



First Presbyterian Church, Union MO

Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

As I watch the Olympic Games, I can't help but be impressed by the drive and determination, the strength and grace of the athletes competing. It obviously takes a great deal of discipline to prepare for such a challenge.

Do we have discipline such as that? We are called to "fight the good fight of faith" (I Timothy 6:12), to "run with perseverance the race that is set before us" (Hebrews 12:1).

Now let me be clear: when I speak of discipline here, I do not refer to 'a scolding' or 'being sent to your room'; but discipline as a practice that helps us learn, for the word 'discipline' is related to the word 'disciple', coming from the Greek word meaning "to teach."

It is discipline that is needed to accomplish such feats as winning 5 gold medals or even making it on an Olympic team.

But it is also discipline that is needed to manage and make our way through life – is there any greater challenge? – and to make our way through a pandemic.

No, we are not where we imagined we would be this far into the pandemic. When vaccines became widely available, there was high hope for a "return to normal," and soon.

But numbers are increasing, especially among the unvaccinated. Concerns are growing, among all. And "normal" seems further away than when we started the summer.

And I suggest to you that discipline is what is needed to manage and make our way through...the pandemic, and life.

Discipline: our learning, our growing, our "training" for faithful living.

Do we read the Bible regularly, that we may learn more and more of God's truth and direction for us?

Do we pray regularly, that we may be in touch, not only with our own needs, but also with the needs of others, and learn to be attentive to God's speaking to us?

Do we participate in worship and the life of the community on a regular basis (the best we can), that we might be fed and nourished by our time and focus on worship and by our sharing together in fellowship and genuine caring for one another?

Do we involve ourselves regularly in service to others, that we might be putting our professed love of neighbor into practice?

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Our life of faithfulness to God and service to our neighbor – in all things, through all times – is no less an effort than is the 100 meter dash or balance beam performance.

So my hope and my prayer is that we will keep “fit” and “in training” – be disciplined – that we might daily put forth our best effort as we help each other and seek to do God’s will through this pandemic, and all of life.

*In Christ,
Bill Vincent*

Worshiping and serving God, loving, and accepting all



Presbyterian Women

On Friday July 30 we met at the Union City Park, with 10 in attendance.

The next meeting we be at the park or at church in the choir room August 27th at 9:00AM
Bible Study is lessons 5 and 6.



Summer Concert Series

Sunday August 29, at 10am after worship service we will have a music performance by Adam Rice’s band “Potters Road”.



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/>