

Pastor Message
Ellen Gurnon

Dear Friends,

First I want to say THANK YOU for helping me celebrate my installation - for joining us in worship, for the beautiful music from the choir, and for the lovely reception! It is a joy to be with you on this journey.

Now we begin our Lenten journey together. Many people use this time to challenge themselves, to try to give up chocolate or sweets or some sort of bad habit. We treat it like a New Year's resolution, as a way to improve ourselves. But Lent is not about us.

Lent is about Jesus: understanding his sacrifice, strengthening our commitment to him, becoming more like him, choosing to be faithful to him above all else.

The traditional Lenten practice of fasting is intended to bring us closer to God. To remove that which stands between us and God. To put our spiritual needs ahead of our physical needs. To recognize and honor the sacrifice of Jesus by making some sacrifice of ourselves. To set aside our own desires and to discern what God desires from us.

As newly yoked congregations, we may be wondering where God is leading. What does God desire from us in this time? Is this simply a matter of trying to balance our budgets and live within our means? Or is this new relationship an opportunity to strengthen our ministry even as our membership declines?

I am asking both First and Westminster churches to join in a Lenten discipline

WESTMINSTER CHIMES

MARCH 2020

together. First, I'd like us to pray daily for one another and pray for the other church - for spiritual growth and for faith that is active and alive. Second, I'd like us to read through the Gospel of Matthew together. There are 40 days in Lent, but only 28 chapters in Matthew, so it should be easy!

As we join our hearts and minds in prayer and in reading God's word, may the Holy Spirit bind us together and strengthen us in faith and hope.

Grace and peace,

Ellen

LECTIONARY READINGS

March 1:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Psalm 32 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

March 8:

Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9

March 15:

Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

March 22:

1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41

March 29:

Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

Session Members 2020

- Velda Price (*Clerk*)
- Bill Tucker (*Worship*)
- Gerald Campbell (*Finance*)
- Danna Cotner (*Missions*)
- Charlene Christian (*Outreach*)
- Allen Lane (*Buildings & Grounds*)
- Jim Dale (*Pastoral Care*)
- Jeanie Dale (*Christian Life*)

If you have a suggestion, a need, or just want to be involved – please contact one of your session members and we will try our best to help!

COMMUNION

**Communion will be served on Sunday
March 1st.**

CALENDAR

- Mar. 1 Worship Service **9:15 a.m.**
 Communion Served
- Mar. 4 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 5 Morning Prayer Meeting
 8:30a.m.
- Mar. 6 Church Women United
 World Community Day 12:30pm
 New McKendree UMC
 225 S. High St., Jackson
- SEMO Prom Mothers Open House
 Becca's Closet
 @ The Steck House, Presbyterian Church
 Jackson
- Mar. 6 3:30 – 6:30pm
Mar. 7 10 am – 2 pm
- Mar. 7 Garden Work Day 3 – 5pm



- Mar. 8 Worship Service **9:15 a.m.**
- Mar. 11 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 12 Morning Prayer Meeting
 8:30a.m.
- Mar. 15 Worship Service **9:15a.m.**
- Mar. 17 Women's Bible Study 11a.m.
 Light lunch to follow
- Mar. 18 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 19 Morning Prayer Meeting
 8:30a.m.
- Mar. 22 Worship Service **9:15 a.m.**
- Mar. 25 Choir Practice 7:00 p.m.
- Mar. 26 Morning Prayer Meeting
 8:30a.m.
- Mar. 28 RUMMAGE SALE
- Mar. 29 Worship Service **9:15 a.m.**



March 31 Cathy Schroeder



Westminster will have a Rummage Sale on Saturday the 28th of March. We hope to clean out and reopen the space behind the folding doors in McCutchen Hall as well as some of the items down stairs. What does not sell will be given to local Women's Safe House or Teen Challenge. Taking donations and set up will begin after Church Services on the 22nd of March.



**SPRING IS ALMOST HERE!!!
TIME TO TEND OUR GARDEN!**

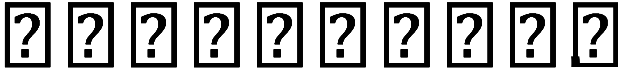


Fish food pantry needs the following items:

- Pudding mix packages
- Jelly for peanut butter sandwiches

Our community garden hosted 9 participants last season and we already have 1 additional gardener this year! There are still plots of all sizes left and plans to use some of our produce to donate to those in need. We will have a garden prep.day on Sat. March 7th from 3 - 5 p.m.. If you're interested in checking it out, we have tools to share and a safe place to keep them thanks to Terry Lee! Come out and join the fun!

NEW MISSION OPPORTUNITY



In the early 2000's, Rebecca Kirtman was a Florida teen who committed to helping other teens get formal dresses for their formal school events. After tragically being killed in a car accident, her parents, continued her dream by creating Becca's Closet Foundation. There are now over 60 chapters in the US. Semo Prom Mothers is one of two in Missouri. Thanks to Westminster's session to share their empty space, Semo Prom Mothers of Jackson Presbyterian is moving to Cape! The mission will be a co-op of Westminster, Cape First and a few old faces from Jackson Presbyterian.

According to the national foundation, to receive a free dress, a girl must be in high school and the event she needs a dress for must be a school sponsored event or a high school ROTC ball. She must show her school ID to set up an appointment.

New dress donations come from Becca's Closet as well as local donations. Dresses must be clean and in good repair before it goes on the rack. Jackson gave out over 500 dresses in the four years of its existence.

WANNA HELP???

Ways that the two churches can work together for this mission:

1. Save Cleaners bags. Girls love to carry their dresses out in bags!
2. Work an hour or so shift at an open house. Homecoming-early August, Late October-Winter Balls, Early March Prom

3. Be on the multi-text list from the facebook communications manager. When a girl messages that she needs an appointment, answer the call from the communications manager that you can open up the church. An appointment usually lasts about an hour.
4. If anyone sews and likes to do simple repairs or replace zippers that would be a great help.
5. Be a mouthpiece to daughters, granddaughters and nieces about the program.
6. Save toiletry samples, colognes, etc.
7. Sit with the booth and banner and pass out flyers at occasional events. (Cape Back to School day at the middle school, Zonta Club expo, Tween Expo.)

Moving weekend date has not been set yet, but after Westminster prepares the downstairs and is ready to receive Semo Prom Mothers,(if you would like to help with that contact Pastor Ellen) there will need to be volunteers go to Jackson to pick up about 500 gowns and dresses and bring back to Westminster.(covered trucks, suvs, cars) There will also need to be volunteers stationed at Westminster to receive and place on racks. When this date is set, a call will go out!

The mission will need a **communications manager**. This person is savy with Facebook. Posting pictures of girls modeling their dresses. These are the girls who don't get asked to model so they love it. The person will be familiar with messaging from facebook requests and send out a multi text. "Can anyone do a 4:00 appointment on Saturday?" She will also be the connection from Semo Prom Mothers to Becca's Closet.

As many as possible volunteers that would like to be on the **multi-text** to answer the "call" . Open up the church, check her school ID and let the girl shop! Be sure to ooh and aw! Many girls come without moms and love your input! There will be heels, strapless bras, evening bags, make up , jewelry etc. so she can get the full experience.

If you would like to be on the multi-text, please give your phone number and name to Pastor Ellen.