



church matters

Monthly Newsletter

Official Newsletter of the First Presbyterian Church of Ferguson- Faith in Ferguson

WELCOME FEBRUARY!

Friends,

I want to take a moment to thank all of you for your prayers and action in calling our new Designated Co-Pastor. The vote was unanimous and our candidate and his wife were quite touched by those who said YES! The journey that this church began on January 28, 1871 is still alive! One hundred fifty years ago, 9 people, stepped out in faith and planted the seeds for a new community of faith to emerge and here we are.

Much has changed during that 150 years, which has challenged this church to respond to the Gospel in new ways that were aligned with the values that we have in our spiritual DNA today.

The journey wasn't always easy, nor was it without controversy, yet Ferguson Presbyterian resisted being defined by its troubles and sought out the Spirit of Truth and Forgiveness, overcoming its "demons", in order to fulfill its commitment to the Gospel. There will be similar challenges before us, but I am confident that the old Spiritual: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" will be our prayer. "I want Jesus to walk with me. (and just to be sure they meant it, they sang it again) I want Jesus to walk with me, all along my pilgrim journey. Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me!" You are a group of people that I am proud to sing this song with.

As some of you may have already experienced, it is crazy getting your name in the queue to receive your COVID-19 shots. If you are having troubles you can check with your physician, or a hospital that you have been to before and has your medical records is a great resource. Those of you who are Veterans, the VA has ramped up to give shots, and also you can sign up on the St Louis County Health website. If you are having trouble navigating websites or on-line resources, contact the church and Karen Schriefer or myself can walk you through it or help you to register if you do not have internet access.

'Let's get vaccinated and help stop the spread of this virus.

Thank you for your role in helping this church live out its calling and mission in Ferguson and the world.

Peace,

Mike

Please remember, for the safety of the community, we are continuing to practice physical distancing, mask wearing, and good hygiene practices.

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Worship Schedule

We are currently live streaming our Sunday Worship Services and offering online services.

- **10:10 am CST- Facebook Live**
- **TBA- Children's Service**
- **6:00 pm CST- Evening Service**



Programs

We are also including small group programs all throughout the week.



faithinfergusonmo.online.church/

WORSHIP YOUR WAY

We are so excited to enter the new year with new possibilities. However, due to the limited capacity restrictions, we are unable to invite everyone in the sanctuary to worship.

Don't worry! We are offering many different online options so you can worship your way.

From Facebook Live services to children's services we now offer many different service times to all you to participate in our online community.

Our busy schedules and the need to adjust to the current pandemic situation can make attending worship service a bit tricky. We are here to support and nurture you.

***The Church is not a building,
we are the Church!***



FAITH FINDERS: ADVENTURES FOR KIDS

**FAITH
finders**



Are you missing
Sunday School?
So are we!



Faith Finders is a community of our youngest members on their own adventure seeking out understanding and the meaning of God's love.

Through different programs and experiences, these children will grow in Jesus Christ and the church.

As we prepare for Lent and Easter, we will have new activities, presentations, games, and music to get us back in the swing of things. Although we are unable to meet in the building, stay tuned for our online classes.

Join us online each week to experience age-appropriate services and programs to support growth in our faith.

faithinfergusonmo.online.church



CALLING ALL READERS!

Did you know the church has a book club?

Everyone is welcome. Here are the details:

- First Tuesday of the Month (March through December)
- 7:00 pm in the Church's Memorial Lounge
- Bring your own snacks and drinks

Memorial Lounge is large enough for us to maintain physical distance so we currently plan to meet in person for the first book club of 2021 on Tuesday, March 2 to discuss the book, *A Universe Less Traveled*, by Eric Von Schroeder. Please contact Karen Schriefer at 314-522-6842 or karen.schriefer@att.net if you have any questions.



BELL CHOIR UPDATE

As we prepare for the Easter season, Bell Choir rehearsals will begin on Monday, February 15, 2021 at 10:30 AM until Noon. The rehearsals will continue from March until Easter. We welcome back Karen Strickfaden, Sue Knape and Hans Knape! If you are interested in joining the Bell Choir, contact Becky Combs at rebeccaJeancombs@gmail.com.



Per Capita

Per capita is an opportunity for all members of the Presbyterian church to participate equally, responsibly and interdependently by sharing the cost of co-ordination and evaluation of mission and of performing ecclesiastical, legislative, and judicial functions that identify a Reformed Church, while at the same time strengthening the sense of community among all Presbyterians.

Each member is asked to share in paying their Per Capita apportionment, \$32.00 (same amount as last year) per member in 2021. This breaks down to \$20.15 for Presbytery, \$2.90 for Synod and \$8.95 for GA.

You may pay your Per Capita by clearly earmarking your payment of cash or check for 'Per Capita' and mailing it to the church. Thank you for supporting the benefits of being a connectional church.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Save the date for the 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women!

The 2021 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women is planned for August 5-8, 2021, in St. Louis, Missouri. #PWGathering #2021ChurchwideGathering

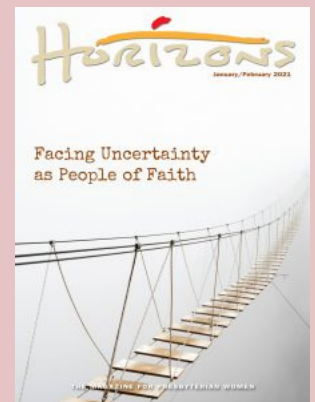


REFLECTING ON THE THEME

"Rejoice in Hope" is the theme of the Gathering, based on Romans 12:12-13, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers."

This month's reflection is from a unique, but likely familiar, source—the January/February 2021 issue of Horizons magazine!* The theme of this issue is "Facing Uncertainty as People of Faith."

Reflecting on the topic for "About This Issue," PW's managing editor Sharon Dunne Gillies wrote, "Although not a welcome lesson, the last year has given us the opportunity to, at least, accept how much we don't know. We've learned how to keep moving forward and (re)learned what gives us strength. As people of faith, our strength is from God, Emmanuel, who is always with us, always listening to our prayers—our prayers for healing, relief, justice, reform, wisdom and strength."



Hope is our inheritance. Let us remain steadfast in our resolve to rejoice in hope.

**Subscribe by April 1, 2021 to receive the 2021-2022 PW/Horizons Bible study, What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus by Meryll Blair as part of your subscription.*

To receive the Presbyterian Women newsletter visit their website.

<https://www.presbyterianwomen.org/>



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Ken Mohesky & Garry Wade
- 3 – Nancy Tempel
- 5 – John Lipka
- 11 – Karen Rybacki
- 18 – Caroline Cobb & Charlie Woods
- 20 – Adam Koser, Robert Rybacki & Russ Watts
- 25 – George Vrabel
- 27- Rachel Foster

If someone's birthday is missing or incorrect, please; let the office know.



**First Presbyterian
Church of Ferguson**

401 Darst Rd, Ferguson, MO 63135

(314) 522-8542

fergpres@gmail.com

faithinferguson.org



faithinfergusonmo.online.church

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Mike Trautman

Minister

Rebecca Combs

Music Director

Marcia Key

Office Administrator

Lee Weltmer

Treasurer

John Shugert

Financial Recorder

LaHaji Thomas

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Susan Owens

Nursery Supervisor

Rachel Foster

Web Developer