



Westminster Chimes

July 2021

Pastor Message
Ellen Gurnon

Submitted as the "Guest Blog" for the Presbytery's weekly newsletter.

It was the winter of 2019-2020 when First Presbyterian Church in downtown Cape Girardeau opened a late-afternoon warming center for the area's unsheltered neighbors. On our "opening day" we had three women - all in their 60's or 70's - who had volunteered to provide hospitality. A friendly welcome, offering coffee and a snack, directing them to the restroom - all this came naturally to these women. But they had little to no experience with homeless people and felt a bit of anxiety about what to expect. In came David, who looked as you would expect him to look. Bundled up in layers of worn clothing, a scraggly beard, and a few missing teeth. But he was as friendly as he could be and eager for some hot coffee and a comfortable place to sit. When David saw a table across the room with several boxes of puzzles, he was excited and got right to work. Soon one of the volunteers was helping him, and they were talking and laughing like old friends. David was a regular at our warming center that winter. He had gotten to know a handful of people from the church by name. He could often be seen peddling his bicycle around town and could always be counted on to share a warm greeting, a brief visit, and his signature parting words: "have a nice day." Fast forward to December of 2020. There are no warming centers open in town due to COVID-19. Even the library, the Salvation Army, and the coffee shops were closed. But David discovered that when the church office was open, the coffee was hot and fresh. He began to stop by a couple of times a day for a cup. Before long, Jonathan, our Office Manager, was inviting him in to sit down and rest, and church members were taking his bike for repairs. Eventually, David was making the coffee himself and spending most of the day in the workroom adjacent to the office. He had an old laptop that he spent hours on, creating and uploading YouTube videos about the Mississippi River, historical places, and his favorite band, KISS. Since Palm Sunday, when we came back to our sanctuary for worship, David has joined us. First, he fills a coffee cup, of course, and then he joins in a conversation, having become a familiar face for many. He recently told me that even though he still attends other churches on occasion, First Presbyterian is his church family. Just last week, he heard me make an announcement that volunteers were needed to help run the computer for our live-streamed worship services. He thought to himself, "I can do that!" and he even wrote a reminder on his bulletin about it. He stayed an extra hour that day to be trained for the job, and he's so excited! David, the homeless guy, became our neighbor and then our friend and now a faithful servant of God! I know he is grateful, and we are grateful to have him among us. It's amazing what a hot cup of coffee can do!

In gratitude and hope,

Pastor Ellen



LECTIONARY

July 4th

2 Samuel 5:1–5, 9–10

Psalms 48

2 Corinthians 12:2–10

Mark 6:1–13

July 11th

2 Samuel 6:1–5, 12b–19

Psalms 24

Ephesians 1:3–14

Mark 6:14–29

July 18th

2 Samuel 7:1–14a

Psalms 89:20–37

Ephesians 2:11–22

Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

July 25th

2 Samuel 11:1–15

Psalms 14

Ephesians 3:14–21

John 6:1–21

Calendar

July 4th HYMN SING
PEACE PARK
Down town next to First Presbyterian
Bring a lawn chair
9:15 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

July 11th Worship Service
Westminster Presbyterian Church
9:15 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

July 18th Worship Service
Westminster Presbyterian Church
9:15 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.

July 25th Worship Service
Westminster Presbyterian Church
9:15 a.m.

Livestream Worship Service
10:45 a.m.



Erica Scott	July 20
Debb Tracy	July 21
Kristin Jones	July 22
Frank Linn	July 27
Peggy Stieneke	July 28
Becky Christian	July 29
Lois Scott	July 29



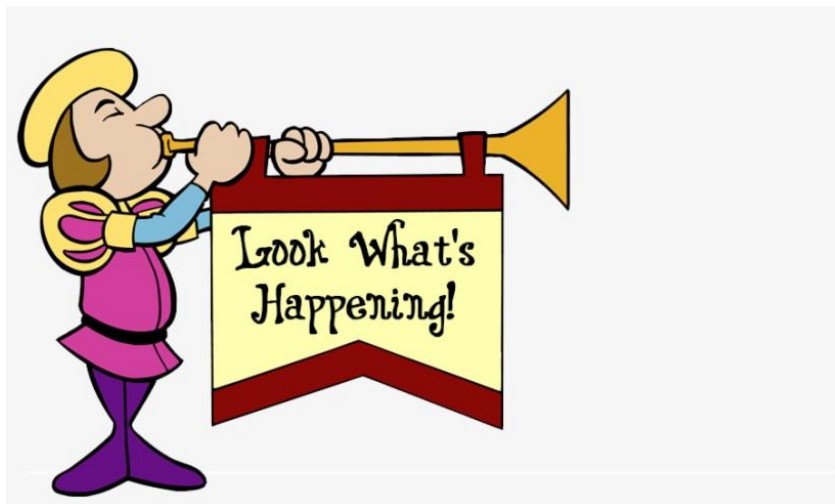
You're Session wants to hear from you!

These are strange times – if you have a suggestion about something at the church, an activity, mission, or an idea about how to support each other – please contact any member below! Stay Safe!

- Velda Price (Clerk)
- Walt Schroeder (Worship)
- Doyle Privett (Finance)
- Danna Cotner (Missions)
- Charlene Christian (Outreach)
- Allen Lane (Buildings & Grounds)
- Jim Dale (Pastoral Care)
- Jeanie Dale (Christian Life)



SEMO PROM MOTHERS



Everyone is invited to the downstairs of the church to view our newly rehabbed room underneath the stairs. (The old OLD nursery area, more recently junk storage.) It has been cleaned out and cleaned up. Following that, our very own Boy Scout Troop 4 and two of their leaders painted the walls! Then Walt and Cathy Schroeder and Charlene Christian installed carpet tiles to make it more comfortable, and it will be used as the primary dressing room for the SEMO prom mother's outreach program.

New window shades still need to be installed, and the previous valances have been washed and ironed and will be hung once again. So come and see it whenever you feel like climbing a few steps. Be sure to thank all the helpers-Lynn Suhre helped with the clean out, Boy Scouts painted, and Charlene Christian helped with the carpet. And thanks to the Session for approving this project!

Cathy and Walt