



From the Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Jesus Christ,

“And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb.... As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here.’” Mark 15:2,5-6f

Happy Easter! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

I hope to see each and every one of in worship for our joyous Easter celebration with communion on Sunday, April 1 – no foolin’! As Christians Easter is our most holy day of the year, the day when we celebrate Jesus’ resurrection and God’s promise of everlasting life for ourselves and our loved ones.

Although every single Sunday is a day to come to worship, learn about God’s love for you, and be in fellowship with others on their faith journeys, in addition to Easter Sunday I hope you’ll especially mark Sunday, April 22 as a “can’t miss” Sunday on your calendars. That’s the Sunday we will have our “Summit on the Present,” the second of our three summits through which we are examining who we are and what kind of church God is calling us to become in preparation for searching for your next called and installed pastor. You can read more about plans for our “Summit on the Present” elsewhere in this month’s newsletter.

Looking ahead to May, please especially mark Sunday, May 6 on your calendars as the Sunday we will unveil, dedicate and use our new pottery communion set. Please also mark Sunday, May 20 on your calendars as another “can’t miss” Sunday when we will host our Pacific church sisters and brothers for a joint outdoor Pentecost worship service at 10:00 a.m. followed by a shared church family picnic, all in the Union City Park.

See you in worship, at the Welcoming Table dinners, and around the church, continuing to get to know you as we serve together during this time of ministry transition!

Shalom in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Marilyn



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Presbyterian Women



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Presbyterian Women Giddings-Lovejoy

Spring Gathering - April 21, 2018

First Presbyterian Church of Union

105 E. Main Street, Union, MO 63084

Speaker Vanessa Hawkins

Designated Associate Presbytery Leader

Registration 9 a.m. coffee/tea/pastries - Program at 10 a.m.

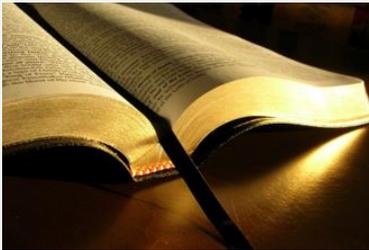
Lunch is included in \$10 registration

Afternoon installation of officers and communion ending at 2 p.m.

Please remember to contact Cindy Fieg at c1r1fiegs@gmail.com to report any names of PW sisters who have passed away in 2017 for the necrology service at the Spring Gathering. Report any contact information changes to Carol Purviance at carolpur53133@charter.net. (For the PW Yearbook).

Worshiping and serving God, loving and accepting all

**Rev. Dr. Julia (Julie) Allen Berger
Will Be Our Pulpit Supply April 8**



While Pastor Marilyn is on vacation April 2-8 our pulpit supply preacher Sunday, April 8 will be the Rev. Dr. Julie Allen Berger.

Julie is a graduate of Yale Divinity School in New Haven, CT and Eden Theological Seminary in St. Louis. Trained as a pastoral counselor, she has served the oncology population of Barnes-Jewish Hospital in St. Louis since 1992, leading bereavement and compassion fatigue/professional resiliency groups. She served on the hospital's ethics committee. Julie participates in education of medical students and staff about spiritual issues in medicine. In 2015 she received specialty certification in hospice and palliative care through the Association of Professional Chaplains. Through her religious tradition, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), she participates in teaching and worship leadership in the greater St. Louis area.

Sunday Morning Worship for April

April 1 – Resurrection of the Lord/Easter – Communion – Dedication of One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – “Amazing, Scary, Good News” from Mark 16:1-8

April 8 – 2nd Sunday of Easter – Rev. Julie Berger Guest Preacher

April 15 – 3rd Sunday of Easter – “Opening Closed Minds” from Luke 24:36b-48 (Pacific’s “Summit on the Present”)

April 22 – 4th Sunday of Easter – “Summit on the Present” Worship – “Seeking God’s New Thing” from Galatians 3:23-29 (Pacific will have a lay-led Earth Day service)

April 29 – 5th Sunday of Easter – “Proclaiming About Jesus” from Acts of the Apostles 8:26-40



Fellowship List for April

- April 1 Easter Brunch
 April 8 Karen Calvin, Susan Buchanan
 April 15 Leah Maconochie, Jackie Jany
 April 22 Michael Murray
 April 29 Ralph and Dinah Sudholt

Usher List for April

- April 1 Jim and Betty Mechem
 April 8 Leah Maconochie, Violet Lansford
 April 15 Karen Calvin, Jackie Jany
 April 22 Susan Buchanan, Erik Bugl
 April 29 Dutch and Carole Hutchison

If you are not able to fulfill your assigned Sunday, please ask another member to take your place and let the secretary know of the change. Thank you

Prayer List:

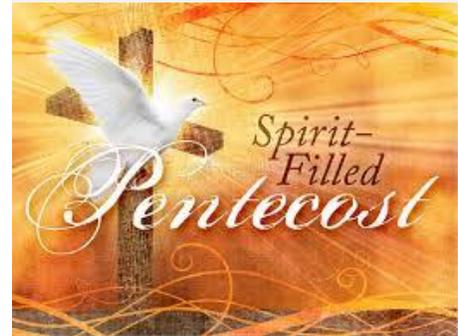
Charles Groskopf (Melissa's Dad)
 Bette Quinn Cedar Crest, Washington
 Charles Otte (Laura Hill's dad) Recovering from Brain surgery/stroke

SAVE THE DATE

May Friendship Day Brunch - Date: May 15 at 9:30AM
 Place: St. John UCC in St. Clair - 920 E. Gravois, St. Clair.
 (On Hwy 30)

Theme: In Gratitude for God's Presence

Dave Sutton will talk about the Backpack Program
 Soloist Gina Gruhn Leeker will play her violin



Joint Outdoor Pentecost Worship and Picnic Sunday, May 20

First Presbyterian Church will host a joint outdoor Pentecost worship with communion service followed by a picnic in the Carpenter Pavilion of Union City Park on Sunday, May 20 at 10:00 a.m. Come worship with us and our sisters and brothers from Pacific Presbyterian out in God's beautiful creation and feel the "winds" of the Holy Spirit blowing through our two church families! Bring a dish, drinks and table service and stay after worship for a shared picnic of food and games and fellowship. Meat will be provided.

“Seeking God’s New Thing” First Presbyterian Church’s “Summit on the Present”

“I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?”

Isaiah 43:19c

The first step in our transitional ministry in preparation to seek a new called and installed pastor is to take a close look at our sense of mission and ministry. Who are we, how did we get here, and who and where do we want to go in the future are questions we will consider in a three-part mission study process Pastor Marilyn has proposed. The three parts are called a Summit on the Past, a Summit on the Present, and a Summit on the Future. The theme for the three summits is “Seeking God’s New Thing” from Isaiah 43:19. Our hoped-for goal is as to have 100 percent congregational participation in each summit.

Our Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 22 following morning worship. Although details are still being finalized, in broad general terms you can expect and come prepared for the following:

- A. We will take a brief, three-page “Survey for Congregational Vitality” at the beginning of the Summit on the Present, which will be compiled and used as part of the preparation for our Summit on the Future. **If you are unable to attend the Summit on the Present but would like to take the survey, please let the church office know and one will be provided to you.**
- B. We will review shared learnings from our Summit on the Past, especially those that have an impact on our church and its values today.
- C. We will review our relevant church statistical information for trends and a picture of our current ministries. We will also reflect together on how we think our new yoking relationship and sharing a pastor with Pacific Presbyterian is going, what we have so far learned, what are any issues or concerns that have arisen. Considering B and C, who are we and what are our core values as a faith community today?
- D. We will also review relevant demographic and community information as it relates to our church’s present-day context. Who are our neighbors, how do we find out what are their unmet needs that our church might be able to meet, who and where are the people God might be calling us to be or to take Jesus to, are we willing to be in ministry beyond our church building and if so where and in what ways?
- E. We will consider the breadth and depth of our present resources – human and material – alongside our core values as a faith community and how God may or may not be calling us to innovate in our mission and ministry.

Since it will be mid-morning we will have refreshments available.

Looking ahead, our Summit on the Future will probably be scheduled in August, and we will hope to elect members to a joint Pastor Nominating Committee and write a joint Ministry Information Form for beginning our pastor search in September.

NOTE: So that Pastor Marilyn can attend and lead, on the Sundays when First Presbyterian, Union is holding its summits Pacific will either have a pulpit supply preacher or a lay led worship service. Pacific’s Summit on the Present will be Sunday, April 15. Please hold their congregation in special prayer on the days of their summits. They are being asked to do the same for you on the days of our summits.

Summaries from First Presbyterian Church's Summit on the Past March 11, 2018

1. Beliefs or Values of the church expressed through the memories and stories:

Caring for each other
 Supporting each other
 Open to accept others
 Welcoming/non-judgmental
 Resilient
 Strong lay leadership
 Feeding the hungry
 Music ministry
 Safe space to try new things-learn to lead
 Gifts and skills welcome

2. Roles the church has played in the community that have impacted the kind of church we are today:

This was the first church established in Union
 Founded the first food pantry in Union
 History of stepping out and starting things and inviting others to join in
 Presbyterian Women? started the city library
 Renting space in the annex to organizations provided income to the church
 Building Bridges and other community organizations have met here
 Changes brought by desegregation

3. Events/roles in denomination, community, country and world that have impacted the kind of church we are today:

Openness to LGBTQ
 Ordination of women
 A lot of societal segmentation
 Social media
 Societal perceptions of Christianity
 Lack of societal respect for people and institutions
 Post World War II growth
 Post 9-11 growth
 Societal perceptions of moral hypocrisy
 How to provide safe space in culture of mass shootings

4. Most important things we have learned about what has gone into the kind of church we are today:

Mission-minded history
 Reaching out to the community
 Not all about the members
 History of living through trials and being resilient gives hope for today's times of divisiveness
 Church that gets along even with different views
 Time of transition from what was to what is and what will be
 Time of "reformation"
 Some things have to die to get to new life/resurrection
 Change from place of faith – trust God's guidance/Spirit's leading

A gift to **One Great Hour of Sharing** enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed. Offering will be received on Palm Sunday and Easter.



April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Usher - Jim & Betty Mechem Easter Brunch after worship	2	3 The Welcoming Table - Zion UCC Serving 6:00 PM	4	5 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm-3:30pm	6	7
8 Usher - Leah Maconochie, Violet Lansford Fellowship - Karen Calvin, Sue Buchanan	9	10 The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving 6:00PM	11	12 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm-3:30pm	13	14
15 Usher - Karen Calvin, Jackie Jany Fellowship - Jackie Jany, Leah Maconochie	16	17 The Welcoming Table - Second Blessings Serving 6:00PM	18 Session Meeting 7:00PM	19 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm-3:30pm	20	21 PW Spring Gathering: Registration at 9am program at 10:00AM
22 Usher - Susan Buchanan Summit on the Present with Refreshments	23	24 The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving 6:00PM	25	26 Second Blessings Pantry Day 1:30pm-3:30pm	27	28
29 Usher - Dutch & Carole Hutchinson Fellowship - Ralph & Dinah Sudholt	30					