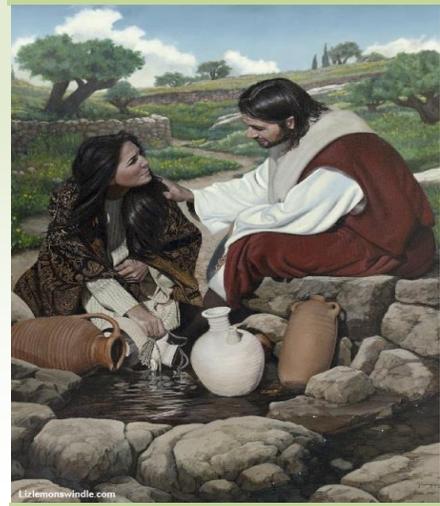




First Presbyterian Church, Union MO

## Letter from Pastor Bill Vincent

Volume 38; Apr 2020



Dear First Presbyterian Church (Union) community:

As you well know, concerns regarding COVID-19 (the coronavirus) continue and so does the call to do our part to slow the spread of this disease and protect individuals and our communities by taking necessary precautions, like staying at home and covering our coughs and washing our hands (often!).

Therefore, the Session has acted to **cancel worship and activities at the church until further notice**.

We all hope that these precautions will not be necessary for long, and we will continue to keep you informed. And we will definitely let you know as soon as possible when we feel it is safe to lift these restrictions. Until then...

1) Regarding worship:

We will continue to provide guidance and resources for worship, through video link, email notification, and worship materials (also sent by mail to those who need).

2) Mail and email will continue to be checked at the church on a regular basis, so if you have something to send to the church, do not worry: it will be received.

3) All staff will continue to be paid in full for the duration of the cancellation. We believe this is important as a way of assuring our staff of our full support for them during this time and minimizing the economic affect on them.

4) Regarding Pastoral Care:

I, and the Session, will continue our efforts to make regular contact with members and friends through phone calls, texts, and email.

5) An additional note about mission:

Second Blessings continues its good work, with appropriate adjustments (i.e., curbside distribution). The Foster Closet continues its ministry on an emergency basis only, also with curbside distribution. The Welcome Table remains closed at this time

In addition, *for those who would like to give financially* during this time, we would like to encourage you to do so.

We recognize that people's situations may have changed so that they no longer feel able to fulfill their expressed obligations to the church. That's okay! As your situation may have changed, so your giving may need to change as well, and we want to encourage you strongly to do what you need to do to care for yourselves and your family.

Having said that, we also want to offer you the opportunity to give as you are able, at whatever level you might be able, as you feel moved to give in gratitude for the blessings God has given you, all as part of the stewardship of our life and in support of the ministry we seek to be about together as a congregation.

So, if you would like to give financially to the church, please simply *mail your check to the church*. As we noted above, the mail is being checked regularly, so your check will be processed in a timely fashion.

Finally, following the guidance of the Office of General Assembly, *the Session approved celebrating the Lord's Supper 'virtually' as part of a joint online Maundy Thursday service*. We are still working out the technical details for this online service, including how to include those who do not have access to the internet. So, we will keep you informed. I simply ask that you plan on joining us, from home, for a Maundy Thursday service, **April 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm** -- details to follow!

If you have questions or concerns, or needs we can help you with, or if you just need to talk and hear a friendly voice, do not hesitate to call me or any of the members of the Session (listed below).

Thank you for your understanding of this decision. Thank you for doing your part by staying at home (as best you can) and covering your cough and washing your hands ... and checking on one another. Thank you for your continued faithfulness as the people of God.

And please remember always: God continues to walk with us through this day, and every day to come.

*In Christ,  
Bill Vincent  
Pastor*

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*Worshiping and serving God, loving and accepting all*

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Second Blessings Food pantry will continue to be open as long as possible. Premade bags of food will be available on Tuesdays from 10am -1:00pm and Thursdays from 12:30 – 2:30pm. Everything will be done outside.

By following the Social Distancing guidelines, we ask that you, please wait in your car away from others until you see a volunteer come outside. Then you may start a line on the sidewalk next to the church (with at least 6 feet between you and the next person). One person per household may stand in line. Someone will be outside to guide you through the process. All must still be registered with us to receive food, but registration is easy. If you would like to make a donation, monetary or in food items call 636-649-4545 or email at [secondblessingspantry@yahoo.com](mailto:secondblessingspantry@yahoo.com).