



Westminster Chimes

May 2020

Pastor Message
Ellen Gurnon

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS was one of my grandma's favorite hymns. Some of you may know it by heart, but let me share some of the words with you.

When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,

When you are discouraged thinking all is lost,

Count your many blessings, name them one by one,

And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,

Do not be discouraged, God is over all.

Count your many blessings, angels will attend,

Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

We are certainly living in a time where everyone is feeling *tempest tossed* and *discouraged*. And it is true that we need to count our blessings, remembering all the good that is in the world and all the wonderful things God has done.

I have noticed the "Blessing Box" (or is it a jar?) at the church, and I like the idea of sharing our blessings with others. Since the church is still "closed" and many of us are spending most of our time at home, I would like to encourage you to make a blessing *container* of your own. It doesn't have to be fancy. Maybe you have a shoe box or a bowl from your kitchen where you can collect small bits of paper with the things for which you are grateful written on them. Or maybe you just want to keep a list on a note pad.

Whenever you encounter something that makes you smile or brightens your day, write it down.

Then when we're visiting with a friend or relative on the phone, over the fence, or by email, we could share our blessings with one another to lift our spirits. This can also be an easy and inspiring way to share your faith – to acknowledge God's goodness and God's activity in our lives.

This is also a good time for us to begin a project that was brought to us at our last Session meeting by Jeanie Dale. Included in this newsletter, you will find a form titled, **Prayer Partners**. We are asking for members of Westminster and First who would like to participate to complete the form and send it back to their church. Each person will be matched with someone from the other church. The information you provide will be shared with your prayer partner, allowing us to get to know one another and giving some guidance on how to personalize our prayers for the other.

Eventually, the partners may want to communicate by email or phone. This will allow us to get to know the other congregation better while we are unable to have joint worship services and activities.

I count every one of you as a blessing in my life, and I am in prayer for you. Our spirits are bound together in the Holy Spirit.

Health and peace, until we meet again,

Ellen



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May 2020



Name:

Address:

E-mail:

Social Media:

Birthday:

Marital Status:

Anniversary:

Prayer Requests (Specific and/or general):

Significant others for whom I pray regularly:

Name	Relation

A few of my favorite things:

Bible Verse:	Beverage:
Song/Artist:	Restaurant:
Color:	Flower:
Game:	Movie:
Snack:	Book:
Interest/Hobbies:	Vacation place:

Additional Information I'd like to share:



Instructions for the Prayer Partner Form:

For those of you who would like to participate in the Prayer Partner program, you may print the form in this newsletter, fill it out, and return it to the church. Or, alternatively, Jonathan Patterson at First, has been kind enough to create a fillable on-line form. This will be e-mailed to you and completed on your device using the following instructions:

- Open the document
- Type answers in the blue boxes
- Save to your computer
- Include as an attachment with an email back to the church
- OR print and return to church



LECTIONARY READINGS

May 3 Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42–47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19–25 John 10:1–10

May 10 Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55–60 Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 1 Peter 2:2–10 John 14:1–14

May 17 Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 17:22–31 Psalm 66:8–20 1 Peter 3:13–22 John 14:15–21

May 21 Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1–11 Psalm 47 or Psalm 93 Ephesians 1:15–23 Luke 24:44–53

May 24 Seventh Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:6–14 Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11 John 17:1–11

May 31 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1–21 or Numbers 11:24–30 Psalm 104:24–34, 35b 1 Corinthians 12:3b–13



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)

Greetings Church Family!

We are hoping to be able to begin worshipping at the church together again on May 17th, but please check your e-mails frequently to stay informed about any changes to that schedule. I think in addition to love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control, “flexibility” may need to be an added fruit of the spirit. 😊

MANY THANKS to all who have been keeping up with your financial commitment to the church. Our ministry continues!

In fact, Lynn is keeping herself busy with deep cleaning: waxing floors, cleaning the refrigerator, organizing storage space, vacuuming under couch cushions, even doing some outside work around the building!

She has also prepared a new directory including church members and friends. If you want to receive one BEFORE we come back to church, contact Lynn and ask her to put one in the mail.

As always, if you have any ideas or concerns, please feel free to contact any of your Session members and we will do our best to accommodate. ❤️



Holy Communion

While we are all observing responsible social distancing, you are invited to attend virtual worship services hosted through First Presbyterian's YouTube channel or you can go to their webpage at www.firstpccape.org/sermons

On May 3rd all are encouraged to celebrate Holy Communion in your homes as prompted during the live broadcast service. Feel free to contact the church with any questions on how to access the channel.



Please remember our Muslim neighbors in your prayers as they seek to recover and rebuild after arson destroyed their building. If you wish to donate, they have set up a GoFundMe account:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/fundraiser-for-islamic-center-of-cape-girardeau?fbclid=IwAR2Vegsve9Gi818yalg0NmrTyMddtf4yYjs4erMMj33zldxOVXxYFqtrFfY>



CALENDAR

May 3 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.
Communion celebrated
Partake of elements at home.

May 10 Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

May 17 **LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE**
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
9:15 A.M. 😊

May 21 Ascension of the Lord

May 24 **LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE**
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
9:15 A.M. 😊

May 31 Pentecost Sunday
LIVE WORSHIP SERVICE
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN
9:15 A.M. 😊



- May 4 Bill Tucker
- May 6 Jo Lynn Ford
- May 12 Eric Scott
- May 16 Deloris Scott
- May 27 Debra Tucker

