



Then the King will say..

The king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' ... Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.'

Matthew 25:31-46 is a foundational text about our calling as the Church, Christ's body in the world. In this passage, Jesus declares that the way we treat one another is the way we treat Jesus. He comes to us in the stranger, in those who are hungry and thirsty and naked and in prison. We are called to welcome and care for all people just as we would if our Risen Lord came to see us.

PC(USA) has a Matthew 25 initiative with three pillars: building congregational vitality, dismantling structural racism, and eradicating systemic poverty. Looking at all our congregation does and the way we care about our community, I believe we are already doing some good things for the third pillar. We support GRACE, Russell House, and The Rolla Mission, financially, materially, and with the time dedicated by our members to directly assisting those organizations. In my many conversations with members, these activities come up frequently, and many people have a real passion for helping with homelessness especially.

But we can do more. As the old adage goes, if you give a man a fish, you feed him for the day; if you teach a man to fish, you feed him for a lifetime. We are too often preoccupied with taking care of today's problems rather than addressing the root causes. The Rolla Mission is currently posting on Facebook about the top five reasons why people are homeless. Reason 1: Lack of affordable housing. Many patrons work part-time or even full-time jobs and still cannot afford rent in Rolla, which is far from being the most expensive place to live. Is there perhaps something we can do to help the housing situation? Or perhaps there are other root causes we can address?

We are currently in the Easter season, a time when we celebrate the resurrection. Yet we must remember that Christ's resurrection and ascension was just the beginning of the transformation of the world. We have been tasked with continuing the work Jesus began, by identifying opportunities to change structures and systems that perpetuate poverty.

Please be thinking, praying, and talking together about ways that we can collectively use the talents, skills, connections, and standing in the community of our members and our church for the eradication of poverty in Rolla and Phelps County.

Peace,
Jonathan

Communications and Logistics

I wanted to share a few things regarding communications within the church and some of the Sunday morning logistics. First, we are moving to a quarterly newsletter cycle. Our next newsletter will come out in early August. In months when there is no newsletter, we will still broadcast the list of birthdays and anniversaries to help everyone stay connected.

Each month, the session meets and, among other things, reviews and approves the preceding month's minutes. I will be distributing those approved minutes. That way, you will all have some idea what's going on behind the scenes in the church.

Each week, Jeff assembles the bulletin. I polish it up to include the sermon title and Lorie's music selections, and I add any announcements I know about. Generally, I print the worship leader guide and bulletins on Wednesdays before choir. If you have an announcement to share with the church, please send it to me by Tuesday, or worst case, Wednesday morning. Then on Friday, I send an email out to the congregation. Please read it! I include the bulletin and the link to the live stream, and also any important announcements like mission collections going on, upcoming potluck dinners and other events, etc.

Thanks to everyone who works to make our church function smoothly! It is my hope that broadcasting the session minutes and regular newsletters will help everyone know what's going on and perhaps see how they fit into the Body of Christ.

Peace,
Jonathan

From Your Administrative Committee

The per capita cost assigned by the John Calvin Presbytery for 2025 is \$42 per member:

- General Assembly: **\$10.84**
- Synod of Mid-America: **\$3.15**
- John Calvin Presbytery: **\$28.01**

Please include "per capita" in the memo line when contributing to ensure these funds apply to the church's per capita expenses.

Thank you,
Your Admin Committee

The Deacons

The Deacons are visiting our support-needed friends and recently delivered Easter greetings and gifts to them. We are providing transportation to church. Please contact us if you need or can help provide this service.

Current Deacons are: Carrie Aswegan, Carol Bennett, Dixie Finley, Luke Gutches, Cynthia Hobart, Cheryl Koederitz (chair), Melba Read, & Lydia (Millie) Rodriguez-Medina.

Mission and Outreach Committee

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank you for your generosity. We have filled our Easter Basket of Hope and the items will be distributed to Russell House, GRACE and The Rolla Mission. We also had contributions of over \$500 for the Preschool Tornado Relief. Over the summer we will be collecting toys for GRACE for Kids Christmas in July.

We will also be collecting crayons for the Back to School Fair.



Music & Worship Committee

We will celebrate Pentecost on June 8 during worship. Be sure to wear red as a symbol of the Fire of the Holy Spirit. We will gather between 11:30 and noon at Lions Club that day for a Birthday Party for the Church of Christ. Mark the date but more details to come.

The choir will take summer hiatus after a wonderful year under Jeff Sandquist. Make sure to thank him, Lorie, and choir members for their hard work in contributing to worship.

The following is poem to help us think about our prayer partnerships
Circle of Prayer by M. Kwantes

*“Unuttered or expressed”
Silence in a circle
A shared grief or sorrow.
Pray alone or joined with one or two:
Thanks aloud, Thanks with Joy!
Pray for peace and people,
For power to stand
Against the evil one,
To put poverty in the past,
For Wisdom to choose
A way to serve,
Raise an “Amen” to Righteousness
To Father, Son , and Holy Ghost.
Share the love;
And share a prayer.*

Preschool News



Graduation
May 13, 2025 6:00 p.m.



It's hard to believe, but it is almost time to say goodbye to another group of students moving on. We will celebrate their time in the Presby Preschool family and wish them well as they continue their amazing journey.



**Easter Egg
Hunting!**



We love our community!
Thanks to the Rolla Kiwanis Club for
bringing books for students to take home!



Prayer Request

Connie & Bob Dewitt - Continuing health care

Bill Neely- Headaches, Back & Hip pain

Cynthia Hobart- Fall, broken leg

Sue Reno - New treatment

Julie Murray - Awaiting surgery

Steve & Susan Bowles - Stints (Steve) Triple Bypass (Susan)

Please pray for those named and their families as well as their caregivers. The prayer request will start over every two months. If you have someone that needs put on or taken off the list, Please contact Katie in the office.

Birthday wishes

April

4th Cynthia Hobart,
18th Marilyn Schmidt,
18th Rhonda Kimball,
26th Carrie Aswegan
26th Ming Leu.

MAY

8th Mary Alofs,
Sharlene Morgan
Kristin Gutches,
:
:

July.

5th Ken Kwantes,
6th Mary Kwantes,
7th Clayton Read,
9th Ed Schmidt,
11th Millie Rodríguez-
Medina
Janet Brown,
Jessie Kimball,

June

4th Jack Murray,
5th Carol Jessop,
16th Ray Fox,
Cheryl Koederitz,
18th Sam Kimball,
22nd Joanne Zap,
23rd Julie Murray,



Anniversaries

MAY

28th Ken &
Mary Kwantes

June

2nd Ray & Judy Fox
3rd Javier & Millie
5th Ed & Marilyn
8th Dwight & Kelly
Darryl & Mary
24th Suasn & Julie

July.

23rd Luke &
Kristen