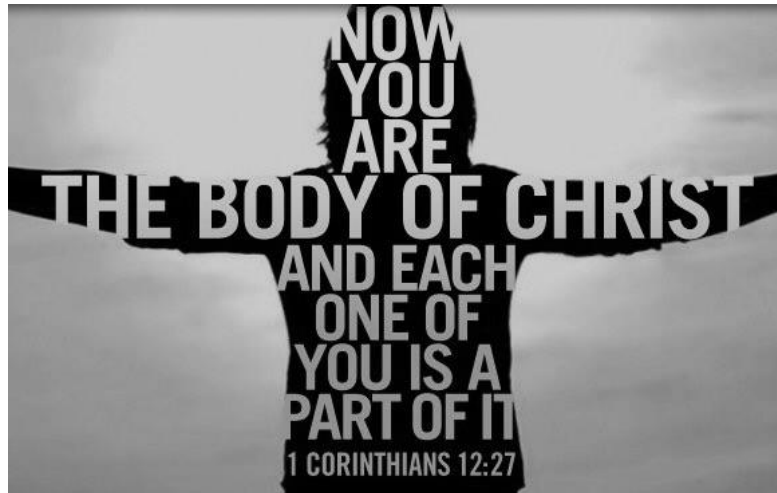


YOU BELONG!



Scripture:

Psalm 19

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament[Ⓜ] proclaims his handiwork. ²Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. ³There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; ⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun, ⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. ⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; ⁸the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. ¹²But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. ¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

1st Corinthians 12:12-31a

(Today's passage directly follows last week's where Paul was teaching about spiritual gifts.

This is a long passage, but it is really rich and definitely worth reading it all.)

¹²For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. ¹³For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

¹⁴Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. ¹⁶And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part

of the body. ¹⁷If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? ¹⁸But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹If all were a single member, where would the body be? ²⁰As it is, there are many members, yet one body. ²¹The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." ²²On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, ²³and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; ²⁴whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, ²⁵that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. ²⁶If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. ²⁷Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? ³⁰Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? ³¹But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

This is the Word of the Lord! Thanks be to God!



YOU BELONG

Paul has moved on from talking about spiritual gifts to talking about the importance of each person feeling valued in the body of Christ.

We were not created to have just a personal spiritual experience of Jesus. We were created to have a communal experience of the spirit and to express that love and justice out into the world as a team, as one body, as a family of God.

The success of the church then and now depends on everyone understanding that your participation is important no matter how big or small you are or how talented or not you may believe you are. God has a place for you and a job for you in her mission to save the world. You are indispensable!

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

We had an officer training Saturday a week ago. During that time there was an orientation to each specific office, either Deacon or Elder. Then we discussed the church's future and ways we can improve and grow the church.

Here is one of the videos I showed that highlighted how leaders in the Presbyterian

church function and get along. I want you all to see it because you are all capable of being leaders in this church in some way. And even if you don't hear a call to "ordered ministry" in the church, it helps our leaders if you understand what it takes to be an effective leader in Presbyterian churches. Your support for your elders and deacons is also more helpful if you understand their leadership responsibilities. This is just a small part of their training but it is a good video created by a Presbyterian church as one of thirteen training sessions they required.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=830&v=VICZ4qownvI

It is important to communicate, trust, set boundaries, respect one another's decisions, and be patient.

BE AN ACTIVE MEMBER

May you be an active member in the body of Christ and fully use the spiritual and physical gifts and resources you have been blessed with to support the local and global church of Jesus Christ. And may you be a good friend to the leaders in this church and consider if God is calling you to be a leader alongside them as well.

Remember, those who actively participate in their faith live an average of seven years longer than those who just check in and check out of their faith practice.

THOUSANDS OF STUDIES ABOUT RELIGION AND HEALTH

In May of 2016, CNN reported a quote from Dr. Dan Blazer, from Duke University Medical Center, who said: "There have been literally thousands of studies" looking at whether religion is good for your health. Religious devotion such as prayer and spirituality are thought to improve longevity. But the one significant predictor of good health is religious service attendance and active participation in your faith practice.

Blazer, who wrote an editorial about the new study published in an issue of Journal of the American Medical Association Internal Medicine, said: "Most people report that they are spiritual, but attending religious services is good for their health because they are taking actions that are in line with their beliefs," Blazer said. "You have a more integrated life in this sense."

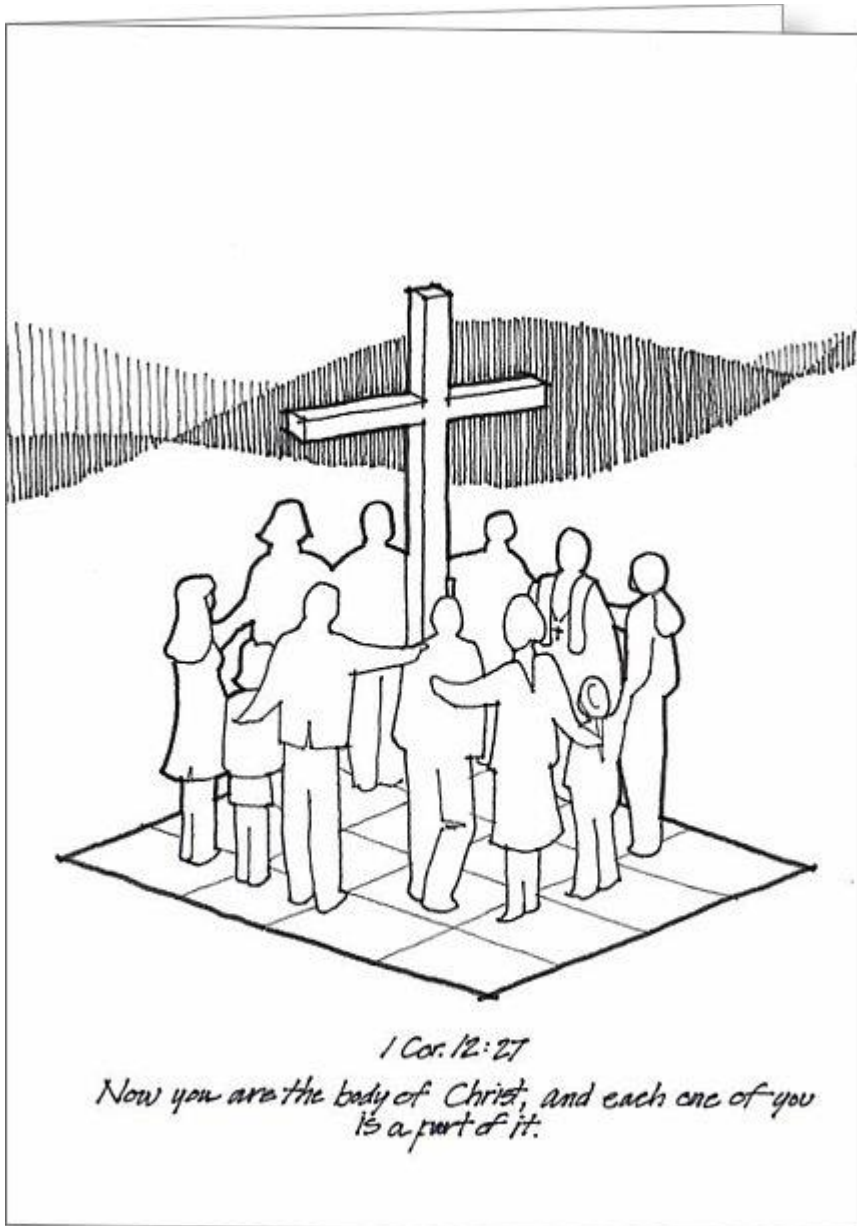
So, your prescription for a longer life is: get involved on a regular basis in whatever way you can here at Presbyterian Church of the Roses. We need more members on all of our committees, we are recruiting for new Deacons and Elders for next year already, and we are always open to new ways to do mission and ministry here. Feel free to share your ideas and be prepared to lead us into a bright future! Amen

Benediction:

And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and forevermore. Amen



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1 Cor. 12:27

*Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you
is a part of it.*