



The Bell-Tower

March NEWS

Florissant Presbyterian Church

2019

Lenten Change

As we enter another week of bone chilling weather, there is a church season of spiritual grace and healing that can warm up our inner souls and servant hands. The season of Lent comes to us early in March this year and it should be a time when we focus our thoughts on getting closer to God and to one another. Although Lent is often believed to only be a time for giving something up, it is, I believe, better understood to be a time for change and adaptation in which we strive to become more of who we believe Jesus is calling us to be individually and together as a church family.

The leaders of our church and the FPC session are working diligently to take action to streamline and tighten our expenditures in the face of our financial challenges. They are working not just to pay our bills but to also better focus our attention and stewardship on what is central to our life of faith. With each change, we hope that we are less distracted by shallow worries and are more directly and clearly focused upon our discipleship to Jesus. We cannot let our hearts become focused simply on ourselves and our money problems, only then, to miss opportunities for us to practice love, mercy, justice and kindness in the name of Christ. As we make changes and adapt to our new realities, may we let this season of Lent shape these new practices and ways of serving so that they show that the center of our stewardship is sharing the truth of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

At Florissant Presbyterian Church, our Lenten journey starts on March 6th at 7:00 with Ash Wednesday and leads to Easter Sunday April 21st at the 10:15 in a celebration of the Resurrection. On Ash Wednesday, we're invited to examine ourselves truthfully about our brokenness and mortality. We will reflect on God's promises and Jesus' journey to the cross each Sunday as we approach Holy Week. We start Holy Week, April 14th, with our Palm Sunday service where we wave palms and have a special music program by the FPC choir. Then on Maundy Thursday, April 18th at 7:00, we will share in Jesus' institution of the Lord's Supper, and Good Friday, April 19 at 2:30 pm, we will have a service of prayer and reflection upon Jesus' death on the cross. I hope that each of you stays warm and safe in these chilly waning days of winter and that you intentionally mark your calendars to join us at FPC throughout lent and Easter.

Changing for Christ, Pastor Sean

CLERK'S CORNER – Candy Shelton, Clerk of Session

The Session of Florissant Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, February 17, 2019 in the FPC Conference Room.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We have opened a new bank account at Citizen's National Bank to save fees.

Task Force for Change is weekly meeting to plan for the future of FPC. Members include Stefanie Thobes, Carole Tumminia, Rich Meanor and Jon Murray, chaired by Sue Kohler. They are open to any ideas, primarily ways to curb spending or to find new sources of income. Session approved Task Force recommendations to end our custodial contract, stop insuring the pipe organ, allow alcohol for outside events (to encourage wedding reception rental) of Harmon Hall, and continue the sale of gift cards.

COMMISSION REPORTS:

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt will be April 13th.

CHURCH LIFE – Mardi Gras Pancake Brunch will be March 3rd immediately following church. Cooking up Kindness will continue March 14th (soup and salad) and April 4th (lasagna). Don't forget \$31 per capita before July 1st.

CHURCH OPERATION – There are heating problems in the sanctuary.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE continues cards, calls and visits to FPC members. Please sign up for fellowship cleanup.

EVANGELISM - Scheduled Learning Center fellowship for the remainder of the school year.

WORSHIP – Changes in Worship began March 17th.

Several members attended the Presbytery meeting at Southminster and attended workshops for churches under 150. They learned most churches in America are under 150 members and average attendance less than 80. Many share our problems and concerns.

Next Presbytery meeting will be Saturday May 4, 2019 at First Presbyterian Church Cape Girardeau, MO.

Pastor Sean closed the meeting at 1:45 pm with prayer.

Next meeting Sunday, March 10, 2019.

MARCH Birthdays

2 Carol Tumminia

5 Ronna Smith

19 Ian Arseneau

2 Jared Edwards

12 Jason Piper

Wedding Anniversaries

Doug & Ellen Law, married 40 years on March 3

Steve & Sherrelyn Rosenberger, married 29 years on March 10

Happy
St. Patrick's
Day!



By/Betty Walters

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

It's fun to be Irish for 24 hours.
Our ancestors won't care if we're Irish for just one day.
To listen to an Irish song makes us happy and gay.
Like Oh Danny Boy, My Wild Irish Rose and on Galway Bay.
We sing out of tune in our own special way.
And oh the Irish food we eat with such delight.
We eat until we finish the very last bite.
A Green outfit is what you'll wear.
Only to be worn again next year.
See you next year same time, same place.



- Learn the words to the songs
- Come with an empty stomach
- Don't worry about what the ancestors think



Church News

CHURCH LIFE

EVANGILISM

Sunday, March 24th has been designated “Bring a Friend to Church” Sunday. Everyone is to invite a friend to join them in worship that day.

If you are a member of FPC who has not attended church lately be your own friend and come join us in worship on March 24th.

We will have a special visitor that Sunday, a man from biblical times. He actually knew Jesus or knew of him and will tell us his story. You will be surprised how much this “first person” story touches your heart.

Each person in attendance that day will receive a small gift expressing prayer, love, family and friends.

MARINER LOG

On Sunday February 3rd once again Tom and Candy hosted the annual Super Bowl party. A big thank you to them and especially to Candy who had cooked most of the afternoon and had a real feast laid out for everyone. The attendance was low with only 7 people from church (Lloyd & Carlene, Doug & Ellen, Georgiana, Ruth and Bill Murray), Four of their neighbors, Kevin & Melissa and Devin.

Thanks to everyone who brought soup for our Super Bowl display. We collected over 100 cans of soup for TEAM. Thanks to Bill Murray for setting up the display and delivering the soup to TEAM.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The annual Easter Bunny Breakfast and Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 14th. Breakfast (pancakes, sausage, applesauce, juice, milk and coffee) will be served from 9 am to 10 am. The Easter egg hunt will be at 10 am; eggs will be filled with "bunny money" to shop for prizes at the Bunny Store. The Easter Bunny will be there! All are welcome; please let us know if you are coming. Also volunteers are needed. Contact Candy Shelton or sign up at the church office.

PER CAPITA

Just a friendly reminder, our 'Per Capita Apportionment' for this year is \$31.00/person. We would appreciate if everyone could complete this task by July 1st. Thanks for your support.

PRAYERS

Theresa, Sara, Doris, Carol, Ruth and her great grandson, Sue's brother-in-law Jeff and her sister Lynn

THANK YOU

Again thank you for all your donations to KidSmart's "Gift of Heart" drive. We will have the "Push for Pencils" drive in August, so start picking up a few things now and when August gets here you will have a good start on your donations!

Thank you to Carlene Moore for her 20 years of volunteer work to TEAM.

