

PASTOR'S CORNER

These are **MY** thoughts on Covid-19:

Fact: FORD COUNTY'S DEATH RATE IS 62% HIGHER THAN THE USA'S

I have been warned that a pastor should not be political. Nobody must have ever told that to Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, or Martin Luther King, Jr. I, however, do not believe that my stance on Covid-19 is political.

It is a matter of conscience. A long-standing article of Christian faith in the Presbyterian Church

(USA) is that "God alone is Lord of the conscience."* With that principle in mind, I declare that we in Ford County are not doing a 'good job' mitigating this virus. In fact, we are doing a very **bad** job. From the beginning, our mantra here has been; "we are rural, it's not our problem". It is our problem and we must be better. Jesus preached a really basic sermon, over and over:

Love God, Love one another, Love your enemy, and love your neighbor. In fact, in Matthew, Jesus said that the love of neighbor is "like" the love of God. He didn't mean 'similar', he meant the **same**. How can we say we love God, if we are not

willing to take care of our neighbor?

We know what helps to contain the spread of this virus:

keep 6 feet apart
spend 15 minutes or less with those not your immediate family....

stay home, if possible....
wash your hands with soap....
use hand sanitizer....
wear a mask!

I know we all want this virus to go away.

It will not go away until all of us believe that all of us are each other's neighbor and begin to honor Christ's commandment to "LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!"

Pastor Ray Lantz

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

Turkeys perched on trees and refusing to descend indicates snow.

Gobble, gobble!

PRESBYTIDINGS

November 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

WHAT IS PER CAPITA?

What Does Per Capita Provide?

The Presbyterian Church (USA) is a connectional church. Presbyterian congregations worship, serve, and govern together. Per capita contributions fund the shared governing responsibilities for the whole church. Together with the per capita contributions from churches throughout the country, they support the governance work of the presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly. Presbyterian ministers and elected elders serve as representatives to each governing body. Commissioners to each Assembly represent their individual churches, or governing bodies, but their main purpose is to prayerfully and obediently seek to discern the will of Jesus Christ together. Per capita contributions support ministries such as:

- The work of Presbytery of Blackhawk Commission on Ministry and Committee on Preparation for Ministry
- All other committees and commissions such as Mission, Personnel, and Finance and Property
- The work of our staff and vari-

ous committees

Official meetings of the presbytery assembly, Synod and General Assembly

How Do We Calculate Each Church's Share of Per Capita?

The Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly each set per capita based on their annual budgets and the number of active members in the churches of each organization. It is important for churches to accurately report their membership annually. Each church's share of per capita is calculated with the membership figures reported by the Session and recorded in the most recent General Assembly Minutes. The rate for 2021 is based on the total number of active members reported at the end of 2019. Each church is encouraged to give its full requested share of per capita, regardless of how it collects the funds.

2021 Per Capita Rate Is \$38.50 The 2020 General Assembly approved an increase of \$0.03 to their assessment. The Presbytery of Blackhawk and Synod of Lincoln Trails portions of per capita are not changing for 2021. Per capita assessments for



But these are the days we dream about when the sunlight paints us gold.

2021 will be based on active membership of each church as of December 31, 2019 as reported to the General Assembly.

Blackhawk Presbytery	\$25.71
Synod of Lincoln Trails	\$ 3.81
General Assembly	\$ 8.98
Total	\$ 38.50

Through per capita, the Presbytery of Blackhawk is able to:

- Help congregations with pastoral transitions
- Train and support interim ministers
- Resolve congregational conflicts
- Care for ministers, pastors, and their families
- Help prepare people for service as ordained ministers and commissioned pastors
- Organize and run presbytery assembly meetings
- Provide staff to support congregations

Did You Know. . . ?

If there be ice in November that will bear a duck, there will be nothing thereafter but sleet and muck.



Pastor's Office Hours:

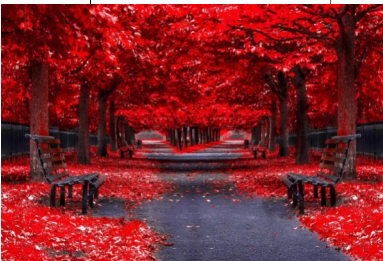
Monday: Out all day
 Tuesday: 9am to Noon
 1pm to 3pm
 Wednesday: 9am to Noon
 1pm to 3pm
 Thursday: 10am to Noon
 pm by appointment

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

November 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 a.m. Worship Communion Matthew 25: 1-13	2	3 Election Day Church office will be closed	4	5	6	7 Recycle
8 10:30 a.m. Worship Minute for Mission Matthew 25:14-30	9	10 Zoom meeting with Presbytery-Pastor Ray & Mary Clow	11 Veteran's Day Church office will be closed	12	13	14
15 10:30 a.m. Worship Congregational Meeting Matthew 25:31-46	16 Pastor Ray on vacation	17 Pastor Ray on vacation	18 Pastor Ray on vacation	19 Pastor Ray on vacation	20 Pastor Ray on vacation	21 Recycle Pastor Ray on vacation
22 10:30 a.m. Worship Pastor Ray on vacation	23 Pastor Ray on vacation	24 5:30 Session	25	26 Happy Thanksgiving Church office will be closed	27 Church office will be closed	28 Take down fall decorations and put up Christmas decorations Everyone's help is needed
29 10:30 a.m. Worship 1st Sunday of Advent Mark 13:24-37	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 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

Farlin Farm Update:

The congregation unanimously approved at the congregational meeting on October 18th the sale of the Farlin farm to Kurt Sommer and his son Chris Sommer for the purchase price of \$ 9,500 per acre. In addition, Pastor Ray was authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to facilitate the sale. Session will continue to keep the congregation informed as the sale process proceeds.

Ministry Coordinator Position

We are pleased to announce that Mary Clow has accepted the part time position of Ministry Coordinator as approved at the October 7th Special Session meeting. Mary will continue to perform the Clerk of Session duties in addition to the Administrative tasks she has been doing after no one responded last year to our job posting for a part time Public Relations Coordinator and a part time Technology Coordinator. Mary brings a vast knowledge of business experience to the church operation and anyone who has worked with Mary knows she is highly organized, professional and efficient. She is proficient in Word and Excel and experienced in writing, marketing, and communications and will continue to support the efforts of a variety of projects.

The Minute for Mission in November will be used for American Legion and VFW Christmas Baskets. Please give generously if you can as this helps many families have a blessed Christmas.

Decorating the church for Christmas!

Anyone interested in helping decorate the church for Christmas should join the Deacons on Saturday, November 28th at 9:00 a.m. Any help is greatly appreciated.



Chrismons, Meaning "Christ monograms," traditionally are white and gold designs made from

Christian symbols that signify Christ. Often displayed on an evergreen tree during the Christmas season, symbols such as stars, crosses, fish, crowns, and the alpha and omega remind us of Christ's identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

- | November | December |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 01: Doris Gerber | 03: Jerry Wissmiller |
| 06: Carla Ashmore | 07: Charlie Schultz |
| 07: Beverly Swanson | 07: Tim Shull |
| 18: Ellie Stolz | 24: Ken Kyle |
| 18: David Schmidt | 25: Jesus |
| 20: Vonna Heustis | 27: Elinor Nelson |
| 22: Brian Swanson | |
| 23: Noah Swanson | |

If the first snow sticks to the trees, it foretells a bountiful harvest.

If sheep feed facing downhill, watch for a snowstorm.

K. P. Duty	Communion Set-Up
Nov: Sharla Williams	Nov 1: Vonna Heustis
Dec: Jeanette Hensley	Dec 24: Ted Swanson
	Flower Vases to CM
	Nov: Vonna Heustis
	Dec: Ted Swanson
Second Sunday Offering	
Nov 8: American Legion/VFW Christmas Baskets	
Dec 13: Christmas Joy Offering	
Ushers	
Nov:	
Dec: Ron & Mary Clow	
Communion Servers	
Nov 1: Charlie Schultz and Trudy Lantz	
Dec 24: Ron & Mary Clow	



When the winter is early, it will not be late.

ABOUT OUR MEMBER



**JEANETTE WISSMILLER
HENSLEY**

Jeanette (Wissmiller) Hensley was born in the Paxton Hospital on October 22, 1939 to Louis and Gertrude (Speedie) Wissmiller. She was the 6th child and had four brothers and two sisters. Her siblings were William (Bill), Robert (Bob), Donald, Kathryn, Mary, and Jerald (Tud) was born in 1940. Also there were two baby brothers born in 1941 and 1943 who only lived a few days.

Jeanette attended Scotland Country School for 1st and 2nd grades; there were all eight grades in those years. Then schools were consolidated, but she and sister Mary stayed at Scotland School. Jeanette went to 4th through 6th grades at the old Gibson City Grade School. The 7th grade was in the shop building behind the old Drummer Township High School. Eight grade classes were held at Foolsland. Her freshman and sophomore years were at DTHS, but Jeanette was in the second class to graduate from the new Gibson City High School.

After graduation she worked at Orville Gray's Custard Stand and cleaned Mrs. Royal's house and office. The house had 63 windows and blinds that were washed and polished.

Jeanette and her two sisters detassled corn and worked at Stokley Van Camp. Jeanette later worked in the office at Stokley. While detasseling, they earned 65 cents per hour and received a 10-cent bonus for the total

hours worked, if they never missed work.

In fall 1958, Jeanette attended the University of Illinois and majored in Hospital Dietetics. She worked in the Nutrition Research Lab in Bevier Hall cleaning chemical glassware, and feeding and caring for the white rats.

She graduated with a BS degree in 1962, then she had a 12-month internship at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. At Barnes, she worked in all departments of the hospital, but she liked the administrative part the best. While interning, she earned \$50 a month plus room and board.

Jeanette became a Registered Dietitian and applied for a job at Ball State University. She was hired in September 1963 as Cafeteria Manager at their Student Center. Later she managed snack bars in two of the residence halls before retiring in November 1989.

While in Indiana, Jeanette married Michael Hensley. He worked at the Chevrolet factory. They divorced in November of 1987.

Jeanette had the opportunity to attend several conventions of the American Dietetic Association, National Restaurant Association, Indiana Dietetic Association, and the National Association of College and University Food Service that were held in Indianapolis, Chicago, Denver, New Orleans, and San Francisco.

Jeanette followed sports teams at Illinois and Ball State. She went to the Grantland Rice Bowl twice to watch the football team. Also, she followed the Ball State basketball team through the NCHA Tournament in Indianapolis, in Salt Lake City and to Oakland, California for the Sweet 16. They lost in a close game in their second game with UNLV.

Jeanette traveled many summers with friends to Washington, DC (3 times), Nashville, Dollywood, South Dakota, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Nebraska, and Missouri.

Jeanette and friends took a summer trip through Wisconsin and Minnesota to her uncle's and aunt's cabin by a lake in Canada and came down through Michigan and Indiana.

She moved back to Gibson City to her house on north Church Street in February 1991. She came back to her home church where she served as a Deacon, Trustee, plus Moderator and Treasurer of the Women's Association. A member of her family, Sarah McKeever, was a founding member of First Presbyterian Church.

She also joined Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary and was cookie chairman, Vice President, and then President. She has been Auxiliary chairperson of the blood drive for 23 years.

Jeanette has done Meals on Wheels and Election Judge for many years. She is a member of the Prairie Iris Society and the American Iris Society. Jeanette was in 4-H club starting at 10 years old. She had sewing and cooking projects and, one of her sewing projects went to the Illinois State Fair. Jeanette and her family attended the Illinois State Fair for a day many times while she was young. This felt like a vacation to her.

In her younger years there were always chores and gardening to do. Of course, with seven children, there was always a lot of games to do and enjoy.

After returning to Gibson City she volunteered as an usher at Memorial Stadium for the Illini games, Bears games and the High School State Championship games. She had to quit after several years as walking and standing became difficult.

She sold Stanley Home Products and Tupperware. She set up a booth at Gordyville the 2nd weekend of every month until that became difficult.

In May 2010 she became ill and was told she had diabetes and was at St. Joseph Hospital for a week. After discharge she recuperated at the Manor from the last of May to the first of September. She then sold her house and moved to an apartment.

Last but not least, Jeanette followed the GCHS Greyhounds starting in 1946 when oldest brother Bill started playing football. She now follows the GCMS Falcons. She really enjoyed the two State Championship years and hopes there are many more.

ABOUT OUR MEMBER



JERALD A. WISSMILLER

Jerald A. Wissmiller was born December 3, 1940, at the Paxton Community Hospital to Louis and Gertrude (Speedie) Wissmiller. He was their seventh child. Of his brothers and sisters, Bill and Mary currently have Alzheimer's Disease and siblings Bob, Don, and Kathryn died from Alzheimer's and other complications.

Jerry attended several schools, as follows: 1st grade at Scotland Country School (there were six Wissmillers there that year); 2nd grade at Wantwood Country School, 3rd-6th grade at the old Gibson City Grade School; 7th grade at the shops building behind the old Drummer Township High School (DTHS); and 8th grade at the Foolsland school.

His freshman year and six weeks of his sophomore year, Jerry attended the DTHS but then dropped out the rest of the year with rheumatoid arthritis. In 1955 he attended his sophomore, junior, and senior years at the new Gibson City High School, graduating in 1959. During his freshman year, he played football.

In fall 1959, Jerry started farming with the Tjardes family for nine and one-half years. While working for Tjardes he went to The International Cattle Show in Denver.

In 1969 he returned home when dad retired from farming. He worked with brother Bob farming the home place. Several farms west of town belonged to family relatives, along with some on the Elliott blacktop, for a total of 1,250 acres.

Bob and Jerry bought three other properties close to the home place when some of the west places were sold. Jerry retired from farming in 2010 after surgery, and he hired Chris Thorp and his son Ryan to farm the land.

Jerry traveled with cousin John to Florida and Hawaii, and to the East Coast area for a visit to John's uncle and aunt. Jerry and brother Bob went to Florida over Christmas vacation and returned home so Bob could drive the school bus.

In the spring of 1960 and 1961, Jerry attended an agriculture short courses for six weeks at the University of Illinois. Also, he volunteered there as an usher at Memorial Stadium for several years.

The family moved into a new house in 1967 that had been build in the front lawn of their previous house. So in December of this year, Jerry will have lived at the same location for 80 years.

Jerry became a member of the First Presbyterian Church under the guidance of Dr. Chester E. Chandler. He has served as a Deacon and a Trustee.

Jerry joined the Gibson City Lion's Club and the Gibson City Moose Lodge. He was named Lion of the Year in 1999-2000. He always sold many tickets to their pancake and sausage fundraiser. He bowled on a team at Lammle's and Gibson Bowl for several years. As a child, he was in 4-H for 11 years and in FFA during his four years of high school.

Jerry is a longtime White Sox fan and has gone to see them play in Chicago. He and his family followed the Gibson City Greyhounds to home and away games, as his three older brothers played football

and brother Don played basketball.

In January 2020, Jerry saw scrolling across the TV screen that his cousin Mac Curtis Speedie* was to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame Centennial Class of 2020. Due to the pandemic, his induction ceremony in Canton, Ohio, scheduled to be held next year along with the 2021 class. Mac played tight end for the Cleveland Browns. Mac's father was born in Gibson City, and his grandfather is buried in Drummer Township Cemetery. Mac's grandfather is the great-grandfather of the Wissmillers. There is a lot of information about Mac on the internet.

Jerry wishes to thank all those who sent him cards.

*Mac Speedie, End, 1946-1952 Cleveland Browns:

Bestowed with a fitting name for his future NFL prowess, Mac Speedie was a receiver before his time. Named to the NFL's 1940s All-Decade Team, the six-time All-Pro led the league in receptions on four occasions and twice was led in receiving yards. In 1947 and 1949, he surpassed the 1,000-yard receiving barrier.



One of the greats was a gangling receiver named Mac Speedie.

NOVEMBER 15, 2020 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING BUSINESS TO BE CONDUCTED:

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 Barb Kirkpatrick

Congregational Bylaw Changes will be requested at the Congregational meeting to be held on November 15th. The Bylaws were last updated January 20, 2019. See below

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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”.*



Ron and Mary Clow stand behind the large Church Birthday banner they proudly installed on Church Street in front of the church in recognition of our 149th birthday. The banner was designed by Mary Clow and will remain in front of the church for the next couple of weeks.

An ad celebrating the church's birthday on October 28th was also placed in both local newspapers. God has blessed our church family and we are filled with joy.

The average person in the United States will eat 15 pounds of turkey this year.

Ameren Small Business Lighting Program:



Jarvis Electric worked throughout the church building to replace 101 fluorescent light fixtures with LED fixtures as a part of the Ameren Small Business Energy Efficiency Program. Our church was awarded a grant that paid 95% of the cost and the energy savings should be close to \$2,000 per year. As Jarvis figured out a way to use our existing fixtures there will be **NO** old fixtures available for sharing.



Financial Advisor

Session is seeking a Financial Advisor to assist with investing the proceeds from the Farlin Farm sale. A “Request for Proposal” document was prepared by Clerk of Session Mary Clow and will be sent to several institutions soliciting proposals. The “RFP” outlines the values and goals of the church and several questions that should be answered as a part of the proposal submitted to the church. The Session takes the matter of investing these funds very seriously. The goal is to make faith based investments and to be socially conscious when making decisions and to strive to invest

conservatively and avoid risky investments. The proposals are due November 17, 2020 and additional meetings may be required once the proposals are reviewed. It is Session’s desire to have one or more Financial Advisors chosen by December 15, 2020. In addition, Pastor Lantz and Mary Clow will be meeting with a CPA to make sure we understand and follow all State and Federal IRS regulations related to non-profit corporations with respect to the sale of the Farlin Farm.

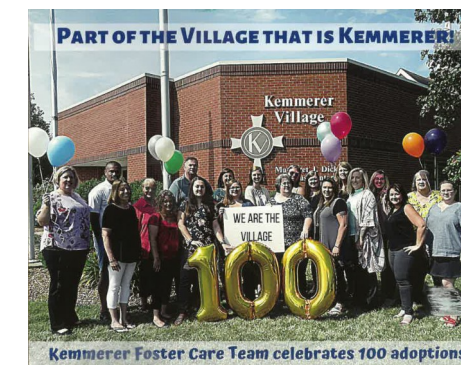


Head Start:

Pastor Ray Lantz and Head Start Liaison Jean Williams presented \$500 checks to the Head Start teachers Linda Goff and Molly Ertel to show our support for these very important ladies who provide the Head Start preschool children with emotional, social, health and nutritional guidance. The start of the program was delayed by the Federal government after funding was pulled from the previous grantee. Session approved donating the funds to them that would have been used to celebrate the church’s 149th birthday that is normally celebrated with a Fall Soup Supper. The soup supper was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Thunder in November indicates a fertile year to come.

Kemmerer Village



Address: 941 North 2500 East Road, Assumption IL 62510



Our children love receiving mail! Please consider sending a birthday card & a prayer for the following kids:

GIRLS

- Lanayah I**—11/02/03
- Joanna R**—11/21/03
- Aaliyah S**—12/15/01
- Kristen D**—12/21/01
- Emmilee C**—02/03/07

BOYS

- Joshua T**—11/29/05
- Michael S**—2/16/03
- Trace T**—12/23/04
- Timothy S**—01/25/05
- Shawn V**—2/14/05
- Oliver F**—11/15/07
- Jeremy M**—12/03/08
- Josh S**—02/21/04