

PASTOR'S CORNER

Notice To Our Friends

We would like to inform you that ***Pastor Ray Lantz*** has resigned from the First Presbyterian Church after four years of service. He has decided to leave Gibson City. Pastor Lantz will always be part of our church family and we thank him for his contributions to our church members and this Community. We wish him well in his future endeavors. A search for a replacement has begun with assistance from The Presbytery of Blackhawk, the middle-governing body of Presbytery USA. If you have any immediate questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact Ministry Coordinator Mary Clow or Elder Jean Williams. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through this process.

The Elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City



Thank you, Ron Clow, for preaching on Mother's Day. You did an awesome job.



Thank you, Jean Williams, for preaching on May 21, 2023. Good job, well done.



Thank you, Janice Swanson for preaching on May 28, 2023. You did a great job.

UPDATE ON PASTOR SEARCH

Session met on May 24th with Rev. David Terrinoni, the Moderator for the Commission on Ministry for Blackhawk Presbytery. Rev. Terrinoni will serve as our counselor during our pastoral transition and moderator of our Session meetings. He came to help us as we grieve the loss of our pastor and to provide guidance as we move forward with the task of finding a replacement. Rev. Terrinoni was a career U.S. Air Force Chaplain and immediately liked by all the Elders for his kindness, calmness, knowledge, and sense of humor. The Elders look forward to collaborating with him. Rev. Terrinoni provided us with a list of names to contact to assist with temporarily filling the pulpit. Meladee Ferguson has been working hard on scheduling June and July. We are happy to report that you will see two retired ministers preaching over the next few weeks. They are also allowed to serve communion.

Mary Clow has placed ads in the Champaign and Bloomington Newspapers and on the Indeed on-line job search site for a permanent part time pastor. We will also continue to work with Blackhawk Presbytery to find a new pastor, tapping into their database of applicants. God has someone out there for us, so keep praying we have the wisdom to search out and find that person. We will do everything we can to keep you up to date and if you have any questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Mary.

PRESBYTIDINGS

June 2023

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

WE NEED ONE ANOTHER TO PROCESS AND HEAL: Also remember God can bear our pain and anger. Adele Crawford/*Presbyterians Today*

As I write, there are reports of yet another school shooting. The refrain, "I never thought this would happen here" has become a mantra in the evening news. The circle of those experiencing trauma-or knowing someone who has-widens daily. In her book *Spirit and Trauma: A Theology of Remaining*, Dr. Shelly Rambo recalls standing in the backyard of Julius Lee, a retired member of the United States Air Force. It was after Hurricane Katrina and all that was left of his house were remnants of a washed-out foundation. As they stood there, Lee said, "The storm is gone, but the 'after the storm' is always here."

Whether the trauma was caused by a human being or nature, what kind of faith do we need for "after the storm"?

First, God does not will for bad things to happen. Scripture tells us that God loves us deeply and wants the best for us. God even conquered death for us. God does not need for evil to exist simply to show off God's own goodness. This is not who God is. Still, bad things happen, and when they do, I believe that God is first on the scene and weeps alongside us. As 20th century preacher the Rev. Dr. William Sloane Coffin said, "God's heart is always the first to break."

Second, even out of utter devastation, God can bring good. God simply refuses for evil and death to have the last word. This is not to say that God glosses over the bad to make it less ugly in a Pollyanna-ish

sort of way. Rather, from the dust and ash of our pain, God can and does create beautiful things.

The challenge comes in letting our own lives be part of that dust and ash. Perhaps the greatest sin we could commit in the face of tragedy is to refuse to be changed by it, to prohibit God from working on and in us.

In much of American culture, we have very little tolerance for grief and pain-our own or other people's. Our discomfort is revealed in phrases like "Everything happens for a reason" or "God just needed another angel," which are neither true nor helpful to people who are suffering. We expect people to fix it or just get over it. But, that isn't how it works.

God models how we can be present to one another by simply holding space for suffering. Traumatic injuries need a witness, healing begins when the wound is treated, not hidden. We want to know what to say, but silence is welcome here. A simple "I'm so sorry" is enough. Sit and wait. Offer to pray with someone-not just for them. Grant them the grace to be who they really are in that moment. When you serve as a compassionate witness to someone else's wounds, the ground becomes hallowed. Just by being present, we show others they are not alone. We tangibly exhibit some of God's love by allowing God to work through us.

Remember, too, that God can bear all of our pain and anger. Among the most beautiful poetry in all of literature are the Psalms, filled with ancient words of joy and praise and also some of the deepest grief and harshest anger. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1) are words Jesus



prays on the cross. Or, "O daughter Babylon, you devastator! . . . Happy shall they be who take your little ones and dash them against the rock!" (Psalm 137:8-9). These texts show us that we, too, can pray in this way, knowing God will hold all of the ugliest, most desperate and broken parts of us.

Finally, when we catch our breath, we might ask: What does this all mean for me/us? We need Community for this work. Church is meant to be a place where we wrestle together with our theology, define and refine it, and help each other see signs of transformation and even resurrection.

There is trauma all around us, whether we see it or not, which is why we need to learn to be a humble, vulnerable, broken church and eschew the shiny, polished, always-happy one. We simply cannot do this without God and one another.



June 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 RECYCLE
4 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 28:16-20	5 Head Start Training in the fellowship hall—5th through the 10th	6	7	8	9 .	10
11 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	12 Head Start Training in the fellowship hall-12th through the 16th	13	14	15	16	17 RECYCLE
18 10:30 a.m. Worship Happy Father's Day Matthew 9:35 -10:8 (9-23)	19 	20 5:30 p.m. Session	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 a.m. Worship Matthew 10:24-39	26	27	28	29	30 	

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH . . .

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:

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 Tuesday, June 20, 2023.

It's probably not the best month to commit to that new diet you've been promising yourself you'd start. With both National Rocky-Road Day and National Chocolate Ice Cream Day falling in June, you're perhaps best off holding out until July and indulging your sweet tooth a few weeks more!

June used to be the fourth month of the year. It's hard to picture June falling anywhere other than after May and before July, but the Romans had different ideas to us. Before Caesar's rise to power, the calendar spanned only 10 months, June being the fourth month. The calendar we follow today was first established in 46 BC, bumping June forward a couple of spots. We bet you didn't know that!

June has its own beetle named after it. Though you may not have made the connection, the June bug (or June beetle) is named for the month itself. They're only found between May and June in the USA and survive on a mixed diet of plants and shrubbery. They're completely harmless to humans, though they can prove to be a bit of a pest if you keep plants as they eat anything!

June begins on a different day to every other month of the year. If we had to place bets on which of our June facts would surprise the most readers, this would be our pick. If you take a quick peek at your calendar, you'll notice that June is unique in that it begins on a different day to every other month of the year.

June has three birthstones. The primary birthstone of June is pearls, symbolizing faith and purity. However, it may interest you to know that alexandrite and moonstone share this honor. Alexandrite represents longevity and health, while Moonstone is more closely linked to luck, love, and passion. All are lovely traits, so who's to argue?

BIRTHDAYS
AND
ANNIVERSARIES

June

01: Mary Clow
01: Rick Kerchenfaut
03: Stacy Johnson
08: Gene & Mary Jane Roth
11: Mac McClure
12: Chad & Stacy Johnson
19: Larry & Karen Ladd
20: Michael & Karen Mott
27: Dorri Groom
29: Hunter Johnson

July

01: David and Ellie Stolz
01: John and Barb-Kirkpatrick
13: Phil Noellsch
24: Larry Ricks

Second Sunday Offering

June 11: Hanley School Supplies
July 9: Building Improvements

Ushers

June: Gene and Mary Jane Roth
July: Jean Williams and Val Hunt

Communion Servers

June 4: Ron & Mary Clow
June 18:Charlie Schultz and Tim Swanson

Ahhhhh June. The start of summer time vibes. Everybody loves June, right? It's typically the month with the most daylight hours to enjoy, which means endless summer barbeques. Also, it's a great opportunity to get some vitamin D or fly off on a long-overdue vacation abroad.



THANK YOUS AND MORE

Dear First Presbyterian Church Members: Thank you so much for our new AED. We greatly appreciate your donation to Moyer. The AED allows us to provide a safe space for all. Thank you for caring for the community by caring for Moyer. Sincerely, The Board and Staff at Moyer District Library

First Presbyterian Church: Thank you so very much for your very generous gift. My family is very grateful to live in a community that is so kind. Love, Ara Mead



Meladee Ferguson’s (our secretary) grandson, Ben VanSwol (22) graduated from Illinois State University on Saturday, May 13th, with a Bachelor’s Degree in Science and with a Specialty in Health and Wellness. He is pursuing a career in health care. A luncheon was held at the Chop House on Main in Mahomet following the graduation ceremony. The family gathered to honor the graduate.

Weeks & Bracker

DONATE

DONATIONS TO ASSIST WITH RECOVERY FROM THE MAY FIRE

Monetary donations can be deposited at Heartland Bank to the Chamber of Commerce account or sent via PayPal to @Gibsonareachamber

Upcoming events for fundraising:
6/15: Community Fish Fry
7/21: Summer Night Bash

DONATE NOW

GIBSON CITY FIRE

The Gibson Area Chamber of Commerce is going to begin fundraising efforts to assist those affected by the downtown Gibson City fire that occurred on May 11th. Their goal is to help them not only with their immediate needs but also as they begin to move forward. So, stay tuned for more details.

How to donate:

Monetary Donations-

Due to their collecting donations throughout the year, if you donate for this cause, please leave a memo: May Fire Donation. This allows them to properly route your donation.

PayPal: <https://paypal.me/gibsonareachamber?country.x=US...> or @gibsonareachamber

Heartland Bank: Chamber of Commerce regular account

Attend a fundraising event:

Currently they have plans to give all proceeds from the Community Fish Fry & Summer Night Bash towards this effort.

GCMS SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOLARSHIPS TOTALING \$12,000 AWARDED

TO 14 GCMS STUDENTS ON MAY 19TH

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Scholarship Award</i>
Madison McCreary	Health Services	Parkland	\$1,000 Medical
Mason Kutemeier	Construction Mngmt	ISU	\$1,000 Trade
Kale Bauer	Church Leadership	Evangelical Univ	\$1,000 General
Korah Palumbo	Business Marketing	Parkland	\$1,000 General
Syda Schlickman	Ag Business	Parkland	\$1,000 General
Audrey Williams	Criminal Justice	ISU	\$1,000 General
Cecilia Goodin	Environmental Science	No Decision Yet	\$500 General
Katherine Steidinger	Comm & Marketing	Wheaton	\$500 General
Elsie Sizemore	Food Nutrition	U of IL	\$500 General
Emily Vaughn	Vet Tech	Parkland	\$500General

JERRY WISSMILLER MEMORIAL FUND

<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Scholarship Award</i>
McKenna Crowley	Agronomy	Iowa State	\$1,000
Kadence Crowley	Ag Business	Lakeland	\$1,000

MCCORMICK TUTORING PROGRAM

<i>Student Name</i>	<i>Major</i>	<i>College</i>	<i>Scholarship Award</i>
Emily Fehr	Clinical Psychology	Parkland	\$1,000
Autumn Keefe	Marketing	IL Wesleyan	\$1,000



Charlie Kerchenfaut participated in the GCMS Middle School Track meet (8th grade only) held on April 27th.

WOW! Shout out to The First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City who have donated \$6,000 to GCMS School District to cover students negative lunch account balances for the 2022-2023 school year. Food insecurity is at the core of the missions from the church and this donation will alleviate financial burdens on may families entering the summer. The GCMS community is amazing at finding wonderful ways to support kids! Thank you for your generosity! FALCON PROUD! Mr. Jeremy Darnell, GCMS School District Superintendent

SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING – HANLEY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As everyone knows, school supplies are an important part of every child’s school year. Yet, there are children in our local community whose families cannot afford the basic supplies to start school each fall. The Hanley School Supply Fund assists qualifying families with this need. This program began through the efforts of Bob and Grace Hanley. Their desire was to help teachers who were buying students supplies with their own money. Working from donations only and with the help of Shepherd’s Closet, the organizers of this fund strive to see that every child in need receives his or her basic school supplies at the beginning of each school year. Not all supplies listed by the school will be available. The demand seems to increase every year. Assistance is available to all families who qualify for the free lunch program at school. The school hands out the necessary form during registration or through the mail for direct qualifying students. Be sure to note on the memo line of your check “Hanley School Supplies.” Session will add \$500 to the monies collected



GCMS High School teacher Jeff Reale and his class of students helped spread mulch at the Community Garden under the direction of Ron and Mary Clow. What a great group of hard working and respectful kids who wasted no time in spreading 70 bags of mulch in all the aisles and down the center. They walked from the high school to the garden prepared with wheelbarrows and rakes and everyone had fun in accomplishing the task. Dairy Queen certificates for all of the students were sent to Mr. Reale the following day. Falcon Proud.



These pictures show the passion, knowledge and enthusiasm of the 2023 gardeners at our Community Garden at Railside Golf Course this year. It's going to be so much fun watching everything grow. Thank you Gary Reiners for offering to cut the grass around the garden. It is greatly appreciated!



The May 13th group working the Gibson Area Food Pantry. Thank you Mary Clow, Ted Swanson and Tim Swanson for representing our church.



Right: Head Start staff members Molly Ertel and Sarah Allemand and Gibson Area Food Pantry President Rick Ertel man a joint table at the All Awareness Day event at the North Park on May 13th.



NASH BASH

Fundraiser

June 17
Countryside Campground
405 E 200 N Rd Gibson City
2:30 pm: Doors open
3:00 pm: DJ starts
Need not be present to win

\$3,750
in cash given away throughout the event!

GRAND PRIZE
4 DAY, 3 NIGHT NASHVILLE TRIP
& \$2,000 SPENDING CASH
7:00: BRUSHVILLE

\$100 TICKET FOR 2 INCLUDES ENTRY TO NASH BASH, FOOD, & DRINKS (UNTIL 6:30 PM), BRUSHVILLE CONCERT

SCAN TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS!

Left: The Elders approved a \$1,000 donation towards this very important fundraiser being held by the Gibson Area Hospital Foundation in June.

PUBLIC SHRED EVENT

SPONSORED BY:

BANK OF GIBSON CITY

JUNE 17TH 9AM-12PM

804 S. SANGAMON AVE
GIBSON CITY, IL 60936
Member FDIC

CROWDRIDGE ICE CREAM 10AM-12PM

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT MICHELLE AT (217) 784-4233



Thank you Ron Clow and Tim Swanson for installing the window air conditioner in Meladee's office. It is greatly appreciated! Thank you from Meladee also. That office is either really cold or really warm and the air conditioning unit helps so much.

Governor Thomas Ford Chapter DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution) Informational Event: Learn what our organization is and does. Start finding your Revolutionary War ancestor. Saturday, June 10, 2023 at Gibson City Moyer Library Community Room from 10-11:20 a.m. and Paxton Carnegie Library from 2-3:30 p.m. Jean Noellsch



Pictured above: Sherry Tomlinson is the winner of our Bible Word Search Puzzle for May. There were (16) sixteen entries (Kathy Branz, Lyndi Barnes, Julie Wissmiller, Edward Hopkey, Jeanette Hensley, Val Hunt, Sharon Collings, Jodi VanSwol, Ellie Stolz, Denise Birky, Danny Heustis, Barb Williams, Sherry Tomlinson, Jean Williams, Denny Fisher, and Carla Allen.) Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$20 gift card to County Market. Please see the YELLOW colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it in to the Church office by June 25! 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.** I found every word listed in the June Puzzle. Meladee

33rd Illinois Volunteer Regiment Band Symposium on the History of Music Education, Illinois State University, Friday, June 2, 2023 7:00 p.m. This is always a delight to hear! It is patriotic, historical, and a re-inactment band. You can tell that I personally endorse their musicality. It is indoors at Illinois State University for the Performing Arts and is handicapped accessible. Bill Ogg



Dear First Presbyterian Church: The Gibson Area Food Pantry (GAFP) gratefully acknowledges your recent gift of \$ 1,000 to support the Diaper Drive for those in need in the Gibson City Area and throughout Ford County. Gibson Area Food Pantry Board

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – MAY, 2023

May, 2023

Year to Date April.....	\$79,710.00
AED Railside Golf Course.....	\$ 2,000.00
Linda Jones – Rent to Ford Co Housing.....	\$ 150.00
Amy Olsen Family – Fire victim - \$200 Cash/\$500 Gift Cards...	\$ 700.00
Lions Club Candy Drive.....	\$ 60.00
Gibson Area Hospital Nash Bash Fundraiser.....	\$ 1,000.00
Nicole Schultz Scholarship Year 3.....	\$ 1,000.00
Brinley Stevens (Saybrook Student) Scholarship.....	\$ 1,000.00
Anneliese Kerchenfaut Scholarship Year 2.....	\$ 1,000.00
Emma Swanson Year 3.....	\$ 1,000.00
Jesse Swanson Year 2.....	\$ 1,000.00
Tim Swanson travel costs for assisting church members.....	\$ 200.00
Gibson City Chamber of Commerce – Fire Victims.....	\$ 5,000.00
Gibson City August 12 th Fireman/EMT Appreciation Event.....	\$ 5,000.00
Year to Date May.....	\$98,820.00



THERE IS NOTHING
MORE BEAUTIFUL
By: Mike Hastings

Is there anything more beautiful
Than the days God gives in June?
When all of His creation
Seems to sing His praise in tune.

The beauty of the flowers,
The summer winds that blow
The sun, the clouds, the deep blue sky
We see where're we go.

The whisper of a gentle stream
As it meanders through the grass.
The diamonds that just seem to dance
On a lake as smooth as glass.

The gentle sound of falling rain,
Fish jumping in a pond.
The light of fireflies all aglow
The sunsets just beyond.

The lightening that awakes the night
The sound of rolling thunder.
The beauty of a bird in flight
Should fill us all with wonder.

God gives to us so many things
For, oh, so many reasons.
Each day His work of art
As we watch the changing seasons.

So as we read this poem today
In a moment gone too soon.
Let us take a look around

At the beauty that is June.
And as we take that beauty in
Dear sister and dear brother,
Let us thank our God above
For the beauty of each other.

Let us enjoy togetherness
And God's handiwork applaud.
Then remember this above all else
There is nothing more beautiful
than God.



SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED



Rick and daughter, Anneliese Kerchenfaut present \$ 1,000 scholarships to the Crowley twins, Kadence and McKenna. The twins work for Rick on his farm walking beans and as general labor. They are good workers according to Rick.



Rick and Anneliese Kerchenfaut present \$ 1,000 scholarships to Autumn Kief and Emily Fehr.

MORE SCHOLARSHIP INFO

THANK YOU Rick and Anneliese Kerchenfaut for representing our church and handing out the Scholarship Awards.



Rick and daughter, Anneliese Kerchenfaut present \$ 1,000 scholarships to Kale Bauer, Korah Palumbo, Madison MacCreary, Aubrey Williams, Mason Kutemier, and Syda Schlickman.



Rick and Anneliese present \$ 500 scholarships to Cecilia Goodin, Elsie Sizemore, Emily Vaughn and Katherine Steidinger. More information about each student pictured can be found on the GCMS School News page.