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KIRKSVILLE, MO

AUGUST 2023

the Lantern

First Presbyterian Church



FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

Sharing Our Gifts

This last month I had the opportunity to go on the Missouri Union Presbytery Youth Mission trip to the Quad Cities. On our mission trip we were all given a devotional and one morning our Scripture reading included Romans 12:4-8 that says:

"For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness."

As I mentioned in a recent sermon, our service on the mission trip mostly involved helping an organization that operated these mini-nursing home facilities for residents with severe disabilities and memory care issues. We didn't come into contact with the residents much. As our orientation explained, this was for safety because their residents can become dangerous if they are upset or excited. We did see them a bit however.

One resident that joined us while we were cleaning the main living spaces was named Julie. Julie was in a motorized wheelchair. She couldn't speak well at all because her tongue was very swollen. Julie had a happy demeanor and seemed to enjoy being in the midst of our slightly chaotic energy as we had young people moving furniture, vacuuming carpet, scrubbing baseboards, and mopping the floors. At this point in the week the kids had become more familiar with one another and were comfortable teasing each other as they went about their work. Julie would laugh along with them as they poked fun at one another. The workers told us that was how Julie always was. She was always happy.

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As I was reflecting on how I could connect our day to our Scripture reading later that day, I thought back to Julie. What gift has God given someone like Julie as a member of the body? I think if I was bound to a wheelchair and couldn't communicate my desires to others, it would be a real struggle for me. I think it would be hard for me to find joy and happiness to share with others. We could be skeptical and say that her happiness despite her challenging circumstances is a symptom of her condition. But what if it's not? What if it's a choice? What if it's Julie sharing her gift of cheerfulness with the body? How much better does that make everyone else's day who takes care of her needs? You could see in the employees' interactions that they appreciated this gift that Julie gave to them and the love they shared.

For me, I think Julie's gift does something else. It raises the bar for us who have been given so much more. We who have the ability to not only take care of our own needs but the ability to care for others as well have a responsibility to do so. Stewardship is more than tithing. It's using all the gifts God has given us to serve the body of Christ's church. Without each member sharing the gifts we have been given, the body doesn't function as it should. Each one of us has a gift that can be shared and a responsibility to the body.

Peace,

Pastor Josh



Session Notes

- Approved West Entrance project
- Approved installation of two security cameras--one on south side of church and one on east side
- Renewed contracts for pianist and choir director
- Approved \$500 benevolence for Gracelynn Ivy-Marie Jefferson



Clothes Closet

A big thank you to those who have given your time to help at the Clothes Closet. It has been a relief for our weary volunteers to have more people involved. Fall is almost here and that means the Closet leaves the building and goes out into the community. Our first outing will be at the Back to School event on August 1 where we will offer socks for school aged children and youth. Plans are beginning for the Student Welcome event in September for college aged students. Then socks will be gathered up once again for the Community Connect event in October.

Along with the community events we will need to switch seasons for fall/winter in the Clothes Closet. Jeans and hoodies will be the focus for the cooler months, then our annual blanket event is happening in October, a coat event (date to be determined) is next and of course our Christmas Shoppe in December.

There are many upcoming opportunities for willing hands and we look forward to seeing some of you at one, or more of them.

Brenda



[FIND OUT MORE](#)



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will start their new year August 17 at the home of Margaret Ferrell. This year we're studying Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts.

Lesson One: Elizabeth's Sacred Encounter taken from Luke 1: 1-24; 39-45. The main idea is that God calls us to make ourselves available for God's purpose.

PEACE AND JUSTICE CALENDAR

6 - HIROSHIMA DAY
9 - INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE WORLD'S
INDIGENOUS PEOPLES
15 - DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE
PEACEFUL/REUNIFICATION OF THE
KOREAN PENINSULA
19 - WORLD HUMANITIES DAY
20 - PUBLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY

Outreacch Committee

The Outreach committee needs your help. It's more than just the Clothes Closet. It's ways of reaching out to help our community, creating bonds with other churches and organizations.

The Clothes Closet lets us clean out our dressers and closets while helping others prepare for school or prepare for a new job. Community Meals provided a warm, nutritious meal for our neighbors.

We are always looking for new ideas and suggestions for ways to help our community but we need your help. Please call Jeanne North or email: jeannenorth523@yahoo.com OR 660-956-5251



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Paul Yoder – 8/1
 Lisa Ahrens – 8/3
 Kaitlyn Summers – 8/5
 Samantha Gran – 8/6
 John Bryant – 8/9
 Mary Elam – 8/20
 Thomas Thatcher – 8/20
 Joel Cagle – 8/22
 Josh McKenna – 8/23
 Curran Prendergast – 8/23
 Bryan Collier – 8/27
 Miles Krebs – 8/28

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Dale & Barbara Stone – 8/6
 Mark & Lynn Van Dolah – 8/10
 Jonathan & Nicole Summers – 8/11
 Dustin & Courtney Hamilton – 8/13
 Charles & Mary Giovannini – 8/17
 Charles & Christine Gran – 8/23

Deacon Corner

Come As You Are Friendship Hour at Hardees – A summertime weekly Friendship Hour every Thursday at 9:30 AM at Hardee's. All are welcome, come as you are, enjoy conversation with friends, old and new. This is a project of the Deacons in partnership with First United Methodist and Trinity Episcopal.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

AUGUST 27 CHURCH WORSHIP AND PICNIC AT THE POINT, THOUSAND HILLS STATE PARK

Bring your lawn chair, water bottle, a hat, and a dish to share.
Meat and table service provided.

Family Greeters needed for August

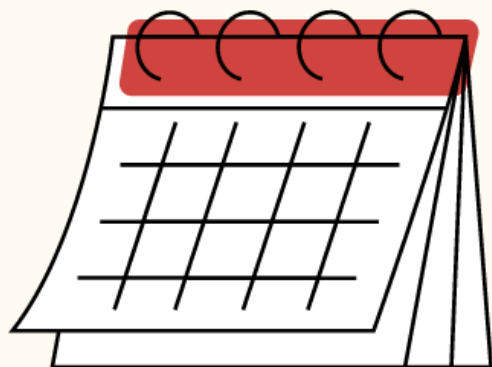
Bring the whole family to greet worshippers and handout bulletins.
Sign up for Sundays in August [here](#).



Ready, Set, Move!



Church Calendar



8/1 @ 1:30-3:30 pm - Clothes Closet
 @ 5:15 pm - Deacon's Meeting
 @ 6:30 pm Outreach Committee Meeting

8/3 @ 9:30 am - Friendship Hour

8/5 @ 10 am-12 pm - Clothes Closet

8/6 @ 9:30 am - Worship Service
 @ 10:30 am - Fellowship Time
 @ 11 am - Sunday School

8/8 @ 1:30-3:30 pm - Clothes Closet
 @ 7 pm - Session Meeting

8/10 @ 9:30 am - Friendship Hour

8/12 @ 10 am-12 pm - Clothes Closet

8/13 @ 9:30 am - Worship Service
 @ 10:30 am - Fellowship Time
 @ 11 am - Sunday School

8/15 @ 1:30-3:30 pm - Clothes Closet

8/17 @ 9:30 am - Friendship Hour

8/19 @ 10 am-12 pm - Clothes Closet

8/20 @ 9:30 am - Worship Service
 @ 10:30 am - Fellowship Time
 @ 11 am - Sunday School
 @ 6 pm - PYF

8/22 @ 1:30-3:30 pm - Clothes Closet

8/24 @ 9:30 am - Friendship Hour

8/26 @ 10 am-12 pm - Clothes Closet

8/27 @ 9:30 am - Worship & Picnic at the Point -
 Thousand Hills State Park
 @ 6:00 pm - PYF

8/29 @ 1:30-3:30 pm - Clothes Closet

8/31 @ 9:30 am - Friendship Hour

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