

## PASTOR'S CORNER

This month marks the four year anniversary of my commission by Blackhawk Presbytery as your pastor. I will be eternally grateful to the Presbytery, to the Session, and to this congregation for allowing me the privilege of serving Christ in this place.

It has been an eventful 4 years. It has been an awesome experience to see people pull together through this time of stress and change that is known simply as Covid. We, as the body of Christ, have tried to walk the narrow path of loving our neighbors and meeting as often as possible to worship God in meaningful ways that reflect our Presbyterian heritage. Let us continue to do what we can to stay healthy: stay up on the vaccine boosters, wear a mask if needed, wash our hands, and all the rest of the best practices.

I want to invite all members to attend a workshop on 'communal discernment', Saturday May 21st, in Yorkville, IL. 9AM to 3PM. 'Discernment' is a term we Presbyterians use a lot when discussing changes in the Church. We very rarely know what it means or how to do it. It's not about following the pastor, nor the loudest voice in the room (which sometimes is the pastor). Discernment is a process that leads us, not to the will of the majority but to the will of God. It is not a process that culminates in a vote of action as much as a sense of the righteousness of what has been decided.

Our Presbytery is in a time of change. Are Presbyteries needed in a time of instant communication? If yes, are geographical-defined Presby-

teries the best way to gather together?

This church has been and will continue changing. We have our own answers to discern. What part of worship should and could music enhance? Does sitting in a beautiful sanctuary when almost empty help or hurt our worship? Questions like these are why I think, we all need to practice our 'discernment' muscles.

Save the date, May 21st, and plan on spending a day with God and other Presbyterians as we learn how God wants us to work together as His body in this time and in this place. We need to register our group by May 13th. Let me or Meladee know if you plan to attend.

Pastor Ray Lantz



## PRESBYTIDINGS

MAY 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](http://www.firstpresbygibson.org)

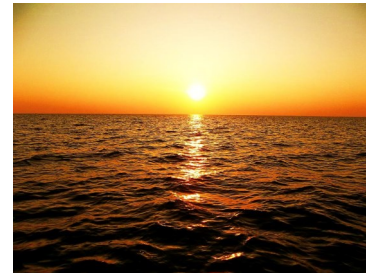
Meladee Ferguson: Administrative Assistant

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator

**It must be Spring!  
Snow is melting. Temperatures are rising.  
Bright colors are replacing browns & grays.**

### Growth

Spring is a time for growth. In nature, that comes from the right combination of sunlight and water. For our spiritual lives, it comes from the right combination of time with God in His word and time with other Christians in fellowship.



### Starting Over

Everybody needs forgiveness. We need God to appear and let us know we're back on track with Him. He's ready to give us that kind of healing.

### Provision

The Christian life is a balancing act between working like everything depends on you and trusting like everything depends on God. He will send the rains you need, but you've also got to do your part by working the harvest.



### Learning

You're never too old to learn a little more about God and His goodness. Just like rain provides nourishment to the plants, His word reaches into our hearts and shows us things we never would have imagined.

### Renewal

God is in the renovation business. He takes what's old and broken down and transforms it into something incredible. If you've got an area of your life that needs some renewal, He's more than ready to meet you where you are.

### Peace

Take a look at the flowers and plants blooming around you. They didn't worry their way to awesomeness. And you can't either. God cares about you, so let Him carry your worries and fears.



Whether it's a long walk on a sunny day or splashing through puddles during a shower, soak up the blessings of spring. Let the sights, sounds & smells of a new season bring to life something new within YOU.



By Ramsey Solutions

"What speaking the language of love comes down to is the awareness that God's Creation is beautiful, colorful, diverse and, at times, seemingly complicated. But, as the Apostle Paul, who was adept at speaking words that build up rather than tear down, said to the church in Ephesus, 'Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear' (Ephesians 4:29)."

GAIL STRANGE,  
DIRECTOR OF CHURCH AND MID  
COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS,  
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY



# May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1  <i>John 21:1-19</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7  <i>RECYCLE</i>
8 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>Mother's Day Communion</i>  <i>John 10:22-30</i>	9  6 p.m.— <i>Hospital Auxiliary Dinner</i>	10	11	12	13	14 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook
15 10:30 a.m. Worship  <i>John 13:1-35</i>	16	17	18	19	20	21 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holy Brook  <i>RECYCLE</i>  <i>Gibson Girls</i>
22 10:30 a.m. Worship  <i>John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9</i>	23  <i>Election School</i>	24	25	26  5:30 Session	27	28  9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook
29 10:30 a.m. Worship  <i>John 17:20-26</i>	30  <i>Memorial Day— Church Office will be closed</i>	31				

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](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](mailto:Ray@firstpresbygibson.org)

Meladee  
[Office@firstpresbygibson.org](mailto: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](https://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 Thursday, May 26th at 5:30 p.m.**

**"I really like the garden project in my hometown and was wondering if you accept \$ donations for this. If so, who do I make the check out to? Tom Dueringer Tom sent a check for \$ 50 for this project. Thank you so much, Tom!"**

## SPRING IS IN THE AIR. YAY!



Ron and Mary Clow installed the welcome sign and sunflower to welcome our gardeners.



The compost was delivered Thursday, April 28th, for the Community Garden to be worked into the soil and improve it.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		K. P. Duty
<b>May</b>		<i>May: Mary Jane Roth</i>
<b>June</b>		<i>June: Trudy Lantz</i>
<b>May</b>		<i>Second Sunday Offering</i>
<b>June</b>		<i>May 8: Because of Cody</i>
<b>May</b>		<i>June 12: Hanley School Supplies</i>
<b>June</b>		<i>Ushers</i>
<b>May</b>		<i>May: Tim &amp; Janice Swanson</i>
<b>June</b>		<i>June: Gene &amp; Mary Jane Roth</i>
<b>May</b>		<i>Communion Server</i>
<b>June</b>		<i>May 8: Ron Clow and Tim Swanson</i>
<b>May</b>		<i>June 12: Mary Clow and Sharla Williams</i>

**Some Astonishing Misconceptions!**  **According to an old Cornish superstition, it was unlucky to buy a new broom in this month. And so was washing a blanket!**  **Some people believed that if you got up on May 1st and washed your face in the May dew, it would remove all freckles and pimples, giving you a great complexion.**



**THANK YOU!**

Dear First Presbyterian Church Friends, Thank you so much for the generous contribution for our local Dress a Girl International Project. We will use the much appreciated funds to purchase supplies to make T-shirt dresses for young girls. With our appreciation, Ellen Hanks

Your kindness means the world to me. So sweet and thoughtful of the church to send flowers for my brother's services! Also thank you for the cards and notes many of you sent my nephew. You (we) are indeed a Matthew 25 church. Jean Williams



Flowers sent by our church for the funeral services of Jim King, brother of Jean Williams.



Flowers purchased by the church for the Ken Musson funeral services.

Presbytery USA is grateful for our \$5,000 stewardship for the Disaster Relief Ukraine Refugee Program.

Thank you to Ron and Mary Clow, Danny and Vonna Heustis and Jane Roth for helping with the Ken Musson funeral dinner.



Ted, Tim and Janice Swanson and Sharla Williams talk at the luncheon following the Ken Musson Memorial Services.



Session approved donating the \$10,000 gift from Larry Richoz to the Gibson City Fishing Pond organization. It will be used to put in a new dock and to stock the pond. More information will follow. Thank you Tim Swanson for your efforts to help make this happen.



Tim Swanson, Danny Heustis, Jesse Swanson and Ron Clow installed the wooden cross outside the church on April 9th in preparation for Holy Week and Easter. Danny and Vonna Heustis will follow up and drape a black cloth on the cross on Maundy Thursday and flowers for Easter.

*April showers*  
*Bring May flowers*



Congratulations to Aneliese Kerchenfaut for being selected as a Finalist in the Prairieland CEO National Pitch Competition. Her video was selected to be in the top 18 finalists from 268 submissions across the country. Great job. Your church family is so proud of you!!!



Addison Kerchenfaut placed 3rd in the individual shot put with a score of 82 at the Cord Invitational at Fisher. The team placed 1st.

Anneliese, Addison, and Charlie Kerchenfaut all made the High Honor Roll for the third quarter at GCMS.



This was on the Blackhawk website with an article on Matthew 25.



Here is a picture of the mural that was recently painted by Deana Schoolcraft of Saybrook on the wall of the Gibson Area Food Pantry.

**Ways to Give to Presbyterian Mission**

*The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it; for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.*  
Psalm 24:1-2 (NRSV)

Presbytery USA is grateful for our \$5,000 stewardship gift for the Disaster Relief Ukraine Refugee Program.



The church was decorated with lots of red and yellow tulips for Easter Sunday. Thank you Jean Williams for making arrangements to have them delivered. They were beautiful!



On March 30th Val Hunt enjoyed lunch and bridge with friends.

**Community Garden Update:** We currently have 14 plots spoken for out of 24. All but one gardener are return gardeners from last year. We are waiting for the ground to dry up enough so Rick Kerchenfaut can till and add compost to the dirt. The GCMS FFA will be assisting with marking the plots and spreading the mulch in the paths. Ron and Mary Clow have put the Community Garden sign back up and will be hanging the hoses once the ground is filled. It was our hope to have the plots available by May 15th at the latest. An ad was put in the Chronicle for two weeks and we hope to have all the plots taken by the end of May. If you are interested in obtaining a plot, contact Mary Clow at 1-815-953-1899.

**MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – APRIL, 2022**

Starting Balance March .....	\$41,700.00
Gibson City Christmas Parade.....	\$ 1,000.00
Glow Bingo, Gibson Area Hospital.....	\$ 1,500.00
Gibson Area Food Pantry (Gas Cards).....	\$ 5,000.00
Jessie Swanson Scholarship.....	\$ 1,000.00
Scholarship Additions.....	\$ 3,500.00
Year to Date April.....	\$53,700.00



Some of the \$5,000 donation to the Food Pantry will be set aside by the Food Pantry Board to purchase \$25 gas cards that will be given to the Food Pantry patrons on the 4th of July on our behalf.



**First Presbyterian Church Scholarships - 2022**

Wyatt Schlickman.....	\$1,000
Kenley Andreae.....	\$1,000
Olivia Johnson.....	\$1,000
Hannah Martin.....	\$1,000
Brock Phillips.....	\$1,000
Awstace Grauer.....	\$500
Lucy Keigher.....	\$500
Kellen DeSchepper.....	\$500
Anneliese Kerchenfaut.....	\$500
Braylen Kean.....	\$500
Zander Wier.....	\$500
Carmen Pondel.....	\$500

**First Presbyterian Church**

**In House Membership Scholarship - 2022**

Anneliese Kerchenfaut....Out of State.....	\$1,500
Jessie Swanson.....	\$1,000
Emma Swanson.... Year 2.....	\$1,000
Nicole Schultz.... Year 2.....	\$1,000

**Stephen McCormick Memorial Scholarship Fund**

Peyton Leonard.....	\$1,000
Connor Main.....	\$1,000
Anneliese Kerchenfaut.....	\$500
Connor Engel.....	\$500

**HOUSE FOR SALE**

**120 E. 11<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Gibson City, IL**

**Owned by the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City**

**Two Story House with Full Unfinished Basement**

**1586 square feet**

**4 Bedrooms and 1 Full Bath on 2<sup>nd</sup> Story**

**Living Room, Dining Room, Kitchen, Half Bath & Office 1<sup>st</sup> Story**

**Kitchen has refrigerator, stove and microwave**

**Gas Heat / Central Air Conditioning**

**Basement has Large room, Storage room, Furnace room and Laundry**

**room (Washer & Dryer included)**

**Unattached heated 2-car Garage**

**Garage Door Openers on both doors**

**576 square feet**

**New roof, siding and windows in September of 2008**

**Copy of Survey completed in March, 2022 will be provided.**

**ASKING PRICE: \$145,000**

**Contact Pastor Ray Lantz at 217-369-9816**

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

Recently I was surprised to learn the definition of the word *hymn*. It is not simply a song we sing about God or Jesus but is one we sing to Him. It means "to laud, to celebrate God in song." Hymn is the Greek word *humneo*, used in Matthew 26:30 when Jesus and His followers ate the Passover meal together a few hours before Jesus's arrest. The final act of worship they participated in was to honor God in song. Imagine what was in Jesus's heart at this moment.

