



Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

The Fourth of July: it is a day to remember and to celebrate our national heritage. Part of that heritage that comes to mind is the wartime poster with a stern face of Uncle Sam, pointing his finger straight at you, and the caption, “Uncle Sam wants YOU!” It was a rousing call to action in a day when the country – and the world – was in need of people’s dedication.

We of the Church may not use the figure of Uncle Sam, but a similar call is sounded in our heritage. Jesus says, “Come, follow me.” And we can almost picture him on a poster with a gentle yet firm face, pointing his finger straight at us, and the caption, “Jesus Christ wants YOU!”

Jesus Christ DOES want us. He wants us to turn from living ‘me-centered’ lives, and to turn to giving of ourselves to others. He wants us to be with him, to live in close communion with him. He wants us to work to bring people together instead of trying so hard to keep them apart. He wants us to give up the heavy load we carry when we believe that the world rests on our shoulders and the fate of history lies with us, and to take on his yoke: the yoke of obedience and of following him, a yoke which assumes that the world rests not on our shoulders but on the shoulders of the one who created the world in the first place.

He wants us to know his peace and love and joy. And he knows that the only way we will ever know the fullness of life that he has to offer is if we give everything we have and everything we are to him.

Jesus Christ wants US – mind, body, and soul; thought, word, and deed. Like the song says, “All of me, why not take all of me?” That’s what Christ wants: all of us. Every one of us. Every part of us. Not just this part or that part. Not only on Sunday, Thursday, and every other Saturday. Not just you and you and you. But you and me and everyone. Today, tomorrow, and every day.

He doesn’t want just a little bit. He wants it all. He wants US all. He accepts what we end up giving, even though it may not be the whole package. But if it’s not the whole package – and it rarely is – he keeps pushing, nudging, encouraging us to give him our all. And really, when you think about it, that’s not so much to ask – not when Christ, who had everything, gave it all up for us when he died upon the cross.

So the next time you pick up your Bible, the next time you come to church, the next time you take time to think about the fundamental issues of life, remember the picture we painted at the start: Jesus on a poster with a gentle yet firm face, pointing his finger straight at us, and the caption, “Jesus Christ wants YOU!”

What will we give him? Nothing? Or everything?

*In Christ,
Bill Vincent*





Summer Concert Series:

Linda Rose Rice (Band Director) will be hosting a summer concert series of local musicians at the First Presbyterian Church of Union. Sunday July 25, Teddy Lueke and his band will be performing after Church Service at 10 am. Please join the free public event and spread the word to come and support local talent!

August concert performance will be Adam Rice's band "Potters Road"

Obituary Notice:

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Sandy McMillan on June 25, 2021. A graveside service is scheduled for Monday, July 12th, @ 10:00 am at Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens in Cedar Hill. Her Obituary can be found at this link:

<https://www.stfuneral.com/obituaries/Sandy-McMillan/#!/Obituary>

Storage Space

Our church is offering storage space for the Back-to-School Fair which will be held July 31 at the Union High School. Using our rooms for storage will save them having to rent storage units, so they will have more money for school supplies. They are a nonprofit that has for 18 years been helping families by offering School supplies and clothing at no charge.

We are happy to welcome Haylee Struckoff as our nursery attendant through the first of August.



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

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