



Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

Dietrich Bonhoeffer (1906-1945), German Lutheran preacher and eventual martyr at the hands of the Nazis in the closing days of World War Two, once wrote,

Our wishes point toward an improvement of the world around us, but our prayer must begin with ourselves. How we yearn that human beings would be different from what they are, that the evil in the world would end and a new righteousness take its place. But we get nowhere with all of that. All repentance and renewal must begin with me. “Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes” (Psalm 119:5). That is the prayer that has promise . . . this prayer leads straightway to action, and just where it is most needed – in what concerns myself. But clearly this action can only proceed from prayer, or else it too will be lost. Looking upon the evil-doing of others does not help me, and it helps me just as little to marvel at the righteousness of others if my own ways are not made right, if I cannot be righteous too. (from No Greater Love)



We sing the words, “Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.”

“All repentance and renewal must begin with me.” We may hope, and even pray, for a world with less violence, where people get along and appreciate each other’s differences while all along affirming an underlying common bond. But it all begins with me.

I cannot change another person. I may be able to influence other people to change themselves, but I cannot change them.

I can only change myself. And even that is often difficult. So I turn to God in prayer, confessing all that I am and all that I am not and might hope to be. And God can, and will, help me change.

That is where it begins. That is where a more peace-full world, a more hope-full world, a more joy-full world begins. That is where a more loving, a more encouraging, a more tender world begins.

Let there be peace on earth? Yes! Let there be togetherness and understanding, compassion and mercy, justice for all and hatred for none.

“And, O Lord I pray you, let it begin with me.”

*Peace in Christ,
Bill Vincent*



PW West Cluster Spring Gathering

It has been over 14 months since the Presbyterian Women of the West Cluster of our Presbytery have gotten together, so the ladies were very happy to be able to gather on Saturday, May 22, in Sullivan at the First Presbyterian Church. Ladies attending were from Cuba Trinity, Boeuff in Gerald, Old Argo in Bourbon, First of Sullivan, First of Union and Pacific. An offering of \$240 was collected, 75% of which will be donated to Earth's Classroom and 25% to go to PW scholarships.

The women brought a total of 175 personal care items for the Caring Closet at Bourbon High School. The Caring Closet is open to all students who are in need.

Pastor Ron Koppelman of Sullivan and Pastor Bill Vincent of Union and Pacific led the worship service. Our speaker was Jody Miles of Earth's Classroom, located on a 179-acre farm in Rosebud, MO. Jody talked about the female species of the planet, and their innate nature to care for their offspring. She talked about the various types of mussels in the Missouri rivers (many of which are on the endangered species list and are showing up with traces of man-made pharmaceuticals). Mussels improve the quality of river water by filtering bacteria, algae and more, which helps cycle nutrients throughout the water. Jody educated us on tarantulas and toads living in Missouri glades; various bat species in our area; prairie grasses; and Osage Indians who lived in our area, long before the current day.

Jody talked about the layers of rock that make up our beautiful state. Jody explained that water equals life and that 97% of the planet is covered by water and 97.5 % of that water is salt water. This means that only 2.5 % of the earth's water is fresh, of which about 75% is frozen as Ice, which translates that only about .6 to .7 % of the earth's water is fresh water and able to sustain life on the planet.

Jody is a passionate teacher and advocate for Mother Earth. If you would like to learn more about Earth's Classroom, check out their website at www.earthclassroom.org. Jody and her husband, Bill, host various onsite training events, and other events on the rivers and land in Missouri, and she also presents at schools, communities, churches, scouts, and to many other organizations.

During the time to remember our saints from our churches, Lois Garrett Whitlock was honored from Pacific Presbyterian Church; Coralie Lippold was honored from First of Union; Lucille Rommelmann was honored from First of Sullivan. Plus, three women who attended were honored from Old Argo, Cuba Trinity, and First of Sullivan. We thank all of the women who attended that day; the volunteers who provided a wonderful brunch and lunch; the ministers who shared their time; and the folks in Sullivan who shared their beautiful sanctuary for our celebration of the PW in the West Cluster.

Pastor Bill will be on Study Leave June 13th. We recommend you check out the following for online worship opportunities (in lieu of our own in-person worship):

St Mark's Presbyterian Church, Ballwin MO
www.discoverstmark.org
Click on Livestream Worship Services – 10:00 am

Southminster Presbyterian Church, Crestwood MO
www.southminsterstlouis.org
Scroll down to This Week's Service – 10:00 am

John Knox Presbyterian Church, Florissant MO
Worship at 9:30 am - Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/JohnKnoxPresbyterianChurchFlorissantMO/>



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), 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/>

First Presbyterian Church, Union
105 E Main St.
Union, MO 63084
Worship Service 9:00 AM
636-583-3555