

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FULTON

— GOD'S PEOPLE CONNECTING... MAY 7-13, 2021! —

## **THIS WEEK, PASTOR AARON ASKS: "ARE JESUS' LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP OFFERED UNCONDITIONALLY IN OUR GOSPEL LESSON?"**

"I have called you friends!" Jesus tells us this in our reading this week from the Gospel According to John. But what does it mean to be called a friend of Jesus! First, it means that he has chosen us! Though we might decide to choose Jesus and to call him our friend too, we'll always know that he was the one who first chose to enter into this relationship with us! Second, he cherishes us! This isn't a relationship that is about obligation; Jesus just loves us and finds joy in sharing in life with us! And third, he charges us! Jesus trusts us with the work of continuing to bear the fruit of love in the world! This week in worship, we consider what it means to receive the gift of Christ's friendship and the obligation we have to keep his commandment to love one another. Having experienced the fullness of love in the relationship between himself and his heavenly Father, Jesus wants nothing more than for us to share in that same sort of love with him. And more than this, he wants us to actually share in his joy by becoming those who offer love and initiate friendships with others in our own lives! As we prepare for worship, we encourage you to reflect upon our Scripture lessons: John 15:9-17 and 1 John 5:1-6. You may also wish to consider your own responses to the following questions:

- Jesus' love and friendship are sometimes described as unconditional. Are Jesus' love and friendship offered unconditionally in our Gospel lesson?
- It's said that you can choose your friends, but not your family. While Jesus sometimes describes us as family, why do you think he emphasizes our relationship as friends here?

You're welcome to share your reflection by sending an email to the pastor. We can't wait to be united with you in worship!

Hear the Word: Looking Ahead Toward Sunday, May 9, 2021



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF FULTON

Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup> | 10:30 a.m. | 718 Court St.

This Week's Message:  
**CHOSEN! CHERISHED!  
CHARGED!**

Worship with us in-person  
or on our YouTube channel!  
[bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube](https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube)

@fpcfulton

## WORSHIP & REFLECTION THIS WEEK!



### IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE HELD IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL ON SUNDAY UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE!

Sunday, May 9, 2021 - *The Sixth Sunday of Easter (Year B)*

Liturgical Color: White

Livestream on YouTube: <https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube>

Acolyte: Rebecca White

Usher Captain: Bob Hoell

Gospel Lesson: [John 15:9-17](#)

Epistle Lesson: [1 John 5:1-6](#)

Sermon by Rev. Aaron White:

#### *Chosen! Cherished! Charged!*

Who are we in the sight of Jesus Christ? Those closest to him are often described as his disciples—students who followed their master and learn from their teacher. Jesus himself has taught them that they were to be servants, because he himself came to serve the world. And after Pentecost, they would be known as the Apostles—those who were sent out by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the good news to the whole world.

Like those first followers of Jesus, we may play many roles, including those of disciple, servant, and apostle. But as Jesus tells us this week, he wants us to know that he sees us first and foremost as his friends. But if the task of the disciple is to

follow, the servant to kneel, and the apostle to proclaim, what then is our responsibility as friends of Jesus? We are to love one another, just as Jesus has loved us, and God has loved him. Knowing that we have been chosen as his friends and that we abide in his love, are Jesus' good friends when we accept his charge to bear the lasting fruit of love through which our joy is made complete!

**Additional readings from the Revised Common Lectionary:**

[Psalm 98](#); [Acts 10:44-48](#)

**Hymns This Week:**

Hymn of Praise: #396 Brethren, We Have Met to Worship\*

Hymn of Reflection: #435 There's A Wideness in God's Mercy

Hymn of Dedication: #313 Lord, Make Us More Holy

Kyrie Eleison: #437 You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!\*\*

Gloria: #581 Glory Be to the Father

Congreg. Blessing: #243 Be Not Afraid\*\*\*

**A Reminder:** *The wearing of masks is an act of Christian love and regard for others. Our Church COVID-19 safety protocols require those entering the building to observe social distance and wear a mask at all times.*

## A MOTHER'S DAY PRAYER BY REV. DIANE MOFFETT...

A few years ago, the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, president and executive director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, wrote this prayer for Mother's Day worship:

Divine Creator, we welcome you into our sacred space.

With open hearts, we usher in your presence

And await the movement of your Holy Spirit.

God of all mothers,

Stand with us as we celebrate

Those who have mothered,

Those who are mothering

and those who will mother.

Abide with us as we honor

Those who found ways to give life

And nurture children

even in the midst of the

Middle Passage.

Slavery.

Jim Crow laws.

Racism.



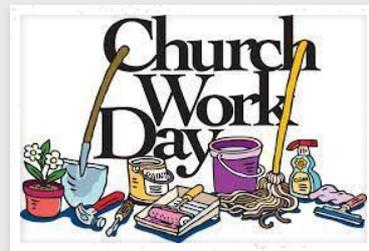
And hatred that threatened  
To take away life before it was given.  
Stand by us as we acknowledge mothers who stand at the border  
Seeking life for their children and families  
Only to have those children snatched from their hands  
By cruel, callous laws that are indifferent to human suffering.  
Walk with us as we lift up mothers  
Who are frail and in the final season of living.  
Mothers who have given more than they ever received.  
Mothers who have cared for, caressed and counseled us.  
Who have etched their mark upon our flesh.  
Mothers whom we grieve because they have died  
And their memory leaves us wanting ...  
Comfort us as we remember mothers  
Who are homeless and hopeless,  
Who are locked up and locked out of their  
Children's lives because of  
Incarceration.  
Or mental disorders  
Or self-imposed imprisonment  
That inhibits one's ability to mother.  
Like our earthly mothers,  
You have given us life  
And brought us forth  
To be a source of life and light in this world.  
You have blessed us with your merciful love  
Even when our behavior breaks your heart.  
Forgive our rebellious, wayward ways.  
Heal our lives and the planet in which we live.  
As we enter the celebration of Mother's Day  
Make us grateful for your unwavering  
Mercy.  
Love.  
Provision.  
Patience and  
Guidance.  
And help us to share the same with others.  
Amen.

## **STORM DAMAGE REPAIRS CONTINUE...**

As storm damage repairs to our church roof, lobby, and sanctuary continue, we celebrate the God-given talents of those who are applying their expertise to the situation. This week, please offer prayers of thanksgiving and appreciation for these special experts in their field.

## A CHURCH WORK DAY IS PLANNED FOR MAY 22!

Mark Covey and the Property Committee are holding a Church Work Day on May 22 beginning at 10:00 am. Work planned includes trimming bushes and trees, weeding flower beds, and general cleanup. Mark says we may also do some touch up painting or other small projects that day.



**Mark Your Calendars Now to Lend a Helping Hand!**

## THE LUNCH BUNCH HAS RETURNED!

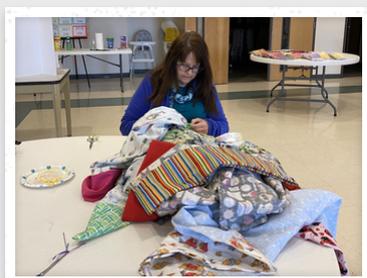
The Lunch Bunch is back and you are invited to attend! Fully-vaccinated adults are invited to join us at noon each Wednesday for lunch and study in the Fellowship Hall. The CDC considers an individual fully vaccinated after two weeks following the second shot of the Moderna or Pfizer vaccine, or two weeks following the Johnson & Johnson single shot vaccine.

*Get Vaccinated & Join Us for Lunch Each Wednesday!*



**10TH ANNUAL EVENT: JUNE 12, 2021!**

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**



Our 10th annual "Ryan's Case for Smiles" sewing workshop will be held on Saturday, June 12th at First Presbyterian Church in Fulton for fully vaccinated individuals. Between the hours of 9:00-1:00, we'll be sewing bright, cheery pillowcases for children in Mid-MO hospitals who are dealing with a life-changing illness and other child-focused facilities. If you are an experienced seamstress, or just beginning to sew, this event is your chance to sew pillowcase "smiles." If you aren't interested in sewing, we also need individuals who can pin, press, fold, bag and tag the pillowcases. If you'll be sewing, please bring your machine (or serger), extension cord, pins, thread, and scissors. Fabric should be 100% cotton, pre-washed, with non-scented detergent, and NO dryer sheets....7/8 yard for the main body, 1/3 yard for the border. Sparkly or textured fabrics are not recommended. We'll have coffee and donuts to get us "geared up" for sewing, but you'll need to bring a sack lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided. If you're not able to sew, we're always happy to have donations of cotton fabric, or funds to purchase fabric. Call Ginger Beasley (592-7539) or Mary Osburn (220-7633) to reserve your space.

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



WE ARE A  
**MATTHEW 25 Church**

*Actively Engaged in the World*



**Rev. Aaron White, Pastor**

[pastor@fulonpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@fulonpresbyterian.org) – (573) 642-5541

718 Court Street, Downtown Fulton, Missouri

Visit our Website: [www.fultonpresbyterian.org](http://www.fultonpresbyterian.org)



## OUR YOUTUBE CHANNEL NEEDS 100 SUBSCRIBERS!

WE KNOW YOU ARE WATCHING THE LIVESTREAMS AND RECORDINGS,  
BUT DO YOU SUBSCRIBE?



*Reaching 100 subscribers gives a YouTube Channel more flexibility and reach. This means First Presbyterian Church is able to spread The Good News to more people! Subscribing is easy. Just follow these simple steps!*

To Subscribe:

1. Open any web browser and go to: <https://bit.ly/focfultonvoutube>.

2. Subscribe by checking on the red rectangle on the right side of the page.
3. Set notifications by clicking on the bell icon.
4. Be sure to bookmark this page so you can easily find it in the future.

**To enable auto-generated closed captioning:**

**[CLICK THE YOUTUBE LOGO TO VIEW A CLOSED CAPTION TUTORIAL!](#)**

1. Go to the FPC YouTube Channel and select the video you wish to view with closed captions.
2. On the menu bar directly beneath the video window, you will see a gear-shaped icon for "Settings." Clicking on the icon will reveal a series of options, including the ability to turn on "Subtitles/CC."
3. After clicking on this option, you would want to select "English (auto-generated)."
4. To view, click on the side arrow to launch play. Once the video begins to play, YouTube will generate closed captioning.

***FPC Sunday Worship Services are Livestreamed at 10:30am  
and available to view as recordings thereafter!***

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE, SPECIAL MESSAGES, & IMPORTANT CHURCH NOTES!**



- **Do You Have a Musical Talent to Share?** Church Music Director Ethan Forte is looking for instrumentalist or vocalist who would like to share their God-given talent during a Sunday Worship Service. He is also looking for additional "hands" to join the growing FPC Bell Choir. If you, a member of your family, or a musical friend would like to join us for praise and worship through music, please contact Ethan.

**[ekfgw7@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:ekfgw7@mail.missouri.edu)**

or

**Call 573-416-2605**

- **Have you thought of joining the FPC Bell Choir?** Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. To find out more about joining this unique group, or to share you musical talent, please contact Choir Director Ethan Forte at [ekfgw7@mail.missouri.edu](mailto:ekfgw7@mail.missouri.edu) or call 573-416-2605.
- **Would you like to learn how to livestream worship services?** *If you would like to learn how to operate the recording equipment and are willing to help with this Sunday morning duty, please contact Shaun Speers or Rev. White for more information.* We are now able to livestream services on our YouTube channel. If you would like to participate in Sunday worship, but cannot attend in person, you can now open any web browser and go to: <https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube> at 10:30 am to participate in real time, or any time you choose to view the recorded version.

- **Spread the Word to All of the Middle & High School Students in Your Life: The Rock is Back!** *We welcome all middle and high school students to join us at The Rock each Sunday evening at 6:00 pm. 715 Nichols Street, Fulton, Missouri.*
- **Would you like to join the Usher Team?** Volunteers are needed to help carry out our Hospitality Mission. If you are interested in being a regular or fill-in usher, please contact Bob Hoell to find out more!
- **Church Lock-Up Volunteers are Needed!** Volunteers are needed to lockup the Church after Sunday service. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the lobby. Those that can support, please sign up for desired dates. If you have any questions on what it entails, please ask Mark Covey at **573-327-0197**, or another Property Committee member.
- **Contributions to the SERVE Food Pantry and Our House Shelf Stockers** will continue to be collected as part of our *Fishes and Loaves Offering*. Our House needs a new refrigerator and is still accepting monetary donations for this purpose. Checks may be placed in the offering plate on Sunday or mailed to: First Presbyterian Church, PO Box 6037, Fulton, MO 65251. You may also give through the GIVE+Online Church Giving link on our website. Just write "Our House" or "SERVE Food Pantry" in the memo line to ensure your donation goes to the right organization

## OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION!

### How to Contact Rev. Aaron White

Rev. Aaron White is holding virtual office hours at this time. Please call him on his cell phone, (573) 590-3136 or contact him by email [pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastor@fultonpresbyterian.org).



### How Will I Continue Giving During This Time?

Checks for pledges and offerings, and documents that are normally hand-delivered on Sunday mornings can be mailed to:

**First Presbyterian Church**  
P.O. Box 6037, Fulton, MO 65251

**If you prefer online giving, use our new GIVE+ Online giving system through the website or the GIVE+ Mobile app.**

Our committees Gmail accounts that can be used to email them suggestions, concerns, and thanks. The addresses are:

- Session Clerk, "[clerk@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:clerk@fultonpresbyterian.org)"
- Administration Committee, "[administration@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:administration@fultonpresbyterian.org)"
- Christian Education Committee, "[education@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:education@fultonpresbyterian.org)"
- Fellowship Committee, "[fellowship@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:fellowship@fultonpresbyterian.org)"
- Mission Committee, "[mission@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:mission@fultonpresbyterian.org)"
- Congregational Care Committee, "[pastoralcare@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:pastoralcare@fultonpresbyterian.org)"
- Property Committee, "[property@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:property@fultonpresbyterian.org)"

- Worship Committee, "[worship@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:worship@fultonpresbyterian.org)"
- Communications, "[communications@fultonpresbyterian.org](mailto:communications@fultonpresbyterian.org)"



## WELCOME TO OUR CHURCH!

 Facebook  @FPCFulton

*First Presbyterian Church is located at 718 Court Street in historic downtown Fulton, Missouri. Worship services, under the direction of Rev. Aaron White, are held each Sunday morning. For more information, go to: [www.fultonpresbyterian.org](http://www.fultonpresbyterian.org) or find us on Facebook or on Twitter @FPCFulton.*

*Subscribe to our YouTube channel:*

<https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube>

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