

## PASTOR'S CORNER



Thank you, Pastor Paul Thomason, for preaching at our church on September 3rd and 10th. Your sermons were awesome. We can't wait for you to come back in October. And it was great to meet your beautiful wife, Connie.



Thank you Rev. Cindy Shepherd for preaching at our church on September 24th and serving communion. Your voice and delivery of your sermon was enjoyed by all. We hope you come back.

Those preaching or reading in October 2023:

October 1: Reverend Gerald Bou-telle—Communion

October 8: Meladee Ferguson

October 15: Pastor David Graham

October 22: Pastor Paul Thomason

October 29: Reverend Connie Bandy



Thank you Dr. Jim Dunnan and Darby for preaching at our church on September 17th. Your sermon, *Lessons from God Taught Through a Canine*, was excellent, entertaining and enjoyed by all. Thank you Susie Dunnan for joining us. We love all three of you.

### Pastor Nominating Committee Update

We are happy to report that we are now officially on the Church Leadership Connection PCUSA internet-based matching and referral system. Mary Clow has entered all the data required on two Ministry Information Forms – one seeking a Solo Pastor and the second one seeking a Commissioned Pastor. The system matched our church with two Pastor Information Forms. After review of both preliminary forms, one applicant was disqualified as not compatible. The second applicant was asked to apply to our position. Unfortunately, we did not receive a reply from the second applicant. We will continue to ask for matches as more job seekers enroll in the system. As of now, there are only 49 Pastor job seekers, and 5 Commissioned Elder job seekers on the system for the entire country.

In addition, a resume was received outside of the CLC system from a retired Methodist Pastor from St Louis, Missouri. Ron and Mary Clow met with him briefly when he came to town and gave him a tour of our church. After the Committee reviewed his resume, this applicant was disqualified as not compatible. A previous applicant from outside of the CLC system, Pastor David Graham, will be preaching in our church on October 15, 2023 as a guest pastor. Pastor Graham recently retired from the Grace Community Church in Nevada and has since relocated to Peoria. He has not been interviewed by the Committee at this time.



## PRESBYTIDINGS OCTOBER 2023

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

This Newsletter is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City IL.

Website: [www.firstpresbygibson.org](http://www.firstpresbygibson.org)

Meladee Ferguson: Administrative Assistant

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator

### All Saints' Day Celebration

All Saints' Day (sometimes called the Feast of All Saints) is one of the major feast days of the Christian faith and has been celebrated by Christians for hundreds of years. In early Christian tradition, it was used to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death, but in our modern Reformed tradition as Presbyterians, we use it as an opportunity to celebrate and remember members of our families and community who have entered the Kingdom of Heaven. We give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. We can face the loss of our loved ones we remember on this day because we know that God has loved and still loves each one of them and each one of us. God brings the faithful through the gateway of death to new and abundant life with God and all the saints triumphant. "Death cannot sever our connections with loved ones. Whatever is loved lives on forever not only in our hearts but in God's healing memory and

everlasting creativity" (Bruce Epperley).

In an effort to connect us to those who have come before us, we will honor those past members listed below in our worship service as we celebrate All Saints' Day on Sunday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Connie Bandy will officiate. A chime will ring as each name is read during the service. A picture of each person will be on display in the sanctuary. Please mark your calendar to join us as we celebrate these great men and women from our church's past.

Henry Brickman  
November 11, 2017

Lee Barry  
June 15, 2019

Crystal Barry\*  
August 15, 2019

John Kaufman  
June 15, 2020

Tim Shull  
January 29, 2021

Dale Ashmore  
July 27, 2021



John Gesell  
July 27, 2022

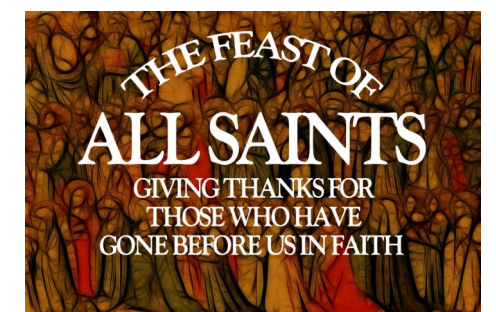
Kenneth Kyle  
February 11, 2022

Jerry Wissmiller  
August 17, 2022

Phyllis Brickman  
October 6, 2022

Georgianna Johnson  
November 19, 2022

Mildred "Jean" Jardine  
December 2, 2022



**All Saint's Day is November 1st, but is celebrated on Sunday, October 29, the Sunday before.**



October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 a.m. Worship: Reverend Gerald Boutelle Communion	2	3	4	5  *Meladee will be out of the office for a short period of time due to laser eye appt.	6	7 RECYCLE
8 10:30 a.m. Worship: Meladee Ferguson  Matthew 21:33-46	9  Hospital Auxiliary Luncheon   Columbus Day	10	11	12  Meladee will be away from the church of- fice at a doc- tor's appoint- ment.	13	14
15 10:30 a.m. Worship: Pastor David Graham   John 15:1-8	16  World Food Day	17	18	19 *Meladee has an eye ap- pointment at 9:45 here in Gibson. Will be in office as soon as ap- pointment is done.	20	21  RECYCLE
22 10:30 a.m. Worship: Pastor Paul Thomason	23	24  Gibson City Fright Night 5-7	25	26   5:30 Session	27	28
29 10:30 a.m. Worship Rev. Connie Bandy-All Saints Sunday	30	31 				

\*\*\*\*\*On October 5th Meladee will have laser surgery done on her right eye at hospital here. On October 19th she will need to return to Gailey Eye in Gibson City for a follow up check.

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

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 up-  
grade for our church’s tech-  
nology, email addresses as  
noted below:

Meladee  
fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net  
Officefirstpresbygibson.org

THE NEW FLOWER  
CHART IS up on the bulle-  
tin board outside of the sec-  
retary’s office.

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 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 be- came my favorite month!

The Twyford church in Hampshire, UK has a tradition of ringing its bells every year on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The origin of this tradition goes back to the 18<sup>th</sup> Century when a local resident called William David became lost in heavy fog while riding home at night. Much to his luck, he heard the church bells toll and from this, he managed to find his way home. As a form of thanks, he left some money to the church when he died so that the church could continue to ring their bells on October 7<sup>th</sup> every year, just in case there were any other lost travelers.

There is an amazingly varied number of holidays and observances cele- brated throughout the world in October. Some of which stand out the most are World Vegetarian day on October 1<sup>st</sup>, World Animal Day on October 4<sup>th</sup>, World Food Day on October 16<sup>th</sup>, and International Ani- mation Day on October 28<sup>th</sup>. Some of the wackier holidays that are cele- brated in the US deserved their own listing, and we’re sure you’ll agree! October 4<sup>th</sup> is National Noodle Day, October 16<sup>th</sup> is National Fossil Day, Sweetest Day is on the 17<sup>th</sup>, and Boss’s Day is celebrated on October 19<sup>th</sup>.

It wouldn’t be October without Halloween, which is celebrated on Octo- ber 31<sup>st</sup>. The celebration’s origins go all the way back to the Gaelic peo- ple of modern-day England, Scotland, and Ireland, who celebrated the festival of Samhain. Among other activities, the original celebrants of Samhain would dress in costumes or disguises and go door-to-door re- ceiving gifts of food, much like how today’s children dress up and re- ceive treats!

HAPPY OCTOBER!!!!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<i>Second Sunday Offering</i> Oct 8: Random Acts of Kindness Nov 12: American Legion Christmas Baskets	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 calen- dar, and October was the eighth month. Its name lit- erally translated into “the eighth month” in Latin. In 451 BC the two months of Ianurarius and Februarius were added to the begin- ning of the calendar, mak- ing October the 10 <sup>th</sup> month.
October 08: Cheryl Schultz 09: Aizza Kerchenfaut 15: Barbara Williams 17: Larry Ladd 22: Jeanette Hensley 24: Michael Mott 26: Harry Groom	November 01: Doris Gerber 06: Carla Ashmore 07: Beverly Swanstrom 18: Ellie Stolz 18: David Schmidt 20: Vonna Heustis 23: Noah Swanson	<i>Ushers</i> Oct: Trudy Lantz & Val Hunt Nov: Trudy Lantz and Jean Williams <i>Communion Servers</i> Oct 1: Ron and Mary Clow Nov: Date to be an- nounced—Charlie Schultz and Tim Swanson	
			



## THANK YOUS AND MORE

Thank you so much for your generous support of our ministry at Shepherd's Closet. Your kindness makes it possible to help hands and feet of JESUS to those in our community who have needs. Blessings, John and Annie Barnett

Thank, You made my heart so happy! 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

Dear Friends, It was great to get the Presbytidings. Congratulations on your very active ministry. No doubt that P.N.C. will provide numerous candidates from which to select in short order. Joan and I did not have a very busy summer, but it flew by very quickly. True for everybody, no doubt. God Bless you all. In His Love and Power Stanley D. DeLong

Dear Church, And you are dear! Is there any positive word not on the cozy blanket? It is one of a kind. And it is so warm! We shall use it with love, as it was sent in love. Bless you all. Dave and Ellie Stolz.



Session purchased this healing blanket and sent it to Dave and Ellie Stolz with healing wishes.



Thank you Mary Clow for decorating the bulletin boards for Fall.

I want to send you all a personal note of thanks for the Session's kindness with the parting gifts, kind words, and your note card. Thank you. It all means a lot to me. Also, thank you for the nice photo and write-up in your most recent newsletter. I am often amazed at how quickly four months can fly by—and it did! Please know, Jean and your whole congregation remain in my prayers. So, until next time, may our eternal God keep you all empowered, positive, and focused on what is yet to come. Your Brother in Christ, Chaplain Dave Terinoni



Pictured below: Gene Roth is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **October**. There were fourteen (14) who entered this month: Phil Noellsch, Danny Heustis, Sherry Tomlinson, Jodi VanSwol, Teresa Alexander, Denny Fisher, Rev. Dr. Stan DeLong, Gene Roth, Jeanette Hensley, Val Hunt, Janice Swanson, Denise Birky, Sharon Collings and Barb Williams. Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market. Please see the **Orange** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it in to the Church office by October 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 **October** Puzzle. Meladee



A portion of our church family enjoying breakfast (or lunch) at the Blue Star with guests Dr. Jim and Susie Dunnan. Those in attendance: Ted Swanson, Tim and Janice Swanson, Trudy Lantz, Val Hunt, and Meladee Ferguson on the left side of table. On the right side of table beginning at the back: Susie and Jim Dunnan, Sharla Williams, Chic Meredith, and Ron and Mary Clow.



Thank you Mary Clow for decorating the church for Fall. The fall colors and décor look absolutely beautiful!





Thank you Sharon and Tom Heavilin, Logan Heavilin and Ron Clow for moving the two pews in the Chapel to the Loy Building. Our church donated them to the Gibson City Restoration Association. And the Chapel will now have room to store the newly renovated Nativity Set during the off season.

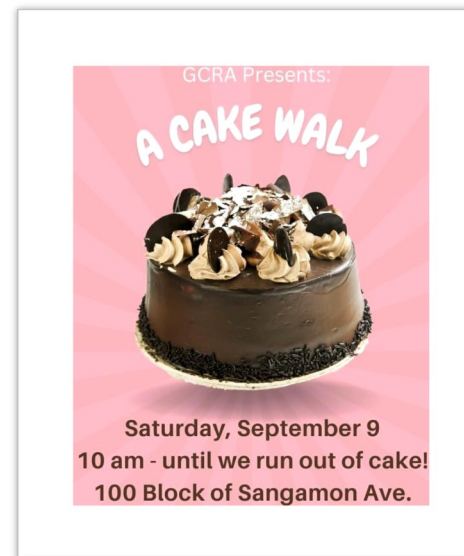


Thank you Ron Clow for buying and installing a new hand held microphone that will be used for making announcements and audience participation as needed. It has been hooked up to our sound board to replace the old one that had a short in it.



Jean Williams was able to go home for one day during her recovery from being hit by a car to soak up lots of love from her family. Here she is surrounded by her beautiful great grandchildren. Please continue to keep Jean in your prayers.

Mrs. Jean Williams, Gibson Area Hospital Annex, Room 226, 430 East 19th Street, Gibson City IL 60936



Our church donated our Harvest Fest table we were entitled to as a Sponsor to the Gibson City Restoration Association. They held a Cake Walk fundraiser.



Our church was one of the sponsors of the September 8th and 9th Gibson City Harvest Fest. Here is a picture of one of the two banners with our church logo that were hung on both sides of the band stage. There were retail and food vendors, bands both nights and a large Kids Zone filled with activities. The weather was perfect both days and the turnout was great.

Our congregation really enjoyed the sermon "Lessons from God Taught Through a Canine" that Jim Dunnan preached on September 17<sup>th</sup> and wanted to reward his companion, Darby, for putting smiles on our faces. So this gift basket was sent to him for a job well done. We love Darby!



At the September 8th GCMS Football game halftime, the Red Army honored all of those who sacrifice their time and energy for the betterment of our Community. This included First Responders from the Police and Fire Department and the Gibson City Food Pantry Board. Ministry Coordinator Mary Clow has been on the Food Pantry Board for several years representing our church and participated in the events on the field that night.

NIGHT TO HONOR OUR  
HEROES





**Congratulations to parents Mitch Craig and Brittany Adams and Grandma Sharon Heavilin on the birth of Harper Denise Craig on September 11, 2023. What a precious bundle of joy.**



**Holly Brook took a field trip to Prairie Gardens in Champaign. That's our very own Val Hunt enjoying time with friends.**



**Heaven Bound, a gospel quartet from the Champaign area, performed on Monday, September 18th, at the Villas of Holly Brook. They were excellent and enjoyed by everyone in attendance. Val Hunt (right) in yellow sweater definitely enjoyed the group!**



**Four generations of the Hunt family enjoyed lunch at the La Tea Da Tea Room in Clinton. They were having an early celebration of Val Hunt's great granddaughter, Valeree's, 24th birthday while she was home from Florida for a short visit with her parents, Chad and Stacy Johnson of rural Paxton. Pictured (from left) are Val's granddaughter, Stacy; Val; Valeree; and Val's daughter, Dorri Groom.**



**Fall banners for the City Light poles purchased by our Church were hung in time for the Harvest Fest Celebration.**



**Thank you Harvest Fest Committee for dropping off wrist bands, drink tickets and Huggies as a thank you to the church for being a sponsor for the Gibson City Harvest Fest held on September 8th and 9th.**



**Ministry Coordinator Mary Clow presents a \$5000 donation from our church to the American Legion Commander Denny Troyer.**



**The amazing Gibson City Harvest Fest Committee put together another great Harvest Fest celebration. It involved a lot of planning and hard work by these volunteers. This group also puts together the Christmas Parade event. Our Church gave each member of the group a \$50 Horsch Radish gift card to show our appreciation.**



**Session approved a \$2000 donation to Shepherd's Closet & Closet Too. The emergency food pantry in Shepherd's Closet and the thrift stores are so important to those in need in our community. Stop in and check out the upgrades recently made to both stores.**





COMMUNITY GARDEN



The Community Garden started by our Church continues to be abundant with Produce and Flowers. What a blessing it has been to our community.



Ministry Coordinator Mary Clow recently replaced all the wax candles with battery operated candles. This is a safer, cleaner and more modern option for our church.

Random Acts of Kindness – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Collection for October

Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. Offering a helping hand to someone in need can make a difference in their day. It has been a long tradition of our church to award several gifts to both members of the church and members of the Community especially around the Christmas season. Session will add \$500 to any donations collected.

September 2023 Missions

Year to Date August.....	\$130,600.00
Fall Banners.....	\$ 1,400.00
Easton Wilsey Fundraiser (child killed by train in Royal).....	\$ 1,000.00
Jordan Schultz ....(travel expenses son's doctor visits).....	\$ 1,000.00
Gibson City Fright Night Giveaways.....	\$ 1,000.00
God Loves You Coins.....	\$ 90.00
Two Healing Blankets.....	\$ 70.00
Gift Card -Dollar General - Mitch Craig.....	\$ 100.00
Team Building Breakfast after church September 17 <sup>th</sup> .....	\$ 150.00
Gift Basket – Canine Darby Dunnan.....	\$ 40.00
Glow Bingo Gibson Area Hospital.....	\$ 1,500.00
Gibson City Christmas Parade.....	\$ 1,000.00
Random Acts of Kindness – Four Blue Star Waitresses.....	\$ 1,000.00
GC Harvest Fest Comm. Members (16) \$50 gift cards.....	\$ 800.00
Total.....	<b>\$139,750.00</b>



Exciting Update on Jean Williams:

Our girl is standing and has now started to walk. Our prayers have been answered. Keep them coming and before you know it she will be home and on her way back to joining us in church.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

GRATEFUL  
Thankful  
BLESSED





## WAS IT WORTH IT, LORD?

By: Mike Hastings

Was it worth it, Lord, to give your Son  
For those who still rebel?  
For those who have been told the truth,  
But still choose the path to Hell?

Was it worth it, Lord, to see Him die?  
Beaten, battered, on the Cross  
To know He gave His life for all,  
But so many still are lost?

Was it worth it, Lord, the blood He shed  
To erase the pain of man?  
To see that many still don't care  
Still ignore salvation's plan?

Well, Lord, I'll tell you this much  
From one who's been set free,  
One who's soul is saved by grace  
It was worth it, Lord, to me.

I know that's why you did it,  
Why you offered up your Son.  
You'd have send Him to us  
Had He only saved but one.

So, for those who have embraced You,  
Who have Heaven as reward,  
We thank you with our hearts and souls  
That it was worth it, Lord.

we're  
*Thankful*

Our church will have a table downtown at Gibson City's Fright Night event scheduled for Tuesday October 24th. We will be giving out fresh fruit (cuties) and fun toys. If you want to help the Elders work the table, please let Mary Clow know.



## NEWS OF OUR CHURCH



The September 28th Session meeting was held at the Annex so that Jean Williams could attend. The Elders presented Jean with a healing blanket with positive thoughts and to keep her warm. (She is always cold.) Pictured helping Jean open her gift is our Moderator Rev. Roy Backus.



Addison Kerchenfaut and Lucas Clinton were part of the Junior Class Homecoming float in the GCMS parade held on September 28th.



Val Hunt was a busy lady this month. Here she is throwing out candy on the Holly Brook float for the GCMS Homecoming Parade on September 28th.



The Gibson Girls HCE Unit under the direction of member Ellen Hankes spent time during the summer making "Dress A Boy" shorts as an offshoot of the Dress A Girl around the World Program sponsored by Hope 4 Women International. Here is a picture of just a few of these brightly colored shorts. Remember last year the Gibson Girls made several dresses for the same program. These shorts will be sent to Africa or Honduras and a pair of underwear and a small bouncing ball will be placed in the pocket of each pair of shorts. Our church donated money to this local organization and Mary Clow, Sharon Heavilin and Jean Noellsch are members.



**OUR TOWN GIBSON CITY**



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