

PASTOR'S CORNER

As I sit down to write this quick note, I am suddenly aware that the year is quickly coming to an end.

We still have much in front of us to accomplish.

On November 17th, we will meet to elect elders to serve

on the Session and deacons to serve the needs of the congregation.

The 2020 budget will be presented and questions answered.

We will begin to gather pledges so we can faithfully follow God's will

for our ministry of serving our neighbors both in Gibson City and in the wider world.

The Sunday after Thanksgiving is the beginning of Advent.

During Advent we begin to prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ

child to live among us, and for the second coming of Christ, our Lord

and Savior, as he returns to rule over the New Earth and the New

Heaven.

Continued from front page . . . Each of these points has a particular meaning.

The titles "Breaking of Bread" and "the Lord's Supper" emphasize the oldest New Testament accounts of the institution of the sacrament (Mark 14:17-25 and 1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

The Gospels report Jesus' common eating and drinking with people from various walks of life, making such events worthy of remembrance. As far as it can be determined, Jewish meals always included bread. It was also customary for the host or head of

the house to bless the bread and then break and share it with those at the table.

On the day of his resurrection the risen Jesus made himself known to his followers in the breaking of bread.

He continued to show himself to believers by preparing, serving and sharing meals. This act continued among the followers of Jesus and the breaking and sharing of bread became a sacred act of remembrance, making present God's gracious act in Jesus the Christ in the special moment of remembering.

Please keep the Session and myself in your prayers

as we discern God's will for this congregation in the years ahead.

God's Spirit is present and active among us.

I hope that each of you can feel it as I do.

May the peace of Christ be will you all,

Pastor Ray Lantz

The term Eucharist, derived from the Greek word eucharista, which means "thanksgiving," is used by Mark, Matthew and Luke in their accounts of the institution of the Holy Meal. A verb form of this Greek word is used by Paul, emphasizing that Jesus gave thanks before breaking the bread and offering the cup. The joyous acts of thanksgiving that permeated the observance of this rite undoubtedly caused the second-century Christian writers to use the term Eucharist as the standard name for this meal.

PRESBYTIDINGS

November 2019

Pastor Ray Lantz

Worship: 10:30 a.m. Cookies and Coffee: 11:30ish

This Newsletter is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City IL.

Website: www.firstpresbygc.org

What We Believe:

Communion

"We trust in God the Holy / Spirit . . . who . . . feeds us / with the bread of life and the cup of salvation . . ."

These words from "A Brief Statement of Faith" reiterate the importance of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper for Presbyterians. They affirm that the initial action of this divine meal begins with God. God in Jesus the Christ offers the bread and the cup and bids us come. It is the Lord's feast, hosted by the One who promises an ultimate continuous feast in the Kingdom of God. Under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit the divine host is made present so that a bond of unity can exist among those present and those unseen.

The host welcomes all who accept the invitation to the Table. We who come need not be concerned about our personal appearance or aptitude. What matters is that the love, the grace and the hospitality of the host create unanimity among us. This meal is provided, not because we have earned the right to eat and drink with Jesus, but simply as an act of divine love. For Presbyterians this divinely initiated meal is one of two sacraments of the church, instituted by God and commended



by Christ. We are following in the tradition of the early church when we affirm three primal material elements of life — water, bread and wine — as the primary symbols of offering life to God. Being washed with the water of baptism, we receive new life in Christ. In eating the bread and drinking the cup offered by God, our memory of the promises is made present by the Holy Spirit. In the words of John Calvin, sacraments are "a testimony of divine grace toward us, confirmed by an outward sign, with mutual attestation of our piety toward [God]."

A sacrament is a testimony of God's favor toward the church, confirmed by an outward sign, with a mutual testifying of our godliness toward God. It is a primal, physical act that signifies a spiritual relationship between personal beings.

The Lord's Supper is a sacrament of continuous growth, nourishment and new life. In our Reformed tradition participation in this sacrament should follow the sacrament of baptism.

Just as humans need food and drink for nurture and sustenance, Calvin wrote that the Holy Meal is God's way of providing for our maintenance during the whole course of our lives after we have been received into God's family. Both sacraments provide a visi-

ble, in fact a graphic, way of presenting God's promises.

Through the sacraments God seals believers in redemption, God renews our identity as God marks us for service.

But participation is a corporate act rather than an act between an individual and God. Infants and children are baptized by the church and nurtured in the faith so that they can participate with the church in the sacrament of Holy Communion. Out of this belief congregations continue Christ's extension of open arms to children and welcome those growing in the faith.

We believe that the sacrament of the Lord's Table presupposes, deepens and assists personal faith. We cannot wait until we think we are appropriately worthy for such a divine encounter.

In presenting ourselves and offering God our imperfections, our weaknesses, even our sinfulness, God may make us worthy. Our worthiness is found in putting our trust in God and, in faith, relying upon God's mercy.



The act of eating and drinking with Jesus has been called by a number of names: Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, the Breaking of Bread.

Continued on back page. . .

* "FALL BACK" ONE HOUR BEFORE RETIRING ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND.

November 2019

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

					1	2 Recycle 9 am Bible reading at Holly Brook <i>*see above</i>
3 10:30 a.m. Worship Shull family Christmas Luke 19:1-10	4 7 Messiah practice in sanctuary	5 Election Day	6 Pastor Ray's vacation	7 Pastor Ray's vacation	8 Pastor Ray's vacation	9 Pastor Ray's vacation
10 10:30 a.m. Worship Pastor Ray's vacation Luke 20:27-38	11 Church office closed for Veteran's Day Pastor Ray's vacation 7 Messiah	12 Pastor Ray's vacation	13 9:45 Pastor Ray reading to HS students	14	15	16 Recycle 9 am Bible reading at Holly Brook
17 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 21:5-19	18 7 Messiah	19	20 9:45 Pastor Ray reading to HS students	21 5:30 Session	22	23 9 am Bible reading at Holly Brook
24 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 23:33-43	25 7 Messiah Practice	26	27 	28 Happy Thanksgiving Church office closed	29 Church office closed	30 9 am Bible Reading at HB 10:30 am Fall Decorations to Christmas

Pastor Ray will be preaching on the scripture listed in bold on each Sunday.



The First Presbyterian Church's free hot chocolate was a big hit at the Gibson City Chamber of Commerce Fright Night on October 22. We handed out 175 cups of hot chocolate and 125 Halloween pencils. There was a big turnout and lots of great costumes to enjoy. Our new church display sign was prominently displayed next to the swerving table and several people acknowledged their appreciation that our church was giving away hot chocolate and pencils. A big thank you to Ron and Mary Clow, Janice Swanson, and Ted Swanson who helped Pastor Lantz make a presence in the community on behalf of our church.



Heed now the call for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 17, 2019 immediately following worship for the purpose of presenting and electing new officers for the coming year. No other business may be discussed. A dinner will be provided afterward.

In August 2019 \$ 240 was collected for the Head Start Program and with matching funds from Session a check was written to the for \$480. In September 2019 \$ 443 was col-

lected for the Music Foundation and with matching funds from Session a check was written to them for \$886.

Session approved moving forward with the following suggestions from our surveys:

- Holding a Bible study on Wednesday nights
- Providing free transportation to Sunday services twice a month.
- Hosting a Game Night.
- Holding a luncheon once a month for new members to the community.

More information to follow. Please watch this space.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING, EVERYONE! HAVE A BLESSED DAY!!!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

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|----------------------|----------------------|
| November | December |
| 01: Doris Gerber | 03: Jerry Wissmiller |
| 06: Carla Ashmore | 07: Charlie Schultz |
| 07: Beverly Swanson | 07: Tim Shull |
| | 13: Ben Retherford |
| 17: Shannon Spangler | 24: Ken Kyle |
| 18: Ellie Stolz | 26: Clair Retherford |
| 18: David Schmidt | 27: Elinor Nelson |
| 20: Vonna Heustis | |
| 22: Brian Swanson | |
| 23: Noah Swanson | |
| 30: Ken & Darlene K | |



K. P. Duty
Nov: Sharla Williams
Dec: Jeanette Hensley

Second Sunday Offering
Nov: Am. Legion/VFW Baskets—Dale Ashmore
Dec: Christmas Joy Offering—Carla Ashmore

Ushers
Nov: John & Barb Kirkpatrick
Dec: Ron & Mary Clow

Communion Servers
Nov 24: Charles Schultz & Trudy Lantz
Dec 24: Ron & Mary Clow

Communion Set-Up
Nov 24: Carla Ashmore
Dec 24: Barb Kirkpatrick

Flowers
Nov: Carla Ashmore
Dec: Barb Kirkpatrick



October 2019

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH...

Sunday **Monday** **Tuesday** **Wednesday** **Thursday** **Friday** **Saturday**

		1 5:30-Special Session Meet.	2 9:45 Pastor Ray reading to HS students	3 Chamber Luncheon 5:30 Deacons	4	5 Recycle 9 am Bible reading at Holly Brook
6 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 17:5-10	7	8	9 9:45 Pastor Ray reading to HS students	10	11	12 9 am Bible reading at Holly Brook
13 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30—Nominating Committee Luke 17:11-19	14 Columbus Day—the church office will be closed	15 Pastor Ray in Louisville, KY	16 Pastor Ray in Louisville KY	17 Pastor Ray in Louisville KY	18 Pastor Ray in Louisville KY	19 Recycle 9 am Bible reading at Holly Brook
20 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 18:1-8	21	22	23 9:45 Pastor Ray reading to HS students	24 5:30 Session	25	26 9 am Bible reading FPC to work at Alco Food Pantry—8 to 12:00
27 10:30 a.m. Worship Birthday Reception Soup Supper Luke 18:9-14	28 Happy 148th Birthday, FPC! 7 Messiah Practice	29	30 9:45 Pastor Ray reading to HS students	31		

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