



## Presbyterian News

Message from Session

Next transition meeting – this Sunday (7/11) after worship

25 people meet with Greg Emery to discuss our transition process. Anyone interested is welcome to meet this Sunday (7/11) after worship to discuss Greg's presentation and work on our group homework assignment:

Google and read at least several articles on the state of Christianity and the church

Create, as a group within your church, a set of bullet points that encapsulate the global and national trends that will have an impact on the Presbyterian Church (or denominational church)

We will share notes afterwards and will have another Zoom meeting with Greg in a few weeks. If you have questions, please contact Susan Murray at [Murray@mst.edu](mailto:Murray@mst.edu). We understand not everyone will be able to attend every meeting.



## Prayer Request

***Kelly Dean** (chronic lung disease),*

*Barb Ford and Kelly's brother **Tom Eychaner** (who stays with Barb and has advanced Parkinson disease),*

***Carlene May** (receiving cancer treatments)*

***Bob May** (recovering from cancer treatments, back and knee pain)*

***Connie Dewitt** (ongoing health issues)*

***Martha Ethridge** (Loss of grandson)*

***Aiden Green** (Aiden is a 9-year-old Rolla resident and preschool student's family member that was diagnosed with stage 4 Rhabdomyosarcoma cancer.*

*The prayer request list will start over about every two months. If you have someone who needs put on or taken off the list, please contact Katie in the office.*



**5th** Ken Kwantes, **6th** Mary Kwantes, **7th** Clayton Read, **9th** Ed Schmidt, **13th** James Drewniak, Steve Day, **15th** Nancy Marlow, **21st** Janet Brown, **24th** Jesse Kimball, **27th** Christine Rueff, and **29th** Bob Yenzer.



### **Anniversaries**

**1st** Dean and Jan Sletten, **16th** Lee and Ruby Malone, **23rd** Luke and Kris Gutches, and **26th** Steve and Susan Bowles.

## **Deacons**

Deacons are in the process of revising our helper list.

If you are willing and able to assist with meals for those in need and/or funeral receptions please let Cheryl Koederitz know

## **Outreach Committee**

### **News**

# **BACK TO SCHOOL FAIR**



**We are signed up to provide  
crayons.**

We will be collecting 24 count packs of crayons during July.

## Congregational Life

We recently resumed fellowship time. In the near term, we will continue having snacks and drinks under the portico after worship. We may relocate to the fellowship hall. If you have an opinion about the location, or if you would like to help with serving, please contact Javier Valentin-Sivico. We will be having a bring-your-own picnic at Lane Springs on July 25 after worship.

We have reserved the Redbud Pavilion, which is the one to the left as you enter. Some of us will probably hike up to Blossom Rock. Hope you can join us!

You should be receiving information from Susan Murray regarding our interim process, which includes readings and other homework.

Given everything going on right now, we are not hosting adult Sunday school. We may resume in the fall. If you are interested in teaching a class, or if there is something you would like to learn about, contact anyone on the committee (Jonathan Kimball, Mary Kwantes, or Javier).

## Message from Jonathan Kimball On Preaching

When Malinda Spencer was with us, she mentioned that our church is fortunate to have someone who has had some training, referring to my recent completion of the Christian Leadership Program at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary. The program, which is one step towards becoming a commissioned ruling elder/commissioned lay pastor, comprises eight courses, each of which is equivalent to one credit hour.

I began the program with no particular goal in mind, except for spiritual development.

Half of the courses related directly or indirectly to preaching: Old Testament, New Testament, Reformed Theology, and (most directly) Preaching. I took Preaching this past spring. We primarily worked through *The Witness of Preaching* by Thomas Long, which introduces a number of different perspectives on preaching and provides the skeleton of a methodology. Preparing a sermon begins with Scriptural exegesis and continues through determining the claim the text has on us today. I would like to share a few key insights from this textbook and encourage everyone to consider participating in the process. If you are interested, I would be happy to talk with you and share other resources I have.

First and foremost, the preacher goes to the pulpit from the pew. The preacher is one of God's people, gathered in a particular place. Preachers are members of Christ's body before they are its leaders. And the call to preach is not an exclusive, lifetime call for a select few. Everyone is, from time to time, called by God to share their encounter with God. Yes, some people are called to preach as their life's work, but many more have experiences that should be shared.

Second, the sermon ultimately comes from God and works in the gathered congregation by the Holy Spirit. While I take the work of sermon preparation seriously, and we have all heard sermons that left us more confused than inspired, the essential work is performed by the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, our human words are transformed into the Word of God. Trust that God is at work in your life and will speak with power to God's people.

But third and most importantly, the preacher is a witness. A preacher is sent by the congregation to encounter God—in the Bible, in the world—and share the truth that was revealed. A preacher has no more or less authority or wisdom than any other child of God. But for that day, that moment in time, the preacher is an expert on one thing: the encounter that they had with God on behalf of the congregation.

Long quotes Marvin McMickle, who wrote in Living Water for Thirsty Souls, "During my first pastorate ... one of the deacons would ask me the same question every Sunday morning.... 'Reverend, is there any word from the Lord?' ... The voice that people want to hear is not really the voice of the preacher. The voice that people really need to hear is not that of the preacher. The message the people have assembled to receive is not whatever wit or wisdom may be on our mind on any given Sunday. After all the intervening years, I can still hear the voice of that deacon haunting me as I write my sermons and then stand to deliver them:

'Reverend, is there any word from the Lord?'"

After taking this class, with no particular goal in mind, my intention was to use the exegesis and other methods introduced as a form of ongoing spiritual development. All Christians are called to encounter Jesus and share the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand. As events have transpired, I will be preaching twice a month. I don't expect anyone else to preach that often, but would encourage everyone to encounter God and share their experience. I leave you with a quote from my professor, Father Kevin Goodrich: "Live the Story, Know the Story, Craft the Story, Tell the Story."

## ***Special Announcement***

**Celebration of Life and Resurrection  
For Robert Patterson Rogers Jr.  
will be July 13, 2021 at 11.00 in the Sanctuary.  
Reception to follow in the Fellowship.**