

Presbyterian Times
November, 2017

First Presbyterian Church
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A Message from Our Pastor
Rev. Lou Ellen Hartley

When I was in grade school we always did a fall concert in which we sang thanksgiving hymns and prepared for the holiday season. I actually learned one of my favorite hymns at Lewis Ames Elementary School in Littleton, Colorado; *We Gather Together*. I love the tune, I love the words, I love the feelings it evokes. The hymn is to Thanksgiving what carols are to Christmas. It reminds me the seasons are changing and there will be a celebration soon.

The hymn begins, "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens his will to make known; The wicked oppressing now cease from distressing; Sing praises to his name; He forgets not his own." I have learned over the years this song originally was a Dutch national hymn written to praise and thank God for ending Spanish rule over The Netherlands. Over the centuries the hymn has grown past that particular time in history to something far greater and can be sung by small children and adults of all nationalities who pray for God's will to be done, who pray for blessing, who offer thanks to God for guiding us through difficult times. We can all find comfort in the words, "Sing praises to his name; He forgets not his own."

During this season of Thanksgiving, perhaps we could all benefit from the exercise of listing the ways in which we have experienced God's presence in our lives. The hymn speaks of God "ordaining and maintaining his kingdom divine." Where do you see that in our world? Can you see remember a time when you knew God was beside you to guide you? Offer thanks for these times and see if offering thanks becomes a more integrated part of daily life.

Peace,

Pastor Lou Ellen

Sermons for November

November 5 (All Saints) Thinking of the Saints Matthew 23:1-12

November 12 “Get Ready Already!” Matthew 25:1-12

November 19 Lou Ellen Gone

November 26 Reign of Christ Matthew 25:31-46

Dinner and Discipleship

On Thursday evenings we are continuing to work through Diana Butler-Bass' book, Christianity for the Rest of Us. We meet at 7:15 p.m. at a local restaurant to eat, discuss and fellowship together. If 7:15 is too late for your dinner, come and join us for discussion. We won't make you eat!

November 2 – Alex's Pizza

November 9 – Panera

November 16 – Los Arcos

November 23 – Happy Thanksgiving, no meeting

November 30 – Panera

PALS LUNCH Cheryl Koederitz

PALS will meet for lunch on Monday, November 6th at 11:45 am at Alex's.

Dear Friends,
Susan Rosenbaum, Pastoral Presbyter
John Calvin Presbytery

I am writing you today to share with you my upcoming retirement from the Pastoral Presbyter position in John Calvin Presbytery on June 30, 2018. As I look back on my last six years in this position, things are very different than they were when I began. We have shared joys and heartbreak, laughter and tears, and a lot of change. In the midst of all the change, we have together sought to discern and follow God's leading. I am thankful for the people in JCP and their willingness to work together for the glory of God. This position has been a blessing to me and my family during the time I have served and I believe God is now calling me to a different ministry in foster care.

In light of my retirement, the Administrative Ministries Committee and the General Council have adopted a plan to present to the Presbytery at the November 4th meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Springfield. This plan includes hiring a consultant to help us envision our future and in the midst of transition, calling Melana to function as the Presbyter of JCP. As we travel this road together, my prayer is that JCP will continue to strengthen our connections and seek, with God's help, to be the people, churches, and presbytery that God calls us to be.

Blessing to you all,

Susan Rosenbaum

Christian Education
In the Sadler Library
Concordances

A concordance can be defined as an index or list of words in a work, such as the Bible. Concordances are excellent resources for word studies, or topical studies, in Scripture. We have several concordances in the library. Two of these are *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible – 21 Century Edition* by Zondervan Publishing Company in 2001, and the *New International Bible Concordance* published by Zondervan in 1981. In some instances, such as *Strong's*, the volume gives the origin of the word in either the Hebrew-Aramaic or the Greek languages. This gives the reader some idea of the original meaning of the word or term. There is additional value for the reader in identifying how many times a word or term is found in the Scripture and where. For example, *Strong's* has numerous references for the word "baptism" in the New Testament, but no references for the term in the Old Testament. Conversely, the word covenant is found many times in the Old Testament, but comparatively few times in the New Testament.

Readers should be aware that concordances are often keyed to certain Bible translations. The basic reference of *Strong's* is the King James Version and the Revised Standard Version. The *New International Bible Concordance* is obviously associated with the NIV of the Bible. In most instances the word use in the various Bibles, such as the NRSV, NASB, English Bible, and so on, is sufficiently common to allow the use of most concordances with any Bible translation.

"I used to always think that the good times were right around the corner. Now I'm happy with what I have – even if it's not always perfect – which is a good place to be".

Lauren Graham, actress

Christian Education

Marcia Brewer

By the time you read this, Reformation Sunday will have come and gone, along with First Presbyterian Church's first-ever "Kirkin' o' the Tartans" celebration of our families' and our church's heritage.

Meanwhile, the adult Sunday school class continues a six-week video/discussion of the Reformation, "This Changed Everything". Though it has been well-attended, there is always room for one more.

Worship / Music

On November 15 at 7:30 we will welcome the Tibi Ruslan Duo, a music ministry team from Friendship International. The duo is from Ukraine and they are Ruslan Olah and Tibi Virag. According to their publicity, the duo are ethnic Hungarians, speak Hungarian and are both Christian gypsies. This heritage gives them the wonderful opportunity to have an extremely effective ministry in their Gypsy Camp with a team of 25 others whose desire is to reach out to their own camp and beyond, to other gypsy villages in the Ukraine and in other countries." They will perform a unique eclectic style of praise and worship, hymns and gospel music.

The concert is free, but we will take a love offering at the end of the concert to help support their ministry.

Mark your calendars and spread the word!

Yarning for God

Mary Alofs

Yarning for God will meet Sunday mornings during Fellowship Hour. We crochet and knit items for Russell House—hats, mittens, scarves, blankets, etc. If you would like to join us but don't know how to crochet or knit, we can help. For information please call Mary Alofs at 364-6772.

Worry brings stress. God brings rest.
Guideposts

How well do you know your congregation?

Carol Jessop

The person that I had planned to interview was called out of town to take care of grandchildren, so there is no one for this month. However, let me know if you like this column. I enjoy doing it, but don't want to bore the readers with it if readers don't care for it.

Presbyterians Cook

Carol Jessop

Since we are celebrating our Scottish heritage I thought a Scottish recipe would be appropriate. I took this one from a Scottish cookbook that I purchased on a trip to Scotland.

Cocky Leeky Soup

1 small chicken and giblets (2 ½ - 3 lbs.)
1 onion, chopped
6 leeks cut into inch long pieces
2 oz. long grain rice
1 small carrot, grated
1 tsp salt
3 pints water
Salt & pepper
1 T chopped parsley

Place chicken, giblets, onion and water in large sauce pan and bring to a boil. Cover and simmer for 1 ½ hours until chicken is tender. Remove from heat and skim off white scum. Take out giblets and discard. Take out chicken and strip meat from bones. Discard bones. Return the meat to the stock. Add leeks, rice, and carrots. Bring back to a boil, cover and simmer for 30 minutes. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Add parsley before serving. Serves 4-6.

Mission News

With the fall days upon us, our thoughts turn to the upcoming holidays and how we as a church make them a bit brighter for some 6 families. We will collect food for a Thanksgiving dinner with extras to be delivered on November 19th. The sign-up sheet is across from the office.

We almost just turn around and get dinner and gifts for 6 more families for Christmas. That sign-up sheet and the Tag Tree in the foyer will be available November 26th with food and gifts due on December 13th.

Thank you for your help in making the holidays nicer for these twelve families.

Presbyterian Women

Thanks to all who donated items and worked to make the PW Rummage Sale a success.

LINEN CLOSET: What is it? Where is it? Who benefits?

A group of PW's many years ago decided that they could serve the Rolla community by supplying linens to needy persons. There are several churches in Rolla who have food pantries but we are the only Linen Closet. In the beginning, the closet was housed on

three shelves in an electrical closet in the Fellowship Hall. Several years ago, a PW member generously gave shelving and folding doors to house the closet in the Journey Room.

GRACE screens the clients and contacts volunteers at the church who fill the requested linen orders. So far this year we have served 34 individuals with linens. Each order includes a sheet set, a blanket or comforter, pillow, towel and a kitchen set for the family.

PW appreciates all the linens you have given to the closet. Linens do not have to be new, if they are in good condition. Winter always brings needs for blankets but any and all are appreciated because we could not function without you're giving.

Preschool News

Kyla Gavura, Director

November is here and preschool is hopping! We were so busy in the month of October. We did school pictures. We had the Hurts Donut fundraiser that raised a little over \$1,000!!!! Thank you to everyone who purchased donuts! We had two field trips. We visited Pete's Pumpkin Patch on October 20th and went to sing at The Presbyterian Manor on October 26th! In November, we will be talking about the character trait of "Gratitude." We defined it as "a feeling of thankfulness or appreciation." The Bible verse we are learning along with it is: "In everything give thanks!" – 1 Thessalonians 5:18. This month we plan to focus on being thankful and showing thanks to God. We have our annual "Feast" coming up on November 20th and then we get a short break for Thanksgiving, before we come back and jump into the busy holiday season!!

Membership / Fellowship News

Bob May

Please greet and invite visitors to attend fellowship / Sunday School after worship.

As you have noticed, we are providing basic pastries (Doughnut Holes) for fellowship time. Committee members (and volunteers) are preparing coffee and drinks. If you wish, you may bring veggies or fruit to complement the basics. There will be "Special Sundays" when we will invite you to participate in an expanded menu.

A few hearty souls enjoyed a nice mid-**October hike** at the Audubon Park. We'll plan to do it again about the same time next fall.

1st. Friday Night Out for November will be **this Friday**, November 3rd, 6 p.m. at NaCL (Salt Water Café) on Pine Street, Rolla.

Pictorial Directory. See Bulletin Board – Make an appointment with Leslie Skelton for picture-taking. **Watch for additional Upcoming Events.**

From the Office
Betti Jo Pyatt, Office Manager

Happy Birthday wishes go out to the following folks for November:
Jennifer Bennett, Kelly Look, Susan Bowles, Kyla Gavura, Jeff Sandquist, Bill Neely, Jr,
Chuck Bennett and Janice Zanders.

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to...
Russell & Teresa Fox; JoAnn & Robert Anderson; and Bob & Carlene May

Events for the Month

- 1st – Preschool fundraiser LuLaRoe
- 3rd – First Friday Night Out at Salt Water Café on Pine Street at 6 pm.
- 4th – Presbytery Meeting at Trinity PC in Springfield 9:30 am
- 5th – All Saints Day
- Daylight Savings Time ends
- 11th – Veteran’s Day
- 14th – RAMTA Recital at 6:30 pm
- 15th – Ukrainian Duo at 7:30 pm
- 19th – 24th Pastor Hartley out of the office
- 23rd – Office closed for Thanksgiving Day
- 24th – Office closed
- 27th – Newsletter Article deadline for December

