

Barb Williams, pictured at left, is the winner of our Word Search Puzzle for the month of September. There were seven (9) correct entries this month. Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$20 gift card to County Market. We really would like to be inundated with entries for the month of October. Please see the orange card sheet in the center of this newsletter to play. Turn it in to the church office by October 25th!

Oh my?!!! I just got the box for recycling back after going on vacation. I just wanted to let you know that I did find the check from the Presbyterian Church and will add it to the recycling money for our next fiscal year that begins on November 1st. I will be selling passes on October 1st and will add the check to the money collected. What a generous gift and one that is much appreciated. That is the most that anyone has ever donated. Karen Kummerow, Gibson City Recycling Program.

PRESBYTIDINGS

OCTOBER 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



GIBSON CITY FRIGHT NIGHT

Join Session on Thursday, October 25th from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. for Gibson City's Fright night as we hand out flashlights and Halloween Safety Coloring books to the children in attendance. It's always a good time and such a treat to see all the young children in their costumes.



Thank you - Pastor Lantz, Trudy Lantz, Ron and Mary Clow, Danny Heustis and Tim Swanson for putting up Fall Decoration's.

Emma Swanson will give a talk on her experience this summer while working with the Colorado Rocky Mountain Youth Corps on Sunday, October 16th during the worship service. The congregation will be able to ask questions of Emma about her trip and work.



What Presbyterians Believe by Charles Wiley Understanding Good and Evil: No easy answers to our aching questions

Why do the wicked prosper? It's an age-old question the prophet Jeremiah asked of God (Jeremiah 12:1) that continues to bedevil us. Even though we experience goodness every day, we also experience evil in human actions and devastation from natural disasters. What do we make of this confusing mix of good and evil?

The classic theological answer is best articulated in the Study Catechism, which was approved by the 210th General Assembly (1998) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). In it, Question 14 asks: "If God's love is powerful beyond measure, why is there so much evil in the world?" The answer is: "No one can say why, for evil is a terrible abyss beyond all rational explanation. Its ultimate origin is obscure. Its enormity perplexes us."

We respond by affirming that "God's triumph over evil is certain, knowing that in Jesus Christ god suffers with us, knowing all our sorrows. We can live in hope because

God raised Jesus from the dead and "is himself God's promise that suffering will come to an end, that death shall be no more, and that all things will be made new."

This answer is both true and helpful. But when confronted by evil, even nuanced answers fail us. Sometime we must give way to the poet.

In "A Prayer for the Days of Awe," Elle Wiesel, author and Nobel laureate, reflects on the horror of the Holocaust and how it shaped his experience of God. He stands in the tradition of Job and confronts God with raw honesty. In Wiesel's agonizing words—"What hurt me more: your absence or your silence?" - we hear the echo of our Lord on the cross: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

What we have in Wiesel's prayer is an engaged, searching, intimate portrait of prayer to God. The anger and reconciliation offered here are possible only in a context where relationship is possible. For people who claim a tradition that sometimes understands God as too remote to be wrestled with, Wiesel's grappling proves instructive. The problem of suffering is not neatly tied up. It is answered with an oblique statement as eloquent as it is brief: "Auschwitz must and will forever remain a question mark only: it can be conceived neither with God nor without God."

As terrible as it is to experience evil, it would be even worse to experience it without God. We believe God is always with us, but that belief is strengthened by our searching and being in relationship with God.

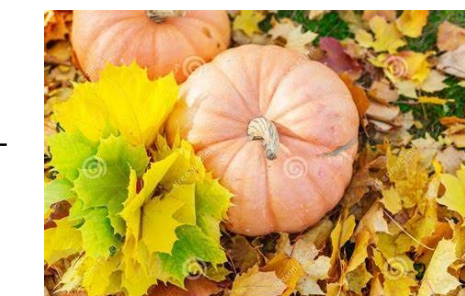
The prophet Samuel reminds us: "Thus far the Lord has helped us" (I

Samuel 7:12). And that help will never cease. When it seems the wicked prosper and evil is winning over good, we move forward by faith, with probing honesty about God and ourselves, working for justice and living in hope that one day all things will be made new.

Charles Wiley is director of major gifts at Columbia Theological seminary in Decatur, Georgia.



This article was in the Presbyterian Today September/October Magazine.



October 2022

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Mark October 30th on your calendars.</p> | <p>10-30-22 Lunch at the Horsch Radish</p> | | | | | <p>1</p> <p>RECYCLE</p> <p>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</p> |
| <p>2 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Communion</p> <p>Luke 17:5-10</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4</p> | <p>5</p> | <p>6</p> | <p>7</p> | <p>8</p> <p>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</p> |
| <p>9 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Luke 17:11-19</p> | <p>10 Columbus Day-Church office will be closed.</p> | <p>11</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14</p> | <p>15</p> <p>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</p> <p>RECYCLE</p> |
| <p>16 10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>Luke 18:1-8</p> | <p>17</p> | <p>18</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> | <p>21</p> | <p>22</p> <p>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</p> |
| <p>23 10:30 a.m. Worship Luke 18:9-14</p> <p>30 10:30 Worship Luke 19:1-10</p> | <p>24</p> <p>31</p> | <p>25 Fright Night 5—7 p.m.</p> <p>(October 30,</p> | <p>26 Messiah will</p> | <p>27 5:30 Session</p> <p>practice at 7 in</p> | <p>28 Church's 151st Birthday.</p> <p>fellowship</p> | <p>29</p> <p>hall.)</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 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.

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

Pastor Ray:
Ray@firstpresbygibson.org

Meladee
Office@firstpresbygibson.org

THE NEW FLOWER CHART IS up on the bulletin board outside of the secretary's office.

Next Session meeting will be held on Thursday, October 27th at 5:30.



The meaning behind October's name is far from accurate these days. The ancient Roman calendar was based on the lunar cycles, as opposed to our current calendar which is based on the solar cycles. This meant that there were originally 10 months in their calendar, and October was the eighth month. Its name literally translated into "the eighth month" in Latin. In 451 BC the two months of Ianurarius and Februarius were added to the beginning of the calendar, making October the 10th month.

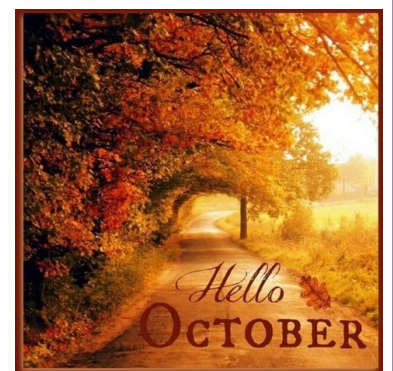
There are seven months in the year with 31 days and October is the sixth of them. The amount of days hasn't changed over the ages either, with the ancient Roman calendar also placing 31 days in October.

The Anglo-Saxons' name for October was Winterfylleth, with its name containing the words for winter and full moon respectively. It was named this because winter was said to begin from the first full moon of the month.

The Saxons had a name for October, too. Theirs was Wyn Monath, which translated into "wine month" because it was the time of the year for making wine. I'm not sure about you, but I think October just became my favorite month!

| BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES | | <i>K. P. Duty</i> |
|--|---|--|
| October | | <p>Sept: Ron & Mary Clow</p> <p>Oct: Janice Swanson</p> |
| November | | <p>Second Sunday Offering</p> <p>Sept: Gibson Area Music Foundation</p> <p>Oct: Random acts of Kindness</p> |
| <p>02: Phyllis Brickman</p> <p>08: Cheryl Schultz</p> <p>09: Aizza Kerchenfaut</p> <p>15: Barb Williams</p> <p>17: Larry Ladd</p> <p>22: Jeanette Hensley</p> <p>24: Michael Mott</p> <p>26: Harry Groom</p> <p>28: FPC of Gibson City (1871)</p> | <p>01: Doris Gerber</p> <p>06: Carla Ashmore</p> <p>07: Beverly Swanstrom</p> <p>18: Ellie Stolz</p> <p>20: Vonna Heustis</p> <p>22: Brian Swanson</p> <p>23: Noah Swanson</p> | <p>Ushers</p> <p>Sept: Janice Swanson and Jeanette Hensley</p> <p>Oct: Trudy Lantz & Val Hunt</p> |
| Communion Servers | | <p>Sept 4: Rick Kerchenfaut & Tim Swanson</p> <p>Oct 10: Trudy Lantz and Tim Swanson</p> |

October is a rather beautiful time of year if you live in the northern hemisphere. It's the time of year that the color of leaves begins to change into a magnificent array of hues.



Below is a picture of the stage banner at the Gibson City Harvest Fest showing our church logo. We were a gold sponsor for this very popular event.



Be sure to look at the light poles downtown Gibson City as the church has sponsored 6 large banners and 4 small banners in various locations. They will be up in October and November in honor of our church birthday.

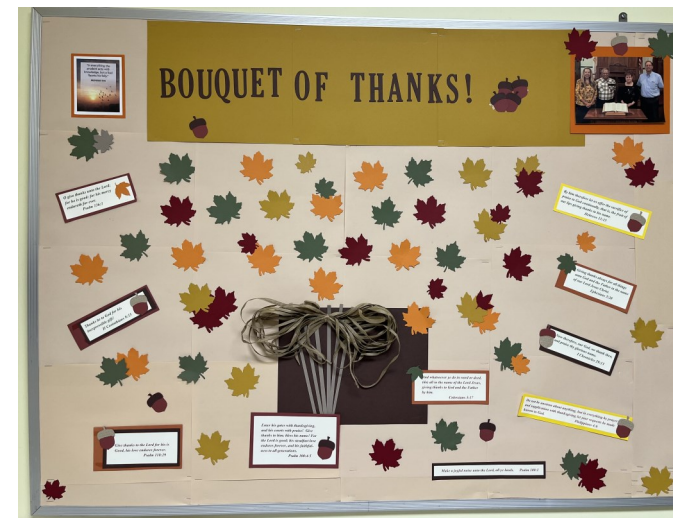
SESSION HAS APPROVED THE VIP SPONSORSHIP AGAIN THIS YEAR FOR THE GAH FOUNDATION GLO BINGO FUNDRAISER THAT WILL BE HELD ON OCTOBER 22ND AT THE KRUSE CENTER. THE VIP SPONSORSHIP ENTITLES US TO 8 ENTRIES, A RESERVED TABLE IN AN EXCLUSIVE AREA, BUTLER SERVICE, AND A CHARCUTERIE BOARD. PLEASE LET MARY CLOW KNOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING.



The family of Jeanette Hensley and her brother, Jerry Wissmiller ((who recently joined his Lord and Savior) donated a Bible and a crystal serving plate with the church. The plate was used for communion on September 4th.



Falling into Fall is Fun for Meladee and Mary as they decorate the two church bulletin boards. Our church members are the best pumpkins in our patch.



SCARECROW CONTEST



Session has approved the sponsoring of a Fall Scarecrow Contest at the Railside Golf Course. Five Prizes will be awarded for \$200 each and a Trophy and Five Prizes will be awarded for \$100 each and a Certificate of Achievement. Registration forms will be accepted from October 1 to October 8, 2022. Watch for details on how you can vote for your favorite scarecrow!

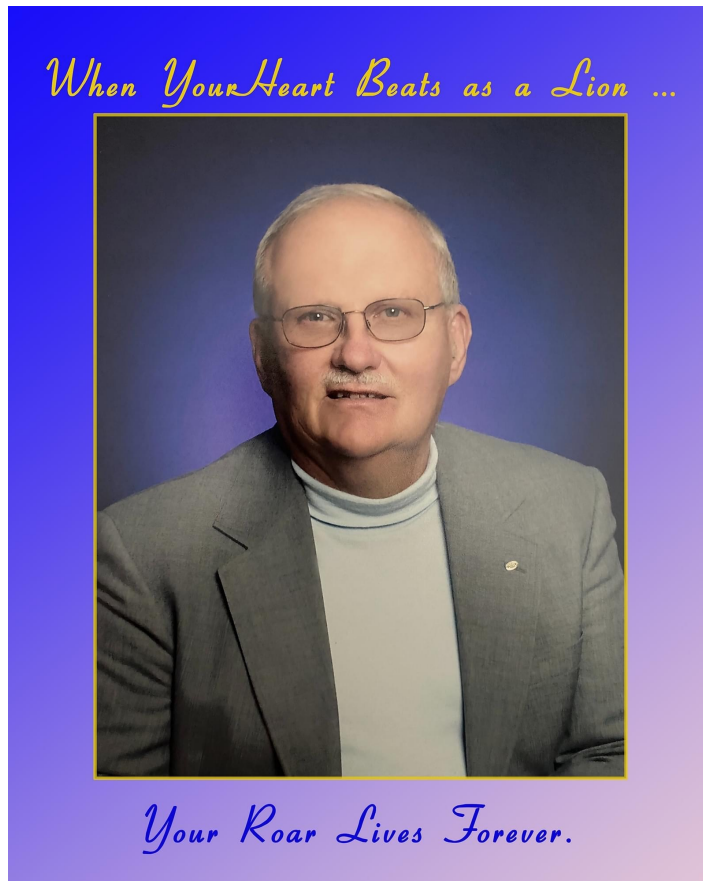
THIS AND THAT



The GCMS Football Captains started up their tradition again of having lunch on Fridays at Hollybrook. Here is a picture of Carla Ashmore and friends enjoying lunch and most likely sharing encouraging words for a victory for their September 9th game.

Phil Noellsch does his part to save the planet riding his electric bike to make bank deposits for our church. What an awesome Treasurer we are blessed to have.

Gift Acknowledgement: Our church would like to acknowledge a financial gift received from the Jerry Wissmiller Estate in the amount of \$55,000 from a life insurance policy that Jerry took out when he was 44 years old. Jerry always supported our church in so many ways and he will be missed. The Session will put together a Committee to decide what to do with the gift and how to honor this great man.



Recently posted by the Gibson City Lions Club: Today starts the 2022-2034 Lions Club year. Sadly this year started on a sad note with this being the first meeting since the passing of our beloved Lion Jerry Wissmiller. On behalf of the Gibson City Lions Club, our heartfelt condolences to Lion Jerry Wissmiller's family.



CELEBRATE THE CHURCH'S 151ST BIRTHDAY
At a Church Member's Group Luncheon on Sunday
October 30th at 11:30 a.m.
following our regular service
at the newly opened Horsch Radish Restaurant
The Presbyterian Women's Association will be hosting
the event and paying for lunch ordered by members
from the menu.

Reservations are required, so please let Meladee or Mary know if you plan to attend by October 23rd.

HEED NOW THE CALL:

During lunch on the 30th of October at the Horsch Radish Restaurant we will have a Congregational meeting to approve the 2023 nominations for Session and to update our church by-laws merging Deacons with the Session.

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – SEPTEMBER, 2022

| | |
|---|--------------------|
| Starting Balance August..... | \$93,550.00 |
| First Presbyterian Church Jackson, MS for water..... | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Scarecrow Contest..... | \$ 2,000.00 |
| Jerry Wissmiller Funeral Luncheon..... | \$ 640.00 |
| National Diaper Collection Week – GC Food Pantry..... | \$ 500.00 |
| GCMS Choir Program..... | \$ 500.00 |
| Year to Date September..... | <u>\$99,190.00</u> |



Addison Kerchenfaut and friend are ready for the Homecoming Dance at GCMS.



Our church was not exempt from homecoming traditions but we are glad to be a part of the community and noticed by the younger generation.



Addison Kerchenfaut on the class of 2025 Homecoming Parade Float.

Finn Farley, Ryder Luparell and Millie Fields all enjoyed the spotlight in the GCMS Homecoming Parade. Our church donated money to help with their medical treatment and needs as they recover from cancer.



The Session meeting ended just in time on September 22nd so Pastor Lantz, Trudy Lantz, Tim Swanson and Ron and Mary Clow could watch the GCMS parade go by the church.