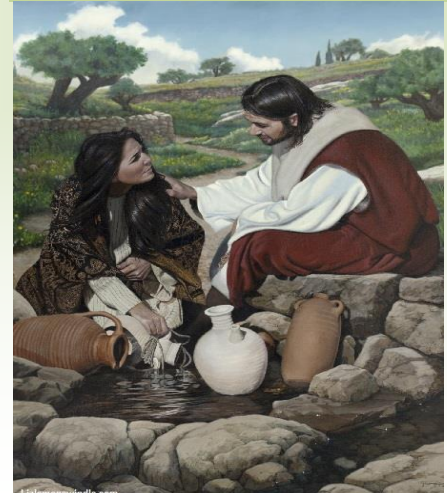




Message from Pastor Bill Vincent



We have seen – and still are seeing – in worship how Lent is (or can be) seen in plain sight: with common, everyday objects that reflect God’s grace and remind us of God’s presence and heighten God’s call.

This month of April, we turn our focus towards Easter. And that made me wonder:

Is Easter too in plain sight?

Sure,

- we see the tulips and lilies in Easter displays – flowers bursting forth from dead-looking bulbs.
- We know of butterflies emerging from tomb-like cocoons.
- We paint tomb-like eggs from which burst (or could burst, if we did not hard-boil them) new life chickens.

All of which are helpful images reminding us of the hope and life we celebrate with Easter.

But I’d like to think that Easter is more than chocolate bunnies and pastel egg shells.

Easter is not simply taking in the next breath, but breathing in the fullness of life.

Easter is not simply the mundane of a day, but embracing the opportunity of a new dawn.

Easter is an empty tomb and a risen Lord, and life and love victorious over death and hate.

The empty tomb proclaims that death no longer has a hold on us. Do we see such death-resisting life in the choices we make and the paths we take?

The risen Lord – the one who was the recipient of the worst that sin had to offer – sends the disciples to proclaim forgiveness of sins. Do we hear the offer of forgiveness in the words we speak and the relationships we nurture?

In Christ, God was reconciling the world to God (II Corinthians 5). Do we experience that reconciliation even in the midst of divisive words and drawing lines in the sand and walling people out?

They say “hope springs eternal.”

We say God’s love is with us anywhere and everywhere, whenever and wherever we find ourselves; and not all the forces in the world can prevent God’s love from reaching us and God’s arms from embracing us and God’s life from filling us.

So, what will we do to embody that Easter message and reflect that Easter brilliance, to affirm that Easter hope and live that Easter life?

Do we see Easter and its impact? Will we make it known?

Is Easter in plain sight?

Let us work – and live – to be certain that it is.

*In the joy
and the hope
and the life of Easter,
Bill Vincent*

WORSHIP Notes:

Sunday, April 3rd - 5th Sunday in Lent
Lent in Plain Sight – Oil
Communion will be served.

Sunday, April 17th - Easter
Lent in Plain Sight - Stones
Communion will be served.

Sunday, April 10th - Palm/Passion Sunday
Lent in Plain Sight - Coats

Thursday, April 14th - Maundy Thursday
Lent in Plain Sight - Towels and Thorns
Joint service here at the First Presbyterian Church (Union) sanctuary, starting at 7:00 pm.
Communion will be served.

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

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: <https://www.facebook.com/firstPresbyterianChurchUnion/>

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

03.02.22-04.17.22



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for **JUSTICE, RESILIENCE,** and **SUSTAINABILITY.**



One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together to work for a better world by advancing the causes of justice, resilience, and sustainability. Through One Great Hour of Sharing . . . we stabilize, we strengthen those who are weak, we connect. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing helps improve the lives of the suffering and the vulnerable through three life-saving programs. PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE, PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM AND SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE.

The One Great Hour of Sharing offering is being received all this month. Coin boxes, cash, or checks can be left with the offering on the table at church (special envelopes are available in the pews). Please make checks out to First Presbyterian of Union and add "One Great Hour of Sharing" to the memo line. You may place your donation in the offering plate on the table in the Narthex. Or mail your donation to the church, 105 E. Main Street, Union MO 63084. Carol Gruber for the Mission Committee



EASTER LILIES at
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Easter season is approaching and we are in need of lilies to decorate the sanctuary. The cost will be \$10.00 each. If you would like to purchase a lily, which may be given in honor or memory of someone, please fill out the following information and leave it on the office desk or place it in the offering plate along with your payment. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 10 ! You may take your lily home Easter Sunday, April 17th or during the following week. Thank you.

NUMBER OF MEMORIALS: _____

GIVEN BY: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

OR

IN HONOR OF: _____

Please turn in your Easter Lilies form in by April 10.

