



## Message from Pastor Bill Vincent

Growth is a fact of life. It is inevitable. What is not inevitable is exactly what will grow, and in what direction.

Farmers use herbicides to help encourage growth of their crop, be it corn or wheat. They don't want the weeds to grow. Gardeners weed their chosen plot of land to encourage growth of their radishes and carrots, tomatoes and cucumbers. They don't want the weeds to grow. The weeds steal the space, water, nutrients, and light that the other plants need to grow. In order to encourage the growth of what you want, you have to get rid of the weeds.

What do we need to "get rid of" in order to encourage growth of the right things in our life? What is stealing the time, energy, focus, and resources that we need in order to grow well?

But not only encouraging growth of the right things.

Also encouraging growth in the right direction.

The vine-grower trims the vine to encourage the growth of the healthiest part of the vine and to encourage growth in the right direction. The lower branches of the tree are pruned to encourage the tree to grow up.

What do we need to have "pruned" from our lives in order to grow in the right direction?

And not only in our own lives.

What are we doing in order to encourage growth of the right things in others' lives: those of our families and friends, the church and the community? What are we doing in order to encourage growth in the right direction in others' lives: those of our families and friends, the church and the community?

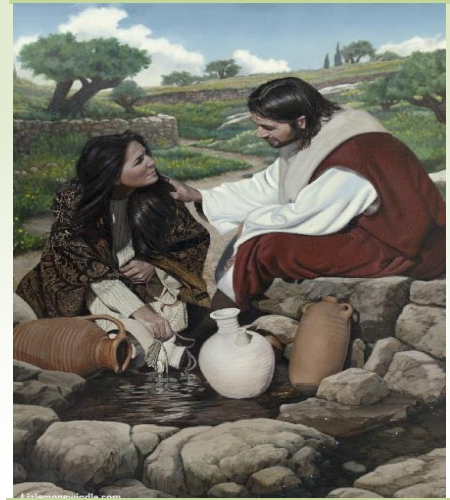
Growth is a fact of life. It is inevitable. What is not inevitable is exactly what will grow, and in what direction.

So, what are we doing to encourage right growth, good growth, the kind of growth that God intends? Growth that upbuilds rather than tears down, that supports rather than undermines, that nurtures rather than starves. Growth that is a blessing to others and all those around us. Growth that draws us closer to God and to each other rather than pulling us farther apart.

As the crops grow and the gardens bloom and Summer blossoms all around us, perhaps we should give some thought to what is growing in our lives, and how.

*Peace in Christ,*

*Bill Vincent*



## Reminder: GODSPELL

If you want to join us for “**Godspell**” at ECC on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00 pm, we need to **hear from you by July 2<sup>nd</sup>**! Ticket prices are \$12.00. To reserve your seat, sign up with Susan Buchanan (636-257-9758).

## Summer Concert #2

On **Sunday July 30<sup>th</sup>** following worship service, will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> summer concert. Performing will be Sam & Teddy, “The Luecke Brothers”.



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



### 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/>