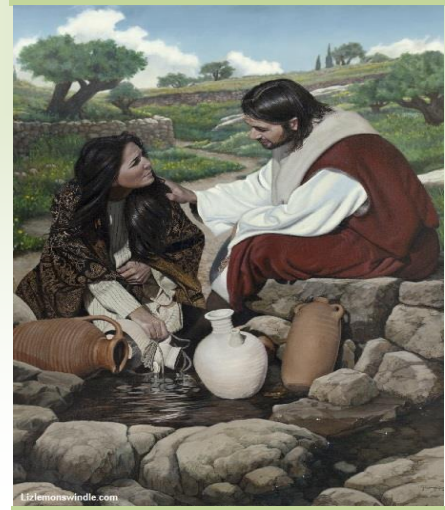




First Presbyterian Church, Union MO

## Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

Volume 42; Aug 2020



I'm beginning to wonder if this isn't something of what the Israelites experienced, as they wandered in the wilderness: not knowing where they were going, but knowing where they wanted to be; not knowing how long it would take, but knowing they wanted it to be over and done with *Now!*

Of course, it hardly bears comparison, since they wandered for 40 *years* in the wilderness, whereas we haven't even experienced 40 *weeks* (let alone years) in our COVID-19 wilderness. In fact, we're only about 4 and a half months into this wilderness trek which will last for we-don't-know-how-long.

Now, let me be clear: I am NOT saying this pandemic is God's sticking it to us. No!

But I am saying: in this journey with an end we can't see, how the Israelites handled their situation might shine some light on how (best) we might handle ours.

To begin with, let's be upfront and confess that the Israelites complained a lot.

Don't we all.

But besides the fact that they complained a lot, they were faithful in the little things. They packed and unpacked (numerous times!). They cooked and cleaned up. They herded their flocks and raised their children. They kept on keeping on as they put one foot in front of the other on a journey they did not fully understand toward a destination they could not clearly see.

They trusted God. Or at least in their better moments they *sought* to trust in God ... in their better moments.

And they were not sitting on their duffs and letting God do everything for them. They were doing their part, the best they could; offering their gifts and themselves, as best they could. Being faithful in the things they could be faithful in: being faithful to each other. And seeking always to be faithful to God the best they could, the best they knew how. Being faithful as they put one foot in front of the other, headed down the path as faithfully as they could discern.

So, we continue to care for one another; and we continue to take care of ourselves, for if I don't take adequate care of myself, I don't have anything to give to another. We continue to take appropriate precautions; and we continue to take life seriously, but maybe not take ourselves too seriously. We continue to laugh and cry. We continue to learn and grow.

We continue to worship God and love one another ... even though how we do those things may seem very different – and sometimes a little awkward – from the way we were used to doing those things.

And we remember: God is with us every step of the way, as God was with the Israelites ... every step of the way.

So, keep on keeping on.

Keep the faith – literally!

And remember: God still keeps us! ...in life and in death, and beyond.

Grace, mercy, and peace to you all, faithful journeyers that you are!

*In Christ,  
Bill Vincent*

### 21 Day Challenge:

Don't forget the '21-Day' Challenge you heard about recently. Our first Zoom conversation will be **Monday, August 3rd at 7:00 pm**. Invitations will be sent out this weekend.

## *Worshiping and serving God, loving, and accepting all*



### A reminder:

Prayer concerns can be shared with me via email or phone before worship (preferably by Saturday evening); or you can write them down (legibly, please) on a piece of paper and place them in the basket that will be located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Pastor Bill

### Foster Closet:

The Foster Closet is up and running again with hours of 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. There is a "sign-up genius" on their Facebook page, and people wishing to get clothes can choose from three time slots - 6:30 p.m., 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Those wishing to donate clothes for children must also use signup genius on their Facebook page. Three people can sign up to donate items at 6 p.m. on Tuesdays. They will be met outside the church and volunteers will bring clothes inside.

Sunday Worship service will be Streaming live on Facebook on Sunday at 9:00 am. The bulletin will also be available on Facebook and the church website ([www.unionfirstpresby.org](http://www.unionfirstpresby.org)), posted by 8 am Sunday morning.

Link to Facebook: [www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchunion](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchunion)

Bulletin can be found here: <http://www.unionfirstpresby.org/church-bulletins/>