Dear Friends,

This Saturday, October 3, is the beginning of the Jewish festival of Sukkot, also known as the Feast of the Tabernacles or the Feast of Booths. Sukkot (pronounced SOO-kowt) commemorates the time that the Israelites spent wandering in the desert on their way to the promised land, and more specifically the ways in which God provided for them. One of the ways in which the Jewish community celebrates this festival today is by building a hut (called a tabernacle or booth), usually outdoors, to remember when the Hebrew people only had temporary homes and how reliant they were upon God’s provision. Sukkot is also an agricultural celebration which gives thanksgiving for the harvest – God’s provision through the bounty of nature.

I’m not suggesting that we celebrate Sukkot as Christians. Indeed, unless a Jewish friend invites you to their home or temple to celebrate with them, I’d always caution against celebrating the holidays of another faith lest we do so disrespectfully. But the various faiths of our neighbors can certainly teach and remind us of our own faith practices.

I’m reminded of our Scripture text last Sunday when God provides quail and manna for the Israelites while they are in the wilderness. I’ve heard from many of you that talking about life right now as a wilderness really resonates, and I want to remind you again: God provides, even (perhaps especially) in the wilderness! Even when life is fragile, even when seasons change, even when everything seems temporary, the abundance of God is strong, unchanging, and eternal.

As Jews around the world pause to celebrate Sukkot, it is a good reminder to Christians that we, too, believe in God’s provision and faithfulness. As we transition into fall and winter, as we celebrate all for which we are thankful, let us celebrate that even in the most barren wilderness, God provides! And let us remember to wish a Happy Sukkot, or Chag Sameach (Happy Holiday), to our Jewish friends!

Peace,
Pastor Elizabeth
Prayer Concerns

Debbie Carlyle
Woody Webb is back in the CCU with pneumonia. He had a lung tap and about a pint of fluid removed. He said after the procedure he felt better. He stood at the bedside yesterday with physical therapy.

Bob Fray is home with home health coming in a few times a week.
Carol McCoy has a family member in the hospital.

Jim Bagby’s friend who suffered major complications following bypass surgery is Don Ransom and he continues to need our prayers.
Christi Neal’s daughter Melody who is recovering from a traffic crash.

Steven S. friend to Barry Elbasani is in ICU with Covid
Truman High School student Daniel Nickens’ white blood cell count continues to fall, plus he now has strep. The strep is responding to treatment; he will have a major leukemia test on Friday, October 2.

Barry Elbasani who is in need of a personal care attendant.

Carla Weisz
Pvt Christian Weisz, grandson to Carla, who is serving in Korea.

Kerri McCorkle who is facing additional surgeries.
Linda Schumacher’s sister-in-law, Linda Leonard. In addition to the bacterial and fungal lung infections she has been battling for many months, they have now found some cancer cells in her lungs.

Mary Lou and Gary’s daughter, Laura and her husband Mark
Grandson to Paul and Donna Vance who is now stateside.

Todd Radenbaugh, nephew to Mary Lou and Gary Oberlander

Anita Briggs  Jean Martin  John Sinden  The KR Family  Lucy Becka
Bruce Odenbaugh  Lynn Forsyth Glass  Loydine Kranz  Amy Banks  Margaret and Gordon Neal

Please pray for safety for Joe Mann, his paddling partner Paul, and all the entrants in the Great Alabama 650 Paddle Race. They will start in Montgomery, Alabama, and paddle 650 miles down the Coosa River and through Mobile Bay to Fort Morgan. They leave KC on Sept. 24, start the race on Sept. 26, and paddle for 5-7 days.

Prayers of Joy and Gratitude

For all our volunteers, members and our Pastor Elizabeth

To thank the Creator for all parts of technology allowing swift communication, allocation and distribution of resources, and ability to encourage and sustain our sisters and brothers in Christ.
JOY SCHOLARSHIPS

Please submit your scholarship application to Sandy Moore by email SANDYM433@aol.com or deliver to the office before Monday, October 12th.

LOOKING FOR FULFILLING EMPLOYMENT!

PERSONAL CARE ATTENDANT

Barry Elbasani, Lee Summit, Mo

I am a quadriplegic seeking a Caregiver/PCA. I work full-time and live as independently as possible, but I need some assistance. This is a perfect job for an individual who does not want to work with multiple patients.

If interested please use the contact information listed below. Thank you and I look forward to speaking with you!

Barry Elbasani
belba444@aol.com, 816-868-9463

Winter is Coming……..

NEW NEEDS FOR MICAH:

- Water
- Tarps
- Tents
- Warm blankets, clothing
- Hats, gloves, scarves, adult socks
- Toilet paper as always

Your giving means so much.

Thank you.
Missions and Outreach

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting on October 11, 2020, following worship, for the purpose of amending our bylaws. Please attend if safely possible.

The amendment of our bylaws will, in part, allow for online meetings so that we can elect officers and do other necessary business online in the winter months if we are still socially distancing. You will receive a copy of the suggested edits to the bylaws by email next week.

Should the service need to be delayed due to weather, the Congregational meeting will be rescheduled so that it may coincide with our outdoor, in-person service.

We will see you there!
Neither rain nor heat nor gloom of covid stays these members from the joy of Traveling Coffee Fellowship.
Sunday, October 4th
World Communion Sunday
Online Worship
www.brpcraytown.org
12:00 PM—Coffee Fellowship
https://us04web.zoom.us/j/801765302>.
Or, if you’d like to call in by phone, you may call  312-626-6799 and enter the Meeting ID “801 765 302”

Monday, October 5th

Tuesday, October 6th
“Ask Me Anything”

Wednesday, October 7th

Thursday, October 8th

Friday, October 9th  Office Closed

Saturday, October 10th

Sunday, October 11th
“Blessing of the Pets”
Worship Service on the Green; Congregational meeting to follow

To Adult Sunday School

As I mentioned in the beginning of our study that there is much division on pre-destination. I give this example of George Washington Carver who quoted Scripture often. One of the greatest black scientists of his time. He made Edison (famous only because he was white) look like an amateur. Carver was born a slave in 1864. the slave owners wife taught him to read from the Bible. He was deprived of a local education from the one room school but managed to sit outside and listen near the open door. His pad and pencil, a stick and the dirt. Self taught, he passed the entrance exam for college but had to sit in the back of the classroom and not ask questions. He slept on the floor as payment for cleaning the black board every night.

By 1894 he was the top expert on farming and was invited to the Tuskegee College in Alabama to teach science. He developed and invented over three hundred products from the peanut and sweet potato. All of this by making his own lab equipment form mason jars and kitchen utensils as the college could not afford professional equipment. This knowledge eventually led to singlehandedly saving the southern farmer.

He was invited to be the keynote speaker on crop rotation at a prestigious hotel where the Governor and many farmers were attending, but was denied entry through the front door and was forced to go in the servants entrance. Never complaining about discrimination, and quoted Joseph in Genesis, “You (they) meant it for evil, God meant it for good.” He always felt that God brought his parents to America. Carver went on to teach and inspire many young black people who also became famous and greatly contributed to the fabric of America. He is credited with saving farming in the Southern States, the very places he was mistreated. He frequently quoted Rom. 8:28 as he ignored the racism.

I have not heard back from anyone on Bible study for next month.

Meditation is medication
Amen
The Sunday School Teacher