

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF QUINCY
THE STEEPLE**

2023



INSIDE

Page 2

*Pastor Becca's
message continued*

Page 3

*Birthdays /Anniversary
Coming Soon
Oct Blessing
From the Office*

Page 4

*Oct Lectionary
Session*

Page 5

Oct Calendar

A Message from Pastor Becca Niemeyer

How has faith in Jesus been passed on to you? Maybe it *wasn't*, initially. Perhaps you discovered Christ on your own, or maybe it was shoved down your throat rather than passed... often there is some level of transmission involved when we are building faith, with negative as well as positive connotations. As we grow, there are added layers of discovery, unlearning, and relearning. I grew up going to church, but more than that my parents had spiritual conversations with my sister and I, read stories of scripture to us, and prayed with us. I can't really recall anything feeling forced, it was more like a big invitation to something exciting. In particular, as I've gotten older my family has shared honestly about the gifts and struggles associated with faith - navigating God's presence in the complex ups and downs of life. Often I meet folks still hurting from negative faith experiences from childhood, people who keep their distance because of the fear and shame associated with religion, or perhaps because they are not sure communities of faith are able to hold space for them as they navigate all the questions around belief that come up on their life's journey.

I've been reading a book recently by Meredith Miller called, 'Woven: Nurturing a Faith Your Kids Don't Have to Heal From', a title which as my pastor friend commented, is quite ambitious. I've been exploring what it means to intentionally pass faith along to my kids - not just exposure in church, or explicitly telling them what to think about God, or forcing different practices upon them. I long for it to be a collaborative experience - discovering and wondering about God together, and perhaps exploring what a childlike faith is really about, since Jesus recommends it (Matt 18:2-4).

(continued on page 2)



(Pastor Becca's message continued from page 1)

Sometimes when we think it's our job to pass along faith, we can lean on quips and quotes we've heard, rather than share how God has changed our lives. We pass along Bibles or books, hoping this person will land on a nugget inspired by the Holy Spirit, which will turn their lives around. We might share reasons *to* believe rather than share more personally, why we actually believe what we believe due to our life experiences. Often a difficult season of life has helped shape our faith the most, but those moments are not shiny, can be embarrassing, and might expose more doubt or frustration than we are comfortable with making public. I don't know about you, but humility along the journey of faith is the most attractive to me - stories where we came to the end of ourselves to find God's presence there all along, shaping us into something different than we'd ever expected.

I'm curious to know how conversations about faith and spirituality have taken shape over your lifetime - what has changed, what has remained the same? What do you long for those who are distant from faith communities to know about the living God? How do we live out the truths of God in our world so that people feel God is more approachable than they might think? Blessings on your journey, as you discover God's action in your own life and in the lives of the ones you love.

In Christ,
Pastor Becca



Coming Soon!

Oct 1st World Communion Sunday



October 15th Worship Service

Will be held at the
Historic Pioneer Church
10:30am

**5th Sunday
of the Month Pot luck lunch**

will be on Oct 29th
in lieu of coffee hour.
F & L Committee will set up.

BIRTHDAYS!



Rhonda Rosenberger 10-12
Nancy Johnson 10-17
Chanin Street 10-27

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

Jim and Donna Sunseri 10/26



From the Office



Denise 

October: Blessings

May this blessing of
change bring you an
abundance of joy, love,
peace, good health and
happiness for the
month ahead and
ALWAYS.



Oct LECTONARY



SESSION

Session met on Sunday, September 17th.
Moderator: Pastor Becca Niemeyer.

Christian Ed: Carol reported on the need for training on nursery and kids' church.

Faith & Life: The next potluck will be Oct. 29th, F & L will set up.

Advent Soup Lunch dates are Dec 3, 10, 17.

F & L will meet after church with Pastor Becca on Oct 1st. Membership will also have a brief meeting on that date.

Personnel and F&L cont: Pastor Becca will be out of the pulpit on Oct 15th & 29th. QFPC will worship with the Lutherans on Oct 15th @ the Pioneer Church. Oct 29th is Harvest Potluck. The Tall Timber Executive Director, Adam Tobey, will fill the pulpit.

Mission & Outreach: Session voted to give a \$1000 donation to the Festival Trees this year. Funds are going to The Cambridge Assisted Living.

Financial reports were reviewed and received.

Minutes are posted in the Fireside Room. Please take a minute to read the entire minutes.

The next regular stated business meeting has been scheduled for October 8, 2023.



<p>Oct 1st</p> <p>Psalm 116:8-9</p> <p>Matthew 21:23-32</p> <p>Philippians 2:1-13</p> <p>Exodus 17:1-7</p>	<p>Oct 15th</p> <p>Psalm 106:1-4</p> <p>Matthew 22:1-14</p> <p>Philippians 4:1-9</p> <p>Exodus 32:1-14</p>
<p>Oct 8th</p> <p>Psalm 19:1-4</p> <p>Matthew 21:33-46</p> <p>Philippians 3:4b-14</p> <p>Exodus 20:1-20</p>	<p>Oct 22nd</p> <p>Psalm 117</p> <p>Matthew 22:15-22</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</p> <p>Exodus 33:12-23</p>
<p>Oct 29th</p>	
<p>Psalm 90:1-2</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 2:1-8</p>	<p>Matthew 22:34-46</p> <p>Deuteronomy 34:1-12</p>



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

1

World Communion Sunday
Growing Your Faith
9:15am
Worship 10:30
Coffee Hour

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Growing Your Faith
9:15am
Worship 10:30
Coffee Hour

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

Worship @ Pioneer Church
Worship 10:30

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Growing Your Faith
9:15am
Worship 10:30
Coffee Hour

23

24

25

26

27

28

29

Growing Your Faith
9:15am
Worship 10:30
Pot Luck Lunch

30

31



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Our Church:

Pastor: Becca Niemeyer
Clerk of Session: Judy Bryant
Secretary: Denise McMartin
and office helpers
Treasurer: Jean Lindberg
Organist: Nancy Street
Technician: Jean Lindberg
Faithful Members

Session:

Judy Bryant
Jean Lindberg
Rhonda Rosenberger
Carol Smith
Dave Street
Nancy Street
Donna Sunseri
Bill Wurl