

PASTOR’S CORNER

Grace and peace be with you!
Grace and peace. Gibson City is the little city that can! Last week I helped distribute food to folk from Ford and surrounding counties. I can’t remember working as a team member of a group with such a great attitude and awareness of helping others. Knowing that our lives make a difference is one of the most important issues in self esteem, and the folks truly believe that team has a place in this world, and that every member is needed. The environment was infectious! Everyone knew that we made a difference last Saturday. In just the two hours which I helped, I was struck by the teamwork and upbeat folks helping one another to help others. And the team even

accepted me, showed me the ropes, and gave me encouragement throughout the process. When I asked about the story of the Food Bank, and it’s history of dedicated volunteers who really believe in helping folks who are without food, the details and the beauty of the story were inspiring. The cooperation and support by the community and the hospital was a great success story. It still is. This cooperation between different entities and organizations in Gibson City is what leads to community wins. Binding together with our different strengths, we are able to achieve, not only the delivery of care, but a snowballing effect on the attitudes, imagination and investment in our hometown.

Oh, I know there’s still lots of challenges before us, but overall the health of the not for profit organizations is reason to celebrate the health of our community. For me, this means there’s plenty of bright future for Gibson City. Our church’s significant part in this place, adds to our necessity and importance to be faithful now and in the future. It’s a basic tenant of our faith that Reformed Christians, i.e., Presbyterians, are a renewing and balancing presence in American culture. So that’s us. I encourage you to not grow weary in well doing! Please be praying and serving with me. Grace and peace, Pastor Roy

SCRIPTURES AND SERMON TITLES FOR JULY, 2024

Sunday, July 7, 2024
7th Sunday After Pentecost
Call to Worship: Psalm 48:1, 12-14
1st Lesson: 2 Corinthians 12:2-10
2nd Lesson: Mark 6:1-13
Sermon: “Location, Location, Location”

Sunday, July 14, 2024
8th Sunday After Pentecost
Call to Worship: Psalm 24:1-6
First Lesson: 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14
Sermon: “Laws, Opinions and Philanthropies”

Sunday, July 21, 2024
9th Sunday After Pentecost
Call to Worship: Psalm 89
First Lesson: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Second Lesson: Ephesians 2:11-22
Sermon: “What Is the Real House of God?”

Sunday, July 28, 2024
10th Sunday After Pentecost
Call to Worship: Psalm 14
First Lesson: 2 Samuel 11:1-15
Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:14-21
Sermon: “The Spiritual Logistics in Christ”

PRESBYTIDINGS
July 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



A prayer on Independence Day

Offered by Chief of Navy Chaplains, Rear Admiral Mark L. Tidd
*Authored by Sharon Youngs
Presbytery Church USA 220th
General Assembly*

Everlasting God of righteousness and grace, as our nation celebrates this Independence Day, remind us of our complete dependence upon you. We look to you for your wisdom and mercy as important issues are discussed. On this day, we ask you to keep this nation, and all nations, under your care, so that we may be peoples who are at peace, and who are a blessing to others in this earth. Grant our nation's leader's wisdom, that there would be times of

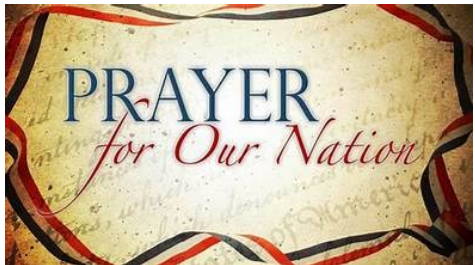
peace and justice in our land and in our world. On this day, we lift up to you all who serve in our Armed Forces, who serve as the centurion did as ones who are under authority—brave men and women who risk their lives for their country. Remind us of those who are far from home and loved ones, who on this day sail or fly or walk in harm's way and keep them always close to you. Where there is combat, grant them compassion for their enemies, and keep them brave in the face of evil. Hold in your loving hands the families of those who are far away. Grant them comfort in their anxieties. And comfort those who grieve, because they have received the dreaded message that their loved one has died. Strengthen those who carry the wounds of war, visible and invisible, and be to them a sure presence.

And on this day, we lift up to you those who serve your people as chaplains wearing the uniforms of our military services, and the families of those chaplains. Grant that they may always be true to the churches and groups who send them as they serve in

the always complex and challenging environment of institutional ministry in the military. As Jesus sent the Twelve with the exhortation to be “wise as serpents and innocent as doves,” may they also have both wisdom and innocence as they navigate the rocks and shoals they encounter in living out their calling. Remind us always that we serve the One who washed the feet of his disciples.

And on this day keep all of us grounded not in our strength but in yours, ever relying upon the promise that “those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength ... They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.”

All of this we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



July 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>9 a.m. Pastor Roy will lead a Bible Study at Holly Brook</i>	3	4 <i>Church office will be closed in observance of Independence Day!</i>	5	6 <i>RECYCLE</i>
7 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i>	8	9	10	11 2 p.m. “Heaven Bound” gospel group will be at Holly Brook	12	13
14 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>RECYCLE</i>
21 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i>	22	23	24	25 5:30 Session	26	27 <i>FPC to work at Food Pantry</i>
28 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship</i>	29	30	31 <i>Meladee will be out of the church office at a doctor’s appointment.</i>			

FUN FACTS ABOUT JULY. .

First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=142499619134911&ref=br_rs

Meladee’s working hours:
Meladee will be in the church office from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Email Addresses: As part of the hardware and software upgrade for our church’s technology, email addresses as noted below:

Meladee
fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net

Of-
fice@firstpresbygibson.org

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.

In early July, a period of time called the “dog days of summer” begins. Historically they were observed within Ancient Roman and Greek astrology and were connected with bad luck, mad dog attacks, unexpected thunderstorms, heat, and drought. They gained their name as “dog days” as they were connected with the star Sirius, which is part of the Canis Major (Greater Dog) star system. Nowadays, “the dog days” refers to when the hottest days of summer begin.

On July 5, 1946, the world’s first bikini was unveiled in the famous Piscine Molitor swimming pool in Paris. Just in time for the heat of summer, the bikini was modeled by showgirl Micheline Bernardini. While two-piece forms of swimwear previously existed, none used as little fabric as the bikini.

Julius Caesar wasn’t the only military genius born in July. Alexander the Great was another important historical figure who changed the shape of the world and was born somewhere around July 20, 356 BC. Other famous people born in July include Frida Kahlo, Franz Kafka, Marcel Proust, and Nelson Mandela.

July has some pretty delicious month-long observances, too! In the US, at least there are three, in particular, that stand out – It’s National Watermelon Month, National Hot Dog Month, and National Ice Cream Month. Yum!

Despite it being the first month in the second half of the year, July 1st is not actually the middle of the year. In a regular non-leap year, the midpoint is actually on July 2nd at 1 pm.

BIRTHDAYS
AND
ANNIVERSARIES

July

01: John and Barb Kirkpatrick
24: Larry Ricks
26: Chad Johnson

August

12: John and Ruth Davis
18: Valeree Johnson
21: Teresa Alexander
24: Tim and Janice Swanson
31: Sandy Brucker

Second Sunday Offering

July 14: Building Improvements

Aug 11: Head Start

Ushers

July: Jean Williams and Val Hunt

Aug: Gene & Mary Jane Roth

Communion Servers

Aug 4: Jean Williams and Sharla Williams

Sept 1: Danny and Vonna Heustis

Lying between June and August, July is the seventh month of the Gregorian calendar. As we’re at the

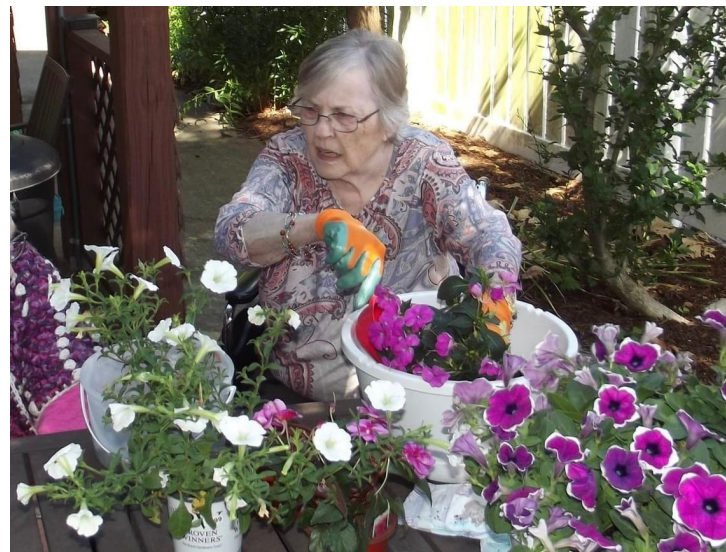
beginning of the second half of the year, it’s a great time to start on a new foot. It’s also a great point to start working on any of those new year’s resolutions that you’ve put off attempting for the first half of the year! Like all other months, July has a pretty storied history worth taking a closer look at!



CHURCH FAMILY NEWS



Phil (our treasurer) and his beautiful wife Jean at the Great Smokie Mountains.



The Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary recently helped Annex residents plant flower pots to be enjoyed by all on the Annex grounds. Here is our very own beautiful Doris Gerber with gloves on doing her part. Doris was our Church's nurse and continues to be in our thoughts and prayers.



Phil and Jean Noellach posing with the statue of Dolly Parton on a recent trip to Tennessee.



Samantha Renae VanSwol with her family: brother Ben, Mother, Jodi, and Father, Phillip.

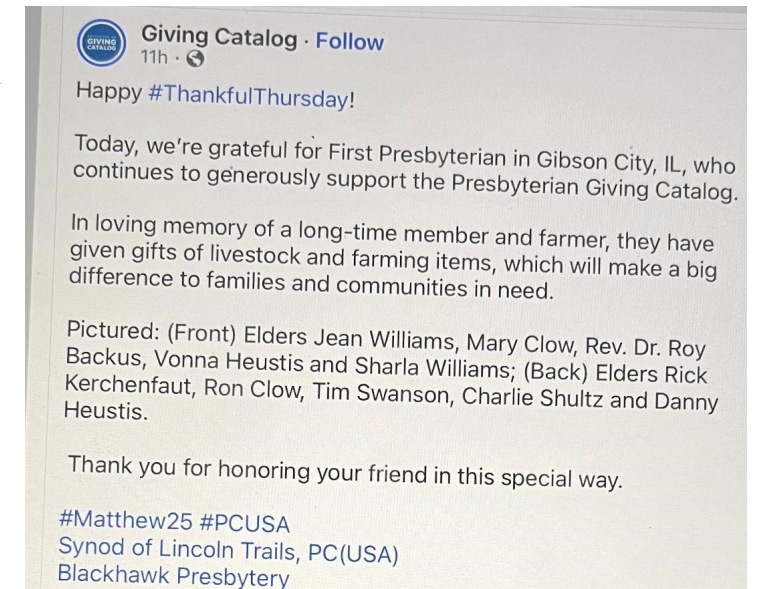
Dear Members: Thank you so much for being so kind as to offer me a very generous scholarship. I will use this blessing to help fulfil my dreams of becoming an elementary school teacher and furthering my education. Your kind acts do not go unnoticed. Thank you with love, Sammi VanSwol

CHURCH NEWS

Thank you Reverend Charles Maney for preaching on June 9th. We really enjoyed your sermon. Your guitar playing and singing of the "Pastor Chuck Theme Song" was a great delight and enjoyed by all. It was a pleasure meeting you and your wife Martha and we hope you come back sometime soon.



The Presbytery Giving Catalog recognized our church on social media on June 6th for the year end donations in honor of Jerry Wissmiller.



Clerk of Session Mary Clow with GCMS Senior Carter Kallal at the June 11th Food Pantry Board meeting. Carter was the student representative on the Board for the last two years. He also received the Jerry Wissmiller scholarship from our church. Unfortunately his picture did not make it into the Ford County Chronicle so we are sharing it now. He is awesome young man that cares about our community and will go far in life.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Look at the smiles on these faces. ❤️ Our \$5,000 donation in December to the Gibson City Sleep in Heavenly Peace Chapter helped make this happen. They have started delivering the beds they made to children in need in the area. What a great group! No child sleeps on the floor in Gibson City!!

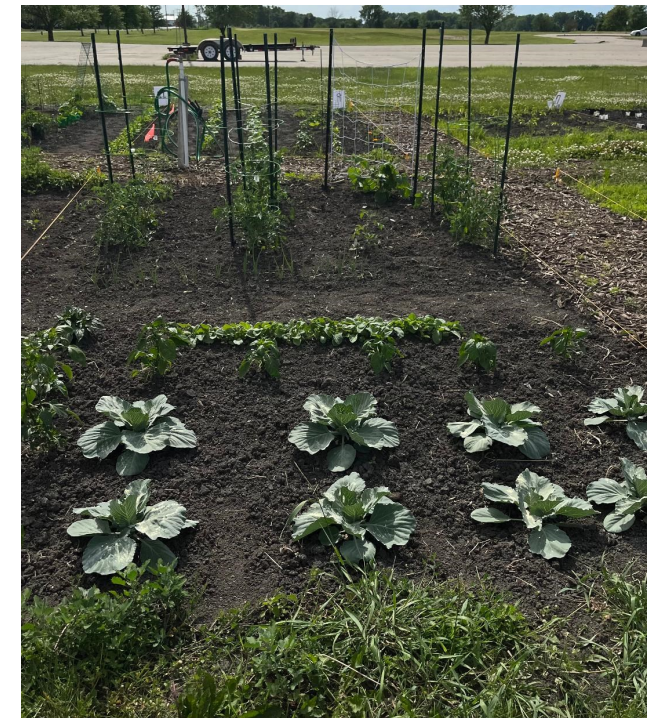


**SLEEP IN HEAVENLY
PEACE**



COMMUNITY GARDEN UPDATE

We are excited to announce that ALL 24 of the Community Garden plots have been taken this year. Gardeners have been busy planting seeds and plants. We have some serious gardeners out there every day watering, weeding and covering their fragile plants. The GCMS FFA requested 4 plots so they could plant vegetables they plan to share with local Food Pantry clients. Our church Congregation is excited to again partner with the Dr. Darrin Ray and Dr. Bernadette Ray at Railside Golf Course to provide access to these garden plots especially for those in the Community who might not otherwise have land to do so. Local Community Gardens are successful in providing access to healthy food as well as increasing physical activity of those participating.



WATCH THE EAGLE SOAR

By Mike Hastings (11-21-12)

There's work to be done in America
It's time that we unite.
There's many things we need to change
Things we need set right.
We should go back to the basics
Stand up what we once stood for.
Get back to God and the Good book
And watch the Eagle soar.

So many times we've turned away
From the god of our creation.
So many times we've denied the One
Who blesses our great nation.
We were founded on His principles,
It's time we got them back.
It's time we embraced the Lord again,
And repelled Satan's attacks.

Things can be fixed if we will turn
Back to our Living God.
Just as our forefathers knew so well
It's His path that we should trod.
It's not too late to turn around
Before all hope is lost.
We just need greet Him on our knees
And meet Him at the cross.

So America, get out your Bibles,
Blow the dust off unread pages.
Let's rebuild a strong foundation
Upon the Rock of Ages.
God awaits with open arms
We just need go to Him.
Let us run to His embrace
Then watch the Eagle soar again!



And the Winner Is



Pictured above: Jean Noellsch (with her granddaughter at 8th grade graduation and husband, Phil) is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for JULY. There were eighteen (18) who entered this month: Stacy Johnson, Pat Farris, Janice Swanson, Sharon Heavilin, Mona Summers, Val Hunt, Linda Graham, Nelda Jordan, Ed Hopkey, Jean Noellsch, Barb Williams, Jodi VanSwol, Sharon Collings, Danny Heustis, Jean Williams, Denise Birky, Sherry Tomlinson, Jeanette Hensley and Lisa Helgeson. Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market. Please see the **WHITE** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it in to the Church office by **JULY 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.

DIAPER DRIVE FOR GIBSON CITY



Thank you Dr. Backus, Ted Swanson and Ron and Mary Clow for representing our church and working the Food Pantry on June 22nd.



Some of the many items Mary Clow purchased with Mission Dollars for the Gibson Area Hospital Diaper Drive. It included 5 sizes of diapers, bottles, spoons, baby tooth brushes, grooming kits, burp cloths and bibs.

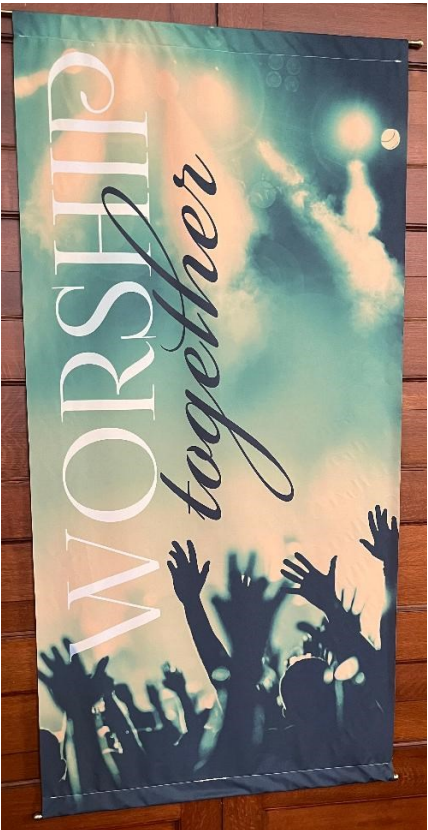


CHURCH UPDATES

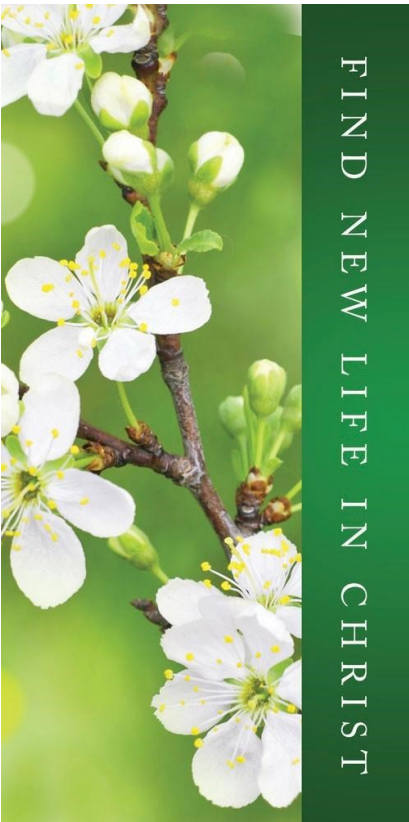
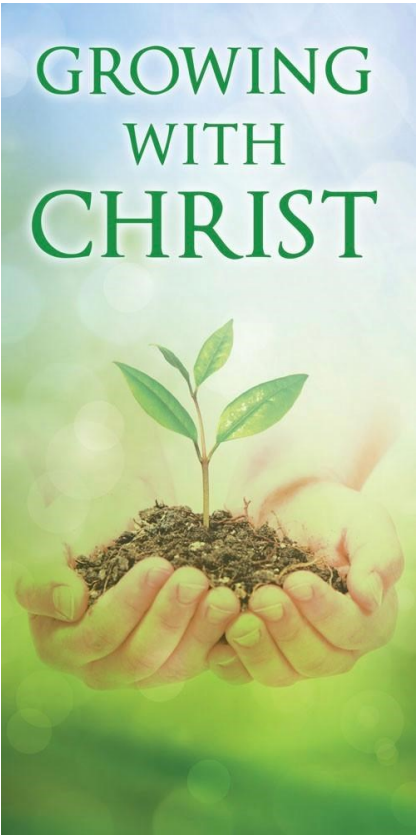
Thank you Mary Clow for updating the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



Thank you Mary Clow for the new banner in the Sanctuary. It's been a long time since we had any new ones. The Liturgical color is green for most of the summer so this will be appropriate.



Two more banners for the sanctuary have been ordered and will be arriving soon!



FACTS AND FIGURES

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – JUNE, 2024

June	
Year to Date May.....	\$101,000.00
Shepherds Closet.....	\$ 2,500.00
GC Sleep in Heavenly Peace.....	\$ 2,500.00
Mahomet Sleep in Heavenly Peace.....	\$ 2,500.00
Diaper Drive – Gibson Area Hospital.....	\$ 250.00
Rent for Shannia Durham (paid to LeEtta Bane).....	\$ 250.00
Year to Date June.....	\$109,000.00



JULY SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING
The second Sunday offering for July is Building Improvements for our Church. Session recently approved the replacement of two air conditioning units in the Sanctuary. In addition, a large landscaping project around the building was also approved. The third project in the planning stages is the stripping and rewaxing of the floors in the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen.



TUNE IN TO HEAR DR. BACKUS ON THE RADIO: Listen to Rev. Dr. Roy Backus on WGCY Radio on Sundays from 9:45 to 10:00 a.m. Also, three times a week, (Monday, Wednesday and Friday) Dr. Backus will be providing inspirational one-minute (“Got 60 Seconds?”) messages for listeners. Beginning the first Tuesday in June and each following month, Dr. Backus will host worship for the residents of Holly Brook at 9 a.m.



THANK YOUS!

Thank you for your contribution to our 140 Men and Women Campaign. Your monetary donation of \$1,400 allows Gibson City Restoration Association to focus our efforts on restoring the historic Burwell Building and to make the structure a thriving part of the downtown area once again. We appreciate your support in this mission and we are blessed to have your partnership. Dawn Klintworth, Board Member and Secretary, Gibson City Restoration Association

We are truly humbled by the outpouring of donations in response to our appeal. Donors like you showed that despite the year's economic challenges, support for the needs of our local hospital is alive and well. Thanks to your support, we met our goal of our pledge to the Gibson Area Hospital's additional CT scan of \$10,000. We will be able to make our purchase of items needed for the Annex and for the hospital as their requests are presented. Thank you to everyone for being part of Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary's mission to help in the success and comfort of the patients in choosing to come to our hospital for medical assistance. We plan to organize more events of this kind in the future and eagerly await the opportunity to partner together again and further our relationship. In gratitude, Roxann Nuss and Margy Shambrook, 2nd Vice Presidents of the Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Thank you so much for your generosity. I am very honored to be one of the recipients for your scholarship. It has truly blessed me and will be beneficial as I move on to college. I pray you can continue to bless those in the community. God Bless, Ella Brake

Meladee, I continue to enjoy seeing how Gibson City Presbyterians continue to show their Christian love in the community. I see many young people you are reaching. May God richly bless you with good health as you continue. In His Service, Linda Graham

A Note of Warmest Thanks: Thank you so much for the County Market gift card. I love puzzles, games, and fun. What a fun way to win!

Kathy Branz

On behalf of the Gibson City-Melvin Sibley FFA Chapter, we would like to express our greatest appreciation for your contribution to our 20th Annual Scholarship Auction. At this year's auction we were able to raise \$31,000. All of the proceeds go directly back to our members through scholarships. These scholarships will be used by student's for college expenses, fees for leadership conferences and workshops, as well as state and national conventions. It is because of your generous support we are able to provide these opportunities and education to the future leaders of

the agricultural industry. Again, we greatly appreciate your support of our chapter and of agricultural education here at Gibson City-Melvin Sibley High School. Sincerely, The 2023-2024 GCMS FFA Officer Team

First Presbyterian Church family, Thank you so much for the scholarship award! I am very thankful. I will use it towards my tuition for MSV! I am excited to see everyone and share my travel stories! Love, Anneliese



Beer Drinking Buddies!

Root Beer that is.

Gibson City-Melvin Sibley FFA



Thank You

What is unique about the Presbyterian Church?

Presbyterians are distinctive in two major ways.

They adhere to a pattern of religious thought known as **Reformed theology** and a **form of government** that stresses the active, representational leadership of both ministers and church members.



CHURCH GOVERNMENT

The body of elders elected to govern a particular congregation is called a session. They are elected by the congregation and in one sense are representatives of the other members of the congregation. On the other hand, their primary charge is to **seek to discover and represent the will of Christ as they govern**. Presbyterian elders are both elected and ordained. Through ordination they are officially set apart for service. They retain their ordination beyond their term in office.

REFORMED THEOLOGY

Related to this central affirmation of God's sovereignty are other great themes of the Reformed tradition:

- The election of the people of God for service as well as for salvation.
- Covenant life marked by a disciplined concern for order in the church according to the Word of God.
- A faithful stewardship that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God's creation.
- The recognition of the human tendency to idolatry and tyranny, which calls the people of God to work for the transformation of society by seeking justice and living in obedience to the Word of God. (Book of Order, G-2.0500)

CHURCH GOVERNMENT

Ministers who serve the congregation are also part of the session. The session is the smallest, most local governing body.

The other governing bodies are presbyteries, which are composed of several churches; synods, which are composed of several presbyteries; and the General Assembly, which represents the entire denomination. Elders and ministers who serve on these governing bodies are also called presbyters.

Presbyteries and synods are also collectively referred to as mid councils.

FUNK FAMILY FARM CELEBRATION

Dr. Backus and Ron and Mary Clow attended the 200th anniversary celebration of the Funk Farm in Shirley, Illinois on June 23rd. Long term church member and past elder Gene Roth announced the event and invited our Congregation.

Issac Funk, the founder of Funk Farm in 1824, is Gene Roth's great great great grandfather. The Funk Foundation is a supporter of the McCormick Tutoring Program managed by our church.

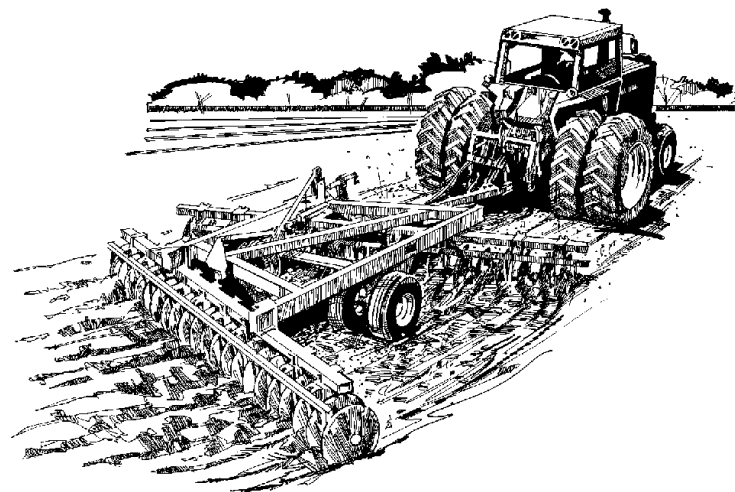
It was a great celebration with speakers from the University of Illinois as well as Board members and employees sharing important past history. In addition, there were several food trucks, vendor booths and a special beer was brewed to honor the occasion by Keg Grove Brewing of Bloomington. Instead of a large sand box for little kids to play in, a corn filled box was set up instead. There were lots of toy tractors being used to move the corn around.



Gene and Mary Jane Roth.



Welcome to TWO CENTURIES of progress.



MORE FUNK FAMILY FARM CELEBRATION



Ron and Mary Clow



The "Corn Box."

What fun was had by all!



