

PASTOR’S CORNER

Grace and peace be with you.
Grace and peace.

Although time passes quickly, we have only “officially” been church and pastor for 23 days! It is clear that each of you love the Lord and this church. It is clear that you do not realize how very wonderful a community of faith you have. Your openly loving atmosphere of care for each other and the community is warm and accepting. Beyond all, you are very thoughtful to your new pastor. Thank you for all the special introductions to new folks,

the beautifully decorated Fellowship Hall for my reception, the excellent eats for the reception, and your general overall kindness. Additionally, I Thank You for the excellent fresh eggs, the flowers, the excellence of our Staff thinking ahead, and making great suggestions for worship and process. I confess, I brag on your loving, unselfish spirit all the time! You have graced me with a very creatively different kind of ministry. You are totally different than any other church I have ever pastored. I am curious and genuinely excited to see how the Ho-

ly Spirit uses us together. A couple of notes of information. 1) You will find a text box on the back page of every bulletin. It will contain the Lectionary B texts for the following week, and my sermon title. 2) You can find the texts and titles for the next month (May) on the bottom of this back page of your newsletter. Again, thank you for your gracious welcome. Keep praying and trusting! Grace and peace be with you.
Pastor Roy



SCRIPTURES AND SERMON TITLES FOR MAY, 2024

May 5, 2024—Sixth Sunday of Easter
Call to Worship: Psalm 98:1-9
First Lesson: 1 John 5:1-5
Second Lesson: John 15:9-17
“A Step Beyond”

May 12, 2024—Mother’s Day
Call to Worship: Psalm 1:1-6
First Lesson: 1 John 5:9-13
Second Lesson: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
“What Now”
COMMUNION

May 19, 2024—The Day of Pentecost
Call to Worship: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
First Lesson: Acts 2:1-21
Second Lesson: Romans 8:22-27
“Where is Pentecost?”

May 26, 2024—Trinity Sunday
Call to Worship: Psalm 29:1-11
First Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8
Second Lesson: John 3:1-17
“Let’s Talk”

PRESBYTIDINGS

May 2024
Rev. Dr. Roy C. Backus

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



PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 19, 2024

Take a minute to look back on your life. Who all have you lived with? In the earliest parts of our lives, we might live with parents or grandparents or other caring adults. Perhaps siblings. Over the years, we might live with friends and extended family, family of choice or even sometimes with strangers. And sometimes we might find ourselves living alone.

No matter whom we live with now, or whom we have lived with before, God’s vision for the world is that everyone finds a place within God’s kingdom — God’s house. What we celebrate at Pentecost is God’s pouring out of the Holy Spirit so that people of every identity and language can hear a word of welcome into God’s house-

hold. All belong in God’s household, and we get to live together, and learn together and celebrate together.

At Pentecost, we look especially to the children, youth, and young adults with whom God has called us to live. The psalmist reminds us of the importance of faith being established during our earliest years, saying, “God from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.” God’s youngest family members need support to build their full potential in both faith and life, and all of us have a role to play. These young ones also show and sometimes teach all of us more about faith in Jesus Christ and how the Holy Spirit is moving in our world.

The Pentecost Offering lets us support the development of children, youth, and young adults in our community and throughout the country. Forty percent of this offering stays within our community because we want to build the household of God together, in this place. The remainder is sent on to our denomination so that young

adults can lay a foundation for their lives through a year of service as part of the Young Adult Volunteer program. It is also used to support ministries with youth, through experiences of worship and formation like the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which gathers nearly 5,000 young people every three years to learn and grow. There is also a portion of this Offering that supports the education of every child in this country, through the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative. Even when there are no children or young people in the places where we live, there are many, many with us in the household of God.

Bryce Wiebe, Director, Special Offerings Presbytery USA

During this Pentecost season, the Session has decided to donate \$1,000 to the Presbytery Pentecost Special Offering. In addition, the Session has approved awarding Scholarships to SIXTEEN local GCMS students.



May 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 RECYCLE
5 10:30 a.m. Worship John 15:9-17 “A Step Beyond”	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 10:30 a.m. Worship Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 “What Now?” Communion Happy Mother’s Day!	13 6 pm— Hospital Auxiliary Spring Banquet	14	15	16	17	18 RECYCLE
19 10:30 am Worship Romans 8:22-27 “Where Is Pentecost?”	20	21	22	23 5:30 Session	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship John 3:1-17 “Let’s Talk”	27 Memorial Day— Church of- fice will be closed	28	29	30	31 	

NEWS FROM OUR CHURCH . . . FUN FACTS ABOUT MAY

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

Office hours for Dr. Backus will be 9 to 3 on Tuesday and Thursday. Meladee will also be in the office on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 to 3.


The Run for the Roses: The grandest horse race in the world, **The Kentucky Derby**, takes place on the first Saturday in May every year. This is one of the oldest horse races in the world and has been running every year since 1875. However, there have been only two years when the race wasn’t ran in May. In 1945 during a wartime ban on horse-racing, and in 2020 when the race was delayed until September due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cinco de Mayo: While many associate Cinco de Mayo with margaritas and partying, the origins of the yearly celebration is the 1862 Mexican victory over the French during the Second Franco-Mexican War. Here’s one of the more interesting May facts: Americans spend over \$600 million each year on beer for Cinco de Mayo. That’s more than the Super Bowl or St. Patrick’s Day! Let’s raise our glasses and say ¡Salud! to this May celebration!

The month of growth: The name May originated from the Latin word *Maius*, named after the Greek goddess of growth, Maia. So it’s no surprise that May is the most common month for gardeners to start planting seeds in their flower beds and gardens. In some locations it’s considered bad luck to start planting before the third weekend in May for fear of late spring frost.

Productive cows in May: Here is one of the more intriguing fun facts about May: the Old English name for the fifth month of the year was *primlice*, which translates to “three milkings”. Apparently, due to the abundance of fresh grass in May, cows could be milked three times a day.

Weird and wacky observances of May: Aside from Mother’s Day and Memorial Day there are also some very strange observances during May. There is International Hamburger Day on May 28th, National Dance Like A Chicken Day on May 14th, and National Garden Meditation Day on May 3rd.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		Second Sunday Offering <i>Apr 14: Gibson Area Housing Rehab Foundation</i> May: <i>Ushers</i> <i>Apr: Jeanette Hensley and Sharla Williams</i> <i>May: Tim and Janice Swanson</i> Communion Servers <i>Apr 7: Donny and Vonna Heustis</i>	We think this traditional nursery rhyme really sums up the beautiful spring month of May. <i>“In the merry month of May, when green leaves begin to spring, little lambs do skip like fairies, birds do couple, build, and sing.”</i>
May 02: Emma Swanson 07: Jesse Swanson 09: Trudy Lantz 10: Ruth McClure 14: Mary Jane Roth 14: Michele Schultz 22: John Davis 26: Ron & Mary Clow	June 01: Mary Clow 01: Rick Kerchenfaut 03: Stacy Johnson 08: Gene and Mary Jane Roth 12: Chad and Stacy Johnson 19: Larry and Karen Ladd 20: Michael and Karen Mott 27: Dorri Groom 29: Hunter Johnson		

NEWS OF HOLLY BROOK

The Villas of Holly Brook, an assisted living complex here in Gibson City, has events each month to entertain and please their residents. Our church has some members who live there and we are highlighting them in the following pictures.

Heaven Bound, a gospel group from the surrounding area, comes to sing at Holly Brook about every three months. Seen in the second picture our own Sharla Williams visiting for the concert and the bottom picture shows our own Val Hunt, a resident of Holly Brook, enjoying the concert.



Our Monthly Ladies Tea Party was a success! We had new refreshments to compliment our variety of tea today! French pastries, lemon cake bites, Milano cookies and chocolate almond biscottis!



Pictured below: our own Carla Ashmore to the right and the bottom picture is Val Hunt to the left.



CHURCH NEWS

Several Gibson High School Class of 73 classmates of Judy Jo Arbour gathered together at Jensens Funeral Home in Kankakee on April 13th to celebrate her life. Judy Jo grew up in our church, was a big cheerleader for our church and is the daughter of long-term member Val Hunt. Here is a group picture of most of the classmates that attended posing with a picture of Judy Jo. The group included church members Ron Clow, Sharla Williams and Susie Dunnan along with local friends of the church Sherry Thomlinson, Janet Troyer, Caroline White, Becky Lunde-McDevitt, Jane Skinner and Bill Goben.



And Judy Jo did live life “out loud.” She lived life with a passion for Christ and for people: her family and friends. She never met a stranger. She could talk your leg off in a matter of seconds. Her laughter alone was contagious. She always thought of others. She loved everyone and everyone loved her. We miss her terribly, but know she is with her Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

OPEN HOUSE WELCOMING PASTOR BACKUS



Pastor Roy’s wife Ann came to the rescue of Pastor Roy fixing his collar before service.



Thank you Mary Clow, Sharon Heavilin, Phil Noellsch and Ron Clow for decorating the Fellowship Hall so beautifully for our April 21st Open House for Pastor Roy.

Thank you Pastor Roy for asking your fellow musician friends Paul Johnson and Erik Olson to join you and entertain our guests at your Open House on April 21st in the Fellowship Hall. The music was wonderful and enjoyed by everyone. What a lovely day we had.



Welcome
Pastor
Roy
And
Wife
Ann!



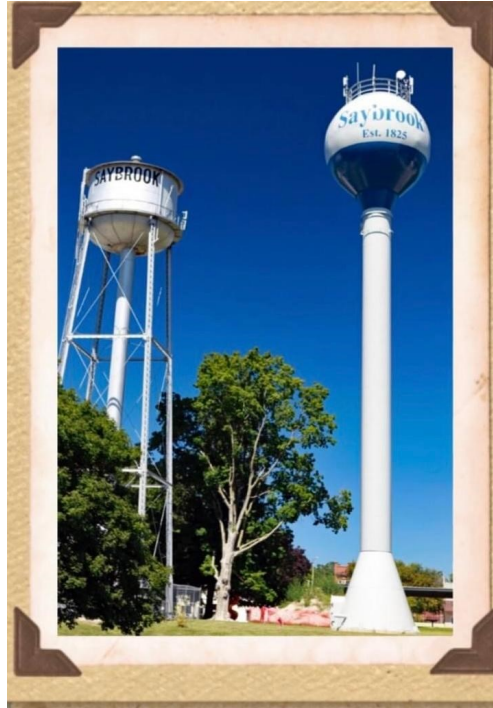
AWARENESS DAY!

Pictures of just some of the items our Church purchased as one of the sponsors for the All Awareness Day to be held on May 11th from 11:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the North Park. The event will have music, vendors, food trucks, resource booths, powder paint walks, crafts and games for all.



NEWS FROM AROUND THE COMMUNITY

Session approved a \$2000 donation to the Village of Saybrook for their June 29, 2025 Bicentennial celebration. The donation was made in honor of long-term church members and present Elders Danny and Vonna Heustis. Danny is the Village Mayor.



Mary Clow, Sharon Heavilin, Pat Farris and Ellen Hanks as members of the Gibson Girls HCE unit recently attended a cooking class at Grovestone Gourmet Store in Champaign. They have olive oils, balsamic vinegars and over 100 spices. It was a great evening and they learned a lot about using spices and olive oils to enhance their meals.



The GCMS 2023-2024 girl's basketball team together again on prom night joined by their coaches. In the top row to the left is our very own and lovely Addison Kerchenfaut (left back row.) What a team these girls were, winning the Class 1A Regional Championship in February. They traded their uniforms in for prom dresses and their teammate Kate Christensen front center was crowned prom queen.



Addison Kerchenfaut 2nd right looking beautiful for prom surrounded by friends she has played basketball with forever. They include Anna Warren, Valerie Rosendahl, Sophia Ray and Lizzie Giroux.

OPEN HOUSE CONTINUED



GOOD
FOOD!
GOOD
FUN!
GOOD
PEOPLE!



BREAKFAST WITH OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Pastor Roy and his lovely wife Ann joined several members for breakfast on April 21st after Sunday services. What a lovely time of fellowship and friendship with such a great group from the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City.



GASA: GIBSON AREA SERVICE ASSOCIATION

2nd Sunday Collection -GIBSON AREA SERVICE ASSOCIATION (GASA)

The Gibson Area Service Association was formed to replace the Gibson City Rotary Club which folded in October of 2023. Currently there are 35 active members and 19 supportive members. The organization was the idea of the dedicated local Rotarians who wanted to continue to serve the Gibson City Area. The mission is twofold. Help fundraise for projects and provide physical labor for community projects. They will also accept requests from other organizations to provide this type of support. The active membership dues are \$20 and supportive member dues are \$30 with all dues staying in the local community. The overall goal is to do something good in Gibson City. Our church recently donated \$500 for packets of flower seeds that were handed out on the street corners of Gibson City on April 12th GASA's Seed Day Fundraiser. Mary Clow, Jean Williams and Sharon Heavilin are members.



**Improving
Our
Community,
Together!**



GASA held their first fundraiser handing out over 700 packets of flower seeds on the streets of Gibson City. Our church purchased the seeds for the fundraiser. Over \$1500 was collected. Pictured above are GASA members Susie Tongate, and Bill Kirby.

SOMETIMES WE DON'T REALIZE

By: Mike Hastings

Sometimes we don't realize:
How good today is until it's yesterday.
How good tomorrow could be until it gets here.
How beautiful the sun is until it sets.
How wonderful water is until we're thirsty.
How good food tastes until we're hungry.
How good warmth feels until we're cold.
How good the breeze feels until it stops blowing.
How good happiness is until we're sad.
How good nice thoughts are until we corrupt them.
How good a baby is to hold until they've grown up.
How good a child is to guide until we lead them astray.
How good love is until we lose it.
How good a friend is until we lose their trust.
How good the heart of a loved one is until it stops beating.
How good faith is until we forget to engage it.
How good Christ is until it's too late.
How good God is until we deny Him.

TUNE IN TO HEAR DR. BACKUS
ON THE RADIO



Listen to Rev. Dr. Roy Backus on WGCV Radio on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:00 a.m. (Starting around May 9th.) Also, twice a week, Dr. Backus will be providing inspirational one-minute messages for listeners.



Pictured above: John Ferguson is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for APRIL. There were twenty one (21) who entered this month: John Ferguson, Teresa Alexander, Linda Gandy, Jean Williams, Barbara Williams, Val Hunt, Mona Summers, Debroah Shives, Danny Heustis, Lisa Helgeson, Denise Birky, Ted Swanson, Jeanette Hensley, Janice Swanson, Linda Graham, Kathy Branz, Sherry Tomlinson, Sharon Collings, Jean Noellsch, Jodi VanSwol and Carla Allen. 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 MAY 25TH! 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 each puzzle. I found every word listed in the MAY Puzzle. Meladee



GCMS CHURCH AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2024

Name	Award	Scholarship	Major
Brynn Boundy	\$1,000	Jerry Wissmiller Memorial	Ag Teacher
Carter Kallal	\$1,000	Jerry Wissmiller Memorial	Agriculture
Isaiah Johnson	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church -Trade	Electrician
Lily Breeden	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church Medical	Nurse
Rylie Huls	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church Medical	Nurse
Anna Goodin	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church Medical	Nurse
Kate Kristensen	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church Medical	Doctor
Lilly Lahr	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church Medical	Doctor
Mindy Brown	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church General	Veterinarian
Ryan Carley	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church General	Business Administration
Kyah Lee	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church General	Muscian
Chasyn Pollard	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church General	Computer Science
Alex Ward	\$1,000	First Presbyterian Church General	Forestry
Ella Brake	\$1,000	Stephen McCormick Memorial	Speech Pathology
Jacob Henrichs	\$1,000	Stephen McCormick Memorial	Business
Allison Spiller	\$1,000	Stephen McCormick Memorial	Speech Pathology

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – APRIL, 2024

April	
Year to Date March.....	\$66,750.00
Raeann Maupin.....	\$ 1,000.00
Mackenzie Jean mother of Baldur Vaughan.....	\$ 500.00
Lyndi Barnes.....	\$ 500.00
Scholarship Additions.....	\$ 6,000.00
Saybrook Bicentennial Celebration.....	\$ 2,000.00
Presbytery USA Pentecost Special Offering for Children.....	\$ 1,000.00
Year to Date April.....	\$77,750.00

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MAILBAG

FPC MAILBAG CONTINUED

