Hey God, it’s me again. It’s me. Arrogantly humble. Faithfully unfaithful. It’s me. Standing in the need of prayer. You know the prayers of my heart before I can even speak them but it’s better for me when I acknowledge my failings. It’s better for me when I’m able to be vulnerable. So here I am. Me. Standing in the need of prayer. Thanks for listening. Amen.

This was the prayer for the Psalm of our Soul this morning. I wrote it more than 10 days ago but it sure did resonate when I read it today. Lord have mercy.

And yet, each and every day I’m finding ways to live into the mantra that has sustained me through this time: be more grateful.

I’ve got a couple biggies to share today regarding a project we’ve been working on for some time - the restoration of our Steeple of Light. As you may know, the Steeple of Light was part of Frank Lloyd Wright’s original design; however, for many reasons it was not possible in 1942 when the building opened. Frank’s vision was eventually brought to life by Dale Eldred in December of 1994 after four years of planning and fundraising.

We struggled to keep the light functional after more than 20 years of being exposed to the Missouri weather year-round. In the fall of last year, we made the difficult decision to turn the light off as it could not even be seen across the street in the park. This was true until last Friday when Strong Lighting of Omaha, Nebraska brought a prototype for us to see. They came highly recommended to us, and one of their well-known projects is the lighting of the St. Louis Arch. Simply put, the prototype test was amazing. And it was just one light. I can’t wait to see how incredible it will be when we finally replace all four lights from Eldred’s design. We left Friday night overjoyed.

Then this week, we were concerned we had hit a snag. A prominent structural engineer in Kansas City was concerned about the crumbling plywood on the interior of the dome that houses the Steeple lights on the roof. After an extensive site visit, it was determined that significant repairs will be required for the structure. However, we are working on a plan to keep us moving forward with restoring the lights and protecting them temporarily while at the same time working with the team to restore the dome. There are lots of moving pieces, I know! But after testing several lights that did not work successfully, we are really excited about this partnership with Strong Lighting!
I’m grateful for the partnership of the folks serving on our Wright on Main Board - experts in historic preservation, architecture, engineering, and art. I’m grateful for the ongoing relationship with Historic Kansas City, which has supported us at every turn. I’m grateful for the patience of our congregation as we try to find the very best partners to make sure we do this well and right! I’m grateful for our lay leaders who’ve helped staff keep this project moving forward despite many obstacles.

We still have more work to do. A project like this is not cheap. The four lights alone are approximately $60,000. That does not include the structural work that will eventually be required of the dome. Our sister organization, Wright on Main, has been talking with potential donors from outside of our congregation. We will include more information on this fundraising effort as a part of the press release around the forthcoming recognition on the National Register of Historic Places. We are hopeful to receive official word regarding that by the end of the month! This Steeple of Light has been an important icon of hope for our city, and that is why we will be engaging participation from outside our congregation for this effort.

There is a lot of positive energy around this restoration and as someone said to me last week, “It feels really good to have a little good news!” Yes! Yes, it does!

I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday. This will be the last week of our Life Together series before beginning our Together in Prayer series on October 18. This next series is one I’m very excited about. Each week we’ll explore a prayer that crosses Christian traditions and brings people together. We’ll use the Prayer of Thomas Merton, the Prayer of St. Francis, and the Lord's Prayer just to name a few that you might recognize. We’ll continue to weave ourselves together amidst a world that continues to be divisive.

To prepare for worship this week, I hope you’ll read Luke 6.27-38 as Jesus challenges us with difficult words, encouraging love and kindness - even when those around you choose to do otherwise.

Following Jesus is dang hard work. And that’s why we do Life Together.

Gratefully,
Rev. Shanna

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**Blessing of the Animals**

As we continue to worship from home, many of our beloved pets are also worshipping with us. We are looking forward to a special Blessing of the Animals during worship on Sunday, October 25 for the non-human members of our Community. We’ve already gotten some great pictures of worshipping pets for this blessing, so keep the pictures coming! Send us a picture of your pet(s) by October 15 to have them recognized in worship!

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**Vespers Services**

Vespers services are returning in a new way this fall. You’re invited to join us online beginning Wednesday, October 14, at 6:30 p.m. for a short intimate service in our Bonfils Chapel featuring music from Tim Whitmer. These services will be streamed on Facebook Live or you have the option to call in on Zoom to participate. To join us live for Vespers on Zoom, click this [link](#).

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**Worship Team Meeting**

The Worship Team will meet specifically to discuss Advent and Christmas planning on Tuesday, October 13, at 7 p.m. This meeting is open to any and all in our Community. We have never navigated an Advent season quite like this before, so we invite you to come with your creative ideas and join in the discussion. Contact [Rev. Shanna](mailto:rev.shanna@ourchurch.org) for the Zoom meeting link.

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**Update on Jazz Carol Fest**
Thank you to everyone who has supported Jazz Carol Fest throughout the years! Last year, we were proud to raise $10,500 from this event to benefit our ministry partners at Week of Compassion. Sadly we will not be hosting Jazz Carol Fest this year due to the ongoing pandemic. However, we still encourage you to consider making a special holiday gift to Week of Compassion. We have set up a special donation portal to make giving directly as easy as possible. As always, you're still welcome to mail a check directly to Community and we will be glad to forward it along - just note "Carol Fest" in the memo line. Click here to read a letter from Rev. Shanna with more information on this change to our Jazz Carol Fest tradition.

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**Grandparents Against Gun Violence**

The 7th annual Grandparents Against Gun Violence Community Forum, Going Beyond Thoughts and Prayers, is coming up on Monday, October 12. This Zoom webinar is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and will be moderated by Robyn Thomas, Executive Director of the Giffords Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence in San Francisco, and Ian Cummings, breaking news editor of the Kansas City Star and local director of Report for America, focusing on gun violence in Missouri. There will be a variety of panelists from local business leaders, faith leaders, and government officials, including Mayor Quinton Lucas. You're invited to join our Justice and Mercy Team in participating in this forum by emailing Rev. Ryan or registering online.

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**MORE2 Banquet**

This year the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity (MORE2) will host their annual banquet with both in-person and virtual options on October 29. You can attend the Virtual Banquet for just $35, which also buys you dinner from one of five conveniently located black-owned restaurants. For $100, you can attend the banquet in person at the LEX. If you’d like to learn more, visit more2.org/event-2020. It will be a wonderful evening to support a great cause. Community has financial support available for those who would like to attend, please contact Rev. Ryan to let him know if you are interested or plan to attend.

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**Reserve Time in the Chapel**

New times are available to sign up to walk the labyrinth, pray, read, or take some private or family time in Bonfils Chapel. There are sign up times available almost every day, and with enough notice, one of our clergy can be available to pray with you. Want to stop by the chapel but you forgot to sign up or the form is already locked for the day? Call 816-718-7327 to check availability for same day sign ups.

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**Online Giving**

If you'd like to give offering donations to the church during this time, you can mail donations to the church. Mail is still being checked daily and your gifts are gratefully received. If you'd like to give online, you may do so in one of two ways:

- Visit bit.ly/c4kcgive

- Text the word "Give" to 816-484-3433 and follow the instructions that are sent to you. The first time you text to give you'll have to set up an account, but from there on out your information will be stored so you can easily text to give.

There will also be a QR code shown during livestreamed worship that will take you directly to the website listed above to donate. Links can also be found in the livestreamed worship comments and on our website.

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**Connect with us online throughout the week!**
Sunday
- 9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages on Zoom
  - bit.ly/steitzss
- 10 a.m. Piano prelude with Jonathon Antle on Facebook and YouTube
- 10:30 a.m. Worship on Facebook and YouTube

Thursday
- 10 a.m. Five(ish) Minute Fun, Faithful Family Devotional on Facebook and YouTube
- Newsletter email sent

Friday
- 3 p.m. Friday Happy Hour with Tim Whitmer on Facebook and YouTube

Saturday
- 8 a.m. Saturday Sit with Shanna on Zoom
  - bit.ly/saturdaysit

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**Prayers of Sorrow and Thanksgiving**
Please hold the following members of our Community in your prayers:

- Letha Boyd who is recovering from knee surgery;
- Kim Green, niece of Jean Dinwiddie;
- Marilyn and Milton Gray;
- David Anderson;
- Mary Buren;
- Peter Voss, great-nephew of Donna and Scott Duschen;
- Carol Dollar

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