This Week Pastor Aaron Asks: "Who or what would you find most difficult to leave behind, if you were required to do so, in order to follow Jesus?"

Greetings, Friends!
This week in worship, we are beginning a series of conversations that I’m calling “The Disciples’ Way.” Over the course of these four weeks, we'll follow in the footsteps of Jesus, as our Lord reveals to us a new way of living. As he leads us from the shore at Galilee to the Capernaum synagogue; from his makeshift clinic in the home of Simon and Andrew to the mount of the Transfiguration, we will learn just who Jesus truly is. And in doing so, he will show us who God is calling us to become.
As we begin this series this week, we’ll hear Mark’s account of Jesus calling his first disciples. This story challenges us to consider the urgency of the present moment, the necessity of sacrifice in order for us to gain ground, and the unsurpassable value of restoring our relationship with God and strengthening our relationships as a community of believers. Ultimately, accepting Christ’s call — “Follow me” — is about trusting our Lord to lead us and to teach us what we need to know, so that we might “fish for people.” (Mark 1:17)

Of course, as we seek to follow the Disciples’ Way, we look to scripture as our compass guide. I encourage you to take time to read this week’s lessons before we come together. We’ll begin with a reading from the Book of Jonah, chapter three, verses one through ten. We’ll then read our passage from the Gospel According to Mark, chapter one, verses fourteen through twenty. Once you’ve read both passages, please consider these questions:

- Who or what would you find most difficult to leave behind, if you were required to do so, in order to follow Jesus?
- Where are the places that you would be resistant to going and extending Jesus’ call to “repent, and believe in the good news?” (Mark 1:15)

As we begin this series of conversations, I do hope you will be able to join me and your friends in the church for worship this week. Each Sunday morning, we gather together at 10:30 a.m. If you’re able to join us in-person, you’ll find us in the sanctuary at 718 Court Street here in Fulton. If you plan to join us virtually, you’ll find us through the live webcast on our congregation’s YouTube channel, at the same day and time. Following worship, you may find the archived videos of each of our gatherings on our YouTube channel. Should you need to share in worship at another time, we hope you’ll join us by viewing the video when you are able to do so.

Friends, the call is for you, and for me, and for everyone who has ears to hear! Jesus invites us, saying, “Follow me!” As we accept the invitation, we should immediately know that we’re empowered in Christ’s name to extend the call to others! Let’s welcome all to come and join us for the journey of discipleship that lies ahead.

May grace and peace be yours in abundance!

Hear the Word: Looking Ahead Toward Sunday, January 21, 2024
In-Person Worship Service in the Sanctuary!

**Sunday, January 21, 2024**: The Third Sunday after Epiphany, Year B

**Livestream on YouTube**: [https://www.youtube.com/@FPCFulton](https://www.youtube.com/@FPCFulton)

**Liturgical Color**: Green

**Usher Captain**: Graham McCaulley

**Greeter**: Lori Covey

**Acolyte**: Jill McCaulley

**Live Stream/Sound**: Shirley Dixon & Owen White

**Worship Leader**: Rev. Aaron J. White

**Old Testament Lesson**: Jonah 3:1-10

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 1:14-20

**Sermon by Rev. White**

---

**Answering the Call**

Jesus calls his first disciples to leave behind their nets, their boats, and even their family, so that they might follow him, as he teaches them to be “fishers of people.” (Mark 1:17) Discipleship requires them to risk the world that they’ve known all of their lives, trusting in Jesus to show them the new world in which “the kingdom of God has come near.” (v. 15) In this new world, everything—their vocations, their priorities, and their relationships—will be forever changed.

Today, we too are being called to follow Jesus. As we read this story, we should sense the urgency of the moment. If we are to be Jesus’ disciples, then we must keep pace with him, proclaiming through our words and our actions the good news, so that others might also repent and believe.

*Additional readings from the Revised Common Lectionary:*

**Psalm 62:5-12; 1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

**Hymns This Week!**

- Hymn of Praise: #53 O God, Who Gives Us Life
- Hymn of Reflection: #170 You Walk along Our Shoreline
- Hymn of Dedication: #295 Go to the World!
- Kyrie Eleison: PH572 Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us
- Gloria: #581 Glory Be to the Father
- Children's Moment: #188 Jesus Loves Me!
- Congregational Blessing: #492 You Belong to Christ

---

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL/CORPORATE MEETING: January 28, 2024!**

**ANNUAL CONGREGATION/CORPORATE MEETING**

Our Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28th in Fellowship Hall after the worship service and luncheon. Ham and drinks will be provided for the luncheon. Please bring a dish or two to share. You can also donate for the cost of the meat, if preparing a dish is more challenging for you than it has been in the past.

I. Call of the Meeting:

a. The Session, by consensus, agreed to call the Annual Congregational and Corporate meeting of First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, January 28, 2024 after the worship service. Public notice of
this meeting has been given two weeks prior to the meeting. The purpose of this meeting is to:

a. hear the annual financial report
b. to review the Annual Statistical Report
c. to approve the Pastor’s 2024 Terms of Call
d. to hear a report from our Communications liaison
e. to hear a reading of all members who joined the Church Triumphant in the last year.

The 2024 Terms of Call for the Pastor that have been approved by Session, but will need approval by a vote of the congregation during this meeting. Details of the terms will be distributed at the meeting and will be emailed to the membership prior to the meeting.

Ramona Dobson,
Clerk of Session & Administration Committee Chair

FPC Elder Emeritus Barbara Dunlap Wilkerson:
2/15/1924 - 12/27/2023

Barbara Dunlap Wilkerson entered her Heavenly home on December 27, 2023 while in the hospital after a brief illness. Her loving son Tim was by her side.

Mrs. Wilkerson was born on February 15, 1924, in York, S.C. to Robert Floyd and Edna Henry Dunlap. She earned her B.S. degree at Winthrop University, and pursued graduate studies at PSCA in Richmond, VA. She later entered the teaching profession.

In 1946, she met Leon C. Wilkerson. They married on August 27, 1948, eventually moving to Fulton, MO in 1954 where Dr. Wilkerson began his teaching career at Westminster College. Mrs. Wilkerson taught within the Fulton Public Schools system. The couple became active in the First Presbyterian Church of Fulton. Besides serving on several church committees, Mrs. Wilkerson was also involved with various organizations, including but not limited to Dames and The League of Women Voters.

Mrs. Wilkerson is survived by her only child, Tim Wilkerson, several cousins, nieces, and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, parents, sisters Mrs. Stephen L. Adams and The Rev. Elizabeth D. McAlilley, and one nephew.

A celebration of life will be held at the First Presbyterian Church of Fulton on Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. with The Rev. Aaron White officiating. Friends will be received from 10:00 a.m. until the time of the service at the church. In the spring of 2024, a graveside service is planned for family in Hickory Grove, S.C. where her husband is buried.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Fulton, c/o Maupin Funeral Home, 301 Douglas Boulevard, Fulton, Mo, 65251.

Condolences can be left for the family at www.maupinfuneralhome.com
The Lenten Season Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th...

Mark your calendar and order your books for this year's ... COMMUNITY LENTEN LUNCHES!

There will be much more Lenten season news to share in upcoming editions of the newsletter, but we thought the early birds among us might want to prepare by ordering the book that will be used to guide the discussion for the 2024 Community Lenten Lunches.

A Brief Description of The Seven Last Words from the Cross by Fleming Rutledge.

For at least a century, at special three-hour services on Good Friday, it has been the custom in many churches to reflect on the Seven Last Words of Jesus from the Cross. In this tradition, Fleming Rutledge here presents seven eloquent meditations on these final sayings of Jesus.

Rutledge links the sayings from the cross with contemporary events and concerns, but also incorporates recent biblical scholarship and modern questions about the death of Christ, particularly in light of Mel Gibson's film The Passion of the Christ. Rutledge shows how each word or saying from the Cross affords an opportunity for readers to gain a deeper understanding of the horrific death suffered by Jesus.

Intending for this book to lead readers into a genuine devotional experience, Rutledge has made
every effort to evoke and preserve the contemplative atmosphere of the three-hour Good Friday memorial. The book includes frequent references to hymns associated with this special day, and each meditation ends with an appropriate hymn text for personal prayer and reflection. This book is available in Kindle & paperback formats at: https://amzn.to/3O84Mdy
A Message to the Mission Committee and the Congregation of FPC!

Hi, Mary (Osburn),

I have one more day in Rwanda before heading home. I visited the Presbyterian Church and met their head elder and pastor. They are just finishing their new church building that will hold 300 people. They are filling it every Sunday. They will honor 1st Presbyterian of Fulton by hanging the beautiful wall hanging that you and others made and will hang a photo of Jean Avra next to it. They are VERY appreciative of what the support they received.

-Bob Hansen
Young Disciples Fishes & Loaves Collection Every Sunday During Worship!

Our Young Disciples invite you to bring your contributions of shelf-stable and canned food items. They will collect donations and add them to the Little Red Wagon during Children's Moment. Item by item, we help fight systemic poverty by addressing food insecurity.

Our House: Caring for Callaway's Homeless!

It is C-O-L-D outside. For some people, this can mean the fear of death each night. That’s scary! We have developed a quick plan until we can create a more permanent solution.

OUR HOUSE PROVIDES:
- Space heaters for those with access to electricity (dependent on supply)
- Warmth bags (blankets, gloves, snacks, hygiene items, hot hand warmers, etc.) for anyone in need of extra warmth- courtesy of FHS.
- Emergency housing- dependent on donations.

HERE’S WHERE HELP IS NEEDED:
- Space heater donations- new or gently used- drop off at Wiley House (831 Jefferson St, Fulton)
- Monetary donations- can be made online (ourhousecallaway.org/monetary) or placed in our secure mailbox at Haven House (829 Jefferson)....they will go to purchasing heaters, hotel rooms, or other warming items.
Please contact Our House via email (office@ourhousecallaway.org) or on FB messenger. The staff are very busy assisting folks at the shelters, so written communication is best.

HOMELESSNESS IS A COMMUNITY PROBLEM, REQUIRING A COMMUNITY SOLUTION....

Thank you for being a part of the solution!

Baby Grace Ministries Open House Coming Soon!

3rd Friday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Young families are invited to browse our collection and take what is needed. There are some guidelines and rules we ask that you follow so that we may help as many families as possible.

- You will be asked to register when you attend the open house then you may look for clothing and pick up diapers.
- You will be given a package of diapers per child (40 diapers in each package) with a package of baby wipes.
- 3 complete outfits per child (includes a pair of shoes, socks, pants or slacks and shirt or dress, jacket, underwear).

Donations given to Baby Grace determines the availability of books, toys, strollers, highchairs, blankets, sheets, etc.

The Next Open House Is:
Friday, February 16 from 2-4 pm
First Presbyterian Church
718 Court St. Fulton, Missouri
Enter through the Fellowship Hall doors to sign in.

Open Table

Suppers are served at Open Table each Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evening, from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. at the John C. Harris Community Center (350 Sycamore Street in Fulton). Our meals are FREE, delicious suppers that are lovingly prepared for our neighbors who are experiencing food insecurity.
(which means a person doesn't have access to the food they need to meet their daily nutritional requirements). Suppers are served for dine-in service; please come and take your seat at the Table!

To learn more about volunteering at Open Table, send an email to: opentablecallaway@gmail.com or follow Open Table on Facebook at: https://www.facebook.com/OpenTableCallaway

To learn more about how PDA is assisting in Israel/Palestine, Libya, Afghanistan, & Ukraine, and how you can help, please go to: https://pda.pcus.org/
or
Click on the photo above.

Are you looking for a new app to help you stay focused on the Good News throughout the year? Check out d365!

d365 is a daily devotion written for youth and adults. The devotion follows a five-step format – Pause, Listen, Think, Pray, Go.

- The *Pause* step remains the same all week and is designed as a centering tool as you begin the devotion.
- The *Listen* step is the scripture passage for the day, using the Common English Bible translation.
- The *Think* step is the devotional thought by the week's writer.
The Pray step is the start of a prayer that you can expand into your own conversation with God. The Go step is a call to action – launching you from this moment toward acting on what you have heard.

Instrumental music is available for your devotional experience. You can start the music by selecting the music notes at the top right of the screen, and then you can adjust the volume as needed.

Typically, an author writes on a single theme for one week. In these devotions, you will read honest struggles and questions, all in the context of real faith. As you read the thoughts of the writers, think about your own response to the scripture for the day. Let the writer’s words serve as background for your own conversation with God.

This app is available from Google Play and the App Store. Find out more by going to: www.d365.org.

---

City of Fulton Encourages Energy Conservation During Upcoming Low Temperatures!

It's important to be prepared and be mindful of energy usage during the upcoming extreme weather conditions. Let's stay warm, safe, and conserve energy together during this cold front.

Save energy and money on next month's utility bill with these winter weather tips:

1. Keep garage doors closed. This will help keep cold air out of your home and protect pipes in shared walls with your home.
2. Lower your thermostat 5 degrees or more if possible. This can lower your heating bill during this cold weather event.
3. Protect your pipes by turning off and draining outside spigots that are not frost free and removing outside hoses from the faucet. Consider leaving the cabinet door open on sinks that are located on an outside wall to let warm air in.
4. Seal up breezy doors, windows, and gaps wherever possible. A rolled-up towel placed at the bottom of exterior door openings help keep the outside air from entering your home.
5. Prepare an emergency kit with essentials such as nonperishable foods, water, flashlights, batteries, medicines, blankets, warm clothes, etc.
6. Ensure that your outdoor pets have a warm shelter and water.
7. Turn your ceiling fan on in the winter, or clockwise, direction. As we know, heat rises, and this will help to circulate the hot air throughout your home.
8. During snow and ice events, make sure that your exterior furnace vent stays free of debris. YOU can make a difference by implementing these cost-saving methods!
The City of Fulton appreciates your assistance by conserving energy during this time.

FPC Church Dinners: Food & Fellowship With Your Church!

CLICK HERE FOR A LIST OF CHURCH DINNERS THIS YEAR!

Join Us for Lunch Each Wednesday at Noon!

Are you looking for some fun and fellowship as you enjoy a mid-day meal? Are Wednesdays at noon free? Just pack a lunch or stop by your favorite Fulton eatery for some take-out, and head to the First Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. We gather each Wednesday at noon to enjoy a little lunch time conversation and great fellowship. Everyone is Welcome! We hope to see you at NOON for lunch on Wednesday!

Alzheimer’s Caregiver Support Group Meets on 3rd Tuesdays!

The Fulton Caregiver Support Group meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month from 11:00 am to Noon at the First Presbyterian Church, 718 Court Street. Caregivers of persons with Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias are welcome to share concerns with each other, learn about the disease and support one another. Find comfort and reassurance about feeling of guilt, frustration, and fear. Learn more about Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias and make new friends. You are not alone in the journey.

Join us for the next 1-hour meeting:
Tuesday, February 20, 2024
11am-12pm
Find us on Facebook!

Stay Connected Even When You Cannot Attend Church in Person!
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.

ABOUT THE MATTHEW 25 MARK

- **The circular shape represents unity and equality.** Like God, a circle has no beginning and no end, and it symbolizes our continuing effort to help one another. The shape also suggests a globe that points to our engagement with the world.

- **The three interlocking figures represent the equality of all people without gender or race bias.** They have their arms around each other, symbolizing friendship, protection and service. The number three suggests the three focus areas of congregational vitality, structural racism and systematic poverty, as well as the Trinity.

- **The color palette is bright, lively, friendly and energetic — suggestive of our active commitment.**

- Finally, **the legend “Matthew 25” below below the symbol is the literal identification of the mark.** We use a handwritten font to make the point that active engagement in the world requires human effort.

---

We are an Earth Care Congregation!
Sustainable Living & Earth Care Concerns is a part of the Presbyterian Hunger Program

As an Earth Care Congregation, our worship and discipleship celebrates God’s grace and glory in creation. Through education, we encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation. Our facilities are managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation. Through outreach we encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

Below are some ways you will see Presbyterians living out our Earth Care and Sustainable Living Mission.

Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns purposes to accompany Presbyterians reflecting on and living out economic and environmental decisions as an extension of their faith and values. Remembering our own need for faithful discipleship through continuous education, questioning and discovery, we then seek to provide opportunities for:

- Investigating environmental and economic inequities.
- Equipping Presbyterians to make informed, faithful choices.
- Embodying practices that bring about active transformation.

“...God’s work in creation is too wonderful, too ancient, too beautiful, too good to be desecrated...
Restoring creation is God’s own work in our time, in which God comes both to judge and to restore...”
—PC(USA) Environmental Policy

About Our Congregation....

First Presbyterian Church of Fulton, Missouri is a PC(USA) congregation and a member of the Missouri Union Presbytery. We are a Matthew 25 Church invested in Eradicating Systemic Poverty, Dismantling Structural Racism, and Building Congregational Vitality.

As an Earth Care Congregation, our worship and discipleship celebrates God’s grace and glory in creation. Through education, we encourage and support each other in keeping and healing the creation. Our facilities are managed, maintained, and upgraded to respect and cherish all creation. Through outreach we encourage community involvement and public policy to protect and restore the earth.

The congregation of FPC Fulton is an active participant in the community through our support in word and deed of the following local organizations:

- **Our House**: Caring for Callaway’s Homeless through shelter, education, & advocacy.
- **SERVE, Inc.**: providing dynamic services for Callaway County residents including financial assistance, volunteer opportunities for all ages, door-to-door public transportation, a thrift store, food pantry, supplemental school supplies, and Christmas gifts for families in need.
- **Open Table**: Setting the table to provide nourishing meals and a place for fellowship to persons in our community.

We are a Four for Four Congregation participating in these special offerings throughout the year: **One Great Hour of Sharing, Christmas Joy, Pentecost, and Peace & Global Witness.** We declare a
connection with the ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and join in the efforts of Presbyterians around the corner and around the world to share God's grace and endless love.

Protect yourself from COVID-19, Flu, and RSV

It is common to get sick from respiratory viruses such as COVID-19, flu, and respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), especially in the fall and winter. There are actions you can take to protect yourself and others. Learn about whether you’re more likely to get seriously ill, how to prevent these viruses, and if these viruses are spreading in your community by consulting: https://www.cdc.gov/respiratory-viruses/index.html

The FPC Session reminds you that there are masks available in the Narthex and at the Lobby door should you wish to take further precautions during times of seasonal illness. You will also find hand sanitizer and tissues in the pew trays.

As always, please take advantage of our Livestream and recorded worship opportunities should you feel sick on Sunday morning.

Missouri's Attorney General Maintains a Fraud Awareness Website

Slamming, Cramming, Smishing, and Phishing. Oh MY!

Who knew there were so many ways to scam unsuspecting citizens? Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey maintains a website that informs consumers of their rights and protections under the law. You also report incidents using this website.

To find out more, go to: https://ago.mo.gov/scams-frauds/

What's Next: A Glance Ahead at FPC!

What's Happening in January and February 2024!

- Weekly on Sundays - Worship Service, 10:30 am
- Weekly on Sundays - The Rock, 6:00 pm at 715 Nichols St.
- Weekly on Wednesdays -Choir Practice in the Choir Room, 7:00 pm
- Weekly on Wednesdays - Lunch Bunch, Noon in the Fellowship Hall
- Friday, February 16 - Baby Grace Ministry Distribution from 2-4 pm. Enter through the lobby.
- Tuesday, February 20 - Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group from 11-Noon, in the church library.
Office Hours, Giving & Contact Information!

How to Contact Rev. Aaron White During Regular Times!
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.

COVID-19 Safety Protocols by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Fulton.
Effect November 28, the wearing of masks when entering the church building is optional. All other COVID-19 Safety Protocols remain in place. This includes the observance of social distance, using disposable Communion elements, and no contact collection of the offering. Our church COVID-19 Safety Protocols extend to all church activities.

How Can I Give?
Checks for pledges and offerings, and documents are normally hand-delivered on Sunday mornings by dropping them in the collection plate located at each door of the Sanctuary. Otherwise, if you are unavailable to attend church, any of these items 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.

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

- Session Clerk, “clerk@fultonpresbyterian.org”
- Administration Committee, “administration@fultonpresbyterian.org”
- Christian Education Committee, “education@fultonpresbyterian.org”
- Fellowship Committee, “fellowship@fultonpresbyterian.org”
- Mission Committee, “mission@fultonpresbyterian.org”
- Congregational Care Committee, “pastoralcare@fultonpresbyterian.org”
- Property Committee, “property@fultonpresbyterian.org”
- Worship Committee, “worship@fultonpresbyterian.org”
- Communications, “communications@fultonpresbyterian.org”

Welcome to Our Church!
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 or find us on Facebook or on Twitter @FPCFulton.

Subscribe to our YouTube channel: https://bit.ly/fpcfultonyoutube

Email: communications@fultonpresbyterian.org
Website: fultonpresbyterian.org
Location: 718 Court Street, Fulton, MO, USA

Phone: 573-642-5541
Facebook: facebook.com/fultonpresbyterian
Twitter: @FPCFulton

Mary Van Orden
Mary is using Smore to create beautiful newsletters