

**Good Housekeeping Fes-
tive Easter Facts You
Probably
Haven't Heard Before**
**By Lauren Smith
McDonough and Salena
Barrientos**

Easter baskets have special symbolism. The woven containers represent birds' nests and new life and they're a pretty utilitarian way to gather those goodies on your Easter egg hunt.

There's a reason you probably eat ham for Easter dinner. Historically, most early Easter celebrants would have eaten lamb for this special occasion since the holiday has its roots in Jewish Passover. But these days, many American Easter dinners now feature ham instead, because of the timing of the holiday. Hams cure over the winter months and are ready to serve in the early spring.

Easter lilies are a relatively new tradition. These beautiful blooms originated in Japan and arrived in England in the late 18th century. The U.S. only caught onto the trend after World War I. The transition from dormant bulbs to delicate flowers brings to mind hope and rebirth, two important themes of Easter. **Easter clothes used to be considered good luck.** Old superstition held that if you wore new clothes on Easter, you would have good luck for the rest of the year.

Easter eggs date back way before Easter. There's evidence showing that Easter eggs originated from Medieval Europe and Christians may not have actually been the ones to start the tradition of giving eggs. They're a symbol of fertility and rebirth in many cultures around the world.

Eggs are dyed to represent the blood of Jesus Christ. Well, at least that might be one of the reasons, which stems from early Christians in Mesopotamia. There isn't a concrete reason behind the tradition, but that's one of the theories.

In 2020, 77% of American adults celebrated the holiday. About half of those chose to mark the occasion with holiday meal, and a third decided to visit family and friends virtually.

Easter and Halloween compete for the highest candy sales. The two holidays go head-to-head for the most candy sales every year. In fact, some year's people buy more candy the week before Easter than the week before Halloween, but that's because Halloween purchases are more spread out over the month.

Americans eat about 1.5 million Peeps during Easter. That makes these colorful marshmallows the most popular non-chocolate Easter candy. The Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, factory makes an impressive 5.5 million a day.

Americans consume over 16 million jelly beans during Easter. That's enough jelly beans to circle the globe not once, not twice, but three times. First introduced as an Easter treat in the 1930s, we can't imagine this day without them.

A surprising 59% of people eat the ears first on a chocolate bunny. Only a handful start with the feet or tail, and the rest apparently don't have a plan of action.



JEANETTE HENSLEY is in the Hospital Annex at 430 East 19th Street. Please keep her in your prayers and send a card if you can.

PRESBYTIDINGS

APRIL 2022

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



Our kids at Christmas: Avery, Hayden, Avalyn's boyfriend JC, and Avalyn

Dear FPCGC,

I recently decided to spend some time writing down how I have seen God bless our family. As I started listing out many ways it was striking to me how many of the things I listed were God's provision.

I then had a strange thought . . . if we were really wealthy I would not have seen God show up in most of the things I had written down. I would have just seen my own money enabling things.

In my need I saw God at work and, sadly without my need, I often just see my own self-sufficiency.

Just a few of the many examples I was able to think of:

There was the time Sheila and I were stuck at a train station in London after having to leave the country we were ministering to. We were low on funds and thought we would have to spend the night at the train station when that afternoon I re-

ceived a free night hotel certificate.

We saw God move so that Redeemer School offered its first ever scholarship for missionary kids so that our children were able to attend that school and, through that experience, process their transitions and make up for schooling that was missed.

It was striking to see how many times God provided through people's generosity.

As people have been so generous to us, their generosity makes Sheila and I want to be more generous and has given us greater humility. We have no illusion that we could not be in our ministry without the continuous generosity of so many of you.

Independence has a tendency to breed arrogance and dependence in turn often gives us humility. We were made to be dependent on each other and God. Such experiences help us to practically feel the love of the body of Christ and God himself. Unfortunately, as I look back at most of those experiences, if we had enough money, we would not have relied on others or God and therefore

would have missed out on lessons in humility and in experiences where we could tangibly feel the love and sacrifice of others.

Furthermore, I have seen in my life that when we don't have an over abundance of money God has more control of what we do or don't do. He can open the door or close the door based on his provision. Often when we don't have a lot of money, whether we can do something can be even determined by his provision. It is another way he has of limiting us (which we don't like as we love control and don't want to trust God).

When we have money it is easy with our own resources to ignore what God might want to tell us because it is often due to lack of money or resources that we come to God to even ask if he wants us to do it so that he might provide for us. Through his provision he often opens doors or keeps them shut.

Rob (& Sheila) Warfield
Missionaries



It is Spring again. The earth is like a child that knows poems by heart.

Rainer Maria Rilke

April 2122

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 2 <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i> RECYCLE <i>Funeral for Ken Musson</i>
3 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i> John 12:1-8	4	5	6 <i>6:30 Lent In Plain Sight Bible Study</i>	7	8	9 <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i> <i>10:30 a.m. Installation of cross out front</i>
10 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i> Luke 23:1-49	11	12	13	14 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	15 <i>Good Friday</i>	16 <i>Recycle!</i> <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holy Brook</i>
17 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i> <i>Easter Sunday-Communion</i> Luke 24:13-49	18	19	20 <i>5:30 Session</i>	21	22	23 <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>
24 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i> John 20:19-31	25	26	27	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 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.

THE NEW FLOWER CHART IS UP IN THE SOUTH ENTRY.


A second set of free at home covid tests are available at covidtests.gov. You just fill out the form on line and they will mail 4 individual tests to your home. It is easy and quick to do.

Recycling has returned on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month.

Next Session meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 20th at 5:30 p.m.



Session approved sponsoring the Community Garden at Rail Side Golf Course again this summer. The plots should be ready by May 1st at the latest. If you are interested, please contact Mary Clow.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		
April 06: Charlie Kerchenfaut 24: Barb Kirkpatrick 25: Harry and Dorri Groom 27: Ron Clow 28: Tim Swanson		May 02: Emma Swanson 07: Jesse Swanson 09: Trudy Lantz 10: Ruth McClure 14: Mary Jane Roth 14: Michele Schultz 17: Ray Lantz 20:Mac and Ruth McClure 22: John Davis 26: Ron and Mary Clow
Second Sunday Offering Mar13: One Great Hour of Sharing April 10: Gibson Area Housing Rehab Foundation		Ushers Mar: Ron & Mary Clow Apr: Jeanette Hensley and Sharla Williams
Communion Server March 6: Ron and Mary Clow April 17: Trudy Lantz and Jean Williams		APRIL: From the Latin verb <i>aperire</i> “to open”. Open yourself up this April. Be a month of rebirth, regrowth and renewal. Think it, speak it, and believe it and your life will be it!!!!!!
		

THANK YOU!

Dear Pastor, Mission Board, and Church Members, The Gibson City Police Department is so appreciative of your extremely generous gift on behalf of Lexa, Officer Johnson's K-9 officer. We are so grateful to have community support, and this kind of practical help, to assist us in our work. With Lexa's help, Officer Johnson and the other officers have apprehended drug dealers and illegal drug users. Our community is the safer for it. Thank you again for your kind and thoughtful gift to us. Sincerely yours, Lisa Helgesen, Receptionist, Gibson City Police Department



To our friends at the First Presbyterian Church: We are so grateful for your very generous donation. Thank you for joining your hearts with ours to provide for the needs of our community and surrounding areas. Your support allows us to continue our mission to serve CHRIST by serving others. We truly appreciate your thoughtful gift. Sincerely, John and Annie Barnett, Shepherd's Closet/Closet Too

Session and Pastor Lantz recently celebrated our awesome secretary's birthday presenting her with silk flowers and a County Market gift card. Happy birthday, Meladee.



Ray and Session Members, Thank you so very much for the beautiful floral arrangement (which can be seen in my office any day), the gift certificate to County Market, and the lovely birthday card. I love my job here because of the people. You are so good to me and that makes me want to work even harder for you. I truly love you all.



Your secretary,
Meladee

We wish to express our sincere sympathy to Jean Williams upon the passing of her brother, Jim King. The church is sending flowers to let the family know they are in our prayers.

If you would like to send Jean a card, her address is 1307 Prairie Smoke Drive, Gibson City IL 60936.



We have extra glasses available if anyone would like another set. If interested, please contact Meladee or Mary.



MANSE UPDATE:

Krause Survey has completed the necessary work to move the property line.

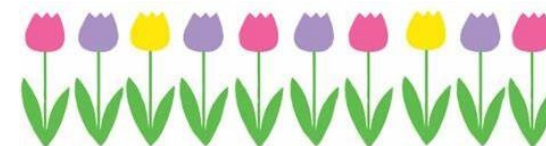
The Head Start Playground has also been completed and a new fence has been installed along that property line.

Therefore we hope to have the Manse on the market by May 1st.

We have light! Thanks to Rick Kerchenfaut, Ron Clow and Pastor Lantz the burned out light bulbs in the sanctuary and the Red Room have been changed. Hank Brickman and Dave Stolz would be proud.



Janice Swanson, Trudy Lantz and Val Hunt all completed the new monthly Cross Word Puzzle correctly. Janice's name was drawn as the winner of a \$25 County Market gift card. Congrats!





Blast from the Past: Mary Clow has started the process of reviewing records and files in the upstairs office so as to box up those files that can be destroyed as outlined by Blackhawk Presbytery policies. She was delighted to find this picture of Annaliese Kerchenfaut from 2011 when she was crowned Ford County Princess. She was a winner even back then and has become a beautiful, smart and successful young lady. This church family is certainly proud of her!



Both Kerchenfaut girls were recently in the GCMS musical *Cinderella*. Anneliese was a duchess and Addison was a townspeople and also played one of the horses. Our church family is so proud of having such talented young ladies!



LABEL

We've been told by village pastors that putting the label on the FRONT of the dress indicates to predators that this girl is under the care of an organization. Giving a girl a new dress raises her dignity as well as how she is viewed by others.

OUR PILLARS OF HOPE Dress a Girl Around the World delivers dresses and hope to girls in need and who are at risk around the world. In receiving "God's best dress," not only are these girls being gifted what could be their first ever new dress, they're also receiving our 4 Pillars of Hope: Dignity, Health, Joy and Love.

March Mission



The Gibson Girls HCE organization that Mary Clow belongs to pledged to make several of the dresses for the Dress A Girl Around the World Program of Hope for Women. The church mission dollars pledged to this program will help purchase the materials and t-shirts to do so. Above are two of the dresses that were made by HCE member Ellen Hanks following the strict guidelines of the Program. Note the important label sewn in the corner of the pocket.



Art by Tom Booth
THE PASSION by Donna Ashworth
The passion of the justified, could slay a thousand tanks, the ghosts of angry ancestors, would blaze through any rank.

Rip a man from family, and force that man to fight, then watch for the fire within him, burn above the mighty plight.

When good is what you are fighting for, your strength is born of power, unknown to he who wages war, then promptly hides and covers.

An army made of love, is worth ten armies made of greed. If love can save the day, then we will watch Ukraine succeed.



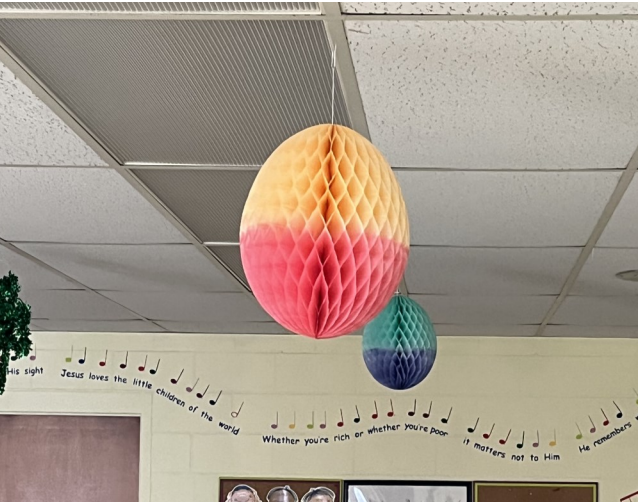
Pray for Ukraine



Mary Clow and Meladee Ferguson attended the visitation of Andrew Lawrence, the grandson of Sandra Brucker. Above is a picture of the flowers sent by the church.



Mary and Meladee were busy this week updating the church bulletin boards for Lent and Spring!



Mary Clow decorated the fellowship hall for both St. Patrick's Day and Easter. She thought it was important to have a cheery meeting place as our Fellowship Hall is used for many community meetings and events.



What if you woke up
TODAY
with only what you
thanked God for
YESTERDAY?

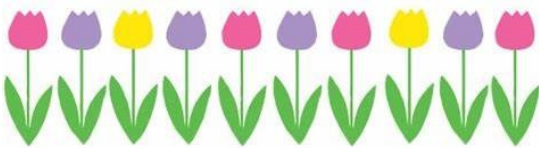
MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – MARCH, 2022

Starting Balance.....	\$27,500.00
Presbytery USA Ukraine relief.....	\$ 5,000.00
GCMS FFA Chapter annual Scholarship Auction.....	\$ 500.00
Community Garden Expenses.....	\$ 3,000.00
World Central Kitchen.....	\$ 3,000.00
Dress A Girl around the World Program.....	\$ 200.00
Rob & Sheila Warfield, Missionaries.....	\$ 2,000.00
Subtotal March.....	\$41,200.00

World Central Kitchen helps provide fresh meals to Ukraine Refuges

Founded in 2010 by Chef José Andrés, World Central Kitchen (WCK) is first to the frontlines, providing meals in response to humanitarian, climate, and community crises while working to build resilient food systems with locally led solutions. WCK has served more than 60 million fresh meals to people impacted by natural disasters and other crises around the world.

WCK uses the power of food to nourish communities and strengthen economies in times of crisis and beyond. When disaster strikes, WCK's Chef Relief Team mobilizes to the front lines with the urgency of now to start cooking and provide meals to people in need. Charity Navigator reports that 85.7% of donations are used to help provide tens of millions of fresh, nourishing meals for communities and rates the organization with a 4 Star rating. The score is based on two sub-scores –100 for Finance and 100 for Accountability and Transparency.



In support of Ukraine, this yard sign was purchased and placed outside the church.



Annilease Kerchenfaut is a member of the GCMS FFA Chapter and will participate in the 18th Annual FFA Scholarship Auction on Saturday, April 16th. They are seeking donation items for the auction. All donations will be appreciated. They hope to award a scholarship to every senior in the AG program. The Mission Committee donated \$500 to this cause.

