

PASTOR'S CORNER

I have been sitting in front of my computer for days trying to write something uplifting about our church life together. It should be so easy. Easter season has just concluded with Pentecost. The Holy Spirit is being felt in what we do. The community garden is open and being planted. The response has been wonderful and 22 plots are being used.

That being said, and with tears of joy in my eyes, all I can think about is a family in Urbana. Ramie and Jennifer are proud parents of twin sons: Wesley James Lantz and Theodore Joseph Lantz. Because they came a little early, both boys are in the neonatal unit at Carle. They both look so tiny in the pictures Trudy and I get sent to us. Mom and Dad will go home May 27th, but the boys will stay until the time is right for them to join their parents and the dogs at home.

Mom and Dad will visit them everyday and hold them, talk to them, and love them for those of us who can't yet in-person.

Trudy and I have been blessed with two great kids, and their spouses. We have now been blessed with these grand-babies, who we will get to know soon. We can't wait to see what the future holds for them.

Trudy and I want to thank everyone for the well-wishes, and the prayers. We want to thank the doc-

tors, the nurses, and all the caregivers who have been so wonderful to Jennifer and Ramie on their journey to parenthood.

We thank God from whom all blessings flow.

We pray that God watches over these boys now and forever, and that they come to know his presence in their lives.

Amen and Amen.

Pastor Ray



Continued from front:

It is recommended for consideration and study by sessions, presbyteries, and synods, and commended to the free Christian conscience of all congregations and members for prayerful study, dialogue, and action.(7)

(1) Minutes of the 116th General Assembly (1976), PC(USA), p.103.
(2) Minutes of the 128th General Assembly (1988), PC(USA), p. 209.

(3) Minutes of the 202nd General Assembly (1990), PC (U.S.A.), pp. 605-606.

(4) Commissioners' Resolution 98-19, 210th General Assembly (1998), PC(U.S.A.).

(5) Minutes of the 212th General Assembly (2000), PC(U.S.A.), pp. 482-483.

(6) Minutes of the 218th General Assembly (2008), PC(U.S.A.), pp. 54-55 and 859-860.

(7) Minutes of the 220th General Assembly (2010), PC(U.S.A.), pp. 830-846.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/1-gun-violence-policy-2010.pdf>

PRESBYTIDINGS

June 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

We as Presbyterians believe in "social righteousness". It is in our DNA. We also believe that "the formation of conscience occurs in community, but its exercise is very often finally an individual matter. Because the individual is the bearer of conscience, it does not matter whether others of the same faith make the same conscientious claim, a point now recognized in constitutional interpretation (Thomas v. Review Board, 1981). Nor should it be determinative whether the corporate body has defined the matter as a central point of doctrine or requirement of piety. The legal protection of idiosyncratic individual beliefs should be equal to the protection of the most traditional orthodoxies." **This means that we do not all have to believe the same on all things.**

But it is always instructive to know what our governing bodies have proclaimed. The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a long history of support for gun control legislation. Beginning in the late 1960s, in response to the assassinations of public leaders, the General Assembly called for "... control [of] the sale and possession of fire arms of all kinds."⁽¹⁾ In 1976 this statement was reaffirmed, but also specifically worded to "... not cover shotguns and rifles used legitimately by sportsmen ..."⁽²⁾ In 1988 these and other statements supporting gun control were again reaffirmed. A fuller statement was approved in 1990. In it the General Assembly went on record as: Support[ing] gun control

at federal, state, and local levels as the most effective response to the present crisis of gun violence ... Call[ing] upon the United States government to establish meaningful and effective federal legislation to regulate the importation, manufacture, sale, and possession of guns and ammunition by the general public. Such legislation should include provisions for the registration and licensing of gun purchasers and owners, appropriate background investigations and waiting periods prior to gun purchase, and regulation of subsequent sale. Urg[ing] the enactment of similar state and local laws, should such federal legislation be delayed. Call[ing] upon government agencies at all levels to provide significant assistance to victims of gun violence and their families.⁽³⁾ In 1998, the General Assembly added to its policy by calling on all Presbyterians to: intentionally work toward removing handguns and assault weapons from our homes and our communities; and seek ways to develop community strategies and create sanctuaries of safety for our children, so that all of our children may come to identify and value themselves and others as the precious children of the family of God that they are, and that they may come to learn peace for their lives and peace for this generation.⁽⁴⁾ In 2000, the General Assembly reaffirmed the church's commitment to gun control and called for strengthening gun ownership legislation.⁽⁵⁾ In 2008, the General Assembly approved pas-

toral recommendations urging that: all persons buying guns at gun shows undergo a background check to close the gun show loophole in 35 states; ban the sale and possession of large ammunition magazines and assault weapons that have no redeemable social purpose, and cannot legitimately be termed "sporting guns"; support the introduction of new technologies, such as micro-stamping in which identifying information from a gun is transferred onto bullet cartridges, which allow law enforcement to more easily trace guns and solve crimes; and stop illegal arms sales by the United States and others.⁽⁶⁾ **The 219th General Assembly (2010) adopted the resolution, "Gun Violence, Gospel Values: Mobilizing in Response to God's Call", in exercise of its responsibility to help the whole church address matters of "social righteousness." As a social witness policy statement, it is presented for the guidance and edification of both church and society, and determines procedures and program for the ministries and staff of the General Assembly.**

Continued on back page . . .



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
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. Mon-
day through Friday.

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5 Recycle 9 Bible Study At HB Emma Swanson's Graduation party in the fellowship hall 1-5 pm
6 10:30 a.m. Worship 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1	7	8	9	10	11	12 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook
13 10:30 a.m. Worship 2 Corinthians 5:6-10(11-13)	14	15	16	17	18	19 Recycle 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holy Brook
20 10:30 a.m. Worship Communion 2 Corinthians 6:1-13	21	22	23	24	25	26 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook 5:30 Session
27 10:30 a.m. Worship 2 Corinthians 8:7-15	28	29	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.

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.

GIBSON CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN PLOTS



Kim Parrish from Fasprint donated her time on the designs of each sign.

At this time, 21 plots of 24 have been rented. People are really enjoying the concept.



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		K. P. Duty	Communion Set-Up
		June: Trudy Lantz July: Deacons	June 20: Mary Jane Roth August 1: Sharla Williams
		Second Sunday Offering	Flower Vases to CM
		June 13: Hanley School Supplies July 11: Building Improvements	June: Mary Jane Roth July: Carla Ashmore
		Ushers	
		June: Gene & Mary J Roth July: Jean Williams and Val Hunt	
		Communion Servers	
		June 20: Danny Heustis and Charlie Schultz August 1: Trudy Lantz and Mary Clow	



Green is the prime color of the world, and that from which its loveliness rises.
Pedro Calderon de la Barca

If you're a Christian you are a member of the only group in the world where the only qualification to join is that you're unqualified. Author unknown



KNOW YOUR MEMBERS:

CHARLIE & CHERYL SCHULTZ

Cheryl and I met on August 17 of 1996 after being set up on a blind date by mutual friends where she worked. Cheryl is the oldest of 4, having two sisters and a brother. I am the youngest of 7, with three brothers and three sisters. On our first date, we went and ate dinner and then decided to go shopping for Jordyn's birthday gift afterward as he was turning two 5 days later on the 22nd of August. We later went to Cheryl's Mom Joyce and Stepdad John's house in Rantoul and I met a good many of her family. Despite that (ha ha, just kidding Cheryl) we continued dating from then on and although we went through a few rough stretches here and there we eventually married on February 15 of 2003. When we met, I was raising my two children from my first marriage, Michelle and Jordyn, and she was raising her son Eric (Uden) from her first marriage. We found out Cheryl

was pregnant not too long after we got engaged (even though many doubt that it happened that way it is true) and then had Nicole in June of 2003 and became one big blended family. That being said though, neither Cheryl or I have ever referred to the other's kids as stepchildren, they were and always will be just simply our kids, we wouldn't have it any other way.

Eric is the oldest, he is a very good plumber, and he and his wife Laini, live in Buckley Illinois. We were both overjoyed when they had our first grandbaby, a Grandson Sebastian (Bash) Uden on February 28th of 2019. He has the cutest long hair (although Papa may be a little prejudiced) and is one of the apples of our eye. Michelle and her significant other Vinnie live in Belleville Illinois and although she taught here in Gibson several years, she is now a PE teacher at O'Fallon High School. Jordyn is a John Deere technician and married to Jamie, they live in Benton Kentucky. We were so excited when they had our second grandbaby, another grand-

son, Sutton Jack Schultz on August 20th of 2020, of course the other apple of our eye. Nicole, our youngest, just graduated from high school here in Gibson City and will be attending Murray State College in Murray Kentucky in the fall, with the goal to become a grade school teacher. She will be leaving sometime in August and make us "empty nesters". I am sure it will take some getting used to and is a little scary I have to admit, but both Cheryl and I are looking forward to some together time on our own for the first time in our 25-year relationship. Nicole will be less than 30 minutes from Jordyn and Jamie and Sutton so I am sure she will be spending quite a bit of time at their place baby sitting and or dog watching their two dogs on weekends as her schedule allows. Mom and Dad both like the idea of her being close to her brother for sure. I love to pretend I can golf and go every weekend that I can as it relaxes me and I always have a great time with my best friend Dan. Cheryl loves playing Bingo with our nieces and or sisters from both our families. I would have to say that the favorite thing we both enjoy the most is getting together with family (especially including grandchildren) and playing cards or just eating, talking, and visiting together. Our ultimate goal is to retire to Kentucky as we really do like the area around Kentucky Lake where Jordyn and Jamie live. Although neither of us want to be farther away from Bash (he is a papa's boy), no or very little snow sounds pretty good to us too.



The Gibson City Sesquicentennial signs our church paid for as recommended by the Mission Committee and approved by Session. Thank you for everything the First Presbyterian Church does for the community. We appreciate the gift of money for the sesquicentennial. Sharon Heavlin



Junior academic award winners pose, from left: front row, Jake Zumwalt (P.E./health), Emily Hood (math), Kenley Andreae (foreign language), London Hixson (family and consumer sciences) and Parker Chase (business); and, back row, Annelies Kerchenfaut (English), Molly Kroon (science), Peyton Leonard (agriculture and junior student of the year), Jaden Recker (industrial ed), Braylen Kean (social science) and Tyler Lange (music). Not pictured is Hannah Wilson (visual arts).

A thank you from Tea and Grounds: "The people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world are usually the ones who do." Steve Jobs

Dear Pastor Lantz, Church Elders, and Congregation: Thank you so very much for your generous gift, and for choosing to share your resources with the community. We are blessed to be a business in Gibson City and

enjoy seeing the garden progress next to the coffee trailer too! Thank you and God Bless!
Bernadette Ray

Would you like to send the new parents a card? Well, here's the address!

BABIES:
Ramie and Jennifer Lantz
2404 Burlison
Urbana, IL 61802

To the Presbyterian Church, Pastor Ray Lantz, Mary Clow: The members of the Gibson Girls HCE unit would like to send a very large thank you to you for your gift of \$1,000 to use. We will try to use it wisely. Thank you again. Rejoice, Christine Hazen Secretary



Hello! Thank you again for your generosity! The money will be spent on activities and outdoor toys for the children. Here is most of our gang. Sara Eyre Daycare

Dear First Presbyterian Church Members, Elders, and Pastor Ray Lantz: We would like to thank you for your generous gift of \$ 500 to Drummer Creek Catering to put toward personal protective equipment. Like all other businesses, we have seen an increase in costs associated with PPE. Your gift allowed us to make some purchases in bulk for a little bit lower pricing that will last us several months. Your outreach to help local businesses should be commended. Please see below the PPE purchases we made. Again, we thank you all for your mission work to help local Gibson City businesses during these extraordinary times. Warmly, Adam and Kristy Elder, Drummer Creek Catering

2 cases of 1000 Lavex Industrial Nitrile 5 Mil Thick Powder Free textured gloves @ \$159.99 per case for a total of \$ 319.98
3 cases of 1000 4 by 7 Alcohol Antiseptic Moist Towelette @ \$ 41.88 at a total of \$ 126.64
3 cases of 100 7 x 9 Wipes Plus @ \$7.49 for a total of \$ 22.47
2 cases of 24 Goo Gone clean up wipes @ \$ 4.39 for a total of \$ 8.78

Add on tax at \$ 21.95 making our grand total \$ 498.82.

I would like to thank the members of your church for the generous gift of money for my Day Care. It was used to purchase a new, very much needed printer. It was an honor to be recognized after 48 years. Brenda Main

Dear Church Members, We deeply appreciate the multiple donations you have made to our K-9 fund. Your contributions have greatly aided us in obtaining and training our new K-9. We aim to have a drug-free community and the K-9 will be a valuable asset going forward. Thank you so much! Sincerely yours, Chief Adam S. Rosendahl, Chief of Police



Sharla Williams presents a \$1,000 check to Iroquois West Upper Elementary School Principal Mrs. Christina Duncan and Superintendent Mr. Angelo Lekkas for the purchase of more books for the library. The Mission Committee made the donation in honor of Sharla who has taught over 30 years.



Ron Clow does a 2nd round of roto tilling. Thanks to Darrin Ray for letting us use your tractor.



Ron and Mary Clow completed the water system for the community Garden.

Big THANK YOU to Ron Clow Sr. for donating a rototiller to the Community Garden.



Charlie Schultz, Ron and Mary Clow, Pastor Ray, Jean Williams, Trudy Lantz and Ted Swanson help prepare the Community Garden plots. Pastor Ray and Ron Clow rototill the Community Garden. Brady Peters delivers a rototiller that he donated to the Community Garden that belonged to his dad Tom. (Thank you, Brady!) Using the muffin pan is an easy way to plant and properly space your seedlings.

Red tractor picture: Rick Kerchenfaut breaks ground in the Community Garden with a tractor he rented and drove all the way from Paxton. Rough ride? Thank you, Rick!

OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Second Sunday Offering for June Is HANLEY’S SCHOOL SUPPLIES. The following letter was received concerning this very important issue:

Hello, Everyone,
It is time to look ahead to the start of the 2021-2022 school year and begin the planning for the Hanley School Fund distribution.

Robert and Grace Hanley saw the need in our community for a program to help provide for students who would not be able to start the school year with the supplies required to do their work properly. In creating this fund, they wished to help both our teachers, who would often buy supplies out of their own pockets, and the families without the financial means to purchase needed supplies. This program’s goal is to allow both to start the year knowing that those needs have been met.

We are honored to help our community in this way, and hope that you will be willing to help us support both the students and teachers in our school district. We want to use our resources wisely, and one way to do this is to request only monetary donations. This allows us to pool the funds together and buy the needed items in bulk which stretches our dollars even further.

We have appreciated our community’s generous support over the years, and we look forward to helping as many students and teachers as possible. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make checks payable to the First Presbyterian Church and indicate Hanley School Fund in the memo line and your donation will be doubled by the church. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at the number below. Phil will mail our donations to Hanley School Fund, c/o Susie Oyer, 1506 Railside Drive, Gibson City IL 60936. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Sincerely, Bonnie Clark, 217-979-1423

TIME CAPSULE FUN FACTS

The Gibson City time capsule was opened on Sunday, May 2nd. There were two packets in the capsule for our church. One was from the Presbyterian Men’s Brotherhood and one from the Presbyterian Women’s Association. There were letters included in both packets and they are included in this newsletter.

The following items were also included: Redbooks from 1969, 1970 and 1971, the January 10, 1971 Annual Congregational meeting book, the Spring Presbyterian Newsletter, the 1971 Gibson City phone book, the Compassion Newsletter, the United Presbyterian Women’s Newsletter and the These Days Publication. Also included was the Church Commemorative Plate. All of these items are on display at the church in the Red Room.

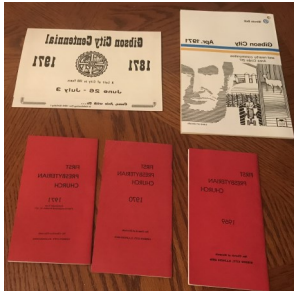
Some interesting facts from the Annual Congregation includes: The General Account balance on hand December 31, 1970 was \$97.66. There was \$33,146.84 in receipts and \$33,077.06 in expenditures. There was \$15,000 in a savings account in Bloomington.

The Building Fund had \$77,422.57 in Income and \$65,284.65 in Expenses. The balance on hand was \$12,137.92.

In 1970 the following was reported by the Minister

Church Membership.....	380
Weddings Conducted.....	7
Funerals Conducted.....	11
Infant Baptism.....	10
Adult Baptism.....	3
Sunday School attendance of adults & children.....	82

There was a Morning, Afternoon & Evening Women’s Circle



Top picture and 2nd row on left: Anneliese Kerchenfaut and friends pose for pictures on Prom Night. It was such a fun and memorable evening for all the students. Anneliese is in red and looks beautiful as do all the students.

Second row on right and bottom picture: Nicole Schultz looks beautiful as always ready to enjoy Prom 2021. Nicole Schultz and fellow classmates enjoy the reverse GCMS Senior Parade in downtown Gibson City on May 14th.



Emma Swanson and fellow classmates enjoy the reverse GCMS Senior Parade in downtown Gibson City on May 14th.



EMMA SWANSON PROM

May 27, 2021 Mission Committee

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS 5-27-21

Starting Balance approved 4-29-21.....	\$59,500.00
Credit for GC Police Scholarship.....	-\$ 1,000.00
Subtotal after credits.....	<u>\$58,550.00</u>
Gibson City Police Dog Training.....	\$ 1,000.00
Head Start Food Delivery Drivers: 7 @ \$50 Gibson Bucks.....	\$ 350.00
Intervarsity Ministry/Todd Epps.....	\$ 600.00
Kemmerer Village.....	\$ 1,000.00
Community Garden Signs/Poles.....	\$ 750.00
Community Garden Mulch.....	\$ 350.00
Community Garden water hookup by JC Plumbing.....	\$ 400.00
Yard cleanup.....	\$ 500.00
Harvest Fest Giveaways.....	\$ 2,500.00
Harvest Moon Drive In.....	\$ 500.00
Gibson City Swimming Pool.....	\$ 5,000.00
Subtotal...May.....	<u>\$ 12,450.00</u>
Total to Date 2021.....	\$ 71,500.00



There is Nothing More Beautiful
By Mike Hastings

Is anything more beautiful
Than the days God gives in June
When all of His creation
Seems to sing His praise in tune

The beauty of the flowers
The summer winds that blow
The sun, the clouds, the deep blue sky
We see where'er we go

The whisper of a gentle stream
As it meanders through the grass
The diamonds that just seem to dance
On a lake as smooth as glass

The gentle sound of falling rain
Fish jumping in a pond
The light of fireflies all aglow
The sunsets just beyond



The lightning that awakes the night
The sound of rolling thunder
The beauty of a bird in flight
Should fill us all with wonder

God gives to us so many things
For oh so many reasons
Each day is His work of art
As we watch the changing seasons

So as we gather here today
In a moment gone too soon
Let us take a look around
At the beauty that is June

And as we take that beauty in
Dear sister and dear brother
Let us thank our God above
For the beauty of each other

Let us enjoy togetherness
And God's handiwork applaud
Then remember this above all else
There is nothing, more beautiful than God



Congratulations to Pastor Ray and Trudy Lantz on becoming first-time grandparents. Parents are Raymond Theodore & Jennifer Corbin Lantz. Mother and babies are doing great, father seems a little stressed. Twin boys, known as Wesley James weighing 3.78 born at 10:01 p.m. and Theodore Joseph weighing 3.20 born at 10:03 p.m. Monday, May 24, 2021. Please keep mom, dad, and babies in your prayers. Ray and Trudy are requesting prayers also. Ray is quoted as saying, “Someone let me know when my stomach will stop flip-flopping.” We wish them all the best on this new journey they are about to take together. Great grandfather, Ted Swanson!!!!



Kennedy Fanson, Abigail Sizemore, and Presleigh Warner were presented scholarships for Nursing from the First President Church on Awards day at GCMS.

Nicole Schultz was recognized at Saturday’s graduation with Latin honors as one of the 18 highest achieving graduates of the 2021 GCMS Senior Class graduating magna cum laude. Nicole was also presented with a General Scholarship from First Presbyterian Church.



Emma Swanson and Nathan Kallal were presented McCormick Tutoring General scholarships from the First Presbyterian Church on Awards Day at GCMS. Hailey Ferguson, absent, was presented a Trade Scholarship from our church.