



first edition

First Presbyterian Church 301 N. 7th St. St. Joseph, MO, 64501
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HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE

How Do You Measure a Year?

As I approach a new year, I always have the words from the musical "Rent" run across my brain at least once or twice as I think about planning for the future. The first stanza goes"

525,600 minutes
525,600 moments so dear
525,600 minutes
How do you measure, measure a year?
In daylights, in sunsets, in midnights, in cups of coffee
In inches, in miles, in laughter, in strife
In 525,600 minutes
How do you measure a year in the life?

The song goes on to talk about measuring a year by Love. Although the musical had a different definition of love, clearly the great commandments of God point us to this goal, regardless of the year we face. The two great commandments are:

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.
You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Whatever specific goals we are working on, at the moment, these two central pillars of our faith together are always the character and substance that should influence all that we do.

That said, I find it one of the hardest things to do, when you truly understand what it means to love. It requires more than I think we have naturally. In the gospels, Jesus says this. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Do not even tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing more than others? Do not even Gentiles do the same?

God's commandments of love go beyond what people do naturally – they require that God's

influence on our lives reflect in our ability to love those who do not love us in return. For example, when I read this beautiful text in Colossians found below, which is part of the readings for this week, I immediately ask for God's help to follow through on being this type of person. Hear these words from Paul again that give us part of the picture of what it is to love:

" Therefore, as God's chosen, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And whatever you do, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

My great hope, as we all enter into 2022, that we will allow God's love to dwell richly in our lives, as we pray, and live out the love that God has asked us to be in this world.

Blessings ~ David

IN DAYLIGHTS, IN SUNSETS,
IN MIDNIGHTS, IN CUPS OF COFFEE
IN INCHES, IN MILES,
IN LAUGHTER, IN STRIFE
IN FIVE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND
SIX HUNDRED MINUTES
HOW DO YOU MEASURE
A YEAR IN A LIFE?

OPENERS/CLOSERS

Ed Andres, Jim Ringer and George Fountain

LITURGISTS

2 Dan Trifan
9 Ruth Fountain
16 Nancy Duggins
23 Bob Waddell
30 Ed Andres

USHERS/GREETERS

Karen Parham & Dan Trifan

SOUND SYSTEM

Natalie Ward & James Gaunt

ALTAR FLOWERS

16 To the Glory of God and in honor of John Watson by Diane Watson

23 To the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, Ray Storts by Jan Storts

Feeding the Hungry

Teams from FPC served **500 meals** at the **Open Door Food Kitchen** this month! Thanks to all who helped cook, serve and/or provide cookies!

Friday team: Ed & Grace Andres, Nancy Duggins, Carol Fuson, Chloe Fuson, Sue Lichliter, Bruce Reynolds, and George & Ruth Fountain.

Tuesday team: Tanya Erickson, Sue Lichliter, Bruce Reynolds, Pat Speiser, Jan Thielan, Terry Wallerstedt and Jim Ringer.

In addition, we thank Evelyn McClure, Mary Ann Bibens, and Sonja Shinneman who gave extra offerings for the Food Kitchen this month.

Our next times to serve will be: **Friday, Jan. 21 & Tuesday, Jan. 25**

If you would like to volunteer on either date, please contact George/Ruth Fountain or Jim/Ann Ringer.

Thank you for your continued support!

Flower Dates available for 2022!

First Pres is blessed to have members and friends who give flowers to *enhance the beauty of the worship service* in the Sanctuary.

The flowers will again be \$35 this year and may be taken home after the service or given to a shut-in. We currently have openings each month, but if you have a special date you would like to give flowers to remember a family member or a special occasion in your life, please call the office or Diane Watson at 816-294-4478 to see if arrangements can be made for a particular Sunday.

Please Note: *If you gave flowers this past year, that Sunday has been reserved for you unless you have notified us. If you want to switch dates or no longer want to give flowers, please notify Diane as soon as possible.*



Christmas Eve Service



Christmas Eve Choir: Martha Chesney, Stacy Hill, Diane Waddell, Fred Hannah, Jim Pallone, Larry Ruggeri, Fred Schott, and lead by Tom Wilcoxson, Organist/Choir Director.



Christmas Eve Bell Choir: Emily, Elizabeth, Meredith, and David Fite, Ruth Fountain, Diane Waddell and lead by Tom Wilcoxson, Organist/Choir Director.