

PASTOR'S CORNER

A prayer from Pastor Ray: "O Lord, we give you thanks for Spring. Your time for new creation and new beginnings.

O Lord, we give you praise for this time of Lent. Your time for reflection on sacrifice and renewal.

O Lord, we acknowledge your presence in our lives as we seek to do your will as the body of Christ.

O Lord, we pray for your comfort as we mourn the 1/2-million Americans who have died due to Covid-19 complications.

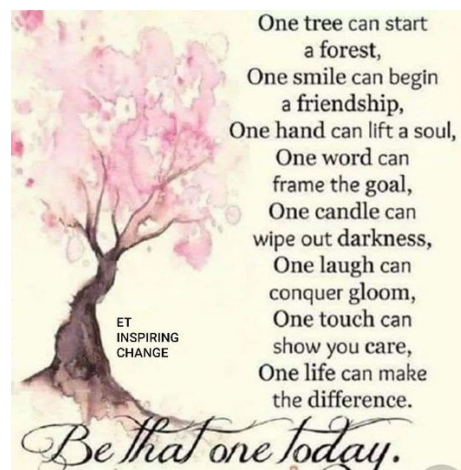
O Lord, we ask your healing touch on all those who still suffer symptoms even after the virus has left their bodies.

O Lord, we pray for patience as the vaccines become available. We pray for your wisdom as we begin to return to our new 'normal'.

O Lord, we give you thanks and praise for our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus. Help us to grow in our faith.

We pray all this in Jesus' name. Hallelujah! Amen."

LENTEN BOOKS



We hope you are enjoying the Lenten Book chosen by Pastor Ray. The book is titled 40 DAYS 40 PRAYERS 40 WORDS Lenten Reflections for Everyday Life by Bruce Reyes-Chow. Pastor Lantz is also reading the prayers and words each day on his personal Facebook page. Pause in the bustle of your daily lives to reflect, engage and share during the Lenten Season. All forty prayers are written using forty words so that they may be accessible in length and a reminder of the forty-day season.

New Email Address:
Pastor Ray:
Ray@firstpresbygibson.org

Meladee:
Office@firstpresbygibson.org



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: 9:45-10:15 Head Start Reading (when in Session)

Thursday: 8-9:30-GC Pastor's Group
1st Thursday of Month: Noon to 1-Chamber of Commerce
Meladee's Office Hours:
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

PRESBYTIDINGS

MARCH 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

Presbyterian Refresher Course:

What is unique about the Presbyterian Church?

Presbyterians are distinctive in two major ways. They adhere to a pattern of religious thought known as Reformed theology and a form of government that stresses the active, representational leadership of both ministers and church members.

Reformed theology

What are human beings created to do? Reformed theology says that human beings are to "know God and enjoy [God] forever." Theology is a way of thinking about God and God's relation to the world. Reformed theology evolved during the 16th century religious movement known as the Protestant Reformation. In its confessions, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) expresses the faith of the Reformed tradition.

Central to this tradition is the affirmation of the majesty, holiness and providence of God who creates, sustains, rules and redeems the world in the freedom of sovereign righteousness and love. Related to this central affirmation of God's sovereignty are other great themes of the Reformed tradition: The election of the people of God for service as well as for salvation. Covenant life marked by a disciplined concern for order in the church according to the Word of God. A faithful stewardship that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God's creation.

The recognition of the human tendency to idolatry and tyranny, which calls the people of God to

work for the transformation of society by seeking justice and living in obedience to the Word of God. (*Book of Order*, G-2.0500)

Church government

A major contributor to Reformed theology was John Calvin, who converted from Roman Catholicism after training for the priesthood and in the law. In exile in Geneva, Switzerland, Calvin developed the Presbyterian pattern of church government, which vests governing authority primarily in elected members known as elders. The word Presbyterian comes from the Greek word for elder.

Elders are chosen by the people. Together with ministers of the Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large, including ecumenical relationships. They shall serve faithfully as members of the session (*Book of Order*, G-10.0102). When elected as commissioners to higher governing bodies, elders participate and vote with the same authority as ministers of the Word and Sacrament, and they are eligible for any office (*Book of Order*, G-6.0302).

The body of elders elected to govern a particular congregation is called a session. They are elected by the congregation and in one sense are representatives of the other members of the congregation. On the other hand, their primary charge is to seek to discover and represent the will of Christ as they govern. Presbyterian elders are both elected and or-

daind. Through ordination they are officially set apart for service. They retain their ordination beyond their term in office. Ministers who serve the congregation are also part of the session. The session is the smallest, most local governing body. The other governing bodies are presbyteries, which are composed of several churches; synods, which are composed of several presbyteries; and the General Assembly, which represents the entire denomination. Elders and ministers who serve on these governing bodies are referred to as mid councils.

Wishing you a rainbow
For sunlight after showers
Miles and miles of Irish smiles
For golden happy hours
Shamrocks at your doorway
For luck and laughter too,
And a host of friends that never ends
Each day your whole life through!

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6 <i>Recycle</i>
7 10:30 a.m. Worship John 2:13-22	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 10:30 a.m. Worship John 3:14-21	15	16	17 	18	19	20 <i>Recycle</i>
21 10:30 a.m. Worship John 12:20-33	22	23	24	25 <i>5:30 Session</i>	26	27
28 10:30 a.m. Worship Mark 4:1-15:47						

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.

FPC OF GC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM: The Mission Committee of the FPC of GC will be awarding two \$ 1,000 scholarships in order to give access to higher education for students of all income levels. Applications can be obtained from the Guidance Office at GCMS High School. These scholarships are in addition to the McCormick Tutoring Program Scholarships being offered.

CRITERIA FOR APPLICATION AND AWARD SELECTION: Applicants for one of the \$ 1,000 awards must be seniors of the Gibson City Melvin Sibley School District. Preference will be given to a student who will be working towards becoming a nurse or any deserving candidate who wants to work in the medical field. The completion of the essay is also required.

Applicants for the other \$ 1,000 award must be a senior of the GCMS School District. Preference will be given to a student who will be attending any type of trade school or any deserving candidate who wishes to obtain additional training to work in the building trades, HVAC, or becoming a beautician or stylist. The completion of the essay is also required.

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Tim Shull who passed away on Friday, January 29, 2021.

Timothy D. Shull, 66, of Gibson City passed away at 4:10 pm Friday January 29, 2021 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. A Celebration of Tim's life will be celebrated at a later date. Memorial contribu-

tions may be made to the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City. Tim was born December 7, 1954 in Gibson City a son of Loel and Ruby Bridgwater Shull. He is survived by two sons Garrett Shull and Travis Shull both of Gibson City and a sister Pam (Jim) Flaherty of Bayles Lake. He was preceded in death by his parents and a brother. Tim was an appliance repairman for Kenny's Heating and Cooling in Gibson City for many years. He was an avid Chicago Bears and Chicago Cubs fan and enjoyed riding his Harley Davidson. He will be missed by all that knew and loved him.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<i>K. P. Duty</i>	<i>Communion Set-Up</i>
		Mar: Ron and Mary Clow	Mar 28: Vonna Heustis
		Apr: Jean Williams	Apr 4: Ted Swanson
		<i>Second Sunday Offering</i>	<i>Flower Vases to CM</i>
		Mar 14: One Great Hour of Sharing	Mar: Vonna Heustis
		Apr 11: Gibson Area Housing Rehab Foundation	Apr: Ted Swanson
		<i>Ushers</i>	
		Mar: Ron and Mary Clow	
		Apr: Jeanette Hensley and Sharla Williams	
		<i>Communion Servers</i>	
		Mar 28: Ron & Mary Clow	
		Apr 4: Trudy Lantz and Charles Schultz	



KNOW YOUR MEMBER



DALE ASHMORE

I was born in the Paxton Hospital on August 23, 1937 to Beatrice (Van Blaracum) Ashmore and Vernon “Sandy” Ashmore. Seven years later, a brother (Steven Gary) joined our family. (Both of us chose to be called by our middle names.) Sixteen months later a sister joined us, Vickie Ellen.

My dad farmed, so I went to “country school” until fifth grade. Then I was on a bus route from fifth grade through high school.

In high school, I went out for football two years and basketball for four years. I was active in student council and F.F.A. (I did not plan to be a farmer.) I graduated in 1955 in a class of 55. My class was the class in the “old high school.”

I wanted to go to a “state” college (but one that was far away) so I picked Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, IL and I was accepted.

KNOW YOUR MEMBER



CARLA ASHMORE

I was born on November 6, 1936 in St. Elizabeth’s Hospital in Granite City, Illinois to Marie (Guthman) Coffay and James Martin Coffay. Apparently, it was very difficult for my mother. As it turned out, I was an only child. The doctor broke a leader in my neck during delivery. (I was an instrument-delivered baby.) This resulted in three surgeries for me at ages two, four, and eight. At First Presbyterian Church in Granite City I was baptized as an infant, and, at the right age, I was confirmed there.

I attended McKinley School through grade six. (This school shows up later in my life.) Then it was on to Central Junior High (at which time I got braces on my teeth). Then I attended grades 9-12 at Granite City High School (four busy years). There had not been a GCHS since the 1930’s. Somehow I became editor-in-chief my senior year, 1953-1954. I was active in speech activities, also. I was valedictorian of my class in June of 1954 (when I finally got my braces off).

I wanted to be an elementary school teacher. I was awarded an Illinois State Scholar scholarship and decided to attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale.

My parents were very loving and caring and encouraging to me. I feel so blessed.

DALE & CARLA

We did not really meet until Dale was a “junior” and I was a “senior.” We had both applied to be a resident counselor in a dormitory (which meant free room and tuition plus books, everything but “spending money”). We were chosen and arrived on campus several days before “New Student Week.” The Housing Authority had a weekend get-together for new counselors at Little Grassy Lake.

Dale asked me to dance at an evening social. That was “the start.” We were both assigned to Thompson Point (a new housing area—two boys’ dorms and two girls’ dorms and a large dining area for residents of all four dorms).

Our first date was to a movie during New Student Week. Three weeks later he gave me his fraternity pin. He gave me an engagement ring over Spring Break, but we waited until he had his degree before getting married. He had completed all courses for his major (Social Studies) and minor (English), so he took education courses and did “student teaching” before he graduated.

In June of 1958, I moved home and got a job teaching at my old elementary school. We were married August 15, 1959 at the church where I was
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baptized and confirmed. We had a short honeymoon. Dale decided he wanted a year off, before starting Law School at University of Illinois so he taught Social Studies for that year.

In June of 1960, we moved to Champaign. He started Law School in the fall and I was hired to teach at Bottenfield School and worked on a Master’s Degree. He got his degree in June 1963, passed the Bar Exam, and got a job at Pacey and Pacey in Paxton, IL.

I retired (for awhile) and our first child, Allison, arrived on May 11, 1965. Our second child, Christopher, arrived on June 19, 1968 (six weeks early). He was delivered by Dr. Sunderland.

Dale became a partner-Pacey, Pacey, and Ashmore-but work was six plus days a week and Pacey and Ashmore did not have like personalities. He had other offers, but decided to go back to teaching. He got a job teaching Social Studies at Granite City High School.

We sold our Paxton home and bought one in Granite City and Dale started teaching in the fall of 1971. I was subbing for a year and then was hired for a new elementary school. In two years (1973) Dale transferred to a new high school in town. In 1983 our school district had financial problems and both of the new schools were closed. We were both “riffed.” Dale was rehired to teach at the old high school and I subbed until 1985 when I was rehired.

Allison graduated from high school in 1983. She attended the University of Illinois her freshman year, but a B.S. de-

gree in nursing was not available, so she transferred to the University of Illinois in Chicago to the Medical Center campus. Since 1987, she has been a psych nurse. She met and dated William (Bill) Hickey. They were married in the same church where Dale and I were married. Their children (our grandchildren) are: Dan (27), Katherine (25), and Mary Alice (23).

Chris got three degrees from the University of Illinois—a B.S. degree (Phi Beta Kappa and Bronze Tablet), a Law Degree, and later a Master’s Degree in Library Science and Information. For five years he worked as a Legislative Analyst for the Republican House of Representatives in Springfield. Then he turned to something he really loved—books.

He started working at the Jacksonville Public Library as Director of Adult Services and now he has been Director of the Library for several years. In Jacksonville he met the “love of his life”, Amber. They have two sons: Wyatt (almost 15) and Dylan (11).

Dale and I retired from teaching in 1994. The state offered “a buy-out” we could not pass up. We retired to a condo on the Lake of the Ozarks.

We sold it in 1999 and moved to Gibson City, between our children and grandchildren. Our daughter and family were an eight and half hour drive away and the grandchildren were starting to school.

I had grown up in a Presbyterian Church and Dale had grown up and been baptized in the First Christian Church in Gibson City. We thought we would visit both churches and then decide. Well, we visited

First Presbyterian Church first. We saw Ted and Jo Swanson right away and talked. Dale and Jo graduated in the “class of 1955” so I knew them from reunions. Everyone was so friendly and made us feel welcome. Well, we stayed-never made it to the First Christian Church (except in the summer when we mixed our congregations). We became members in 1999.

Dale was on the Education Foundation Board for several years. He also spent eight years on the Gibson Hospital Foundation Board. He joined Lions Club. For a number of years he collected eye glasses and cases for the glasses. He’d take them to the basement of Dr. Hagan’s office building. I would help him count, package, and address full boxes of glasses.

We did Meals on Wheels for quite a few years. Dale was a greeter at the hospital and I worked the Information Desk for quite awhile until I had balance problems.

I subbed in several bridge clubs and then I was asked to join one. I have not played since February of 2020 when the “pandemic” took over in March.

I am a Deacon now in our church and have served three or four other terms. I served on the Session for one term. Dale just finished a term on Session in December.

Both our children were born in the Gibson City Hospital. I was there for surgery when Chris was ten months old, for cataract surgery, a kidney stone, a broken right ankle, and a broken bone in my arm.

Gibson City is home!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY CELEBRATION IN HEAD START!

The Head Start students return to the classroom after several months of remote learning due to COVID-19 and enjoy opening their Valentine's Day presents given to them from our church as approved by the Session. This was done in place of the Christmas presents the congregation normally provides as they were not in the building during the Holiday Season. Nothing like seeing those smiling faces!



Session approved the purchase of a new desktop computer for Meladee Ferguson who is very happy with the faster processing and new features. In addition, all documents can be shared with Pastor Lantz and be saved on the cloud.

New Email Addresses: As part of the hardware and software upgrade for our church's technology, there are now new email addresses as noted below:

Pastor Ray:
Ray@firstpresbygibson.org
 Meladee
Office@firstpresbygibson.org



Bill Hunter replaces the dove above the cross in the sanctuary after repairing and repainting the wall that was damaged by a roof leak.

EMMA SWANSON



Congratulations to Emma Swanson on her selection as February Student of the Month at GCMS High School. Emma is a member of the Basketball and track teams and participates in Interact, the musical and Art Club. Emma is also a section leader in choir. She is active in the Presbyterian Church and has worked at the Harvest Moon Drive-In. The daughter of Tim and Janice Swanson, Emma was nominated by Mrs. Briney who shared that she is a hard worker with a ready smile and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Emma intends to study graphic design in college. Your church family at the First Presbyterian Church is proud of you.



On February 7th, Pastor Ray Lantz with the assistance of Clerk of Session Mary Clow, conducted the ordination of Anneliese Kerchenfaut as an Elder during the church service. In addition, Ron Clow was installed as an Elder and Mary Jane Roth was installed as a Deacon. Congratulations to the class of 2023.



On February 28th, Pastor Ray Lantz with the assistance of Clerk of Session Mary Clow, conducted the installation of Tim and Janice Swanson as Deacons. Congratulations Tim and Janice.

Ron and Mary Clow in South Padre Island, Texas checking out **more** sand sculptures on the island.



These are all sculpted from sand. WOW!

OUR CHURCH FALCON FAMILY



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N I C O L E S C H U L T Z



Charlie, Nicole, and Cheryl Schultz at Senior Night. Nicole is a cheerleader!



Session has approved the purchase of Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday, service, April 4. They will be available for anyone to take after the service.



Danny Heustis and Ron Clow will do the installation and anyone else interested in helping should contact Danny.

Technology Training Class—Moyer Library: Session has approved compensating the Moyer Library for holding a few one-hour classes on Technology for Senior Citizens. These could include “Using an iPhone”, “Learning how to Zoom on Facebook with your grandchildren”, or even learning how to email or use an ipad. If you have any suggestions or have a desire to learn something new, please contact Mary Clow.

Tim.

Emma and Janice Swanson at Senior Night. Emma plays Basketball.



MISSION COMMITTEE FINANCIAL AWARDS

Session approved the following donations/awards as recommended in Round 1 by the Mission Committee at the February 25th Session meeting.

Blackhawk Presbytery.....	\$4,000.00	
Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center.....	\$4,000.00	
Community Chest.....(Meals on Wheels).....	\$1,000.00	
Telecare.....	\$1,000.00	
GAHRF- Gibson Area Housing Rehab Foundation.....	\$1,000.00	
Shepherd’s Closet.....	\$1,000.00	
GCMS High School Scholarships		
Trade School/Beauty School/HVAC.....	\$1,000.00	
Nursing School.....	\$1,000.00	
Scholarships – members		
Emma Swanson.....	\$1,000.00	
Nicole Schultz – out state tuition.....	\$1,500.00	
Scholarship – Saybrook.....	\$1,000.00	
(Danny & Vonna Heustis live – not GCMS Schools)		
Funds for PPE for GCPolice, GCFire, FordCo Sheriff..	\$1,500.00	
(\$500 EACH)		
Moyer Library – Tech Class Senior Citizens	\$1,000.00	
150 th Sesquicentennial 3D Sign City of Gibson.....	\$1,000.00	
(Our church hopes to have smaller version one too)		
150 th Sesquicentennial Miscellaneous		
(Games, Prizes, Music).....	\$ 500.00	
Community Garden.....	\$1,500.00	
(Location/rules yet to be determined)		
Funds for PPE for Restaurants (\$500 each)		
The Dairy Queen, Los Caminos Mexican Restaurant,		
The Kettle, The Bayern Stube German Restaurant,		
Vianna Yang’s Chinese Cuisine & Blue Star Cafe.....	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	
Total.....		\$26,000.00

