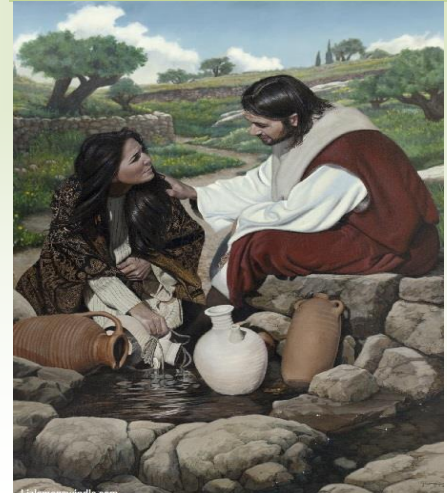




Message from Pastor Bill Vincent



MAY - "the 5th month of the Gregorian calendar."

May: a time when the flowers really start to bloom and the trees really green out and life seems to burst out all over. When the days lengthen and the temperatures stay consistently warm (we hope!) and we feel freed from the constriction of winter's "cabin fever" to enjoy the abundant, blossoming out-of-doors.

MAY - "have permission to, have liberty to."

May: the freedom to explore and try, to grow and risk, to learn and experience life. So we might ask, "Mother, may I?" Do we have permission to go down this road, do we have permission to try out something new?

May. Freedom. Mothers.

Also remembering. Remembering our mothers, yes. And remembering others as well. As in Memorial Day, when we remember those who "gave the last full measure of devotion" that we might know freedom. (see Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address")

Yet, lest we forget, 1,700 years before this country was born, Someone else died that we might be free – truly free. Christ died on the cross that we might have life. Christ rose again from the dead that we might be free – free from the shackles of sin and death, free from all that says 'No' to life.

As Paul says in Galatians, "For freedom Christ has set us free." For freedom. *Never* a license to do anything we darn well please. *Always* a responsible freedom: a freedom to live life joyfully and abundantly, a freedom to live life for God and others. The freedom to live as God created us to live.

Hopefully, it's what our mothers taught us all along.

*In Christ,
Bill Vincent*

Upcoming events:

Saturday April 30th at 10 am, Presbyterian Woman Spring Gathering (virtually held via Zoom) See flyer in separate attachment.

Thursday May 12, @ 9am. May Friendship Day held at Franklin County Family Resource Center. Sponsored by Church Women United of Franklin County. (See flyer and letter in a separate attachment)

WORSHIP Notes:

Pastor Bill will be on Vacation Sunday, May 1st, and on Study Leave Sunday, May 22nd. On those Sundays, we encourage you to check out the following for online worship opportunities (in lieu of our own in-person worship):

John Knox Presbyterian Church, Florissant MO

Worship at 9:30 am - Facebook page:

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

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

But also note, there is *another opportunity* available Sunday morning, May 1st:

You are invited to join the Pacific Presbyterian Church (410 West St. Louis Street, Pacific) at 11:00 am as they host "Celebration of the Earth."

Following an abbreviated time of worship in the sanctuary, you will have a chance to watch the movie "Choosing Earth, Humanity's Great Transition to a Mature Planetary Civilization." (The book was written by Duane Elgin.) This will be followed by a time of fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. There will be attendance prizes too: seeds, seedlings, saplings, and environmental products, etc.

Plan on joining them that morning, Sunday, May 1st at 11:00 am for a celebration of our home, Planet Earth. And feel free to invite your friends and family to come along, too.

Please Note: Communion will be celebrated on Sunday, May 8th.

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/>

Presbyterian Woman:

WEST CLUSTER PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN GATHERING, First Presbyterian Church of Sullivan, 285 E. Springfield Road, Sullivan on Saturday, May 21

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. with pastries, coffee, and tea.

This year the theme is 'Sinking into Grace' The speaker will be Laurie from the Scenic Regional Library. Laurie will present an amazing video presentation on America the Beautiful!

Lunch will be served following worship & the presentation. Cost \$10 Pre-registration is requested by May 16th. Register to: Tonette Barnes at tbarnes@fidnet.com, Carol Gruber at grubercarol8@gmail.com or Cheryl Rainey at ambroandro@hotmail.com

Hope to see you there as we celebrate spring with our PW sisters in the West Cluster!



I know the plans I have for you,
says the Lord,
. . . to give you a future
with HOPE

Jeremiah 29:11

THE PENTECOST OFFERING HELPS OUR YOUTH BEGIN LIFE WITH A STRONG START — A SOLID FOUNDATION OF FAITH FORMED IN THE FIRST THRID OF LIFE, FROM CHILDHOOD THROUG YOUNG ADULTHOOD.

40% of the Pentecost Offering remains with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth in the local community.

25% goes to Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) experience

25% supports ministries with youth, ages 12-18, and those called to accompany them.

10% supports the "Educate a Child Transform the World" national initiate, which was affirmed at the 221st General Assembly. (2014)

The Pentecost Offering runs through June 5th. Please make checks out to First Presbyterian of Union with "Pentecost Offering" in the notation line.

Carol Gruber
Mission Committee