shirts), School supplies, Toiletries, Baby Items (Infants to two years), Stuffed toys.

GIFT CARDS

Ever since I have been selling the Gift Cards, I've noticed there are quite a few cards we have in stock that no one has ever asked for.

These may have been requested and never picked up. Or, they may just have been ordered thinking someone might want them.

Either way, we need to try and get them sold.

Christmas is just around the corner so maybe you know someone who might like some of these.

Banana Republic/Gap/Old Navy - 9 @ \$25
Best Buy - 3 @ \$25
Buffalo Wild Wings - 7 @ \$25
Chili's - 8 @ \$25
Crate & Barrel - 5 @ \$25
Dick's Sporting Goods - 6 @ \$25
I-Tunes - 10 @ \$15
K-Mart/Sears - 4 @ \$25
Little Cesars - \$13 @ \$20
Old Country Buffet/Home Town Buffet/Ryan's - 3 @ \$25
Quiznos - 7 @ \$10
Shell Gas - 6 @ \$25
T.G.I. Friday's - 3 @ \$25
T.J. Max/Marshalls - 3 @ \$25
Texas Roadhouse - 6 @ \$25



Thanksgiving Word Search

R E L A T I V E S T I F S M F
P N R E U K S S N C H A O E A
X I E F B O B E T I L A A O S
O B L Z Y O L T U R K S N T D
W R Y G I C E T R E T P U K Y
T S E V R A H L K N Y F M L S
Y V A R G I M E E N F T I U N
S Q U A S H M R Y I W M A R P
F A L L P R A S N D A L O B A
R M H T N B A G C F A C E K I

cook
corn
dinner
fall
family
feast
food
gravy
harvest

maize
pilgrims
pumpkin
relatives
settlers
squash
stuffing
thanks
turkey

