

PASTOR'S CORNER

Sometimes, it is important to remember that we at First Presbyterian of Gibson City are part of a much bigger “body of Christ”. *Our denomination just concluded its 224th General Assembly.* Originally scheduled to be held in Baltimore, Maryland, the pandemic forced it to be held online. Elected commissioners did their work scattered across the United States. “For two weeks now, a key group of leaders, technicians, and individuals with a long track record of working behind the scenes of the General Assembly have been gathered in a large conference room at the Presbyterian Center to bring an online assembly gathering to life for the first time. Countless laptops, extension cords, monitors, and cameras have covered the room while the production team, practicing social distancing, pulled together a four-day assembly.

New Newsletter Column: We would like to start a new column to share what our Members and Friends have been doing since we can no longer gather and talk during Cookies and Conversation. We are going to call the column *Presbyterian Connections*. You can tell us what you did on vacation or update us on a grandchild’s accomplishment. Just call Meladee or email her your story. Pictures are welcome.

Our first story is from Ron and

As the 224th General Assembly (2020) came to a close on Saturday night, cheers and applause broke out among the team assembled on the second floor of the Presbyterian Center. None was happier than the Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC (USA). He said the outcome of this assembly would help map the strategy for future gatherings. This was a groundbreaking opportunity for us and I’m thankful for the staff for putting together a significant General Assembly that will change the trajectory of our work and move us into the 21st century in many ways,” he said. “This is a time of technology and we have to enter that world and figure out how to move in a different direction.”

The Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly (2020), the Reverend Gregory

Mary Clow who traveled to Birchwood, Wisconsin this past week to join Mary’s twin sister Nancy and her husband Randy fishing on Lake Chetac in their pontoon boat. It’s a tradition they have been doing for many years and Mary calls her brother-in-law the Fish Whisper. They caught 50 fish on one day and 35 on another day. Here is a picture of Ron who caught one of the many bluegills along with several perch.

Bentley and Ruling Elder Elona Street-Stewart, drove five and 11 hours, respectively, last week to take part in training and orientation. Bentley says it was worth it.

“It gives me great hope that we are headed in the right direction.

It does not mean we won’t have turbulence along the way and some challenges, but Elona and I both feel we are not dying, we are being reformed, retooled, and refocused for the journey ahead,” he said. [PC (USA) website]

Let us be thankful that our denomination leaders are good role models for us.

In this challenging time, the work of the Lord remains our focus. We, too, will strive to be God’s faithful servants here in Gibson City.

Pastor Ray Lantz



PRESBYTIDINGS

JULY 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

COVID-19 mental health resources



Each day brings new changes to daily life that would have been unthinkable a month ago, a week ago or even yesterday. In ordinary times, about half of us will experience a diagnosable mental health condition at some point in life, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC). In the extraordinary circumstances of a global pandemic, we are coping with prolonged stress, profound losses, and trauma. Based on past epidemics, health experts predict a wave of mental health impacts.

Some of the many people on the emotional front lines of

COVID-19:

- Front-line health workers, first responders, caregivers and other essential workers.
- People who become severely ill and their loved ones.
- Loved ones separated during quarantine, hospitalization, and at the end of life.
- People most at risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19.
- People who lose livelihoods, lack healthcare access, risk losing homes, are food insecure.
- People with limited access to social connection and support.
- Children at home with parents unable to meet their physical and/or emotional needs.
- Parents juggling jobs with childcare and home-schooling.
- Couples whose relationships are strained by the added stress.
- Pre-existing exposure to chronic stress and trauma is compounded for people of

color already living with the impact of racism who are now disproportionately dying from COVID-19 or being blamed for the virus, also for adults and children who were already lacking secure access to food, shelter, and health care before the pandemic.

Many excellent resources are available to help us cope with the emotional impact of the pandemic and to support our resilience. This is a curated list gathered from trusted sources and grouped by category:

- [For Everyone](#)
- [For Parents, Kids and Families](#)
- [For Congregations, Clergy and Mid Councils](#)
- [For Specific Concerns and Populations](#)
- [Resources to Uplift & Inspire](#)



Links for the above may be found at Presbytery U.S.A.

Many grace and peace be with us all,

Donna Miller, PsychD
Associate for Mental Health
Ministry



July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 	4 Recycle <i>Independence Day</i>
5 10:30 a.m. Worship Communion Romans 7:15-25a	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:30 a.m. Worship Romans 8:1-11	13	14	15	16	17	18 Recycle
19 10:30 a.m. Worship Romans 8:12-25	20	21	22	23	24	25 8:00 a.m. FPC to work at Food Pantry at old Alco building
26 10:30 a.m. Worship Romans 8:26-39	27	28	29	30 5:30 Session	31 	

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 Live 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

Food Pantry: 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. FPC's next working Saturday is July 25th.

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.

The Farlin Farm

A Congregational meeting was held on Sunday, June 21, 2020 after the 10:30 service of worship. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the sale of the Farlin Farm. No other business was discussed. After some discussion, the Congregation approved the request from Session to proceed with selling the Farlin Farm by a majority vote of 16 to 5. Pastor Lantz assured the Congregation that Session will proceed with the next steps and keep the Congregation informed as the selling process progresses.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

July	August
01: David and Ellie Stolz (1956)	12: John & Ruth Davis (1972)
01: John and Barb Kirkpatrick (1983)	14: Ray and Trudy Lantz (1976)
24: Larry Ricks	15: Dale and Carla Ashmore
26: John Gesell	18: Valeree Johnson
26: Chad Johnson	21: Teresa Alexander
	22: Jordyn Schultz
	23: Dale Ashmore
	24: Tim and Janice Swanson (1996)
	26: Dean and Sue Retherford (1989)
	31: Sandy Brucker



K. P. Duty July: Deacons August: Val Hunt	Communion Set-Up July 5: Carla Ashmore August 2: Sharla Williams
Second Sunday Offering July 12: Building Improvements August 9: Head Start	Flower Vases to CM July 5: Carla Ashmore August 2: Sharla Williams
Ushers July: Jean Williams and Val Hunt August: Gene and Mary Jane Roth	
Communion Servers July 5: Dale Ashmore and Ron Clow August 2: Charles Schultz and Trudy Lantz	





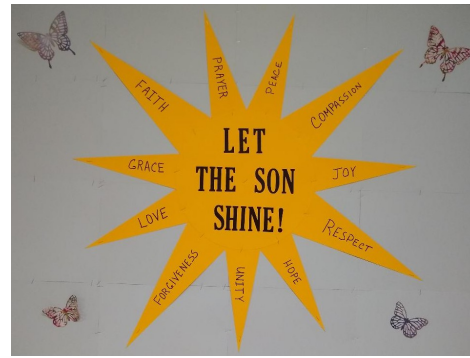
John Martin Kaufman passed away peacefully June 15, 2020. He was born July 29, 1926, in Bloomington. John married Edith Mae Suttle on January 1, 1950. She survives. They have three children, Leslie, Sioux City, Iowa; Sharon, Lakewood, Colorado; and Julie, Wheaton, Illinois; three grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. John and Edith farmed in the Gibson City area until they retired in 1997. They were very active in the First Presbyterian Church and in the community. After retirement John kept busy with woodworking, clock repair and helping people get set up on their computers. John lived at the Villas of Holly Brook, Gibson City for the past five years. Graveside services were held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 26 at the Drummer Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family prefers donations to the Gibson Hospital Annex. John was cherished by all in our church and will be deeply missed.



Pastor Lantz giving his sermon behind a Plexiglass Safety Shield at the pulpit on June 14th, our first Sunday back in our church building for services. We are excited to be back but safety is still our priority. All bibles and hymnals were removed, the sanctuary is cleaned and sanitized every Saturday afternoon and seating is marked so everyone stays at least six feet apart. All in attendance must wear a mask and we have refrained from singing and handshaking although those are hard habits to break and accept.



Communion is also now self-contained and the offering plate is left at the back of the church. Our Sunday life has changed but we are grateful to be back together again.



This is a picture of our new bulletin board for the summer. It can be found in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall. Once a quarter Jean Noellsch and Meladee Ferguson try to find something appropriate for the season and make a bulletin board out of it. We hope you enjoy our efforts.



Did you know? John Adams believed that July 2nd was the correct date on which to celebrate the birth of American independence, and would reportedly turn down invitations to appear at July 4th events in protest. Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826—the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the Declaration of Independence.



A conversation between Kathie Spurgeon Luke and Jean Williams on Facebook:

It was so good to see your comment on Facebook yesterday. Haven't been through Gibson in forever (it's not really on my way anymore), but whenever I do I always drive by the church to check out Joe's project. Thanks for taking care of it. I don't know if you heard, Cliff was diagnosed with leukemia just over a year ago. Last summer was rough. He's been in remission since last August, but we go this week for a bone marrow biopsy. I think it may be back so then we wait to find out the next course of action. Please keep him in your prayers.

Stephanie got married almost three years ago. She and her husband are moving to Thailand next month. She will be teaching biology and chemistry at an international school in Bangkok—provided of course, they are able to travel. Joe is now a senior software developer at the company he started with when he graduated from college—8 years ago! It's hard to believe how time flies. And you can see from Facebook, we are at the First Presbyterian Church in Great Bend, Kansas where they are taking good care of me in the midst of Cliff's illness and the pandemic. I really can't complain—life is good!

Sometimes

By Mike Hastings

Sometimes we don't understand
The things life sends our way
Is it part of God's great plan
And how long will it stay?
What must God be thinking
To allow this kind of pain
What can be His purpose
And how are we to gain?
How can our hearts keep beating
When our minds can't find relief
Why is happiness so fleeting
Despite all of our belief?
Is it just some kind of test
That we must pass or fail
To see if we still trust in God
When doubts start to assail?
Why me, why us, we often ask
What have we done so wrong
That life should treat us as it does
When we're really not that strong?
Now, no one person has the answer
To this path of life we trod
Except the One all knowing
And that's our Father God.
See, He too shares our sorrow
He too shares our grief
Yesterday, today, tomorrow
He is there to bring relief.
He may not give the answers
That we so long to hear
But He's there to love and listen
For we always have His ear.
It's faith in Him that sees us through
As fear of tomorrow climbs
We just must put our trust in Him
Though we don't understand some-
times.
So when this world weighs you
down
With its' heartaches and demands
In all ways remember this
He still has us in His plans.

A History of Independence Day
When the initial battles in the Revolutionary War broke out in April 1775, few colonists desired complete independence from Great Britain, and those who did were considered radical.

By the middle of the following year, however, many more colonists had come to favor independence, thanks to growing hostility against Britain and the spread of revolutionary sentiments such as those expressed in the bestselling pamphlet "Common Sense", published by Thomas Paine in early 1776.

On June 7, when the Continental Congress met at the Pennsylvania State House (later Independence Hall) in Philadelphia, the Virginia delegate Richard Henry Lee introduced a motion calling for the colonies' independence.

Amid heated debate, Congress postponed the vote on Lee's resolution, but appointed a five-man committee—including Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Roger Sherman of Connecticut, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania and Robert R. Livingston of New York—to draft a formal statement justifying the break with Great Britain.

On July 2nd, the Continental Congress voted in favor of Lee's resolution for Independence in a near-unanimous vote (the New York delegation abstained, but later voted affirmatively). On that day John Adams wrote to his wife Abigail that July 2 "will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival" and that the celebration should include "Pomp and Parade...Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other."

