



# *The Bell-Tower*

## January NEWS

Florissant Presbyterian Church

2019

### Challenges in Change

It's never too early for you and me to start praying and preparing to receive God's opportunities for change at the start of 2019. Although the challenges of change in a new year may not arrive in the ways we expect or want, we can be sure that God is faithfully with us. In this world where change is the only constant of which we can be sure, we don't so much choose to change as we give ourselves prayerfully over to the Spirit in these changes. We have faith that the Spirit will faithfully lead us in any future challenges so that we will grow in faithfulness. With the Spirit's power within us, we can then face both difficult challenges and easy changes as gracious opportunities for spiritual growth. I believe that creativity in adapting to the challenges of change is consistent with the biblical story of God's people's twisting and turning journey of redemption in a broken and sinful world. Even if we are reluctant to move forward, we have a Lord who holds yesterday, today and tomorrow and never leaves us. Are we ready for these new challenges? Will we be ready to embrace 2019's changes with creativity and faithfulness? Change is difficult for us individually, and maybe even more as a church, so let us prayerfully trust in God's Spirit and lean on each other as we move forward into a new year.

New Year's Blessings,

Pastor Sean

*Blessings*  
COUNT THEM ONE BY ONE

## CLERK'S CORNER – Candy Shelton, Clerk of Session

The Session of Florissant Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, December 16, 2018 in the FPC Conference Room.

### **COMMISSION REPORTS:**

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION** – Santa Breakfast was a big success, over 165 served. Thanks to everyone who helped. Donations continue for project Backpack.

**CHURCH LIFE** - Advent folder donations will go to TEAM. The annual Wassail party will be 12/24. Everyone should bring cookies or appetizers to share.

**CHURCH OPERATION** A new insurance company went into effect 12/1/2018. Heating problems in the parlor and roof leaks are being investigated.

**CONGREGATIONAL CARE** continues cards, calls and visits to FPC members. Also, they keep supplies up to date in the kitchen. They help at every FPC event.

**EVANGELISM** helped serve refreshments for the FPCLC Christmas program. They also keep the new welcome table up to date and explore more ideas for community outreach.

**WORSHIP** The choir will perform a special Christmas cantata on 12/23 followed by cookies and punch.

**NOMINATING** is working on the new class of elders to present at the Congregational Meeting.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** Pastor Sean is working on some new ideas for worship service. He's also looking into a new pictorial directory.

Pastor Sean closed the meeting at 12:30 pm with prayer.

Next meeting Sunday, January 20, 2019

# JANUARY Birthdays

12 Shirley Enns

16 Lois Gallyoun

16 Ramona Krohn

17 Bill Bass

17 Steve Bohannon

17 Tom Shelton

18 Doris Parks\*

20 Marilyn Branstetter

20 Ann Thobes

28 Joe Connelly

30 Sue Edwards

30 Dorothy Gebhart

A large graphic of the year 2019, where each digit is filled with a different color: 2 is pink, 0 is yellow, 1 is purple, and 9 is cyan. The numbers are slightly overlapping and have a soft shadow.

Happy 90+

Doris Park

If you would like to send birthday wishes, Doris' address is Parkwood Nursing,  
3201 Parkwood Lane - Room 120, Maryland Heights, MO 63043

# Wedding Anniversaries

*Terry & Nancy Salfen, married 48 years on January 30*

# Church News

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Mariner Log** - December was a quiet month for the mariner organization, everyone was busy with their own family activities and shopping. Several members did take time out to help with the "Santa Breakfast" which was a huge success.

Saturday, January 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 we will meet to take down the holiday decorations, share a chili supper and make plans for 2019. Please join us because we have a number of things to discuss and we need your ideas and input!

## CHURCH LIFE

**Project Backpack - Through January 13, 2019** -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.

Sunday, January 27<sup>th</sup> will be the Annual Congregational Meeting. The church life commission is sponsoring a pot luck luncheon after worship. Side dishes and desserts needed as meat will be provided. Let's kick off 2019 in style.

## PRAY REQUEST

Bob, Shirley, Vickie's mom Carol, Penny, friend of Carlene & Georgiana, Theresa, Sue & Sue's brother-in-law Jeff, her niece Bailey, her sister Lynn and her granddaughter Cortney, Ruth & her great grandson, Doris & Carol, Ruth & her daughter Mary Jo, Sara, Pamela, and Theresa.

**OFFICE CLOSED** – Monday, January 1, 2019

**Take Down Decorations** - Saturday, January 5, 3 pm

**Lydia's Circle** – Tuesday, January 15, 7 pm

**Session** – Sunday, January 20 after service

**OFFICE CLOSED** – Monday, January 21

**Young at Heart** – Thursday, January 24, noon

**Bell Tower Articles** – Tuesday, January 29, 11 am



# Breakfast with Santa



# Poetry 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.