



church matters

Monthly Newsletter

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

THE POWER OF CHANGE

Family and Friends,

I think of a splendid quote by Sarah Guillory as we begin the month of October.

“October had tremendous possibility. The summer's oppressive heat was a distant memory, and the golden leaves promised the world full of beautiful adventures. They made me believe in miracles.”

The weather is changing. Our wardrobes are changing from summer to fall. Our schedules will change as we fallback an hour. Our families are changing. Change is all around us. It is seen in every part of our lives. One thing that is permanent about life is change.

Our faith community here at First Presbyterian is part of the reality of change. We are changing and will continue to change as we seek to be God's hands in our community.

I want to share with you a new series of messages called “Four Ways to Change Your World.” I will convey in these messages the great power to change that we all embody. We can change ourselves. We can help change our physical environment. We can foster change in someone's life. We can support change in the dynamics of our community. Yes, We Can! I will also offer practical ways of being the change that is needed or desired.

Some change is painfully difficult. It is not easy. We remember those who are sick and challenged in our church family. They are in our prayers. We also remember those who have received their heavenly reward. We grieve with the families, and we pray for them.

Lastly, change is exciting. Please join us on Sunday, October 31, 2021, for our Pumpkin Hunt & Community Day, 1-4 pm. We are extremely excited for this opportunity of reach out to our kids and community with a fun day of food, games, and prizes. We need volunteers and candy for this amazing day. Please contact an elder or the church office on how to help.

Many Blessings to you and yours,
Rev. Dr. Kerry Allison



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Visit the website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube for all of the latest updates!



CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

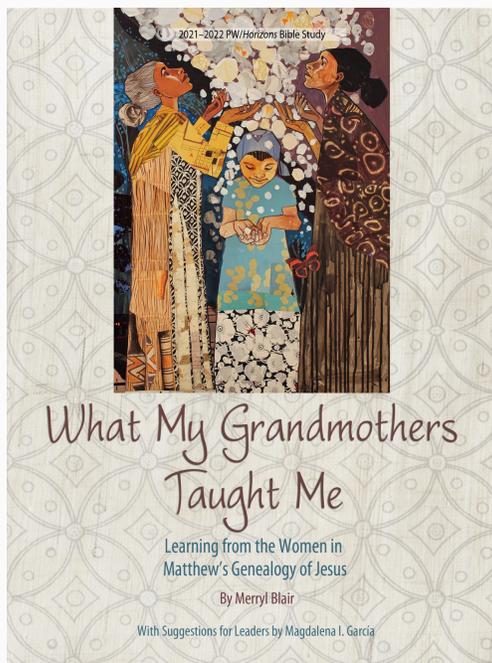
We are so excited to have this Fall opportunity to go out interact with the community and introduce our new pastor, Dr. Kerry Allison!



Please join us, **Sunday, October 31st, from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm** for our first Pumpkin Hunt and Community Day. There will be games, prizes, food, music, candy, fun, and so much more. This is an opportunity for us to get together and celebrate the season and grow and connect as a church family.

This is not an exclusive event, so please invite the whole family, friends, and everyone you know for a great time!

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY EVENTS (CONT.)



Presbyterian Women Bible Study Beginning September 30, 2021

The Presbyterian Women of Giddings Lovejoy are planning to offer a Bible Study from Horizons – What My Grandmothers taught me, The Women in the Genealogy of Jesus. Some of those grandmothers include Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary.

The study will be via Zoom and begin later in September, with one study per month for 9 months. If you are interested in the study, please contact Cheryl Rainey (Click Here), and study guides/books will be ordered. We hope you will try to join us and others from around the Presbytery for this study.

The first meeting will be on Thursday, September 30 at 12:30. After that, the study will be held at 10:30 am, on the fourth Thursday of each month, led by Cheryl Rainey and Rev. Dr. Aline Russell. Aline may be reached by email at alinegrussell@gmail.com or by calling (618) 531-6341.

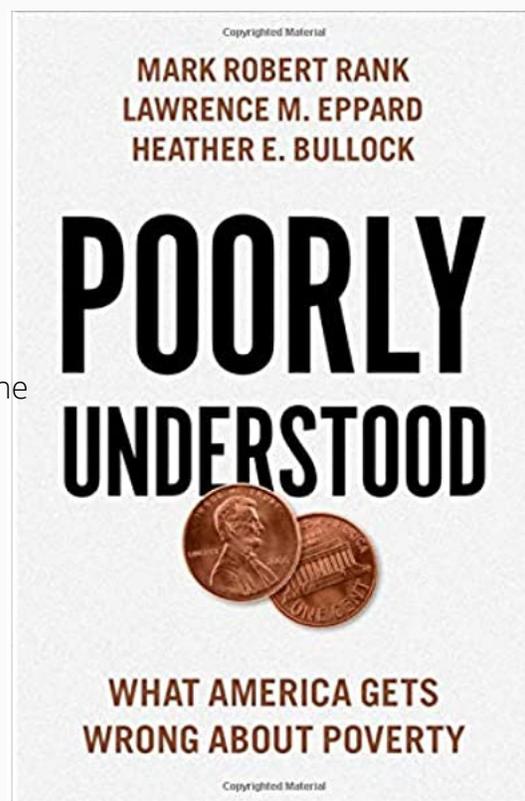
DISCUSSION ON POVERTY IN AMERICA, OCTOBER 3, 2021

We are sharing this announcement from Trinity Presbyterian Church, University City. Trinity is organizing a discussion via zoom on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3RD at 7pm.

The speaker will be Mark Rank*, Herbert Hadley Professor of Social Welfare at Washington University. Mark will be talking about a new book he has co-authored, *Poorly Understood: What America Gets Wrong About Poverty*. There will be time for Q&A. All are welcome, whether or not they have read the book.

Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89928465161>;
Meeting ID: 899 2846 5161

**Professor Rank is one of America's foremost experts on issues of poverty, inequality and social justice. He has written 10 books on a range of subjects, including the role of luck in shaping the course of our lives.*





MISSENS AND GIVING



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS

World Communion Sunday is October 3. On this Sunday, we receive the Peace & Global Witness Offering which enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Individual congregations are encouraged to utilize up to 25% of this Offering to connect with the global witness of Christ's peace. Mid councils retain an additional 25% for ministries of peace and reconciliation. The remaining 50% is used by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to advocate for peace and justice in cultures of violence, including our own, through collaborative projects of education and Christian witness. Donate to this offering by using the special envelopes in the pews or by writing a check to First Presbyterian, earmarked "Peace & Global Witness".

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



PARTNERSHIP WITH PERU



Greetings, First Presbyterian, Ferguson!

We hope this finds you well and ready to start off the church year and fall season! It can be said that all that we, as a family, and collectively, as a church, have been through during this pandemic has been overwhelming, to say the least. But we are so grateful to know that your pillar of support through prayers and correspondences accompanied us (and continue to accompany us) daily, along each step of our family's journey.

As we write to you from just a few blocks from the church, we continue to serve virtually with our partners in Peru. In a country that has been hard hit by the pandemic, once holding the world's highest per capita death toll, as well as facing economic and political crisis, due to complicated and divisive presidential elections, our accompaniment of our partners is where God continues to call us to be and serve.

Thankfully, as COVID case numbers continue to decrease in Peru, our partners of the Evangelical Church of Peru (IEP) have been able to open the doors of their seminaries and Bible institutes to students aspiring to become stronger church leaders and study the Word of God more deeply. Recently, a graduation was held for the first 10 women who completed the women's ministry course of the Bible Institute of Sajiruyoc, located in the high jungle outside of Cuzco. There are more than 100 more women who are taking this course and continue to study and grow in their faith. The graduation was a time to celebrate this first group, while also encouraging the others on their journey to completing the course.

Recently, our partner, the Peruvian Joining Hands Network (RUMP), of which our PERUSA ministry is a part, changed directors and is working on an evaluation of the program, as well as undergoing many changes to its structure and systems. We have been very focused on these tasks these past months, as we accompany the new director, Milushka, in understanding the program, its mission, and how to keep it relevant and faithful to growing partnerships between our partners in Peru and PC (USA) congregations, like yourselves.

Though we find ourselves in many transitions, we greatly appreciate the consistency of our partnership with you all and your prayers for us, our ministry, and for Peru and our partners there. Thank you for accompanying us throughout these years and the many transitions we have faced and continue to face. Your support gives us strength and encourages us as we continue in our ministry.

Chenoa Stock (she/her/hers/ella)
Presbyterian Mission Agency
Mission Co-Worker – Peru

For more information about Chenoa & Jose's ministry or to give, click on one of the two links below.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/missionconnections/chenoa-stock/>

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/global/peru/>



ADVENTURES FOR KIDS



**Come and join us on Sundays
at 10:10 am CST to learn, grow,
and connect!**

For more information contact Stuart King (314) 709-3554



HISTORICAL DATA FOUND

by Kelly Mazzacavallo

I found the following while reviewing and organizing records boxed up and shipped over from Northminster Presbyterian Church:

Session Minutes from

Book One - Grand Avenue United Presbyterian Congregation of St. Louis for the period of October 22, 1883 to September 26, 1897

Book Two - Grand Avenue United Presbyterian for the period of October 4, 1897 to September 9, 1909

Book Three - Grand Avenue United Presbyterian for the period of September 19, 1909 to April 4, 1921

Book Four - Second United Presbyterian Church - St. Louis, MO for the period of May 2, 1921 to December 12, 1937 (Address listed as Grand Avenue and Forest Park Boulevard)

Book Five - Second United Presbyterian Church for the period of January 4, 1938 to February 8, 1953

As detailed above these books are in sequential date order so it appears that Grand Avenue Presbyterian Church changed its name to Second United Presbyterian Church.

In addition, I found the following two books:

Book One - Young People Societies in So. Ill Presbytery conventions from June 10, 1908 to July or September 1934. The book includes a Constitution, By-Laws, and Convention minutes. The first page of the book includes numerous churches in Missouri and Illinois. The first is Grand Ave - St. Louis. (Because these books were all together I think it is referring to Grand Avenue United Presbyterian Congregation of St. Louis. I am guessing that all these churches met periodically at conventions.)

Book Two - Southern Illinois Intermediate Y.P.C.U. Convention minutes for the period June 20, 1935 to June 23, 1945.

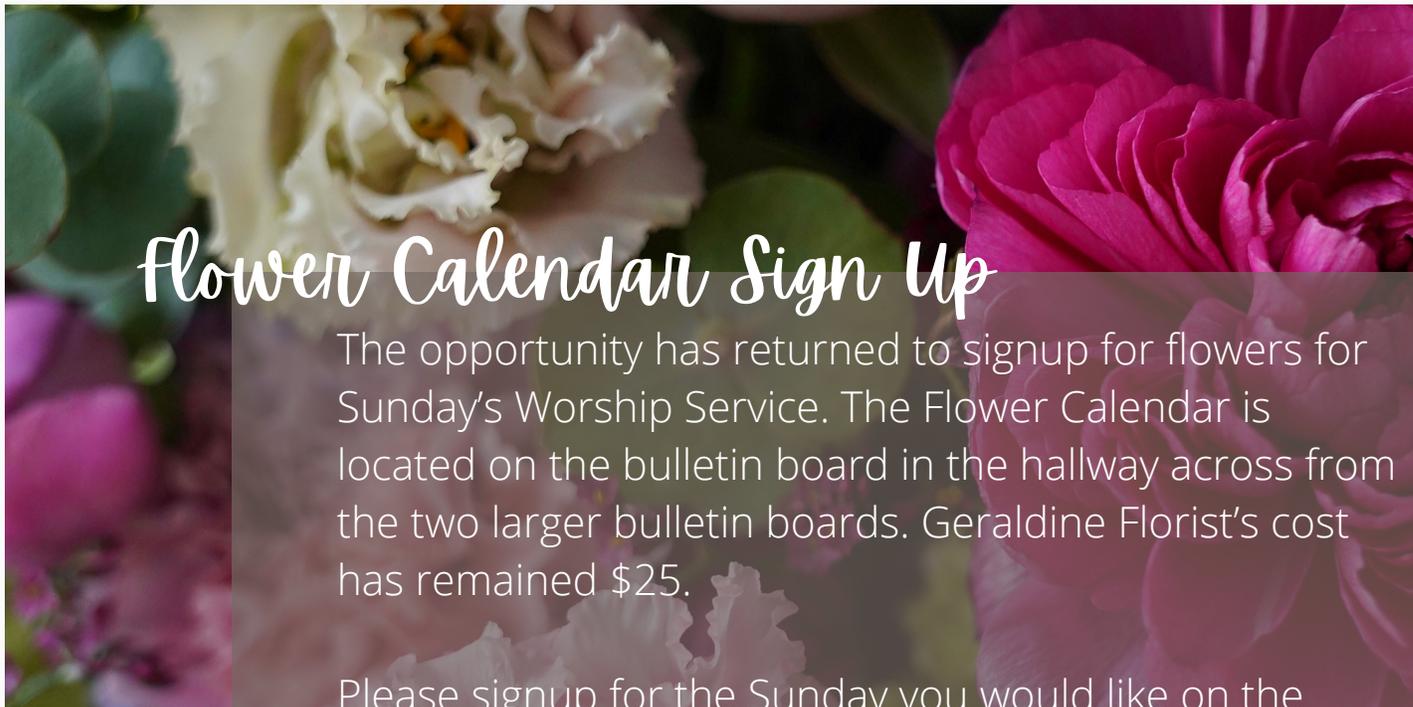
I discussed these books with Lee Weltmer and he remembers that members from the church in the area around Grand Avenue and Forest Park Boulevard started coming to Northminster. (Again I am guessing but I think that a few members from this church brought the minutes to Northminster. I found no evidence that this church formally merged or assimilated into Northminster.)

If anyone is interested in reviewing these records or can add to the history narrative contact Karen Schriefer at karen.schriefer@att.net or 314 522-6842. I ultimately believe that the records detailed above should be shipped to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia, PA.

In addition, I have organized the records brought over from Normandy Presbyterian Church. Please contact Karen Schriefer if you wish to review these records.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flower Calendar Sign Up

The opportunity has returned to sign up for flowers for Sunday's Worship Service. The Flower Calendar is located on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the two larger bulletin boards. Geraldine Florist's cost has remained \$25.

Please sign up for the Sunday you would like on the Flower Calendar. Marcia will contact you the week of your flower donation for details.

Many thanks!

Activity Calendar Reservations

As things are starting to return to normal and activity in the building is picking up, please remember to reserve any area needed on the church calendar.

This is located in the hall right outside of the church office. Your help in making sure this happens will reduce issues and double bookings.





OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 – Allison Schlobohm
- 7 – Sarah Donato
- 8 – Tom Clayton & George Gilbert
- 11 – Nick Motley
- 14 – Greg Rybacki
- 15 – Lori Rybacki
- 16- Dr. Kerry Allison
- 17 – Lee Rauhut
- 18 – Paula Bujewski & Vinny Koenig
- 19 – Bud Panetti
- 20 – Win Jones
- 22- Amy Kuhlman & Mary Lou Nolde
- 28 – Barb Kennedy
- 31 – Nicole Tallent

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

Welcome to the world True Serenity!

Congratulations to Marcia Key on the birth of her granddaughter

True Serenity

on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, 7 pounds, 3 ounces.



Welcome Mike Davis!

Please welcome our new employee whom many of you know, Mike Davis, who has cleaned our building since 2005 working for Servicemaster and is now working directly for the Church. He lives near Dellwood and also works for the Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District at the Early Education Center.



Join us for a luncheon event
benefiting the children of PCHAS



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and Services™

Thursday
November 11, 2021

Event Starts at:
12:00 pm (Central Time)

Algonquin Golf Club
340 N. Berry Rd.
St. Louis, MO 63122

Kindly RSVP
by contacting your table host or:

Debra Paulus
314.941.2875 | debra.paulus@pchas.org

pchas.org



PCHAS Needs our Help!
To join us for our fundraiser luncheon,
Contact Paula Bujewski at pbj1018@att.net or
(314) 608-9850.



**First Presbyterian
Church of Ferguson**

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faithinferguson.org



faithinfergusonmo.online.church

CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Kerry Allison

Co-Pastor

Rev. Mike Trautman

Co-Pastor

Rebecca Combs

Music Director

Marcia Key

Office Administrator

Lee Weltmer

Treasurer

**Jodie Schlobohm & Karen
Schriefer**

Financial Recorders

LaHaji Thomas

Youth Ministry Coordinator

Susan Owens

Nursery Supervisor

Rachel Foster

Web Developer