

PASTOR'S CORNER

PASTORAL STATEMENT RETURNING TO CHURCH

“When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place” (Acts 2:1). So begins the account of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the church in the book of Acts. As we approach the day of Pentecost in the year 2020, we understand that it may *not* be possible for the members of our congregation to be “*all together in one place*” this year. While some restrictions are being lifted in some places and for some people, the ongoing threat of the Covid-19 global pandemic will require that we return to church in a way that is measured and mindful of the needs of the most vulnerable among us. While some may begin to attend public worship in person, we know that some will need to continue to worship at home for some time.

We give thanks, then, for the promise of our faith—that the Lord God will bless and keep us, the risen Christ is with us, and the Holy Spirit connects us with believers near and far. We take comfort and inspiration from the example of the earliest believers, who “spent much time together in the temple” and “broke bread at home ... with glad and generous

hearts” (Acts 2:46). As we anxiously track the news in these times—with numbers of new cases, numbers of persons who have died, and numbers of those who are recovering—we remember the good news of the gospel: “And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved” (Acts 2:47).

As this congregation begins to resume public activities, please know that we will do so through a careful process of discussion and discernment, with an abundance of caution and concern for those who are most vulnerable, upon consideration of the best scientific knowledge at our disposal, in the spirit of constant prayer, and with full trust in the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

We may make mistakes along the way. There will surely be awkward moments as we adjust to new protocols and practices. There will be times of frustration, disappointment, and grief. We will have countless opportunities to exercise the spiritual gifts of patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control. But there will also be blessings. There will be wonderful

surprises, great celebrations, and moments of deep satisfaction. We will get to see glimpses of the new thing God is doing, even now. We will have opportunities to savor the spiritual gifts of love, joy, peace, generosity, and faithfulness.

Let us be faithful, then—to God and to one another—as we receive the gifts and work through the challenges of this time in the life of our congregation and world. Let us be guided by the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and open to the grace of God. Let us remember that nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus.

Pastor Ray Lantz



PRESBYTIDINGS

June 2020

Pastor Ray Lantz

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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

Website: www.firstpresbygibson.org

Changes approved by Session to our service when we return to Public Worship.

We will ask members to refrain from:

Shaking Hands, Elbow bumps and Fist bumps

Singing

Passing of the Collection Tray (It will be left at the back of church.)

Cookies and Conversation after Church

Passing the Communion Tray (Members will pick up self-contained Communion before church.)

We will ask members to comply with the following safety procedures:

Sit 6 feet apart

Wear a mask at all times (We encourage you to bring your own.)

Pastor Lantz will not wear a mask when preaching from the podium behind the Plexiglas shield.

However, Pastor Lantz will put one on whenever he leaves the podium.

Extra Precautions Taken by the Church:

Everything that can be touched will be removed (Hymnals, sign-in books, etc.)

Increased sanitation will be requested of the cleaning service. The back bathrooms will remain locked and only the bathroom in the Sunshine Lounge will be available.

Hand Sanitizer and Clorox Wipes will be made available in all areas of the church.

Air filters will be changed often and the recycling of the air in the building will be reviewed.

We ask all members to:

Be part of the Solution – Prevent the Spread of the Coronavirus

Practice Social Distancing – Stay 6 feet apart

Wash your hands often

Don't touch your face

Cough into your elbow

Wear masks when required

If sick, STAY HOME

The Kitchen is closed until further notice.



Opening of Our Church Building for Services

The church building will open for Sunday services starting on Sunday, June 14.

Opening of Our Church Building to the Public

The church building will be open to the public on Wednesday, June 3rd and

Meladee will be resuming her secretarial duties. However, no one will be allowed entrance to the building without a mask on.



EVERYONE MUST WEAR A MASK TO ENTER THE CHURCH BUILDING.

THANK YOU!

June 2020

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Recycle</i>
7 10:30 a.m. <i>Worship</i> Matthew 28:16-20	8	9	10	11 5:30 Special Session Meeting	12	13
14 10:30 a.m. <i>Worship</i> Communion Return to Worship Matthew 9:35-10:23	15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>Recycle</i>
21 Father's Day 10:30 a.m. <i>Worship</i> Congregational meeting Matthew 10:24-39	22	23	24	25 5:30 Session	26	27
28 10:30 a.m. <i>Worship</i> Matthew 10:40-42	29	30				

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

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH...

Please note: The previous week's sermon will broadcast at 7:45 a.m. every Sunday morning on WGCY.

Please note: Online Sunday Services will be available on our Facebook Page noted below:

First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=142499619134911&ref=br_rs

Session approved the immediate donation of an additional \$500 to the Gibson Area Food Pantry due to the increased need for food in the area because of the Covid-19 situation. Mary Clow presented the check to Rick Ertel on Saturday, April 25th which was our church's day to volunteer and help with distribution. Clients are no longer allowed to come in the building and shop but are asked to drive up to the door where pre-packed boxes of food are loaded into their trunks.

Ameren Electric will be replacing the Church's Transformer sometime in the near future. They are

making improvements to the north end of town due to upgrades requested by the Gibson Area hospital. Part or all of the fence around the Head Start playground will need to be taken down temporarily to allow their trucks and equipment to get in to do the work. The exact date will be announced once the work is officially scheduled as the church building will be closed on that day.

In an effort to help members stay connected to God and our Church during these challenging times, Session approved the purchase of the "These Days Magazine" which is a quarterly publication that will be mailed to all members of the church. The magazine features daily reflections and inspiring prayers along with poems, prayers and songs. Adult coloring pages are also included.

Session approved, at the request of Jean Williams, the purchase of 26 Gibson Bucks in the amount of \$20 each to be given to the Housekeeping staff at the Gibson Area Hospital, Heritage Health Care and Villas

of Holly Brook facilities in support of their work during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Georgie Johnson is in the annex due to a fall.

John Kaufman is in the annex due to a fall.

Our treasurer, Phil Noellsch, was in a car accident, but seems to be doing well.

We wish to share our deepest sympathy with the following families:

Christena Swanson, mother of Brian Swanson

Paul Bottles of Saybrook, uncle of Ron Clow

Elizabeth DeLong, sister (graduate of 1958) of the Reverend Doctor Stan DeLong, 3354 Mt. Carol



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

June	July
01: Mary Clow	01: David and Ellie Stolz (1956)
01: Rick Kerchenfaut	01: John and Barb Kirkpatrick (1983)
03: Stacy Johnson	24: Larry Ricks
08: Gene and Mary Jane Roth (1963)	26: John Gesell
11: Mac McClure	26: Chad Johnson
12: Chad & Stacy Johnson (1993)	26: John Kaufman
14: Nicole Schultz	
20: Michael & Karen Mott (1981)	
27: Dorri Groom	
29: Hunter Johnson	

K. P. Duty
June: Trudy Lantz
July: Deacons
Second Sunday Offering
June 14: Hanley School Supplies
July 12: Building Improvements

Communion Set-Up
June 7: Mary Jane Roth
July 5: Carla Ashmore

Flower Vases to CM
June: Mary Jane Roth
July 5: Carla Ashmore

Ushers
June: Gene and Mary Jane Roth
July: Jean Williams and Val Hunt
Communion Servers
June 7: Rick Kerchenfaut & Danny Heustis
July 5: Dale Ashmore and Ron Clow



Mary Clow, our Clerk of Session, has come up with another wonderful question for you all. What is the first thing you would like to do when our state reopens after the Covid-19 pandemic? I have enjoyed calling as many of you as I can reach and hearing your answers. It was the consensus of everyone to be able to move about more freely even if we do have to wear masks and practice social distancing.



Val Hunt: get a haircut! No hesitation in her answer.

Gene and Mary Jane Roth: visit family, eat out at a nice place, and just basically enjoy some freedom.

Ray and Trudy Lantz: Go out and eat somewhere nice with their son Ramie and his girlfriend, Jennifer.

Dale and Carla Ashmore: get together with family.

Ron and Mary Clow: go camping. They have been camping in the drive way and building a bonfire, but it is just not quite the same. One day they got bored and began looking up much older family members and where they were buried. They discovered that Ron's great, great, great, great, grandfather was buried in 1855 in a cemetery a little past Effingham. They decided to take a road trip there and Mary packed a picnic lunch and they took off. They found the grave site and he was buried with a wife on each side of him. They picnicked at Rend Lake. What a great and interesting way to spend a day.

Doris Gerber: get a haircut! (I see a theme happening here.) She fell the morning of Mother's Day and had to spend the morning in the ER. She will be getting an injection in her hip for her back on the right side. She is very excited because Kathy is moving to Cincinnati Ohio and will be so much closer.

John and Barb Kirkpatrick: go out someplace nice to eat. Lots are looking forward to that very thing.

David and Ellie Stolz: Ellie answered right away with 'get a haircut' and go to church.. Her state of mind right now prompts her to ask herself 'can I do this or not'. She is hoping when things open up more, she will not have to think like that anymore. David had a quick answer: Thank you, Jesus!

Ted Swanson: These are things he would like to do, but feels it may be a long time coming for some of them: hug every one at church, go to work at State Farm Center, and have a family cookout.

Tim, Janice, Noah, Jesse, and Emma Swanson: Tim will continue to work and would like to have a cookout on his patio for all the prom kids. Janice would like to take a vacation and go do something fun. Noah would like to hang out with all 8 of his friends at the same time, Jesse would like to go to Florida and Disney World, and Emma would like to have a mock prom. (She will be a senior at GCMS this fall.)

Rick, Aizza, Anneliese, Addison, and Charlie Kerchenfaut: The children would just like to spend time with their friends. Rick and Aizza would like to go somewhere nice to eat. And, as a family, go to Colorado to see a new nephew.

Sharla Williams: Sharla would like to get back to the library and to be able to communicate without Zoom. Visit with family, specifically Aunt Barb, and friends and go out to eat with Meladee and other friends. She would really like to give everyone a hug!

Jeanette Hensley: Go shopping and eat out with friends and classmates. They have missed some birthday luncheons and would like to get caught up and carry on.

Jerry Wissmiller: The person who helps with his housework has given him a hair cut, but a professional one would be nice. He gets out when the weather is nice and takes a drive to see how the farmers are getting along.

Barb Williams: get a haircut, go out to eat, meet with friends that don't live near her, and have her son come

down to see her.

Phil and Jean Noellsch: Jean wants to go to church in person and be able to gather with friends again. Phil would like to get a hair cut.

Danny and Vonna Heustis: Vonna will give a sigh of relief when things settle down again and will get a hair cut as soon as she can book it! Danny gets out and about most days. As Mayor of Saybrook he is kept busy with things that have been going wrong in town. He will certainly be happy when that is over.

Charlie and Cheryl: Cheryl is anxious to go shopping and Charlie would like to go golfing.

Teresa Alexander: Teresa is anxious to actually go see her mom rather than talking on the phone to her or through her window. She is ready to see more of her family, especially her grandkids and she wants to go camping.

Mac and Ruth McClure: Ruth needs to get her driver's license renewed and just go to town. Doctor's appointments have been put off and will need to be rescheduled. Mac does get out a little and sees some of his buddies to talk.

Your Secretary: I am ready to resume a normal schedule. I sleep at weird times, I eat at weird times. I forget to take my medicines when I should. I have found that by being at home and not working that I really do enjoy my job and the people. When the call comes I will answer. I fully realize why we have had to do what we have had to do, but I pray for everyone's sake, it will be over soon. I feel God has sent us an urgent reminder: We don't realize what we have until we no longer have it.

Heed now the call for a Congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, June 21, 2020 following worship for the purpose of discussing and voting on the future of the Farlin Farm.

At the May 28th Session meeting, a review of the management of the Farlin Farm was conducted. This included the reading of the Mabelle Farlin will from 1979 which states Mrs. Farlin gives the First Presbyterian Church 153.78 acres of farm land with **no** stipulations listed. In addition, the minutes from the May 28, 1979 Session meeting were also reviewed in which Mrs. Farlin's attorney William Middleton stated that **no** restrictions were placed on the gift but her *wish* was that it not be sold except in an *emergency* and the income should be used locally.

Three Options were considered:

Option 1 was to switch to a cash rent arrangement.

Option 2 was to switch to a flex lease.

Option 3 was to consider selling the farm.

Option 3 was a difficult topic to discuss but necessary considering the current economic situation brought on by Covid-19. One of the reasons for the review included the fact that the church investments have suffered from the global economic downturn with a reduction in value. In addition, it was noted that the future revenues and farm ground values most likely will also decline. There is a lot of uncertainty in the global demand for farm products.

The majority of the Session members felt this was best for the long term financial health of the church and the effects of the pandemic would qualify as an emergency. Therefore, it was decided that Session would put the matter of the sale of the Farlin Farm to the Congregation for approval. No other business may be discussed.

SAMPLE BALLOT

Yes Sell the Farlin Farm

No Do Not Sell the Farlin Farm