

PASTOR'S CORNER

Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday of the year. My earliest memories of extended family and excitement were born during Thanksgiving celebrations. During my elementary through college years our family would meet at Aunt Minnette, Uncle Johnny and Cousin Roy's house in McCamey, Texas.

In my youth we'd pack up ourselves and the car, leave very early in the morning, drive for several hours, arrive in McCamey and then the day would begin. Looking back, it was more a celebration for the guys. We'd spend time playing games, watching football sitting on top of each other in the little 10 x 10 room with a 19" television. Eventually we would be called to set up the table and chairs, and we would set up some TV trays too. (Looking back the only time guys were in the kitchen was to get nibbles. The women did the huge amount of

work to get the men together. Now you'll find us all in the kitchen preparing and cleaning up together. It feels better to all of us!)

The joy of being together, catching up, telling old stories would lead us through the day. The past Thanksgivings were always filled with wonderful tastes and plentiful food. We would stay too long, on every time. Dad, and later myself, would drive through the evening until we made it back to our own home. The playful time together would leave a lasting mark on my life. Maybe that's why Thanksgiving is my family's largest and most enjoyable family celebration. (We share our Christmas presents to our extended family at this time now!) It just seems right to us.

Last year for the first time, we rented a large cabin in Wisconsin, made our pies on Wednesday, cooked the turkey and other sides

early Thursday, ate in the late afternoon, settled in and enjoyed each other for the rest of the evening, awoke to left over turkey and pie for breakfast on Friday, and later headed home.

The continual thankfulness for each other is the center of our Thanksgiving. It is an opportunity to be extended family, to catch up with one another, to share the preparation, clean up and just be with one another.

Thanksgiving is totally different than my early childhood, and yet it has remained the same at its center. It's my prayer that this year's Thanksgiving will be a blessed renewal of your life and the life of your family.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Roy

PS Thank you for your gracious Pastor's Appreciation gift! The thoughtful Gift Card to Blue Star will be used well. Thank you again.

Texts and Sermons for November 2024

This month we finish the Lectionary Cycle for Year B. We finish the Gospel of Mark and move on to Luke (except for Lent and Holy Week in 2025). We continue to learn of our Lord's mission and conversation on his way to Jerusalem. Grace and Peace, Pastor Roy

Sunday, November 3, 2024

All Saints Sunday

Call to Worship: Psalm 146:1-10

The First Lesson: Hebrews 9:11-14

The Second Lesson: Mark 12:28-34

The Sermon: *You're Not Far From The Kingdom of Heaven*

Sunday, November 10, 2024

The 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Call to Worship: Psalm 127:1-5

The First Lesson: Hebrews 9:24-28

The Second Lesson: Mark 12:38-44

The Sermon: *The Architect and Builder*

Sunday, November 17, 2024

The 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Call to Worship: Canticle 1 Samuel 2:1-10

The First Lesson: Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18) 19-25

The Second Lesson: Mark 13:1-8

The Sermon: *Themes and Variations*

Sunday, November 24, 2024

Christ the King Sunday—Communion

Call to Worship: Psalm 132: 1-12 (13-18)

The First Lesson: Revelation 1:4b-8

The Second Lesson: John 18:33-37

The Sermon: *The Eternal King*



PRESBYTIDINGS

November 2024

Rev. Dr. Roy C. Backus

Bible Study: 9:45 a.m. 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

This Thanksgiving, take the time to tell your story. The act alone can make us more generous children of God.

By Chris Roseland, Mission Engagement & Support | Presbyterian News

A common table prayer opens with "O Lord, make us truly thankful for that which we are about to receive ..." It sounds simple, doesn't it? But isn't there something a little strange about that prayer? I mean, why would anyone pray that way?

"Oh Lord, make us truly thankful ..." This little thanksgiving prayer acknowledges that an *attitude of gratitude* is something that we cannot do for ourselves. We are unable to "make" ourselves "truly thankful," so we pray for God to make us more thankful than we really are. So, how do we do that? How does a person become "truly thankful"? Well, one way to help us become "truly thankful" is to remember our story — the story of our lives. We need to recall the story of who we are, where we've come from and how we got to be where we are at present.

Now, on the surface, recalling our story seems like the easiest thing we can do. We just tell what happened, just tell

what we did and what decisions we made at the time, and why. But just start to do that, however, and you'll discover that it's not as easy as you thought. "Where do I begin to tell the story of my life? What do I tell? What do I not tell? Thanksgiving is not only a time that we set aside to give thanks, but it is also a time to remember, a time to reflect on our life's story. Throughout the history of the world, practically every culture has designated a time of thanksgiving unto the Creator for the harvest that God has provided. During these feasts, the people were invited to remember their story. The story of struggle and freedom. The story of despair and hope. The story of God and the blessing of a good land. Thanksgiving is a time for us to remember and retell our life's story. But the problem for most of us is that we live such full and busy lives today that we don't have much time to remember, do we? Oh, we enjoy little moments of recollection now and then, morsels of memories that connect us to our past and our real identities. We remember our story when we visit our hometown, or when we return for a class reunion, or when we clean out the garage and sit down for an hour with a

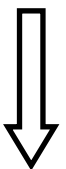
photograph album. But, by and large, our minds are too full; we are too preoccupied with the present to remember even a fraction of the past. We are too busy to recollect all the wonderful things stored — the stories — in our memories. We are so engrossed in the present, so mortgaged to the future that we don't have time for the past. But what happens to people who forget who they were? Well, we become ungrateful. We forget that we didn't always live here, in this moment — that we had an existence before the one with which we are struggling now. And so, we must pray, "O Lord, make us truly thankful for that which we are about to receive ..." This Thanksgiving, in the name of Jesus Christ, we invite you to share your story with those around you. Remember your first Thanksgiving. Remember the people that you have met and loved along the way in your life. Remember all the places that you have lived, from your childhood home to your present surroundings, and tell your story.

You see, in remembering, we become grateful, and when we have an attitude of gratitude, we become generous children of God. Indeed, we are truly thankful.



NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

Daylight saving time will end on Sunday November 3rd. 					1	2 <i>RECYCLE</i>
3 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	4 <i>Meladee will be away from church office at Gailey Eye Clinic</i>	5 9 a.m. Bible Study at Holly Brook <i>General Election in the fellowship hall</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>FPC to work at Food Pantry</i>
10 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>New Members Service</i>	11 <i>Veteran's Day—church office will be closed.</i> 7 Messiah practice in the fellowship hall	12	13	14 <i>Area Minister's will meet at the Catholic Church</i>	15	16 <i>RECYCLE</i>
17 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	18 <i>Meladee will be away from church office at doctor's appt.</i> 7 Messiah practice	19	20 6 p.m. Fellowship meal at First Christian Church	21 5:30 Session	22	23
24 9:45 a.m. Bible Study 10:30 a.m. Worship	25 <i>Church office closed. Meladee on vacation</i> 7 Messiah practice	26 <i>Church office closed. Meladee will be on vacation</i>	27 <i>Church office closed. Meladee will be on vacation.</i>	28 <i>Happy Thanksgiving! Church office will be closed.</i>	29 <i>Church office will be closed for Thanksgiving</i>	30

Meladee will come into church office to complete any work as needed.

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

Office@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 unless Dr. Backus is not available and then she will work 10 to 2 as usual.

Where did November come from? Novem is the Latin word for 9. But wait, isn't November the 11th month? Interestingly, before **January** and **February** were added to the calendar, November was the 9th month. Instead of changing November to Unidecember (Latin for 11), they kept the name. There you have the most confusing of all the November facts!

Rock the vote: If you're American you know the presidential election is always in November. But do you know why? It comes down to the farmers. Not wanting to disturb the planting, growing or harvest seasons, the month of November was chosen as the most logical month for everybody to be able to vote.

Perfect month for a 'stache: **November** is a charity organization started in Australia that has quickly spread across the world. Raising money for prostate cancer, men are encouraged to shave on November 1st and keep only the mustache growing until November 30th. So far the charity has raised over \$800 million! Just don't get us started on Decem-beard!

We hope you're hungry: It seems that the best thing to do in November is eat! Did you know November is home to many delicious special days? November 3rd is Sandwich Day. November 6th is Nacho Day. The 14th is Pickle Day. And the 28th is French Toast Day. And the most random of all, November 29th is Lemon Cream Pie Day.

Giving thanks in November: In the US, November is perhaps best known for Thanksgiving. Since 1621, the fourth Thursday in November has served as a holiday to gather with friends and family and give thanks for the blessings in our lives and also eat the incredible food reaped from the fall harvest. That's 400 years of turkeys!

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

<h3>BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES</h3>	<p><i>Second Sunday Offering</i> Nov 10: American Legion Baskets Dec 8: Christmas Joy Offering</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ushers</i></p> <p>Nov: Trudy Lantz and Jean Williams Dec: Ron and Mary Clow</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Communion Servers</i></p> <p>Nov 24: Charlie Schultz and Tim Swanson 24:</p>	<p>remember the veterans we have lost in past wars and thank the military of today for protecting our country. In the US November 11th is known as Veterans Day. In the UK, Armistice Day. And in Canada, Remembrance Day. So wear your poppy proud in November!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>November</i></p> <p>01: Doris Gerber 06: Carla Ashmore 07: Beverly Swanstrom 18: David Schmidt 20: Vonna Heustis 23: Noah Swanson</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>December</i></p> <p>07: Charlie Schultz 14: Pat Farris 25: Jesus 27: Elinor Nelson 29: Roy Backus</p>	
<p>We will remember: November 11th is a very important day where we</p>		

HAPPENINGS OF THE CHURCH

The Gibson Girls HCE Group that helped serve dinner for the Dennis Farris funeral. They include Vickie Craig, Sharon Heavilin, Mary Clow, Janet Hammit and Pat Farris.



Fellowship Meal

ATTENTION: HEED NOW THE CALL for a Nominating Committee Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 10th at 11:30 a.m. during the Luncheon Celebration following the service of worship for the purpose of approving nominations for officers for 2025. HEED NOW THE CALL for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 10th at 11:45 a.m. during the Luncheon Celebration following the service of worship for the purpose of approving the nominations of officers for 2025. A special Session meeting will be held on Sunday, November 10th, at 10:10 a.m. for the purpose of receiving new members. The November 10th Bible Study held at 9:45 a.m. is cancelled.



Long time member Doris Gerber participated in the Gibson Area Hospital Oktoberfest Celebration held at the Annex. The residents were treated to Oktoberfest food and beverages, music and lederhosen aprons for all.



THANK YOU AND MORE

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City, On behalf of our entire team and the communities we serve, I want to thank you for your generous gift. Your commitment to community-inspired volunteer-powered disaster relief makes a difference! Through the generosity of supporters like you, All Hands and Hearts has directly assisted over 1.2 million people whose lives have been disrupted by earthquakes, fires, and storms of every kind. In these and other humanitarian crises, we are devoted to focusing on the greatest needs and collaborating with local, national, and international partners to solve them for the long term. Again, thank you for including All Hands and Hearts in your charitable giving. With gratitude, Jessica Thompson, Chief Executive Officer

Church Family, Thank you for the flowers and providing the after service dinner, your sympathy, condolences and many prayers. My family and I are grateful beyond words. We have lost someone very special. Thank you for sharing our grief. (The family of Dennis Farris) Love, Pat.

Dear First Presbyterian Church: The Gibson Area Service Association (GASA) gratefully acknowledges your recent gift of \$760 to support community efforts in the Gibson City area. The GASA is researching various projects to help support our community and its residents. Planned GASA projects for 2024 include:

- Partnership with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Foundation, which currently provides free monthly books for every child from 0-5 who wishes to enroll.

- Update of the baseball field fences at McMillian Field.
 - Enhancements to the Dog Park at the Jordon Industrial Park.
- We are proud to serve our local community and your generous donation will help us greatly with our efforts! We thank you for your contribution to GASA! Janna Friday



You will remember that my nephew's son and pregnant wife were on a Caribbean cruise last December with her parents when her water broke at 25 weeks. They were airlifted to Miami where little Theo Alderson was born two weeks later. They spent 4 months in Miami as Theo grew and matured. They were able to head home to Ohio early April and it appears Theo is reaching all the milestones and doing well. His parents are beyond grateful for the \$5,000 the church sent them. My nephew was almost in tears. I also thank you. Jean Williams

Dear Mary, I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for your recent gift of \$100 on September 26, 2024 in memory of Ava Faith Mead. Your com-

mitment to supporting our mission will help to create even more pivotal wish experiences for children with critical illnesses in our community who urgently need hope and strength in their treatment journey. Your gift is so much more than a donation-it ensures that a child's imagination truly becomes their reality. It opens doors to new possibilities, in which a child can replace fear with confidence, sadness with joy and anxiety with hope. Wishes even have proven physical and emotional benefits that can give children with critical illnesses a higher chance of survival. They unite families through life-changing experiences that help them cope and grow stronger, as entire communities rally around them in moments of unforgettable joy. Granting wishes is something we all have the power to do, and we are so grateful you have chosen to walk alongside us. Make-A-Wish has proudly granted more than 550,000 wishes worldwide since 1980 and we are not done yet. Your support is helping us reach kids in our community. As long as children are facing the devastating realities of fighting a critical illness, they will be counting on us to grant their heartfelt wishes and create the turning point they need in their treatment and recovery. Thank you for your dedication to this important work. A wish begins with hope. Our sincerest thanks for making wishes possible for children with critical illnesses in our community. Sincerely, Stephanie Springs, CEO, Make-A-Wish Illinois

Thank you to the Presbyterian Church for your support of the Greyhound Choir Reunion in the donation of the publicity posters announcing the event. The Presbyterian Church is one more reason to be thankful for in Gibson City. Bill Ogg

POETRY PAGE

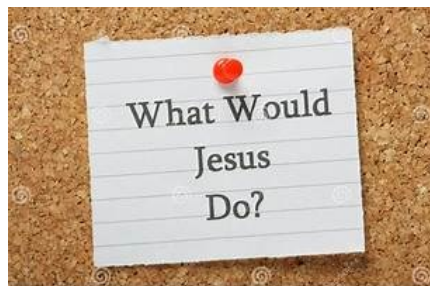
WHAT WOULD JESUS DO?

By: Mike Hastings

What would Jesus do,
What would Jesus say?
If He were in my shoes
Each and every day?
How would Jesus handle
What life sends my way?
What would Jesus do,
What would Jesus say?

Truly food for thought
For, my friend, you see
If I am truly His
Then He's revealed to me.
Everything I do
Everything I say
Should show Jesus to
Everyone today.

Oh, what a better world
Would be surely wrought
If as each day unfurled
We all truly sought
To walk in Jesus' steps
To talk in Jesus' way,
By asking ourselves first
What would Jesus do or say?



LOOK WHO CAME TO JOIN US

By: Mike Hastings

Look who came to join us
Look who came to be
Look who came to save us
Sinners, you and me.

Around two thousand years ago
In a hay filled stall
Look who came to join us
The Savior of us all.

After all these years
There's still a celebration
We still celebrate His birth
As the birth of our salvation.

For He was born to die for us
To take away our sin
Yes, look who came to join us
If we will just join Him.

Oh, what a baby
Who came to us that day
Oh, what a Savior
Who came to light our way.

He lived, He died
He lives again
He saves lost sinners
From their sin.

God's greatest gift
To all mankind
The greatest gift
That one can find.

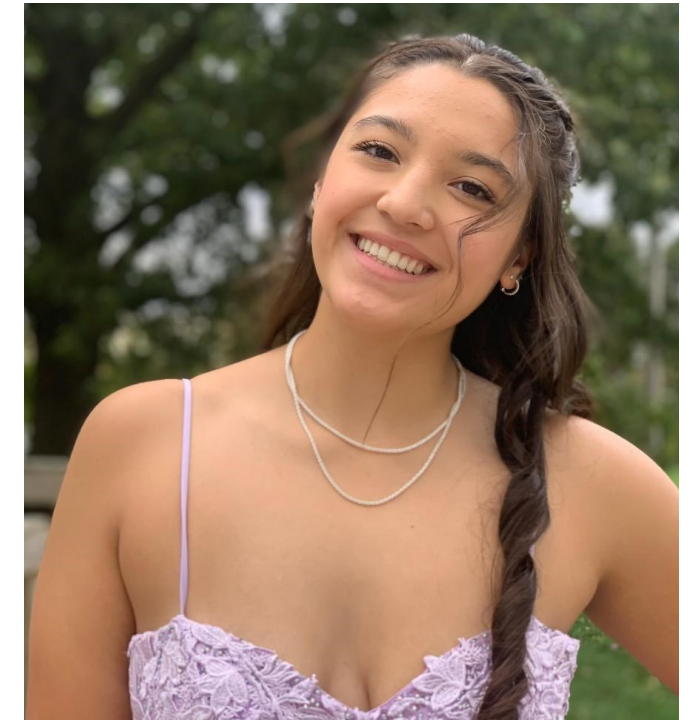
Yes, look who came to join us
Bringing Heaven as reward
Look came to join us
Jesus Christ, our Lord.



HOMECOMING 2024



Addison and her date, Kale Holzauer.



Beautiful girl!



Charlie Kerchenfaut and Addison Kerchenfaut



Charlie Kerchenfaut (2nd from left) and friends wearing their cool sunglasses.

Mom Time First:

Aizza and Charlie Kerchenfaut (3rd and 4th-from the left).



CHURCH NEWS

And the Winner Is

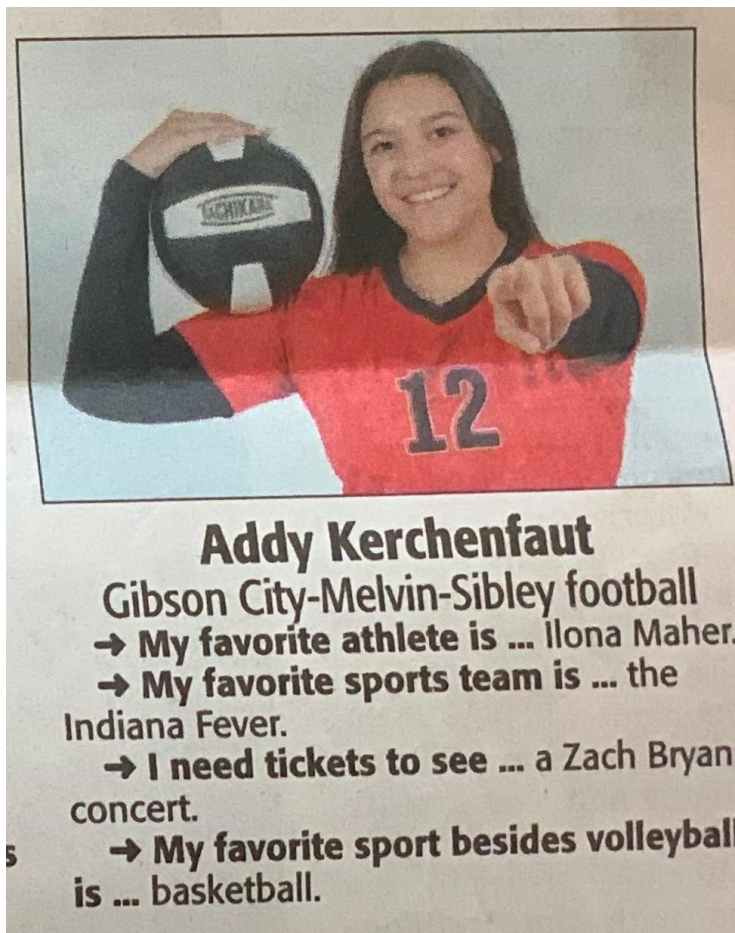


Pictured above: Sherry Tomlinson is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for OCTOBER. There were twenty-five (25) who entered this month: Stacy Johnson, Sharon Collings, Linda Graham, Tracey Drosch, Pat Farris, Lyndi Barnes, Mona Summers, Janice Swanson, Jean Noellsch, Danny Heustis, Linda Gandy, Kathy Branz, Ed Hopkey, John Johnson, Jeanette Hensley, John Ferguson, Val Hunt, Barb Hastings, Denny Fisher, Carla Allen, Jodi VanSwol, Jean Williams, Sherry Tomlinson, Denise Birky and Barbara Williams. 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 into the church office by NOVEMBER 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.

What a great picture of the GCMS Red Army cheering on Addison Kerchenfaut at her volleyball Senior Night game. The big head cutout of Addison is great.



Addison Kerchenfaut was honored in the News Gazette on October 4th as a Featured Athlete.



HEAVEN BOUND AT HOLLY BROOK

What another great concert shared by the gospel group *Heaven Bound* at Holly Brook on Thursday, October 10th. Those attending from the Presbyterian Church: Our minister, Dr. Backus, Val Hunt, Carla Ashmore, Sharla Williams, Sharon Heavilin, Pat Farris and Meladee Ferguson. They not only sing well, they have a lot of fun doing it. What a blessing for everyone who attended.

Daddy sang bass. Mama sang tenor . . .



Val Hunt, Carolyn Williams (aunt of Sharla) and Sharla Williams.



Meladee's sister-in-law, Barb Hastings, made certain Meladee got in a picture with the guys. What a very nice surprise.



They LOVE the LORD and it SHOWS!



Laughter doth the heart good!

CHURCH NEWS

Dr. Backus was one of the musicians providing entertainment at the September 17th Blackhawk Presbyterian meeting held at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in Oregon, Illinois.



Be sure and take note of our Fall Banners on display in downtown Gibson City.

The Gibson Area Music Foundation is inviting all area singers to participate in its annual Christmas concert "Celebrate the Season". It will be a combination of selections from "Messiah" along with carols and readings about Christ's birth. The program will be at 3:00 PM on Sunday, December 15, at the Gibson City Bible Church, and in addition to the choir will feature soloists and a string ensemble. Rehearsals will be every Monday evening beginning November 11 continuing through December 9 from 7:00-8:30 at the Gibson City First Presbyterian Church. Please join us for this beautiful musical tradition!

PLEASE NOTE: We will be combining the December—January Newsletter due to the holidays. It will be mailed by mid-December.



Creator of all that we are and will be,

Give us hearts to be neighbors who care, listen and support each other.

We seek to "rejoice and be glad" in this day you have granted to us. Make sunrise in our hearts now and forevermore.

Amen



FACTS AND FIGURES



The November Special Offering is for the American Legion Post 568 Christmas Baskets for families with children in the GCMS School District. Food and toys are distributed each Christmas Season. At Christmas, we all *like* the gifts we get but how we *love* the gifts we give.



Session approved a \$5,000 donation to the All Hands and Hearts Fund to help with the damage caused by Helene. We asked that most of the money be directed towards Asheville, North Carolina. This organization started in 2004 and has a 5 star rating and 95% of their funds go towards those in need. They plan to address the immediate need as well as the long-term needs. They arrive early for the first response and stay late to rebuild schools and homes.



All Hands and Hearts

MISSION SUGGESTIONS

October

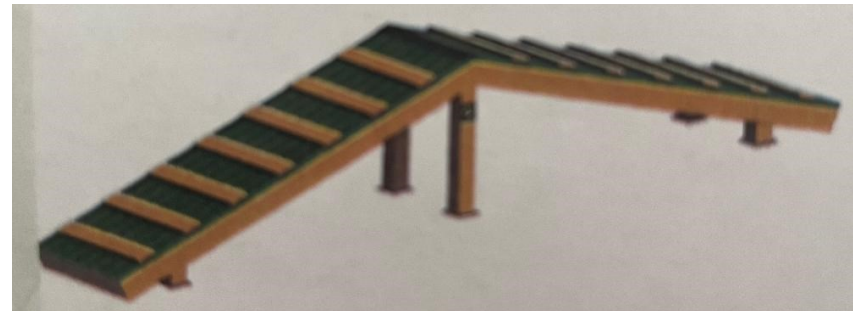
Year to Date September.....	\$152,208.00
Rent Carriage Lane/Jodie & Terry Allen.....	\$ 500.00
Pastor Appreciation Gift Card.....	\$ 100.00
Gibson City Police Department.....	\$ 1,000.00
Gibson City Fire Department.....	\$ 1,000.00
Ford Co Sheriff's Department.....	\$ 1,000.00
Love Lights A Tree – GAH Auxiliary	\$ 1,000.00
Gibson City Restoration Committee.....	\$ 4,000.00
Year to Date October.....	\$160,808.00

ATTENTION: We will be receiving four new members on Sunday, November 10, 2024 during our service of worship at 10:30 a.m. If anyone else is interested in joining our church at this time please let Dr. Backus, Meladee, or Mary Clow know. We welcome all those who love the Lord. A light lunch with homemade pie will be served after the service.



MORE ITEMS OF INTEREST

Gibson City is holding a Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign with 90% of all funds collected kept to help our Community. Following our city's major flood, the Salvation Army was in Gibson City providing financial and hands-on assistance. If you are interested in ringing a bell at Ace or Runnings, please contact Mary Clow. A handout with additional information is available.



GIBSON CITY LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE PRESENTS

UNSPOKEN

4:45PM
11.23.2024
DOWNTOWN GIBSON CITY, ILLINOIS
LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE STARTS AT 6:30PM
FREE CARRIAGE RIDES FROM 3PM - 6PM

SPONSORED BY

Holiday News: Our church made a \$10,000 donation to the Gibson City Christmas Parade Committee as our town celebrates their 30th anniversary of hosting Christmas parades. We are thrilled to announce they will be hosting a free concert before the parade featuring the band Unspoken, an American Christian band. This is one of the many awesome ways our Church has been blessed to help our Community celebrate the Holiday Season. Our Church logo is printed at the bottom of all the flyers as one of the major sponsors.

GASA UPDATE

Mary Clow attended the Gibson Area Service Association membership meeting on October 23rd. Our Church has donated to this very important local organization. Pictured ABOVE is one of their first projects with the purchase and installation of agility equipment for both big and small dogs at the Dog Park next to Jordan Pond. Additional projects being discussed as a part of their 5-year vision include adding a Pickleball Court at the South Park and upgrades to the Soccer and Baseball fields. There are currently 50 active members and 20 supporting members. See Mary Clow if you are interested in joining.

MORE NEWS OF OUR CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

Thank you Sandy Fairchild for playing the organ for our Sunday services on October 6th and 13th!



Dr. Roy Backus prepares our Congregation to receive Communion on October 6th - World Communion Sunday

Dr. Roy Backus was inducted into the Gibson City Lions Club on October 22nd along with two other new members. Our member Sharon Heavilin was the sponsor for Dr. Backus. Congratulations to all.

