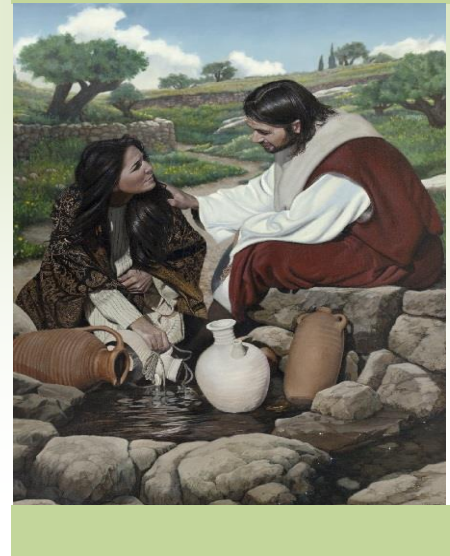




## Message from Pastor Bill Vincent



We work some. We vacation some. We play some. We sleep some.  
We come. We go. All part of the rhythm of life.

The writer of Ecclesiastes speaks of this rhythm:

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:*

*a time to be born, and a time to die;*

*a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;*

*a time to kill, and a time to heal;*

*a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

*a time to weep, and a time to laugh;*

*a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

*a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;*

*a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

*a time to seek, and a time to lose;*

*a time to keep, and a time to throw away;*

*a time to tear, and a time to sew;*

*a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

*a time to love, and a time to hate;*

*a time for war, and a time for peace.*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 NRSV)

We plant the seed and wait for it to grow, all the while caring for it and tending to it. Then we reap the harvest, however good or not-so-good the harvest may be.

We work through the day and sleep at night...most of us do, anyhow.

Summer follows Spring and is in turn followed by Fall and Winter...and then Spring again, both with the seasons of the year and the seasons of our life.

All part of the rhythm and flow of life.

When we get out of sync with the rhythm, things generally get messed up. We're not alert when we need to be. We're too tired to work and play. We're too wound up to sleep. We speak when we should be silent. We're silent when we should speak. The pieces of life don't seem to fit.

God works in a rhythm, too: working through the rhythm of life to nurture and sustain us; working through the rhythm to guide us and direct us, to teach us and speak to us.

God's rhythm is not always the same as the ones identified in Ecclesiastes. Sometimes, God has a rhythm of God's very own.

Here, too, if we get out of sync with God's rhythm, things can get all messed up. We can even find ourselves opposing God (see, for example, Gamaliel's speech in Acts 5:33-39).

Often being out of sync with God's rhythm means we're impatient, wanting God to act now (and I do mean Now!) instead of when God decides to act. Then it is that we can take comfort in, and possibly accept a moderate admonishment from, words out of the book of Isaiah, that

*...those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
they shall run and not be weary,  
they shall walk and not faint.*

(Isaiah 40:31 NRSV)

But remember: we've got to wait for the Lord. We've got to be in sync with God's rhythm.

We can best stay attuned to God's rhythm through faithful worship and prayer, through study of the Bible and conversation with others, and through consciously being open to God's movement in our midst.

I hope that you will be attuned to the rhythm of life in general, and your own rhythm in particular. But especially, I hope and pray that you will be in sync with the rhythm of God at work in your life and in the world.

*Peace be with you!  
Bill Vincent*

### Presbyterian Women:

The July 26, 2024 Presbyterian Women's Meeting will be held at the home of Bonnie Woodruff. At this time the plan is to meet at Church at 8:30 A.M. and we will carpool to her home. The Co-Hostesses will be discussed at our June Meeting. The Bible Study Lesson will be Lesson 8 led by Susan Buchanan.

## *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](http://www.unionfirstpresby.org)), posted by 8 am Sunday morning.

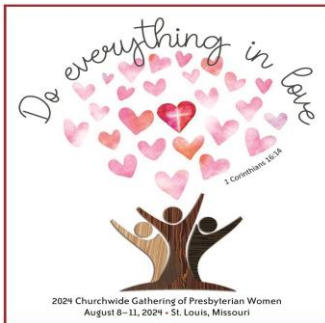
Link to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstPresbyterianChurchUnion/>

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

## WORSHIP NOTES:

We continue on Sunday mornings our sermon series on the Gospel of Mark.

And don't forget: as part of sharing in our life together, our worship on July 14<sup>th</sup> will be a joint service with our sisters and brothers at the Pacific Church (410 W St Louis St, Pacific), to celebrate their 160<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Worship will be at 11:00 a.m. followed by a special Anniversary Celebration, and lunch for those who made a reservation.



**Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering (CWG)** is celebrated every three years! In 2024, the CWG will be held in St. Louis, Missouri, August 8–11. Plenary and large-group sessions will be held at the America's Center Convention Complex. Gathering attendees will receive a special conference rate for hotel rooms at the Marriott St. Louis Grand (across the street from the America's Center), which will house other Gathering programming and opportunities (i.e., shopping and dining!). Save these dates, share these dates, and plan to joyfully join Presbyterian Women in an exciting, faith-filled time of renewal, connection, and fun. An online option will be available, as well, with a select menu of options. Visit [presbyterianwomen.org/gathering](https://presbyterianwomen.org/gathering) for full details

Early registration for the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering, "Do Everything in Love", has passed, but there is still time to register. Complete information on the conference and the link for registration can be found at [www.presbyterianwomen.org](http://www.presbyterianwomen.org). There are scholarships available through the national PW and from the PW of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. For a Presbytery scholarship application (deadline June 1st), contact Deanna Vincent ([vincentdeanna83@gmail.com](mailto:vincentdeanna83@gmail.com)).

Also, Deanna has registered as an online participant and will be able to live stream the 4 plenary sessions and the closing worship service- She is inviting ALL women to come to her house (1101 West 5th Street, Washington MO) for viewing parties. There's no need to act now, but know that this option will be available for participation in the Presbyterian Women's Churchwide Gathering

### Added Note:

The PW Churchwide Gathering Aug. 8 - 11, 2024, in St. Louis is offering an opportunity to provide gift cards to Bethel Hills in Dutzow. Bethel Hills is a faith based community for adults with and without developmental abilities. They have completed another remodel project that will welcome 8 additional residents to the community. Gift cards can also be given to Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Gift cards to Lowes, Walmart and Target are welcomed and will be collected at the Gathering. Cards can be given to Carol Gruber.

