

The Bell-Tower NEWS

March

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

Our Lenten Journey

Even as we struggle against the COVID-19 virus' social disruptions and forced isolation, our Lenten journey has started and I am once again caught in wonder that our God chose to enter our world and walk among people just like us. That means God, in Jesus, has experienced what it means to be a person in every aspect, and even to have shared our individual human emotions and feelings. God knows what we feel, how we love, why we get hurt, and when we grieve. Yet the amazing truth is that our incarnational relationship with God work both ways: in Jesus, God also graciously invites us and lifts us up to listen, learn, and lean on Christ, so that we may understand what it means for you and me to be children of God; For us the incarnation means that now we are also called beloved, sought after, affirmed, and unconditionally loved by our Almighty Creator. May we carry that knowledge and affirmation of being God's children with us as we journey through lent toward the cross, and may we be faithfully confident of God's presence and everlasting claim on our lives.

Please be sure to plan to join us at Florissant Presbyterian Church in your journey through Lent and especially plan to worship with us during Holy Week. Holy Week is from March 28th to April 4th, and we start the week with our Palm Sunday worship (masked with socially distancing, on the FM transmitter, and online) as we celebrate with palms waving. Then Maundy Thursday we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with our individually wrapped and sealed cups/wafers, and on Good Friday there will be an afternoon service of meditation and reflections upon the cross. Finally, we will have our Easter Celebration on Sunday morning, April 4th. Please, be sure to invite your friends and family to join us for our Lenten journey so that together we can stand in humility at the cross and look with awe and wonder at the hope of an empty tomb.

Stay Safe, Keep Your Social Distances,
and Pray Often,

Pastor Sean



CLERK'S REPORT

The monthly Session of Florissant Presbyterian Church was held on Sunday, February 21, 2020 at 11:45 a.m. in Harmon Hall with social distancing and masks.

The sanctuary remains open for church services since Pentecost Sunday on May 31st. 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. A 2021 Budget was approved.

Task Force: The first of February Grab and Go Supper was cancelled due to weather, but supper giveaways continue the 2nd and 4th Thursday every month starting at 4:30. Help for set up at 4:00 pm.

Mobile Market will continue based on availability from St Louis Area Food Bank on the 3rd Saturday. Leftovers will be taken to TEAM. Fresh produce and frozen food were added to the non-perishables for February with over 80 families served.

An Easter Bunny Basket giveaway is planned for Palm Sunday March 28th.

Hopefully there will be a Trivia Night in the fall.

The Task Force is focusing on "connecting to the community" and welcomes anyone to join their meetings on Monday night at 7 pm.

Christian Education: Pastor Sean continues an adult Sunday school class on "Opportunities of Anxiety (Gospel of St Mark)" by Dr Chang.

Congregation Care continues with 22 cards, 35 calls, and visits to FPC members. "Keeping in Touch 2021" is reaching out by phone to all members of FPC.

Church Life – Per Capita for 2021 remains at \$32.

Church Operations: Repairs were made in the men's bathroom. A new computer and camera are being used to 'broadcast' Sunday services thanks to a Presbytery grant. Work has begun on upgrading the FPC internet service.

An Officer's Retreat will be held Saturday March 6th from 10 am to 2:30 pm.

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 also available.



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

CHURCH NEWS

Mobile Market

After all the snow and frigid temps, we had a bright, sunny and beautiful day for our Mobile Market. We served many people in our community. Here are the numbers:

We distributed:

- 177 boxes of non-perishable food items
- 100 produce boxes
- 59 protein boxes
- 15 non-preishable boxes went to TEAM

We served 81 households which included 327 people, 166 of which were children.

Thank you to everyone who came out to volunteer, not only in February, but also the previous months. You are greatly appreciated.

Grab n' Go

We will be having an Easter Grab n' Go, Sunday, March 28 from 3:30 – 5:30 pm. There will be four stations similar to Halloween. If anyone would like to donate Easter decorations please give them to a Task Force member or leave in the office. We welcome anyone who would like to help out that day.

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Carole Tumminia
- 2 Jared Edwards
- 7 Ronna Smith

ANNIVERSARIES

Ellen & Doug Law
Married 42 years March 3

Sherrelyn & Steve Rosenberger
Married 31 years March 10

IN LOVING MEMORY

Marilyn Branstetter

PRAYERS

Jean, Trish, Jon, Doris, Carol, Sara, Pamela, Georgiana and her brother Garry, Mary's brother, Barb's son-in-law Cliff, Sue's friend Lill, Ruth and her great grandson, and Sue and her brother-in-law Shaw and her sister Lynn.

THE LEARNING CENTER

February the LC was busy working on pre-K testing. Evaluations went home to parents. The kids enjoyed a Valentine exchange and we had our annual Butter Braid fundraiser. Registration for the 2021/22 school year begins the end of March.

