

the LANTERN First Presbyterian Church

October 2022



Letter from the Pastor

ROOTS



Lately I've been thinking a lot about the value of having good roots. One thing our new home has lots of is roots! Our new yard is backed into the woods and framed by steep ravines held together by a network of roots. We love our new home, just ten minutes from church, and all the wildlife that also share our home. Well, except for the chiggers.

Strong roots are an important part of a plant required for growth to happen. As a family, we have really struggled to find roots. Once my wife and I decided I would join the military when we were newly weds, we were uprooted to Georgia. There we made new friends and found a great church. Once my service in the military ended though, we felt called to move closer to our old home. We landed on moving to the St. Louis area for me to attend graduate school because it was close to where my wife's siblings were going to college and not too far from our family in Southern Iowa. That too ended, and we moved back to Iowa after that. We found though that home wasn't quite the same as we remembered after so many years away. Many of our High School friends had moved away and, as we now know, God wasn't ready for us to lay down roots just yet.

Now that I've completed seminary, been ordained and installed, and we've purchased a home; it feels like we are able to develop some roots. Our girls are taking piano and dance again, and we are considering other extracurriculars to get involved in. We are building relationships and getting to know our community better. Our hope is that our roots will continue to develop for a long time.

The Bible tells us that roots are important in our spiritual lives as well. Spiritual roots are not necessarily built in any particular place however. They are rooted in the Word of God. Jesus Christ, as the living Word made flesh, is the foundation that our lives are to be rooted in. 2 Corinthians 2:6-7 tells us, "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving."

Roots are not just important for plants, individuals or families though. Roots are also important for churches. With the start of October, many are starting to decorate their homes for Halloween. Halloween was formerly known as "All Hallows' Eve". Hallowed means consecrated or made holy, which is used to describe the Christian saints who have died before our time. In early church history, all martyrs were remembered on the anniversary of their death. Over time, there became so many martyrs that this custom had become cumbersome to maintain. So All Saints' Day, November 1st, became the one day all the saints who have gone before us are remembered. Remembering the sacrifices of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have died helps to keep our church rooted in our traditions and history. This year, Linda Hudnall has graciously agreed to host a memorial tour following our November 6th worship service where we will honor our church's roots and All Saints' Day. I'm looking forward to strengthening our network of roots as the body of Christ through this and more opportunities to come.

Peace,

Pastor Josh

Special Collections for Peace and Global Witness Offerings: (click link for more info) [Click Link for Peace and Global Witness](#)



Notes from Session

These are the main highlights from September's Session. If you ever have more questions about what's going on behind the scenes, feel free to talk to any session member: Scott Thatcher, Brenda Martin, Jeanne North, Samantha Shirk, Ginger Nolker, Greg Marshall, Kate Sandefur, or Krissy Giovannini.

Scott Thatcher attended the Presbytery meeting on August 23 via Zoom. A joy for our congregation was the installation of Susan Presley as pastor in Mexico, Missouri.

The report from General Assembly contained a vote in favor of defining Israeli practices toward the Palestinian people as fulfilling the legal definition of apartheid, a vote to divest from some oil and gas companies, a litany of repentance related to slavery and race, a vote to work toward faith-based advocacy against gun violence, endorsement of family leave, a vote to declare the PC(USA) a "sanctuary and accompaniment" church with respect to immigration, a vote to reject "attempts at all levels of government to reduce, limit, or eliminate access to contraceptive and abortion care", creation of a LGBTQIA+ equity advocacy committee, and a vote to set the new per capita at \$9.85 per member in 2023 and \$9.80 per member in 2024 (up from \$8.98 currently, and an increase, followed by a decrease). The report from our Presbytery representatives to the General Assembly expressed the sentiment that topics considered by the General Assembly did not address their concerns as small rural churches, and furthermore may make it more difficult for them to attract members from their communities.

There will be a fall Presbytery youth retreat on November 5, 2022 in Jefferson City. Sami Shirk will be serving as our Elder Commissioner to the next Presbytery meeting in November. Ask her or Pastor Josh if you're interested in a report on what's happened after that

Meeting!

The PYF event with the Methodist youth was a big hit. Operation J.O.Y. has been meeting on Thursday, and they might also join up with the Methodists. More events are planned!

From Budget & Finance, we are continuing to run with expenses greater than income, with this month's difference of about \$5000/month average. This is in line with the amount identified in the budget at the beginning of the year for income from "as-yet-unknown" sources.

A note on security: One of the cars in the parking lot was broken into during the day on a weekday during the prior month. It's always good to be conscious of security when parking anywhere.

The Outreach Committee would like us to be aware that the Outreach Committee needs more members. Currently, Jeanne and Brenda are the only members after other members have moved on to other work.

The Westminster Task Force has begun work, touring Westminster House and starting to obtain bids. The Task Force will be assembling a list of various options for the property, to be presented to Session. Input is always welcome.

Session is considering the feedback generated at the end of summer about service time and other ways to become a more welcoming church. Stay tuned for more information in the coming Weeks.

A few Ways to help the Community this Month:

Pantry for Adair County

Sept 23- Oct 14 Pantry for Adair County is holding a food drive. Community members can drop off food donations at collection barrels located at the Adair County Public Library, City Hall and Hyvee.

Catapoolaza: Saturday October 8, 10:30 til close. Adoptable cats at the library from local rescues. Info and virtual speakers on becoming a foster parent for cats and dogs of Adair County.



It's a great time to be involved at the Clothes Closet! Donations continue to come in and are beginning to fill the empty spaces. Following our switch over to fall and winter clothes our numbers have increased yet again with new families coming each week. The hoodies have been a big hit as usual. We recently had a table at the Chamber's New Student Welcome and greeted over 300 students to our community by giving out laundry detergent.

Free Laundry Day is going well and is on the calendar for the third Saturday afternoon each month at Scrubby Duds. We thank Sarah Berke, Anne Beard, ,Colleen Primmer, Lynn VanDolah and Brenda Martin for helping make that happen. It's amazing what a handful of quarters and two hours of your time can do to help you learn about your community. We have visited with a truckdriver, students, a mother of 5 very young children, people with: clothes from a flooded basement, broken washing machines, no washing machines, no hot water and a grandmother who may be a volunteer at our next Laundry Day.

It's time again for the Community Connect event at the Moose Lodge. If you are interested in helping us hand out socks on Friday, October 7, anytime between 10:00 and 3:00 please let Brenda Martin know.

With the changing of the temperatures outside people are beginning to inquire about blankets. Our annual bedding event is coming up the last Saturday of October and we will be starting to sort through the mountain of sheets and blankets we have received. Volunteers to help sort before, or work that morning, would be greatly appreciated!

Community Mission is once again hosting the Take One/Leave One community coat rack this winter and it will be going out at the end of October. Coats, gloves, hats and scarves are always needed and may be dropped off at the church anytime.

Find time to join us sometime.
Brenda





Your MUP coordinating team

Presbyterian Women want to thank everyone who helped with Jan's birthday celebration. We especially thank the youth (and their parents) who came to help clean up and put everything back afterward. We couldn't have done it without you.

In October, Sabbath and Creation is the key idea. Sabbath celebration is something that God has built into the structure of creation. Receiving this gift is part of what deepens our friendship with God, others, and the rest of creation.

Peace and Justice Calendar for October
Domestic Violence Awareness Month
Fair Trade Month
2--World Communion Sunday
9--Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday
11--International Day of the Girl Child
11--National Coming Out Day
11--National Indigenous Peoples' Day
16--World Food Day
24--United Nations Day



Birthdays and Anniversaries

October Birthdays

10/2 Hattie Berke
10/3 Audrey Sandefur
10/16 Sami Shirk
10/20 Garrett Elam
10/21 Dustin Hamilton
10/24 Jocelyn Prendergast
10/26 Carla Marmolejo
10/29 Nicole Marshall

October Anniversaries

10/24 Todd and Susan Dublin
10/31 Micheal and Jaimee Miller

November Birthdays

Brenda Martin – 11/2
Charles Giovannini – 11/3
Anastasia McKenna - 11/3
Diane Baer – 11/4
Robert Baer – 11/8
Elliott Sandefur – 11/8
Lynn Van Dolah – 11/12
Mason Krebs – 11/19
Ian Sandefur – 11/20



Presbyterian Youth Fun!!!





Youth Group Trip to Scotty's Fun Spot in Quincy!



October CALENDAR

October 1: Clothes Closet open (10-12 pm)

October 2: Worship in person or Online (9:30 am) Fellowship and Sunday School to follow

Bell Choir Practice (11-12 pm)

PYF: Trip to Scotty's (Leave at 12 and return 5ish)

October 3: Christian Education Meeting (5:30- 6:30 pm)

October 4: Clothes Closet open (1-3 pm)

Deacon's Meeting (6-7 pm)

Outreach Meeting (6:30-7:30 pm)

October 5: Choir Practice (6-7 pm)

October 5: Operation JOY

October 7: Intergenerational Game Night (7 pm)

October 8: Clothes Closet open (10-12)

October 9: Worship in person or Online (9:30 am) Fellowship and Sunday School to follow

Bell Choir Practice (11-12 pm)

PYF: FPC to Urban Gardens Pumpkin Patch (4-5:30)

October 10: Budget and Finance Meeting (5-6 pm)

October 11: Clothes Closet Open (1-3 pm)

Session Meeting (7-9 pm)

October 12: Choir Practice (6-7 pm)

October 13: Operation Joy

October 15: Clothes Closet open (10-12)

October 16: Worship in person or Online (9:30 am) Fellowship and Sunday School to follow

Bell Choir Practice (11-12 pm)

PYF: FPC Movie Night (6-7:30 pm)

October 18: Clothes Closet open (1-3)

October 19: Choir Practice (6-7 pm)

October 20: Operation Joy

October 22: Clothes Closet open (10-12)

October 23: Worship in person or Online (9:30 am) Fellowship and Sunday School to follow. Bell Choir Practice (11-12 pm)

PYF: FPC to Truman Romans and Christians (6-8 pm)

October 25: Clothes Closet open (1-3 pm)

October 26: Choir Practice (6-7 pm)

October 27: Operation Joy

October 29: Clothes Closet open (10-12 pm)

October 30: Worship in person or Online (9:30 am) Fellowship and Sunday School to follow. Bell Choir Practice (11-12 pm)

PYF: Halloween Fun

Be on the lookout for info on walking in the Truman parade and a table at Halloweentown with our youth! God Bless!