



**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



You Are Invited

The Jesus Love Feast is here and you are invited to share in its' mission and ministry. On the morning of September 23, it is your turn to follow Jesus' call to service the least of these. At the Jesus Love Feast you will be His hands, His voice and His heart for some of the homeless, hunger and forgotten of St. Louis. By gathering around a meal, we will be doing everything we can to break down barriers between the satisfied and the hungry. Through the clothing mission we will lessen the divide between the haves and the have-nots. By simply reaching out with a hand of welcome we, the hopeful, will open the doorway of possibilities for those who may be hopeless.

Your part in the Jesus Love Feast could be sitting down at a meal and just having a conversation about everyday life. Possibly you can be the person to serve a warm meal, a sweet desert, or a cool drink. Maybe you can help distribute clothes to young families or make some of the children laugh with games and crafts. Whatever parts you may play, big or small, when you participate in this mission event, you will be breaking down barriers of prejudice and stereotype. We all simply want respect and our dignity and the homeless are no different.

I believe Jesus is calling you to hospitality, challenging you to care, and empowering you to love our neighbors in an amazing day of service and fellowship. You are invited to bring your gifts, whatever they may be, and care for the stranger and let Jesus' light shine out from Florissant Presbyterian Church into our community. Let us together break down some of the barriers in our world and show the world that the love of Jesus is in you, me and our church. Please sign up or just show up and join me at the Jesus Love Feast.

Shalom, Pastor Sean

CLERK'S CORNER – *Barb Spurgeon, Clerk of Session*



SEPTEMBER Birthdays

7 Elizabeth Heberer
8 Trish Farano
11 Boyd Surgeon
14 Donald Wardlaw
15 Fred Branstetter

17 Lloyd Moore
17 Sue Connelly
17 Abbi Piper
18 Chris Mahurin
20 Jim Moody

22 Anna Eagleton
23 Leonard Jaeger
26 Mike Maurin
30 Ruth Shelton

Happy 90^{Plus} Birthday!

*Boyd Surgeon
Anna Eagleton
Leonard Jaeger*

If you would like to send birthday wishes, Boyd's address is 2370 Rivoli Place, Florissant, MO 63031; Anna's is 4622 Gemini Drive, St. Louis, MO 63128; Leonard's is 1101 Garden Plaza Drive #222, Florissant, MO 63033

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

*Brian & Susan Denno, married 29 years on September 3
John & Abbi Piper, married 12 years on September 24*

In Memory of

Joe Tharpe & Jim Laughlin

From the desk of...
Kay Laughlin

When I taught at a community college in St. Louis, I wrote a quote on the blackboard every class period. Usually, I didn't even mention the quote during class, but I saw some students write down these words of encouragement to keep. Every January, I shared these words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that." A dark room becomes light when a source of light like an open door, drives out the darkness—simply, quietly.

We mere mortals at times seem to be drawn to reacting to darkness in its nonliteral sense emotionally. Unkind words, things done purposely to be hateful can tempt us to respond in hateful ways ourselves, just adding to the darkness. The way of Christ, however, the light of the world, is to respond in love, thus allowing light and an opportunity for that kindness to make the darkness just a little lighter.

My husband Jim was a great doer of good, a vessel of light and life, during the 69 years he lived, 47 of which I knew and loved him. There was not one day that I doubted his love for me. He was truly passionate about spreading love and light wherever he was, sometimes in very funny and creative ways. He actually did spread "fake news" when he started having "fake news conferences" to liven up a county office where he started working after retiring from teaching physical education and coaching track and cross country. He pretended to be the county supervisor and made up funny "news" to broadcast through his fake microphones. A new friend made in the last two years living in Charleston, Illinois, shared that his passing on August 15th "made the light a little dimmer in the world."

We all have choices as to how we live out our lives. Will we add to the darkness around us, the hate that can come against us, or will we choose to offer light in a world in such need of it. Jesus would have us let His light shine through us as it did through Jim.



By/Betty Walters

JESUS IS THE ANSWER THAT WILL GET YOU THROUGH

Where did I go wrong?
Once upon a summers night, when I was young and happy
I took it all in stride
I never thought my life would be any other way
Now I'm alone, I never dreamed I would ever have to face this day
My housekeeping days seem to be over
I never take the time to make my bed anymore
I sit at my table with a paper plate while I dine
A glass of water and a paper napkin will do just fine
I go to the mailbox like it's such an effort
Opening my bills gives me absolutely no pleasure or comfort
The grass keeps growing and getting taller
I'm getting all shriveled up and becoming smaller
Life used to mean so much to me when I could get around
I use to wear a smile but now it's much easier to sit and frown
Oh life's not been easy living this way
Maybe tomorrow will be a better day
No one to share my hopes and dreams
Sitting by myself watching the moon beams
I have everything anyone would ever want in life
I still have Jesus I can tell good night.

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FLORISSANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER

Church News

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Jesus Love Feast is Saturday, September 23rd - The Jesus Love Feast is an annual, one day, event, blessing hundreds of people. Together, we have potential to do "Far Greater Things". People in need (men, women and children) are brought to the church for fellowship, a meal, gifts of clothing, coats, underwear, and personal care items. There will also be music and games!

When Jesus said to his host, "When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, brothers, relatives, or your rich neighbors; if you do, they may invite you back and so you will be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed. Although they cannot repay you, you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous." Luke 14:12—14

Florissant Presbyterian Church is hosting this event and we need your help. It's a wonderful opportunity for fellowship and outreach. Our next planning meeting will be Thursday September 7th at 6:30 PM.

Volunteers and Donations are still needed:

- Set up
- Host and Hostesses to direct the guests to appropriate areas
- Help to store and secure guest's personal belongings
- Monitors to keep paper supplies in the bathroom
- Kitchen Help
- Food servers
- General cleanup
- Distribute Clothes and personal care item
- Lead Children Crafts
- Manicures
- Hot dogs and pastries- DONATED

- Hot dog buns, hamburgers and buns, individual chip bags, baked beans, potato salad, ice tea and punch.
- Paper plates, napkins and plastic forks.

AND much more!

Just providing Christian fellowship to a stranger is important. We expect 300 - 400 guests so lots of help is needed. Its a great service project for scouts, youth groups and high schoolers needing service hours. Contact Candy Shelton if you have any questions.

CHURCH LIFE

MARINER LOG - No social activity in August! We had our service project – the KidSmart “Push for Pencils” drive. Once again your response to the needs of school children was great. Items were delivered to the Warehouse store in Bridgeton on Tuesday (8/29), and as always the staff was very appreciative. Thank you!

October 7th is the date for our fall rummage sale. Late drop offs on Wednesday, October 4th 6-8 pm. With set-up on Friday the 6th 9-3 (lunch provided). We are accepting items now in the double door closet at the back of Harmon Hall. We have been offered the use of a garage if needed.

GREEN COMMITTEE

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION GATHERING - Dan Edwards has been busy collecting ideas to get our Earth Care Committee going strong. On July 31, he and Sue attended a meeting of Earth Care committees at Webster Groves Presbyterian Church.

FPC is the youngest Earth Care Congregation, and we learned that all of the congregations face the same challenges. The greatest challenge? Although people generally agree that the Earth is important, many people believe that green choices are too expensive. They worry about extra work and tight budgets.

Fortunately, because we are the newest green congregation, we can learn what has worked for the other churches. Here are some of the things that other congregations in our area are already doing:

Regular articles like this one appear in their newsletters. Some of these articles include tips for living a greener life. Others feature Meatless Monday recipes.

In addition to recycling things like paper and cans, Webster Groves has a recycling corner with bins. There members can drop off items like eye glasses, ink cartridges, batteries and more.

Each spring, Woodlawn Chapel distributes yarn scraps that have been prepared and can be hung in people's yards. Birds use the fluffed out scraps in their nests.

At Second Presbyterian, their Coffee fellowship uses only fair trade coffee.

They also make sure that vegetarian dishes are available at congregational meals.

Offering Sunday school classes, for adults, children and youth, with earth themes.

Screening environmental movies and opening these screenings to the public. Several congregations that have done this reported "sold out" events. One of these movies was "Beyond the Flood."

Does one of these ideas sound especially appealing? Or do you have an idea that you would like to see us implement? If so, be sure to let Dan know (candyman63121@yahoo.com or suebradfordedwards@yahoo.com).



FPC Family Members Lorraine & Leonard Jaeger
Named 2017 Prom Queen & King
The Bridge at Florissant Assisted Living Community

