

PASTOR'S CORNER



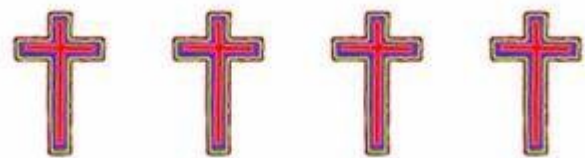
Thank you Rev. Gerald Boutelle for preaching at our church on June 11th. Rev. Boutelle, who traveled from Petersburg, Illinois gave a great sermon and served communion. He served several churches in Illinois and retired in 2009. He earned a Master of Divinity and Master of Sacred Theology from McCormick Theological Seminary. He is married to Judy and has two daughters and a son all married and three grandchildren. Rev. Boutelle told Mary Clow we were a very welcoming congregation.



Thank you, Janice, for preaching again on Fathers Day, June 18th.



Thank you Rev. Dr. Carolyn Weber for preaching at our church on June 25th. Your stories about your time in Ethiopia were very interesting. Thanking you for connecting God's words to God's people.



PASTOR SEARCH UPDATE

At the June 20th Session meeting, a Pastor Nominating Committee was created. The Elders on the Committee will be Ron Clow, Jean Williams, Tim Swanson, Charlie Schultz, and Sharla Williams. The Clerk of Session, Mary Clow, will be the Administrator of the Committee. The PNC will journey through the pastoral search process and plan to meet weekly. They will utilize Presbytery's Church Leadership Connection process and will be responsible for selecting one nominee to present to the Congregation and negotiating the Terms of Call. Please watch for additional information.

PRESBYTIDINGS

July 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



Prayer for the Fourth of July

BY JILL DUFFIELD
PUBLISHED IN THE
PRESBYTERIAN
OUTLOOK

God of all tribes and every nation, on this day of cookouts and fireworks, parades, and pool parties, we pause to remember the best of our nation's aspirations and values.

We give thanks for those who made great sacrifices for the sake of the principles of equality and liberty, life, and the pursuit of happiness.

We lament the many ways and countless times that we have fallen short of the hopes of not only the founders of this nation, but of you, Lord of all. Forgive us for not fulfilling the great aims this country sought to represent to the world. Send your

Spirit to help us become the country you call us to be.

When we rest and play, eat and celebrate today, do not let us forget those unable to do likewise. Inspire in us a zeal for the equality in which you create all people, a passion to seek abundant life for all people, a relentless drive to provide liberty for all people, and a pursuit of happiness, not only for ourselves and those like us, but for all people. May our country truly be a refuge for the tired, the poor, and those yearning to be free — free from fear, free from poverty, free from oppression, free from exploitation, free from violence, free from war, free from suffering and hopelessness.

May our nation truly be a place of justice, tranquility, and welfare for all people. Amen.

FUN FACT: How many Presbyterians signed the Declaration of Independence?

Twelve of fifty-six signers of the Declaration of Independence were Presbyterian, including the only clergyman, John Witherspoon.



DEATH: WHAT A WONDERFUL WAY TO EXPLAIN IT. . .

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know . . ." "You don't know?" "You're a Christian Man, and don't know what's on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle of the door, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing. . . I know my Master is there and that is enough."

Shared with us by a reader in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



July 2023

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



1
RECYCLE

2 10:30 a.m.
Worship:
Dr. Billy
Bates

Matthew
10:40-42

3

4 Church of-
fice closed in
observance of
Independence
Day



5

6 Meladee will
be out of the
church office
to 2 doctor ap-
pointments in
Champaign.

PNC 5:30

7

8

9 10:30 a.m.
Reverend Car-
olyn Weber—
Communion

Matthew
11:16-19, 25-
30

10

11

12

13

14

15

RECYCLE

PNC 5:30

16 10:30 a.m.
Worship
Reverend
Gerald Bou-
telle

Matthew 13:1
-9, 18-23

17

18

19

20

21

22

FPC to work at
Food Pantry

PNC 5:30

23 10:30 a.m.
Worship
Matthew
13:24-30, 36-
43
30 10:30 W
Matthew 13:31
-33, 44-52

24

25

26

27

28

29

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH . . .

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.

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 of-
fice.**

Next Session meeting will be
Tuesday, August 29, 2023.
**There will be NO Session meet-
ing in July.**

In early July, a period of time called the “dog days of summer” be-
gins. Historically they were observed within Ancient Roman and
Greek astrology and were connected with bad luck, mad dog attacks,
unexpected thunderstorms, heat, and drought. They gained their
name as “dog days” as they were connected with the star Sirius,
which is part of the Canis Major (Greater Dog) star system. Nowa-
days, “the dog days” refers to when the hottest days of summer begin.

On July 5, 1946, the world's first bikini was unveiled in the famous
Piscine Molitor swimming pool in Paris. Just in time for the heat of
summer, the bikini was modeled by showgirl Micheline Bernardini.
While two-piece forms of swimwear previously existed, none used as
little fabric as the bikini.

July isn't just the month for Independence Day, though. There are
plenty of other great holidays observed around the world! July 2nd is
World UFO Day, while July 3rd is Stay out of the Sun Day. In the
US, July 6th is a pretty delicious day, as it's National Fried Chicken
Day! At the end of the month, we also have International Tiger Day
on July 29th.

July has some pretty delicious month-long observances, too! In the
US, at least there are three, in particular, that stand out – It's Na-
tional Watermelon Month, National Hot Dog Month, and National
Ice Cream Month. Yum!

July 16, 1945, was another big day for the world and a step down a
very dark period of history. It was on this day in Alamogordo, New
Mexico, that the first atomic bomb was detonated. The bomb was
called “Fat Boy,” and its explosion sure was fat – the mushroom
cloud was 41,000 feet (12.5 kilometers) high!

Despite it being the first month in the second half of the year, July
1st is not actually the middle of the year. In a regular non-leap
year, the midpoint is actually on July 2nd at 1 pm.

HAPPY JULY—STAY COOL!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		Second Sunday Offering	ius Caesar was a formida- ble military general and statesman who was largely responsible for changing the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. The month was previously called Quintilis (Latin for fifth) as it was the fifth month of the 10-month- long ancient Roman calen- dar.
July	August	July 9: Building Improve- ments Aug 13: Head Start Ushers July: Jean Williams and Val Hunt Aug: Gene and Mary Jane Roth Communion Servers June 18: Charlie Schultz and Tim Swanson Aug 6: Jean Williams and Sharla Williams	
01: David and Ellie Stolz 01: John and Barb- Kirkpatrick 13: Phil Noellsch 24: Larry Ricks	12: John and Ruth Davis 18: Valeree Johnson 21: Teresa Alexander 24: Tim and Janice Swanson 31: Sandy Brucker		

July was named after the
famous Roman general
Julius Caesar by the Ro-
man senate; as it was the
month he was born in. Jul-

THANK YOUS AND MORE

Thank you so very much for the granting of the money for AEDs for GCMS Little League. We have one located at McMillan Field and Roy Roemer Field.
Amanda Styck, Secretary
Little League Board

With special thanks to very thoughtful you! Dear Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for awarding me your scholarship. I appreciate it more than you all know. It will help me so much. Thank you so much. Sincerely,
Koreh Palumbo



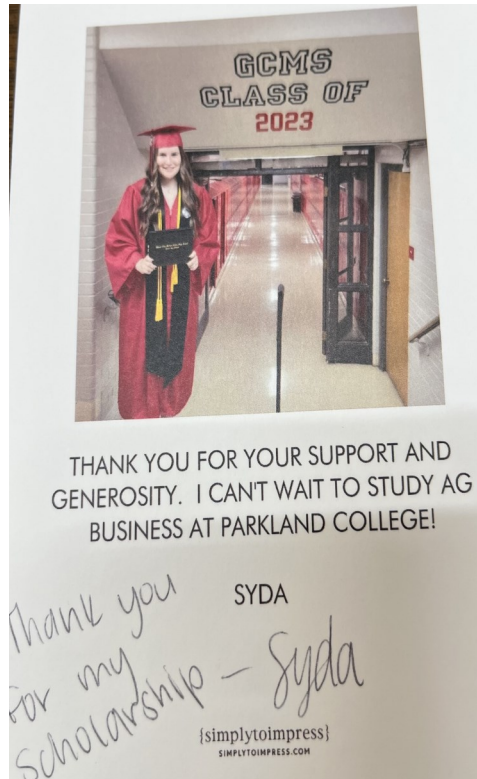
Thank you Danny and Vonna Heustis for placing the flags on the outside cross.

Thanks! It's the thoughtfulness of people like you that makes the world so bright. Thank you for supporting the Scouts.

Troup 29 Members



Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for your scholarship. I truly appreciate it and am looking forward to further pursue my faith and academics at Wheaton College. I am very grateful of your support. Warmly, Katie Steidinger



Thank you, Bill Ogg, for filling in for our Organist, Beverly Nagle, on Sunday, May 21st. We enjoyed the playing of the chimes very much.



Thank you, Mary Clow, for putting up a patriotic bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

The Gibson City Lutheran Church is hosting a blood drive July 5th from 1:00 to 6:00 in the fellowship hall. Blood is urgently needed this summer, so please consider donating if you are able. Appointments can be scheduled online at Red-CrossBlood.org or you can call or text 309-830-4280, and an appointment time that works for you can be made. A confirmation text/call will then be sent back to you. Thank you!



The Gibson Area Food Pantry Diaper Drive was a high success. The total number of diapers of all sizes collected in May was 21,000. Our church donated \$1,000 to this cause which was used to purchase diapers of popular sizes. The first Distribution of a months supply to each family was June 17th. There was enough left over to have another distribution in July.



Ministry Coordinator Mary Clow put together a box of treats for Emma Swanson who is serving in the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp in Colorado.



Ministry Coordinator Mary Clow attended the Gibson City Restoration Association open house on June 6th at the Loy Building. The inside of the building looks great as all of the unsightly items cluttering it up have been sold or removed. Mary did a tour of both levels including the old opera house room. The open house focused on inviting politicians to see the progress that has been made and to hopefully provide support for one or more of the 15 to 20 grants recently submitted by the Association's grant writer. Pictured above are Quinn Adamkoski, Regional Manager from Landmarks Illinois, Alderman Ray Hankes, Madison Klintworth, Terri Ashmore, Martha Heavilin, Kathy Branz, Illinois State Senator Tom Bennett, Sharon Heavilin, Alderman Denis Fisher, Dawn Klintworth, and Kayla McCreary. Kira Ebert, from Illinois State Representative Jason Bunting's office, was also in attendance. Session approved a \$5,000 donation to the Association this month to help pay for the grant writer.

The summer banners purchased by the First Presbyterian Church are up on the light poles in downtown Gibson City. As noted by Ministry Coordinator Mary Clow, music feeds the soul and helps us with our expression and response to God and to the Church. They are also in honor of all the live music that will be happening this summer in downtown Gibson City. Susie Tongate helped design them and Joe Durham of Signs for Success acquired and hung them for the Church.





Charlie and Cheryl Schultz recently held a baby shower for their son Jordyn and his wife Jamie and soon to be big brother Sutton. Their grandson Banks is due June 26th. (Above & below.)



Pictured above: Jeanette Hensley is the winner of our Bible Word Search Puzzle for June. There were (15) fifteen entries (Julie Wissmiller, Barb Williams, Jeanette Hensley, Savannah White, Sherry Tomlinson, Jean Williams, Janice Swanson, Sharon Collings, Jodi VanSwol, Sara Musson, Danny Heustis, Val Hunt, Sharon Heavilin, Denise Birky and Reverend Stan DeLong.) Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$20 gift card to County Market. Please see the BLUE colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it in to the Church office by July 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 July Puzzle. Meladee



50th Class Reunion of the Class of 1973.

Judy Jo Hunt Arbour and friends.

Below: Sharla Williams and friends.

The Gibson High School Class of '73 Reunion was held at Mark's on First on June 3rd. Classmates Ron Clow and Sharla Williams along with Mary Clow had the best time. Parents were invited and included Ron and Carolyn Clow and Val Hunt. The class was grateful for the church's donation.



PICTURES OF THE CLASS OF 1973 REUNION



Mary, Carolyn, Ron Sr. and Ron Jr. Clow. Parents were invited.



Mary Clow was presented with flowers and made an honorary member of the class for helping plan and decorate for the celebration. The balloon towers came from the Pop Loft in Paxton.



Classmates Lee Moore, Sharla Williams and Ron and Mary Clow enjoy the evening.



Judy Jo Hunt and Mary Clow pose with photo props including the "50" number eye glasses.



UPDATE ON EMMA SWANSON

Emma Swanson returned to the Colorado Rocky Mountain Youth Corps for the summer in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Here are pictures of Emma and her team.



Emma Swanson models her new "mullet" Youth Corp haircut. How adorable is this young lady?! The bottom picture is after hiking with teammates to the Maroon Bells Peak in the Elk Mountains.



HEART OF ILLINOIS HEROES CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12TH



OUR COMMUNITY IS HOSTING A "THANK YOU" CELEBRATION FOR THE 1ST RESPONDERS AND VOLUNTEERS THAT HELPED GIBSON CITY THROUGH THE FLOOD & FIRES OVER THE PAST 2 YEARS.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS CAN BE MADE TO "HEART OF ILLINOIS HEROES" AT THE BANK OF GIBSON CITY!

Please Donate



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO EASILY MAKE A DONATION!

YOUR DONATIONS ARE NEEDED TO HELP US PROVIDE FOOD & ACTIVITIES TO MAKE THIS EVENT A SUCCESS.

Session approved a \$ 5,000 donation to the above event.

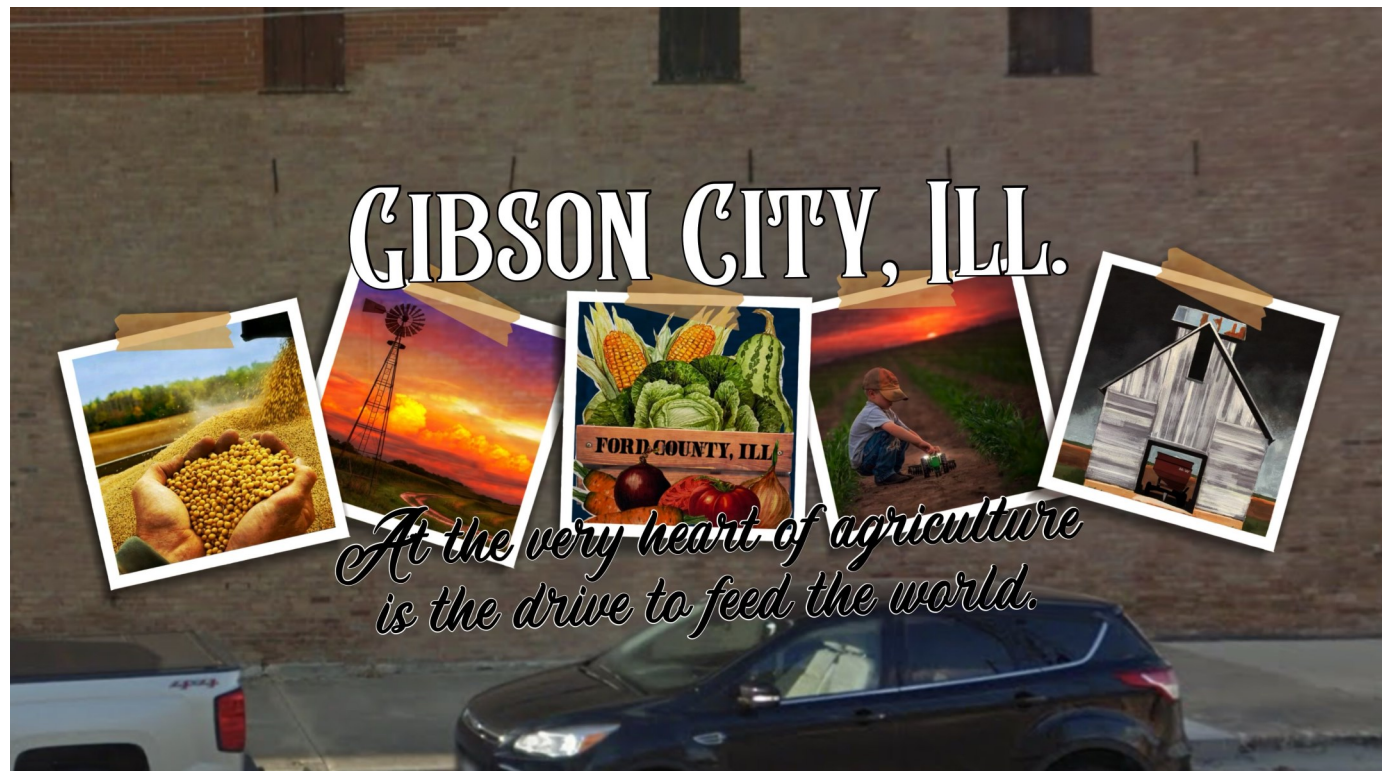


On May 30th, 2023, Gibson City lost its Church Street Cowboy, Colin Kristensen. To honor him and his family, friends hosted the 1st Church Street Cowboy Truck Show on June 24th. The First Presbyterian Church donated \$ 1,000 to help with this event. There was a truck show and awards for widest truck, loudest truck, tallest truck, lowest truck and the truck with most light. They also had a car smash, food and live music. All proceeds will go to benefit the Kristensen Family.



FACE BOOK PAGE

Our church has a Facebook Page, so if you are on Facebook, like our page and follow us. We hope to share more information as it happens and updates on our search for a new pastor.



Draft of the first mural that will be created on the Jelco building. Session approved a donation last year to the Gibson City Chamber of Commerce to help with this project in promoting Gibson City.



Trudy Lantz and Jean Williams enjoy the fish fry that was held on June 15th. Session approved a \$5,000 donation for this event which was a fund raiser to help the families affected by the May fire.



Val Hunt was thrilled recently to be able to celebrate her daughter Judy Jo's birthday in Gilman along with her other daughter Dorri Groom and Val's sister Donna Dionne and niece Paula Dionne.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY GENE AND MARY JANE ROTH!! Warm wishes from your church family on your marriage milestone. Sixty (60) years of giving happiness, love and loyalty to each other must not go unmarked. You are an inspiration to us all.

CONGRATULATIONS!



The Church's Community Garden is thriving. We have 12 new gardeners this year in addition to 10 returning gardeners. The hot weather is not slowing any of them down. If you get a chance, stop by and look. It's amazing how far our garden has come in three years.

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – JUNE, 2023

<u>June, 2023</u>	
Year to Date May.....	\$ 98,820.00
GCMS FFA in honor of Colin Kristensen.....	\$ 1,000.00
Church Street Cowboy Truck Show in honor of Colin	\$ 1,000.00
Charles Dillingham hotel room one night.....	\$ 80.00
Nathan & Liana Walden's Campus Crusade for Christ.....	\$ 2,000.00
Gibson City Restoration Association.....	\$ 5,000.00
Gibson City Food Pantry.....	\$ 5,000.00
Year to Date June.....	\$112,900.00

