

## PASTOR'S CORNER

Grace and peace be with you,  
Grace and peace.

Earlier today I had my annual eye exam at the Joliet VA facility. It is aligned with Hines VA Hospital. Most of my regular physicals and general medical work can be arranged in Joliet, which is closer and more convenient. I am very thankful for the way the American nation has decided to be more attentive and helpful for Veterans health.

All of us who wear glasses are familiar with the eye exams. Everything from puffs of air into the eye; which line is clear for you; and the subjective which is better, 1 or 2? Or do they seem the same? While taking these many evaluative tests the optometrist's assistant and I had a conversation about the advances in eye tests and all the specialized machines which aid in the evaluations. The conversation then moved to all the changes which our parents and grand parents experienced in life. Then we talked about our

own lives and how things have changed. The assistant asked me if I had ever made peanut butter cookies. I said, "Yes." She reminded me of the perpendicular fork marks on the tops of the cookies. At her daughter's junior high school some of the kids wanted to know why the cookies had "Hash Tag" tops. I would never have called the marks "Hash Tags", but in light of today's society, it makes absolute clarity. Hash Tags!

It reminded me of the conversation I had with my 1968 Cub Scout Den Mother. When we said the Cub Scout Pledge, it included the statement, "I will do my best for God and country, to be square, and obey the law of the pack." We 3rd graders laughed out loud when we said the "be square . . ." etc. It was the late 60s and the hippy generation had taken the definition of a square deal, a square guy, a square meal, etc. and changed it to a person who had ridged edges in the way they approached society and life.

Kinda like we term, "Thinking inside the box." For us youngin's at the time, to promise to be square was anything but our hope and plan in life!

All the changes in life, technology, cookies, language, and life itself keep us growing and learning new approaches to life and others. I'm thankful for the changes, although many new ones catch me off guard.

In the next few years, FPGC will be changing and moving forward. It is important that we think and work together toward our goals for the future. What do we wish to be our direction in the coming few years? I hope you'll pray about this church's future and contributions to our community. It's my hope that we will be able to meet together and talk about the differing ideas and hopes in our congregation.

Grace and peace be with you,  
Grace and peace.

Pastor Roy

### Texts and Titles for October 2024

Throughout October we will hear Jesus speaking to the primary questions of our lives. He speaks to the areas which we rarely ask out loud. Come and struggle with your family of faith as we seek to be faithful to our Lord and each other.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Roy

### Sunday, October 6, 2024

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Communion

Call to Worship: Psalm 26:1-12

The First Lesson: Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12

The Second Lesson: Mark 10:2-16

The Sermon: "The Limits of the Law"

### Sunday, October 13, 2024

The Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Call to Worship: Psalm 22:1-15

The First Lesson: Hebrews 4:12-16

The Second Lesson: Mark 10:17-31

The Sermon: "The Necessity of Struggle"

### Sunday, October 20, 2024

The Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Call to Worship: Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c

The First Lesson: Hebrews 5:1-10

The Second Lesson: Mark 10:35-45

The Sermon: "You Don't Know What You're Asking"

### Sunday, October 27, 2024

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

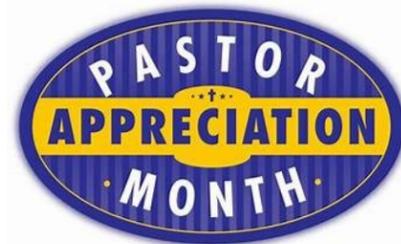
Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1-8 (19-22)

The First Lesson: Hebrews 7:23-28

The Second Lesson: Mark 10:46-52

The Sermon: "Called and Healed"

(The Hebrew Lesson: Job 42:1-6, 10-17)



## PRESBYTIDINGS

October 2024

Rev. Dr. Roy C. Backus

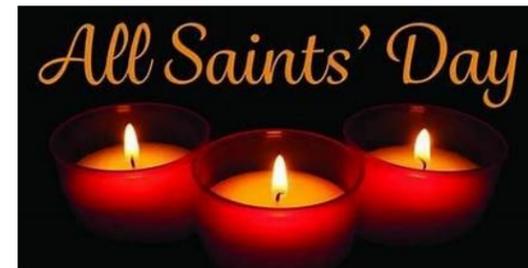
Worship: 10:30 a.m.

This Newsletter is a publication of First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City IL.

Website: [www.firstpresbygibson.org](http://www.firstpresbygibson.org)

Meladee Ferguson: Administrative Assistant

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator



### ALL SAINTS' DAY

On November 1, All Saints' Day is a day we celebrate believers of every time. It's often a day we honor the faithful who have died during the past year in our own church communities. It's a day of gratefulness for those that have passed away who shared their faith with us, and a time to reflect on how we can continue to share our faith with others.



Ellie Stolz passed away on March 19th, 2024 in Plainfield, Indiana where she and her husband Dave moved to several years ago to be closer to family. She was one great lady, loved by all in our congregation and a good example of a well-lived Christian life. She joined our church on November 19th, 1956 and served as an Elder many times during her membership.



Ronald M Clow Sr., 87, of Gibson City passed away on Friday, August 23, 2024. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn of 69 years, two children; Elders Ron & Mary Clow of Gibson City and Sherrilyn Corry of Saybrook, three grandsons and one great granddaughter. He served in the United States Air Force. He was a friend of the church for many years.



Dennis D. Farris, 75, of Gibson City passed away on Tuesday, September 17, 2024. He is survived by his wife and friend of the church Patricia Farris and two daughters Kate (Brad) Dyer of Rochester and Amanda (Greg) Voice of Elburn and three grandchildren. He served in the United States Army.

# OCTOBER 2024

Sunday      Monday      Tuesday      Wednesday      Thursday      Friday      Saturday

		1 9 am—Bible Study at Holly Brook  5:30 pm Session	2	3	4	5 Recycle
6 10:30 a.m. Worship  Communion	7	8	9	10 11 am Ministers will meet at First Christian Church  2 pm Heaven Bound at Holly Brook	11	12
13 10:30 a.m. Worship	14 Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary Fall Luncheon in the fellowship hall	15	16 World Food Day	17	18	19 RECYCLE
20 10:30 a.m. Worship	21	22	23	24  5:30 Session	25	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship	28	29	30	31		

## FUN FACTS ABOUT OCTOBER . . .

First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City

[https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=142499619134911&ref=br\\_rs](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](mailto:fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net)

[Office@firstpresbygibson.org](mailto: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.

**A month of bounty:** Oh, October! Even though the days are getting shorter and cooler (in the Northern hemisphere, at least) we are reaping the benefits of the passing summer. October is known as the best harvesting month for many crops including apples, carrots, corn, grapes, onions, potatoes and squash. Oh, and obviously pumpkins too!

**The leaves are stunning:** The changing of the leaves is one of the most spectacular events of October. It is also quite a draw for tourism as well. In the United States, people travel to the northeast where large swathes of maples, birches and poplars turn from green to dazzling reds, yellows and oranges.

**What day is it?:** As with all the months, our list of fun facts about October would not be complete without highlighting some of the strange days on the October calendar. October 2nd is International Coffee Day. October 8th is National Kick Butt Day. October 15th is National Grouch Day. And October 29th is National Cat Day.

**A month of good eating!:** October is the national month for a lot of snack food! National Pizza Month, National Seafood Month, National Popcorn Month and National Pork Month are all in October! Not to mention all the candy corn and Halloween chocolate we can't help but feast on. October is truly the most delicious month!

**That's a lot of pumpkins!:** Here is one of the most interesting October facts: over 50% of the US population buys a pumpkin in October! In fact, the October pumpkin industry sells \$708 million pumpkins each year. Carving jack-o-lanterns is definitely one of our favorite October traditions!

<b>BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES</b>	<p><i>Second Sunday Offering</i> Oct 13: Random Acts of Kindness Nov 10: American Legion Baskets</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ushers</i></p> <p>Oct: Trudy Lantz and Val Hunt Nov: Trudy Lantz and Jean Williams</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Communion Servers</i></p> <p>Oct 6: Mary Clow and Rick Kerchenfaut Nov 24: Charlie Schultz and Tim Swanson</p>	<p><b>How many pints can you drink?</b></p> <p>The world's largest beer festival takes place every year in the Bavarian region of Germany. Yes, we're talking about Oktoberfest! This traditional gathering is so popular that over 6 million visitors consume over 7 million liters of beer each year. All the beer!</p> 
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>October</i></p> <p>08: Cheryl Schultz 09: Aizza Kerchenfaut 15: Barb Williams 17: Larry Ladd 22: Jeanette Wissmiller 24: Michael Mott 26: Harry Groom 28: Happy Birthday FPC GC 1871</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>	

## TRIP TO IRELAND TAKEN BY DR. JIM & SUSIE DUNNAN

We started in Shannon, Limerick, Cliffs of Moher, Galway, Clifden, Westport, etc. red arrow is pathway. 13 days and thrilled to see so many towns. Belfast for the next two days then on to Dublin. The history is fascinating. Lots of walking. Made scones on a sheep farm and watched the sheepdog working to bring them into the corral. The farmer stated it was only the 3rd day of sunshine since last September. All days have been good, for the most part except misty on the coast. Today is Day 4. Thought you would love the Presbyterian Church picture.



## IRELAND



Here is the Presbytery Assembly Building in Belfast Ireland that provided fascinating Presbyterian history.

To the right:

Castle Gray Joy Game of Thrones recording sight, apparently.



Jim and Susie Dunnan recently took a trip to Ireland and shared some pictures with Sharla Williams. This Presbyterian Church in Derry, Ireland was built in the 1600's and the 1908 Organ at City Hall has 3132 pipes.



## THANK YOUS AND MORE

Dear Friends, On behalf of everyone at Kemmerer Village, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous support. Your contribution of \$1,000 restricted for Horses and Heroes in honor of Jeanette Hensley on 8/14/24 has significantly impacted the lives of the children we serve. We are delighted to invite you to our KV Open House Fall Festival on October 19th, from 10 am to 3 pm. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet the staff, tour our facilities, and see your support's impact first hand. This fall, we plan to honor our Veterans, and we would be especially honored if any of our supporters who are Veterans could share their stories with us. If you are a Veteran, please email us your name, military branch, rank, where you served and any other information you would like to include, along with a photo if you have one to amie.sparks@kemmerervillage.org. Your generosity has made all this possible, and we are incredibly grateful for your continued support. We look forward to celebrating with you and showing you how your contributions make a difference.

Chelsea T. Wood, JD, Executive Director, Kemmerer Village Foundation

*Thank you to our family and friends and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City for the benefit check for Carol. God Bless every one of you. Harlan & Carol Bottles, Son Kevin & Friend Pat, LeRoy Presbyterian Church (Harlan is the second cousin of Ron Clow.)*

Church Family: Your kindness and generosity are so appreciated. Thank you again! Thank you for paying for the funeral luncheon. Your support and kindness is greatly appreciated. Love, The Family of Ron Clow Sr. (Ron, Mary and Carolyn)

*First Presbyterian Church: I was so sorry to read that the Community Development Institute has decided to close the Head Start program housed on your property. This was a very big deal/outreach in the community. May God give you other opportunities to reach out with the beautiful facility that you own in Gibson City. May God richly bless you, Linda Graham*

We cannot thank the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City church members enough for their generosity and their willingness to support the cause of local community journalism. With your \$5,000 donation, we were able to upgrade our camera equipment buying a new camera and new lens which will allow the sports editor Andrew Rosten to produce outstanding photography. Will Brumleve, Editor, Ford County Chronicle



*For all the kindness you have shown, we thank you very much. With gratitude our hearts are filled, though words cannot convey the tender thoughts and thankfulness we hold for you today. The family of Ava Faith Mead*

It's always a pleasure to read the newsletters. FPCGC is still one of the most active and giving churches we know of for a congregation of its size. Personal congratulations to you, Meladee, on your 10 years of serving as secretary. You are so much more than that! I had forgotten that we both have granddaughters named Samantha. They are both beautiful young ladies. Our Samantha started college at the U of I this year. Please extend our condolences to Ron and Mary Clow at the death of Ron's father. Blessings, Larry and Karen Ladd

*Dear PFC in Gibson City, I am officially in the 4th week of my semester and I wanted to say a hardy thank you! The scholarship that was given for the semesters is always appreciated! Your generous donation/scholarship has allowed me to focus more on school work and this year my internship. I hope that I can continue to help others in the world and with a degree in Psychology I will hopefully be able to support others through their mental health struggles. This is my last year of undergrad, but I still have grad school. The scholarship greatly helps me push forward through the troubles of school so I can become a licensed clinician. With regards, Jesse Swanson*

THANK YOU



## CHURCH NEWS



Thank you Sharla Williams for having A Renee do artificial Fall Flowers for the sanctuary in place of real flowers for the season. It will help save our church some money.



Thank you Mary Clow for decorating the sanctuary for Fall.



New fall bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.



## CHURCH NEWS

Daughters Leigh Ann Sharp and Barb Bowen help celebrate Gene Roth's 94th Birthday along with mom Mary Jane Roth. As noted by his daughters, kindness and humbleness matter and he is a great example of that.



Pastor Roy talks with Miley on the left who is six and Austin on the right who is four during the Children's sermon on September 22nd. They are the great nieces of Charlie & Cheryl Schultz. Everyone in attendance so enjoyed having them in our church. They were so adorable.



Sharon Heavilin's granddaughter Harper celebrating her first birthday on September 11th with Dad Mitch and mom Brittany



*Lord Jesus,*

You are the vine, we are your branches. Feed us, nourish us and prune us that we might grow stronger, bearing fruit for you. Let the fruits we bear bring glory to you.



*Amen*

## CHURCH NEWS

### And the Winner Is



Pictured above: John Johnson is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for SEPTEMBER. There were nineteen (19) who entered this month: Carla Allen, John Johnson, Denise Birky, Val Hunt, Pat (Dennis) Farris, Jeanette Hensley, Sharon Collings, Kathy Branz, Danny Heustis, Jean Williams, Sherry Tomlinson, Jodi VanSwol, Janice Swanson, Mona Summers, Teresa Alexander, Denny Fisher, John Ferguson, Linda Graham and Barbara Williams. Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market. Please see the ORANGE colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by OCTOBER 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.



Dennis Farris passed away on September 17, 2024 at Carle Foundation Hospital. Dennis was born April 18, 1949. He married Patricia Bane on September 18, 1971. Pat is a very important friend of our church and attends services regularly. Also surviving are two daughters Kate (Brad) Dyer of Rochester and Amanda (Greg) Voice of Elburn and three grandchildren Nathan Dyer, Haley Dyer and Farris Voice. Dennis was a 1967 graduate of Gibson City High School and United States Army Veteran serving in Vietnam.

## CHURCH NEWS

### SHOPPIN' AT THE "WHAT'S IN STORE"

By: Mike Hastings

Friend, I'd like to take you to a place  
You just may have been before.  
I want to take you shopping  
At "The What's In Store."  
There you'll find just two aisles  
That's all this store has got.  
One is I'll follow Jesus  
And the other is, I'll not.

Now if you shop the first aisle  
You'll be happy with yourself.  
There's mercy, grace and love galore  
On each and every shelf.  
There's salvation there aplenty  
It's plainly marked you'll see.  
There is no need of money  
Because it's all completely free.

Oh, you'll get that and so much more  
If you choose the I'll follow aisle.  
You'll know for sure what lies in store  
After shopping for a while.

Now, the second aisle is different  
You'll find deceit and hate employed.  
They stock the shelves with tempting sin  
It's an aisle you should avoid.  
You may think it's fun to browse it  
Or even shop it for a while,  
But hell waits at the register  
In the I'll not follow aisle.

No, it's not an aisle to shop  
It's no aisle to explore.  
It's shelves are lined with falsehoods  
And you'll regret what you're there for.  
The choice is yours at the "What's In Store"  
Now that you know what it's about.  
In which aisle do you want to be  
When you finally do check out?

The aisles are clearly marked  
One is lit by God's true light.  
In the other aisle lies darkness  
Painted with eternal night.  
So be careful when you're shopping  
And what you're shopping for.  
When an aisle you choose to take  
At the "What's In Store."

### "WHAT'S IN STORE"



## CHURCH NEWS

Wednesday, October 6th, is World Food Day.

**10**

**COMMANDMENTS OF FOOD**

- I. Give thanks for the food you eat
- II. Eat food grown where you live
- III. Strive for all to have access to nutritious food
- IV. Eat mindfully
- V. Do not waste food
- VI. Be grateful to those who grow & prepare your food
- VII. Support fair wages for farmers, farmworkers, & food workers
- VIII. Reduce the damage of the environment from food production
- IX. Protect the biodiversity of seeds, soils, ecosystems and the cultures of food producers
- X. Rejoice and share the sacred gift of food with all

Visit [www.pcusa.org/foodweek](http://www.pcusa.org/foodweek) to get involved.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### Random Acts of Kindness – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Collection for October

Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. Offering a helping hand to someone in need can make a difference in their day. It has been a long tradition of our church to award several gifts to both members of the church and members of the Community especially around the Christmas season. Session will add \$500 to any donations collected.



### MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – SEPTEMBER, 2024

#### September

Year to Date August.....	\$134,058.00
Gibson Area Hospital Glo Bingo.....	\$ 1,500.00
Make A Wish Foundation...Ava Mead.....	\$ 100.00
Clow Funeral Meal.....	\$ 750.00
Farris Funeral Meal.....	\$ 800.00
Year to Date September.....	<u>\$137,208.00</u>



Our Church made a \$100 donation to the Make A Wish Foundation in honor of GCMS 10 year old student Ava Faith Mead who passed away on August 31st.



Mary Clow is overjoyed in announcing the birth of her grandson Enoch Edward Tinsley born on September 3rd to her stepson Jarod and Martha Tinsley of Danville, Illinois. He weighed 8 lbs and 14 ozs and was 20 inches long.



Happy Heavenly Birthday to Georgie Johnson who would have turned 100 on September 18, 2024. She was the kindest, happiest person and is missed by all in our congregation.



**PASTOR ROY'S TRIP TO SWEDEN**

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