



FIRST FACTS



A monthly publication of **First Presbyterian Church** · Cape Girardeau, Missouri · October 2018

Dear Friends,

I attended a stewardship conference last week at which one of the keynote speakers focused on gratitude. She got me thinking about something I've been struggling with for a while: blessings.



The word bless in all its forms has become a kind of "catchphrase" in the last couple of years. People no longer say, "I'm so lucky," or "I'm so fortunate." Instead, many people have been using the phrase, "I'm so blessed." I fully understand the intent and the desire to give God the glory for all the abundance we enjoy. Yet, at the same time, I tend to think of those who struggle every day, and who don't enjoy an abundance of "blessings." For me to say, "I am blessed," implies favor and raises the problem that others are not blessed.

For example, if a tornado were to touch down in your neighborhood, damaging or even destroying several homes around you – but leaving yours unharmed – you might be tempted to say, "I'm so blessed." But what does that mean for your neighbors? Are they "cursed"?

Kate is a young, 30-something woman I know who has spent the last couple of years fighting for her life. She has a rare form of lung cancer involving her lymph nodes and liver as well. She has four young children and lost her fifth, unborn child as a result of the cancer. All traditional treatments have failed, and she has nearly died at least once. This summer, her son was diagnosed with Ongoing Traumatic Stress Disorder because of the chaos and uncertainty in the family. Kate is now on an experimental drug which can have dangerous side effects. Just last week she had a 3-month scan and was very fearful that it would bring bad news. She and her husband write a journal on caringbridge.com to update friends and family. Her latest entry included this: "At the beginning of the week, I promised myself that I would start this journal entry with 'Praise God!', no matter what the results were." Thankfully, the results were good. For now.

Similarly, my faith tells me that **all of us** are blessed, regardless of our circumstances. We are blessed with the promises of God:

"I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20)

"I will never leave you or forsake you." (Joshua 1:5)

"[Nothing] in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:39)

Instead of blessings, what I have begun to proclaim for myself is gratitude. I AM GRATEFUL... to be a beloved child of God. I AM GRATEFUL for loving and supportive family and friends. I AM GRATEFUL for my family of faith in Cape Girardeau, in Springfield, MO, in Goldfield, IA, in North St. Paul, MN. I AM GRATEFUL for colleagues in ministry. I AM GRATEFUL for the river, and for the beautiful and friendly community I now call home.

I AM GRATEFUL FOR YOU,

Ellen

SESSION MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Stated Meeting of the Session Sept. 18, 2018

1. The Session approved calling a Congregational Meeting for Oct. 14, 2018, to nominate/elect Elders in the Class of 2021, and At Large Members of the Nominating Committee and the Endowment Committee.

2. Received Rev. Gurnon's written Pastor's Report from July 17-Sept. 17, 2018, and included were 23 visits/calls to members and 41 meetings/activities including the funeral service of Willie Phillips and the "Waking Up White" community book study sessions held at OneCity.

3. Approved request from Rev. Gurnon to have Continuing Education/Vacation time the last week of September. She has arranged for Rev. Dr. Craig Howard, Presbytery Transitional Leader, to preach for us Sept. 30.

4. Rev. Gurnon reported our new playground equipment has arrived, but so far she has not been notified by the company of an installation date.

5. Approved Bloomfield Road Landscape's full proposal to develop a "Peace Park" area on the east lawn of our church property for a cost of \$56,950.

6. Approved bid of \$683 from Bootheel Fence for installation of a fence and gate necessary for the east lawn park development.

7. Approved bid of \$2,400 from Cotner Electric for installation of electricity for essential lighting to the "Peace Park" and the gazebo to be located in the park.

8. Approved request from Presbytery for our church to be a host site for a Presbytery Mental Health Program Oct. 25, 2018. It would be open to other churches and community groups.

9. Approved creation of an Assistant Clerk position to be known as Clerk in Training and to be elected/appointed annually in January on an as-needed basis. Person must be an Elder but not a voting member of the Session.

10. Approved from Sailer Construction the combined bids of \$1,080.45 and \$ 1,486.50 for repair of the church roof. When seeking bids, the Property Committee chair learned from both Sailer and Riverside Roofing our roof is sound and good for another 10 years

First Presbyterian Church Statement of Financial Position August 31, 2018

Current Assets

Bank of MO Checking	\$17,016.59
Money Market-Reserve Fund	<u>148,423.10</u>
Total Checking/Savings	\$165,438.69

Other Assets

Cash Value Life Insurance	\$12,153.74
Reserve Fund-Investments	156,002.18
Endowment-Unrestricted Gen.	390,877.45
Endowment-Restricted Gen	269,886.08
Endowment-L. Sewell Restricted	<u>139,626.87</u>

Total Assets \$1,133,986.01

YTD Income & Expenses

Income	247,618.42
Expenses	<u>185,078.89</u>
Net Income	\$62,539.53

For any questions about this report, please call
Charles Wiles , 573-225-5277, Treasurer



**Women's Retreat-Saturday,
October 20, 2018** at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1820 Perryville Road, Cape. Check-in from 8:30-9:00 am. Retreat runs from 9:00am to 4:15 pm. Lunch is included. Cost is \$15. **RSVP by October 10th** by mailing your check payable to Westminster Presbyterian church. Put "Retreat" in the memo Field.



The Rev. Joanna Seibert is leading a Quiet Day at Red Door on Saturday, October 6, from 10 am -3 pm. She is a gentle, wise spiritual companion, author of books on healing and recovery Spirituality, among other things. She is also a musician, a physician, and a servant-minister (deacon). RSVP to Rev. Edie Bird (edie.bird@att.net) so she can get a headcount for lunch. There is no charge for this event, but they will gladly accept donations to cover expenses.



Noisy Offering last Sunday was the 5th Sunday in a month. We collected \$248.87 coins as a special offering for Heifer.



We will have Gather, Share & Eat on Sunday the 21st of October. Potluck. We will provide BBQ. Last Names starting with A - M are asked to bring a dessert. Last Names starting with N - Z are asked to bring a vegetable or salad.



Second Tuesday at the Chateau will meet for lunch and fellowship on Tuesday, October 9, 2018 at 11:00 A.M. in the Chateau dining room. If you would like to attend, please call Sharon Metcalfe at 651 - 5274 or Ruth Needle at 334 - 4515 no later than noon on Monday, October 8, so that arrangements can be made for a table to accommodate all of us. We will order off the menu with each person being responsible for their own lunch. All are welcome.



The Book Club will meet on October 11th at the home of Ruth Needle. October's book is "Warlight" by Michael Ondaatje. On November 8th we will meet at the home of Jeanne Hirsch and the book is "A Gentleman in Moscow" by A. Towles. All are welcome and reading of the books is optional.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

The children 1st grade through 6th grade will continue their study of "The Life of Jesus" by learning about Jesus and His Miracles. Pastor Ellen will also be working with us on special lessons and activities about "The Seasons of the Church" throughout the year. This class will meet in their classroom on the second floor.



October Meal-a-Month

- 2 cans kidney beans
- 2 cans tomatoes
- Chili seasoning packet
- Can of fruit of choice



Memorials

A Memorial has been received in memory of:

Ray Ritter, from Angela Tygett

Freck Shivelbine, from Ralph & Eilah Edwards, John & Bekki Cook

Don Fadler, from James & Beverly Hirsch

Martha Stickler, from Lawrence & Alison Kasten

Willie Phillips, Samuel & Judy Brazell, Madge Ridings, Fern Harris, Wilma Harris, Ann Brinkopf,

Jo Renfrow, from James & Lynn Hillin, Ann Brinkopf, James & Beverly Hirsch, John & Bekki Cook

Scott Shivelbine, from Ann Brinkopf

October Prayer Calendar

The Session hopes you will use this 'Prayer Calendar' as we daily pray for each other and some of the mission concerns of our church.

- 1st Presbytery of Shenandoah
- 2nd Scott Harrison (birthday) Pete & Peg Hirschburg (anniversary)
- 3rd Ann Parkinson, Ray Wilhelm (birthday)
- 4th Erica McBride (birthday)
- 5th Albany Presbytery
- 6th Dr. Dan Neely, John Folwell, Betty Chasteen (birthday)
- 7th Peg Hirschburg (birthday)
- 8th Eastern Korean Presbytery
- 9th Presbytery of Elizabeth
- 10th Presbytery of Genesee Valley
- 11th The Presbytery Geneva
- 12th Jean Miller (birthday)
- 13th Oliver Manuel (birthday)
- 14th The Presbytery of Long Island
- 15th The Presbytery of Monmouth
- 16th Jean Cairns (birthday)
- 17th The Presbytery of New Brunswick
- 18th New York City Presbytery
- 19th Presbytery of Southern New England
- 20th The Presbytery of Newark
- 21st The Presbytery of Newton
- 22nd The Presbytery of Northern New England
- 23rd The Presbytery of Northern New York
- 24th Charles Wiles, Sara Barns (birthday)
- 25th Nancy Bray (birthday)
- 26th Bob Herbst (birthday)
- 27th Jane Hirsch (birthday)
- 28th Presbytery of Utica
- 29th Presbytery of West Jersey
- 30th Presbytery of Western New York
- 31st J. Fred Waltz (birthday)

From the Mission Yearbook of Prayer and Study

God of all creation, teach us to protect and preserve; teach us to love our neighbors as ourselves; teach us humility before all you have created. Teach us to treat our food and the land from which it comes with reverence. In the name of Jesus, who is the true bread of life. Amen.

October 2018

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																
	<i>1</i> Office Closed	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i> 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>6</i>																																																																																																																
<i>7</i> 10:00 am Coffee in Atrium 10:30 am Worship Service	<i>8</i> Office Closed	<i>9</i> 11:00 am 2nd Tuesday at Chateau	<i>10</i> 2:00 pm Executive Personnel Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<i>11</i> 7:00 pm Book Club	<i>12</i>	<i>13</i>																																																																																																																
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