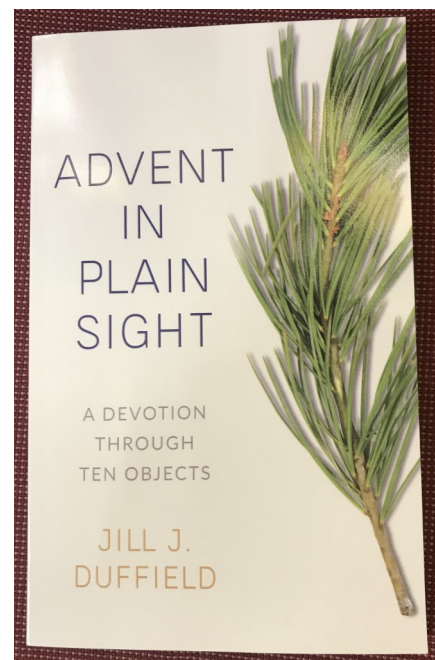


PASTOR'S CORNER

Pastor Appreciation Card, Gift and Presentation Board Thank You: It is with great joy that I want to thank all of you for the card, gift and presentation board given to me at Sunday's service. It just made the joy of the day in which we celebrate our church's 150th birthday even brighter. Ministry is an amazing call, full of great joys and significant moments and I am honored to see how lives are changed for Christ. I appreciate your support and encouragement. Pastor Lantz



October 28, 2021

GAHRF's Latest Numbers

Total Donations: 8/13—10/22
(All non-governmental funds) \$ 275,000
Monies allocated for the following: \$ 180,000
Phase 1 'Essential' Projects:

31 Forced Air Furnaces
4 Boilers
22 Regular Water Heaters
1 on Demand Water Heater

Monies reserved for additional applications: - \$ 20,000

Balance left of donated money \$ 75,000

Phase 2 'Rehab' projects:
Foundation Work—7 houses
Drywall/Flooring—37 houses
Mold Remediation—20 houses (64 homes total) - \$ 225,000

City of Gibson 10/25 Grant + \$ 250,000

Monies reserved for additional work
And/or over-budgeted repairs \$ 100,000

GAHRF

GIBSON AREA HOUSE REHAB FOUNDATION

Pastor Lantz has ordered “Avent in Plain Sight” daily devotions for our members for Advent and Christmas. The writer draws the reader's attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in biblical narratives-objects we encounter in our own lives. Each daily devotional features a Scripture reading, prayer and reflection. They will be distributed at the November 14th Sunday worship service. Advent begins Sunday, November 28th. At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child, and still today, God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see.

PRESBYTIDINGS

November 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

Was the First Thanksgiving a religious celebration?

By Daniel Burke – November 21, 2011 – Presbytery USA

If you want to prepare for Thanksgiving like a real Pilgrim this year, here's what you should do: Cancel the plane reservations. Stop jotting down recipes. Leave the libations alone.

For the Pilgrims and Puritans, “thanksgiving” days were spontaneous and sober affairs. When friends arrived from overseas or a bumper crop was reaped, the Pilgrims dedicated a day to thanking divine Providence.

They would have considered it presumptuous to schedule a thanksgiving day in advance, said Francis Bremer, an emeritus professor of history at Millersville University in Pennsylvania. “It assumes that God is going to be good to you each particular year.”

The Pilgrims' days of thanksgiving were usually spent in church, singing psalms, listening to sermons and praying. Work and playful pastimes were forbidden. When God provided, the Pilgrims were serious about gratitude.

Despite their reputation as buckle-belted killjoys, the Puritans and Pilgrims knew how to

have a good time. They brewed beer and feasted on fowl — all in moderation, of course.

That's why some historians believe the 1621 celebration that's sometimes dubbed the “First Thanksgiving” was not actually a “thanksgiving” day at all. In fact, some historians even call it a “secular event.” “The 1621 gathering in Plymouth was not a religious gathering but most likely a harvest celebration much like those the English had known in farming communities back home,” writes Catherine O'Neill Grace and Margaret M. Bruchac in their book, *1621: A New Look at Thanksgiving*.

The Pilgrims partied for almost a week in the fall of 1621, according to eyewitness accounts. They shot fowl, played games, feasted and entertained nearly 90 Native American neighbors with a gun and musket show.

The Pilgrims would never have thrown such a party on a proper day of thanksgiving, according to James W. Baker, a former senior historian at the Plymouth Plantation in Massachusetts.

“The very nature of a celebration, extending over several days or a week with secular ‘recreations’ and non-Christian guests,” Baker writes in the *Encyclopedia of American Holidays and National Days*, “is

what pious Calvinists such as the Pilgrims would be first to protest had no place in any Christian holy day.”

But that doesn't mean the “First Thanksgiving” was a secular celebration, argue some historians. Jeremy Bangs, director of the Leiden American Pilgrim Museum in the Netherlands, said the idea of a “thankless or secular harvest festival was unthinkable.” “The Pilgrim leaders undeniably conceived of their lives in religious ways,” Bangs said. Everything the Pilgrims and Puritans did was suffused with faith, Bremer agreed.

“Can we know for sure that they conceptualized it as a ‘thanksgiving’? Not in the way that we have it. But these are people who would have given thanks before every meal they had.”

The problem with defining the original 1621 celebration — besides the dearth of historical evidence — is the absence of a full-time minister among the Pilgrims, said Bremer. Religious rituals were not as formal as they would become when a pastor, Ralph Smith, arrived nearly a decade later. In other words, the Pilgrims were winging it in 1621: Glad to be alive after a dangerous voyage, happy for a good harvest and excited about their future in a fresh, new land.



November 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 7-8:30 Messiah practice	2	3	4	5	6 Recycle 9 Bible Study At HB
7 10:30 a.m. Worship Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12	8 7-8:30 Messiah practice	9	10	11 Veterans Day Church office will be CLOSED	12	13 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook
14 10:30 a.m. Worship Congregational Meeting Hebrews 4:12-16	15 7-8:30 Messiah practice	16	17	18 5:30 Session	19	20 Recycle 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holy Brook
21 10:30 a.m. Worship Communion Installation of Officers Hebrews 5:1-10; 2:5-12	22 7-8:30 Messiah Practice	23	24	25 Thanksgiving Church office closed	26 Thanksgiving Friday— Church office closed	27 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook FPC Food Pantry Work Morning 8-10
28 NO worship service today.	29 7-8:30 Messiah practice	30	Pastor Ray will be on vacation from November 22 through November 29.			

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.

Cheers to the team that makes it happen every day here at the First Presbyterian Church. One family with Christ.



Important Dates Coming Up: Please mark your calendars.
Sunday, November 14: Congregational Meeting to vote on new Session and Deacon nominations
Sunday, November 21: Installation of Officers
November 22-November 29: Pastor Lantz will be on vacation
February 6, 2022: Annual Congregational Meeting

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

November

01: Doris Gerber
06: Carla Ashmore
07: Beverly Swanstrom
18: Ellie Stolz
18: David Schmidt
20: Vonna Heustis
22: Brian Swanson
23: Noah Swanson

December

03: Jerry Wissmiller
07: Charlie Schultz
24: Ken Kyle
27: Elinor Nelson

K. P. Duty

Nov: Sharla Williams
Dec: Jeanette Hensley

Communion Set-Up

Nov: Vonna Heustis
Dec: Tim & Janice Swanson

Second Sunday Offering

Nov 14: American Legion/VFW Christmas Baskets
Dec 12: Christmas Joy Offering

Ushers

Nov: Trudy Lantz and Jean Williams
Dec: Ron and Mary Clow

Communion Server

Nov 21: Trudy Lantz and Charles Schultz
Dec 24: Ron and Mary Clow

THANK YOU!

Thank you for sending me your newsletter. I appreciate it. Sharon Collings

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church: Thank you for your generous donation to the Gibson City Restoration Association. We are thrilled to have your support. Through your donation, we are so close to being able to purchase the Loy Building. With a few more donations/fund raisers we will reach our goal! You truly make a difference for us and we are extremely grateful! The Gibson City Restoration Association

To Pastor Ray and his team, It was such a pleasant surprise when I received your kind and generous donation. I will use it to get my washer and dryer upstairs so I don't have to worry about falling down the steps to the basement. There are some obstacles. But thank you for your kindness and generosity. May God Bless you for all the king thigs you do! Barb Williams

To the Session: Thank you! Words can say so little when someone does so much. Wish there were words to let you truly know how much your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Thank you so much for the monetary giv=ft to use for repairs/appliances in my home. I did have insurance, but unfortunately the damages exceeded the cost for the needed repairs and items replaced. Thank you again. Sharla Williams

Members, We are writing to say Thank You for your generous donation. We are so happy to have generous donors to the GCMS Band Program. Your financial support will make it possible to purchase new music and equipment for the students. We believe band makes a positive impact on students and the community. Thanks again for your generosity. GCMS Band Boosters

In honor of Pastor Lantz one Bible will b distributed by members of the Gideons International to help transform lives through the Word of God. Your ministry is a brilliant reflection of Christ's love. Thank you for your selfless service. Prairieland Gideons

The First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee sent a check for \$1,000 to assist with the repairs to our furnace. Thank you members of the First Presbyterian Church of Kankakee!



A donation of \$ 8,809.30 was made to GAHRF by Heritage FS. Thank you!



Pictured above is the GAHRF Board members accepting a \$10,000 donation from Ameren Illinois.



A big thank you to Danny and Vonna Heustis who decorated the church for Fall!



On September 29th Ron and Mary Clow presented a \$5,000 donation check from the Mission Committee to the Gibson City Restoration Queen of Hearts treasurer Kayla McCreary and Paul Maus at their weekly Queen of Hearts drawing. Sharon Heavilin is President and the volunteer organization is working hard to raise funds to save the Loy building.



Ron and Mary Clow, greg Clow, and Pastor Lantz spent most of Saturday, October 16th cleaning our the Manse to get ready to sell. The previous renters left half their furniture behind. Thank you!



Ron Clow and Phil Noellsch hung the church's birthday banner as we get ready for our 150th Birthday Open house celebration on Sunday, October 24, 2021. Thank you, guys, for doing this!

Kerchenfaut girls having fun at Homecoming 2021!



Addison Kerchenfaut, freshman at GCMS, was on the Homecoming Court!

(Picture with red dress on.)



Sister and brother, Emma and Jesse Swanson, at the church's 150th birthday celebration. What a great day for all involved. (Emma took pictures.)



KNOW YOUR MEMBERS



RICK AND AIZZA KERCHENFAUT

Who would have thought? A little girl from the northern recesses of Philippines and a farmer's son from mid central Illinois meeting up in Arizona to complete masters degrees – all to connect the world through business and different cultures? Well hello! Meet Aizza and Rick Kerchenfaut of Gibson City. Aizza Ancheta was born in Quezon City Philippines. Quezon City is a suburban area of Manila. She was born to two young and aspiring doctors. Both just graduated from medical school with their eyes on getting their young family to America. Just three days after her first birthday, Aizza became a big sister to a little brother, Arvil Gerald Jude and six years later another brother Ryan would follow. Arvil would become her quiet and reliable rock and (sometimes) best friend through the life changes and challenges that life would throw and toss their way. Fast forward through years of English language lessons, high school calculus

and college organic chemistry, on Aizza's way to Arizona to get her master's. My mother and brother accompanied me to my dorm room. It was a hot, hot day in Glendale, AZ I was very anxious and very much looking forward to my new dorms and classes. There was a huge swimming pool, all blue and shimmering right smack in the middle of my dorm. All my brother could say was “Are you really going to be studying here ?!? “ as he pointed to the blue shimmering rectangle.

The following day, I met a woman who was going to be one of my best friends there, Leslie. We decided to walk to the auditorium for our orientation together. On our way there, we see a very scruffy, smelly looking man, with a relatively friendly smile. We thought he was a homeless man until he spoke in clear English “Hi Ladies. Are you going to the auditorium?” We hurriedly tried to avoid eye contact, but he kept following us to the auditorium. Lo and behold, he was also a student – much to our horror. We actually did speak to him and found him to be a pretty nice guy. Apparently, his apartment was not ready before school began and he had been camping out in the mountains until his apartment was ready. After speaking to him, he invited us to a fish fry (what?) who has fish fries in 102 degree weather?? Anyway we decided to accept, because dorm food just was not as palatable.

Rick Kerchenfaut - born in Gibson City, IL to a young couple on June 1, 1970. He would be the younger brother to Becki and older brother to Kristi three years later. Rick grew up in what one would call a typical farm family in Piper City, Illinois. He grew up fishing and hunting with his buddies, learning to farm with his

dad and doing chores at home. After graduating from Ford Central, he moved on to Southern Illinois University, where he majored in Ag business with a minor in Spanish. A lucky internship landed him in Tapa-chula Mexico, near the ocean breezes and the Guatemelan border. There he perfected his Spanish and learned about the Mexican culture. After his Bachelor in Science, going home was not an option. A few months at home was not what he wanted to do. Rick then decided to apply for his Masters degree at Thunderbird, International School of Business and was accepted. He packed his Chevy SUV and took off for Glendale, Arizona. Unfortunately, when he arrived, his apartment was not quite ready and decided to go camping and fishing in the Arizona mountains. Unfortunately, school orientation was coming close. He decided to attend, still with his Chevy SUV still packed with belongings and scruffy from camping. On his way he saw a couple of women, with their maps out appearing to be on their way to the orientation. “What a couple of dorks”, he thought, but thought it would be his best chance to get to the orientation anyway. He approached them and asked if they were on their way to the orientation – they said yes, but walked faster away from him. Little did he know that he appeared a bit scruffy and scary, since he had been camping in the mountains. So, this day began a long and wonderful friendship and eventual twenty something years for Rick and Aizza Kerchenfaut.

Continued on next page . . .

Rick and Aizza Kerchenfaut's story continues . . .

After graduation, we went our separate ways. Rick traveled all over Latin America with Neogen in Michigan. He was the Latin American Sales Manager. His position took him from Puerto Rico all the way down to the Southern edges of Brazil and Argentina. I ended up in Ohio with a small company called Bayer GmbH as an analyst, true to my dorky and nerdy roots. I worked with the Rubber Division and did not travel as often as Rick, but traveled to less interesting places like Canada and Arkansas. That's ok! One Thanksgiving, I was on my way to my folks up in Michigan and Rick was actually home. We decided to meet up and have dinner. As they say, the rest is history! We found we had a lot in common – our love of travel and having adventures all over the world, family values and importance of family. We were married - well we had two weddings – one was a small church wedding and the other one was a renewal of our vows where we could share with our family and friends i.e. the BIG party! I celebrate both – if I can remember both! Rick is much better at remembering than I. He has reminded me over and over our twenty plus years of marriage. Our family has grown to include three children – two girls and one boy. Anneliese, our oldest is 17 and is ready to see the world and explore it. Addison, our second is 14 and just started high school and has been busy getting involved with all that high school can offer. Charlie, our youngest is 12 years old. He is finally enjoying NOT being the lowest man in the middle school totem pole and is also busy with all that

middle school can offer.

We have been so blessed these years with adventures from all over the world and all over Gibson City and the surrounding area! Our adventures have taken us from Macchu Picchu to Germany all the way to the Philippines. Our adventures here have taken us from the Gibson City football fields, basketball courts and wrestling mats to Eureka, Pontiac and even in Chicago to compete. We have been so fortunate to have made so many friends and acquaintances all over the world and within our GCMS world. There have been so many tiring days and nights, but we would do it all over again. Our grad school used the motto “I am not an Athenian or a Greek, but a citizen of the world.” by Socrates. It quite stuck to us over the years. As citizens of the world, we still have more of the world to explore.



Our family trip to Europe-2017

SCARECROW CONTEST



Scarecrow # 1—Janet Barker
Name: Harvey Harvest
Winner: Best Farm Scarecrow
Prize: \$200



Scarecrow #3-Deborah Shives
Name: Hillbilly Hick
Winner: Traditional Category
\$200



Scarecrow # 5—Ross & Carmen Rod—Name: Abigail—Winner: Whimsical Category & Most Loveable Scarecrow: \$200 Winner: 2nd place for People's Choice Award \$100



Scarecrow # 2—Morris Family
Name: Little Crow Peep
Winner: Funny, Clever, & Most Beautiful Scarecrow Category \$200
Winner: 3rd Place People's Choice Award \$ 100



Scarecrow # 4—Jeanne Taylor
Name: Cindy Cider
Winner: Most Creative Scarecrow: \$ 200



Scarecrow # 6:
Phil & Jean Noell-sch
Name: Lazy Gardner
now on duty

Winner: Most Unique Scarecrow & Comical Scarecrow \$200
Winner: 2nd place for People's Choice Award \$100

Ron and Mary Clow have the Community Garden ready for the scarecrow contest.



Each contestant in the Scarecrow Contest was awarded a trophy like the one pictured below as well as a monetary prize.

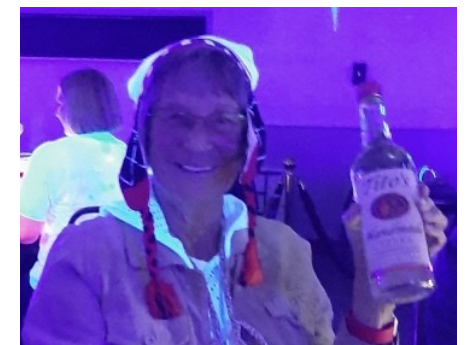
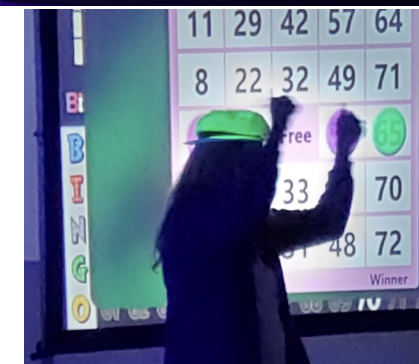


Door prizes were awarded at the 150th Birthday Celebration on October 24, 2021. The following lists the winners:

- 2 \$20 County Market Gift Cards
Jan Fisher
Row Clow Sr.
- 2 \$25 Los Caminos Gift Cards
Carmen Rod
Ella Fairchild
- 2 \$10 Tea & Grounds Gift Cards
Chic Meredith
Rob Goin
- 2 \$20 Ace Hardware Gift Cards
Cheri Friedman
Cheryl Elder
- 2 \$20 Subway Gift Cards
Judy Jo Arbour
Bill Davis
- 2 \$20 Monicals Pizza Gift Cards
Vicki Good
Ruth Davis
- 2 \$25 Country Kettle Gift Cards
Ronald Knapp
Steve Sharp
- 2 \$20 Dairy Queen Gift Cards
Betty Meiners
Elinor Nelson



Glow Bingo was a great success as a fund raiser for the Gibson Area Hospital new Medical Center. Our church was a co-sponsor.



YES, that's our Jean Williams!



Tim & Janice Swanson have fun!

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS 10-21-21

Starting Balance approved 9-23-21.....	\$129,600.00
Bookkeeping 2 Childcare Adjustment.....	\$ 1,000.00
Bookkeeping Community Garden correction.....	\$ 150.00
Gibson Area Hospital Glow Bingo Co-Sponsorship.....	\$ 1,500.00
Ryder Luparell (child with cancer).....	\$ 2,000.00
Giveaways credit.....	\$ 735.00
Total Approved to Date 2021.....	<u>\$133,515.00</u>

Mission Committee Member Flood Damage Suggestions 10-21-21

Starting Balance approved 9-23-21.....	\$ 6,000.00
Tim & Janice Swanson.....	\$1,000
Ted Swanson.....	\$1,000
Ron & Mary Clow.....	\$1,000
Sharla Williams.....	\$1,000
Remaining Balance.....	\$ 2,000.00

Tom Bennett, Illinois State Representative, presented us with a certificate of acknowledgement at our 150th birthday celebration on October 24, 2021.



