



## Message from Pastor Bill Vincent



Some words of reflection, as we begin Lent this month of **FEBRUARY**...

**Faithful:** Jesus was faithful. He was faithful to his disciples and to the world, though it may not at first have appeared as such. He was faithful especially to God, in walking the path of obedience to God's way and ultimate service to the world.

**Expectant:** Jesus and the disciples were expectant, though not always about the same things. It's hard to live fully without being expectant – and hopeful – of God's wondrous work in the world and our lives.

**Brothers ... and sisters:** They traveled the road to Jerusalem as a community, a close-knit family. Oh, the joy of such love and support!

**Rigors ... of discipleship:** Jesus left no doubt about the rigors of discipleship – taking up your cross, giving of self – both through his words and his deeds.

**Unexpected:** Be expectant ... even of the unexpected. Who expected a servant's role? Who expected a cross?

**Ashes:** Ashes remind us of our mortality ... and therefore dependence upon God. Ashes are a sign of our need to confess ... and therefore our need for forgiveness from God.

**Righteousness ... of God:** It is the righteousness – the rightness, the goodness and graciousness – of *God* upon which we depend, *not* our own.

**“You, come and follow me.”:** What Jesus says to all of us, this Lent and every season of our lives. How will we respond, this Lent ... and beyond?

*Peace in Christ,  
Bill Vincent*

## Lenten Devotionals

The Lenten Devotional by *Presbyterians Today* – “The Way to *Shalom*: A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness” – will be distributed to members of the congregation in time for the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday (February 17<sup>th</sup>). Look for it in your in-box (email) or your mail-box.



The **2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women** is planned for August 5–8, 2021, in St. Louis, Missouri. #PWGathering #2021ChurchwideGathering

We can simultaneously “rejoice in hope” (Rom. 12:12–13) and be ready to serve! The 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women is planned for August 5–8, 2021, in St. Louis, Missouri. Because of the global pandemic, Presbyterian Women’s staff and Board are working with the Marriott Grand in St. Louis to ensure the Gathering can be held safely and in accordance with current health standards.

“Rejoice in Hope” is the theme of the Gathering, based on Romans 12:12–13, “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”

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

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Second Blessings Food Pantry has given our church two new refrigerators! One of the refrigerators is in the kitchen and the other is in the storage room off the dining area. At our request, they donated the old refrigerators. One went to a group of elderly who live in low income apartments. They are sharing it like a community refrigerator. The second refrigerator went to a young couple who have several children. The refrigerator needed work, and they plan to repair it. They were extremely grateful for it.

Second Blessings is also donating two new freezers, which are on back order. If you have a chance, be sure to thank them for their generosity!



#### **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

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/>



Our Ash Wednesday service will be a joint service (Pacific and Union) on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

You will find the Zoom link below. If you do not have access to the internet, you are encouraged to call in using any one of the phone numbers listed.

Communion will be a part of the service. So, be prepared for celebrating the Lord's Supper at home by having available...

\*bread – any kind will do, leavened or unleavened;

\*grape juice (fermented or otherwise)...or juice from some other fruit...or, if none of those are available, a simple glass of water will do (representing the 'life-blood' of our bodies).

Ash Wednesday service, Feb 17, 2021 07:00 PM Central Time - Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82063079212?pwd=c2dHY1FZaGFvR1hHS09XbjFPbHF0Zz09>

Meeting ID: 820 6307 9212

Passcode: 779180

Or...dial in using any of these numbers:

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

Meeting ID: 820 6307 9212

Passcode: 779180

### Communion Schedule in February:

In addition to our Ash Wednesday service, communion will be served on the following Sundays:

February 7<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month)

February 21<sup>st</sup> (marking the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent)

If you will not be in-person for worship on those days but will be participating 'virtually', instructions for being prepared for communion are the same as those listed for Ash Wednesday.

### **\*\*\* Save the Date \*\*\***

#### **\*\* Honoring Our Saints & Unique Missouri Ecology \*\***

The PW West Cluster Winter Gathering will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, March 13th, in Sullivan, Mo. The Our theme will allow us to honor many of the Saints from our churches that have helped us become the PW's that we are today! Please bring the name of a special Saint from your church that you would like to share with the group!

NEXT, we will look into the future of the beauty and wonder of the State of Missouri with Jody Miles, from Earth's Classroom, located in Rosebud, MO. This environmental organization invites children and adults to participate in a hands on learning experience that helps them understand the world in which they live. Jody will speak on Missouri's unique ecology and women's field science research.

Rev. William Vincent will lead the worship portion of the program, along with Rev. Koppelman of the Sullivan church.

The offering will go to help fund programs at Earth's Classroom. Please join us at this West Cluster Presbyterian Women event and bring your friends, and family to celebrate almost Spring in the West Cluster! Pre-registration is requested. You may email Tonette Barnes at [tbarnes@fidnet.com](mailto:tbarnes@fidnet.com) or Carol Gruber at [grubercarol8@gmail.net](mailto:grubercarol8@gmail.net) to turn in reservations for your church by Monday, March 9th. Morning coffee, juice and coffee cake and lunch will be provided; \$10 per person.

Covid guidelines will be followed for this event and masks will be required. We HOPE that you can join us for this event! Depending on where we are with vaccines and covid, there is a possibility of holding this as a Zoom event! That should be decided by the end of February.