

PASTOR'S CORNER



On World Communion Sunday, we celebrated our oneness in Christ with our neighbors around the world.



Thank you Pastor David Graham for preaching at our church on October 15th. We really enjoyed your sermon and it was a delight to meet your lovely wife, Linda.

Thank you Meladee Ferguson for preaching on October 8th. You did excellent and it was all so natural for you. What an awesome multi-talented secretary our church is blessed to have. (Thank you, Mary!)



Thank you again Pastor Paul Thomason for preaching in our church on October 22nd. Your sermons are wonderful and we feel so blessed to have you in our church.

Those preaching or reading in November 2023:

November 5: Pastor Paul Thomason

November 12: Reverend Cindy Shepherd

November 19: Reverend Connie Bandy

Confirmation of Addison and Charlie Kerchenfaut

November 26: Judi Geistlinger—



PRESBYTIDINGS

November 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






Thank you Pastor Connie Bandy for preaching on All Saints' Day and helping us honor the Saints of our church who passed away the last five years. Your sermon connected God's words to the lives of God's people.



"Those we love don't go away" lanterns were given to the families of the 12 members that were honored at our All Saints Day Celebration service on October 29th.



November 2023						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <p>GOBBLE! GOBBLE!</p>			1	2	3	4 RECYCLE
5 10:30 a.m. Worship: Pastor Paul Thomason	6 7 Messiah Practice	7	8 Meladee will be out of church office at 2 doctor appointments in Champaign	9	10	11 FPC to work at Food Pantry 8 to 10. “Fall” back one hour before retiring
12 10:30 a.m. Worship: Pastor Cindy Shepherd Daylight Savings Time Ends Matthew 25:1-13	13 7 Messiah Practice	14	15 Meladee will be out of church office at Gailey Eye Clinic in Bloomington	16	17	18 RECYCLE Lighted Christmas Parade
19 10:30 a.m. Worship: Connie Bandy	20 7 Messiah Practice	21	22	23 Church office closed Happy Thanksgiving	24 Church office closed	25 
26 10:30 a.m. Worship Judi Geistlinger—Communion	27 7 Messiah Practice	28	29	30 5:30 Session		

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

First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City

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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
Officefirstpresbygibson.org

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

Many people in the US can recall what they were doing at 12:30 pm on **November 22, 1963**. It was on this day that President John F. Kennedy, known as JFK, was fatally shot while riding along with his wife in a procession of cars. He was rushed to a hospital all too late and was pronounced dead at 1 pm that day. Kennedy was the fourth US president to be assassinated, after Abraham Lincoln, James Garfield, and William McKinley.


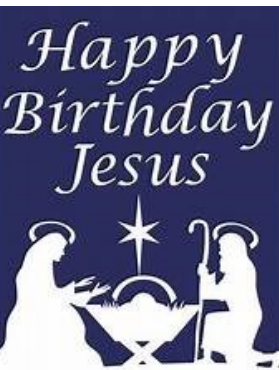

The Anglo-Saxons had quite a fitting name for November. It’s usually at this time of the year in the northern hemisphere that cold winds start to chill you to the bone, and as such, they called it “Wind Monath,” or wind month. The Anglo-Saxons also called the month of November “Blod Monath,” or blood month. It gained this name as it’s in November that they would traditionally slaughter cows to provide food for the long winter months.

Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth **Thursday** of November and has been celebrated since 1621. The first **Thanksgiving** was a feast celebrating the first bountiful harvest of the pilgrims of Plymouth and New England. It is still celebrated in a similar way, with families coming together and sharing plentiful amounts of food traditionally available during November.

November has just one birthstone, the radiant topaz. The topaz is symbolic of many things, but most of all, it is a symbol of strength and honor. The ancient Greeks also believed that the stone had the ability to turn oneself invisible. November also only has one birth flower, although with a flower like this, who needs another?! We’re talking about the ever-stylish chrysanthemum, which to the most extent, symbolizes cheerfulness. Different colored chrysanthemums have different meanings, though – a white flower symbolizes pure love and truth, a red flower says “I love you” like nothing else does, while a [yellow](#) flower is a symbol of unrequited love.

HAPPY NOVEMBER!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<i>Second Sunday Offering</i> Nov 12: American Legion Christmas Baskets Dec 10: Christmas Joy Offering <i>Ushers</i> Nov: Trudy Lantz and Jean Williams Dec: Ron and Mary Clow <i>Communion Servers</i> Nov 26: Charlie Schultz and Tim Swanson Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service—Ron and Mary Clow November’s name has remained unchanged since the ancient Roman calendar, which was in use until 45 BC. This first Roman calendar was only made up
November 01: Doris Gerber 06: Carla Ashmore 07: Beverly Swannstrom 18: Ellie Stolz 18: David Schmidt 20: Vonna Heustis 23: Noah Swanson	December 07: Charlie Schultz 25: JESUS 27: Elinor Nelson	of ten months, with November being the ninth month. November actually translates rather appropriately into “ninth month” in Latin. When the Julian calendar was adopted in 45 BC, two new months were added, which pushed November back to the 11 th month. Despite its change in position, November was never renamed.

THANK YOUS AND MORE

Dear Church Family,
Thank you so much for your support and scholarships as I go to MSU! The scholarship helps me pay my tuition for my education. I hope to see you all on my next visit to Gibson. Love, Anneliese Kerchenfaut

Thank you for your generous donation to the Hanley School Supply Fund. We were able to help 136 students with your continued support. Bonnie Clark, Hanley School Supply Fund

During a time like this we realize how much family and friends really mean to us. Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. The family of Donald “Sparky” Schultz

From the bottom of my heart—Thank you. Your generous gift is helping more than you know. You bless me, Vickie, fiancée of Donald Schultz

There are no words to fully express my appreciation to so many for so much. The cards, visits, prayers, phone calls, your thoughts and concern all helped me emotionally survive the last several weeks. Not to mention the healing blanket that kept me warm. I may have to bring it to church this winter. I have another surgery on my elbow plus several months of therapy, but I will be back to normal. A lot of people are not so lucky. God bless you all! Jean Williams

A NOTE OF THANKS BY MIKE HASTINGS FOR VETERANS

We breathe the air of freedom
For which many paid a price.
In time, blood, sweat or tears
Each one made a sacrifice.

They served for God and country,
Answered “Yes” to freedom’s call,
Served to safeguard loved ones
And in serving, loved us all.

Many of them gave their lives
This great nation to protect.
Each is owed a heartfelt thanks
As well as honor and respect.

So on this day, we celebrate
All who served to keep us free.
God bless those who gave themselves
To give us liberty.

Thank you, Veterans, for the
sweet breath of freedom.

Veteran’s Day honors all men and women who served our country in both times of war and peace. The branches of service are Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard. World War I ended at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. We first celebrated the occasion of Armistice Day the following year on November 11, 1919. In 1954, the holiday was renamed Veteran’s Day. It always occurs on the 11th day of November. To all who either have served or currently serve in the military, we are deeply grateful.

First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement sent to honor Jan’s beautiful life. The family of Janice Y. Peterson

Dear Meladee: You are so kind about reaching out to those needing prayer. Now it is our turn to pray for you in your eye care. Our prayer is that you get the help you need. I know it isn’t for awhile yet, but want you to know we love you and care about your procedure. Bless ya. Dave and Ellie Stolz

What a talent your brother has. I think he should put his poems in print.

(Thank you dear friends. I love you both also and you are in my prayers daily. I, too, believe Mike should put his poems in print but talking to him about that is like talking to a brick wall. Meladee)

OUR LIVING VETERANS

Danny Heustis
Marion (Mac) McClure
Alan Neubauer
Gene Roth
Dave Schmidt
Mike Kaufman
Ted Swanson



GLO BINGO

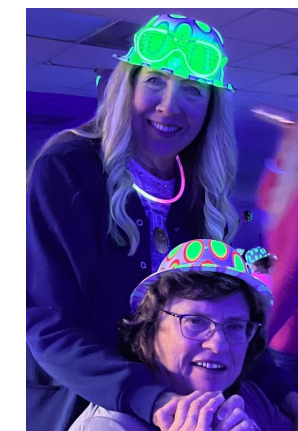
Our Church was one of the Sponsors for the Gibson Area Hospital Glo Bingo Fundraiser. Representing our church at the VIP table was Ron and Mary Clow, Tom and Sharon Heavilin and guests Pat and Dennis Farris.



Ministry Coordinator Mary Clow with Gibson Area Hospital CEO Rob Schmitt.



Above: Mary Clow with congregation member Cheryl Schultz.



Middle top: Mary Clow and Sharon Heavilin.



Mary Clow won the “South of the Border” gift basket in the raffle drawing. Thank you, Tom Heavilin.

Middle bottom: Ron and Mary Clow.



Another great team building breakfast was held on Sunday October 15th with visiting Pastor David Graham and his wife Linda. Congregation members include Tim & Janice Swanson, Danny Heustis, Meladee Ferguson, Gene & Mary Jane Roth, Val Hunt, Ron & Mary Clow and Ted Swanson.



Wesley and Teddy Lantz, grandsons of Trudy Lantz, look all happy after their recent haircuts. They are growing fast and still as adorable as can be. Thank you Uncle Tim Swanson for the pictures.



It was wonderful seeing beautiful Barb Williams in church for World Communion Sunday. Since Barb no longer has a car, she is grateful when someone can pick her up and bring her to church.

How great it was to get to meet little Banks on World Communion Sunday brought to church by grandparents Charlie and Cheryl Schultz.



The Gibson City Restoration Association Update

We've Got BIG News on the Loy Building

Since we bought the Burwell Building last year, we've gotten many questions about what the future use of the building might be. People want to know what it will be used for - rightfully so! They want to know that it will contribute to the downtown area and that it will be used in a way that benefits Gibson City. Even the grants we have applied for are asking for this information - groups giving us money want to know that it will go towards a good cause and a purpose that they believe in.

As we have discussed this over the last year as a board, we've thrown around several ideas. We knew it was time where 'the rubber meets the road' and we needed to get something solidified as to the future purpose. At our last board meeting, we put those thoughts to paper. And, we approved a future plan for the Burwell Building. We are so excited to share our plans with you!

Upstairs

We all agreed that we want to see the upstairs restored to be an Opera Hall again. The 'grand hall' will be restored to be a large event space. This will allow it to be rented out for various events, including weddings, parties, business meetings, live music events, etc. We plan to keep as much of the original details of the grand hall as possible, including restoring the beautiful wood trim that adorns it's walls and ceilings. We'll add ADA accessible bathrooms and an elevator. The upstairs rooms on the East side of the building (facing Sangamon Avenue) will be turned into Airbnb rentals. We will create 3 bedrooms each with their own bathrooms.

The kitchen area on the south end of the floor, will be restored to a kitchen space that all occupants share (including anyone renting the grand hall). The room to the West of the kitchen will be a smaller meeting space or dining area. It can be rented for smaller events that don't require the space that the 'grand hall' provides such as business meetings, baby/wedding showers, rehearsal dinners, etc.

Downstairs

The downstairs is a large open area of 5,000 square feet. As with the upstairs, we are going to try to save as many of the original details as we can, including the tin ceilings and crown molding. The downstairs will also need ADA accessible bathrooms and a kitchen area. The plan for the downstairs is that it be used as a business incubator. A business incubator is an organization that helps new and startup businesses to develop by providing services such as management training, office space, access to financing, and networking opportunities. We would lease the downstairs to a newly formed business, provide coaching and support to them as they are getting their business started. As they get established, then we would then help them find a more permanent location. This will allow us to move on to the next business startup that is interested in our services. We are currently reaching out to potential partners to help us get the business incubator off the ground.

We hope you are as excited about our future state as we are! We've put a lot of thought into this and hope to see it get off the ground successfully in the coming years. There is so much that still needs to be done between now and then, but we are confident we will get there.

We will be sharing more details in the coming months.

"Nothing happens unless first a dream!" ~ Carl Sandburg ~

Our church has donated to this association on several occasions to help pay for a grant writer.



Ron and Mary Clow had a great time in Sault Ste. Marie Canada on their Fall Colors trip. They took an all day train ride to the Agawa Canyon in Ontario. They spent the last two days in a cabin on Lake Superior near Marquette Michigan. The colors were at peak.



When Ron and Mary Clow crossed the border into Canada, they exchanged \$200 in American money for \$254 in Canadian money. Their large bills are made of plastic polymer which lasts longer and is hard to counterfeit. Ones (called loonies) and Twos (called toonies) are coins. They no longer use Pennies.



LEFT: A big thank you to Janice Swanson for conducting confirmation classes for Candidates Addison and Charlie Kerchenfaut.

BELOW: Let's celebrate! Jean Williams was able to go home on October 12th after her accident 10 weeks ago. Here she is surrounded by the GAH Annex therapy staff wishing her well.



The Gibson Girls HCE Unit hosted the funeral dinner for Don "Sparky" Schultz fiancé of Vickie Craig on October 12th at Marks on First. Session donated \$250 out of Mission Funds towards the cost of the meal.



The Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary held their Fall Banquet on October 9th in our Fellowship Hall. Pictured above left is our very own church member and long time Auxiliary member Jeanette Hensley sitting with Margo Martin. Chris Hazen was volunteer of the year. And one of the speakers was Natalie DeSchepper talking about her bakery business Rising.

IMPORTANT NOTICES!

Heed now the call for a Congregational meeting to approve nominations for 2024. This meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. before the service of worship. No other business may be conducted at the meeting. A Special Session meeting will be held at 10:35 a.m. on Sunday November 19th in order to vote on the request to join our church by Addison and Charlie Kerchenfaut. No other business will be conducted at the meeting.



Our church has been chosen to be one of the Grand Marshalls in the Gibson City Lighted Christmas parade on November 18th to honor our church for the Gibson Area Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award. Anyone interested in riding in the back of a pickup truck in the parade should contact Mary Clow.

The refurbished Nativity Set from Church Warehouse Supply of Wheaton has been delivered to our church. They are being stored in our Chapel until they are put on display for the Christmas holiday. The colors are stunning and the group working on this project (Mary Clow, Ellen Hanks and Cathy Steindinger) are thrilled with the results. Funds from the Hank and Phyllis Brickman Memorial Fund and Dale Ashmore Memorial Fund paid for this project and is greatly appreciated. The driver that delivered the figures said his grandfather was the artist that did the work and really enjoyed refurbishing them. Stay tuned for follow up information on the new house being built for them.



Holly Brook took a field trip on October 12th to Curtis Orchard in Champaign. Pictured above is Val Hunt and friends having fun posing in a face-in-the-hole board of the Wizard of Oz characters. Val is Dorothy second from right.

November Second Sunday Collection – American Legion post 568 Christmas Baskets
The American Legion distributes food and toys in baskets each Christmas season to local veterans and deserving families. It is a great heart-warming way to recognize special people and those in need so they can enjoy the holidays. It is one of the most important activities for the post. Session will add \$1,000 to this special mission.



GIBSON AREA FOOD PANTRY UPDATE –
Our church made a \$5,000 donation in August to the pantry. Board member Mary Clow reports that the distribution of food reached an all-time high in October serving 196 households which included 571 individuals of which 204 were children and 120 were seniors. There are approximately 60 home deliveries to shut ins. In addition, there are 90 backpacks placed in lockers twice per month for students at the GCMS School District and for the students at the Head Start Program here in our building. For Thanksgiving, 150 turkeys (for distribution) and 75 Turkey Breasts (for deliveries) have been ordered. In addition, for Christmas, 225 hams have been ordered. Additional meal trimmings for these holidays will be provided. All of this is in addition to the regular food provided at each distribution. The turkeys will be distributed on Saturday, November 11th which also happens to be our Church's turn to volunteer at the Food Pantry. Volunteers are needed on Friday, November 10th at 6:30 p.m. or Saturday, November 11th at 8:00 a.m. Please plan on helping and wear your long sleeve blue Church logo shirt.



Acting Stated Clerk of Presbytery USA issues call to pray for latest Israeli/Palestinian conflict



BE THANKFUL

By Mike Hasting

It's not the football games
Or the turkey on your plate,
The dressing or the casseroles
Which always tastes so great.

It's not the gravy and mashed potatoes
Or that still warm pumpkin pie,
Or the nap that you might take
With a contented "I'm full" sigh.

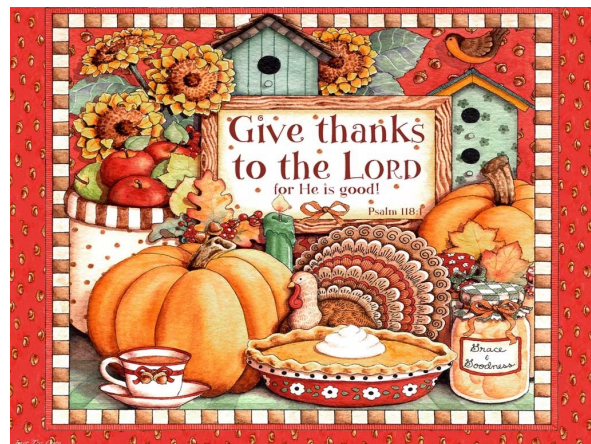
Oh, these are things to give thanks for
From a list that never ends.
But more important than all of these
Are your family and your friends.

It's your love for one another,
Your shared history together,
The joy shared in the good times
And the storms that you've all weathered.

But most importantly remember this,
On this day we call Thanksgiving.
It's God who gives all things to us
And makes this life worth living.

And remember too, upon this day,
A Savior sacrificed.
And on this Thanksgiving and every day
Thank God for Jesus Christ.

*I will give thanks to you, LORD, with all
my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful
deeds. Psalm 9:1 (NIV)*



Pictured below: Lyndi Barnes is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **October**. There were eighteen(18) who entered this month: Janice Swanson, Sherry Tomlinson, Jean Williams, Danny Heustis, Denny Fisher, Jodi VanSwol, Sharon Collings, Lisa Helgeson, Ted Swanson, Val Hunt, Jeanette Hensley, Teresa Alexander, Stacy Johnson, John Ferguson, Denise Birky, Barb Williams, Mona Summers and Lyndi Barnes. Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market. Please see the **Hot Pink** 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 south east church door. Be certain to read the Bible verses attached to the puzzle. I found every word listed in the **November** Puzzle. Meladee



NEWS OF OUR CHURCH

Dear Church Members: I don't know that words can adequately express my sincere gratitude to the First Presbyterian Church for your very generous gift. It will most certainly help to ease the financial burden of my medical expenses. I am truly overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. May God bless you all, Andrea Goins

Pictured below is Andrea Goins and her lovely family. Andrea is the granddaughter of Vonna Heustis. Andrea has multiple sclerosis and requires quarterly infusions which are very necessary but very costly to her. Session approved a donation to her to help offset just some of the cost. Please continue to keep Andrea and her family in your prayers.



Thank you Ron Clow, Greg Clow and Erin Hayes for installing a new sound system in the sanctuary. The old one was 25 years old and parts were no longer available.



KID'S CORNER—FOR ALL AGES

One Sabbath morning, the Pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names and small American flags were mounted on either side of it. The seven-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the Pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning, Alex." "Good morning, Pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque. "Pastor, what is this?" Alex asked. "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service." Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?" Submitted by Julie Wissmiller, Niece of Jeanette Hensley

Ron Clow announced each of the 12 names of those past members we were honoring on All Saints Day. Organist Beverly Nagle played a chime after each name was read.

FRIGHT NIGHT IN GIBSON CITY

Fright Night was so much fun. There was a huge turnout. Members working the First Presbyterian Table were Ron and Mary Clow, Tim and Janice Swanson, Charlie Schultz and Sharla Williams. Our light up glasses were a big hit. Thank you to those who helped, including Ted Swanson.

OCTOBER 24TH

FRIGHT NIGHT

DOWNTOWN GIBSON CITY | 5-7 PM

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION:

Lion's Club - Games

Rhino Ag - Passing out candy

First Presbyterian Church - Passing out candy, toys, and Cutie oranges

New Beginnings Church - Trunk or Treat in parking lot

Scott's Pharmacy - Passing out candy

Angela Roderick Team - Passing out candy

Shepherd's Closet/Closet Too - Passing out candy & special offers

Strictly Kids - Passing out candy

Black & Whites - Passing out candy

Horsch Radish - Homemade Brats & passing out candy

GC Restoration - Hot dogs, chips & soda

GC Family Pharmacy - Passing out candy

Legion - Passing out candy

Burgers & Beer - Passing out candy

Ace Hardware - Passing out candy, 15% off fall decor

Speak Easy Salon - Passing out candy



MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – OCTOBER, 2023

October, 2023

Year to Date September.....	\$139,750.00
Andrea Goins (Vonnas Granddaughter)..medical issues.....	\$ 7,000.00
Vickie Craig (in memory of finance Don Schultz).....	\$ 2,000.00
Funeral Dinner Don Schultz.....	\$ 250.00
Random Acts of Kindness – Additional Blue Star Staff.....	\$ 1,700.00
Credit Fright Night Giveaways.....	-\$ 400.00
Church Birthday Giveaway Gifts.....	\$ 1,600.00
All Saints Day Lanterns.....	\$ 200.00
Credit for Nativity House – Methodist Church donation.....	-\$ 500.00
Team Building Breakfast with Pastor Graham.....	\$ 173.00
Random Acts of Kindness administered by Sharla Williams...	\$ 500.00
Lynn Thomas with medical issues.....	\$ 1,000.00
Gibson City Police Department.....	\$ 1,000.00
GCMS High School After Prom Event.....	\$ 500.00
Tim Swanson assisting church member.....	\$ 200.00
Lisa Helgesen with medical issues.....	\$ 2,000.00
Total.....	\$156,973.00

Pastor Nominating Committee Update

The PNC met on Wednesday, October 18th at the home of Jean Williams. Mary Clow was happy to report that four on-line PIFs (Pastor Information Forms) were received on the PCUSA Church Leadership Connection software. They were reviewed at the meeting, and it was decided that we would request three of the matches to apply for the position. A fourth match was not considered compatible with our needs. One of three matches we asked to apply has since taken a call at another church. Therefore, we are waiting for a reply from the remaining two matches. In addition, a resume from the Indeed job website was also reviewed and not considered compatible to our current needs.



CHURCH'S 152ND BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON

Celebrating the church's 152nd Birthday with lunch after the 10:30 service catered by Drummer Creek Catering was a great success.



FOOD, FAMILY AND FUN JUST GO TOGETHER!

CHURCH'S 152ND BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



FAMILY