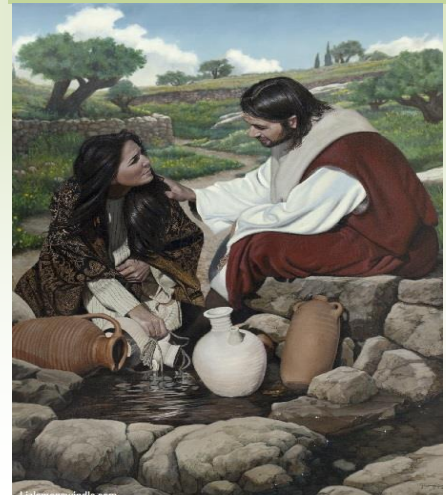




Message from Pastor Bill Vincent



Having gone to Bethlehem ever so recently
to "see this thing that has happened,
which the Lord has made known to us,"
let us now resolve to be

less brusque
and more tender,
less grasping
and more giving,
less self-concerned
and more other-concerned,
less vengeful
and more merciful,
less antagonistic
and more reconciling,
less blaming
and more forgiving,
less shirking
and more responsible,
less hateful
and more loving,
less apathetic
and more caring,
less harsh
and more gentle.

For "unto us a child is born,"
for us a man is crucified, and
for us he is risen ... he is risen indeed!

So let us always strive to be
more faithful to the one
born of Mary,
crucified for us,
raised by God: Jesus Christ,
our Lord and Savior.

*Peace in Him,
Pastor Bill Vincent*

Thank you!

Thanks to the church family for the Christmas love offering. I'm sure Deanna and I can find an appropriate something to buy with the money. I am both touched and blessed. Thank you all for your kind words and gift!

Pastor Bill Vincent



Presbyterian
Women
Christmas
meeting at
Deanna
Vincent's home
on Dec. 3,
2021.

Worshiping and serving God, loving, and accepting all

Dates to Remember:

Pastor Bill will be on Study Leave Sunday, **January 2nd**. 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/>

Also note: Sunday, **January 9th**, Communion will be celebrated

In preparation for the Annual Congregational Meeting (**February 13th**) Annual Reports are due into Lila by **Feb.4th**.



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

Afghan Refugees

From information in a story in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch December 27 by Blythe Bernhard

The Arazem family fled Afghanistan in August, 2021, as the Taliban took control. They spent 4 months on their journey from Afghanistan to St. Louis. Ajmal Arazem was a security officer for a U.S. base in Afghanistan. His wife, Palwasha, was a teacher. Their daughters began school days after moving into a home in Affton, where they are close to the International Institute of St. Louis, which contracts with the U.S. State Department to help refugees get settled. "Going to school is a necessity of life for their future," said Ajmal. Their seven daughters' range in age from 1 to 15. Five of the girls are enrolled in the Affton School District, where they attend four different schools. Teachers talked with their classes to be sure the children knew to welcome their new classmates and make them feel at home and confident. The teacher in 7-year-old Samaya's class made everything ready for her including jump ropes, because she had seen a photo of Samaya and her sisters jumping rope in the hotel hallway where they were staying at the time. The teachers made a book for Samaya with translations in Dari, her language, and English words for the items pictured. The school children have expressed interest and excitement in having new friends from Afghanistan in their classes.

So far, our church has received gift cards for the Afghan refugees from Walmart, Aldi, a VISA card, and a gas card totaling \$85. Your generosity is appreciated! There is a basket on the table in the Narthex where you may place gift cards. The gift cards will be given to the International Institute of St. Louis where they will be distributed among the Afghan refugees.

Carol Gruber
Session Mission Committee



An Internet photo of an Afghan mother with her daughter. (From IStock.com)

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/>