

PASTOR'S CORNER

Beginning Wednesday, September 2nd, you are invited to participate in a Mathew 25 Bible Study in the fellowship hall of the First Presbyterian Church in Gibson City. We will meet for a minimum of four weeks to begin a discussion on how to best achieve our congregational goal to serve God and neighbor as a Matthew 25 church.

The Matthew 25 vision of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) began with an overture from Cascades Presbytery to the 222nd General Assembly (2016). This overture called Presbyterians to be a missional people, actively engaging the world in the name of Jesus Christ. The 223rd General Assembly (2018) reaffirmed this commitment, distilling a number of other overtures into the sharper focus of building congregational vitality. These actions of the General Assembly are consistent with our belief that we are "saved to serve" — delivered from sin and death in order to show the love, justice and mercy of Jesus in our words and deeds.

The themes of the Matthew 25 invitation are grounded in the gospel. Jesus calls us to serve with and for "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40) —not as a group to be pit-

ied, but as people who are deeply loved by Jesus. They recenter our assumptions about what it means to be a beloved child of God. They challenge the authenticity of our faith and remind us that what we do matters to God.

The tenets of the Matthew 25 vision are also embedded in our denomination's spiritual DNA. The Presbyterian/ Reformed tradition is marked by a deep concern for the flourishing of all people. Our confessions make this clear. For instance, the Confession of 1967 condemns the evil of systemic poverty in our world. The Confession of Belhar challenges us to confront racism in church and society.

A Brief Statement of Faith imagines congregations fully alive in the glory of God. These themes are evident in the life of the PC(USA) today, as many people and congregations are already involved in Matthew 25 ministries, addressing congregational vitality.

The Matthew 25 vision is offered, above all, for the sake of the whole world God loves. But we believe it will also help the PC(USA) in three particular ways: to connect, clarify and celebrate. First, sharing in the Matthew 25 vision will allow us to connect with other Presbyterians throughout this nation and with

partners in mission around the world, providing a common language to articulate our service in Jesus' name. Second, the Matthew 25 vision will enable us to clarify our self-understanding, so we can begin to live out our calling as followers of Jesus, sharing the love and justice of God among those who are most marginalized. Third, being a part of the Matthew 25 vision is a way to celebrate the witness and work that unites us as people of God in the PC(USA), a vision large enough to embrace us all, yet specific enough to respond to the needs of local communities.

Please save time on your busy calendar on these Wednesday nights at 6:30PM: September 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd.

Join me for this time of reflection on what it means to be God's church in today's world.

More information will be available in the coming weeks.

Pastor Ray Lantz



PRESBYTIDINGS

August 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

Meladee Ferguson: Administrative Assistant

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave

you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you

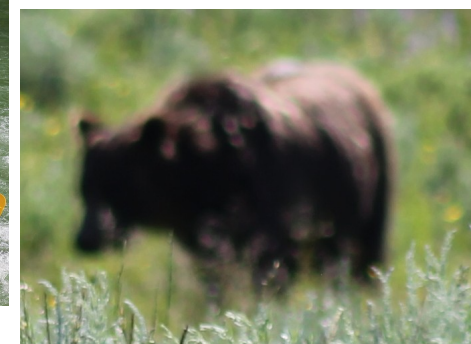
gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you? Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTIONS

Grizzly Bear—Yellowstone National Park



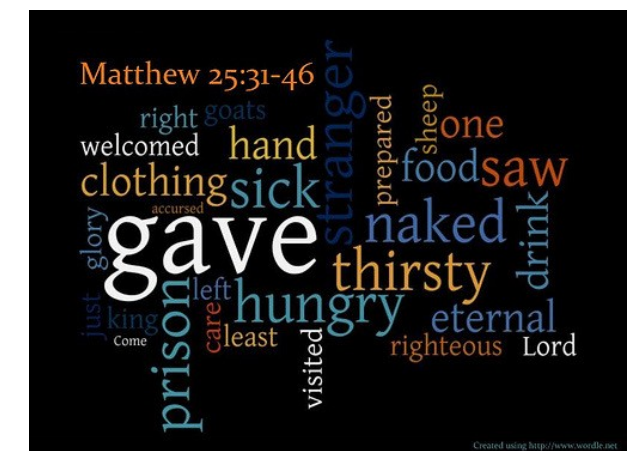
Whitewater Rafting—Snake River, Wyoming—July 2020—Kerchenfaut Family



Hiking at Hidden Falls-Grand



Tetons National Park-Charlie, Anneliese & Addison Kerchenfaut-July 2020



August 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 10:30 a.m. Worship Communion-Matthew 14:13-21	3	4	5	6 Chamber Meets	7	1 Recycle 8
9 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 14:22-33	10	11 I have been your secretary for 6 years today. Yay!	12	13	14	15 Recycle
16 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 15:10-28	17	18	19	20 5:30 Session	21	22
23 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 16:13-20	24 Head Start Staff back	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 16:21-28	31				September 8: Head Start Children begin new year	

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

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.

Farlin Farm Update: Per Session

request, an appraisal of the Farlin Farm was conducted on July 29th by Paul Meharry of Farm Credit Illinois. The farm was appraised at \$1,500,000 or 153.46 acres at \$9,775 per acre. Thank you to Rick Kerchenfaut for taking the lead on ordering the appraisal. Anyone interested in seeing a complete cope of the appraisal can contact Pastor Lantz.

My heart swelled with love, joy and gratitude when I received the check from the church for Because of Cody. It was unexpected because the Church was closed in May. I shouldn't have been surprised because it is just the way this church family always is... Kind, caring, generous and thinking of others. I have been a member for 67 years and these are the reasons why I love this church and members. Thank you with love and blessings. Val Hunt

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Hanley School Fund. It is truly appreciated. Bonnie Clark

To all members of the First Pres-

byterian Church: The family of John Kaufman thanks you for your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. They helped us feel loved during the service. Les, Sharon, and Julie

Dear Meladee, Thanks so much for all the Presbytids and These Days Devotionals you send me. I also appreciate your poems and prayers during this difficult Spring. First Presbyterian is so fortunate to have your help and encouragement. I hope all is well with you. Thanks again for all you do for me. I miss you all. It saddens me to see my church family slowly slipping away. Sincerely, Beverly Swanson P.S. Please give Phil N. the enclosed check for me. (Thank you, Mrs. Swanson, for the kind words. I very much appreciate them. I truly enjoy my job and a big part of that is because of people like you.)

We wish to extend our sincere sympathy to Bob Ferguson upon the passing of his mother, Mary Lou Wright.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		K. P. Duty	Communion Set-Up
		August: Val Hunt	August 2: Sharla Williams
		Sept: Ron & Mary Clow	Sept 6: Mary Jane Roth
		Second Sunday Offering	Flower Vases to CM
		August 9: Head Start	August: Sharla Williams
		Sept: Gibson Area Music Foundation	Sept: Mary Jane Roth
		Ushers	
		August: Gene and Mary Jane Roth	
		Sept: Janice Swanson and Jeanette Hensley	
		Communion Servers	
		August 2: Charles Schultz and Trudy Lantz	
		Sept 6: Ron & Mary Clow	

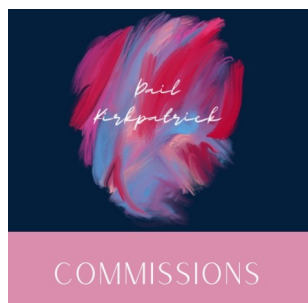
- | August | September |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 12: John & Ruth Davis (1972) | 06: Allen Neubauer |
| 14: Ray and Trudy Lantz (1976) | 17: Gene Roth |
| 15: Dale and Carla Ashmore | 17: Danny Heustis |
| 18: Valeree Johnson | 18: Georgie Johnson |
| 21: Teresa Alexander | 18: Jean Jardine |
| 22: Jordyn Schultz | 21: John Kirkpatrick |
| 23: Dale Ashmore | 26: Val Hunt |
| 24: Tim and Janice Swanson (1996) | 26: Ted Swanson |
| 26: Dean and Sue Retherford (1989) | |
| 31: Sandy Brucker | |



The Head Start classroom carpets were replaced with floating vinyl that looks like wood which will be better for the students. The cost of the upgrade was shared with the Church and Head Start. Thank you to Jean Williams for her assistance in getting this negotiated. Head Start is an important Mission of the Church.



The Manse will be available to rent as of August 15th for \$800 per month. Our current renter, Stan Stafford, has been an excellent renter and we wish him well with the purchase of his new home. The Manse has 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths and a full basement. A detached 2 car garage comes with the house. Anyone interested should contact Pastor Lantz. (217-369-9816)

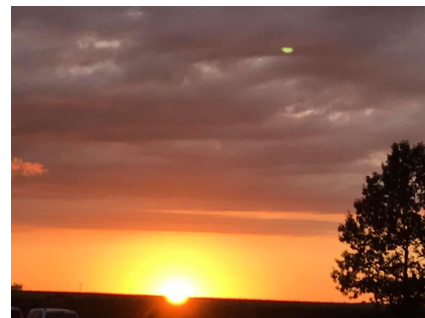


Dail Renee Kirkpatrick, daughter of John and Barb Kirkpatrick, recently opened up for Commissions Works of Arts. The link to her website is:

www.dailkirkpatrick.com/commissions.

A big thank you to Meladee Ferguson who celebrates her 6th anniversary as our church secretary on August 11th. You are gracious and kind and much appreciated! Thank you for being a part of our church family.

Thank you! I love my job!!!! And being a part of this church family!



Another beautiful sunset while camping at Weldon Springs State Park topped off with a nice colorful fire using a packet of powder you throw in the fire. Ron & Mary Clow



Update from the Warfields

Bonjour FPCGC,! For this newsletter we are

switching things up, and we (Avery and Avalyn) will be taking over to share some of our experiences growing up overseas. As Avalyn starts her first year of college and Avery starts his junior year of college, we thought it would be beneficial to write to the people who love and support our family, and illuminate some of our story which is not often heard.



From Avery:

From a young age, I watched my parents leave their home in North Carolina, to serve in Mauritania, West Africa. They felt called to serve in a country hostile to Christians, even through it put our family in hazardous conditions. Seeing their passion for serving others, sparked me to want to the same thing. At the age of 9, while in Mauritania, I saw myself wanting to do little things to help my community as I followed in my parent's footsteps. We distributed food and water to those in need, drained water from the slums after the rain had flooded homes and streets, or drank tea and conversed with some of our neighbors to show that we cared for them (A common cultural tradition is to boil tea over a small fire and drink it together-called Attaya, which is shown in the picture above). Although my family was adjusting to the culture and people of Mauritania, the danger was still present. After less than a year, my father was targeted by an extremist group, and we were forced to flee the country. Since then, I have lived in Uganda, Kenya, and Senegal, while my parents have served overseas. In 2018 I graduated from Dakar Academy in Dakar, Senegal, and am now continuing my education at Wake Forest University. For as long as I can remember, I hated living in a different country from my birthplace. I was disappointed that I never had an American high school experience and saying so many goodbyes. Through my life journey, I have met such amazing people who have shaped me into who I am today. These people have helped me grow, mentored me, and spent time with me. But these experiences have made saying goodbye the hardest part about leaving those I love. It was tough for a young boy to move every few years and not have a stable home. I never felt that I had a place where I belonged. It wasn't easy because I never 100% identified with where I lived, but I also never 100% identified with my people in the US. So I always felt in

Continued on next page . . .

Warfield update continued . . .

the middle, grasped by two different places and not fully associating with either. Yet, as I look back, I am so thankful for the way I grew up. The things I learned along the way are worth everything to me and have made me the person I am. Watching my parents continue to serve while I am in the states, continues to be an inspiration to me about their dedication to the Lord. Romans 8:5-8 calls us to live in accordance with the Spirit and not live according to the flesh. In my time growing up, I have seen many people, including my parents, give so much and really live in accordance to the Spirit, wanting to serve and love the Lord. It has been an inspiration to me and my life, and I hope that you can find people who do the same and learn from them.

From Avalyn:

Sometimes you don't realize the blessings that have been presented to you until you stop for a moment and reflect on your life. I am guilty of this. I've lived in five countries over 18 years, learned French and some Arabic, experienced many different cultures, helped show love to children without families, sat on a crocodile, and much more. I used to take it all for granted. I wanted to be a normal American teenager. To me, that was going to parties, driving around in cars, going out for late-night runs to Cookout, or blasting music with friends. However, my time in Africa has come to an end, and as I look back on my life, I realize I have had many amazing experiences that have made me who I am today. Growing up in five very diverse and unique countries has taught me a lot about the world, different cultures, people, and traditions. Each one, France, Mauritania, Uganda, Senegal, and the USA, have given me something that I will remember and take with me as I head to the next chapter of my life. However, I will only be sharing the main lesson I learned from Senegal, otherwise, this would turn out to be the longest

paper you have ever read. Senegal was the country that I've lived in for the longest, five years. It is along the coast of West Africa and is extremely beautiful as it is near the ocean. Senegal is a wonderful country full of so much beauty, not just from the views and surroundings, but from the hearts of the local people there as well. One thing that sticks out when I look back at my time living in Senegal, is that happiness does not depend on your circumstances. You can find pure joy while living in complete poverty. When we visited a village, the kids there had no shoes, torn clothes, and they were always uncertain about when their next meal would come. However, when we arrived, they were all laughing and playing soccer with a ball made out of pieces of cloth tied together. They didn't have money to buy a ball, let alone food, but they still found ways to have fun and laugh with one another. It didn't matter that they didn't have a real ball, they could be satisfied even in a poor condition. This was not the only time I've seen something like this, it's happened multiple times, year after year and it amazes me. Every time I think of that situation or ones similar to it, I realize how selfish and greedy I am. Sometimes I think I need a new phone, clothes, or shoes when those kids are satisfied while having nothing. I strive to be just as content and happy as they are in daily life. They find something to smile about when you think it would be impossible. James 2:5 says, "Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him?" This verse sticks out to me because the poor rely on God more than most. Since they have so little, they rely on him more, for comfort, strength, to get through the day, allowing them to grow a stronger faith with the Lord. They don't need a new iPhone, clothes, or

shoes to be happy; they just need God. I used to always want a normal, American teenage life. However, now that I look back on the amazing experiences I have had, the unique people I have met; I realize how much these factors played into making me who I am today. I am beyond grateful for the opportunity to be a Missionary Kid, and I would not want to change anything about my life. Thank you!

Updates on the rest of the Warfields . . .

-Hayden will be a junior at Dakar Academy, he will be living in the dorm at the school, as our parents are on furlough this semester. Hayden is 6 feet 5 inches! So he is officially the tallest Warfield. He plays basketball, volleyball, softball, and soccer, and participates in the school musicals and plays.

-Sheila is staying in Winston Salem, NC, for the fall semester to help Avalyn adjust to college. She has enjoyed being back in the states to spend time with her family.

-Robb is directing an international school in the midst of a world pandemic, so it's a pretty easy job (that was a joke). He has also developed arthritis in his knees, making it difficult for him to exercise, which is a big stress reliever for him, so please keep him in your prayers. That's about it from the Warfield family. Thank you for reading this, and we hope you enjoyed the twist in the authors. Thank you for your continued love for our family.

Avalyn and Avery



The Warfields