



First Presbyterian Church, Union MO

Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

I share with you the 'letter to the editor' that I submitted to the Missourian for their pastors' Christmas editorial page. I was not sure how many of you would have seen the Missourian letter and believe it is an appropriate message to take with us into the new year.

His life should have been snuffed out early on, near the very beginning: a helpless infant before Herod's anger and raging response.

He should have been dead long before he ever had a chance to say much or do much or interfere with life as we know it.

But he wasn't. So he did.

And it occurs to me that's a reminder that God is ultimately in control. Not to dismiss human input and response, and the affect we can, and do, have on our lives and the life of those around us and even the world.

But ultimately -- ultimately -- God is in control. Not me. The world is not on my shoulders. So I can stop fretting as if it were. Again, not to dismiss what I can do, and should do, to stand up for what is right and stand against what is not and to live compassion and demonstrate mercy and embody grace.

But ultimately, the world is not on my shoulders. So I need to stop acting (and thinking and worrying) as if it were.

I need to do my part and do it well; do it faithfully and lovingly. And trust that God will take care of the rest.

*"The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight"*

(O Little Town of Bethlehem-1868)

wrote Phillips Brooks about that birth we celebrate this time of year.

ALL the hopes and fears you and I have.

So that we worry.

And we fret.

*"For hate is strong,
and mocks the song
of peace on earth, good-will to all"*

(Christmas Bells-1863)

wrote Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Yes, we can see that, too. And we can despair and be frozen into inaction. 'What can I do?' 'What's the use?'

But remember, the world is not on my shoulders.

So, I will do what I can and do it well. And do it faithfully and lovingly.

And trust that God will take care of the rest...and of my rest, for rest is not easy to come by when you think the world rests on your shoulders.

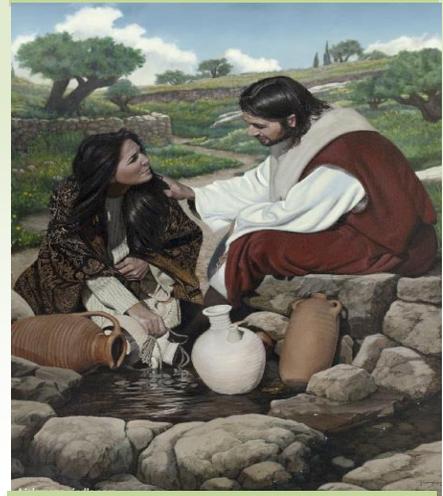
But it doesn't.

The world rests on the shoulders of that small infant born in Bethlehem.

Strange to say it that way, don't you think?

But that's the affirmation of angels and saints: that the one born in Bethlehem -- whose small shoulders are no bigger than...well, an infant's -- that he is the King of Kings and the Lords of Lords; that in him, heaven and earth meet; for in him we meet the God of the universe come to dwell in our midst...to carry us when we can't.

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For,

*“God is not dead, nor doth God sleep;
the wrong shall fail,
the right prevail,
with peace on earth, good-will to all.”*

That is how Longfellow ended his song: on that note of affirmation and faith.

“The wrong shall fail, the right prevail, with peace on earth, good-will to all.”

I may not be able to see how, in the midst of the tangled web we have woven for ourselves.

But I can do my part, where I am, with what I have.

I can do my part. And do it faithfully. And do it lovingly.

And trust that God -- yes, the God who comes to us in the cooing infant -- trust that God will see to the rest.

For the world does not rest on my shoulders.

It rests on the Child's.

And don't worry, his shoulders are big enough...for us all.

Peace to you into this new year, and beyond.

Bill Vincent

Worshiping and serving God, loving and accepting all

Adjustment! Change of schedule!

I will be adjusting my weekly schedule for office hours starting in January.

I will plan for office hours in Union on Tuesdays and Thursday mornings. (I'll be in the Pacific office on Wednesdays and Thursday afternoons.) We'll see how *this* plan works out and make further adjustments as needed. (I intend Mondays and Fridays to be flexible time, i.e., not tied to office hours.)

Feel free to give me a call (573-576-6088) or send me an email (pastorbillv@gmail.com) if you need anything or have a question or want to make an appointment or want to get together to visit.

Also, if you know you're going to be in the hospital, please let me know: I can't come visit you if I don't know you're there.

Pastor Bill Vincent



Lynn and Bonnie Redfield shown here with Pastor Bill. They were installed as members on Sunday, December 15



Fellowship List for January

- Jan 5 Violet Lansford, Susan Buchanan
 Jan 12 Amy Weber, Jackie Jany
 Jan 19 Bev Stobie, Pam Hinson
 Jan 26 Bonnie Woodruff, Barbara Vancil

Usher List for January

- Jan 5 Jim and Betty Mechem
 Jan 12 Phil Clarkson, Karen Calvin
 Jan 19 Bonnie Woodruff, Barbara Vancil
 Jan 26 Mike and Laura Hill

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



To the Union Presbyterian Church family:

Thank you so much for your Christmas gift! How *very* generous of you! Deanna and I will use the money to buy something special for our new home when we settle into it in 2020. I feel very blessed to be serving here as pastor with you and the Pacific church. Thank you again!

In Christ,
 Pastor Bill Vincent

The Foster Closet is happy to announce that they are full to the brim with clothing for children! At the present time no more clothing is needed. And please keep in mind that the Foster Closet only accepts clothing that is gently used, clean or new. When the Foster Closet is needing clothes, and you have clothing to donate, please contact Amber Raney of the Foster Closet, 417-838-8178. Thank you!



1:30 – 3:00 pm every Thursday is “shop/you pick” pantry time.

3:15 – 4:30 pm every Thursday is prepared bag(s) are handed out.

There are more food options in the “shop/you pick” pantry time, but the prepared bags will still be good amount to help each week.

All must still be registered with us to receive either option, but registration is easy.

Note: The Welcoming Table hours will be changing beginning January 7, 2020. Dinner will be served from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. Setup will begin at 4:00pm.

January 2020

First Presbyterian
Church, Union

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30 –4:30pm	3	4
5 Guest Pastor Rev Doug Mankell Usher—Jim & Betty Mechem Fellowship—Vi Lansford & Susan Buchanan	6	7 The Welcoming Table - Zion UCC Serving 5:30 PM	8	9 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30 –4:30pm	10	11
12 Usher—Phil Clark- son, Karen Calvin Fellowship—Amy Weber, Jackie Jany	13	14 The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving 5:30 PM	15 Session Meeting 7:00pm	16 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30 –4:30pm	17	18
19 Usher—Bonnie Woodruff, Barb Vancil Fellowship—Bev Stobie, Pam Hinson	20	21 The Welcoming Table - Second Blessings Serving 5:30 PM	22	23 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30 –4:30pm	24	25
26 Usher—Mike & Laura Hill Fellowship—Bonnie Woodruff, Barb Vancil	27	28 The Welcoming Table - First Presbyterian Serving 5:30 PM	29	30 Second Blessings Pantry 1:30 –4:30pm	31	