



### Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

A fable tells the story of a lion who catches a mouse. The mouse pleads for its life, suggesting that someday it might be able to be of assistance to the great king of beasts. The lion, amused by the thought, has mercy on the mouse and lets it go. Later, the lion gets caught in a hunter's snare. And who should show up to gnaw through the ropes and set the lion free but the mouse.

You never know!

Another fable tells of a man who finds a lion in terrible pain from a thorn stuck in its paw. The man has compassion for the lion and pulls the thorn out, much to the relief of the lion. Much later

the man finds himself in one of the Roman Empire's great amphitheatres, about to be eaten by a lion (for the twisted amusement of the audience). But the audience, and the man himself, are in for a great surprise, for the lion is the same lion the man helped much earlier. Instead of eating him, the lion greets the man as a friend, remembering the past act of kindness.

You never know!

Miriam watches out for her baby brother whose life is in great danger. The Pharaoh has decreed that every boy born to the Hebrew people is to be killed. But Miriam's mother hides the baby boy, and finally places him in a watertight basket in the river. When the Pharaoh's own daughter discovers the basket, Miriam comes out of hiding and helps arrange things so that her own brother will be cared for and safe. (see Exodus 2) This very same brother later is to be used by God to lead the Hebrew people, including Miriam herself, out of Egypt and out of slavery. His name? Moses.

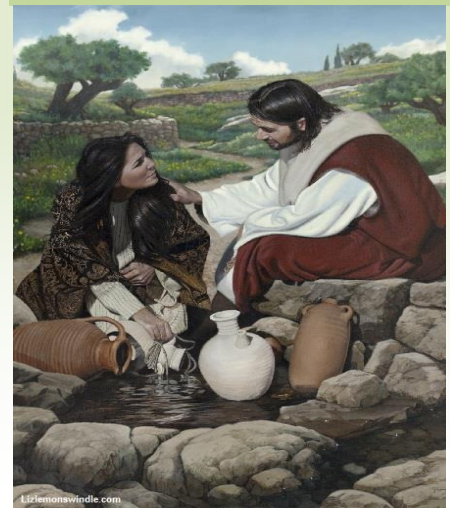
You never know!

You never know where your act of caring might go. You never know where your deed of compassion might lead. You never know what might come of your gesture of love.

Jesus told a parable about a man who went out to sow some seed in a field. Some seed didn't do too well, being eaten or dried up or choked. But some seed did wonderfully, bearing thirty or sixty or one hundred grains!

You never know! The seeds you sow – seeds of kindness and love and caring, seeds of the gospel in word and deed – might fall on poor ground and come to nothing ... OR ... they might fall on good ground and bear fruit a hundredfold!

You never know! So ... sow!



**SAVE THE DATE:**

Our final summer concert will be on Sunday August 27<sup>th</sup> after worship. Music performance by Melissa Fyr, singing Karen Carpenter music.

Presbytery Picnic September 30  
Food, Music, Fellowship, and fun  
12 to 4 pm  
Hosted by Grace Presbyterian Church  
105 Bailey Rd.  
Crystal City, MO 63019




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*Worshiping and serving God, loving, and accepting all*

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**A reminder:**

Prayer concerns can be shared with me via email or phone before worship (preferably by Saturday evening); or you can write them down (legibly, please) on a piece of paper and place them in the basket that will be located near the entrance to the sanctuary.

Pastor Bill

Sunday Worship service will be Streaming live on Facebook on Sunday at 9:00 am. The bulletin will also be available on Facebook and the church website ([www.unionfirstpresby.org](http://www.unionfirstpresby.org)), posted by 8 am Sunday morning.

Link to Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstPresbyterianChurchUnion/>

Bulletin can be found here: <http://www.unionfirstpresby.org/church-bulletins/>

# ***Stories That Sustain Our Faith***

## **Women's Retreat**

October 5<sup>th</sup> thru 7<sup>th</sup> at Mound Ridge Retreat Center

***Thursday, October 5***

Optional Float Trip in Steelville, check in at Mound Ridge

Dinner, Evening Devotional Rev. Vicky Michaels, Movie, Bon Fire

***Friday, October 6***

*led by Rev. Emily Rosencrans*

*Plenary Session*

*10:00-11:00 am*

### ***Stories of Faith and Faithfulness***

*Small Group Session*

*11:15-12:15 pm*

*Lunch Break*

*12:15-1:30 pm*

*Plenary Session*

*1:30-2:30 pm*

### ***Stories of Spiritual Struggle***

*Small Group Session*

*3:00-4:00 pm*

*Stone Ritual/Walking/Journaling/Coloring/Knitting*

*4:00-5:00 pm*

*Dinner*

*5:00-7:00 pm*

*Worship: The Sacred Sisterhood/Baptism Remembered/Communion*

*7:00-8:00 pm*

*Campfire & Movie*

*8:30-????*

***Saturday, October 7***

Breakfast, Devotional with Rev. Janet Riley, prayer,  
walking the maze, sharing stories, lunch in Cuba.



*Optional float trip \$29 pp for canoe, \$43 pp for kayak, lodging \$48 per night, dinner \$10 per night*

For Information email [Ambroandro@hotmail.com](mailto:Ambroandro@hotmail.com) or call Cheryl Rainey @ 314-696-7758