

Community Life

A Publication of: First Community Church
P.O. Box 327
Joplin, MO 64802
(417) 781-1800
Email: fccjoplin@sbcglobal.net

Community Life



A Publication of:
First Community Church
2007 E. 15th Street
Joplin, Missouri 64804
(417) 781-1800

Worship Service 10:00 a.m.

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 327
Joplin, MO 64802
Website: fccjoplin.com

Volume 66
Issue 11
January 2025

Email: fccjoplin@sbcglobal.net

MINISTER'S MOMENT

The word *spirit* has fascinated me for most of my life. I loved stories of ghosts and *spirits* scaring the wits out of characters in books and film. Of course, as I grew older my interest in *spirit* broadened to include discussions of the *human spirit* and the *Holy Spirit*. This sort of thing happens when you decide to become a minister. I must admit, however, I still like a scary ghost story when I can get it.

Like many people, I inherited a dualistic view of existence which taught that *spirit* was a different kind of reality than the material world. This view asserts that the world in which we live and move is made of material stuff in contrast to the spiritual world which is sort of wispy and ethereal. The usual way this dualistic (or *two world*) perspective plays out is to assert that the material world is inferior to the spiritual world. Many have even taught that the material world is downright evil compared to the spiritual. As a result, spirituality has often been interpreted as an escape from the material world of everyday life into a mystical, otherworldly existence.

For several years now, I have found the dualistic perspective very unsatisfying. Instead of seeing *spirit* as something separate from my everyday existence, I believe it is a natural aspect of the one reality in which we live and move. *Spirit* doesn't refer to an alternate reality in which God and the angels reside, while we are relegated to the world of dust and flesh. A serious reading of the scriptures coupled with thoughtful reflection upon existence itself reveals an alternative way of looking at all of this. *Spirit* has to do with life and that which encourages life.

Spirituality includes those things that help life mature and grow in beauty and significance. It has to do with the search for meaning and purpose. It also involves discovering and strengthening all of those connections which exist between different living things as they form the larger web of life in which we all participate.

Continued...



| | | | |
|----------------|-----|--------------------|------|
| Robert Harding | 1/3 | Katherine Mitchell | 1/20 |
| Carol Parker | 1/5 | Linda Unser | 1/23 |
| Warren McNabb | 1/7 | Jonathan Scales | 1/24 |
| Wynona Dugan | 1/9 | Asher Cullers | 1/30 |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

HAPPY Anniversary

Please contact the church office and give us your birthday and anniversary dates.

We don't want to miss anyone!

Continued from front page...

Life isn't something we should try to escape. It isn't inherently evil. Rather, life is that part of reality that moves and creates. Life interacts with the world and changes it in the process. This is the true meaning of *spirit*. We are *spiritual* beings because we are living creatures. Because we are alive, we can move and create even as we grow in wisdom and understanding of our place in the universe.

God is this same sort of *spirit*. The scriptures tell us that God is the source of life, its author and finisher. God not only creates life, but God also nurtures it and redeems it when life goes astray. In a theological sense, you could say that God is Life, written with a capital "L." Because of this, we are right to name God as the **Holy Spirit**. God is the *spirit* that makes all other *spirits* possible. God is the life that makes all other lives possible. And more than this, God is the life that gives our lives meaning. Through our relationship with the *Holy Spirit*, we become more alive...more *spiritual*.

As we begin a new year together, my prayer is that we embrace our *spirituality*. I hope we will not shrink from exercising our *spirits* and living with boldness. As we work together to create a great church, we will also be growing in *spirit* and feeling ourselves becoming more alive. ~Russell

Serving in Jan.

Elders

Laurie Delano
Joy O'Toole

Deacons

*Andrea Cullers
Seth Merriman
Tom Jones
Linda Unser

Communion

Stewards

Linda Unser
Dawn Trujillo

Serving in Feb.

Elders

*Jim Everit
Bill Harding

Deacons

*Gina Trimble
Janet Emmert
Sandy Peterson
Jenna Trimble

Communion

Stewards

Laura Heigle
Dorinda Mayfield

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, January 14th
at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Women's Section Meetings
Section V– Wed., Jan. 8th at 1:00 p.m.
Section IV– Tues., Jan. 21st at 6:00 p.m.



Men's Breakfast
Saturday, January 18th at 9:00 a.m.
in Fellowship Hall

All the men of FCC are invited
Bring a guest!

Annual Meeting & Potluck Family Dinner
Sunday, January 26th at 11:00 a.m.

This meeting is to discuss everything that occurred the previous year, and to help the church prepare for the upcoming year. Hope to see you there!

~Reports are due by Jan. 17th~



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|-----|-----|---------------------|
| | | | 1 Office Closed | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. | 6 | 7 | 8 Women's Section V 1:00 p.m. Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. | 9 | 10 | 11 |
| 12 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. | 13 | 14 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m. | 15 Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. | 16 | 17 | 18 9:00 a.m. |
| 19 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Fiber Folks 2 -4 p.m. | 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Joplin Area Piano Teacher's Assoc. Recital 2:30 p.m. ← | 21 Women's Section IV 6:00 p.m. | 22 Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Worship Service 10:00 a.m. Annual Meeting & Dinner 11am | 27 | 28 | 29 Bell Choir 5:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal 6:00 p.m. | 30 | 31 | |