

PASTOR'S CORNER

In Memorial: Dale Ashmore and John Gesell

I look forward to the reunion.

Pastor Ray Lantz

Heaven gained two saints on July 27th. Dale Ashmore and John Gesell entered the Church Triumphant within hours of each other. They are now in Christ's presence and in His peace.

Both were men of faith and action. Both served as Elder and Trustee of First Presbyterian in GC. Both will be remembered by those of us left to carry on the work of serving Christ that knew each of them.

I served with both on Session and Trustees. I considered them mentors. Men to look to as examples of how to love God and love our neighbor.

They served their community through Lions Club and other civic organizations.

John was a salesman. He liked to talk but also knew how to listen. He got things done.

Dale was an educator. He asked well-thought out questions. He made me think.

I was blessed to know each of them.

They will be missed by their families, by their friends, and by their Church.

In God's time we will be with them again.

Continued from front page . . .

Over the course of its history, Stronghold has offered hospitality and programs for countless children and adults, providing a place for spiritual growth, renewal, collaboration, and good fun. Following a multi-year process, Stronghold Center, Inc. was formed on January 1, 2021, when the Presbytery transferred all property and camp assets to Stronghold. Though a separate legal entity from the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Stronghold remains a committed Christian organization under the Presbyterian umbrella, where the two organizations share a covenant with each other.

One of the hallmarks of Presbyterianism is its connectional nature, reflected in its organizational structure from congregation to Presbytery to Synod to General Assembly, but also within each body. The Presbytery of Blackhawk currently meets in assembly five times a year, though this has fluctuated from 4 to 6 stated meetings over the years. Council, cabinet, commissions, and committees in 1972 numbered 14 (plus 10 Mission Councils); today's business is handled by 8 active committees and commissions plus a Presbytery Council with ad hoc groups as needed. The Presbytery has encouraged intentional networks of Presbyterians through the years, the most enduring being the

Presbyterian Women with a long, long legacy of its own in Blackhawk.

Also reflecting Presbyterian polity, leadership in the Presbytery has attempted a balanced representation between clergy and lay, and equity in terms of gender and age. Our first Presbytery Moderator was Rev. Shirley Wooden, who was the only female clergy member of Blackhawk at that time. Her ordination in 1962 came only six years after the first woman was ordained in the PCUSA in 1956. Blackhawk is currently home to 105 minister members, 42 of whom are engaged in active parish ministry (63 retired and members at large). We are also home to between 15-17 Commissioned Pastors, formerly called "Lay Pastors" or "Commissioned Ruling Elders", who serve in a variety of ways including as full-time solo pastors. Approximately 43% of the leaders serving our congregations today are women pastors.

Though its actual mission statement has changed through the years, the Presbytery continues to exist today in 2021 to "challenge and support congregations to be thriving faith communities" just as it did in 1972.

Mark your calendars for Sunday afternoon, September 12, 2021. There will be a Harvest Fest Service held for all denominations. More information will follow. Please watch the bulletins and September newsletter.

PRESBYTIDINGS

August 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

A Brief History of the Presbytery of Blackhawk July 2021

In a major restructure of Presbytery boundaries in the state of Illinois, The Presbytery of Blackhawk was officially organized on January 11, 1972. Prior to this, the Synod of Illinois of the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A. was divided into ten Presbyteries. This new configuration of four Presbyteries in Illinois would be followed on January 1, 1973, by the joining of Illinois and Indiana Synods to form the Synod of Lincoln Trails. The churches forming Blackhawk were prior members of Freeport, Ottawa, Peoria, Chicago, Bloomington, and Monmouth Presbyteries. The historic reunion between the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A. ("northern church") and Presbyterian Church U.S. ("southern church") occurred in June 1983, ushering in the new name, Presbyterian Church in the United States of America.

The new 1972 boundaries were described as the Illinois counties of: Boone, Bureau, Carroll, DeKalb, Ford (except that portion east of Interstate 57 - *this caveat was added later*), Grundy, Kewanee Church in Henry County, Iroquois, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Livingston, Marshall, McHenry, Ogle, Putnam, Stark, Stephenson, Whiteside, Will, Winnebago, and Washburn church of Woodford County.

Ninety-eight churches and 110 ministers were the first members of the Presbytery. These churches held a membership of 34,163 communicants. In 1972, Blackhawk churches ranged in size from 32 to 1444 members with 15 congregations counting

over 500 members. Our churches were served by 86 pastors (plus 16 honorably retired) with seven church partnerships who shared their minister. We baptized 473 infants and 142 adults that year. See below for a snapshot of changes through the years.

Some other interesting figures include a per capita assessment of \$2.47 in 1972 (GA - 92¢, Synod 70¢, Presbytery 85¢) and a total budget for Blackhawk of \$139,347. Per Capita for 2021 is \$38.50 (GA-\$8.98, Synod-\$3.81, Presbytery \$25.71). The total budgeted expenses for 2021 is \$643K.

Over the years, congregations have dissolved, merged, left the denomination and in a few cases, organized. First Presbyterian Church in Galena, established in 1831, is the oldest, still existing congregation in Blackhawk Presbytery. Our most recent, still active congregation is Rockford Korean, formed in 1978. Twenty-one congregations (of the original 98) were dissolved, with an additional two organized and dissolved in the last forty years. One church left to our neighboring Presbytery and seven churches have left the denomination. Three sets of mergers were accomplished, one of these subsequently dissolved, and one congregation newly federated with a Congregational congregation. Several congregations left their original locations to re-form in a new location, typically with a new building. And at least two new church developments were attempted which ultimately proved unsuccessful in new organized congregations. As of the end of 2020, Blackhawk still supports 69 congregations.

Over the course of its history, Blackhawk has been served by 9



Poppy: Flower of the Month

Stated Clerks and 6 Executive/General Presbyters, including one interim. Office staff has fluctuated between one and four people. The Presbytery offices were originally hosted at Dixon First Presbyterian, later moving to its own office in Dixon. Beginning in January 1982 the office has been on Stronghold property, first occupying the "Basswood" house 'down the hill' and 1500 feet south of the current Stronghold entrance, then later in the old "Maplewood" house at the top of the hill. The Brubaker building, administrative center for Stronghold, is also the current home for the Presbytery office. This building, along with the Heritage Lodge were completed in 2003 after a capital campaign richly supported by Blackhawk churches.

Many of the churches in Blackhawk have had a long history of supporting the mission and ministry of Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center. The camp pre-dates the Presbytery by about a decade after the property owned by the Walter Strong family was purchased in 1963 by the Presbyterian Camping Association of Northern Illinois, an independent entity representing four Presbyteries and indirectly associated with the Synod at that time. Following the reorganization of Illinois Presbyteries, the camp was briefly under a new alliance between Great Rivers and Blackhawk, the Bi-Presbytery Agency of Camps & Conferences. It was later transferred to the Trustees of Blackhawk Presbytery in 1976 where it has been part of its mission and ministry.

Continued on the back page . . .

BLACKHAWK STATISTICS THROUGH THE YEARS

| YEAR | 1972 | 1982 | 1992 | 2002 | 2012 | 2020 |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----------|
| Blackhawk Churches | 98 | 94 | 91 | 88 | 79 | 69 |
| Blackhawk Membership | 34,163 | 28,292 | 22,207 | 18,342 | 13,047 | 8,387 |
| Churches over 500 members | 21 | 15 | 11 | 8 | 5 | 2 |
| Total PCUSA membership | 2,916,757 | | | | | 1,301,785 |
| Total Blackhawk Ministers (MWS) | 110 | 113 | 128 | 141 | 125 | 105 |
| Ministers retired + members at large | 29 | 31 | 49 | 75 | 74 | 63 |
| Active Parish Ministers | 81 | 82 | 79 | 66 | 51 | 42 |
| Commissioned Pastors | | | | | 6 | 16 |

August 2021

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|---|--------------------------------------|--------|--|
| <p>1 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Ephesians 4:1-16</p> | | | | | | <p>7</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>9 Bible Study At HB</p> <p>4 p.m. Grave-side service for John Gesell at Drummer Township Cemetery</p> |
| <p>8 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>3 p.m. Hymn Festival</p> <p>Ephesians 4:25-5:2</p> | | | | | | <p>14</p> <p>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</p> |
| <p>15 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Ephesians 5:15-20</p> | | | | | | <p>21</p> <p>Recycle</p> <p>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holy Brook</p> |
| <p>22 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Ephesians 6:10-20</p> | | | | <p>26</p> <p>5:30 Session</p> | | <p>28</p> <p>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</p> <p>FPC working at Food Pantry</p> |
| <p>29 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>James 1:17-27</p> | | | <p>Our church's 150th Birthday Celebration will be held in the fellowship hall on Sunday, October 24. Big plans, fun and food are on the menu!</p> | | | |

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 working hours:
Meladee will be in the church office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

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

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

July 29, 2021 Mission Committee Update

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS 7-29-21

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Starting Balance approved 6-24-21..... | \$80,750.00 |
| Credit Library Tech Classes..... | -\$ 1,000.00 |
| Shared expenses to install a 3 transformer/3 phase electricity pole for down town Gibson City to provide more electricity for large events..... | \$11,000.00 |
| Scarecrow Contest(\$1500 in prizes/\$500 Railside)..... | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Fighting for Finn (Fairley 7 year old with leukemia) fundraiser..... | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Subtotal for July after credit..... | \$14,000.00 |
| Total to Date 2021..... | \$94,750.00 |

OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

| August | September |
|--|---|
| <p>12: John & Ruth Davis</p> <p>14: Ray & Trudy Lantz</p> <p>18: Valeree Johnson</p> <p>21: Teresa Alexander</p> <p>22: Jordyn Schultz</p> <p>24: Tim & Janice Swanson</p> <p>31: Sandy Brucker</p> | <p>06: Allen Neubauer</p> <p>17: Gene Roth</p> <p>17: Danny Heustis</p> <p>18: Georgie Johnson</p> <p>18: Jean Jardine</p> <p>21: John Kirkpatrick</p> <p>26: Val Hunt</p> <p>26: Ted Swanson</p> |

K. P. Duty

Aug: Val Hunt
Sept: Ron & Mary Clow

Second Sunday Offering

Aug 8: Head Start
Sept 12: Gibson Area Music Foundation

Ushers

Aug: Gene and Mary Jane Roth
Sept: Janice Swanson and Jeanette Hensley

Communion Server

Sept 5: Rick & Anneliese Kerchenfaut
Oct 3: Ron & Mary Clow

Communion Set-Up

Sept: Mary Jane Roth
Oct: Ted Swanson

Flower Vases to CM

Aug: Sharla Williams
Sept: Mary Jane Roth



2021 Time Capsule Letter

As we the Elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City today write this letter, we are not sure there will be an existing Presbyterian Church when this time capsule is opened in 50 years. Our membership has declined the last several years as the world has changed in so many ways. Many of our children and grandchildren who grew up in our church went on to college and made a new life away from Gibson City.

We have just emerged from the Covid-19 pandemic after in-person services were cancelled for several months surviving the many challenges and delighted to know our 150th Birthday will take place in October.

However, the members of the church realized the potential of our long-term future looked challenging and believe as Christians, the Bible is clear throughout its pages that we are called to give generously. Therefore, the Farlin Farm left to the church in 1979 by Cora Maybelle Farlin upon her death (Mrs. Farlin's husband George Farlin passed away in 1971) was sold upon approval by the Congregation.

After the closing on the sale of the Farm in January of 2021 for \$1.4 million, a financial advisor was hired to help invest some of the money. In addition, the members of the church also decided it would be our new and possibly final Mission to take a considerable amount of the proceeds and go out into the Community and share our good fortunes with the residents, groups, businesses, clubs, organizations and companies of Gibson City. A Mission Committee was created with a goal established in which at least half of the money from the sale of the Farlin Farm would be donated to good causes in Gibson City over a five-year period starting in 2021.

Several newsletters and Red Books were also included in the packet.

McCormick Tutoring Program Update for the 2021-2022 School Year:

Pastor Lantz, Sharla Williams and Mary Clow met with Superintendent Jeremy Darnell on July 7th to discuss the renewal of the McCormick Program for the 2021-2022 school year. We are happy to announce that the program will continue with four tutors for the Elementary school, one tutor for the Middle school and one tutor for the High school for two days per week for two hours. The program will run from October 4, 2021 to April 29, 2022. Sharla Williams will continue in her role as the liaison of the program.

Church Manse/Parsonage

At the June 24, 2021 Session meeting, a review of the Manse/Parsonage lease with the current renter that expires September 2, 2021 for the home owned by our Church was conducted. The review included the reading of the current lease and the financial history of the rent payments received from the renter as prepared by our Treasurer. It has not been easy for our Church to be a landlord.

Several options were considered as not only have there been issues with renting the manse, but there are some improvements that are needed for this property. Discussion included the selling of the parsonage due to the current economic situation in that the real estate market has exploded making it an ideal time to sell a home.

By a unanimous vote, the Session members felt it was in the best interest of the church to put the matter of the sale of the Manse/Parsonage to the Congregation for approval. Therefore, a Congregational meeting of the Corporation was held on

July 10, 2021. The motion to sell the Manse/Parsonage and all that it entails was approved by the Congregation by a unanimous vote giving Session permission to sell the Manse and complete everything it entails to do so including but not limited to obtaining a survey, obtaining an appraisal, accepting an offer and instructing Pastor Lantz to complete any paperwork as needed

Mary Clow has returned the Bibles, Hymnals and Black Attendance Logs to the pews in the Sanctuary for everyone to enjoy. Please start signing the attendance logs again.



These are items that will be shared during the Harvest Fest and the church's 150th birthday celebration.



Items Purchased to hand out at the Harvest Fest and Church Birthday

The items listed below were purchased to hand out at the Harvest Fest Booth and at the Church's 150th Birthday Celebration.

The following items that will have our church name and logo on them:

- 200 Yellow Frisbees
- 250 Sticky Notes
- 250 Blue Twist and Chill Fans with Lanyard
- 250 Yellow Grocery Totes
- 250 White and Black Screen Cleaners with Microfiber Cloths
- 250 Royal Blue Drawstring Sportpac Backpacks

The following items do not have our church name and logo on them:

- 400 Bible Verse Rubber Bracelets
- 384 John 316 Spiral Notepads
- 384 Colorful Bible Verse Sticky Notes
- 288 Colorful Bookmark
- 200 I Have Been Vaccinated Bracelets

They will be on display at Church once they are all received.



David and Ellie Stolz at a family reunion at the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City Illinois on Sunday, July 4, 2021. We were so happy to see them and have them join us for worship.

David Stolz

My parents, George Stolz and Marion Huston Stolz, did not get a tax deduction in 1932 as I did not arrive until January 2, 1933. I lived in a small house in Garber for six years. Then we moved to my grandparents across the road in 1939. We got electricity that same year. I went to the old grade school in Gibson City for five years. My sister and I would walk to one of our grandmothers on North Church after school and play games or eat cookies until my parents came to take us back home. The best part of school was the fire drill from the 90 degree tube on the second floor north east class room.

In 1943 we moved to a larger farm at Armington IL. I graduated from Hittle

Township High School as salutatorian but was not in the top 10%. I graduated number thirteen in my class.

My sophomore year of college I met my wife-to-be at the University of Illinois where I was a waiter at the house for Presbyterian women. We graduated in May 1951 and she started teaching in Gibson City that August. I also taught in Gibson City as a student teacher under Mr. Crowley.

In March 1956 I went into the Army at Fort Carson, Colorado. I came back to get married in July. Ellie taught school until 1957. Then she joined me in Hielbroun Germany. I was discharged from the army in December 1957.

We returned to Gibson City to farm two miles west and one mile south of Route

9 with my father. I farmed for fifty years. I did not wear my wedding ring while farming because I nearly lost my finger when my class ring caught on the side of the wagon.

After retiring I started wearing it again. After trimming bushes at the manse and taking them home to burn, I saw my ring was missing. I looked all around the manse and the burn pile twice, but never found the ring.

Fond memories: Summer picnic and horseshoes at Dr. Sunderland's lake, work week at Kemmerer Village ten times, and, of course, all of you people.

It seems impossible that we have been gone from Gibson City for five (5) years. But, we have our kids close: half mile to fifty miles.

Eleanor Anne Rollo Stolz

Moline Illinois claimed the first eighteen years of my life. My name at that time was Eleanor Anne Rollo (initials spelled EAR—I gained an ear when I married Dave—EARS—that is not why I married him.) I began school in January, so consequently I graduated in January, the last midterm graduation at Moline High School. The local two-year community college was housed in the same building as the high school, so I was able to take 12 college credits during my last semester of high school and then 18 credits in the spring which enabled me as a sophomore to the University of Illinois in the fall.

My early years were spent in the outdoors as much as possible. Tennis, swimming, back yard marble and croquet games, as well as helping my dad in his huge garden were great times.

Our family attended and were members of Plymouth Congregational Church. I became a member at the age of twelve. I had a wonderful Sunday school teacher who had us memorize a Bible verse beginning with the same letter as our name. Mine was from James—”Every good and perfect gift cometh from heaven.” We all went to Bible school for two weeks. All Bible schools were held in the public schools.

My three years at the U. of I. were so special. Outside of studies my life was centered at McKinley Presbyterian Church which had a great youth program offering Sun-

day night suppers, Bible study, talent shows, square dancing and study groups. That's where I met Dave. We and ten other couples formed a round robin letter that lasted 70 years and all were McKinley friends.

After graduation, I accepted a teaching job in Gibson City. Actually I got the job two weeks before. Warren McCarten, Gibson City School Superintendent, was doing graduate work at the U. of I. and he came to where I lived. We talked in his car and I accepted the job there. I taught two years then, one as Miss Rollo and one as Mrs. Stolz, as Dave and I got married the summer between.

After graduating, Dave had the military, seven months in Colorado, where I spent one summer, and thirteen months in Germany where I joined him for six months. We made some good German and military friends.

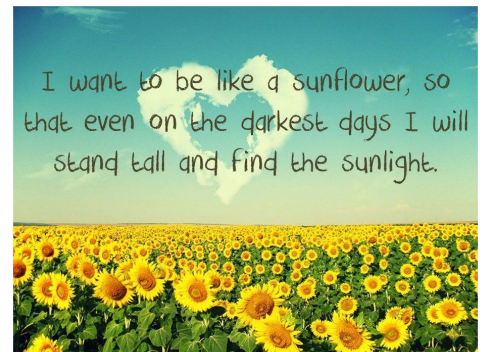
After the military, farming opened up for us with the Huston Estate (Dave's mother's family).

In a short time, Peggy arrived, then Sue and our caboose, Jon. A tornado hit us in the fall of 1965 which destroyed farm buildings and damaged the house, so the estate moved us to another house on their farms where we lived for 47 years. Because the tornado damaged the crops we needed some other income. In March of 1966 Evelyn Hoover gave up 2nd grade to become a librarian and they asked me to take her place. “Yes” was the obvious answer and I stayed with that position plus prob-

lem solving for another 34 years.

Life on the farm was good to us. We walked beans, had a big garden, spent 15 years in 4-H, had swimming parties, hosted ten (10) exchange students, took long walks on farm ground, family reunions, spoiled many dogs and cats, hosted grandkids every summer, drove machinery, rode machinery and saw beautiful sunsets, cloud formations and snow formations.

After our train accident, we moved into Gibson City for three years. The time came to move nearer to children, we we became Hoosiers. We live right by the church we attend. My memories of church in Gibson City are numerous and meaningful. I became a member in 1955. The stained glass windows are special as are all the wonderful people who were mentors for me and kept me “in the fold.” The Lord has loved me and all of you. How grateful we can be. Amen.



Correction from last months Presbytids: Neil Nelson was born in 1959 NOT 1953. **Secretary error and I am truly sorry.**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 150TH BIRTHDAY
CELEBRATION PLANS TO DATE**

**150 YEARS
1871-2021**

An Open House will be held on Sunday, October 24, 2021 in the Fellowship Hall from noon to 4:00 p.m.

The event will be catered by Drummer Creek Catering serving pulled pork and chicken sandwiches with fruit and vegetable trays available as well as fun Fall foods like Carmel Apples, Apple Cider, Popcorn, and Fall Cupcakes. Staff from Drummer Creek Catering will be on site to set up the food buffet style and to assist with refilling food and taking care of dishes after the event.

A Scarecrow Contest will be held at the Community Garden with 5 prizes of \$200 each and 5 prizes of \$100 each. See Scarecrow Contest Rules. The prizes will be awarded at our 150th Birthday Celebration.

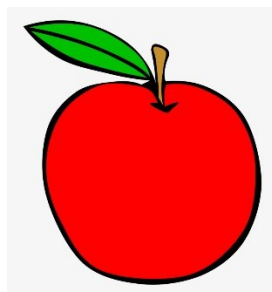
Giveaway items have been ordered with our church name and logo to be handed out during this event. They include Backpacks, Frisbees, Cloth Grocery Bags, Memo Pads, Bookmarks, Post It Notes and Bracelets. Door Prizes will also be awarded to those who attend the event.

A special 150th Birthday Celebration Booklet is being prepared sharing current history and past history and a special sign has been ordered.

Special Invitations will be sent to all those who received Mission Dollars. Also, information will be sent to the other churches in town to share with their congregations and ads will be placed in both newspapers and on the radio.

WE HOPE ALL MEMBERS WILL ATTEND TO GREET THE PUBLIC AND ASSIST WITH THE EVENT!!

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Mary Clow.



OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

FALL SCARECROW CONTEST RULES & REGULATIONS

**Sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church in
Partnership with the Railside Golf Course/Gibson Area Golf LLC**

Location: Community Garden at the Railside Golf Course

Eligibility: The Scarecrow Contest is open to all ages, businesses, organizations and groups. One entry per individual, family, business, organization or group. Space is limited so first come first served.

Categories: Traditional, Whimsical, Fairytale, Humorous, or Fantasy

Entry Fee: FREE – There is no cost to enter the contest. To participate, entrants must submit a registration form that is approved, sign a Memorandum of Understanding and have their scarecrow on display by the required time on the plot assigned to them.

Five Prizes: A \$200 award for each of the following categories - Most Creative, Funniest and Most Loveable awarded by judges from the First Presbyterian Church. A \$200 award for first place and second place of the People's Choice Award voted by members of the Community. There will be five \$100 runner-up awards. Awards will be paid by check.

Construction: Scarecrows must be handmade and use natural materials. NO commercial costumes, rubber or plastic masks will be allowed. Scarecrows must be self-supporting and durable and able to stand up to sun, wind, and rain. Use care in choosing your materials. All decorations must be firmly attached to your scarecrow and then to the post. We recommend a 2 x 4 piece of lumber for the central body. A broomstick or 2 x 4 is recommended for the arms. No perishable goods or glass please.

Size: The minimum is 4 feet tall and the maximum is 7 feet tall. We recommend securing your post in a 5 gallon bucket with several inches of cement in the bottom. Scarecrows must be secured in a manner that will not blow away and will not otherwise be a danger to or possibly cause injury to anyone. Owners are held solely responsible for the safety and security of their scarecrows.

The scarecrow contest exhibit is FAMILY FRIENDLY. Scarecrows should be whimsical, humorous, mischievous or lovable – Not frightening. Gruesome, bloody or especially scary entries will be disqualified and/or removed. The First Presbyterian Church representatives reserve the right to disqualify and/or remove entries they feel to be distasteful or not family friendly or do not comply with the rules.

Please name your scarecrow that explains their character and personality and include the name on a sign no larger than 11" x 17" along with your name and plot number.

Timeline:

Registration forms will be accepted from October 1 to October 8, 2021.

Scarecrows must be constructed from October 9 to October 16, 2021.

Judging will take place from October 17 to October 23, 2021.

Winners will be announced at the First Presbyterian Church's 150 Birthday Celebration to be held at the Church on Sunday, October 24, 2021.

You need not be present to win.

Removal: All Scarecrows must be removed by the end of the day November 1, 2021.

Interpretation of these rules and decisions by the First Presbyterian Church representatives are final and cannot be challenged.

By entering the scarecrow competition, you confirm that you accept these rules and regulations.

Any questions should be directed to the First Presbyterian Church.



THANK YOUS AND SUCH...



Thank you so much! It means so much to me that I was awarded the medical scholarship! It has given me the biggest push to go forward with nursing. It has also shown that God answered my prayer to show me that the medical field is where I belong. I ask that you pray for me while I am at college!

♥ Abigail Sizemore



To our church family: This year has been a very trying year. We try to give a sizable donation to the Shriner's Hospital each year but this year has been tough. Thanks to your generous support we are heading in the right direction. It's all about the kids!! Thank you from the Corn Belt Shrine Club!!



Greetings! Just wanted to send a note to say thank you for your recent gift in support of my ministry with InterVarsity at the University of Illinois! This has been a strange year on campus due to COVID, but the Lord has still been at work. We found ways to meet new students even when we couldn't go on campus. Zoom Bible Studies ended up working really well, and we even saw students come to faith. Despite many challenges, the Lord has provided, including through generous partners in ministry like you all. Thank you again for investing in the lives of students from around the world at U. of I. Sincerely, Todd Epps

Iroquois West Raiders

We thank you for the generous donations to improve our library for our students. With gratitude, Angelo Lekkas, Superintendent

To thank each one of you: Knowing people as nice as you gives life a brighter touch, and so to each and all of you thanks very, very much! Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers and cards. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated!
Love, Sharla

Mary, Pastor Ray and Elders, Thank you for your generous donation for the white board. It is up and in use. We had money left over to buy cleaning wipes, erasers and pens. I also plan on giving an employee, Gabi Howard, \$10 per hour for doing electronic classes. She has been doing iPhone to laptops. Thanks again. Sharon Heavelin, Moyer District Library

HYMN FESTIVAL TO BE HELD SUNDAY, AUGUST 8TH!

A special celebration of music will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, August 8, when Gibson Area Music Foundation again sponsors its Hymn Festival. Milt Kelly of Fisher will offer a selection of "Songs of Joy and Celebration" for group singing and will offer background information on each hymn. The event is free and open to all, with the church sanctuary offering comfortable seating, air-conditioning, and full accessibility via an elevator and indoor ramps. Accompaniment will be provided by musicians playing both a grand piano and a historic pipe organ. A special musical number by a community choir is also planned. Church policy does not require masks for individuals who are fully vaccinated. This event will be held at The United Methodist Church of Gibson City.



TRAVELS AND SUCH...

Ron and Mary Clow spent a week camping in the mountains of Kentucky and Virginia stopping at Fort Boonsborough, going through the Cumberland Gap and hiking the Pinnacle. Their last night they met a nice couple from Houston who had a drone and showed them how it worked and took a picture of them while hovering above like a bird.



CONDOLENCES

We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Vernon Dale Ashmore who died on Tuesday, July 27, 2021 at 10:40 a.m. Our hearts and love go out to Carla (his wife) and his children and entire family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him! His funeral was on Friday, July 30, 2021.



We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. John Gesell who passed away on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. His graveside service will be held at Drummer Township Cemetery on Saturday, August 7, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. We have missed him since he moved to Kentucky to be closer to his daughter.

