

THE BELL-TOWER

2021

Florissant Presbyterian Church

December

Choir Practice
Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

Grab n Go
Thursday the 9th
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Mobile Market
Saturday the 18th
8:30 a.m. until gone

Session
Sunday the 19th
After service

Christmas Eve
Service Thursday the 24th
7:00 p.m.

Office Closed
Monday the 27th

Bell Tower Articles
Due the 28th @ 9:00 a.m.



From the Pastor

Advent is here! Advent's hope, faith, joy, and love have arrived for us.

There are Advent possibilities' coming alongside our troubled hearts. Because during this pandemic year we've seen that we have the capacity to adapt, our faith has let us come to trust that we can change and be changed. We're exhausted because we've endured so much uncertainty, yet there is an inner joy that shines simply because we're still here together. And I have come to the realization that love has lifted our tired, locked-down, isolated lives so that we can still expect something better and many more blessings even in divided times like these.

During this second year of the pandemic, we've been fighting so many battles simply to exist, and we have each been through dark times this year, yet we are standing and ready for some Advent light. We are still troubled in our hearts by millions of covid deaths around the world, yet with Advent's arrival we're getting ready for someone more holy and wonderous that is coming to our hearts. We have tested our self-endurance all year by being separated from others, completely split, yet we are now ready to be spiritually united and brought back together by a hope, a peace, a joy, and a love that is greater than we are alone. Emmanuel comes. God is with us. The Baby Jesus is coming. Christmas comes.

Advent 2021 is Here and FPC's doors are back to being more and more open as we prepare for Christmas. Because of vaccinations, mask and safe distances, we've had opportunities for worship (with new online options and the choir is back!), we've had fellowship events and our out-reach in mission is growing. Our FPC-Learning Center pre- school children are back laughing and learning (while wearing their little masks) in our colorful classrooms. Some of us have traveled safely to see family and friends and many gathered with loved ones during the Thanksgiving holiday.

My friends, Advent is here! Advent's hope, faith, joy, and love have arrived.

If we are honest, we must accept and recognize our exhaustion and weariness with the pandemic. Yet that very exhaustion can lift our eyes toward the light of innocence in the Christ Child. Our weariness sets us up to receive and recognize that when we are open to God's Advent promises and possibilities, we are strengthened and made more whole in our shared

grace in Christ and one another. This pandemic trial empties us of false assumptions and past platitudes about self-reliance and sufficiency and truly redirects us to believe that more new possibilities of expressing hope, faith, joy and love are created and shared when we are together; We are humbly united with Christ. Advent renewal is before us. Advent healing is coming to us. Advent wonder is accessible. Advent miracles are possible. Advent can help us experience that God's hope, faith, joy, and love are real.

My friends, Advent is here and Christmas blessings are real for you! Please, make plans to, in some form, participate with us at Florissant Presbyterian on your journey from Advent to Christmas. Each Sunday at 10:15, we will share in person (with masks and social distanced) and online with scripture, a message, we will sing Christmas carols, and we start worship with the lighting of the Advent Wreath Candles. On Christmas Eve, our service will be at 7:00 with candle light and (individually sealed) communion. You are invited to join us as we journey together toward celebrating God's Emmanuel in the birth of Jesus. My friends, Advent is here! Advent's hope, faith, joy, and love have arrived so share it.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Sean

Stewardship

“FPC: Fulfilling God's Plan”

As we approach the end of 2021 and prepare for 2022. I am reminded of the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10: 35-37)

He answered, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind”; and ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ You have answered correctly,” Jesus replied. “Do this and you will live.” But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” In reply Jesus said: “A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. ‘Look after him,’ he said, ‘and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.’ “Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” The expert in the law replied, “The one who had mercy on him.” Jesus told him, “Go and do likewise.”

2021 presented FPC with the opportunity to expand our focus on mission and outreach into the community of Florissant. From the Drive-thru Easter bag distribution to the Halloween Trunk or Treat, FPC stepped up to meet the needs of the community around us during a time of continued challenges brought forward by COVID. FPC worked diligently to provide food to the community through the Mobile Market and Grab-N-Go meal distribution. This continued expansion could not have been possible without the continued stewardship of in both time and financial support.

As we plan and look toward 2022, your generous gift will continue to build the caring community for all who cross the threshold of FPC. Please consider prayerfully your pledge for 2022 and think of ways in which you can be a part in supporting the mission work of FPC.

Consecration Sunday is **December 19th**. Please take this time to reflect on the many ways you can count yourself blessed and then give gratefully, joyfully, and generously in support of our ministries in 2022.

When you have an opportunity to complete your 2022 pledge card, please return FPC's portion by mail, in person to the church office, or during a regular Sunday worship service, by December 19th.

We pray that you and yours stay healthy and safe during these uneasy times.

Thank you, from your Stewardship Committee.

Chris Mahurin, Trish Farano, and Pastor Sean

Gift Cards

We will be placing a card order on December 12th. This is the last date to place an order to receive the cards before Christmas.

In Our Prayers

Georgiana, Candy, Ruth, Ellen, Tom, Lois, Lynn, Dianne, Fern, Doris, Carol, Sara, Pamela, Carole's niece Brittany, Mary's brother, Sue's friend Lill, Ruth & her great grandson, Sue & her brother-in-law Shawn and her sister Lynn.

Happy Birthday

2	Betty Williams	21	Mary Ruyle
4	Steve Rosenberger	21	Ben Mahurin
18	Ruth Muskett	27	Sam Tumminia
19	David Arseneau		

Anniversaries

Sean & Paula Butler
Married 34 years December 26

Christmas Carol Trivia

Each year as the holiday season rolls around, our ears are filled with the spirited sounds of familiar holiday tunes. But how closely do you really pay attention to the lyrics? Test your skills and see.

1. In "Do you Hear What I Hear" the main characters are the wind, a lamb, a shepherd boy and...
2. In "The First Noel" when the poor shepherds look up in the sky, where is the star that they see?
3. When "We Wish you a Merry Christmas" we bring a cup of good cheer and this sweet treat.
4. When "I'll be Home for Christmas" I ask for snow, presents under the tree and this.
5. In "The Little Drummer Boy" the ox and lamb do this.
6. When we "Deck the Halls" what passes fast away?
7. As "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" we are told to be sure to do these three things.
8. On a "Silent Night," how should one sleep?
9. In "Jingle Bells," where are the bells that make spirits so bright?
10. What was the magic item that brought "Frosty the Snowman" to life?

- Answers
1. King
 2. Shining in the east
 3. beyond them far
 4. Figgy pudding
 5. Mistletoe
 6. Keep time
 7. The old year
 8. Watch out. Not cry. Not out.
 9. In heavenly peace
 10. On Bob-tails



Merry Christmas!

Trunk or Treat





