PASTOR'S CORNER



Thank you, Dr. Billie Bates for a wonderful sermon on August 6th and thank you most of all for singing the gospel song "Who Am I" written by Mark Hall and recorded by the Christian Rock Band Casting Crowns. Dr. Bates, you have a beautiful voice. It was also a delight to meet your wife, Diana. Thank you, Ron Clow, for assisting.



Thank you, Janice Swanson, for preaching on Sunday, August 13th! You did a wonderful job!



Thank you, Reverend Gerald Boutelle, for preaching on Sunday, August 20 and serving communion. We look forward to seeing you again on October 1, World Communion Sunday!



Thank you, Reverend Connie Bandy for preaching on August 27th. Everyone enjoyed your ser-



Exciting Announcement: Pastor Paul Thomason, who recently retired from the Gibson City Bible Church after 28 years, has offered to help with our pulpit supply while we look for a permanent pastor. Pastor Thomason will be preaching in our church on <u>Sunday</u>, <u>September 3rd</u> and Sunday, September 10th. Please help us welcome Pastor Thomason to our church and show him our appreciation for his assistance during these challenging times.

PRESBYTIDINGS

September 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

The History of Labor Day and Christ's Lighter

Burden By Pastor Jonathan Krogh, First Presbyterian Church of LaGrange

For those of you a little rusty on your labor history, the history of Labor Day has dark roots in a Chicago police shooting just as controversial as any modern story. The Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions unanimously voted to support an eight-hour workday to be implemented no later than May 1, 1886. The cry, "eight-hour day with no change in pay!" was chanted by nearly a half-million workers nationally who went out on general strike on that day, 40,000 of them in Chicago, the center of the movement. The strike continued until May 3, when striking workers confronted non-union workers leaving the McCormick Machine Company; the police shot into the crowd, and six workers were killed.

The following day, anarchists called for demonstrations near Chicago's Haymarket. The rally lasted into the evening, when around 10:30 p.m. the police arrived again, marching in formation. As they advanced to the stage on a hay wagon, someone threw a homemade bomb which exploded, killing one police officer, & mortally wounding six others. The police opened fire, killing one & wounding 70 demonstrators. Arrests and trials resulted in death sentences for seven of the organizers, one of whom committed suicide

in his cell. Two others had their sen- Cleveland declared the less controtences commuted to life in prison by versial September date, which was Illinois Governor Richard Oglesby. In 1896, Governor John Altgeld par- 1894. doned the three surviving prisoners, claiming they were framed in a trial designed to protect the Chicago po-

A statue commemorating the fallen police officers was dedicated in Haymarket Square in 1889. In 1927, a streetcar operator jumped the tracks and knocked the statue off its pedestal; according to news accounts, he was "sick of looking at that policeman." The rebuilt statue was repeatedly vandalized, and in 1969 it was blown up by the Weather Underground. Rebuilt again, the statue was blown up again in 1970. Rebuilt again, it remained under 24hour police guard until, for its own protection, it was finally moved to police headquarters in 1972. In 1975 burdened, and I will give you rest. it was moved to the courtyard of the Take my yoke upon you and learn cated and moved back to an enues have always inspired high emo-

You can still find a bronze plaque at when we discover purpose for our Randolph and Desplaines. The text simply states that some workers and police died on May 4, 1886, and that's why much of the world celebrates May 1st as Labor Day. "But wait!" You may cry, Labor Day is the first Monday of September! Well, the unrest created a politi- regardless of the weather on Labor cal need to do something about Labor, but the May date had become associated with socialists, anarchists, and police killers. President Grover



introduced as a federal holiday in

That's the very short history of Labor Day and Chicago, and there is nothing particularly Christian in the retelling of the story, except there IS a message about work from scripture.

In Genesis, toil is the consequence of sin (Genesis 3.19). But I don't think that when Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they suddenly had to work in ways they had not previously known. I believe it is our sinful nature that alienates work from satisfaction. After the fall, Adam and Eve were doing the same tasks, but they suddenly felt like labor. Here's the joy of Christ's message in Matthew 11.28-30: "Come to me, all you who labor and are overpolice academy, and in 2007 redediffrom me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for closed location at headquarters. Stat- your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Learning from Christ, our burden becomes lighter work and meaning in our labor. As a result, there is a faithful rest for Labor Day. We as followers of Christ can use that day to reflect on the meaning and purpose of our work and how in Christ there is value to our labor. This can be done Day.

September 2023								
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday		
					1	2 RECYCLE		
3 10:30 a.m. Worship: Pas- tor Paul Thomason Thessalonians 4:13-18	4 Labor Day— Church of- fice will be closed	5	6	7	8	9		
10 10:30 a.m. Worship: Pastor Paul Thomason Thessalonians 5:16-18	11	12 Blood Drive in the fellowship hall	13	14	15	16 RECYCLE		
17 10:30 a.m. Worship: Mr. Jim Dunnan	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24 10:30 a.m. Worship Rev. Cindy Shepherd— Communion Matthew 20:1-16	25	26	27	28	29	30		

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH... FUN FACTS ABOUT SEPTEMBER...

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

fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net Of-

fice@firstpresbygibson.org.

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

The Romans would quite often associate different months with different gods. The month of September is associated with Vulcan, the Roman god of fire, quite possibly because it was a fiery hot month back when it was the seventh month of the year.

Back in the days of the Anglo-Saxons September used to be called Gerst Monath, which translates into "barley month". It was given this name because it was the time of year that the barley crop was harvested, and it was a special time as they brewed a popular drink out of it.

September heralds the beginning of Fall in the northern hemisphere. with it officially commencing on the September equinox, which is usually between the 21st and the 23rd of the month. In the southern hemisphere, it's the opposite of course, with spring starting on the September equinox.

September 11, 2001, changed the shape of the world forever. It was on this fateful day that the worst terrorist attack on US soil happened when four commercial airliners were hijacked. Two of the planes were flown straight into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center, and another was crashed into the Pentagon. The fourth plane crash-landed into a field in **Pennsylvania** after the passengers of the flight attempted to regain control of the plane from the terrorists.

September has some pretty interesting holidays spread throughout the month! Firstly, in the US, September is National Happy Cat Month We also have Kids Take Over the Kitchen Day (US) on September 13th, International Talk Like a Pirate Day on September 19th, as well as National Punctuation day (US) on September 24th.

Those born in September are brought into this world under one of two star signs. If you were born before September 23rd, you're considered to be a Virgo. If you're born on the 23rd or later, you're a Libra. Virgos are said to be analytical and hardworking people, while still being kind and loyal. Libras, on the other hand, value harmony and diplomacy, and are said to be both intelligent and kind.

BIRTHDAYS

AND ANNIVERSARIES

September

06: Allen Neubauer

17: Gene Roth 17: Danny Heustis

26: Val Hunt 26: Ted Swanson

October **08: Chervl Schultz**

09: Aizza Kerchenfaut

21: John Kirkpatrick 15: Barbara Williams

17: Larry Ladd 22: Jeanette Hensley

24: Michael Mott 26: Harry Groom

28: FPC—152nd

Second Sunday Offering

Sept 10: Gibson Area Music Foundation

Oct 8: Random Acts of Kindness

Ushers

Sept: Janice Swanson & Jeanette H. Oct: Trudy Lantz & Val Hunt

Communion Servers

Sept 27: Danny and Vonna Heustis

Oct 1: Ron and Mary Clow

September's name is really quite inaccurate these days. It was originally the seventh month of the ancient Roman calendar, and as such is was named Septem, which translates into "the seventh month". It wasn't until 451 BC that the months of January and February were added to the calendar, making September the ninth month.



THANK YOUS AND MORE

It was an honor to be chosen for this scholarship. I am truly grateful for the support. This scholarship allows me to work less hours and focus on my studies. I am currently enrolled at Parkland pursuing a career in Nursing. I hope one day I can give back to others! Sincerely, Brinky Stevens

To the dear members of the First Presbyterian Church: Our family is extremely grateful for your very generous donation to the Kendall's Miracle Accessible Van Fund. Kendall is working very hard to recover from the spinal stroke she suffered in 2020. Your donation will help modify their van and allow Kendall to become more independent. God bless each and every one of you. Linda VanDyken and the entire family

Dear First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for your generous donation to our "Splash Against Cancer" swim party. Your kindness is incomparable! Love, The Meads

Dear First Presbyterian Church: The Gibson Area Food Pantry (GAFP) gratefully acknowledges your recent gift of \$5,000 to Support the distribution of food for those in need in the Gibson City Area and throughout Ford County. Currently all financial donations go for the purchase of food and supplies. We thank you for your contribution to your local food pantry. Gibson Area Food Pantry Board



Clerk of Session Mary Clow presents the Gibson Area Food Pantry President Rick Ertel with a \$5,000 donation from our church. An average of 300 families from the area are served monthly by the Pantry.



Happy 9th Anniversary Meladee Ferguson as our church secretary. We are so lucky and grateful to have you. The Elders surprised her with a gift card from Blue Star Cafe.

Thank you Elders and church family for the gift certificate. The Blue Star Café is my favorite place in Gibson City to eat so I know I will enjoy it very much. It truly is hard for me to believe I have been here 9 years already. I must say it has been one of the best decisions I ever made to accept this position when it was offered to me. I have come to love each and every one of you and I really enjoy my work. THANK YOU!

Thank you, Meladee, for mailing me the \$25 gift card to County Market with the August newsletter for being the word search winner! I enjoy reading the newsletter and doing the puzzle every month! Denise Birky

Dear Members of the Presbyterian Church: The members of the Corn Belt Shrine Club thank you for the \$500 donation to Kids Day on August 20th. It was another successful event for our community. Sincerely, Eric Tjarks and Members

Pictured below: Denny Fisher, pictured below, is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for August. There were fourteen (14) who entered this month: Jean Williams, Phil Noellsch, Sherry Tomlinson, Jodi VanSwol, Lvndi Barnes, Denny Fisher, Mona Summers, Gene Roth, Jeanette Hensley, Val Hunt, Janice Swanson, Denise Birky, Sharon Collings and Barb Williams. Anvone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market. Please see the **GREEN** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it in to the Church office by September 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 September Puzzle. Meladee







What an awesome group of church members enjoying breakfast after church on August 6th at the Blue Star. So much fun and great team building. Pic 1: Sharla Williams, Mary & Ron Clow, Janice Swanson, Trudy Lantz, Danny & Vonna Heustis, Meladee Ferguson, and last, but not least, Val Hunt.



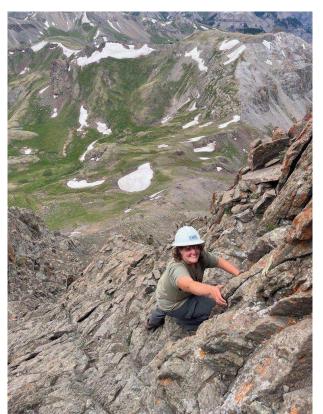


Jean Williams and daughters Linda and Jan enjoying pool time with Rob and Julie Williams.





Kendall's Miracle is a fundraiser that Session approved a \$2,000 donation to this month as her parents are trying to raise funds to buy a van that will help transport her to her doctor appointments and therapy. Kendall was paralyzed at age 13 and is the daughter of Gary Tongate and Misty Tongate. Linda VanDyken is Kendall's grandmother. Let's keep Kendall and her family in our prayers.





Emma Swanson, shown here with friends from her Colorado Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, rock climbing Wetterhorn Peak in Colorado which is 14,000 feet above sea level.







The Heart of Illinois Heroes Celebration held on August 12th at the North Park was a great success. Our church donated \$5,000 towards the Celebration which was to honor and thank the Firefighters, EMTS, Red Cross and Emergency Managers from over 12 surrounding towns along with the Gibson City Fire Department, Police Department and City Crews who came to the aid of our town during three disasters: the downtown July 4, 2022 Fire, the August 12, 2021 Flood and the May 11, 2023 fire.



The picture to the right is one of a baby shower held at Bloomington Country Club in honor of Colleen House (cousin of Sharla Williams). Pictured are: Teri Naour, Chelsey Bobella, our own Sharla Williams, Susie Tongate, Carolyn Williams, Katie Naour and the guest of honor, Colleen House.



TWENTY THINGS TO LIVE BY:

- 1. Compliment three people every day.
- 2. Watch a sunrise at least once a year.
- 3. Be the first to say, "Hello."
- 4. Live beneath your means.
- 5. Treat everyone like you want to be treated.
- 6. Never give up on anybody. Miracles happen.
- 7. Forget the Joneses.
- 8. Never deprive someone of hope. It may be all they have.
- 9. Pray not for things, but for wisdom and courage.
- 10. Be tough-minded, but kindhearted.
- 11. Be kinder than necessary.
- 12. Don't forget: a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated.
- 13. Keep your promises.
- 14. Learn to show cheerfulness, even when you don't feel like it.
- 15. Remember that overnight success usually takes about 15 years.
- 16. Leave everything better than you found it
- 17. Remember that winners do what losers don't want to do.
- 18. When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone's day.
- 19. Don't rain on other people's parades.
- 20. NEVER waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them.





FIELD OF STONE
By: Mike Hastings

If that field of stone could talk
Oh, what stories it could tell.
Some stones would speak of Heaven
Some would echo cries from Hell.
It's not what's written on the stone
That tells what lies beneath.
It's the hearts of those entombed
That will speak of their belief.

Your soul's final resting place
Is not that field of stone.
It's who you chose to follow
That tells where you'll call home.
That stone rests atop a body
A lifeless, empty shell.
The words engraved upon it
Do not say where you will dwell.

Some stones would shout in praise
In jubilation of God's call.
Some would whisper in the darkness
And not be heard at all.
Some would raise their voice in victory
In the land that we call Glory.
Some would cry for one more chance
To change their eternal story.

Grave stones cannot talk or share
The souls' final destination.
Be it in the dark of Hell
Or in the light of Christ's salvation.
There is one stone however
That had a lot to say.
The most important stone of all
It's the stone that rolled away.

It was put in place to hold death in That we'd forever know death's sting, But it rolled away to let life out In the form of Christ the King.



Our <u>September Special Offering</u> supports the Gibson Area Music Foundation. The Foundation presents a Christmas Program in December and Hymn Festival in August. In addition, they award scholarships to students wanting to attend a music camp of their choice. All singers are encouraged to participate. Rehearsals are usually held at our Church. Accomplished vocalists sing the solo parts, but to sing in the chorus, a love of music is all that's required.



Charlie and Cheryl Schultz recently enjoyed a wonderful vacation in Florida. The palm trees behind them help us experience their tropical fun and island vibes.





Charlie Schultz and his son Jordyn and grandsons, Sutton and Banks, had a great 4th of July together celebrating in Kentucky.

Be sure to tune in to WGCY 106.3 Radio and listen for our Church's "Good Luck GCMS Falcons" ad during Football Season.



OUR TOWN GIBSON CITY



Picture to the left: WCIA Weather Men: Kevin Lighty, Gibson City's own Jacon Dickey and Adam Sherwinski surrounded by a few Gibson Citians! While live on Kevin's weather report, everyone held up a picture of Kevin's face in front of them



Amanda Brennan, Jennifer Roscoe, Kevin Lighty, Brandon Merano and Jacob Dickey from WCIA.



Amanda Brennan who did our interview on Channel 3 WCIA



Ted Swanson, Cheryl Schultz, Charlie Schultz, Mary Clow and Ron Clow enjoyed dinner together during the Our Town Gibson City celebration.



THANK YOU PAS-TOR DAVE TER-RINONI for being our Moderator for the last three months. Thank you for all the ways you led and guided our Session during this interim time. Your knowledge, patience and spiritual guidance is greatly appreciated. You are a blessing to our church and a great example of living a life of faith. We will miss you and your sense of humor. Good Luck as you move onto your next project. (Reverend Roy Backus will be our Moderator starting September 1st.) Pictured with Pastor TERRINONI starting with the back row is Charlie Schultz, Tim Swanson, Ron Clow, Rick Kerchenfaut, Danny Heustis and Mary Clow. The front row is Pastor TERRINONI, **Vonna Heustis and** Sharla Williams.











The Corn Belt Shrine Club Annual Kids Day was a great success on Sunday, August 20th. Our church donated \$500 towards the event.





Gibson City concerned citizens Mary Clow, Ellen Hankes and Cathy Steindinger are working on the next project related to the downtown Nativity set. It entails having the house that the Nativity set sits in refurbished or replaced. Mary met with local carpenter Bill Hunter to inspect the current house which is rotted and has holes in it and can't be refurbished. It was decided a new house is needed and will have a floor for the statues to sit on so they will be off the ground. Additional lighting will be added and a star at the peak will be added. Bill submitted a price quote of \$2,000 to \$2,500 for materials and has graciously offered to build the house and not charge for his labor which is amazing. Letters will be sent to the other churches in the area asking for donations to cover the building materials. Our church will provide the necessary dollars now so Bill can get started. Memorial dollars from the Hank & Phyllis Brickman Fund and the Dale Ashmore Fund have been pledged to pay the \$3,500 refurbishing costs for the statues.



Our church donated \$ 780 to this fundraiser. Session added \$500 to the \$280 from the June Second Sunday collection from the congregation.



Over 6,000 people attended the Gibson Area Hospital Summer Bash on August 19th. The band 38 Special was the favorite of the night.

OUR TOWN GIBSON CITY

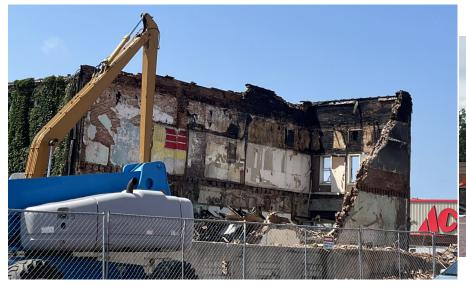


The second mural in Gibson City is done. It is located on the H & R Block building on Sangamon. Our church donated \$10,000 to the Gibson City Chamber of Commerce towards a fund they have set up with the Community to help with the costs.



Tim Swanson, Ted Swanson, Mary Clow, Kevin Lighty, Janice Swanson, Brandon Morano and Ron Clow pose for group picture at the end of the Our Town Gibson City celebration.

OUR TOWN GIBSON CITY





In early August, the demolition of three buildings in Gibson City destroyed by fire in May was completed. Tenants of 5 apartments were displaced in addition to several businesses. Our church donated \$5,000 to the Gibson City Chamber of Commerce Fundraiser to help the victims of the fire.





The three buildings that burned in May in Gibson City, including 5 apartments and 3 businesses, were cleared away in time for the Our Town Gibson City celebration on August 18, 2023. Downtown Gibson City certainly looks very different without the buildings. It remains to be seen if any one will rebuild or build anew on these lots.



Church Recognition

Ron and Mary Clow were interviewed as representatives of our church by WCIA Champaign channel 3 TV reporter Amanda Brennan to talk about our Church's mission work. The interview was filmed in our church and broadcasted on August 16th leading up to the "Our Town Gibson City" celebration on August 18th. As a Matthew 25 church, we try to build congregational vitality by joyfully engaging in the Community and the World.

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

As directed by Blackhawk Presbytery, the Ministry Profile form and Ministry Discernment Profile form was completed by the Pastor Nominating Committee and sent to the Blackhawk Presbytery Transition Committee for review. The Transition Committee returned the forms suggesting a few minor changes that were discussed and approved at the August Session meeting. Our moderator Pastor Dave Terrinoni will be taking our documents to the August 31st Commission on Ministry Meeting for approval. After that is completed, we are happy to report that we will then be authorized to enter the information into the Church Leader Connection Software Program. For clarification, the Church Leadership Connection is the internet-based matching and referral system of the Presbyterian Church USA. We are thrilled to be able to take this next step and feel optimistic that this will help set us on the right path to find more qualified applicants. In addition, PNC members Ron and Mary Clow had lunch with Pastor Steve Anderson of the Paxton Federated Church. Information was exchanged regarding each Church's operational procedures and each Church's Presbytery experiences. Ron and Mary noted it was a delight to meet Pastor Anderson and they plan to attend the Federated Church's 165th Birthday Celebration on September 10th

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS - AUGUST, 2023

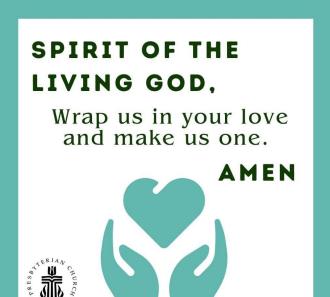
<u>August 2023</u>	
Year to Date July	\$115,850.00
Kendall's Miracle (Kendall Tongate for van)	\$ 2,000.00
Corn Belt Shrine's Club Kids Day in August	\$ 500.00
Todd Epps Intervarsity(College Ministry Carbondale)	\$ 600.00
Rent for Kristyn Durham	\$ 650.00
American Legion	\$ 5,000.00
Gibson City Fire Department	\$ 2,000.00
Shepherd's Closet	\$ 2,000.00
Material Costs to rebuild Nativity Set House	\$ 2,000.00
Total	\$130,600.00

BRICKMAN MEMORIAL FUND

DRICKWINI WENTORI	ALL I OIND
December, 2022 Expenditures	
Starting Balance	\$10,000.00
Restoration of Nativity Display Up to	\$ 3,000.00
Balance	\$ 7,000.00
February, 2023 Expenditures	
	- \$ 4,000.00
Balance	\$ 3,000.00
March, 2023 Expenditures	Ψ ο ,000.00
	e 2 000 00
Spring Banners – Downtown Gibson City	- \$ 3, <u>000.00</u>
Balance	000.00
DALE ASHMORE MEMORIAL FUND	
Starting Balance	\$ 1,000.00
February, 2023 Expenditures	,
Lion Club Pancake Breakfast Tickets/Food Pantry Clients	-\$ 350.00
August, 2023 Expenditures	\$ 220.00
Restoration of Nativity Display Set	-\$ 650.00
Balance	\$ 000.00



OUR TOWN GIBSON CITY





We pray that God will make us instruments of love for the communities in which we serve.



Jean Williams was injured on August 4th in a car accident. She was hit by a car while out on one of her many walks for which she is known. She broke her right arm and her left leg. She has had two surgeries and is recovering at the Gibson City Area Hospital Annex. Jean had to have another surgery on August 26th. Please keep this wonderful woman in your prayers. She is a valuable and much missed member of Session and our Pastor Nominating Committee. Cards can be sent to the GAH Annex, 430 E 19th Street, Room 224, Gibson City, IL. 60936

THANK YOU FROM JEAN WILLIAMS ...

It's been 4 weeks since the accident that has severely impacted my life for the next several months. I broke my left leg and right arm. I will be non weight bearing for 8 weeks. I feel lucky I wasn't killed and am focusing on that. I am extremely blessed to have such loving daughters, Linda and Jan, a fantastic step son, Rob, friends and family. I appreciate all the visits, prayers and cards.

This will have to serve as your thank you note as my right hand is out of service and my left hand is pretty useless. I know God has plans for me but really can't figure out if this serves any purpose (that was a joke and not meant to be critical). My long term goal is to get back to where I was and to still be alive a year from now. Jean Williams.



Hosted by and at:

American Evangelical Lutheran Church 905 East First Street Gibson City, IL 60936

Monday, Sept 11 - Friday, Sept 29, 2023 1:00-4:00pm (group appts only) 4:00-7:00pm (public viewing)

Tours available for groups and schools

Grades 5-12 only. Schedule a tour by emailing CourageToRememberGibsonCity@gmail.com

Free, open to the public, and handicap accessible

Opening Event

Sept 10, 2023 10:30am American Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hear from Dr. William Gingold, Holocaust survivor



Dave and Ellie Stoltz

Lets all keep Dave and Ellie Stoltz in our prayers. Sharla Williams had contact with their son Jon Stolz who said they are both facing significant health problems (mostly Ellie with cancer). They recently moved into an assisted living facility. Lets show them our love and support and send them cards and notes of encouragement to their new address which is 10307 E. County Road 100 North, Apartment 11, Indianapolis, IN 46234