

PASTOR'S CORNER

Gibson City's Chamber of Commerce recognized the work of the church with its Lifetime Achievement Award.

For over 150 years, the members of First Presbyterian Church have worked tirelessly to do God's will here and in the larger world. We have taken the blessings from God that we have received and have tried to make life better for those around us. Nothing we do would be possible without God's gifts that made possible our donations of time, effort, and yes, money.

I want to use this space to thank all the innovators that looked at the needs of our community and thought of ways to fulfill those needs. They took ideas from other places and times and made them our own. Over and over, First Presbyterians stepped forward to help those who needed help in ways that maintained the dignity of those in need. We tried hard not to take any credit, when credit was due, but it was very nice to be recognized.

Now is not the time to stop or rest on our laurels. Led by Mary Clow and the session, we will continue to look for ways to be relevant in this changing world we find ourselves in. Our roadmap will continue to be a Matthew 25 church. Let us walk together into the future as Christ's body, doing God's will and giving all glory to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Pastor Ray Lantz

More pictures from the Awards Ceremony at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet, March 9, 2023.



Pastor Ray and wife Trudy enjoy the award presentation to our church.



Elders Ron and Mary Clow.



Elders Rick Kerchenfaut, Mary Clow and Ron Clow at Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet.



Elders Ron Clow and Sharla Williams



Alderman Suzie Tongate and Sharon Heavilin congratulate Clerk of Session, Mary Clow.

PRESBYTIDINGS

April 2023
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



Lifetime Achievement Award Presented to The First Presbyterian Church By The Gibson City Chamber of Commerce



Our church was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Gibson City Area Chamber of Commerce for 2022 for all the mission work we have been doing. As quoted by Pastor Lantz, "We love doing God's work in Gibson City." Attending the awards ceremony was Pastor Lantz and Trudy Lantz, Elders Ron and Mary Clow, Jean Williams, Sharla Williams, Charlie Schultz and Rick Kerchenfaut. Chamber President Bill Kirby presented the award.

APRIL 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 RECYCLE <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>
2 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i> <i>Palm Sunday</i> <i>John 3:1-17</i>	3	4 <i>Election Day</i>	5 <i>The Easter cross will be installed at 10:00 am.</i>	6 <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	7 <i>Dinner out with congregation. All will attend Good Friday Service at Fairbury Presbyterian Church at 7.</i>	8 <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i> <i>Ima Jean Ping Funeral at UMC</i>
9 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i> <i>Easter Sunday-Communion</i> <i>John 4:5-42</i>	10	11	12	13	14	15 <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i> RECYCLE
16 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i> <i>John 9:1-41</i>	17 <i>Pastor Lantz on vacation</i>	18 <i>Pastor Lantz on vacation</i>	19 <i>Pastor Lantz on vacation</i>	20 <i>Pastor Lantz on vacation</i>	21 <i>Pastor Lantz on vacation</i>	22 <i>Pastor Lantz on vacation</i>
23 NO CHURCH – <i>Pastor Lantz on vacation</i> <i>30 10:30 a.m. Worship</i> <i>John 10:1-10</i>	24	25	26	27 <i>5:30 Session</i>	28	29 <i>9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>

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 Thursday, April 27, 2023.

April is known for beautiful spring weather, the start of warmer weather, and right about the time when the Easter bunny will make an appearance!

We know it is the fourth month of the year, but that’s only by the Gregorian calendar that we adhere to now. It was previously the fifth month in the earlier Julian calendar.

April also only had 29 days, but a 30th day was added when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar.

April is a great month for meteor showers. One of which is the Lyrids meteor shower, which appears from April 16th to April 26th each year. There’s another one called the Eta Aquariids meteor shower that can be seen onwards from April 21st.

On April 15, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sunk on her first and only voyage.

The smaller animals that hibernate for the winter in the Northern Hemisphere usually start coming out of their burrows in April.

April is also the month that the birds migrate north and settle down for the summer to mate.

On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 was launched and ran into difficulties about two days later. It was then that the famous line “Houston, we’ve had a problem here” was said, and is today usually misquoted.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<i>Second Sunday Offering</i> <i>Apr 9: Gibson Area Housing Rehab Foundation</i> <i>May 14: Because of Cody</i>	The etymology behind the word “April” comes from the verb “aperire,” which means “to open.” It’s commonly believed that the word refers to the season of trees and flowers begin to “open” or bloom.
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 17: Ray Lantz 20: Mac and Ruth McClure 22: John Davis 26: Ron and Mary Clow	<i>Ushers</i> <i>Apr: Jeanette Hensley and Sharla Williams</i> <i>May: Tim and Janice Swanson</i> <i>Communion Servers</i> <i>Apr 9: Jean Williams and Sharla Williams</i> <i>May 14: Charlie Schultz and Tim Swanson</i>	

THANK YOUS AND MORE

With Special Thanks to All of You: Although this note says "Thank You" in just this simple way, there's special meaning in these words to all of you today. For the thoughts behind this message are especially warm and true, and words cannot express the special thanks this brings to you. Pastor Lantz and Congregation: I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your donation toward my medical expenses. I am very appreciative of your kindness and generosity. Grandma Vonna and Grandpa Danny are blessed to be a part of such a caring church family. May the Lord bless each and every one of you. With love, Andrea Goins

We are deeply grateful for the kindness and compassion you extended to our family during this difficult time. Thank you for your donation that allowed us to celebrate our father's life with friends and family. You have touched our hearts. Thank you. The Family of Michael T. Rutledge

Dear Phil, Enclosed is my check for the first quarter of my 2023 pledge. Thank you for your service to our church. I hope all is wonderful with you and your family. Please greet Jean for me. I am recovering from eye lid surgery and doing well with one eye. It is not easy, but thanks to good friends and family, it is doable. Beverly Swanstrom

McCormick Tutoring Program and First Presbyterian Church: The Ralph Jones Family wants to thank you for your thoughtfulness and consideration in regards to Marinell's passing. The McCormick Tutoring Program was very important to Marinell and she was very passionate about it.

Meladee, Thanks for sending the very newsy newsletter; it's always great to see photos of so many of

you. I continue to be amazed at the generosity of this church to the community in its mission giving. We want to wish you a belated birthday! Hope you had a great day. This weather has been amazing! Makes me think spring is just around the corner. Wishing you a blessed Easter also. Fondly, Larry and Karen Ladd

Dear Friends, Thank you for the *Presbytidings* Newsletter (February and March). I found them quite interesting. Some names were familiar even those 60 years later. You will find a gift enclosed to cover *Presbytidings* Newsletter and time. My logo reflects my mission as a Navy Chaplain, "helping men and women get underway for Christ." CDR, CHC USN Retired, Stan DeLong (Should my name be drawn, please give prize to Gene and Mary Jane Roth.)



The Harvest Moon Drive-In sent our church 10 general admission tickets to thank our church for the donation we made for their Annual Easter Egg Hunt held on April 1st. The tickets are good for 2023. If you are interested in some tickets, please let Mary Clow know.

Dear Friends, Thank you for the lovely gift of the restaurant card and John 3:16 coin. It was a true pleasure to nominate the church for the chamber recognition. Congratulations on the award! It is so very well deserved. Sincerely, Ellen Hanks



The Elders would like to thank Ellen Hanks for nominating our church for the Gibson Area Chamber of Commerce 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award. Ellen is a member of the Chamber of Commerce and is the First Vice Chair of the Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary Foundation Board of Directors. If you see Ellen out in the community, please thank her. Mary Clow attended the Gibson Area Hospital Foundation Dose of Fashion Show on March 10th with Ellen and presented her with a \$50 gift certificate from the Horsch Rad-ish to show our appreciation.

THANK YOU MELADEE AND PHIL

Our Church recently won the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Gibson City Chamber of Commerce for all the things we did over the last two years to positively affect the Community. This was a group effort with Pastor Ray, Clerk of Session Mary, the Elders of the Church past and present and the Members of the Congregation. We must also recognize our lovely secretary Meladee Ferguson and Treasurer Phil Noellsch for their willingness to always help on many levels as needed to accomplish all these goals. You both are greatly appreciated!

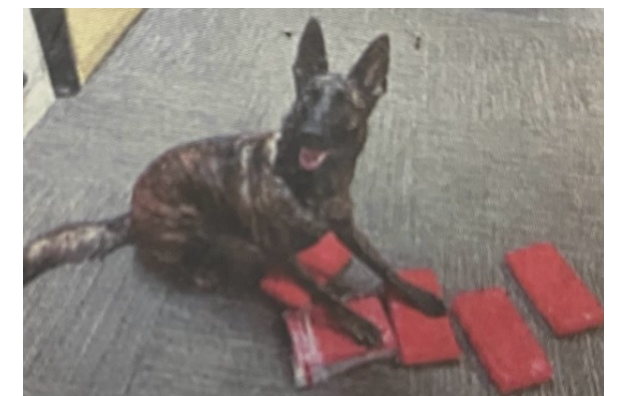


Everyone is invited to attend the Good Friday service at the First Presbyterian Church in Fairbury on April 7th at 7:00 p.m. We plan to go to dinner paid for by the church before the service. Please let Mary Clow know if you want to attend.

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING - GAHRF – Gibson Area Housing Rehab Foundation

- Was a dream of Dr. Paul Sunderland's to help with local area needs-based house projects.
- Was formed in 2012 to assist homeowners in the GCMS School District with household repairs that wouldn't otherwise not get done because the homeowner could not afford to do the work.
- Played a major role in the Gibson City major flooding that happened in 2021.
- Donation of funds, labor, or building materials in good condition are appreciated.

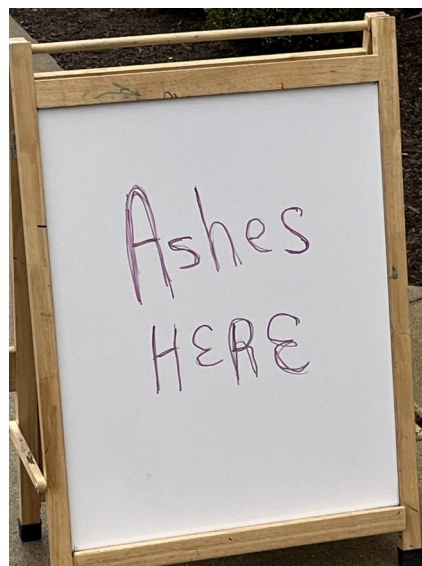
As requested by Presbytery Church USA, the members of our church wore our blue logo shirts on "Blue Out" Sunday, February 26th, to help remind others that gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing supports disaster recovery efforts in the United States and around the world. In February, the Mission Committee donated \$4,000 to help with this cause.



The Ford County Sheriffs Office drug sniffing canine Lexa poses with bags of cocaine that were seized in a current drug bust. Lexa's handler is Hunter Johnson, great grandson of Val Hunt. Our church has donated money to help with Lexa's care.



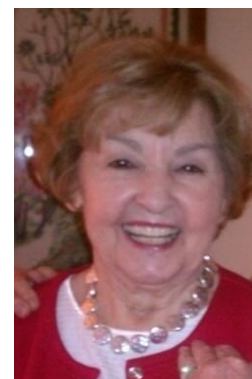
Ron and Mary Clow, Trudy Lantz and Jeanette Hensley attended the joint Ash Wednesday Service at the United Methodist Church. Pastor Lantz helped with the placing of ashes. A very nice meal was provided before the service.



Pastor Lantz conducted a drive-thru in the front of our church for the distribution of ashes on Wednesday. Above is our first participant, Kathy Branz. Pastor Lantz then went to Holly Brook and provided an Ash Wednesday ceremony for the residents there. See Val Hunt and Carla Ashmore in the front row in the picture below.



This display board was set up at the Lions Club Pancake and Sausage Breakfast held on February 26th recognizing the donations made from the Dale Ashmore Memorial Fund and the Jerry Wissmiller Memorial Fund. Dale and Jerry were long term Lion members.



Val Hunt is the winner of our Word Search Puzzle for the month of March. There were thirteen (13) entries this month (Val Hunt, Denis Fisher, Stan DeLong, Jodi VanSwol, Sharon Collings, Denise Birky, Barb Williams, Janice Swanson, Sherry Tomlinson, Jean Williams, Sharon Heavilin, Phil Noellsch, Danny Heustis). Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$20 gift card to County Market. Please see the **Purple** colored card sheet in the center of this newsletter to play. Turn it in to the church office by April 25th! Not at the church: Mail it or place in the black box outside the east church door. **Be certain to read the Bible verses attached to the puzzle each month. I FOUND EVERY WORD LISTED IN THE APRIL PUZZLE.** Meladee



Lion members Chris Thorp, Jim Peters, Jerry Minion and Pastor Lantz working at the Food Pantry on February 25th handing out free tickets to the Lions Club breakfast on the 26th. The Jerry Wissmiller and Dale Ashmore Memorial Funds donated \$350 each for the tickets which were handed out to Food Pantry clients.



Ben Garrett made a surprise visit to GCMS School District. Ben has a PhD in Chemistry and works for Emtegrors, a multi-national research and manufacturing firm of silicon chips and semi-conductors. In 2017 Ben was chosen a Lindsay Nobel Laureate, as one of the top 400 young scientists in the world. **THE WORLD!** Jean Williams remembers him attending our church with his mother and brother and that he was a really nice and smart kid who helped in the nursery. He is second from right in the picture. Article and picture from the GCMS Facebook Page.

The two church winter bulletin boards have been updated to spruce up our walls with color, convey God’s messages and to remind us Spring is near.



BRING THE HAMMER, BRING THE NAILS

By: Mike Hastings

I had a dream the other night
I watched Christ climb Calvary.
The devil stopped Him on his way
And said, “Hey, listen to me.
It doesn’t have to be like this
Christ, you don’t have to die.”
Then I saw Jesus look at him
And I heard this reply.

“Bring the hammer, bring the nails
My Father’s plan you’ll not derail.
So take your offer with you
And all that it entails.
Get thee behind me, Satan,
Bring the hammer, bring the nails.”

Now Satan didn't give up
We know the way he is.
He’s gonna fight right to the end
For he wants the world for his.
So he offered more to Jesus
As Jesus made the climb.
But Jesus just looked back at him
And said “I tell you one more time,

Bring the hammer, bring the nails,
My Father’s plan will never fail.
So take your offer with you
And all that it entails,

Get thee behind me, Satan,
Bring the hammer, bring the nails.”

“I go to give my life for all
Who would be truly free.
I go to shed my saving blood
My Father they might see.
I admit the cross is heavy,
But I claim it as my own.
I die to erase the sting of death
And I’ll rise to take life’s throne.

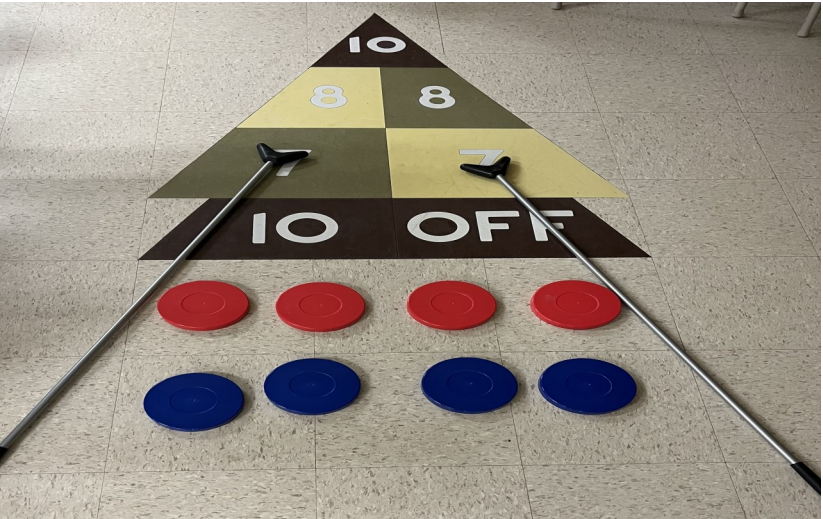
Yes, on the cross I am to die
As payment for all sin.
But as for what you tempt me with
I tell you once again.
Get thee behind me, Satan,
And when you get there, stay behind.
Bring the hammer, bring the nails,
I’ve got a hill to climb.”



THE NET RIPPERS TEAM: Charlie Kerchenfaut with friends Graydon Leonard, Tristan Wooton and Tucker Mueller participated in the 3 on 3 Tourney in Roberts on March 12th. Love their team name.



Addison Kerchenfaut, daughter of Rick and Aizza Kerchenfaut, playing in the IHSA Class 2 regional basketball game against St. Joe Ogden.



A Shuffleboard Game Set with pucks and cues has been purchased and is now available to use if you host a party or family reunion in the fellowship hall. See Mary Clow if you are interested.

Mission Committee Suggestions – March of 2023

Starting Balance February 28, 2023.....	\$40,870.00
Chamber of Commerce Sponsorship.....	\$ 2,640.00
Harvest Moon Drive-In Easter Egg Hunt.....	\$ 500.00
Rob & Sheila Warfield.....	\$ 2,000.00
Corn Belt Shrine Club Cash Bash April 22 nd	\$ 500.00
Startup Costs for the Community Garden.....	\$ 2,000.00
Harvest Fest Platinum Level.....	\$ 2,500.00
Approval of 3 AED Grant Applications \$2,000 each.....	\$ 6,000.00
Moyer Library, Summer Softball/Baseball Roemer Field/McMillian Field	
Families of 2 Prairie Central students killed in sledding accident.	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Year to Date March.....	\$ 58,010.00

The Gibson Area Hospital Foundation presented this award to Chris Thorpe to honor Jerry Wissmiller as a Founder Sponsor of the Medical Office Building Capital Campaign.



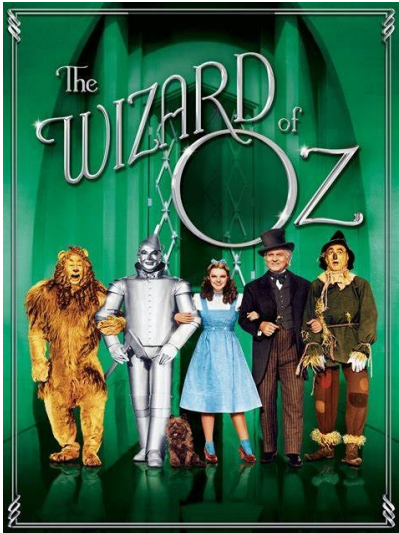
Chris Thorp and Jeanette Wissmiller Hensley at the presentation ceremony for the award for Jerry Wissmiller.



Picture compliments of Judy Jo Arbour of her mother Val Hunt with the Tin Man at the GCMS High School’s fabulous musical *The Wizard of Oz*. The Tin Man was played by Lucas Clinton, son of Lori Baird Clinton, and grandson of Ron and Wanda Baird.



The entire cast and crew of the musical *The Wizard of Oz* put on by the Gibson City-Melvin Sibley High School.



Addison Kerchenfaut was a part of the Lullaby League in the GCMS High School musical *The Wizard of Oz*. What a lovely picture of Addison with her father, Rick Kerchenfaut.



Session approved the purchase of “Spring” banners for downtown using the Hank and Phyllis Brickman Memorial Funds. We hope to see them up soon with Spring around the corner.

JERRY WISSMILLER MEMORIAL FUND

Starting Balance February 2023.....	\$32,581.94
No March Suggestions	
Ending Balance March 2023	\$ 32,581.94

BRICKMAN MEMORIAL FUND

Starting Balance February 2023	\$ 3,000.00
March, 2023 Expenditures	
Spring Banners – Downtown Gibson C	- \$ 3,000.00
Balance.....	\$ 000.00

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