



NOVEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fulton, Mo

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Update from Aaron

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In Psalm 116, which is titled "Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness," the psalmist ponders the question "What shall I return to the Lord for all God's bounty to me?" Among his responses, the psalmist commits to worshiping God. He publicly professes his faith in the Lord. And freed from every other form of oppression, he freely offers his own life in service to God.

Each November, I too feel the need to ask myself "What shall I return to the Lord?" Of course, this question is prompted for many of us as we participate in our National Day of Thanksgiving. However, I feel that throughout this month, we are regularly invited to consider how we can respond to all of God's goodness with grateful hearts.

As we gather for worship on Sunday, November 5th, we will give thanks to God for the saints of the Church. In Hebrews 12:1-2a, we are encouraged to remember the saints:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith..."

By the example of these people of faith, we see what it means to live a life of Christian discipleship. And as we give thanks to God for their lives, we also motivated to continue to "run the race," which they have now completed.

On November 11th, we are once again called to give thanks; this time, for the service of men and women who are veterans of our nation's armed forces. Before the first celebration of Veterans Day in 1954, this day was known as Armistice Day, in celebration of the end of World War I. In 1919, President Woodrow Wilson, in an Address that commemorated the first Armistice Day, wrote:

To us in America the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service, and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of nations.

Wilson challenged the citizens of our nation to give thanks for the lives of veterans and for fallen service members by embracing the "opportunity" they had afforded us to aspire toward a world in which there would no longer be a need for women and men to stand at post.

Yet, as we are reminded in Isaiah 11:1-9, the restoration of God's "Peaceful Kingdom" will only be achieved by the shoot from the stump of Jesse. And so, on November 26th, we will gather to celebrate Christ the King, who reigns in heaven. On this final Sunday of the Christian year, we rejoice with the hope of the citizens of the Kingdom. And as we give thanks to God, we are called to

renew our own commitment to living in service to our Lord Jesus.

So then, Friends, in the midst of these celebrations and commemorations that approach in the coming month, I hope that the question of the psalmist might reverberate in each of our hearts: "What shall I return to the Lord for all God's bounty to me?" May everything that we offer—our words, our thoughts, and our actions—all be offered to the Lord as a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for the blessings that we have received!

Grace and Peace,

Aaron White
Pastor

Pastor's Office Hours - Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays from 9:00 to noon
Pastor Office Phone 573-642-5541
Pastor Cell Phone 573-590-3136

Sunday Worship

Sunday School 8:45 am to 9:45 am
Fellowship 9:45 am to 10:00 am
Worship 10:00 am

Things To Be Shared

All Saints Services, Sunday November 5!

Don't forget the All Saints Services on November 5 at 8:30 and 11:00.

Didn't fill out a form and hand it in?

Don't let that stop you from participating!

We will have extra candles and Memory Cards available just prior to the service so that everyone who desires to may participate.

Advent Services and Activities Brochure

The Advent Services & Activities Brochure is Coming Soon!

Watch for it in your Sunday Bulletin!

Churchill Singers of Westminster College

On Friday night, November 3 the Churchill Singers of Westminster College and under the direction of Dr. Natasia Sexton will present a concert entitled "Redemption Songs" in St. Mary's the Virgin, Aldermanbury at 7 pm.

The concert is free and open to the public.

Water for Tanzania : Mission Update

The Impact of Your 2017 VBS Mission.

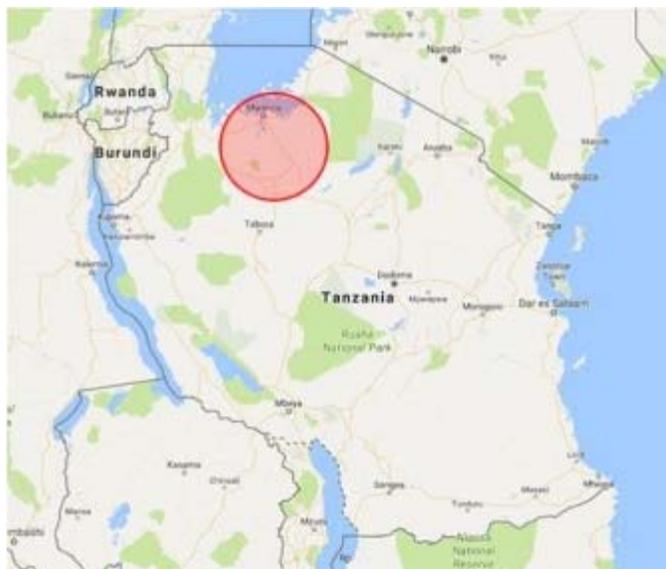
Through your 2017 VBS Mission fundraising efforts, your donors, churches, and kids raised \$37,000 for Water For Tanzania! With your donation, Empowering Lives International can help 5 more villages get clean water wells close to home!

That means healthier families, more kids in school, and hope for a better future - from God's people for God's people.

[Click here to Watch this message from our friends in Africa](#)

Villages helped by "Water For Tanzania."

The 5 new wells funded by your generosity will help villages in the Northwestern part of Tanzania, south of Lake Victoria.



Thank You - Your VBS makes a difference!

If you would like to continue to support Water for Tanzania, please see their website below at Empowering Lives International.

[Click here to view the "Water for Tanzania" website.](#)

NEEDED: Silent Auction Coordinator



The Holiday Season is much closer than we are ready to admit!

So that's why we here at Our House are eagerly seeking a volunteer (or two) to coordinate this year's Silent Auction.

The Auction is scheduled for December 12th at Bek's Restaurant in Fulton.

The Coordinator will organize the Silent Auction assisted by Our House board members, staff and volunteers.

For more information or to inquire about this volunteer position please respond by:

Email to ourhousecallaway@att.net or

Phone at 642-6065.

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study is back up and running.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:45 in the church library for Bible Study with Fred Luther.

Committee Information

2017 Advent Devotional Booklet

Sign up to contribute to our 2017 Advent Devotional Booklet.

Submissions are due Nov. 10th so don't delay.

Contact Angela Grogan (592-9303) or

Karen Luther (590-1624) or

see the sign-up sheets in the foyer.

Children's Christmas Play

Children's Christmas Play is coming on Sun. Dec. 10th at 4pm.

Soup and sandwich will follow.

If you'd like to help with the kids during rehearsals, contact Angela Russell at angela.russell@dese.mo.gov

If you'd like to help with costumes and/or props, see Karen Dungan at 573-310-9171 or dungankaren@gmail.com

Be sure to mark your calendar and plan to join us as we retell the Christmas story.

Youth Group Progressive Dinner and Caroling

Our youth group is planning a progressive dinner for Dec. 17th followed by caroling.

If you are interested in hosting appetizers or salad, main entry, or dessert please contact:

Angela Grogan at 573-592-9303 or angela.grogan@westminster-mo.edu.

It would be great if we could find three hosts in close proximity to minimize transportation and to have places close by for caroling.

But, we will take any offers we get.

There will be around 12 youth and four adult sponsors.

(The group would be at each location for approximately 45 minutes and then move on to the next place.)

Perhaps your Sunday School Class, Bible Study Group, Sewing Group, Choir, Session Committee, Lunch Bunch group or just a group of friends would be willing to help provide food or help out with setup or cleanup.

2018 Worship Committee Volunteer Teams are Forming Now!

If you would like to join our Acolyte, Communion, Usher or Presbyterian Manor Teams.

Please Contact:

Mary Van Orden by phone at 573-676-5225 or

Betty Warren by email at elizabethwarren@gmail.com

Annual Thanksgiving Dinner

November 19th - Our annual Thanksgiving meal will be shared following the 11:00 service.

We ask that you bring one dish per adult and we will be checking to see what you prefer to bring so we have a nice selection.

If you would rather contribute to the cost of turkeys instead, please let either of the following committee members know:

Kathleen Jeffries

by email at kjeffries@nc.k12.mo.us

Barb Huddleston

by phone at 573-642-1272 or

by email at bdhudd-65@socket.net

After the meal we will be honoring our Veterans with a short program, so please plan to be with us on this special fellowship day.

Parish Life Committee

Alternative Christmas Gift

Remembering God's Children

Help make a difference by supporting our "Alternative Christmas Gift" Program.

Now through Christmas, you can make a donation to help support Roma students receive an education. You will receive an ornament for your donation to give someone "alternatively" as a Christmas gift.

See a Mission Committee member after church beginning the first Sunday of Advent.



Adopt-a- Family

Are you able to make a difference for a child this Christmas who otherwise would be without?

The Adopt-A- Family Christmas Assistance Program sponsored by SERVE, Inc. allows our community to help others in need.

This year, we will be adopting 40 children.

There will be a Christmas tree where you may choose a tag describing the needs and wants of the child.

- Sign the list next to the tag(s) you choose
- SERVE is suggesting we spend \$40-\$60 per children (something they want, something they need, something to wear and something to read)
- DO NOT wrap your gifts
- Place child's tag on the outside of a bag and return to the Fellowship hall by Sunday, December 10th

- Please note, for those who wish to give but are unable to shop, please call Shirley Dixon
Home: 642-6500
Cell: 573-220- 8801.

You may also put a check or cash in the offering plate or send it to the church office specifying Adopt-a- Family. Please make sure the money is received no later than December 3 rd .

Thank you for helping provide a beautiful Christmas to children in need!



Christmas Joy Offering

Every year, society expects us to celebrate the holiday season even bigger and better than years before.

This year, coming together to reclaim Advent and Christmas can be both humbling and fulfilling. As we excitedly await the birth of Christ, it's important to remember the reason for the season: the newborn Servant of All.

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in his example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.

Funds from the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible workers in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and their families, and to qualifying retired church workers and their families.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for racial ethnic students built on a foundation of Christian values. The Offering benefits Menaul School and Presbyterian Pan American School, two secondary schools that ready students for a path of higher learning, as well as Stillman College, where graduates are prepared for lives of leadership and service.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, we can share in the hope of Christ and celebrate his leadership by providing support to our church workers, racial ethnic young people, and their families.

The Joy Gift Offering will be collected during Advent.



Coming Soon!
Fair Trade Christmas Market

When: Friday, December 1 st 7:00-8:00 pm
Saturday, December 2 nd 8:00-3:00

Sunday, December 3rd following both worship services

There will also be a booth set-up on Westminster's Campus.

Most items will be purchased from Partners for Just Trade, a non-profit organization that blossomed from the Presbyterian Hunger Program's Joining Hands work in Peru.

Partners for Just Trade, or PJT, was formed to help the artisans of the Joining Hands project in Peru, Bridge of Hope, market their products here in the States and educate the public about Fair Trade.

Fair Trade not only pays the farmer or artisan a fair price for their product but is also a holistic approach to trade and encourages gender equality, provides healthy and safe work conditions, and builds long-term relationships with the producers.

In a nutshell, Fair Trade provides stability in the lives of the impoverished peoples of many nations.

If you would be willing to help, there is a great deal yet to do.

We need to advertise, set-up the market, have people to work the various dates and times of the market, and return unsold merchandise for a full refund.

Please call or email Mary Osburn
573-220- 7633
maryosburn1959@gmail.com to volunteer!



The Mission Committee will once again be participating in the Field of Joy, a joint activity sponsored by the Callaway County Salvation Army and Fulton Parks and Rec.

The theme of our tree will celebrate our Hungarian Reformed Church partnership. You can help by...

- Making or donating ornaments that reflect Hungary (we have some)
- Help set up the tree (call Mary Osburn 573-220- 7633 for details)
- See the tree lighting ceremony December 1 st at 5:30
- And sadly...remove the tree by January 1st

SERVE Food Pantry

During the month of November, please bring **canned and dried beans** for our collection for the SERVE Food Pantry. Any other item you may wish to bring will be appreciated as well. Please put your donation in the basket outside of the church kitchen.



Luke 3:11 (NRSV)

In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise."

Serve Food Pantry Monthly Schedule

January-Soup

February-Canned stews and chili

March-Canned meats

April-Canned fruit and juices

May-Canned veggies

June-Cereal and oatmeal

July-Healthy Snacks

August-Peanut Butter

September-Canned and nonperishable milk products

October-Canned and dried beans

November-Holiday Foods

December-Pasta, rice and pasta sauce

Church mailing address:

P.O. Box 6037

News letter feedback can be sent to:

newsletter@fultonpresbyterian.org

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