

THE PRESBYTERIAN PERSPECTIVE

First Presbyterian Church
(636) 583-3555

105 E. Main, Union, MO 63084

church2@fpcunionmo.com

<http://www.fpcunionmo.com>

M A R C H 2010

Dear Friends,

We will spend this month in Lent. Does that mean that we will live differently in the month of March? Have you taken on a new spiritual discipline? Have you given up a favorite something? How's it going? It is always hard to make changes in our lives. Will these changes continue after the celebration of Easter?

The Session will spend time this month looking at scripture, praying and then reflecting by journaling. The purpose of this new experience for them is to discern the future of the Presbytery. Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery went through a major refocus about ten years ago. Now it is time to look again and see what is working and what is not working. We believe that God can guide us into the future that will be filled with important ministry.

In order to find where God is guiding, every Elder is asked to spend ten days in a row praying, reading a specific scripture passage and then answering some questions. Our session's answers will be compiled into one response and sent back to presbytery. Our responses will be then compared with all the other church's responses. This will then inform the future direction of the ministry of the presbytery.

The Church continues to go through a time of significant change. We are in the midst of a huge reformation of the church and how we accomplish the ministry to which God calls us. It is said that the Church goes through a major change every five hundred years; the Reformation, the first split of the church into Roman Catholic and Eastern Orthodox. This period of time usually lasts 150 years. This current shift in the church was first noticed in 1968, but began before that. We won't know what will be the result of this time of change. Does it help to know that it is not just us that are searching for the answer? That it is not just this congregation, or the PCUSA, or the Christian Church that is searching for the future? Can we walk into the future following God, trusting that God has a future for us and for the Church? Are we all praying for direction and guidance as we move each day into a new future?

As a congregation, we have made some significant changes over the years, and we cannot stop making changes. We are going to have to make some decisions about worship and how we continue to worship together. There has not been the response we had prayed for to our evening service. The Session will be discerning what our next steps will be in the next few months. We have tried many ways to reach the community. There are plans underway for inviting the community to participate in the life of our congregation.

I have been learning more about the internet and how growing Presbyterian Churches are using Facebook, meetup.com and other sites to invite the community to events. Talking with people from the community, I have learned more about what people are looking for and how we may be able to respond.

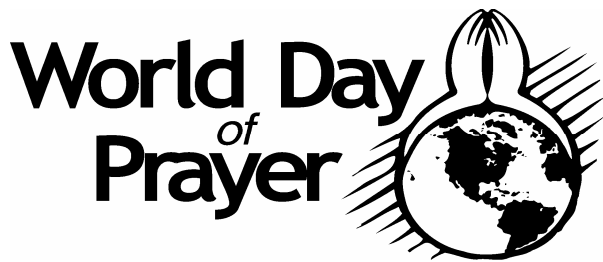
We have begun the Welcoming Table and have consistently had eight to twelve members of the community come to dinner. This week we are beginning to personally invite people to come. The hope is that more people come. We are also beginning to invite other groups from the community to participate with us in this mission project.

The Presbyterian Women are having another fashion show and brunch. This was very well attended and very much enjoyed the first time. On May 1 we will see wedding fashions through the last century. Of course there will be awesome food and great fellowship. This is an opportunity to invite others to our church.

The youth have expressed an interest in having a movie and game night to invite their friends to here at the church. Plans are beginning to have it on Thursday, March 18, 3:30 to 8:00. There will be movies, board games, music, food and lots of fun.

I think that the only thing that isn't changing is me talking about change. We change by taking risks, trying new things, stopping things that aren't working. We find direction for all these changes by praying together, learning about opportunities, and talking together. Please share in all these activities, pray, learn and talk. Blessings as you continue your Lenten journey to Easter!

Grace and peace, Linda



Friday, March 5th, 7:30 pm

World Day of Prayer is Friday, March 5, at 7:30 PM at the Presbyterian Church in Washington. The theme for this year is "Let Everything that has Breath Praise God." The service was written by women of Cameroon, Africa. Cameroon is located in the center of Africa's west coast, resting just above the equator. The speaker will be Sheila Bleckman and the music will be led by Paige Byrne Shortal and a Combined Choir Ensemble. World Day of Prayer is sponsored by Church Women United.

Members Participate in the PCUSA at the national level

Three or four of our high school youth will be attending the Presbyterian Youth Triennium at Purdue this summer. July 20 -24 the youth will travel with other youth from our presbytery to Purdue. There they will be with 3000 other Presbyterian youth. During their time at this event they will hear great music, awesome speakers, and participate in small groups. In the next few months they will have several fund raising events to help cover their costs of attending. The cost for each young person is \$500 and includes all their expenses.

Also this summer Pastor Linda will be one of the six Commissioners from Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery to General Assembly. This meeting will be held in Minneapolis, July 3-11. At this meeting the issues before the church will be discussed and decisions will be made about how we will move into the future.

Youth Game and Movie Night

Begin spring break having fun together! Thursday, March 18th, the youth of our church and their friends are invited to a game and movie night. There will be a couple of movies, board games, video games, food, and fun.

The cost will be \$3.00 per person. We will begin right after school and end at 8:00. It will be a great time to hang out with friends and have fun.

Holy Week and Easter Worship

We will begin Holy Week with worship on Palm Sunday, March 28th. At both worship services we will remember the day that Jesus came into Jerusalem riding on a donkey and how that event changed everything. We will receive palm branches and wave them with celebration as we begin worship and by the end we will start the journey toward the cross.

There will also be a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast at the church on Palm Sunday from 8:30-9:30 AM, sponsored by the Deacons.

On Maundy Thursday, April 1st we will gather for worship at 7:00 to remember Jesus and his disciples in the upper room, Jesus arrest, trial, and crucifixion. The mood for this worship experience is quite and introspective.

It is an important experience before the joyful worship experience of Easter.

This Easter we will combine the morning and evening worship services for worship at 10:15. The music will be a combination of organ, piano, band and choir. It will be a joyful celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Following worship there will be an Easter Egg hunt for the children. Invite your friends to celebrate this special day with us.

It was voted after a motion by Chris Brown to allow a sale of close-out prom dresses at our church the end of February. **It was voted** after a motion by Jim Shollenberger to mail a letter to other churches and community groups asking for help with the Welcoming Table meals. **It was voted** after a motion by Jim Shollenberger to approve Rev. Maconochie leave to attend a Stewardship Conference, March 15 - 17, Monday through Wednesday.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women will meet on Friday, March 19th at Dorothy Clarkson's home. The Bible Study will be led by Martha Ann Holtgrieve.

There will be a work day at Church at 9:00 AM on Friday, March 12 to prepare items for our May 1 Carolyn Miller presentation.

There will be a Church Women United committee meeting for Tuesday, March 16, at our church at 1:00 PM.

Spring Gathering will be held on April 16 at First Presbyterian Church in Kirkwood, MO. Details will follow.

Save the Date: On May 1, at 9:30 AM, there will be a Brunch and Vintage Wedding Gowns program by Carolyn Miller of Sedalia.

Thanks to all who donated to the 45 Health Kits that were bagged to send to Haiti. There were extra combs, soap, toothbrushes and bandages, which we contributed to a St. Louis church that is packaging Health Kits during Lent. PW contributed \$42 to Church World Service, which is seeing to the shipping of these kits.

ACCOUNTS have been established at two resale consignment shops in Washington, MO, to sell some of the items that were unsold. If you would like to sell something at these shops for the church, here is some information:

The Shop Around the Corner is located at 1920 E. 5th St. Clothing must be on hangers, clean with no tears or stains. Spring and Summer items will be accepted for review after February. Commission to the church is 50% of the items' sold prices. Home decor and household items are also accepted. They should be clean and in good shape. Toys must have working batteries. Large furniture pieces are also accepted, but the shop would like to be advised in advance. Stuffed animals are NOT accepted. Drop hours are M-F 9:00AM-5:00PM., Sat. until 1:00PM. Their phone number is 636-390-2900.

That 1 Shop in Washington Square Shopping Center by Dollar General will accept items M-Sat 9:30-6:30PM. Drop-off is to be made at the rear door in the corner. Fifteen pieces of clothing, which must be neatly folded, wrinkle-free, no tears or stains and 20 misc. items that are clean will be accepted for review. Stuffed animals are NOT accepted. Their phone number is 636-239-5991. Please contact Georgia Paulus or Dorothy Clarkson for the account numbers, or with any questions. Thanks for your support!

ALIVE (Alternatives to Living in Violent Environments) is looking for volunteers to act as receptionists in their office in Union. The office hours are 9 a.m. through 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. The number of hours worked and schedule would be up to the volunteer. Please call 583-9863 for further information.

THANK YOU from the Society of St. Vincent DePaul:

Thank you for the assistance to the poor in our community from your deacon's fund. It has been a pleasure to share this effort in 2009. May God bless you in this new year!

THANK YOU to those who have donated to the Welcoming Table fund to buy food for our dinners for the community.

MARCH USHER LIST

March 7 Jackie Jany, Coralie Lippold
March 14 Sarah Hinson, Candy Ronsick
March 21 Phil Clarkson, Jim Mechem
March 28 Myron and Carol Gruber

MARCH FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

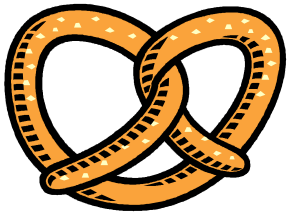
March 7 Carole and Dutch Hutchinson
March 14 Jim and Cheryl Shollenberger
March 21 Keith Goers, Maconochies
March 28 Dale and Georgia Paulus

FEBRUARY ATTENDANCE

Average February 2009: 67
Average February 2010: 52

FEBRUARY OFFERING

Feb. 7	\$2323.98
Feb. 14	\$1605.00
Feb. 21	\$1090.86
Feb. 28	\$2306.00



Pretzels for Lent

Making pretzels is a very old Lenten tradition. There is a legend that a monk who made the altar bread had some dough left over. He shaped it into arms crossed in prayer and gave them to children to remind them to pray. The breads were called *bracellae* which means “little arms.” From this we get the German word “pretzel.” Lent is a time of prayer – make pretzels together as a family reminder of God’s arms hugging us as we fold our hands or arms in prayer.

Pretzel Recipe: Dissolve 1 pkg. of dried yeast in 1½ cups (375mL) of warm water. Stir in 1 Tbsp. of sugar and ½ teas. of salt. Blend in 4 cups of flour and knead until the dough is smooth and shiny. Roll dough into thin ropes (of uniform thickness) and twist into pretzel shapes. Arrange on a greased cookie sheet. Brush pretzels with beaten egg and sprinkle a little coarse salt on them. Bake at 425° F (220° C) for 12-15 minutes or until golden brown.



A Lenten Prayer

(Begin the prayer with a moment of silence, as we gather in a time of peaceful quietness with God. With younger children you might learn a line of this prayer each week and add on new lines in subsequent weeks.)

Loving God, we face questions and temptations. Guide us in your way.
Sheltering God, we are in your hands. Hold us gently.
Patient God, you care for us and tend us. Help us to bear fruit for you.
Companion God, we walk your Lenten path. Walk beside us as a friend on the way.
Generous God, your love pours out upon us. Help us to share your gifts.
Passionate God, the way of love and justice is sometimes hard and risky. Help us to trust in you. Amen.



17 Mel and Eula Goers

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Scott Cole
- 11 Carole Hutchinson
- 16 Sarah Van
- 17 Michael Murray, Mel Goers
- 28 Lee Hinson

Mark Your Calendars !

**March 28th Palm Sunday
Sausage & Pancake Breakfast,
8:30-9:30
Served buffet style
Free Will Offering**

Sponsored by The Deacons

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

105 East Main Street

Union, MO 63084

www.fpcunionmo.com church2@fpcunionmo.com

Reverend Linda Maconochie, Pastor





Prayer Calendar

*the Session encourages you to join in daily prayer
for those of our congregation and for concerns we share*

March 1	pray for	Scott Cole (birthday); our Deacons
March 2	pray for	our Choir and Denise Baldwin, Director
March 3	pray for	our minister, Reverend Linda Maconochie
March 4	pray for	our Session, meeting this evening
March 5	pray for	those who gather for the World Day of Prayer service
March 6	pray for	farmers and growers
March 7	pray for	those unable to worship today with us
March 8	pray for	someone struggling to know what to do
March 9	pray for	health care professionals
March 10	pray for	our children and grandchildren
March 11	pray for	Carole Hutchinson (birthday)
March 12	pray for	fellowship at the all-church cleaning day tomorrow
March 13	pray for	Marie Adams (birthday)
March 14	pray for	a welcoming spirit for all who enter to worship
March 15	pray that	you take time to smile and say 'Thank You'
March 16	pray for	Sarah Van (birthday)
March 17	pray for	Mel Goers, Michael Murray (birthdays) Eula and Mel Goers (anniversary)
March 18	pray for	a listening ear
March 19	pray for	patience when dealing with others
March 20	pray for	the Food Pantry Board and its recipients
March 21	pray for	warm spring-like weather
March 22	pray that	we remember those suffering during One Great Hour of Sharing
March 23	pray for	our families living in another state/country
March 24	pray for	those struggling with the poor economy and/or out of work
March 25	pray for	those who are ill
March 26	pray for	PW Bible Study
March 27	pray for	nurses and doctors
March 28	pray for	a successful Palm Sunday breakfast TODAY
March 29	pray that	we show kindness to others each day
March 30	pray for	God's presence in all that we do to serve him
March 31	pray for	a generous spirit

*If we have omitted you, we're sorry. Please call the office
or leave a note on the secretary's desk.*

March 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 <i>Welcoming Table</i> Set-up 5:00 PM, Meal 6:00-7:00 PM	3 <i>Choir Practice</i> 6:30 PM	4 Session 7:00 PM	5 <i>World Day of Prayer</i> Washington Presbyterian Church 7:00 PM	6
7 <i>Communion Worship</i> 10:15 AM & 6:00 PM Sunday School 6:45 Deacon's Meeting	8	9 <i>Welcoming Table</i> Set-up 5:00 PM, Meal 6:00-7:00 PM	10	11	12 <i>PW Work Day for</i> Carolyn Miller Presentation 9:00 AM	13 <i>Men's Fellowship</i> 8:00 AM <i>All-Church Cleaning</i> 9:00 AM
14 <i>Worship 10:15 AM</i> & 6:00 PM Sunday School 6:45	15	16 <i>Church Women United</i> 1:00 PM <i>Welcoming Table Set-up</i> 5:00 PM, Meal 6:00-7:00 PM	17 <i>Choir Practice</i> 6:30 PM	18 <i>Youth Game and</i> <i>Movie Night</i> 8:00 PM	19 <i>PW Bible Study</i> 9:00 AM	20
21 <i>Worship 10:15 AM</i> & 6:00 PM Sunday School 6:45	22	23 <i>Welcoming Table</i> Set-up 5:00 PM, Meal 6:00-7:00 PM	24	25	26	27
28 <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>Pancake Breakfast</i> <i>Worship 10:15 AM &</i> <i>6:00 PM</i> Sunday School 6:45	29	30 <i>Welcoming Table</i> Set-up 5:00 PM, Meal 6:00-7:00 PM	31			