

# *The Bell - Tower* NEWS

Florissant Presbyterian Church

**August 2020**

Enter as Guests, Leave as Friends,  
Return as Family

Since early March, when COVID-19 began spreading across Missouri, our congregation's life has been disrupted and changed in ways that we've never experienced before. The decisions that each of us has had to face have been both detailed and emotionally overwhelming. In a highly politicized election environment and social divisions tearing at the fabric of our nation, we face the daily struggle of nurturing the strength, creativity, and imagination needed to respond faithfully to the challenges and opportunities of this present pandemic.

Once you recognize that things have changed there can be a deep fear because of the uncertainty of what will replace it. The challenge here is not to rush or move on too quickly. We need to acknowledge the loss and make space for our feelings. Christians are a people that believe in a gospel of death and resurrection. But too often, we rush from death to resurrection and don't acknowledge the pain and the loss.

With the current pandemic crisis, we've lost our sense of safety and security. We are separated from others. Our economy and employment situations are struggles that surround us. Yet, we are smart, creative, courageous, and we are in it together. One of the hardest things is acknowledging that we, as a church, must move into the future together, and that whatever comes next will be different, but it will still be ours and Christ's church

For us as people that want to follow Jesus, this COVID-19 pandemic can focus us back on the fact that we are not meant to serve ourselves but the Lord. We are called to love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. Maybe that seems simplistic, but it is the answer. Jesus gave when asked what is the heart of the gospel.

Our community needs us to show up as a hopeful people, loving people, and to be Good News people. And this pandemic crisis cracks open the door to a challenging opportunity to change ourselves, our church, our community

and our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Christ's Persistent Peace,

- *Pastor Sean*

## CLERK'S REPORT

The monthly Session of Florissant Presbyterian Church was held on Sunday, July 26, 2020 at 11:30 a.m. in Harmon Hall with social distancing and masks.

The sanctuary remains open for church services since Pentecost Sunday on May 31<sup>st</sup>. It is also on Facebook live and broadcast to the parking lot through the FM receiver. Masks will be required and social distancing maintained plus all St Louis County guidelines will be followed.

Candy continues meeting with other Clerks of Session via ZOOM.

**Treasurer's Report:** Financials have been posted. Ellen is working with our bank for "loan forgiveness" for our Care Act loan/grant.

**Task Force:** There will a sack lunch/dinner give-away on Thursday August 6<sup>th</sup> between 4 and 7 pm. Sign-up sheets are posted for setup, packing lunches, serving and clean-up crews. Hot dogs will be served.

**Congregation Care** continues cards, calls, and visits to FPC members.

**Church Life:** Rolla may be able to assist driving members to doctor appointments. Opening of the Learning Center is proceeding. Plans may change based on attendance.

**Church Operations:** Chris Mahurin has taken the lead as Session continues to discuss and chart a way forward at least for the next few weeks at FPC regarding our response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The two dying trees outside the entrance have been removed. Learning Center sign was updated. Weeds in front of church removed. Stage storage units have been cleaned out. Some electrical and plumbing work has been completed. Ceiling tile replacement has been done.

Ellen and Mark Geerling deserve a BIG thank you for all their hard work on the building.

**Permanent Personnel:** The church office will be closed the last week in July.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Sean thanked Lynn Bohler for filling in at the pulpit while he was on vacation.

Offerings can be mailed to the church. Paula is there Monday through Wednesday. Also, gift cards can be purchased by calling Paula or on

Sunday morning. PayPal is available at a charge to the church.

**With ever changing circumstances, revisions and additions to plans will be made, as necessary.**

– Candy Shelton, Clerk of Session

## CHURCH NEWS

### Continuing Our Mission During a Pandemic

It seems like yesterday that things were normal. Members gathering for fellowship, worship, and mission. Unfortunately if the last few months have taught us anything it is that normal continues to be revised like a good book. The ending of the story yet to be written. Everyone affected in one way or another by COVID and its limitations.

As we at FPC continue to adjust to a new normal, our Mission continues. Through our Community Garden and the upcoming 2020-2021 Learning Center school year, we have continued to reach out to our community providing support where support is needed.

As the garden continues to produce fresh produce for TEAM this has helped supplement the need that is currently being seen in our community. To date we have donated over 80 cucumbers, over 40 yellow squash, over 20 zucchini, 25+ heads of lettuce, 4 pounds of

spinach, 4 quarts of cherry tomatoes, 6 pounds of green beans, 20 beets, and 3 large tomatoes. The fall lettuce is seeded, more beets are growing, the onions are up, the potato plants are growing quickly and it appears we will be providing fresh food to TEAM through the fall.



The Learning Center is placing additional precautions in place as we currently have a strong enrollment for next year. The continued dedication of Angie and the teachers to provide this needed service in a time of uncertainty is one that we as members of FPC can take extreme pride in. Much planning is going into a safe school year in a world of many challenges and an ongoing pandemic. Please pray with us for a safe beginning to a new school year which will come with challenges. Hopefully by Teacher Week, May 2 – May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, we will be able to join together and celebrate the incredible work that they do providing a valuable outreach to both our community and the families who entrust their children to us.

God continues to work through us into our community and beyond the doors of FPC. Join us as we look to a new normal. As you shop from home or journey out to the grocery store, if you could please remember TEAM and let's make August 2020 the month of giving of food to assist our neighbors in need. The TEAM can is ready and waiting.

Thanks for everything we do as a congregation even when physically distanced for safety.

– *Chris Mahurin*

## BIRTHDAYS

- 8 Joy Lee
- 8 Angelyn Rosenberger
- 10 Ellen Law
- 14 Fern Litz
- 18 Judy Shy
- 19 Cora Hendrickson
- 19 Sherrelyn Rosenberger
- 21 Dick Lee
- 24 John Gierer
- 24 Nancy Salfen
- 26 Matthew Denno
- 27 Laura Hicks

## ANNIVERSARIES

Dan & Sue Edwards  
*Married 32 years August 13*

Bob & Sue Lorenz  
*Married 10 years on August 17*

Rolla & Ronna  
*Married 60 years on August 20*

## PRAYERS

Marilynn, Jon, Bill, Mike, Doris, Carol, Sara, Pamela, Georgiana, Jeanne's son-in-law Tom, 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 Shawn and her sister Lynn.

## THANK YOU

On behalf of myself and my son-in-law and daughter Tom and Diana Keppler, I want to thank everyone for your prayers and phone calls for Tom's recovery. He was able to come home from the hospital last Friday, six months to the day after two surgeries pertaining to the heart and eight surgeries to his stomach and intestine. He was in ICU three times during the six months and had a bout with flu once. He is doing well but still has several months of recovery and rehab. He is on a liquid diet but hopefully this will end soon. He is using a walker, and memory of all events up to this event have been restored, which is such a blessing for a man that was given a 5 1/2 chance of any sort of recovery. We all feel really blessed that God took over and gave the doctors and surgery team the help they needed. I will eventually get back to church, however, I am just not up to the stage I feel I could handle a mask for an hour or more. I really do miss everyone so much and I copy the bulletins weekly and read and reread them. We would appreciate continued prayers for his full recovery, which we know will happen.

- Jeanne Schwartz

Thank you to Perry Rugger for filling in the potholes entering the church and to Amy Finke for the new Learning Center sign.

## CHURCH GROUND UPDATES





1. Spend time in front of the mirror.
2. Intuitive inking.
3. Pioneer in photocopying.
4. Bitterly sarcastic.
5. Gas in some signs.
6. Eskimo canoe.
7. Chinese medicinal root.
8. Where a rubber duckie lives.
9. Roll in the mud.
10. Pleasure traveller.
11. Temporary loss of memory.
12. Deadly.
13. Pizza herb.
14. Very knowledgeable.
15. Forty-eight hours before tomorrow.
16. The most.
17. Excessive.
18. Feudal land.
19. Trepidation.
20. Water storage area.

## BRAIN TEASERS

For each clue, find a corresponding word that starts and finishes with the same letter. There is one word for each letter of the alphabet except for i, j, q, u, v and z.

1. PRIMP
2. HUNCH
3. XEROX
4. CAUSTIC
5. NEON
6. KAYAK
7. GINSENG
8. BATHUB
9. WALLOW
10. TOURIST
11. AMNESIA
12. LETHAL
13. OREGANO
14. ERUDITE
15. YESTERDAY
16. MAXIMUM
17. SUPERFLUOUS
18. FIEF
19. DREAD
20. RESERVOIR

SOLUTION



**FREE**

**SUMMER  
SACK  
SUPPER**

**Thursday,**

**August 6**

**5:00 - 6:30 p.m.**

**Harmon Hall**

