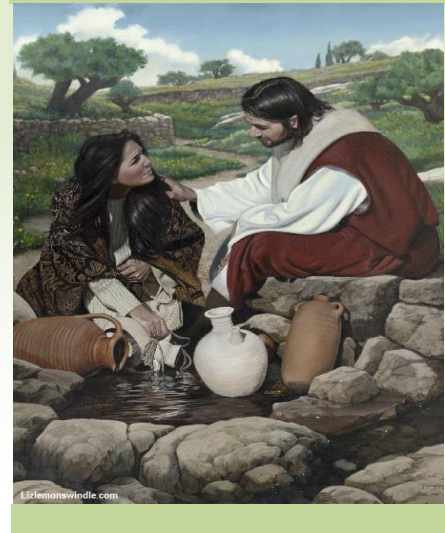




Message from Pastor Bill Vincent



It has been *6 months* since ‘quarantine’ became ‘a thing’ and masks became a clothing accessory.

And though we wish the pandemic were all over, the continuing rise of cases and deaths indicate the end is not in sight.

We have learned that we can worship in different ways. We have learned that being at home maybe isn’t so bad (or maybe it is!). We have learned that some dangers in life are hidden and that a particular unseen virus can turn our world upside down.

And we have also learned (or *re-learned*) that God is still good and God is still God...even though life may be very different.

I often think of October as harvest month: reaping the fruit of previous effort and work and labor.

So, this particular October, I ask us to consider what kind of harvest we might be reaping ... and what kind of harvest we might like to reap.

Even in the midst of a pandemic -- and the crazy effect it has on all of life -- are there seeds we can plant to reap a good harvest of care and community, patience and persistence, hope and help, faith and faithfulness?

For “*you reap whatever you sow,*” as Paul reminds us (Galatians 6:7).

I realize this principle does not always work out so nice and neatly in the day-to-day ins and outs of our lives.

Still, wouldn’t you like to reap some of the fruit of the Spirit, which is “*love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control*”? (Galatians 5:22-23)

Where will the seeds of that fruit come from, if not from you and me -- with a huge dose of help from the Spirit!

So, pick up the phone and call a friend...and be encouraged yourself as you encourage them. Walk for the CROP Walk (October 11th) to support food for others...and know God provides for you even as you provide for others. Stand up and speak out for goodness and fairness for all...and know you are supported even as you support others.

And watch and see how these (and other) seeds bear fruit for a good harvest!

*In Christ,
Bill Vincent*



Presbyterian Women will be meeting at the Union City Park Pavilion on **Friday Oct. 9th**, at **9:00 am**.
1st lesson for Bible Study. Bring your own coffee or drink. Donuts will be provided.

Please note this change of email address for Dorothy and Phil Clarkson: clarkson2@att.net

STUDY LEAVE:

A reminder that Pastor Bill will be taking some Study Leave during October, so on-line opportunities will be provided for Sundays, October 11th and 18th.

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

There will be a **CROP** Hunger Walk this year! But in light of COVID precautions, there will be some changes. The date of the Walk is Sunday, October 11, and those who would like to walk socially distanced can meet at Zion United Church of Christ in Union at 12:30 p.m., with the Walk to begin at 1 p.m. Families and individuals can walk the usual route, or a route of their own choosing. Or walk from and around your own home! Take the dog for a walk! Donations can be brought to Zion the day of the Walk, with checks made out to CWS - CROP. or mail checks to CROP Hunger Walk, 1823 Old Highway 50 West, Union MO 63084-2821.

As always, money raised will go for hunger and clean water projects around the world, with one fourth of the money raised staying locally for the Union Food Pantry and the Tri Pantry in Leslie

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/>