PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Ray Lantz: (Standing in front of a widely circulated photo of a man walking calmly thru the US Capital)

"I say this as an American, who has lived in the Land of Lincoln for over 60 years.

Carrying the Confederate flag through the US Capital building is 'treason'. Men from Illinois, Iowa, The Legacy of White Supremacy in Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Delaware, New CEO and founder of the Public Re-York, and the New England states fought and died at places like Antietam, Vicksburg, and Gettysburg so who also studied for the ministry at that this flag would never be unfurled in the Capital.

How can we love our neighbors when we allow some of us to celebrate the enslaving of millions of our own 'neighbors' fore-fathers and mothers?

Anyone who is a 'self-professed' Christian that endorses this action. is no better than the millions of German 'Christians' that either openly supported or remained silent of Black persons. Then, he examduring Hitler's reign of terror.

Jesus told us to bless those who curse us. Jesus told us to pray for those who abuse us. O, Lord,

I ask for your strength of love. I pray to you, "May our God who forgives my sins forgive my failure to forgive so quickly those who have sinned against both God and country."

Pastor Ray Lantz Jan 10, 2021 Responding to the insurrection at the US Capital, Jan 6, 2021

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

"Whatever the explicit public

proclamations of white denominations and individual Christians, the public opinion data reveal that the historical legacy of white supremacy lives on in white Christianity today." So writes Robert P. Jones

in his new book "White Too Long:

American Christianity." Jones, the ligion Research Institute, is a nationally-recognized social scientist Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary. Jones explores the topic of the link between white Christianity and white supremacy on three fronts. First, religious ideas, like political and he documents the teaching of Chris- economic ones, often have unintian theologians and church leaders tended consequences. The only way during the time of slavery that explicitly argued in favor of slavery on the basis of the innate inferiority our society is if Christians and othines his own personal faith journey as a Southern Baptist and the ways in which the faith tradition in which our Christian faith and practice to he was raised kept him from seeing start there. hear my prayer: O God, I am trying. the issues of race and injustice

in the American South.

Finally, he explores current polling data showing that active partici- Cynthia Campbell. pation by white Americans in church life (Protestant or Catholic) is positively correlated to negative attitudes about racial minorities, doubts about mistreatment of Blacks by the criminal justice sys-

Friday: By appointment Weekly Scheduled Appointments: Tuesday: Noon-1pm—Lions

Club (when in session) Wednesday: 9:45-10:15 Head Start Reading (when in Session) Thursday: 8-9:30-GC Pastor's tem, and anxiety about changing racial demographics in general.

Put simply, if you are white and active in church life, you are more likely to hold views that reinforce white cultural and social superiority. To say that this is disconcerting, especially to those for whom Christian faith is lifesustaining, is an understatement. (Ray's emphasis) What Jones asks his readers to think about is whether the way Christian faith is taught in America, especially the emphasis on individual or personal salvation, makes it difficult to see racism as it plays out in institutional life. His analysis may make some Christians uncomfortable, but to begin to address the deep-seated and mostly unexamined racism in ers look carefully at all the things that perpetuate and reinforce it. Jones invites those who care about

Article written for the Presbyterian Mission Agency by the Rev.

The Rev. Cynthia Campbell is a retired Presbyterian pastor and president emerita of McCormick Theological Seminary. She is a member of the PC (USA)'s A Corporation Board of Directors

Group

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

PRESBYTIDINGS FEBRUARY 2021

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 Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator

Church services will resume in our building on Sunday, February 7, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Social Distancing will be followed; Masks are required; and Temperature will be taken before entering the sanctuary.

Heed now the announcement of the **Ordination** of Anneliese Kerchenfaut as an Elder for the Class of 2021 will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 immediately following church service.

Heed now the announcement of the Installation of Ron Clow as an Elder for the class of 2021 and Mary Jane Roth as a Deacon for the class of 2021 will be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 immediately following the ordination service.

Heed now the announcement of the **Installation** of Tim and Janice Swanson as Deacons will be held on Sunday, February 28, 2021 immediately following church service.

Heed now the call for the annual **Congregational** meeting and the annual **Corporation** meeting to be held on Sunday, February 7, 2021 immediately following the installation of Elders and Deacons for the class of 2021.

Our tradition in the past has been to celebrate our Love for God and good fortune by sitting down afterwards and enjoying a meal together. Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, we are not able to do so this year. However, Session will be presenting all members who attend the meeting either in person, by phone or by Facebook with a Gift Certificate for a delicious dinner from Pioletti's Take and Bake Shop located at 310 N. Sangamon in Gibson City.

We may not be able to sit together, but hopefully we will think of each other and feel the spirituality designed by God to connect with our Church family while enjoying these meals at home.



<u>IMPORTANT NOTICE – JANUARY 21, 2021</u>

February 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
						Recycle
7 10:30 a.m. Worship	8	9	10	11	12	13
Mark 1:29-39						
14 10:30 a.m. Worship Happy Valen- tine's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Recycle
One Great Hour of Shar- ing Mark 9:2-9	**Hospital Auxiliary Blood Drive 12-5:30 p.m.					
21–10:30 a.m. Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
Communion						FPC to
Mark 19:9-15				5:30 Session		work at Food Pan- try
28 10:30 a.m. Worship Mark 8:31-38			** If you wish to donate blood to the American Red Cross on Mon- day, February 15 please call Sharon at 217-	be filled. Hours are 12:00 to 5:30		

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

Meladee's new working hours: Meladee will be in the church office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please make note of these new church office working hours. Pastor Ray's hours will remain the same.

Thomas McCormick Tutoring Program Scholarship Announcement: Pastor Ray Lantz, Mary Clow and Sharla Williams in consultation with GCMS High School Principal Chris Garard and GCMS High School Counselor Josh Carter are happy to announce that we have finalized the scholarship process for the award of two scholarships for \$1,000 each from the Thomas McCormick tutoring Program. The scholarship application process will

School Counseling Office.

We thank you for the recent donation that helps us very much. You are very thoughtful in remembering us. Telecare Board, Nelda Jordan, President Thank you for your generous donation to my 2020 Livingston and Ford County Toys for Tots. With your support I was able to assist 1,000 families and put smiles on 2,800 children's faces. Looking forward to another great year in 2021. Thank you! Sheryl Hovel, Local Coordinator Thank you so much for the gift. I

Criteria for Application and Award Service: Applicants for the two awards must be seniors of the Gibson City Melvin Sibley School District and will be awarded by a 3member Board of the First Presbyterian Church. Preference will be given to students who may have received tutoring in the past or students with learning disabilities. Additional consideration will be given to those students who desire to become Special Education teachers or social workers or any deserving candidate. The completion of the application and essay will be due on Friday, April 16, 2021 and should be turned into the GCMS High School Counseling Office.

Award Selection: The 3-member Board of the First Presbyterian Church will be Pastor Ray Lantz, Clerk of Session Mary Clow and McCormick Tutoring Liaison Sharla Williams. The Board will meet by April 24th to review the application and essays so as to award the two scholarships by May their brother, Bill.

	HOAYS		
ANO			
ANNIVI	ERSARIES		
February	March		
03: Addison	02: Neil Nelson		
Kerchenfaut	04: Blake Alexander		
11: Karen Mott	04: Meladee Fergusor		
15: Charles & Cheryl	11: Maddox Alexan-		
Schultz	der		
16: Jean Williams	18: Sharla Williams		
19: Anneliese	18: Janice Swanson		
Kerchenfaut	29: Ruth Davis		
23: Ruthie Lantz			
Dripps			

Communion Servers Feb 21: Danny & Vonna Heustis

be part of the GCMS Local Scholarship Application process available through the GCMS High

1st and include the names of the winners in our church May newsletter.

greatly appreciate your thoughtfulness! I look forward to working with the McCormick Tutoring Program! Thank you again, Sharla Williams

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to Jerry Wissmiller and Jeanette Hensley on the passing of

K. P. Duty Feb: Danny and Vonna H. Iar: Ron and Mary Clow

Second Sunday Offering

Teb 14: Food Pantry/ Shepherd's Closet

1ar 14: One Great Hour of haring

Ushers

Feb: Danny and Vonna leustis **Iar: Ron and Mary Clow**

Mar 28: Ron & Mary Clow

Communion Set-Up Feb21: Janice Swanson Mar 28: Vonna Heustis

Flower Vases to CM Feb: Janice Swanson Mar: Vonna Heustis



KNOW YOUR MEMBER



VAL HUNT

Since my family is the most important part of my life, I will mention them first. I married Tom Hunt, my high school sweetheart, in 1951. He died in 2008.

We had two daughters, Dorri and Judy Jo. Dorri had a daughter, Stacy Craig. She later married Harry Groom who had a daughter, Sara. Dorri adopted Sara on the day that Sara passed the bar exam. Stacy and husband, Chad Johnson, have two adult children, Valeree (21) and Hunter (24). Sara and her husband, Matt Boucek, have three children: Ainsley (13), Jack (11), and Annie Grace (8). Judy Jo and husband, Joe Arbour have two adult children: Jon Thomas (J.T.) and Jeff. J.T. and wife Barbara have two sons, Cayden (14) and Tyson (11). They lost a son, Cody, when he was $4 \frac{1}{2}$ months old to SIDS. Jeff is still a bachelor.

My early years were not very stable. My parents divorced when my brother, sister, and I were quite young. I spent time back and forth between seventh grade I started living with my years later. I loved that job. After Grandmother Wright. She owned a restaurant in downtown Gibson City. I thank God for her and my Aunt Judy. My first job was at State Farm in 1946 when they had one tall building in Bloomington. Tom was at Illinois Wesleyan, but we stopped dating for a while, and I came home. I worked at Middleton's Law Office. I was there when we were married. Shortly after our wedding, the Illinois National Guard was activated be

cause of the Korean Conflict. We ended up in Santa Maria, CA near Camp Cook. He received his orders for Korea in September 1952. Dorri was born while he was in Korea.

We were married in the new Methodist Church parsonage and rented the helping Ben Miller of Springfield upstairs apartment of their old parsonage (and I'm a Presbyterian?). Well, it was time to have Dorri baptized, and we needed to belong to the same church. He was Presbyterian and I was a Methodist, still singing in their choir. We had some "discussions" . . . which, as usual, he won.

It did not take me long to feel "at home" here. I became involved in church activities, singing in the choir, directing the youth choir, serving as an Elder, Trustee, and Deacon. I dearly love this church family.

When the girls were junior high age, I started working at the Courier. I was a typist for a while, working three days a week. Then Kramers asked me to create the position of social editor. During that time someone talked me into running for County Treasurer. I spent Thursdays-Saturdays campaigning. That was before they had ordinances about dogs running loose. I lost by 75 votes.

Kramers then asked me to work full time. I was still the social editor, plus many new duties including ordering office supplies, writing more news, and pricing printing jobs. Then Dave named me editor. No more social stuff, but I had to make up the front page, plus many more duties. When I resigned effective December 31, 1975 (now this is the truth) they hired two men to take my place.

I went back to being a legal secretary at the law office of Art Benz. my mother and my father's family. In Terry Eckhardt joined the firm several working there for 18 plus years, I retired to start collecting my Social Security.

> Very quickly, however, I really got involved with GOP politics when Rick Winkel of Champaign asked me to be his campaign manager. He was running as our Republican candidate for State Representative against a Democrat incumbent. I commuted to Champaign four or five days a week (this was all volunteer). Talk about a

hectic six months. I can't begin to tell you what all was involved. Long story short-he won! They still talk about that campaign in Champaign-Urbana. We are still good friends.

Another political highlight was when he ran for Illinois Supreme Court. He asked me to help with his Ford County campaign. Ben was elected, and Tom and I were among guests at his installation. Later, the Winkels, Tom and I were at the Supreme Court building attending an Appellate Judge's installation and Justice Miller was the installing official. He offered to show us the justices' quarters upstairs where they lived when in session. That was a once in a lifetime experience. Not enough room here to tell about it, but ask me sometime.

I have been active in community events and organizations. First there was Junior Woman's Club, then PTA, Brownies, Girl Scouts, Greyhound Booster Club, Handel's Messiah, swimming pool bond issue, GAH Auxiliary volunteer (60 year member), Gibson Area Music Foundation and, of course, Because of Cody. I sang for many weddings and funerals. My life has been full and rewarding. I have been fortunate to have many friends. Since retiring I have played a lot of bridge, read many books and traveled. Jean, Doris, and I went to Alaska; Lucy McKinney and I to Germany; Jean and I went to the Passion Play in Germany with a group from the Christian Church. Winter traveling with Ted, Nan and Jean was the "funnest." We went to Florida, Arizona, on cruises and to Mexico where I went para-sailing when I was 85. Lots of "smile" memories.

Because of Tom's physical condition, in 2006 we bought a one story home at 906 North Bell. After Tom's death, I lived there until June of 2017 when I moved to the Villas of Holly Brook.

One of the worst things about growing old? Losing friends. My sage advice? "If you can't do any-

thing about a situation – accept it."

KNOW YOUR MEMBER



JEAN WILLIAMS

I was born in Robinson, Il in 1936 during one of the coldest winters and hottest summers on record. We were living in Palestine at the time where my dad was a teacher, but Robinson had the nearest hospital. I joined an older brother. After a short time in Brimfield, where my sister was born, we moved to Arcola where my younger brother was born and where I spent my formative years. At that time my Dad had become the superintendent of schools. We lived in a rented (think we paid \$20 a month rent) big old house. When this was sold, there was no housing available, so we lived in an empty three room doctors office. With four kids that was a trying time. My older brother who was a senior lived with family friends. After a short time in Hindsboro (part of the Arcola school system) we moved to Harvard where I went to high school. My parents (Floyd and Jeannette King) wanted me to go to the University of Illinois, but I thought that was too big, so I went to Northern Illinois my freshman year then transferred to Illinois, where I met my future husband, Jon Hunt. I had just broken up with my high school sweetheart and my roommate tried to fix me up with Jon, but he wasn't interested in In addition to babysitting, I picked a blind date, so I went to the frater-

nity dance with another fraternity

brother, where Jon and I met. Guess saw a snake. During high school I he decided I was worth getting to worked at the local cleaners. Later know. After our marriage we at Illinois I worked at the Illini Unmoved to Gibson where Jon was in ion Bookstore. the insurance business with his dad and brother. I worked for Dike Ed-Five years after Jon's death I mardleman at Central Soya for a little ried Bob Williams. In addition to a over a year before the first of our daughters, Jan, was born. Linda husband, I also gained an amazing was born almost two years later. I son, Rob, and the use of a pick-up was a stay at home mother, until the truck. Not a bad deal. We became Billy Graham Crusade came to a blended family which we remain town in 1966 and I was hired as the today even after Bob's death. After executive secretary during that Jon's death, I took his place on the time. Later when Dr. Chester Ford County Board and served on Chandler came to town, I was hired the board for 10 years. I have been as his secretary until I went to work active in the Ford-Iroquois County at the Gibson City Courier. Real Estate board and served on all I left the Courier to work with Jon the boards at my church, First Presin the insurance business, which byterian, including Clerk of Session was a blessing, because two years for several terms.

later Jon got cancer and died in 1976. Jan was a senior in high school and Linda a sophomore. I got my insurance and real estate licenses becoming a partner. I continued to work with my father-inlaw, Shug, and brother-in-law, Frank. After Shug's death and Frank's move to Arizona, we sold the business to Larry Rollings from Arcola and I managed the business until I retired.

My first paying job was a newspaper carrier for the News Gazette. When I was in 6th grade the Gazette came to the playground looking for carriers. I raised my hand and got the job. And it WAS my job. I can count the times on one hand that Dad took me on my route. Guess that is where I got my work ethic. I didn't always have the best aim so many nights we didn't get a paper because I had put a customer's on the roof so they got ours. My Saturday mornings were spent collecting and going to the post office to get a money order to pay for that week's groceries.

strawberries one summer for 10 cents a quart. This lasted until I

My life certainly did not take the path I thought it would, but I guess God knew what he was doing (as always). My life in Gibson has been fruitful and, for the most part, happy. I am blessed with two wonderful daughters, a son, eight grandchildren and seven greatgrandchildren.

I am looking forward to getting the vaccine and getting back to a normal life. I miss playing bridge and interacting with friends. Hoping the future is bright for everyone.

The same boiling water that softens the potato hardens the egg. It's about what you're made of, not the circumstances.

Information about Cora May-

belle Farlin: As most of you know, the Farlin Farm was recently sold to Kurt and Chris Sommers after approval by the congregation. The proceeds of the sale will be invested and Session has created a missions committee to assist with the process of increasing our Mission strategies and goals. Our church is truly blessed to have these assets to help our congregation and our neighbors know, love and serve God.

We also thought it was important to recognize and remember Mrs. Farlin for her kindness and generosity to our church and therefore have listed below information that Mary Clow found after some research on the Farlin family. We are sad that we could not find anyone that remembered Mrs. Farlin and that we could not find a picture of her to include with this article.

Jennie Fiedler) Farlin was born June 12, 1885 and died April 13, 1979 (age 93). She married George Bruce Farlin who was also born on June 12 but in 1882 and died June 10, 1951 (age 68).

Maybelle's husband George was married before her to Elva Estella (maiden name Fox) Farlin who was from Chris Sommer for 40 acres. A born in 1882 and died in 1908 (age check for \$1,069,760.90 was re-26) and they (George and Elva were married in 1904 and had a son bought the remaining 113+ acres. named Victor Doyle Farlin who was born in 1905 and died in 1971 (age 66). It does not appear that Cora and George had any children and George's son with Elva died so Illinois in 2018 and then joined his we assume that played a part into why she left their farm to our church. It looks like George served land but not too excited to be in in World War I and had one sister named Christine Clementine Fraser. We could not find any information about her.

Ron and Mary Clow found the grave of George and Cora Maybelle Good Luck! Farlin in the Drummer Township Cemetery in Division 4, Lot 174, Space 8 (Memorial ID 148438496) and in December placed a holiday

blanket wreath on their grave.



FARLIN FARM CLOSING

The closing on the sale of the Farlin Farm was completed on Friday, January 15, 2021. Pastor Lantz signed all of the documents as the Cora Maybelle (born to Alonzo and designee authorized by the church. Thank you Rick Kerchenfaut for your assistance with the farm sale. Your knowledge and expertise gave the Session a comfort level of trust and direction and saved the church money on commission fees, etc. A check for \$376,850.39 was received ceived from Kurt Sommer who Kurt has been farming the Farlin Farm since 1986 (34 years). Chris graduated from the University of dad in farming the land. Kurt and Chris are very excited to own the debt. Our church members were happy to see it go to the Sommers as they farmed it all these years for us and they are a great family. Congratulations to Kurt and Chris.

> Let us not forget that the cultivation Thank you everyone for your dediof the earth is the most

important labor of man. When till-

age begins, other arts will follow. *The farmers, therefore, are the* founders of civilization. Daniel Webster



Kurt Sommers, Chris Sommers, Madalyn Sommers, Jerry Niemann



Head Start Program:

We are happy to announce that the Head Start students are back in the classroom after a long absence due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. Restrictions did not allow for new students to join the program this year but six (6) students who were in the program have returned. Pastor Lantz is excited to be able to resume the reading of books to the students on a weekly basis.

Because the students were not in the building during the holidays, Session has approved the purchase of a present for each student to celebrate Valentine's Day.

We also feel it is important to recognize those volunteers who will be assisting with delivering lunch to the students on a daily basis. They include Dale Ashmore, Ray and Trudy Lantz, Gene Roth, Peggy Lutterbie, Chervl Elder, and Melanie Warfield. Backup volunteers are Tom and Bill Hartford, Jean Williams, and Ted Swanson. cation and willingness to give to this very important program and mission of our church.

The Kerchenfaut Family enjoyed a trip to Muskegon, Michigan over the holidays and really had fun snow tubing, skiing and hiking.











(One hand can lift a soul; () ne word can frame a goal; (One candle can wipe out darkness; (I) ne laugh can conquer gloom; (One hope can raise your spirits; **One** touch can show you care; ne life can make the difference, be that One today.

Ron and Mary Clow in South Padre Island, Texas enjoy a day on the beach and a golf cart ride with friends from Minnesota checking out sand sculptures on the island.









Beautiful!



First Presbyterian Church - Gibson City Mission Committee Action Plan

Our Vision – As a Mathew 25 Church, the Congregation is challenged to act boldly and compassionately to actively and joyfully engage with their community and service people who are hungry, oppressed or poor.

Our Goal - Is to reach out into our Local Community to identify those in need or distress and to invest in our local youth or those individual needs as identified by various community organizations. This will also include an emergency need like a natural disaster or a need to respond to the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The creation of the Committee was approved by the Session to be in place for five years starting 2021. Our hope is our church will be recognized for our generosity and this will bring awareness in the Community that our church is still vital. In addition, we will make every effort to recognize Maybelle Farlin who helped make all this possible by leaving her farm to our church.

Our Process – The Committee will evaluate the various needs identified and upon approval by the majority of its Committee members, will make recommendations to the Session for approval. The Committee will be open to members of the church and will be led by Mary Clow and Charlie Schultz. Questionnaires and Surveys will be sent out to church members requesting suggestions and guidance on how the Mission money should be spent.

Our Strategy - To communicate clearly, make a plan once a need is identified and approved by Session, and execute the plan with due diligence and subsequent monitoring. Monthly reports will be provided to the Session members and Congregation.

Our Budget - To allocate and recommend to Session various separate awards to those in need for various reasons totaling \$100,000 to \$150,000 per year. Funds will only be withdrawn from the Farlin Farm Sale Investment account.

In an effort to get an understanding as to what the Congregation would like to see the Mission dollars allocated to, the Mission Committee has created a short survey and would appreciate your input. Please review the Mission Committee Action Plan. If you are interested in joining the Mission Committee, please contact Clerk of Session Mary Clow. Please mark with a number as noted below what your Priority would be with respect to how the Mission funds should be spent:

1 = High Priority 2 = Medium Priority 3 = Low Priority

	For Activities in the Church that might hel
	Provide funding for College Tuition assist
	Provide funding for Vocational Training a
	Fund Youth Needs as Identified by the Co
	Provide additional funds for Food insecuri
	Provide additional funds for Clothing need
	Provide additional funding for Medical He
	Provide additional funding for Mental Hea
	Provide additional funding to the Gibson G
	Provide additional funding to the Gibson G
	Provide additional funding to curb Drug A
	Provide additional funding to enhance the
	Provide additional funding to assist the old
	Provide additional funding to assist Senior
	Provide additional funding to assist the Me
	Provide additional funding to the Ford Co
Please commen	nt as needed on anything listed above:

Please list below anything else you may want the Mission Committee to consider:

Submitted by:

First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City Mission Committee - Congregational Survey February 1, 2021

- elp Attendance
- stance as needed
- assistance as needed
- ommunity and School District
- rity many families are facing
- eds for hurting families
- Iealth needs for those in the Community
- ealth needs in the Community
- City Police Dept. & Ford Co. Sheriff Dept.
- City Fire Department
- Abuse
- development of Music and Art in Children
- lder generation with Technology skills
- or Citizens with Transportation needs
- loyer District Library as needed
- ounty Animal Control Department

(Not Required)