The Rev. Dr. David Holyan, Pastor

During the 11AM worship on the 5th Sunday of Lent, Kathy Marx became the newest member of the church by answering one simple question, “Is Jesus Christ your Lord and Savior?” With her “yes” Kathy joined our church. In fact, the only requirement for membership in the PCUSA is a ‘yes’ to that question. Everything else is open to the whispering of the Spirit upon your conscience. We have great leeway in our interpretation and understanding of Scripture, theology, and any demands or claims of faith upon our lives, but to become a member of the church we must proclaim Jesus as ‘Lord and Savior’.

Yet when Jesus is recognized for the very first time after the resurrection, Mary turned toward him “… and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). Mary didn't exclaim 'Lord!' or 'Savior!' or 'Messiah!' or 'Son of God!' or even 'Jesus!'; she exclaimed Teacher!

So I've been wondering what it might mean for us to have to profess Jesus as our 'teacher' in order to be a member of the church, to see ourselves primarily as students of his teachings, 'followers' in the rabbinic sense where students study under one rabbi and are shaped by the teaching they receive. If we proclaimed Jesus as teacher, we would spend time studying his lessons. We would spend time reading the stories of his life and allow ourselves to be shaped by his example. We would be open to the work of the Spirit within us to lead us into new understandings of how to embody the 'life of Christ' in our daily life. And we would be open and willing to experiment, to test the teachings, to see if they still work and how we might improve on them.

This Eastertide, as we live into the mystery of Jesus' resurrection, I hope we can all see ourselves as 'students' of a great Teacher, open and willing to continue learning how to embody the self-giving love of Jesus Christ.

Peace,

David

Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard, Associate Pastor

During the late winter the garden catalogues began arriving. Though I am a novice at this it is fascinating to read about the varieties of tomato, bean and carrot plants that are available. Some plants take a longer time to harvest than others even in the same plant family. Some plants take a lot of care, others like zinnias seem to thrive in the midst of benign neglect. I look forward to the coming of Spring and I am chomping at the bit. But I know I need to wait--to wait until the threat of frost is past to plant.

As you receive this, we are at the very tail end of Lent. The time of waiting is almost over. But still we must walk through Holy Week and all that happened. Then finally we will arrive at Easter. Easter is like the coming of Spring, it brings with it a sense of new life, awe and joy. First of all, through the remembrance of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. But also in the promise of new life that can come to us in many ways here on earth through gardens, new relationships, and endings, that may in turn really become new beginnings.

Blessed Easter
Karen
A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

April 1, 2018 - Easter Sunday
Sermon: Christ Is Risen - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan
Scriptures: Isaiah 25:6-9 and Mark 16:1-8

We typically read the Gospel of John on Easter morning. The Gospel of Mark presents a different picture of what happened that morning. Three women go to the tomb, the stone is rolled away, they are invited to go tell the disciples, and they say nothing out of terror and amazement. On the biggest day of celebration for Christians, we say to each other, “Christ has risen. He has risen indeed.” Sometimes we lose sight of how strange the resurrection is. No one that was close to Jesus really expected him to be raised from the dead. Terror and amazement fill the three women. We live in the tension between terror and amazement, trying to understand and trust in the good news: Christ is Risen!

April 8, 2018 - 2nd Sunday of Easter
Sermon: “Life in the Name of the Risen One” - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan

Jesus keeps showing up after the resurrection. While unrecognized at first, he keeps showing up and offering peace to everyone he meets. Jesus is preparing the disciples to take over his mission and to continue his ministry. He empowers them to become agents of good news, forgivers of sin, inviters of the unworthy, people who breathe shalom and work for justice. Jesus wants the same thing for us.

April 15, 2018 - 3rd Sunday of Easter
Sermon: Wholeness Be Yours - The Rev. Dr. David Holyan

The resurrected Lord appears to the disciples, who are terrified, and says, “Peace be with you.” The word “peace” is the translation of a Greek word that many scholars believe is the New Testament word for the Hebrew word “Shalom” or “wholeness”. In a sense, Jesus is saying, ‘Peace be with you. Wholeness be with you. Fullness be with you. Right living and goodness be with you.’ We will explore the richness of Jesus’ blessing upon the disciples and upon us all.

April 22, 2018 - 4th Sunday of Easter
Sermon: Love Is A Verb - The Rev. Dr. Karen Blanchard
Scriptures: John 10:11-18 and I John 3:16-24

The lectionary readings today speak about love and faith and about relationships and actions. The good shepherd is described as one who lays down for those the shepherd loves--the one who stands firm in the midst of struggles and challenges of the sheep. The passage from I John speaks to the willingness of a person of faith to stand with those in need, to be one whose faith is rooted in love and lived out in love.

April 29, 2018 - 5th Sunday of Easter
Children’s Musical: the Tale of the Three Trees, by Allen Pote and Tom Long

On this Sunday we celebrate the talents and commitments of the children of the congregation by worshiping God together at 10AM and receiving the message of God’s goodness through the Children’s Musical. This will be a wonderful time for the entire church to come together in one service of worship and encourage the youth of the church.

From the Director of Music Ministries

Easter and Spring. I love this time of year when the Earth awakens and we celebrate the great feast of our Christian faith. As I watch the flowers open and the trees and grasses become green again, I am filled with new life myself. I pray that in this season of Resurrection you, too, might be filled with newness of life. Remember, too, that Easter is not a day, it’s a season of joy that takes up to Pentecost in May. Keep the Alleluias ringing!

I am humbly grateful to all who have shown love and concern for my father during his illness. It has been a difficult path for our family, and your prayers and kind wishes have been a great comfort. I extend my personal thanks to Travis Evans for taking on a lot of extra work at a busy time of year. We are blessed to have you with us, Travis!

Happy Easter and Happy Spring,

Bill
Children’s Ministry

Sunday School

For the month of April our Sunday School students will be learning stories from Mark, Luke, and John. We will be learning about the disciples and their travels with Jesus. We will also be sharing stories of Thomas and Nicodemus. We will be having our end of the year celebration on May 6th!

LOGOS

We have arrived at our last month of LOGOS for the year - it is hard to believe that our 26 weeks are coming to an end! It has been a fun year and we are so glad to have welcomed more than 40 students into our doors weekly!

LOGOS Themes for this month are:
April 4 - Star Wars Night: One month before May the Fourth (be with you)
April 11 - Baseball Night: We have some sneaky Cubs fans, but GO CARDS!
April 18 - Show Off Night: Our Annual Talent Show
April 25 - LAST LOGOS: Parent will join us for S’mores to end the year!

Camp Kirkapresqua

June 4-8 - Camp Kirkapresqua! We are working on theme details and planning. Look for registration now! This is a fun opportunity for kids in preschool through rising 5th graders. Middle and high school students are invited to be Junior Counselors.

We are looking for volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Rob - info below!

Family Ministry

Sunday School Celebration - Plan on celebrating the end of our program year together on Sunday, May 6th. We will be celebrating the end of our Sunday School year with an all-ages lesson in the Chapel, petting zoo from Cindy’s Zoo outside and a bounce house in Fellowship Hall.

This will all happen during the 10:00 hour and we hope that your family plans to attend!

Birthday Bags for Youth in Action - We have partnered with Youth in Action and Operation Food Search to provide Birthday Bags for middle school students that would not be able to celebrate otherwise! We are hoping to gather together 60 bags in 2018! Please bring bags back, filled with all of the items below, on or before Sunday, May 6th.

Youth Ministry

Senior High Fellowship

Our Senior High students enjoyed leading worship for the Arise! service in March. They studied Ecclesiastes to pull things together and we want to remind you that “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven!”

Middle School Fellowship

We are wrapping up our year this month but are hoping to see our Middle School students during Camp K in June as Junior Counselors!

Work Camp Auction is Coming

Our big fundraiser for our summer Work Camp - the Work Camp Auction - consists of a sit-down dinner as well as silent auction items, a dessert auction, a raffle and live auction of baskets that our students have put together! ALL funds raised go to support our trip to Red Wing, Minnesota!

If you have items to donate for the Auction now, bring them! We will happily accept donations up until the week before the Auction.

Doors open at 5:15 on April 15th. You can reserve your spot at the dinner by signing up with students on Sunday mornings, or by emailing Rob. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children aged 3-10. Childcare will be available during the dessert auction.

More about the Auction:
* Silent Auction Items will be out in the morning on April 15th for bidding even if you are not able to make the event.
* Students will be raffling off a chance to have a meal prepared by Dr. Hoylan for the winner and five others.
* We will also be raffling off four Box Seats and a parking pass to a Cardinal’s game of the winners choosing.
* We are in need of desserts to auction live on the 15th! Cakes, pies and all sorts of other desserts are needed.

Quest Class is Done!

See page 4 to see the Quest Class Creed that our students presented to the Elders and Congregation on March 4th. Our students spent the majority of the school year learning, spending time with mentors and generally having fun around the church. Their Creed is a summation of what they learned and their beliefs about God and the church.
SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

LECTURE SERIES
The annual presidential lecture series, led by Christopher Saxton, will begin on April 8 at 9:30 a.m. (room TBD). Mr. Saxton is a history teacher at Hortkin Watkins Ladue High School. This year’s series will focus on the life of President Woodrow Wilson. While the class will begin at 9:30 a.m., the final class of this series, on April 29, will begin at 9:00 a.m. due to the one service at 10:00 a.m., featuring the Children’s Musical.

FAITH IN TODAY'S WORLD 10:00 a.m. in room 029
The class, Faith in Today's World, meets in room 029 on Sundays at 10:00 a.m. The topic for discussion in the coming weeks will focus on Adam Hamilton’s work on Forgiveness: Finding Peace Through Letting Go. The class is open to everyone and the material’s focus is from a family perspective. If you have any questions, please contact Sam Butler at swbutler@gmail.com or Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION CLASS - 2ND SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH
9:30 a.m. in Room 028
The Spiritual Formation series will focus on deepening the stillness of the heart through prayer, meditation, study, and reflection. Tom Edelstein is the convener of the group which will meet the second Sunday of the month at 9:30 in room 028. The next meeting will be April 8th. If you have any questions please contact Tom at edelstein@att.net or call Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org.

TUESDAY MORNINGS 9:00 a.m. ROOM 029
We will begin discussing a new book called Paul through Mediterranean Eyes, by Ken Bailey. Paul is an intriguing character who helped to build and shape the early church. He was also well versed in Jewish thought and no stranger to the Greek and Roman culture of his time. Ken Bailey, a Presbyterian minister who lived and taught in the Middle East for many years, shares his insights on the influences that shaped Paul along with an explanation of the meanings behind the stories and events in 1 Corinthians. We will meet through mid April as we gain a deeper understanding of the times and perspectives of the apostle Paul.

FOURTH WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP 1:30 P.M., Room 029
April 25: “What She Ate”, by Laura Shapiro

Quest Creed 2018
God Wants Us to Choose Kindness

* We believe that the Trinity brings balance between God the Parent, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Jesus is our savior and deserves our loyalty. Because God loves us, we should love others. Because God forgives us, we should forgive others. * We believe that God created each of us for a reason and that we are still working to find that reason daily. We also believe that all people were created equally and everyone should be treated that way. * We believe God wants to be everyone’s best friend - always by our side, cheering our success, grieving with us in loss and excited to see us at the end of each day. * We believe that the faith of others can influence our faith in positive ways. When we worship with others we feel closer to God. * We believe that God shines like a light in our lives, and that sometimes it is dark but that God still shines. We sometimes need to look for God’s light because it is always there. We know that when times get tough is when we need to focus more on our faith in God. * We believe that God has given us choices and influences our path. We also believe that God leaves us the choice to follow. God gives us hope to make it through our days and weeks. * We believe that our Quest may be over, but our faith will continue to grow as we grow. We know that God always listens to us and find comfort in that. We will work to honor our past and live in our present.

Quest Class Students:
Deacon's Update

At most of the Deacon Board meetings we learn about the work of one of the many local service organizations in our area. At the March meeting we heard about Annie's Hope. Housed down the street in the Christian Life Center, this group provides a safe place for youth from ages 3-18 to gather as groups of individuals or in family groups to talk about grief and the issues that can crop up following the loss of a loved one. The organization provides groups in local schools, a summer camp in Waterloo, Illinois, resources about grief for families or other groups in addition to the regular group sessions.

Plans are in the works for the Blood Drive on April 9 here at First Pres and a KirkCare food drive for breakfast and lunch items during summer vacation for those who usually get meals at school.

Next month's meeting we will hear from Jay Kanerva, the chaplain at Ranken Jordan Hospital. Everyone is invited to hear about the work Jay does at our April 11 meeting at 7:15. And finally, thank you to all who support the Deacon's Fund that is used to provide help to those in our area in times of need.

Daytime Women's Circle

We presently have two groups of women who meet in the evening for discussion and fellowship once a month. In response to inquiries about creating a women's circle that meets during the day, those interested will gather for lunch to discuss various formats, ideas and interests. The first meeting is to be scheduled during the week of April 15. If you are interested in being a part of such a group or to get more information contact Karen Blanchard at kblanchard@kirkwoodpres.org or call the church office at 314-965-0326.

On Friday, April 13th, the Prime Timers will attend the performance of "The Drowsy Chaperone" by the Kirkwood High Players. Tickets are $10.00 person and may be ordered by sending a check to Lila Hershfelt, 19 Country Club Terrace, 63122 by Tuesday, April 2nd. Tickets will be available for pickup the night of the performance at 6:30 in the lobby. Dessert will be served following the performance at the condos of Judy Matthews and the Hershfelts, 18 and 19 Country Club Terrace. If you have questions call either Judy, 314-965-5340 or Lila, 314-821-7090. All are welcome!

**BREAKFAST CLUB**
The Breakfast Club will meet on Thursday, April 8th in the Fireplace Room at 8:00a.m. Our guest speaker will be Church member, Angela Gracey, who will discuss issues of transitions of changing residency, lifestyles and available resources. Please join us for food and fellowship! See you there!!

**SPRING BLOOD DRIVE**
First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood will be hosting our spring Blood Drive on Monday, April 9 from 2:00p.m. until 7:00p.m. Please come donate if you are able. If not, come keep us company. Contact Peggy Collins with any questions at 314-822-4857.

**Meal-A-Month Items**
Canned Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Can Mixed Vegetables, Canned Fruit Cocktail

**Condolences**

The congregation extends its deepest sympathy to:
* Ann Polster and family on the death of her father, Edward Cunliff, on March 9, 2018.
* Larry Knickman and family on the death of former First Pres Receptionist/Church Secretary, Jona, on March 13, 2018.
* The family of Betty Wilson, who died on March 13, 2018.
* The family of member Vonnie Mattson who died on February 28, 2018.

The Dementia Discussion Group meets every 3rd Saturday at 10:00a.m. downstairs in room 028.
The next meeting is Saturday, April 21. If you have any questions, contact Alice Bowen: asquare812@hotmail.com or Angela Gracey: anggracey@msn.com.

The Grief Support Group will meet on Tuesday, April 24, 7:00p.m. -8:30p.m. in the lounge.
For more information contact Ellen Hitschler at ln4cats@yahoo.com or Mary Ann Shaw at mashaw5@sbcglobal.net.
Welcome New Members

Shanon Kusch: Shanon grew up in Overland Park, KS but lived the last 30 years in Nashville, TN. She has recently retired from 35 years in private practice as an audiologist. She moved here with her basset hound, Sofie, to make this home and be with her fiance’, David, whom she has known since they were both 11 years old! Shanon loves traveling, decorating, reading, college sports and spending time with her 3 adult children. She is a cradle Presbyterian who is coming to us by transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Murfreesboro where she served as a Ruling Elder.

Kathleen Marx: Kathleen came to us after hearing about First Pres from members who are friends of her mother and father-in-law and is the third of the Marx/Fortune clan to join our church. Her husband Andy and his sister, Janet Fortune, have joined in recent months. Kathleen grew up in the St. Louis area and graduated with a BA in nursing from UMSL. After working as a nurse for a number of years she is now with BJC Marketing. She and her husband have three adult daughters. Kathleen comes to us by transfer from St. Lucas UCC Church.

The Visitor/New Member Committee

GOT NAMETAG ??? – IF you need a new one our can't find yours, please leave a note on the Ritual of Friendship Register located in each aisle of your worship space.

First Pres is a big church and it can be difficult to put a name and a face together. Please take some extra time for fellowship on Sundays. Easter will bring an abundance of visitors and family guests to church. Please extend your best Pres welcome. Our door greeters sign up sheet is in the gallery space by the Welcome Center.

Your Homework: If you know of someone who is interested in joining, please share our next Visitor/New Member informational meetings being held April 22nd and May 6th, with those who wish to join being received on May 20th at the 10:00a.m. service.

Again, - thank you to each of you for your continued smile and warm welcome to our visitors! You are helping to grow our church one person at a time!

Member and Welcome committee: Brad Gift, Al Murray, Leah Engelhardt, Stuart Jaeger, Kristy Mitchell, George Durnell, Karen Blanchard

General Assembly is Coming to St Louis!

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” -Matthew 6:33

SAVE THESE DATES: June 16-23, 2018! Visit the General Assembly website at https://ga-pcusa.org to learn more. Volunteers are needed. Consider volunteering with a friend or family member. There is a spot for everyone to participate both before, after and especially during the week of GA! Children and youth are welcome to participate--worship ushering and communion serving specifically invite children to serve along with a parent. No matter your age, ability, or experience level, there is a job for you. Our COLA (Committee on Local Arrangements) website has the link for volunteer sign up. Go to https://www.stlouisga.com/ to learn more. For more information, look for 1st Pres members wearing an "Ask Me" me button and stay tuned to the weekly bulletin insert for updates.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>EASTER SUNDAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>8:15 AM Communion Worship</td>
<td>8:15 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:45 AM First Pres Cafe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Arise! Contemporary Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>10:00 AM Faith in Today's World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11:00 AM Traditional Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>10:00 AM Education for All Ages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10:00 AM Faith in Today's World</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>11:00 AM Traditional Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>10:00 AM Education for All Ages</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>MISSION TRIP TO LA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mission Trip to LA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>EARTH DAY</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>8:15 AM Communion Worship</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8:45 AM First Pres Cafe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:00 AM Lecture Series</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>9:00 AM Preschool/KDO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIVE STREAMING CHURCH SERVICE

Are you going out of town, not feeling well or just not able to be in church on a given Sunday? Don’t worry. Our 11:00a.m. worship service is live streamed just for you! All you have to do is go to www.kirkwoodpres.org and click on Church Service Video Streaming at 11:00a.m. and you are good to go. Also, just below that button is a printable version of the bulletin so you can follow along. Don’t miss out. Give it a try!

It’s estimated that for each 1 degree of Global Warming, 7% of the global population will see a decrease of 20% or more in renewable water resources. Global sea levels rose about 8 inches in the last century. The rate in the last two decades, however, is nearly double that of the last century. According to The 2015 United Nations World Water Development Report, “unless the international community ‘dramatically’ improves water supply management, the planet may face a 40% shortfall within the next 15 years.”