



First Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Weekly Newsletter

Pastor: Rev. David Fischler

September 18, 2019

THE BEACON

Sunday Worship

Sermon

"The Disciple-Making Church,
Part 4"

Rev. David Fischler
Ephesians 4:11-16

Sunday Volunteers:

Counters:

Jim Harris and Gary Meyer

Greeters:

Carroll Walker's mixed class

Scripture Reader:

Sondra Gould

Prayer of the People

Joe Plemon

Happy Birthday

Sept. 18- Pat Meller
Sept. 19- Logan Abernathy
Sept. 21- Sarah Kirk
Sept. 23- Bayle Robertson

Happy Anniversary

Sept. 20-Bo and Betty Utley

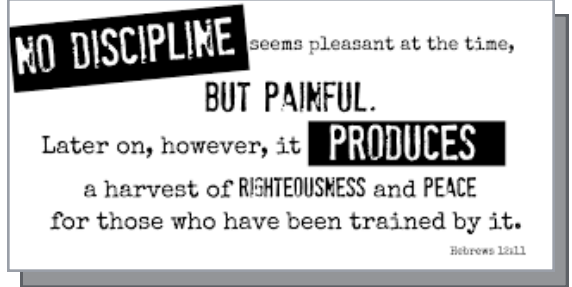


First Day of Fall is
September 23

Insights from an Elder: Discipline

There has been much talk lately of disciples, disciple-making, and discipleship. Another word coming from the same root, is discipline. Nobody likes discipline. Discipline is difficult, sometimes it hurts, if you'll excuse the common vulgarity...discipline sucks. However, with discipline comes progress.

I know that I often use analogies from coaching basketball, as a matter of fact this will be two times in a row, but I see so many lessons from basketball that parallel with life. Basketball is sport of running, lots of running, stopping, changing direction, jumping, and running again. Therefore, basketball practice involves a lot of running, not for distance or time, but in a way that replicates the way the game is played. Players sometimes think that coaches get some sort of demented joy from watching their players run. And while I'm sure it has been *occasionally* used as a punishment or as a consequence for undesirable behavior, coaches have players run so they will be physically better prepared for a game.



Discipline can be a punishment, but it can also refer to enduring tough things to become better.

Hebrews 12 talks about this...

⁶ "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

We will all have struggles, GUARANTEED. Sometimes as a result of circumstances beyond our control, sometimes as a result of our own sin.

PRAYERS, PRAISE and CONDOLENCES

Each week we remember to pray especially for some of our church family they are listed alphabetically:
Stuart and Pat ANDERSON; Kent, Jennifer, Josh, Grace and Adeline ASPEN;
Bruce and Donna BIBLE

- ◆ **Pastor Tony and Cheryl Foeller** (Harvest Church of Southern Illinois) were in an accident Saturday, Sept 14. No serious injuries, but still very sore.
- ◆ **All those recovering from surgeries, viruses, accidents, those living with chronic health issues and their families:** Jean Ann Phemister, Elizabeth Corbit, Pat Meller, Devin and Shari VanderSluis, Audrey Canupp, Norman Hickam, Lori Ray, Alice Edelman, Greg Bittle's mother (Marjorie), Betty Fairhurst, David Gould's father, Jim Hadley's brother and sister-in-law, Katie Horne, Leslie Santellano, Marlee Smith.

Pray for protection, safety, comfort, strength and provisions from God for:

- ◆ **The poor, disabled, low income, recovering addicts and homeless** in our community, county and region. There is a great need for shelters, affordable housing, financial stability and improved resources.
- ◆ **Christians and their families; The Persecuted Church and Christians around the world.**
- ◆ **People, first responders, emergency response teams and volunteers affected by the severe weather and man made tragedies' locally and nationally.**

Pray for wisdom, direction and protection for:

- ◆ **Our leaders** (local, state and national) and **First EPC ministries** as we reach out to children, young adults and our communities to bring them to our Lord.

Pray for deliverance and salvation for the lost.

Insights continued

Whatever the reason, how we respond reflects where we are at in our own process of becoming a disciple of Christ. In the midst of the struggle it's natural to ask "Why me?" or "Why now?" or just "Why?" Maybe instead we should be asking "What ... is God trying to show me?". Or "How ... is God working in me through this?". Or even, "Where...can I see God in the midst of this?".

When those struggles come, it helps to remember a few things:

God is sovereign (in charge)

God loves you

God is sufficient for your every need.

And finally, WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.

Todd Williams, Elder

SUNDAY REPORT

September 15

Attendance: Sunday school- 65 Morning worship- 90

General Fund: \$5,337 **Building Fund:** \$100

PRISON MINISTRY

Inmates are requesting Bible study materials as well as study Bibles. Any individuals or adult Sunday school classes with unused (can not have any writing on them) Bible study materials they would like to donate to our prison ministry please contact Kent Young at 618-614-2974

Also, Kent has a large supply of empty Bible boxes available to anyone who would like some. These are sturdy boxes and great for crafts and organizing. Just let him know how many you would like.

Please be advised to NOT sign up with alternate energy suppliers. Currently (and almost always Ameren's supply rate is lower. Many of the other suppliers give a fixed 3 or 6 month rate and then the rate raises significantly. You can go to **Plug In Illinois website** (www.pluginillinois.org) and compare supply rates and their claims. Currently Ameren Illinois supply rate is 4.561 cents per Kwh. Most others are between 2 and 5 cents per kwh higher than Ameren. It doesn't sound like a big deal but it makes a huge difference on your electric bill.

Also Shawnee Development LIHEAP funding becomes available to seniors and disabled the beginning of October, people with children under the age of six in November and all others in December. They can help with gas and water only.

Announcements

- **FirstEPC Choir practice is every Wednesday evening** 5:30-6:30pm in the choir room. For more information contact Greg Bittle, email: gregjan77@hotmail.com
- **Praise Band** will be resuming shortly. We are always looking for voices to help lead. If you are interested please talk to Pastor David or Carroll Walker.
- **Union Co. Alliance of Churches is recruiting volunteer tutors** to work with students in first through eighth grades. Monday and Wednesday tutoring is in Jonesboro and Tuesday and Thursday tutoring is downstairs in the fellowship hall of First EPC (3:30-4:40pm). Applications are available on the bulletin board by the office. Please call Pete Houseman, coordinator at 833-7083 or email him at midrivermansil@gmail.com
- **Pastor Tim Weiser from Trinity Lutheran Church** works in Prison Ministries and presented a request for **plus size men's clothing for men** exiting the prison system to return to community life. Please see the bulletin board by the office for details.
- **Now is a great time to pick up small items** (school supplies and end of summer clearances) for Christmas shoe boxes. Collection time will be here before we know it.
- **A/J Student needs:**
PE classes: *Girls*-spray deodorant, lotion and body spray. *Boys*-Deodorant (solid preferred).
Comfort Closet: There is a dedicated space at A/J high school where low-income students or students facing

homelessness or home emergencies can get need items. Teachers can refer the student and it will remain anonymous. Items for this include: Granola bars, pop tarts, oatmeal packets, cereal (small individual boxes or packaged bowls), canned ravioli, spaghetti, ramen noodles, soups, Easy Mac, instant rice, shelf stable microwave meals, canned fruits and veggies, fruit snacks, individual snack-size packages of crackers and other snacks, fruit cups, microwave popcorn...

Also needed are: Pens/pencils, folders, paper, socks and ponytail holders.

Collection for both of these will be throughout the school year. *Thank you so much for the help. Brad Stamp*

- **Community Blessing Boxes** are at the top of the stairs by the office. Think fall items. Easy to open, microwavable.
- **Also consider donating to the Deacons' Fund as you're able.**
 - ♦ If anyone approaches you on church property about needing emergency or financial help please kindly tell them **only authorized staff can handle these requests MONDAY-THURSDAY from 9am-Noon and there is an application process.** Our policy is not to give cash.
 - ♦ If you put an **item in ANY FEPC refrigerator** it **MUST BE LABELED** with who it belongs to and the date it was put in the refrigerator.

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Every Sunday Sun. School 8:45am Worship 10 am Men's Prayer 4pm Jr/Sr High Bible Study @ MSC- upstairs 6-8pm	Every Mon. AA meeting 7pm Fellowship Hall	Every Tues. A Woman's Call to Prayer 9:30 am-11am Library	Every Wed. Addiction and Recovery Support Group- NOON Fellowship Hall	Every Thurs. The Street-6pm MSC-downstairs		
15 5:30pm Shepherding 6 pm Session Birthdays: Andrew Webb	16 : Anita Rajan	17 UC Alliance of Churches tutoring resumes 3:30-4:30pm	18 Birthday: Pat Meller <i>Choir practice 5:30pm</i>	19 UC Alliance of Churches tutoring 3:30-4:30pm	20 Birthdays: Logan Abernathy Anniversary: Bo and Betty Utley	21 Birthday Sarah Kirk
22 5 pm-An Evening of Prayer for our County Schools First EPC sanctuary	23 Birthday: Bayle Robertson	24 UC Alliance of Churches tutoring 3:30-4:30pm Girl Scout meeting MSC-downstairs	25 <i>Choir practice 5:30pm</i>	26 UC Alliance of Churches tutoring 3:30-4:30pm	27	28 Birthday: Evan Hughey Anniversary: Gary and Emily Meyer
29	30 6:30pm Last Monday Men's MSC downstairs	Oct. 1	Oct. 2 Union Co. Alliance of Churches meeting 8:30am at Bald Knob Cross, Alto Pass	Oct. 3	Oct. 4	Oct. 5

E-Mail: office@firstepc.org
Website: www.firstepc.org
Facebook: First EPC—Anna @firstEPC;

Church Office hours:
Monday—Thursday 8:30am—4pm;
Pastor David 9am-noon or by appt.
Friday: Closed

Sunday Morning Services:
Sunday School
(For All Ages) 8:45 am
Worship 10:00 am
Children's Church During Sermon
Nursery Care Provided
Pastor: Rev. David Fischer

**First Evangelical
Presbyterian Church**
315 South St., Anna, IL. 62906
Phone 618-833-5225 ; FAX 618-833-1877
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**An Evening of Prayer for our County Schools
Sunday, September 22 at 5pm, First EPC sanctuary**

We will gather in the sanctuary at 5pm to receive suggested prayer and scripture sheets and to divide into groups to cover each school. After a brief prayer, we will disperse to our chosen prayer sites to prayer walk the school perimeter or simply stand in front to pray God's blessings on our schools, students, teachers, staff, administrators, school board members and parents. Among other things, we will pray for safety, wisdom, compassion, integrity, achievement and hope to be evident in our schools.

**All who have a heart for our children and youth
and those who teach and support them are urged to attend.**

Mark Your Calendars...
**FIRST EPC
CHURCH PICNIC AT
THE WALTON FARM IS
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13
AFTER SERVICE
(NOONISH)**

Get Your Bobbing Face On!