

## PASTOR'S CORNER

What is a vision?

“Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18, KJV). A vision is a picture of a preferred future. God uses visions to equip us for faithful living. The Bible is full of visions of God’s preferred future:

Abram and Sarai’s vision that they will become ancestors to “a multitude of nations”; Isaiah’s vision that the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and a little child will lead them; Mary’s vision that God will bring down the powerful from their thrones and lift up the lowly); Jesus’ visions of the kingdom of God, expressed through parables, such as the ten bridesmaids, the talents, and the sheep and the goats (Matthew 25); and Revela-

tion’s vision of a new creation and a tree of life with leaves for the healing of the nations. These visions were evoked for the people of God in particular times and places — yet they speak to the present moment as well, and continue to comfort, empower and guide us today.

A vision is not a plan. It provides a picture of a destination, but it is not a set of directions for covering the next mile. The Matthew 25 vision points toward a new creation in which racism has been fully dismantled, discrimination has ended and human differences are understood as God’s good gift; poverty has been eradicated and all creatures flourish, their lives no longer bound by an inability to meet needs; the church triumphant gathers at the throne of the Lamb, and saints of every time

### Pastor’s Office Hours:

Monday: Out all day  
Tuesday: 9am to Noon  
1pm to 3pm  
Wednesday: 9am to Noon  
1pm to 3pm  
Thursday: 10am to Noon  
pm by appointment  
Friday: By appointment

### Weekly Scheduled Appointments:

Tuesday: Noon-1pm—Lions Club (when in session)  
Wednesday: 9:45-1:15 Head Start Reading (when in Session)  
Thursday: 8-9:30-GC Pastor’s Group

and place bear witness to the eternal and abundant life that is ours in Jesus Christ. There are many particular routes that lead to these destinations.

Those who join the Matthew 25 vision will follow the route that best enables them to move toward God’s destination for all creation. To help find our vision is why I urge you to join us the first four Wednesday nights in September (the 2nd, 9th, 16th, and the 23rd). We will meet at 6:30 PM for an hour each night to discuss what it means to be a Matthew 25 church here in Gibson City, in our country, and in the world. I look forward to seeing you.

In Christ’s peace,  
Pastor Ray Lantz

1st Thursday of Month: Noon to 1-Chamber of Commerce

*I will learn that what is most valuable is not what I have in my life, but who I have in my life.*

## PRESBYTIDINGS

### September 2020

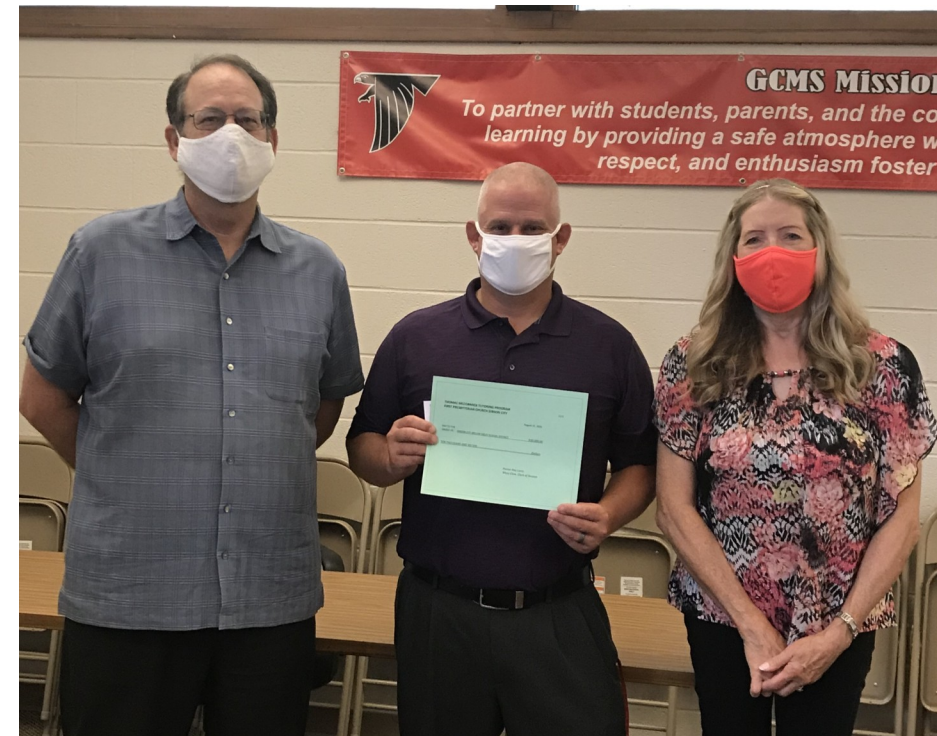
Pastor Ray Lantz

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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

Website: [www.firstpresbygibson.org](http://www.firstpresbygibson.org)

Meladee Ferguson: Administrative Assistant



### Restructuring of the Thomas McCormick Tutoring Program

We are happy to announce that we have proposed a restructuring of the Thomas McCormick Tutoring Program with the Administration of the Gibson City Melvin Sibley School District after some significant research by Mary Clow on the McCormick wishes.

We are excited to partner with the GCMS School District in providing more support for the program that will now reach more students who are in need of tutoring in several areas of their education. This additional help is especially needed after the challenging year the students experienced in 2019 due to the

Covid-19 pandemic and the continued challenges they will experience in the upcoming 2020 school year.

In addition to providing funds for the tutoring offered by the program, we have awarded an additional grant payment of \$10,000 to assist those students affected by the Covid-19 pandemic for any reason as recommended by the GCMS School District Administration. The check was presented to Superintendent Jeremy Darnell on August 11, 2020 by Pastor Lantz and Clerk of Session Mary Clow.

The above picture was shared on the GCMS Facebook page and there were several comments of appreciation for our support and generosity.

Superintendent Darnell reported that they are working on a plan to purchase 10 library books for each of their K-8 students that they will be able to send home with the students should they have to close the building and resume remote learning. In addition, a 3 member committee will be appointed to award a \$2,000 scholarship to a deserving high school senior who either has been tutored or who would be interested in pursuing a career in special education or social work.

We are also delighted to announce that Sharla Williams has been appointed as the Liaison of the McCormick Tutoring Program and will report to Session on the progress of the program and continued alignment with the McCormick wishes. We wish Sharla good luck on her new venture with our church.



**Sharla Williams, Liaison of the McCormick Tutoring Program**

# September 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <b>12 Lions</b>	2 6:30 <i>Matthew 25 Bible Study</i>	3 <b>12 Chamber Meets</b>	4	5 <b>Recycle</b>
6 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>Communion</b> <b>Matthew 18:15-20</b>	7 <b>Labor Day . Church of-fices closed</b>	8 1st day back for Head Start 9:30 <b>Presbytery Assembly Meeting on Zoom</b> <b>12 Lions</b>	9 9:45 Pastor Ray reads to HS students 6:30 <i>Matthew 25 Bible Study</i>	10	11	12
13 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 <b>Nominating Committee meet.</b> <b>Minute for Mission</b> <b>Matthew 18:21-35</b>	14 <b>GAHA Blood Drive for Red Cross</b>	15 <b>12 Lions</b>	16 9:45 Pastor Ray reads to HS students 6:30 <i>Matthew 25 Bible Study</i>	17	18 <b>7 pm Joseph Habedank, Dove Award Winner in concert at Gibson City Pentecostal Church</b>	19 <b>Recycle</b>
20 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>Matthew 20:1-16</b>	21	22 <b>12 Lions</b>	23 9:45 Pastor Ray reads to HS students 6:30 <i>Matthew 25 Bible Study</i>	24 <b>5:30 Session</b>	25	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship <b>Matthew 21:23-32</b>	28	29 <b>12 Lions</b>	30 9:45 Pastor Ray reads to HS students			

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

that we were able to sell it without paying a commission fee to a realtor. Elder Rick Kerchenfaut will be working with our attorney Bob Martensen on completing the necessary contract and paperwork to finalize the transaction. The Trustees of Blackhawk Presbytery have approved our request to sell the Farlin Farm and it will now be presented at the Blackhawk Presbytery general assembly meeting on September 8th for final approval.

**Farlin Farm Update:** Things are progressing well with the sale of the Farlin Farm. The appraisal was presented to our current tenant farmer Kurt Sommer for review. Mr. Sommer requested a survey of the land which we have agreed to do. On Thursday, August 13th, Mr. Sommer made an offer to purchase Farlin Farm for \$9,500.00 per acre. On Thursday, August 20th, Session voted unanimously to accept Mr. Sommer's offer. It was noted it was nice to see the farm go to Mr. Sommer who took care of the farm all these years for the church and

There will be a Nominations Committee meeting Sunday, September 13th, following worship. The following people are on the Nominations Committee:

- Dale Ashmore (Chairman)
- Trudy Lantz
- Sharla Williams
- Mary Jane Roth
- Gene Roth
- Ted Swanson
- Rick Kerchenfaut
- Anneliese Kerchenfaut
- Pastor Ray Lantz

**Pastor Ray will host a Bible Study on Matthew 25 on the following Wednesdays in September: 2, 9, 16 and 23. It will be held in the fellowship hall at 6:30 p.m. and all are ask to wear a mask. You will be asked to sign in your name and telephone number in case a covid-19 case should pop up and then we can call the others in attendance and let them know. All are invited to attend.**

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

### PER CAPITA

The per capita assessment for 2020 is \$ 38.47 (same as 2019). GA-\$8.95m, Synod-\$3.81, Blackhawk Presbytery-\$25.71

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

**Presbytery Assembly Meeting:**  
Tuesday, September 8, 9:30 a.m.  
Zoom

*I will learn that true happiness is not always to achieve my goals, but to learn to appreciate with what I have achieved.*

## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

September	October
06: Allen Neubauer	02: Phyllis Brickman
17: Gene Roth	02: Cheryl Schultz
17: Danny Heustis	09: Aizza Kerchenfaut
18: Georgie Johnson	15: Barb Williams
18: Jean Jardine	22: Jeanette Hensley
21: John Kirkpatrick	24: Michael Mott
26: Val Hunt	26: Harry Groom
26: Ted Swanson	28: <b>Happy Birthday FPC of GC—1871</b>

*I will learn that it takes years to build trust, and a few seconds to destroy it.*

K. P. Duty	Communion Set-Up
Sept: Ron & Mary Clow	Sept 6: Mary Jane Roth
Oct: Janice Swanson	Oct 4: Ted Swanson

Second Sunday Offering	Flower Vases to CM
Sept: Gibson Area Music Foundation	Sept: Mary Jane Roth
Oct: Random Acts of Kindness	Oct: Ted Swanson

**Ushers**  
Sept: Janice Swanson and Jeanette Hensley  
Oct: Trudy Lantz and Val Hunt



Communion Servers	
Sept 6: Ron & Mary Clow	<i>I will learn that I should control my attitude, and not let my attitude control me.</i>
Oct 4: Dale Ashmore and Rick Kerchenfaut	



**Kerchenfaut family trip to Wyoming!**



**Old Faithful!!!**



**Fly Fishing OR flying fish**



Flowers for a sweet lady after another year of being our church secretary. Your efforts and contributions are greatly appreciated. From Pastor Lantz and Session members.

From Meladee: Thank you all so much! It is my pleasure to serve you.

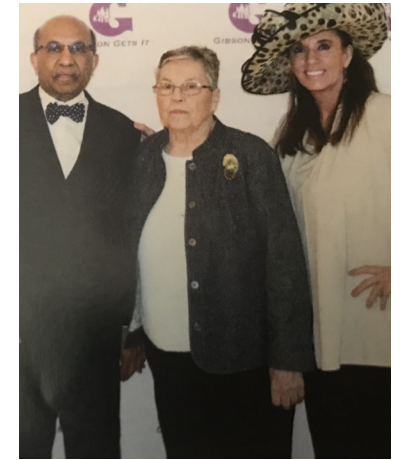


**Selfless Service to Health Care**

*Sunderland Society awards a nurse, a doctor, and a volunteer:* Named to honor the legacy of the late Dr. Paul Sunderland, the Sunderland Society honors those who uphold the high standards he set during his distinctive time at Gibson Area Hospital & Health Services.

**Doris Gerber, RN:** Because “taking care of patients is the backbone of the organization,” David J. Hagan, MD, first recognized the employee, Doris Gerber, RN, for her exceptional career, including more than 25 years in the medical/surgical department. Gerber gave credit to her mother for encouraging her to pursue a career that would enable her to help her family. “It’s a wonderful occupation to get into. You get to know so many wonderful people.” Not only was Gerber dedi-

cated to her career at GAHHS, she also took the role as a parish nurse, demonstrating her commitment to nursing as a vocation. “It’s amazing who you meet, and God blesses us every day with this,” she says.



**Doris Gerber**

A big **THANK YOU** to the Kerchenfaut family (Rick, Aizza, Anneliese, Addison, and Charlie) for cleaning up the Head Start playground, Head Start Garden, and Yard area around the Manse. What an amazing family!



**Know Your Treasurer**

Phil Noellsch is a native of northwestern Missouri, where his family’s farm is still

located, but he was born in nearby Shenandoah, IA, the son of Louis and Louise Noellsch. Phil is a graduate of Tarkio High School and the University of Missouri at Columbia. He and Jean met there during a discussion at Phil’s fraternity about

Volkswagens, which they both owned at the time. Jean was attending The Missouri School of Journalism, and Phil was a graduate student in accountancy. They were married in February 1975 at the United Methodist Church in Gibson City. The couple first lived in Grand Island, NE, where Phil was based as manager for John Deere dealership accounting for the eastern half of the state.

Phil has enjoyed a career in corporate accounting for over 40 years. He is now semi-retired and does accounting for three area churches plus some field work. In the vein of “can’t take the farm out of the boy,” he enjoys tending a large garden. His other hobbies include fixing a variety of either mechanical or home issues, but with plenty still on his

“honey-do list.”

The couple raised two sons, Jim and David, who both are graduates of GCMS High School and the University of Missouri. Both Phil and his sons are members of the Alpha Gamma Sigma fraternity. Both sons are married, with Jim and family living in Wheaton, IL, and David and family living in College Station, TX. Phil and Jean are grandparents to three: Ethan, 13; Reagan, 10; and Haddie Rose(mary) who will turn three in October.

During these pandemic times, both Phil and Jean are fond of counting their blessings: they are retired, they are no longer raising children, and their children are gainfully employed and happily married.



**Church World Service Kits**

The 2020 Kits challenge to Blackhawk churches is to make at least 35 school kits, 10 Hygiene Kits, and 2 clean-up buckets. There is great need for Hygiene kits and clean-up buckets at this time. As always, any and all kits are appreciated. CWS is so grateful to all who keep making the kits, filling their warehouses, so when the need arises the kits can be shipped.

**January-June 2020  
CWS distribution:  
In the USA—20,428  
Internationally—19522  
TOTAL 39,950**

Collection of the kits is scheduled for the November 10th Presbytery

meeting scheduled for Ridgefield-Crystal Lake. If that meeting becomes virtual, churches will need to deliver their kits to The Church of the Brethren Headquarters, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin IL (just south of I-90 on Hwy. 25).

Remember to include the processing/shipping cost \$2 per School and Hygiene Kits and \$3 per clean-up bucket with your kits or mail directly to CWS Kit Program, 28606 Phillips St., P. O. Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515-0968.

**Session has agreed to send a \$500 donation for the Church World Service Kits** as we no longer have women available to make them.

^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^^

A big thank you to the Funk Foundation for their \$7,000 donation and to the Gibson Area Community Chest for their \$1,000 donation to the Thomas McCormick Tutoring Program. So many students will be helped by their generosity. The members of the First Presbyterian Church are so proud of this very important Church Mission.



**Congratulations** to Charlie and Cheryl Schultz upon the birth of a grandson, Sutton Jack, weighing in at 7 pounds 9 ounces and 20 inches long. He is the son of Charlie’s daughter, Jordyn and Jamie Schultz.

Redbubble has awesome products designed by independent artists. Ruthie Lantz Dripps, daughter of Pastor Ray and Trudy Lantz has a shop at the following link: <https://www.redbubble.com/people/ruthlantz/explore>. Check it out for yourself and find amazing one of a kind (not mass produced) gifts.