

PASTOR'S CORNER

Continued from page 1

A declaration of forgiveness proclaims the good news of God's mercy and offers the assurance of pardon in Jesus' name. Leading this element of worship from the font connects our confession with the grace and cleansing of Baptism, and the baptismal call to new life in Christ. Because of these associations with the ministry of Word and Sacrament, it is fitting for a minister of the Word and Sacrament† to lead the call to confession and proclaim the good news of forgiveness in Jesus Christ. Other actions may follow—a song of praise, such as “Glory be to the Father” or “Glory to God”; a summary of the law or call to faithfulness; and the sharing of peace as a sign of reconciliation in Christ.

W-3.03: Word

W-3.0301: Theology of Proclamation

The Scriptures bear witness to the Word of God, revealed most fully in Jesus Christ, the Word who “became flesh and lived among us” (John 1:14). Where the Word is read and proclaimed, Jesus Christ the living Word is present by the power of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, reading, hearing, preaching, and affirming the Word are central to Christian worship and essential to the Service

for the Lord's Day. A minister of the Word and Sacrament† is responsible for the selection of Scriptures to be read in public worship. Selected readings are to be drawn from both Old and New Testaments, and over a period of time should reflect the broad content and full message of Scripture. Selections for readings should be guided by the rhythms of the Christian year, events in the world, and pastoral concerns in the local congregation. Lectionaries ensure a broad range of biblical texts as well as consistency and connection with the universal Church. The minister of the Word and Sacrament† is also responsible for the version of the Bible to be used in public worship. The Scriptures are to be read in the common language (s) of the worshiping community. The congregation is to be informed of significant adaptations, paraphrases, or new translations.

The Word proclaimed shall be based on the Word written in Scripture. Preaching requires diligence and discernment in the study of Scripture, listening for the voice of God through the discipline of daily prayer, theological reflection on the message of the gospel, sensitivity to the context of the congregation, attentiveness to what the Spirit is saying to the church, awareness of events in the world, and consistent and personal obedience to Jesus Christ. The sermon will present the

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

gospel with clarity and simplicity, in language that all can understand.

The gifts of song, drama, dance, and visual art may be employed in the proclamation of the Word.

We respond to the proclamation of the Word in a variety of ways: confessing the faith of the Church, celebrating or reaffirming the Sacrament of Baptism, praying for the Church and world, and offering our lives in gratitude for God's grace. The proclamation of the Word is incomplete if it fails to evoke the response of the people of God. When the Word is proclaimed, we are called, above all, to discern Jesus Christ, receive his grace, and respond to his call with obedience. All of these things depend on the gifts of the Holy Spirit, whom we seek in prayer.

W-3.0302: Prayer for Illumination

A prayer for illumination calls on the Holy Spirit to empower the reading, understanding, proclaiming, and living of God's Word. This sense of utter reliance on the illumination of the Spirit is an important and distinctive mark of the Reformed tradition. The prayer for illumination precedes the reading of Scripture and preaching of the sermon and applies to all of the readings, as well as the proclamation of the Word.

Continued on middle page of NL!

Group

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

If, in the fall of the leaves in October, many of them wither on the boughs and hang there, it betokens a frosty winter and much snow.

PRESBYTIDINGS

October 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

Spirit Inspired Worship

On of the emphasis of our Matthew 25 Bible Study was “Spirit-Inspired Worship”. In order to know what we could do in worship, we spend a little time talking about how and why we worship.

The following is taken from the section titled “Directory of Worship” from our Book of Order.

W-3.0103: The Order of Worship

An order of worship offers a meaningful and reliable structure for the church's encounter with the living God. Over time, an order of worship helps to shape our faith and faithfulness as the people of God, becoming a pattern for how we live as Christians in the world. The order of worship offered here for the Service for the Lord's Day is rooted in Scripture, the traditions of the universal Church, and our Reformed heritage. In particular, it seeks to uphold the centrality of Word and Sacraments in the Church's faith, life, and worship. This description of the Service for the Lord's Day is presented as one model, but is not intended to exclude other ways of ordering worship. Other patterns may be appropriate in the context of a particular congregation or culture, provided that they are faithful to the Word, open to the Spirit, and dedicated to the glory of God.

W-3.02: Gathering

W-3.0201: Preparing for Worship

Worship begins as the people gather—greeting one another, praying in silence, sharing announcements, or offering music to the glory of God. The act of assembling in Jesus' name bears witness to the

Church's identity and mission a Christ's body in the world.

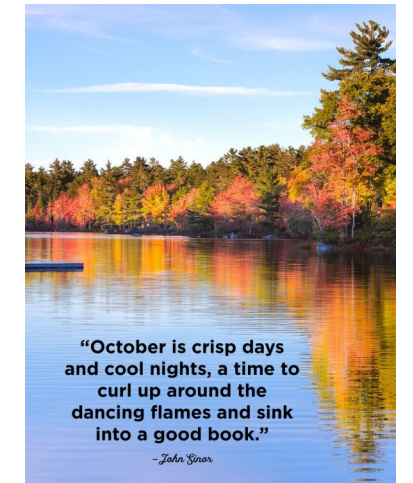
W-3.0202: Opening Sentences

A call to worship, typically drawn from sentences of Scripture, expresses God's invitation to gather as

Christ's body in this place. A greeting in the name of Jesus Christ or the triune God establishes the context for worship as an encounter with the Holy One who calls all things into being.

W-3.0203: Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs

For millennia the people of God have sung psalms as praise and prayer to God. Early Christians continued to sing, pray, and study the psalms, interpreting them in the light of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Singing psalms remains an important part of the Reformed heritage. To the psalms the Church has added other hymns, canticles, and spiritual songs. Through the ages and from varied cultures, the Church has developed many other forms of congregational song, accompanied by a great array of instruments. We draw from this



rich repertoire in the Service for the Lord's Day, singing glory to God.

W-3.0204: Prayer

A prayer may be offered, giving thanks and praise to God, expressing joy in the presence of Christ, and calling for the gifts of the Spirit to be poured out upon the gathered community. This prayer may employ themes and images that are drawn from the biblical readings for the day or from the setting in the Christian year.

W-3.0205: Confession and Forgiveness

Having praised the holiness of God, we must also face the sinful state of the world and of our lives, confessing our unworthiness to enter into God's presence. Nevertheless we approach God with confidence, trusting in the mercy of Jesus Christ. This turn from communal praise to corporate confession, established on the promise of God's grace, is one of the hallmarks of the Reformed tradition. A call to confession expresses God's initiative in calling for repentance and promising forgiveness in Christ. As members of Christ's body we confess the reality of sin, captivity, and brokenness in personal and common life and ask for God's saving grace. The prayer of confession may include the singing of a prayer for grace, such as “Lord, have mercy.”

Continued on back page. . . Pastor's

October 2020

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

				1	2	3 <i>Recycle</i>
4 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Communion</i> Matthew 21:33-46	5 1: Election Judge's School 6:30-8:30 <i>Sin of Racism Zoom</i>	6 6:30-8:30 <i>Sin of Racism Zoom</i>	7	8 5:30 Special Session Meeting 6:30-8:30 <i>Sin of Racism Zoom</i>	9	10
11 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Minute for Mission</i> Matthew 22:1-14	12	13	14	15	16	17 <i>Recycle</i>
18 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 22:15-22	19	20	21	22 5:30 <i>Session</i>	23	24 <i>FPC is scheduled to work at the Food Pantry at old Alco</i>
25 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 22:34-46	26	27	28 <i>Happy Birthday to First Presbyterian Church</i>	29	30	31 <i>Happy Halloween</i>

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

The "I will learn . . ." bits of wisdom that can be found in the September newsletter and now the October newsletter came from "Lessons to Learn" that John Kaufman found on the internet and shared with Barb Williams and now she is sharing them with us.



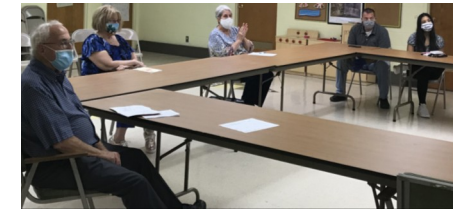
Farlin Farm Update: The Presbytery of Blackhawk approved the sale of the Farlin Farm at their General Assembly meeting on September 8th. Pastor Lantz and Mary Clow attended the meeting by Zoom. Session has approved the request from the potential buyer Kurt Sommer to hold the closing after the end of the year. This will help Mr. Sommer's cash flow and allow him time to remove crops before the closing. In addition, the cost of the survey that the church is paying for will be less due to easier access for the surveyor's because the crops are not there.

The Nominating Committee met on Sunday, September 13th to discuss nominations for 2021. The Congregational meeting to approve their recommendations will be held on November 15, 2020. The nominations are as follows:

For Session—Ron Clow has agreed to serve another 3 year term. Anneliese Kerchenfaut will replace

Dale Ashmore.

For Deacons—Mary Jane Roth has agreed to serve another 3 year term. Tim and Janice Swanson will replace Bark Kirkpatrick.



Meet the new tenants at the Manse.



The Wards: Back Row: Frankie, Talon, and Nash. Front Row: Jax, Baby Aislynn, Bryan and Adrian. We welcome you to the neighborhood and our church!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

October

02: Phyllis Brickman
02: Cheryl Schultz
09: Aizza Kerchenfaut
15: Barb Williams
22: Jeanette Hensley
24: Michael Mott
26: Harry Groom
28: **Happy Birthday FPC of GC—1871**

November

01: Doris Gerber
06: Carla Ashmore
07: Beverly Swanson
18: Ellie Stolz
18: David Schmidt
20: Vonna Heustis
22: Brian Swanson
23: Noah Swanson

Trees snapping and cracking in the autumn indicates dry weather.

I will learn that to be rich is not to have the most, but to need the least.

K. P. Duty

Oct: Janice Swanson
Nov: Sharla Williams

Second Sunday Offering

Oct 8: Random Acts of Kindness

Nov 11: American Legion/VFW Christmas Baskets

Ushers

Oct: Trudy Lantz and Val Hunt

Nov:

Communion Servers

Oct 4: Dale Ashmore and Rick Kerchenfaut

Nov 22: Charlie Schultz and Trudy Lantz

Communion Set-Up

Oct 4: Ted Swanson

Nov 22: Vonna Heustis

Flower Vases to CM

Oct: Ted Swanson

Nov: Vonna Heustis



I will learn that happiness is a decision, and decide to be happy today with what I am and what I have, not die from envy and jealousy of what I lack.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF GIBSON CITY REJOICES IN CELEBRATING THEIR 149TH BIRTHDAY ON OCTOBER 28, 2020



GOD HAS BLESSED OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND WE ARE FILLED WITH JOY. We have always enjoyed the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ and we thank him sincerely as we mark this anniversary.

Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.

Thank you Pastor Ray Lantz for your devotion and dedication.
401 North Church Street, Gibson City
A Matthew 25 Congregation – New Members Welcome!

Due to Covid-19, we will not be hosting our annual Fall Soup Supper to celebrate. Instead we have donated the cost of hosting the event to the staff of the Head Start Program located in our building.

The above notice will be posted in the Ford County Record and Ford County Chronicle.

MORE NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH

Congregational Bylaw Changes

Will be requested at the Congregational meeting on November 15th. The Bylaws were last update January 29, 2019. See below:

Page 2 IV. F.—

A QUORUM shall consist of the Moderator, at least three ruling elders and at least **seven (7)** other communicant members of the Church.

Page 2 V. A.—

The Session . . . In accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) The Session is the council . . . After line 3- All members of the Session are entitled to vote. Add— **“A valid Session meeting will allow all members in attendance to hear each other and engage in simultaneous conversation, regardless of in person or other electronic mediums”.**

Ameren Small Business Lighting Program

—Session is excited to announce that they have approved a contract with Ameren Illinois to participate in their Small Business Energy Efficiency Program. We will have 101 Fluorescent Light Fixtures throughout the church and Head Start classroom that will be replaced with LED fixtures. The cost for the replacement work was estimated to cost \$4,737.00. However, Ameren offered an incentive of \$4,495.00 so the church’s co-pay will only be \$242.00. In addition, the estimated annual electric dollars saved will be \$1,965.23. A smart thermostat is also included at no cost. No date for installation has been set as of yet for this work.

Ameren Illinois completed the replacement of the church’s **Transformer** On Tuesday, September 1st. This work was part of Ameren’s upgrades for the Gibson

Area Hospital. The church’s electricity was only off for two hours and everything went smoothly.

Head Start: The federal government has pulled the funding from the Danville based grantee of the Head Start program known as the East Central Illinois Community Action Agency. They had locations in Ford, Iroquois, and Vermillion counties which included the Head Start Program for our building. Jean Williams, Pastor Lantz, and Mary Clow recently met with representatives from CDI Head Start of Denver, Colorado as they have been awarded the status of *temporary grantee*. We are in the process of working out a new lease with CDI while they work on obtaining their certification in hopes that the Program can be up and running again soon.



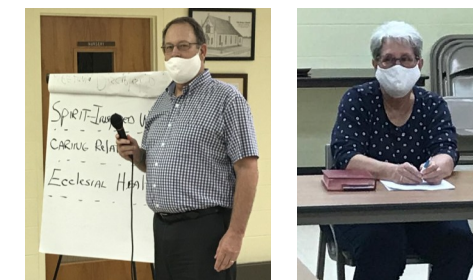
Thank you to Val Hunt, Jean Williams, Danny Heustis, Sharla Williams, and Ron and Mary Clow for decorating the sanctuary with fall decorations. Beautiful!!!!!!

Matthew 25 Bible Study

Thank you to Val Hunt, Barbara Williams, Carla Ashmore, Jean Williams, Mary Jane Roth, Mary Clow, and Trudy Lantz for attending the Matthew 25 Bible Study. Matthew 25 consists of three parables that stress the need to be prepared for Christ’s triumphant return, but while we wait, there is much work to do. Christ’s judgment will be on those

who do not take care of those who are “hungry or thirsty, or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison.” As Christ said, **“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.”**

Matthew 25 is a bold vision of the Presbyterian Church (USA) that we have chosen to follow. Our goal is congregation vitality. We will achieve it as we strive towards: lifetime discipleship formation, intentional authentic evangelism, outward incarnational focus, empowering servant leadership, spirit-inspired worship, caring relationships, and ecclesial health. Our work consists of taking these lofty goals and implementing them here in Gibson City. This was a start. There is much to do. Let’s do it together. Pastor Ray Lantz



Pictures from Matthew 25 Bible Study

Exploring the Sin of Racism Zoom Presentation—October 5, 6 & 8, 2020 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Members are invited to join Pastor Lantz in the church sanctuary for three nights to watch a Zoom presentation on the Sin of Racism hosted by a coalition of churches. We will explore questions on how to confront racism within ourselves, our church communities, and in society.

JESUS, BE WITH US

A hymn for Matthew 25 churches in the PCA (USA)

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray. Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.

1. Where there is hunger _____ and thirst in the land _____ Scatter the systems of greed. _____ Jesus, be with us _____ make use of our hands. _____ Lift up your people in need. _____

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray. Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.

2. Where there is hatred _____ and thirst in the land _____ Break down _____ the walls of our fear. _____

Jesus, be with us _____ to save us from sin. _____ In your great love, draw us near.

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray. Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.

3. Where there are valleys _____ of bones, dry as dust, _____ build up _____ the body of Christ. _____

Jesus, be with us, _____ and help us to trust. _____ Teach us a new way of life.

Jesus, be with us. Help us each day to follow the gospel and live as we pray. Send us your Spirit and show us your way. Jesus, be with us today.

More Important News for OUR CHURCH!

Session has approved that the church office will be closed on Tuesday, November 3rd, election day. Please mark your calendars accordingly. Thank you.

Heed now the call for a congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, November 15 following worship for the purpose of discussing and voting on the nominees and two changes to bylaws. Please mark your calendars now.

September Presbytids correction to Charlie and Cheryl Schultz grandson announcement: Sutton Jack is the son of Charlie and Cheryl’s son Jordyn and Jamie Schultz. I sincerely apologize for incorrectly identifying Jordyn as their daughter. (Meladee)

ABOUT OUR MEMBER



Mrs. Georgiana Osman
Johnson

Mrs. Johnson, known as “Georgie” to all who love her, is the oldest member of the congregation at First Presbyterian Church. She joined the church by confirmation on March 24, 1940. She just celebrated her 96th birthday on September 18, 2020. She was born to Alva and Daisy Osman on September 18, 1924 in a home located about three miles east of Gibson City. She lived there the first 33 years of her life, before then moving to Gibson City. She attended Antioch Country School. She was the youngest of four children, having a brother 10 years older, a sister, 8 years older, and another brother 5 years older. She is the only one left now from her family.

She married Harold Johnson on January 8, 1948 on her parent’s wedding anniversary. They were blessed with two daughters, Sharon (November 28, 1956) and Mary Davis (December 20, 1960) and also two great sons-in-law. She has one granddaughter and one grandson. Her family is her reason for living.

Growing up, she helped her dad by doing farm chores like sowing oats, cutting oats, and thrashing oats. Gail Kincaid was one of Georgie’s best friends and she helped Gail by taking her to the doctor, pharmacy, grocery, etc. Georgie has always enjoyed helping others and still does when she can. She drove Gail’s car on these errands and really liked the car. After Gail passed Georgie asked to buy her car and drove it for several years and just sold it about a month ago. It was a hard decision to give up driving, but her children helped her to make it.

Georgie always loved restaurant work and served many in Gibson City over the years. She worked at McDonald’s for almost 20 years retiring at age 83. She really wanted to work

until she was 85, but one day at work a young man was pushing a rolling cart and knocked her over (by accident, of course) and when she fell she broke her right wrist. She told her manager that her right hand had not taught her left hand how to do everything yet so she had to retire two years before she planned.

She thanks God for her “good life”. Of course, there were hard times, but God was always in her life to help her through. She is sweet, smart, funny, and a very positive person, often turning negatives into positives.

When I called her at the annex to interview her I told her I hoped I was not interrupting her afternoon nap. She laughed and answered, “What nap? No time for naps. Too much to do!” What a lady!

She would like to thank each and every person who sent her a birthday card. She has received 112 cards as of Monday, September 21.

I will learn that there are people who love me very much, but simply do not know how to show their feelings.

About Our Member



Mr. Eugene Roth

Mr. Eugene Roth was born at Kankakee, Illinois on September 17, 1930 to the parents of F. W. Roth (son of D.K. Roth) and Ruth Funk Roth (daughter of Eugene Funk). He had one brother, F.W. Roth, Jr. and one sister, Barbara Roth Smith. They both lived in Florida at the time of their passing. He went to high school in Kankakee and graduated from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1952 with a major in history. He knew he was about to be drafted as the Korean War was still on so he enlisted in the Air Force in 1952. He attended basic training at Parks Air Force Base in California, just outside San Francisco. He was there for about two and one-half years assigning enlisted personnel overseas. When his tour there

had finished, he assigned himself to Wiesbaden, Germany for about one and one-half years. He then bought an Austin-Healey (a snazzy sports car) and traveled all over Europe.

When he came back to the states, he worked for his brother-in-law Lee Smith at “Gifts by Wire”, a company similar to FTD, that wired small gifts to people. He worked there until they went out of business. He then came to Gibson City to live on the farm with his grandfather, D.K. Roth. D.K. started Corn Belt Hatcheries. Mr. Roth’s father, F.W. managed the business in Kankakee. At one time they had 16 hatcheries. He stayed on the farm with his grandfather and began farming.

He attended church at the First Presbyterian Church and joined by certificate on April 15, 1962. There he met his wife, Mary Jane McClure. According to Mr. Roth, “the rest is history.” They are blessed with three daughters. Their oldest, Leigh Ann is married to Steve Sharp, and they live on the McClure homestead about two miles outside of town. Steve works at Arcades Engineering in Indianapolis and Leigh Ann is a sub-

stitute teacher. They have two children: Craig and Meaghan. Barbara is their second daughter, named after Mr. Roth’s sister, Barbara, and she lives in Mesa Arizona where she is an audiologist for a private company in Mesa. Barbara has three children: Derrick, Mark, and Madison. Lisa is the third daughter and is married to Michael Almert. The couple lives in Fishers Indiana, where they both work at Roche Diagnostic Company. They have two children: Jack and Emma. That gives Mr. Roth and his beautiful wife 7 wonderful grandchildren.

Mr. Roth feels very fortunate to live in Gibson City with all its great people, a great community, and his church. He served as Deacon for two terms, Trustee for two terms, and an Elder for two terms totaling 18 years of service to the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City. He still serves in any way he can and attends regularly. Mr. Roth is a kind, caring, generous man. (He helped hire me! Yay!)

I will learn that I am the master of what I keep to myself and the slave of what I say.

I will learn that money can buy everything but happiness,