

# The Bell-Tower NEWS

Florissant Presbyterian Church

September 2020

*Enter as Guests, Leave as  
Friends, Return as Family*

## **Adult Church School Is Opening Pandemic Discernment: Scripture, Prayer, and Spiritual Discernment**

On September 13, Florissant Presbyterian Church is going to start a new in-person and social distanced church school class. This is the next step in safely opening up our building and having meaningful time together. The church school class will move from the conference room into Harmon Hall (gym) in order to spread out and comfortably have safely spaced seating. In the gym we will have pre-marked safe distanced chairs and tables. The Sunday morning class will gather for opening prayer at 8:30 and last until 9:30. There will be scripture readings, prayer and class activities that everyone can participate.

The topic for opening our eight-week church school class is: Pandemic Discernment: Scripture, Prayer, and Spiritual Discernment. During the Covid 19 outbreak lock-downs we have all had extra time of isolation and solitude and so

many aspects of our lives have changed or are changing. The intention of this class is to learn some new tools for how we can more include our faith and God in our everyday decision making. In Elizabeth Liebert's *The Way of Discernment* she writes, "How are we to live our lives thoughtfully and faithfully in the midst of all the forces, options, and decisions that characterize modern life? Discernment, the Christian practice of seeking God's call in the midst of the decisions that mark one's life, may very well be the single most important Christian spiritual practice for dealing with this contemporary dilemma." We hope that this class will introduce new ways of thinking about our decisions and how prayer can become a powerful tool for how we make faithful choices. Below is the proposed schedule:

1. 9/13 Why Discernment? And Why in A Pandemic?
2. 9/20 Remembering Who and Who's We Are
3. 9/27 Personal History and God's Freedom

4. 10/4 Trusting Our Intuition and Knowing Our Bodies
5. 10/11 Discernment Through Intuition and Bodies
6. 10/18 Trusting Our Feelings and Telling a Good Story
7. 10/25 Dreams, Imagination, and Visions
8. 11/1 Pandemic Discernment and Trusting Visions of God's Future

You are invited to join us on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 to start our new church school class and be inspired to let God into being a greater part in all your decisions, especially as we all decide how we will move forward during and after this awful pandemic.

Christ's Peace,  
Pastor Sean

## CLERK'S REPORT

The monthly Session of Florissant Presbyterian Church was held on Sunday, August 16, 2020 at 11:55 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.

**Task Force:** There will a sack lunch/dinner give-away on Thursday August 26<sup>th</sup> between 5:30 and 7:30 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:** 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.

A Church Workday is scheduled for September 12<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to noon, weather permitting. More information to follow.

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**

### **Florissant Presbyterian Church In The 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Prior to the COVID pandemic, FPC began exploring how to expand our electronic footprint moving forward. An unexpected advantage of this is it has allowed us to be nimble during the period of physical distancing when it was needed most. So, what all is available you may ask. Early this year, we went live with a new [flopresby.org](http://flopresby.org) website. The new website has a “Donation” tab linked to our new PayPal account. This feature allows for donations via credit card as well as from individuals with PayPal accounts. The website also allows for a direct connection to our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Worship services are being broadcast live on the Florissant Presbyterian Church Facebook page. After they are shared on the Facebook page, they are being uploaded to our YouTube page. This provides two options in which you can watch the services if you miss them. Just search Florissant Presbyterian Church on YouTube to see what is available.

Another way to enjoy the church services is join other members in the parking lot on Sunday mornings and tune into the FM channel. As safety continues to be our #1 concern, this option is available allowing you to be a part of the worship service in the safety of your vehicle.

Moving forward we are continuing to evaluate how to maximize using technology and multiple media platforms. Fortunately, due to our work immediately prior to COVID, we are able to continue providing multiple ways to worship during this period.



### **From Eagle Scout Project to Community Outreach**

As the COVID pandemic continues to affect everyone's lives in one form or another, the Florissant Presbyterian Church focus on food ministry has continued to develop. What started out as an Eagle Scout project and 4 sets of raised beds has tripled in size over the last few years. To date the garden has provided: 1 pound of cherries, 25+ heads of lettuce, 4 pounds of spinach, 8 red peppers, 5+ pounds of cherry tomatoes, 8 pounds of green beans, 20 beets, over 110 cucumbers, 100+ yellow squash, close to 30 zucchinis, 4 spaghetti squash and several large tomatoes. All total we have donated close to 400 pounds of fresh produce to TEAM this summer. The

best part is the garden is still producing potatoes, onions and the season isn't over yet for yellow squash, spaghetti squash, and zucchini so more to come. Oh, and I guess I forgot the eggplants. This outreach has been a blessing to the members of our community in need and has provided us an opportunity to think of what other items can we do to help our community.



So, the Drive-In Grab-N-Go Summer Sack Supper was created as a way to extend our food mission further into our community to individuals in need. Our first event provided meals to 72 people. A little short of the goal of 100 but a great start for a first-time adventure. Of course, what's the fun of having a goal unless we achieve it. So, we will be providing Summer Sack Suppers on August 27<sup>th</sup>, September 10<sup>th</sup>, and September 24<sup>th</sup> in the attempt to meet and exceed that goal. A wonderful time of fellowship and service to members of the communities of Hazelwood and Florissant in doing what we do to "Meet the Needs of our Community".



## ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Susan Denno  
*Married 32 years September 3*

John & Abbi Piper  
*Married 15 years on September 24*

## PRAYERS

Marilynn, Jon, Bill, Mike, Doris, Carol, Sara, Pamela, Georgiana, 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 Shaw and her sister Lynn.

## BIRTHDAYS

- 7 Elizabeth Heberer
- 8 Trish Farano
- 11 Boyd Surgeon\*
- 14 **Don Wardlaw**
- 16 Shirley Richards\*
- 17 Fred Bradford
- 17 Abbi Piper
- 17 Lloyd Moore
- 17 Sue Connelly-Morgan
- 18 Chris Mahurin
- 20 Jim Moody
- 22 Anna Eagleton\*
- 26 Jonathon Mahurin
- 29 Lynne Robertshaw
- 30 Ruth Shelton\*



HAPPY  
90TH

**BIRTHDAY**

**Don Wardlaw**

**Happy 90+ Birthday to Boyd, Shirley, Anna & Ruth!**

**If you would like to send Don, Boyd, Shirley, Anna & Ruth birthday wishes their addresses are as follows...**

**Don** – 801 Elaine Drive, O’Fallon, MO 63366

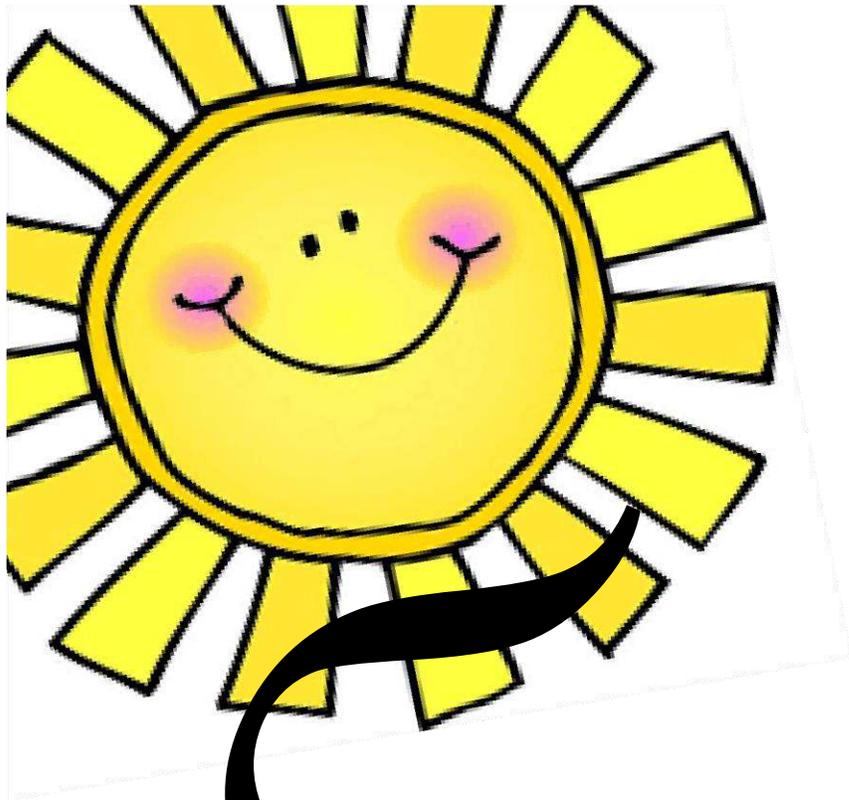
**Boyd** – 2370 Rivoli Place, Florissant, MO 63031

**Shirley** – Lake St. Charles Retirement Center, 45 Honey Locust Lane #208C, St. Charles, MO 63303

**Anna** – 4622 Gemini Drive, St. Louis, MO 63128

**Ruth** – 25 Bluefield Court, Florissant, MO 63033





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**Thursday,**  
**September 10 & 24**  
**5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**

