

# WORSHIP LEADERS



Thank you Jean Williams for preaching on February 2nd. As an Elder of our church, you lead by example.



Thank you Pastor David Graham for driving to Gibson City and preaching on February 16th even when there was ice everywhere. We all enjoyed your sermon and look forward to your return in March.



Thank you Jean Williams for preaching on February 23rd. Your sermon on “Loving your Enemies” was thought provoking and most appropriate for us to hear and think about.



Pastor Steve Anderson from the Federated Church of Paxton was appointed and has agreed to be our moderator for our Session meetings. Pastor Anderson is pictured above with Dr. Rebecca Blair, lead Presbyter of the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery. We welcome and are thankful for Pastor Anderson’s help.



401 North Church Street  
Gibson City IL 60936  
217-784-5422

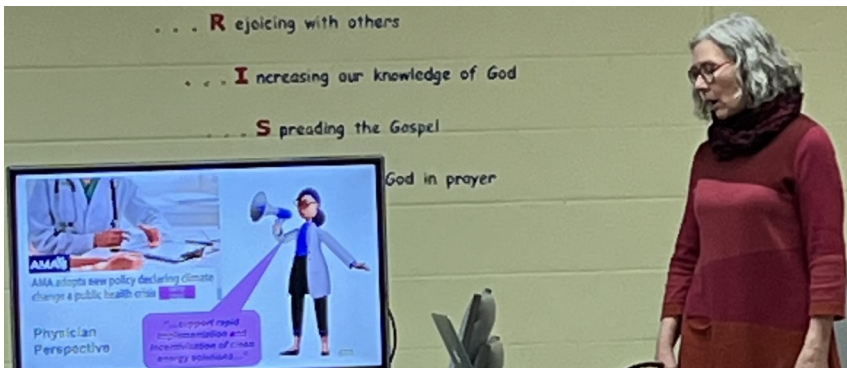


## PRESBYTIDINGS March 2025

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



Thank you Pastor Cindy Shepherd for preaching on February 9th, serving Communion and installing elders Sharla Williams, Ron Clow and Tim Swanson (on the phone with Jean Williams). Clerk of Session Mary Clow also participated in the installation.



Above: Pastor Cindy Shepherd conducted a discussion regarding clean energy after the February 9th Congregational meeting.






Clerk of Session Mary Clow and Treasurer Phil Noellsch present the Financial and Committee reports at the February 9th Congregational and Corporation meetings.



MARCH 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1  <b>RECYCLE</b>
2  10:30 a.m. Worship Worship with Ron Clow	3	4	5 Ash Wednes- day-Lent be- gins	6	7  World Day of Prayer	8  Before retiring for the night, set your clocks up one hour.
9 10:30 a.m. Worship with Rev. David Graham  Daylight Sav- ings time be- gins	10	11	12	13	14	15  <b>RECYCLE</b>
16  10:30 a.m. Worship with Dr. Jim Dun- nan	17 	18	19	20  Mr. Rogers Day—Be kind to everyone!	21	22 FPC to work at the Food Pan- try
23 10:30 a.m. Worship with Rev. Cheryl Lunday 30 10:30 a.m. Worship with Rev. David Graham	24  31	25	26	27	28 	

First Presbyterian Church of  
Gibson City

See us on Facebook

**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 up-  
grade for our church’s technol-  
ogy, email addresses as noted  
below:

[fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net)  
**Of-**  
[fice@firstpresbygibson.org](mailto:fice@firstpresbygibson.org)



**MARCH 8TH!**

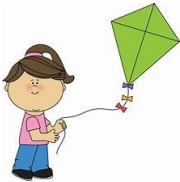
**FUN FACTS ABOUT MARCH**

**St. Patrick’s Day** is celebrated globally on March 17th. March 17th marks a global celebration of all things green and Irish, as St. Patrick’s Day takes over the world with a sea of shamrocks and leprechauns. From Dublin to Detroit, everyone is Irish for a day, raising a pint to honor the patron saint of Ireland.

March is National Nutrition Month in the United States, which is one of the interesting fun facts about March. March is a time to focus on fueling our bodies right, as National Nutrition Month takes center stage in the United States. From mindful eating to ingredient educa-tion, this annual event serves up a heaping helping of healthy habits and tips, reminding us that what we eat truly is what we are.


The “Windy City” nickname for Chicago originates in March. March blows in with a gust of history, as the “Windy City” nickname for Chi-cago takes flight. With its famously blustery winds, the city earned this moniker in the late 1800s, and it has been a staple of its identity ever since. So hold on to your hats, because when you’re in Chicago in March, you’re in for a wild ride!

What does the month of March mean and symbolize? March is the third month of the year in the Gregorian calendar, with 31 days. It is named after Mars, the Roman god of war, and symbolizes the begin-ning of spring and new beginnings in many cultures. March is also associated with various significant events and holidays, such as St. Patrick’s Day, International Women’s Day, and National Nutrition Month.



March is a great month for flying kites. Grab yours, run out side and have a great time. You can get good exercise just running that kite up and down the field.

**HAPPY MARCH!**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<b>Second Sunday Offering</b> <i>Mar 9: One Great Hour of Sharing</i> <i>Apr 13: Gibson Area Hous- ing Rehab Foundation</i>	their rights. So put on your power pants, grab your placards, and join in on the global celebration of women everywhere!
<i>March</i> 02: Neil Nelson 04: Blake Alexander 04: Meladee Ferguson 11: Maddox Alexander 17: Karen Ladd 18: Sharla Williams 18: Janice Swanson 29: Ruth Davis	<i>April</i> 06: Charlie Kerchenfaut 24: Barb Kirkpatrick 25: <b>Harry &amp; Dorri Groom</b> 27: Ron Clow 28: Tim Swanson	<p>March 8th is a day of em- powerment and celebra- tion, as International Women’s Day takes center stage. From rallies to marches, women and allies come together to raise their voices, honor their accom- plishments, and fight for</p> 	



## THANK YOUS AND MORE

Thank You . . . For supporting the Gibson City IL Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Each gift goes a long way to providing a bed for kids until no kid sleeps on the floor in our town! We wanted to send a quick thank to to all our incredible donors. Because of your generosity, our first year as an organized chapter was a huge success. We were able to buy all our required tools, host two amazing bed building events, and as of February 3, 2025, we have delivered 50 beds and bedding sets to area kids in need! We are truly grateful for your support. We could not fulfil our important mission without you! The GC SHP Team

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, On behalf of the Presbyterian Historical Society, thank you for your gift of \$350. Your generosity is truly appreciated as we move into this new era and support the changing church. Your donation supports our core archival services as well as our efforts to reach across the Presbyterian Church (USA) to document its history—including a wide range of voices and experiences from the past. The Presbyterian Historical Society looks forward to the work ahead. We are committed to ensuring that PHS's collections both reflect and support the PC (USA)'s faithful witness in the world. None of this would be possible without the support of donors like you. We are grateful for your gift. Thank You! Grace and Peace, Luci Duckson-Bramble, Director of Development*

It was a nice surprise to win! I enjoy doing the monthly Bible word search. I did not expect to win since I had won once. But Thank You! I love doing word searches. Best Wishes, Barbara Williams

*Dear Sir or Madam, Thank you for your contributions and support that helped the Gibson Area Service Association to have a successful 2024! As we strive to help*

*support our community and its residents, contributions such as yours are critical to our mission. Again, THANK YOU for your continued support! Sincerely, Janna Friday, Gibson Area Service Association Recorder*

Dear Friends, Thanks to generous friends like you, nearly 12 million children living in poverty experienced joy and hope when they needed it most—during Christmas and beyond. With dedicated supporters like you by our side we continue to be a powerful force for good throughout the year. Your kindness sends a crucial message to every child whose life you've touched. You are important. You matter. You deserve happiness. For parents struggling to provide even basic necessities for their families, your support has been a beacon of compassion, reminding them that kindness still exists in the world. You helped keep the magic of Christmas alive for their families, bringing light to their holiday season. I hope you will continue to stand with us in 2025. With nearly 1 in 6 American children living in poverty, our mission is far from complete. Together, we can remain a powerful force throughout the year. There is no one I would rather have by my side than you! With heartfelt gratitude, Ted Silvester, Vice President, Marine Toys for Tots Foundation

*To the Gibson City First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for your support of my ministry with InterVarsity at the U of I! We have had a busy but fun start to 2025 between welcome tables on campus. Hosting 75 students for a Chinese New year party, and a worship night to kick off the semester. But I have been most encouraged by the one-on-one discipleship I have had with students. While we hear so much about why this generation is walking away from church in record numbers, I feel a lot of hope as I talk with these students and see how genuinely hungry they are to*

*learn and grow and share their faith. The world might be a bit of a mess, but God is still at work and the gospel won't be chained. Thanks again for generously investing in these future leaders! Sincerely, Todd Epps*

Dear Friends at Gibson City Church, Thank you for your continuing care for me and my family upon the death of my mother (also a Presbyterian Elder), Sally Kilham. Your kind donation to the Carle Hospice, in mom's name, will be used to care for many other people who wish to graduate from this side in to God's Kingdom with grace and dignity. Yours in Christ! Chaplain Dave Terrinoni and Family

*Gibson City Presbyterian Church, After church on Sunday I used my gift card to go shopping at the County Market. I enjoy working on the crossword puzzle in the newsletter. The County Market is a very nice grocery store. The selection was good and the produce was exceptional. Thank you for inviting us to come back and preach at your church. David enjoyed it. We love you, David Graham and Linda*



## CONGREGANT ACTIVITIES



Our church was one of the sponsors for the February 15th dueling pianos FFA Fundraiser. Not only were we a sponsor, but our church won a \$200 cash prize during the event that we donated back to the FFA. Pictured here above our logo banner are four FFA students who worked the event.



Jean Williams celebrating her birthday in February with daughters Jan and Linda. What a good picture!



It was dress alike day at Hollybrook for Valentines week. Pictured right to left is Val Hunt, Shirley Rosendahl, Mona Summers and Hollybrook staff member Grace.



Ron Clow with his mother Carolyn Clow helped celebrate the 100th Birthday of Harlan Bottles, Carolyn's cousin. Harlan was a medic in World War II and is a friend of our church. He is a member of the Presbyterian Church in Leroy and receives our monthly newsletter which he enjoys reading.



## POETRY PAGE

### NOT MUCH OF A CARPENTER

By: Mike Hastings (7-31-06)

I'm not much of a carpenter  
In that you can take stock.  
Built my house on sinking sand  
Not on the solid rock.

Can't brag about my working skill  
On this foundation that I've built.  
A labor of my own freewill  
It supports both sin and guilt.

Many rooms are filled with sadness  
Some hold fear and dark despair.  
In none will you find gladness  
No joy or peace is there.

Sins in life have filled them  
With shadows and with gloom.  
The darkness drives the sunlight out  
As I go, room to room.

The roof at best is leaky  
It lets in all the pain.  
Mistakes come back to haunt me  
They filter through like rain.

I'm not much of a carpenter  
I've built a house of shame.  
My sinful hammer drove the nails  
So I've just myself to blame.

I felt I'd live forever here  
In a house I knew condemned.  
I'm sure I'd be here still  
Except for kindness from a friend.

He spoke about a special book  
Said it could change my situation.  
Remodel all those rooms of mine  
Help rebuild the old foundation.

Stop the leaks in my roof  
So no more pain would enter.  
Pain that I had caused myself  
Because I'm nothing but a sinner.

That "Book" of course, the Bible  
Its' message heaven sent.  
My heart felt sweet revival  
For I had God's blueprint.

He was right, that precious friend  
For in the "Book" I met  
A friend who would be greater still,  
Who would wipe out each regret.

That greater friend is Jesus Christ  
He died to save my soul.  
My house is now in order  
Since I gave to Him control.

I'm not much of a carpenter  
But now that I am His  
My house is filled with love,  
Because I know someone who is!



Thank you Mary Clow, Jean Williams and Sharla Williams for setting up and decorating the tables in the Fellowship Hall for our February 9th Congregational meeting.

### Office Restructuring

The Session has approved a Restructuring Plan for our Church Office so as to work more efficiently utilizing technology and to balance the workload among our current staff.

Therefore, we will be adding another part-time position classified as an Administrative Assistant to our current staff who will work 15 to 20 hours per week. This new employee will be assisting Clerk of Session Mary Clow, Executive Secretary Meladee Ferguson and Treasurer Phil Noellsch. We hope to have someone hired by the end of March. Stay tuned for further information.

### Pastor Nominating Committee Update

Session has approved moving forward with advertising for a new pastor for our Church on the Presbytery Church Leadership Connection software. The Session has completed the Ministry Discernment Profile and desire a part time pastor working one day in the office during the week and preaching on Sundays. Keep our Church in your prayers as we proceed through this process.

### The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

Ron and Mary Clow attended the February 15<sup>th</sup> Zoom meeting held by the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois and are happy to report that our Church was accepted by a unanimous vote into this Presbytery. Dr. Rebecca Blair, the Stated Clerk of Southeastern Presbytery made a nice presentation about our church. Synod of Lincoln Trails must now approve the next step of this transfer as it involves a boundary line change. Stay tuned for further information.



## CHURCH NEWS

### And the Winner Is



**Pictured above: Carla Allen is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for FEBRUARY. There were eighteen (18) who entered this month. Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market. Please see the **GREEN** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by MARCH 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.**



**Robb & Sheila Warfield pictured with their children Avery, Avalon and Hayden. Robb is serving as the Superintendent and Sheila works in the HR Department of the Dakar Academy Schools in Dakar, Senegal Africa. Our church recently donated to their Global Outreach International Mission work. Robb is the son of Ron and Melanie Warfield of Gibson City.**



**Ash Wednesday, March 5**  
**GCUMC will have walk-in**  
**Ashes available in the**  
**sanctuary from 8 am to 8**  
**pm.**  
**All are invited to an Ash**  
**Wednesday service at 6**  
**pm at the Our Lady of**  
**Lourdes Catholic Church.**

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – FEBRUARY, 2025

Year to Date January.....	\$17,450.00
Credit for Gibson Chamber Commerce Dues.....	- \$ 2,500.00
GASA – Flower Seeds for Fundraiser.....	\$ 600.00
Global Outreach – Rob & Sheila Warfield.....	\$ 2,500.00
GCMS FBLA March 28 <sup>th</sup> State Conference Fundraiser.....	\$ 2,000.00
Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois Pledge.....	\$ 4,000.00
Economic Development Startup.....	\$ 5,000.00
Breakfast Team Building February 16, 2025.....	\$ 147.00
Moving and Storage of Nativity House.....	\$ 150.00
Year to date February.....	<b>\$29,347.00</b>

### SECOND SUNDAY COLLECTION FOR MARCH ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - PRESBYTERY USA

Three programs are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Typically received during the season of Lent, each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assist in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

If you wish to donate, make sure and include One Great Hour of Sharing on your check. Session will add \$500 to whatever is collected for this Program.

Remember your impact on giving:

**Restoring Hope, Feeding the Hungry, Empowering the Oppressed**

### Community Garden at Railside Golf Course Update

After sponsoring and running the Community Garden at Railside Golf Course for the last four years, we have found that we can no longer provide the physical support needed to continue to sponsor it. Therefore, we are looking for another church or organization to take over responsibility for this very important community project this summer. Stay tuned for further updates.





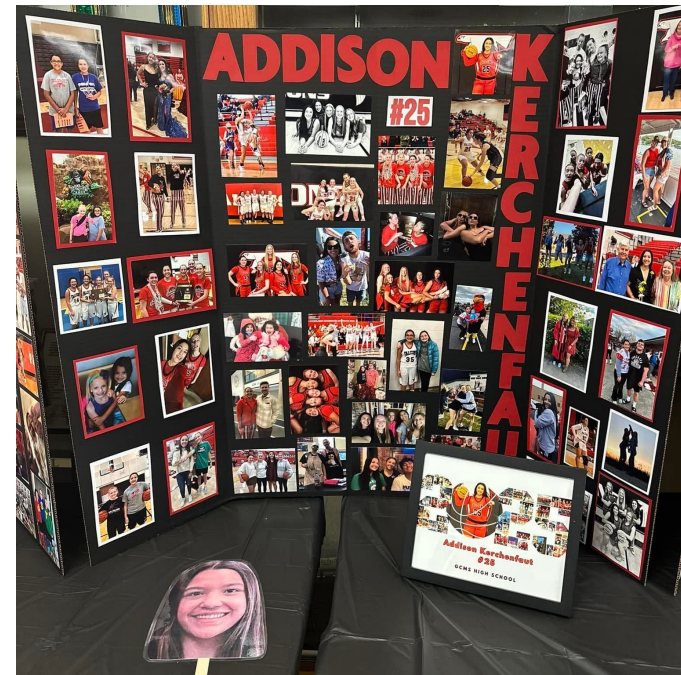
## # 25 and # 25



Addison Kerchenfaut kisses the Heart of Illinois traveling trophy which is home to stay at GCMS.



February 11th was Senior Night for Addison Kerchenfaut who celebrated with parents Rick and Aizza Kerchenfaut by her side.



## # 25 and # 25



The GCMS girls basketball team won the Regional Championship two years in a row. Addison Kerchenfaut #25 is one of the fab five seniors that helped lead them to a victory.

Congratulations Falcons.



Sharla Williams presented Addison Kerchenfaut with flowers and a basketball balloon after her big game.



Sharla and Addie



Charlie Kerchenfaut had an awesome game on February 14th winning against the Tri-Valley Vikings.

Keep Charlie in your prayers as he recovers from a broken nose sustained while playing basketball. He had to have surgery to realign his nose.

