

PASTOR'S CORNER



Thank you Judi Geistlinger for preaching on Sunday, December 3rd.



Thank you Jim Dunnan for preaching on December 10th. Your sermon on inner peace was so appropriate for that particular Sunday and enjoyed by all. It is always great seeing Susie too. AND thank you for taking us all to lunch.



Thank you Pastor Paul Thomason for preaching on December 17th and December 24th. Your Advent messages were clear and so appropriate for the season. We are so blessed to have you in the pulpit as we celebrate the birth of Christ. Pastor Thomason also preached on January 7th.



Thank you, Pastor Judi Geistlinger, for preaching on New Year's Eve Sunday and serving Communion. Your sermon which incorporated words from several holiday songs was beautiful and most appropriate. And of course it was such a joy to have your husband Jay join us in such cheerful and glittery style.

Those preaching or reading in February 2024:

February 4: Pastor Judi Geistlinger-Communion

February 11: Mrs. Jean Williams

February 18: Church will be held at 10:30 with the Rev. Dr. Roy Backus preaching. Lunch will be catered by Goin Places at 11:30 in the fellowship hall. At the finish of lunch the Annual Meeting will begin.

February 25: Dr. Billy Bates

Christmas Eve Sunday - all the Advent Candles were lit. Hope (purple) Peace (purple) Joy (pink) Love (purple)

The fifth candle - White - the Christ Candle - celebrates the Birth of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and the Light of the World.



PRESBYTIDINGS February 2024

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



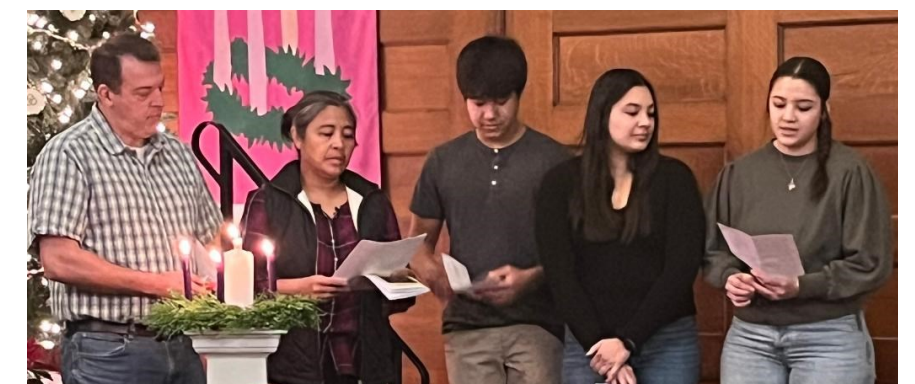
Thank you Tim and Janice Swanson for reading and lighting the Advent candle on December 3rd.



Thank you Jean Williams and Sharla Williams for reading and lighting Advent candles on December 17th.



Thank you Charlie and Cheryl Schultz for reading and lighting the Advent candles on December 10th.



Thank you to the Kerchenfaut Family for reading and lighting the Advent candles on Christmas Eve Sunday. What an awesome family!!

ADVENT SEASON

February 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p><i>What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness?</i></p> <p>John Steinbeck</p>			1	2	3 <i>RECYCLE</i>
<p>4 10:30 a.m. Worship: Pastor Judi Geistlinger—Communion will be served</p>	5	6	7 Meladee will be out of the church office at Gailey Eye Clinic	8	9	10
<p>11 10:30 a.m. Worship: Mrs. Jean Williams will lead the service.</p>	12 GAH Auxiliary Blood Drive 12 noon to 5:30 p.m.	13	14 Ash Wednesday Happy Valentine's Day!	15	16	17 <i>RECYCLE</i>
<p>18 Rev. Dr. Roy Backus will lead the service. Lunch & Annual Meeting to follow First Sunday in Lent</p>	19	20	21	22	23	24
<p>25 10:30 a.m. Worship—2nd Sunday in Lent Dr. Billy Bates will lead the service</p>	26	27	28	29 5:30 Session	.	

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH . . . FUN FACTS ABOUT FEBRUARY

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
Officefirstpresbygibson.org

NEW OFFICE HOURS
For the month of February - Monday through Friday Church office hours may be 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. when winter weather is poor. The office will be closed when GCMS Schools are closed due to severe weather.

February fluctuates between having 28 and 29 days per year. The 29th day only occurs every 4 years during leap years. (2024 is a leap year!)

Over time, the length of February kept changing. At one point, it had as little as 23 days

The name of February comes from the Latin word “februum,” which means purification. February was named after a purification ritual which was like an early Roman spring cleaning festival.

Of all the words you can misspell, February is one of the most misspelled words in the English language. Even the White House has misprinted the word “February” before in a press release!

The odds of being born on February 29th are about 1 in 1,461. Those born on a leap day can be called a “leaper” or “leapling.”

There are many U.S. states that entered the Union during the month of February. These include [Massachusetts](#), [Oregon](#), [Arizona](#), and Mississippi, which was readmitted.

Sadly, on [February 1, 2003](#), the Space Shuttle “Columbia” broke apart in flight, which killed all seven crew members. The accident was believed to be a result of damage that occurred during lift-off. The tragedy occurred only 16 minutes before the shuttle was scheduled to land.

On [February 2](#), 1848, U.S. and Mexico signed the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended their war. The U.S. paid Mexico \$15 million in exchange for [California](#), Nevada, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, [Colorado](#), Wyoming, and [Texas](#).

It was in February 1964 when The Beatles made their first American television appearance on the “Ed Sullivan Show.” Over 73 million Americans watched!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

February

03: Addison Kerchenfaut
11: Karen Mott
15: Charles and Cheryl Schultz
16: Jean Williams
19: Anneliese Kerchenfaut
23: Ruthie Lantz Dripps

March

2: Neil Nelson
4: Meladee Ferguson
17: Karen Ladd
18: Sharla Williams
18: Janice Swanson
29: Ruth Davis

Second Sunday Offering

Feb 11: Food Pantry/ Shepherd’s Closet

Mar 10: One Great Hour of Sharing

Ushers

Feb: Danny and Vonna Heustis

Mar: Ron and Mary Clow

Communion Servers

Feb 4: Danny and Vonna Heustis

Mar: To be announced

to prepare for spring: bringing the promise of longer days in the Northern hemisphere.

February is the only month of the year to have only 28 days (with the exception of leap years, of course).

It’s also the only month that can go without having a full moon.

Above are just a few reasons to really celebrate the whole month of February.

So now you know, February isn’t all about Valentine’s Day.

This month is also about purification. It’s a month



BASKETBALL SEASON IS HERE!

Good Luck Charlie Kerchenfaut. Work Hard! Play Smart! You are a star.



Good luck Addison. Work hard and get in the Zone. You are unstoppable.



To the left: Charlie, #13, is "in the air" for his shot during a recent basketball game.



Sharla Williams and Addison before the game.



Addison Kerchenfaut #25 was quite the defender for GCMS at the December 18th basketball game against Paxton. She secured the ball on numerous occasions. GCMS won 46 to 17 and have a record of 9 and 1.

Congratulations Addison Kerchenfaut and Charlie Kerchenfaut for making the 1st Semester GCMS High School Honor Roll.

IMPORTANT CHURCH NEWS

On Sunday, February 18th, the Rev. Dr. Roy Backus will preach at 10:30 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. a catered meal by Goin' Places will be served in the Fellowship Hall. Directly following the meal Rev. Backus will lead us in our Annual Meeting. **Please let Meladee know if you will be attending so the needed amount of food can be ordered.** Thank you.

HEED NOW THE CALL for the Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City, Illinois to be held on Sunday, February 18th, following worship and lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Reports will be received and the 2024 budget will be discussed and received and any other business that can properly be transacted. **All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.**

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – UPDATED DECEMBER, 2023

December, 2023

Mid-December.....	\$ 187,940.00
Samuel Anderson (Jean Williams Nephew).....	\$ 5,000.00
World Central Kitchen.....	\$ 2,500.00
Total Year End December 2023.....	\$ 195,540.00

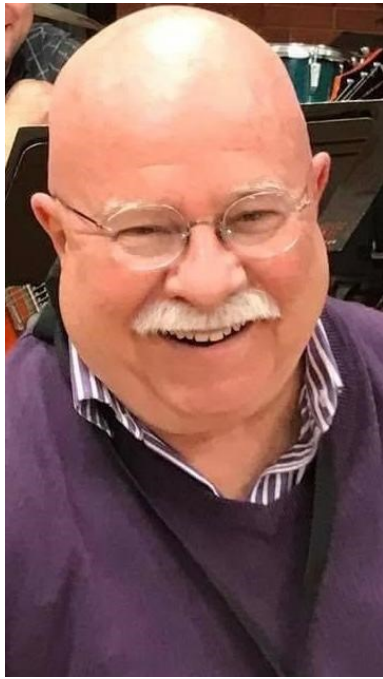
MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – JANUARY, 2024

Blackhawk Presbytery 2024 Pledge	\$ 4,000.00
Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center.....	\$ 4,000.00
Community Chest.....(Meals on Wheels).....	\$ 2,000.00
Gison City Chamber of Commerce Sponsorship.....	\$ 2,500.00
GCMS High School FFA Auction.....	\$ 4,000.00
Little Achievers Preschool.....	\$ 4,000.00
Subtotal.....	\$20,500.00

Gibson City Food Pantry 2023 Year End Stats

January 2023 started with 273 Households
 December 2023 ended with 421 Households
 Individuals Served 1,358
 Backpacks Distributed 100
 Cities Served: 53
 Counties Served: 16
 Children Served: 38%
 Elderly Served: 21%
 Meals Served: 91,296





GET TO KNOW OUR MODERATOR REV. DR. ROY BACKUS

Per the PCUSA Book of Order, our church is required to have a moderator for Session Meetings while we continue to search for a new pastor. We were blessed when Rev. Dr. Roy Backus agreed to be our moderator starting in September after Rev. David Terrinoni's term expired with the Blackhawk Presbytery Commission on Ministry.

Rev. Backus will be preaching at our 10:30 a.m. Church service and moderating our Annual Congregational meeting on February 18th. Some of you may remember Rev. Backus from when he came to our church in 2018 also to moderate Session meetings and to assist with our transition after the departure of Pastor Mike Brazelle.

Rev. Backus lives in Morris, is married to his wife Ann, and has 6 adult children and 6 grandchildren. He received his Master of Divinity degree from the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago and his PhD from Marquette University in Milwaukee.

Rev. Backus was the Head of Staff at the First Presbyterian Church in Morris from 2008 until 2021 when he retired. He was the transitional pastor at the Waltham Presbyterian Church in Utica, Illinois from 2003 to 2008. He was the Solo Pastor at the Olivet Church in Rudyard, Michigan from 2000 to 2003 and the Solo Pastor at the First Congregational Church in Burlington, Iowa from 1996 to 2000. He was also an Associate Professor

of Religion and Philosophy at Olivet College in Olivet, Michigan from 2000 to 2003.

Rev. Backus participates in community activities which includes serving as a volunteer Chaplain at several Fire Departments, Police Departments, and Hospitals in various Municipalities. He is also a Jazz music leader and performs at various Community events in Morris and Grundy County.

Rev. Backus's knowledge and experience has helped the Elders during their journey to find new pastoral leadership and he has encouraged the Elders to stay positive. His sense of humor during Session meetings has been great fun and it has helped them manage the stress of the situation.

Please be sure to welcome Rev. Backus and thank him for his service to our church.

Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC met on January 8th in the Fellowship Hall. Mary Clow presented the Committee with a potential pastor applicant match from the Presbytery USA Church Leadership Connection System. After some discussion, it was decided that we would ask the match to apply for our position. Unfortunately, after doing so, he turned down our request. It was also decided that Mary would add our Ministry Discernment Profile on the CLC System seeking a Interim Pastor. We are only allowed three positions on the CLC and have already submitted our MDP seeking a Solo Pastor or a Commissioned Pastor.

In addition, the PNC decided to run an ad for a part-time paster in the Champaign-Urbana News Gazette and the Bloomington-Normal Pantagraph also seeking an Interim Pastor. Please continue to pray for wisdom and patience for the members of the Pastor Nominating Committee and that we might receive a faithful pastor who will care for all our congregation.

Gibson City Chamber of Commerce Announcement

The downtown boutiques and Strictly Kids have decided to create a shopping event from **9 -1 on March 30th!** It will be Strictly Kids 30th year in business and it is time to celebrate! Each business will be offering specials to create a lively downtown shopping day. Lets all "Hop Into Spring" together!



Tim Swanson, Jean Williams, Sharla Williams, Danny Heustis and Ron & Mary Clow for taking down the Christmas decorations.

Thank you!



The Head Start Christmas Party held in the Fellowship Hall was so much fun on December 12th. Clerk of Session Mary Clow saw lots of smiles after giving each student the Rudolf the Red-Nose Reindeer stuffed animal and book. Each student also received two pairs of pajamas from the Church. The event included games, crafts, snacks and presents.



Gifts were bought for all the teachers and students.



HEADSTART CHRISTMAS PARTY



WHAT A PARTY!!!!



NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Three members of our church joined other Bridge Club members for a fun lunch in late December in Champaign to end the year. Our members include Trudy Lantz, Jean Williams and Val Hunt.



What a wonderful Christmas for Charlie and Cheryl Schultz as all four of their children were home to celebrate. Pictured above is Eric, Nicole, Michelle, and Jordyn.



Pictured Below: Jean Williams and family celebrating Christmas.



Meladee Ferguson spent Saturday, December 30th, with her brother and sister-in-law, Mike and Barb Hastings (Tolono) and her son and daughter-in-law, John and Becky Ferguson who are from Pasadena Texas, right outside Houston.

Mr. Bill Nicholls, a former choir director at FPC, is celebrating his 80th birthday on Sunday, February 18th. Mr. Bill Ogg has asked that we participate in a card shower for Mr. Nicholls. Let's join in!

1446 N 700 E Road
Sibley IL 61773



The family of Colin Kristensen joined friends, classmates and staff on December 18th for the dedication of a fully stocked tool box to the GCMS FFA Chapter for student use in Ag mechanic classes. The gift was made possible by the Colin Kristensen memorial fund. Colin was killed in a car accident in May, 2023. Our church donated \$2,000 to the fund. Colin's parents are Jay and Lori Kristensen and his maternal grandmother is Carol Hutchcraft. Below: Colin and his twin sister, Kate Kristensen.



Ron and Mary Clow had a great time celebrating New Year's Eve at the Lions Club Cash Bash. Joining them was Sharon Heavilin, Pat and Dennis Farris, Mary and Cecil McCormick, Vicki Craig and Ellen and Ray Hanks. Charlie and Cheryl Schults and Jeanette Hensley also attended. No one won the \$3000 prize money but most of us went home with a bottle of wine. Our church donated \$1,000 to the Fundraiser.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!

Below: Ron and Mary Clow enjoyed a little Christmas R and R at the Lake of the Ozarks. Their condo overlooked one of the coves, they enjoyed a new winery and several deer greeted them outside their front door at dusk.



Amanda Brennan interviewed Mary Clow, Ellen Hanks and Cathy Steidinger on December 11th about the Gibson City Nativity Set refurbishment project. The episode aired on Channel 3 on December 26th.

Val Hunt was finally able to celebrate Christmas with her family on January 21st. Here she is pictured with daughter Judy Jo Arbour and granddaughter Stacy Johnson.



Val, Judy Jo and grandsons

FAMILY



Pictured Right: MONA SUMMERS is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for DECEMBER. There were eighteen(18) who entered this month: Mona Summers, Ted Swanson, John Ferguson, Teresa Alexander, Jeanette Hensley, Sharon Collings, Jodi VanSwol, Susie Dunnan, Sherry Tomlinson, Janice Swanson, Linda Graham, Barb Williams, Denise Birky, Lisa Helgesen, Connie Thomason, Jean Williams, Julie Wissmiller and Val Hunt 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 February 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 February Puzzle. Meladee

There was a total of 15 competing in the January puzzle contest: Julie Wissmiller, Connie Thomason, Lisa Helgesen, Jean Williams, Janice Swanson, Susie Dunnan, Jodi VanSwol, Sharon Collings, Becky Ferguson, Jeanette Hensley, Val Hunt, Linda Graham, Mona Summers, Barb Williams, Sharon Heavilin and Lyndi Barnes. The puzzle winner for January is Sharon Heavilin. Sharon is pictured at right with her prize-winning smile.



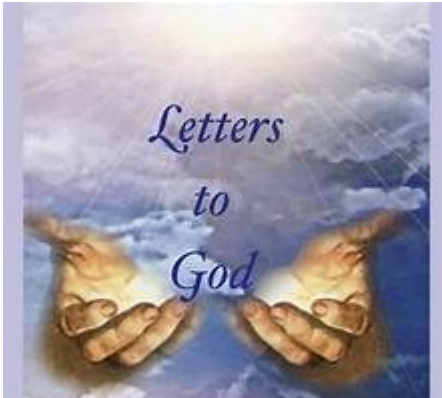
LETTER TO THE LORD by Mike Hastings

In a letter to the Lord I'd have to say
That my walk with Him grows better day by day.
That since I've come to know Him
I hope my life will show Him
To others that I meet along the way.

And finally, I know I must jot down
I'm thankful for the happiness I've found.
He took a life so incomplete
And made each day so very sweet.
He took my heart and turned my life around.

In a letter to the Lord I'd have to pen
That I'm glad for what He did to lift my sin.
That all His blood and all His pain
Was not shed or felt in vain,
That I've opened up my heart to let Him in.

In my letter to the Lord I'd have to write
That I know that He is with me day and night.
And though I am not worthy
I know that He most surely
Considers me most precious in His sight.



GIBSON AREA SERVICE ASSOCIATION (GASA)

Mary Clow attended the first membership meeting of the Gibson Area Service Association on January 17th at the Gibson Area Hospital Education Center. The organization was formed to replace the Rotary Club which folded in October. Currently there are 35 active members and 19 supportive members. The fund balance for the organization was reported to be \$9,360.34 as of December 31, 2023 which includes our church's \$5,000 donation for the startup of the organization. Bylaws for the organization were presented for review. They are still in the process of obtaining a 501(c) 3 IRS tax status. Officers that will serve for two years are Rob Schmitt, President; Brandon Zumwalt, Vice President; Stephanie Johnson, Treasurer and Pam Aubry, Secretary. Board members include Janna Friday, Susie Tongate, Rick Ertel, Susan Riley, and Megan Whitehouse. The Board will meet monthly, and the members will meet quarterly. The next members meeting will be the annual meeting and is scheduled for April 27, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Discussion included creating a Project Committee, Membership Committee and Fundraising Committee. Preliminary discussion was held regarding projects including a permanent Farmer's Market Pavilion which is something our church pledged money to from the Jerry Wissmiller Memorial Fund. Further discussion will follow, and no decisions were made about projects at this time. If you are interested in joining the organization, please contact Mary.



2023 Year End Giving: Our church donated over \$4,000 purchasing gifts from the Presbytery USA Giving Catalog. Some of the items included 10 sewing machines, 10 piglets, 10 Jerry cans, 4 cows and much more. See pictures below.



Our church received this wooden ornament for our donation/purchases from the Presbytery USA Giving Catalog.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MAILBAG

Dear Friends at the First Presbyterian Church, What a blessing to receive the \$500 donation for the recycling program! Anyone that has worked or dropped off recycling has probably noticed the tires on the recycling trailer. There is usually at least one flat one that has to be pumped up before heading back to Colfax. Reliable and safe transportation for recyclables (and Andy) has been a concern. Between Andy's (the recycler) health, the stress of taking care of his wife with MS, and the financial concerns, the recycling board was so pleased to be able to arrange for new tires for the trailer through Load Redi. Thank you again for your generous help in making our community better and safer! In His Love, Karen Kummerow and the Recycling Board

Dear Meladee—To you and to all at First Presbyterian Church!! Elders, Members, and to Those Who attend!! May the spirit of Christmas be with you throughout the year. Merry Christmas! I Could not send a card to everyone so hope this gets to everyone!! With Peace and Joy and Love! Barbara Williams

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, Granddaughter of Vonna Heustis

Your kindness made a difference . . . and your thoughtfulness touched my heart. Thank you. First Presbyterian Church Family, thank you so much for your overwhelming generosity towards our little growing family during this unexpected time. The money that was gifted to us will help with medical expenses for extended hospital stays and help us to focus on the health and development of our baby boy when he arrives. The Lord has shown us an amazing blessing through your church family. With Love, Steph & Samuel Anderson, Nephew of Jean Williams

Close Like Family . . . Merry Christmas! God bless you and your church family. Denny and Cherry Fisher

Dear Friends, John and I want to express how very appreciative we are of your support. We have been overwhelmed with the continued generosity of individuals, families, churches and businesses of the Gibson City area. We are aware of the heavy demands on everyone's finances, especially at this time of year, and yet you give so generously. We feel blessed to be a part of this charitable community. Gibson City truly portrays the truth of being "A Small Town With A Big Heart!" Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. With deepest gratitude, John and Annie Barnett Mgrs. Shepherd's Closet/Closet, Too! P.S. We would like to invite you to join our ministry in a volunteer position. Please contact Annie if you are interested.

To the First Presbyterian Church Family, Thank you for the study abroad scholar-

ship! I am going to Spain for my Spring 2024 semester. I am very excited to continue my education overseas! I will send you all pictures from Spain. Love, Anneliese Kerchenfaut

Wishing you warm Christmas Blessings. Praying the love of God will fill you with joy. The peace of God will fill you with hope, and the grace of God will surround you with reminders of His presence this Christmas and in the new year. We enjoyed the pictures of the beautifully decorated sanctuary. We love you, Pastor Graham and Linda

Merry Christmas from the children and staff of Kemmerer Village! Our year was brighter because of you.

Mary, I want to thank you all for the generous gift! You have no idea how much this is appreciated and how very touched I was to receive it. It helped me make my house payment and other bills! Wishing all of you a very Blessed Christmas and again, thank you from the bottom of my heart! Much love, Jennifer Bauyhn

May happiness and peace be yours at Christmas and throughout the year. Dear Friends at First Presbyterian, Thank you so much for remembering me with your generous gift card! Your thoughtfulness brings a smile to my face and joy to my heart. I really do enjoy helping people in our congregations—to find what they need or answer a question. It is wonderful to be appreciated by folks like you. Peace, Loreen Stravers, Blackhawk Presbytery

FPC MAILBAG CONTINUED

We want to say thank you for your generous donation to the 2023 Christmas Food and Toy Giveaway. Because of generous people like you, we are able to help our Gibson City area neighbors enjoy their holidays. The American Legion Post 568 Christmas Committee

Dear Presbyterian Church Family, Thank you so much for the gift card to Applebee's. It was a total surprise and unexpected! Also very unnecessary. I am so glad you share my poems and that is reward enough for me. I tell people that is my ministry and I so appreciate you passing them on to others. That being said, we will totally enjoy the meals we will get at Applebee's. Thank you again. God Bless, Mike Hastings P.S. I highly recommend the Fiesta Lime Chicken!

To my friends at the First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for the confirmation gifts. I really appreciate them! Addison Kerchenfaut

Thanks for the confirmation gift. I appreciate it. I will use it well. Thanks, from Charlie Kerchenfaut

Joyful Blessings! Dear Gibson City Friends, Wishing you the peace of Christmas and may your New Year shine with possibility! And wow! What an unexpected surprise! Thank you for your Christmas card and very unexpected Visa gift card. Thank you! Also, thank you for mailing me your newsletter. It was great to see Jean Williams' picture. Praise God for hearing our prayers for her recovery. And I loved the hymns for occupations. My only question is what is the pastor's hymn? Maybe "I Love to Tell the Story"? Merry Christmas! In Christian Love, Chaplain Dave Terrinoni

It is family and friends like you who are such a comfort to our family at this time. Thank you again for your kindness and sympathy. Dear members of Gibson City FPC: Thank you for honoring Alan with you generous memorial. I have chosen to split the

undesignated memorials between the Loda UMC and our new church in DePere. Alan felt he had "come home" when we first attended DePere FPC. Vickie Good and family

Dear First Presbyterian Church, On behalf of the Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary, thank you for your donation of \$1,000 on 12/11/23 in support of our Love Lights a Tree campaign. Your gift, along with that of many others, will be used by the Auxiliary to purchase items for Gibson Area Hospital and Health Services. The Love Lights a Tree Program is our way of helping to support and provide excellence in healthcare. Thank you again for your continued support. Sincerely, Terri Jordan, GAHHS Auxiliary First Vice President and Connie Reum, GAHHS Auxiliary First Vice President

First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for the generous gift! I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for my family and the church. I have always said if I am half the person my Grandma Wilma was, I have accomplished good things. I have had great role models through life. Guess I cannot fly under the radar anymore after being in the parade. LOL Thank you again so much, With Love, Beth Glascock

Gibson City First Presbyterian Church: Just wanted to send a note to say thank you for your recent donation towards my ministry with InterVarsity at the U of I! This has been a great semester, with more students involved than we have had in a long time. But even better than the numbers is the spiritual hunger and curiosity we have seen in students. "How can Jesus love people so selflessly?" one non-Christian from China asked. "Lile, it's really amazing and touching. I want to know more about Him and am thankful for this space." I can't wait to see how God continues to work in his life! I am very grateful for your partnership in this work. We could not do it without generous churches like you! Sincerely, Todd Epps

Warmest wishes for a wonderful holiday . . . And a very happy new year. The Gibson Area Music Foundation would like to express our appreciation to your church for your generosity in letting us use your fellowship hall for our Christmas Program rehearsals. We greatly appreciate your support of the arts in our community in this way. Connie Knox, Secretary

Dear First Presbyterian Church: Thank you so much for your annual contribution to Gibson Area Music Foundation via FPC's special Sunday giving program. The impact of congregational giving with your matching check meant an impressive total of \$860 was donated. Thanks to your support, we presented two community music events in 2023 and chose ten students from GCMS and PBL schools to receive significant contributions. Sincerely, Margy Shambrook, Treasurer

Thank you very much for remembering me at Christmas. The Gibson Bucks were greatly appreciated. It is an honor to work with the McCormick Tutoring Program. Thank you again. Sharla Williams

Thank you all so very much for the Gibson Bucks for Christmas and for all you have done for me this past year. I feel so blessed to be your secretary and will continue to strive to do the job well. You are loved by God and me too! Meladee Ferguson

Thank you for the generous donation to the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization. I appreciate it. I can't wait to get started. Right now I feel like my training in January is a long time away, but I know I will be very busy once I get home from training. Matt Ertel

