

First Presbyterian Church

September 2024



A Season of Change

Jonathan Kimball, CRE, September 2024

September is upon us, bringing with it a season of change. School has started again for students and teachers from kindergarten through grad school. The autumnal equinox is September 22, marking the end of long days and the beginning of long nights. Soon enough, the summer heat will be behind us, the leaves will turn from green to red and orange and yellow, and cool, crisp evenings will ease us into winter.

This is also a season of change for First Presbyterian Church of Rolla. On August 11, I was commissioned to serve as your spiritual leader. I am limited in what I can do, both by Presbyterian polity and by the number of hours in the day, but I am looking forward to the opportunity to serve this congregation and our broader community.

The overriding task before us is deciding who we want to be and how we can get there. My sermon on August 25 touched on the first part of this task. We need to be clear-eyed about who we are and how well we are fulfilling our task as Christ's body. In the first part of the 20th century, our predecessors composed the six Great Ends of the Church, which are now in our Book of Order:

- The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.
- The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.
- The maintenance of divine worship.
- The preservation of the truth.
- The promotion of social righteousness.
- The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

During my sermon on August 25, I asked ushers to distribute surveys to gauge how well you think we are doing, measured by how well we achieve these Great Ends. The problem with this approach is that it doesn't capture everyone who cares about the church. If you haven't had a chance to respond yet, please complete this survey:

<https://forms.gle/1j3ak6Kc7GP2zD4m9>

It's anonymous and provides an opportunity for you to make comments as well. However, anonymous check-box surveys, and even email, are inadequate for really digging into the issues that confront us, individually and as a congregation. My goal is to meet with everyone in the church over the next twelve months. To that end, I set up this scheduling link:

<https://doodle.com/bp/jonathankimball/coffeelunchice-creamwhatever-with-jonathan>

I'm happy to meet you wherever you think is best, individually or as a couple. My preferences include Panera, Giddy Goat, Coffeesmiths, Alex's, Colton's, Soda & Scoops, and Spoon Me. Or, your house, my house, my office, or the church.

My family joined this church in 2008. When I look out at the congregation, I can see that there have been enormous changes since then. Some of the changes were driven by COVID restrictions, but we have been worshipping together without restrictions for three years now. My hope is that we can return to being a vital, sustainable congregation that is serving both our members and our community, one that proclaims the gospel and exhibits the kingdom of heaven to Rolla and beyond.

Worship and Music News

As we move into fall, of course, many of us look forward to having the choir participate in worship. Jeff was very busy this summer and we are glad to have him back. In his absence, Jonathan Kimball and Susan Murray took turns being charge if writing the summer Liturgy. We thank them for their work. Mary was happy to take on picking hymns, but with September 8, Jeff takes the reins back for this very important task.

We will celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 6. This is always a meaningful service as Christians around the globe all participate in the Lord's Supper. We will be passing hand prepared elements that Sunday, but you may still choose to use a prepackaged chalice instead. Please let Worship committee members know how you feel about using hand prepared elements on a more regular basis. (Chair Mary Kwantes, Jonathan Kimball, Ming Leu, Linda Rose, or Jeff Sandquist) Another tradition we may reinstate is the passing or the offering plate. If you like this idea and can regularly be available to pass the offering plate, also let the committee know as soon as possible.

All Saints Day will be celebrated on November 3 when we will read names and ring a bell for all who have passed since last All Saints Day. The Christmas Cantata has been planned for December 15 so plan your calendar accordingly.

Mission and Outreach Committee

The Mission and Outreach Committee would like to thank everyone contributing toys to GRACE for Kids Christmas in July. Your response was outstanding.

We would also like to thank everyone from the congregation and preschool contributing crayons for the Back to School Fair.

THE FINAL COUNT WAS 600 BOXES!

Sowing the seeds of peace. Zechariah 8:12

During A Season of Peace, September 8 to October 6, World Communion Day, we will be collecting the Peace and Global Witness offering. These funds are used for peace education, helping families in need, assistance for teens and young adults, and community care and engagement. 25% of the offering will stay in our community, 25% will go to mid-councils to unite congregations to support peacemaking in them regions, and 50% will support the work for peace and reconciliation being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

There are special envelopes for this offering on the table near the entrance doors.



*The Congregational Life and Christian Education
committee looks forward to having you participate in the
following events:*

Bible Study – Fall 2024 Series

When: Wednesday at 6 PM, from Sept 11th to Dec 4th

Where: back of the sanctuary

Book: “[A Is for Alabaster](#),” by Anna Carter Florence

Note: A [book excerpt](#) can be accessed online.

Congregational Picnic

When: Sunday, Sep 29th at 11:30 AM

Where: Veteran's Park Pavilion

Format: Bring Your Own Lunch

Note: Church will provide water and individually packed dessert.

October First Friday Out

When: Friday, 10/4 at 6 PM

Where: Bandana's

Note: For reservation purposes, please let Javier know by
Wednesday, 10/2, that you plan to join us for this time of
fellowship.



PRESCHOOL NEWS

Thanks to state grants, a generous donation from Jerry and Pam Gahr and some memorial contributions the first phase of our playground update has been completed. We are excited to use our new surface and equipment.



September Birthdays

Tammy Bennett 3rd
Bill Cottingham 17th
Jo Ann Anderson 22nd
Illa Bell 26th
Leslie Skelton 28th
Ashlyn Lewis 28th



If you would like your birthday or anniversary shared please update in the office with Katie.



PRAYER REQUEST

Connie & Bob Dewitt - Continuing health care needs
after stroke and surgery.

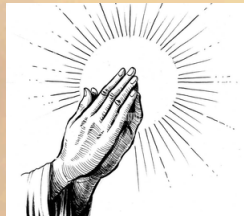
Ruby & Lee Malone - Residents of Silverstone.

Bob Yenzler - Continuing health challenges.

Katherine Cook Russell - Suffering from dementia.

Bill Neely- Headaches, Back & Hip pain.

Julie Murray- Recent foot surgery



Please pray for those named and their families
as well as their caregivers.

The prayer request will start over every two months.
If you have someone that needs put on or taken off the list,
Please contact Katie in the office.

