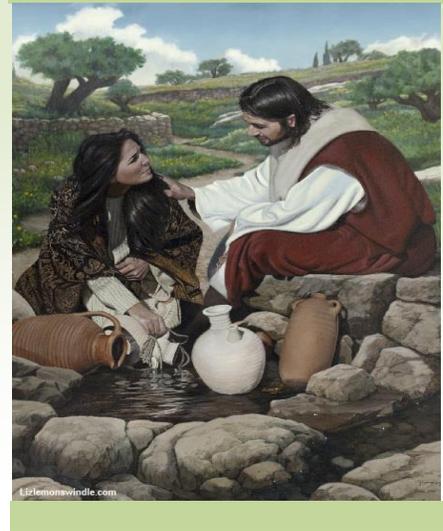




Message from Pastor Bill Vincent



“Now thank we all our God.” Such a song of grace and joy, thanksgiving and praise. It would be easy to assume it was written in a time of great security and a thriving economy.

But such was not the case. Martin Rinkart wrote the words to this song in Germany during a time of disease and devastation. It was during the Thirty Years’ War, a time when the city in which he lived was overrun, more than once, by invading armies; was flooded with refugees from that war; and was ravaged by disease, including one year during which he personally performed several thousand (that’s right, *thousand*) funerals ... including that of his wife.

*“...Guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills...”*

No small prayer is this.

Yet this song overflows with thanks and praise, speaking of the *“wondrous things [God] hath done”* and the *“countless gifts of love”* with which God *“hath blessed us on our way.”*

Perhaps we could learn a lesson or two from Rinkart. Maybe we could borrow a stanza or two from his own life-song.

Even in the toughest of times, God is to be praised, for God is still good, even though times may not be.

Even in the most difficult of times, God’s grace is sufficient, for God is present, even though other people, or things, are not.

Even in the most trying of times, God’s gifts overflow if we will look to see them, if we will search to find them, if we will open our eyes – eyes of faith – and perceive the goodness and grace of God in our midst.

“Now” – not later, not only when things get better, not simply when life is easy, but now – *“thank we all our God.”*

*Peace -- and thanksgiving -- in Christ,
Bill Vincent*

The Crop Hunger Walk

The CROP Hunger Walk, which was October 11, brought in donations of \$9,020. Three fourths of the money raised goes to hunger/accessible, fresh water projects around the world. The remaining one fourth will be divided between the Leslie Tri Pantry and the Union Food Pantry. Many thanks to all who participated or donated and included the CROP Hunger Walk in prayer

Presbytery Meeting,

There will be a Virtual Presbytery Gathering on Saturday, November 7 from 9 a.m. to 11:30.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Ruben Rosario of St. Louis University

Go to the Presbytery web site (glpby.org) to access the meeting.

At the top of the page, click on Presbytery Gathering for a link to join the meeting.

The weekly Presbytery newsletter will have information regarding the meeting and a link to join.

Decorating the Sanctuary for Advent

We will decorate our Church Sanctuary with Poinsettias for the Advent and Christmas Season. The 2020 cost is \$10. The deadline for ordering is Thursday, November 19. You may leave your order at Church on Lila's desk or mail your order to the church. If you wish to order the poinsettias in memory of or honor of someone, please include those names in your order.

There will be Communion on November 29, which is the first Sunday of Advent.

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

Called Congregational Meeting

The Called Congregation meeting is scheduled for Sunday, December 6, after the worship service. The Congregation will vote to amend the By-Laws to approve meetings held electronically.

“Meetings at First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri in the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy, should ordinarily be held face-to-face. Telephone conference calls and electronic communications may be used for stated or called meetings, including voting on matters therein, unless a simple majority of the body requests a face-to-face meeting. Meetings held by conference call or electronically abide by the same policies and procedures as face-to-face meetings.”

Other business at that meeting shall include:

- * Receiving the budget adapted by the Session
- * Approving changes to the Pastor's Terms of Call
- * Electing the Nominating Committee
- * Electing the Session members

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), posted by 8 am Sunday morning.

Link to Facebook: www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchunion

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

Share Your Abundance

First Presbyterian Church will be observing a "Share Your Abundance" on November 22, 2020 during the Worship Service.

We ask you to bring an offering of food to share with the Second Blessings Food Pantry. Food may be brought on November 1, November 8, November 15, or on November 22. Please place the items on the table in the Sanctuary. You may also make monetary donations. There will be envelopes available on the table or you may send a contribution to the First Presbyterian Church, 105 E. Main St., Union MO 63084. Please make your check to Second Blessings Food Pantry.

We are including a list of items need for the Food Pantry:

Boxed Sides such as Hamburger helper, Tuna Helper, etc.

Pork and beans

Chili Beans

Canned potatoes or small bags of instant mashed potatoes

Carrots

Breakfast Cereal

Instant Oatmeal

Canned Ravioli

Miscellaneous vegetables or mixed vegetables

Anything else is absolutely appreciated

Thank you for your donations.