

# WORSHIP LEADERS



Thank you Ron Clow for preaching on March 2nd - Transfiguration Sunday.



Thank you Reverend David Graham for preaching on March 9th. Your sermon titled *No Compromise* was most appropriate for the first Sunday of Lent.



Thank you Reverend Cheryl Lunday for preaching on March 23rd and serving Communion. Your sermon on Communication was most appropriate for our current times.



Thank you Reverend David Graham for preaching on March 30th on Reconciliation during this time of Lent. It is so important to understand.

April 6: Pastor David Graham

April 13: Pastor Connie Bandy-Communion

April 20: Pastor Paul Thomason—Easter Sunday

April 27: Pastor Paul Thomason



Thank you Dr Jim Dunnan for preaching on March 16th. Your sermon was enlightening and thought provoking on the seven steps we all need to take to get to heaven.



Dr. Jim Dunnan and his “girlfriend” Darby. His wife, Susie Etherton Dunnan was with him also. What a joy for us.

## PRESBYTIDINGS April 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: Executive Secretary

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator



**What Does the Presbyterian Church say about Holy Week and Easter? From the First Presbyterian Church Of Buffalo, NY**

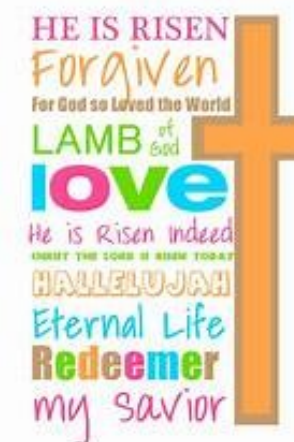
Palm Sunday begins Holy Week. It is the day we remember and celebrate when Jesus entered into Jerusalem as Savior and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into the town of Jerusalem a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. The hundreds of people shouted "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

Maundy Thursday is believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples and washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. It is the day that Jesus spoke the words we hear at every communion service. It is also the day of the New Commandment, when Jesus directed his followers to love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. On this night, he was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane.

On Good Friday we witness the tragedy of Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, where he gave his life for us and our salvation. If you wish, as with other churches, you can mark the time of his crucifixion from noon to three pm. The observance can include the reading of the Passion story and reflection on Christ's last seven "words", or times he spoke from the cross. The Great Vigil or Easter Vigil is observed on Saturday or before dawn on Easter morning. It proclaims the universal significance of God's saving acts in history through four related services held on the same occasion. The Service of Light begins in the darkness of night. In kindling new fire and lighting the paschal candle, we are reminded that Christ came as a light shining in darkness. The Service of Readings consists of a series of readings from the Old and New Testaments, which retell our “holy history” as God's children, summarizing the faith into which we are baptized. The Service of Baptism reminds us there is death and life in baptism, for in baptism we die to sin and are raised to life. The Service of the Eucharist recalls that we will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God”.

A new week begins with Easter [or Pascha]. On this Sunday of all Sundays, Easter, we celebrate our transformation as a new people. Easter faith recalls the past, especially the awesome act of God in raising the crucified Christ from the grave. Easter hope looks to the promised future, to that which awaits us. Easter love celebrates the presence of the crucified and risen Christ who is now among us, reconciling us as one people. Resurrection faith asserts that by grace we are born again into the new humanity of Jesus Christ. We are called to new life for God and for neighbors. As representatives of the new humanity, we walk in newness of life.

Worship: We are blessed to be able to announce that Pastor Paul Thomason will be leading us in service on Easter Sunday.





APRIL 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Election Day in the fellow- ship hall	2 Meladee will be asway from the office at 2 doctor appoint- ments in Champaign	3	4 GAH Glo Bingo	5
6  10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor David Graham	7	8	9	10	11	12  Gibson City Restoration Cash Bash
13 10:30 a.m. Worship with Reverend Connie Bandy  Communion will be served	14	15	16	17	18	19  Corn Belt Shrine Club Cash Bash
20 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason	28	29	30 Meladee will be away at Gailey Eye Clinic in Bloomington 5:30 p.m. Session			

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 technolo-  
gy, email addresses as noted  
below:

[fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net)  
[Office@firstpresbygibson.org](mailto:Office@firstpresbygibson.org)



**FUN FACTS ABOUT APRIL**

April’s name is derived from the Latin word “aperire,” meaning “to open,” referring to the opening or blossoming of flowers and trees in spring. In Old English, April was known as “Eastermonath,” named after the goddess Eostre, associat- ed with spring and fertility.

April is historically one of the most active months for torna- does in the United States, with a long-term average of ap- proximately 200 tornadoes during this month.

Cherry blossoms typically reach peak bloom in April in many parts of the Northern Hemisphere, including Japan and Washington D.C.

In the Arctic, April marks the beginning of 24-hour day- light, known as the “midnight sun.”

April Fools’ Day, celebrated on April 1st, has its roots in an- cient Roman festivals and medieval European traditions. .

The first edition of Webster’s Dictionary was published on April 14, 1828. The United States Library of Congress was established on April 24, 1800.

**HAPPY APRIL!!!!!!**

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<i>Second Sunday Offering</i> <i>Mar 9: One Great Hour of Sharing</i> <i>Apr 13: Gibson Area Hous- ing Rehab Foundation</i>	famous line “It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were strik- ing thirteen.”  The film “April Fool’s Day” (1986) is a cult classic horror movie set on April 1st.
<i>April</i> 06: Charlie Kerchenfaut 24: Barb Kirkpatrick 25: Harry & Dorri Groom 27: Ron Clow 28: Tim Swanson	<i>May</i> 02: Emma Swanson 07: Jesse Swanson 09: Trudy Lantz 10: Ruth McClure 14: Mary Jane Roth 20: Mac and Ruth McClure 22: John Davis 26: Ron and Mary Clow	· · T.S. Eliot’s famous po- em “The Waste Land” be- gins with the line “April is the cruellest month.” · The song “April in Par- is” by Vernon Duke has become a jazz standard, recorded by numerous art- ists.	
In George Orwell’s novel “1984,” the story be- gins on April 4th with the			



## CONGREGANT ACTIVITIES



Members and friends of our Church attending the Gibson City Chamber of Commerce Annual Awards Dinner on March 13th included Val Hunt, Jean Williams, Mary Clow, Teri Ashmore, Dawn Klintworth, Sharla Williams, Sharon Heavilin and Pat Farris. It's a time for the Chamber to reflect, celebrate and express gratitude to Chamber Sponsors (our Church is a gold sponsor) and to celebrate those who make our community stronger. The guest speaker was Jacob Dickey, pictured below. Several awards were handed out.



Guest speaker for the Chamber dinner was Jacob Dickey, formerly from Gibson City and currently a WCIA weather man.

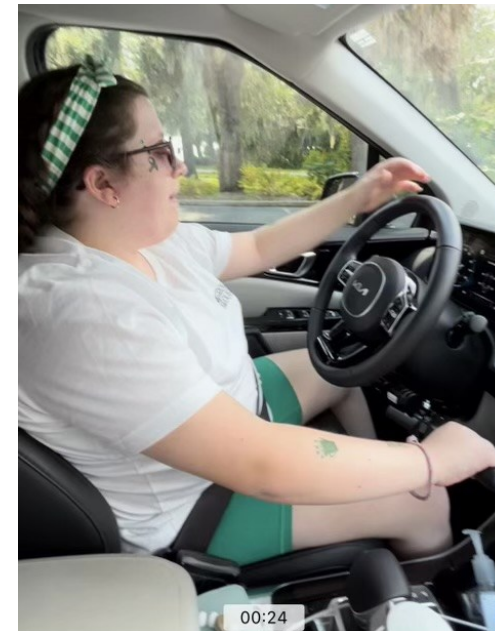


Addison Kerchenfaut was recently named Practice Player of the week. Addy is a selfless player always willing to do what it takes to help her team be successful.

## CONGREGANT ACTIVITIES



Prayers for this beautiful family of Dustin Morgan of Potomac who recently passed away at the age of 42 due to brain cancer. At the request of Elder Charlie Schultz, our church donated \$1,000 to this blended family of six children. The four older children are nieces and nephews of Cheryl Schultz.



Kendall Tongate suffered a rare spinal cord stroke in 2020 at the age of 12 which caused paralysis from the waist down. A special fundraiser called Kendall's Miracle that our Church donated to helped raise enough money to buy a special van she can now drive to go to her many therapy sessions. Pictured is Kendall driving the van.



Celebrating Mardi Gras at Alto Vineyards - Sharon & Tom Heavilin, Pat Farris and Mary & Ron Clow.



## POETRY PAGE

### WHO DIED AND MADE YOU BOSS?

BY: MIKE HASTINGS

Just visualize this scene  
It's Friday, Calvary.  
The devil and his demons  
Celebrating victory.

The battle had been hard fought  
But the devil, he had won.  
He'd beaten God the Father  
By killing Christ the Son.

It was the devil who'd be master  
It was he they'd all call winner.  
It was he who'd wear a crown  
And it was Hell for every sinner.

But in the realms of Heaven  
No discouragement was found.  
Christ would not be defeated  
For Christ was victory bound.

Yes, as the devil celebrated  
Christ's death upon the Cross,  
All of Heaven readied to shout.  
*Who died and made you boss?*

*Who died and made you boss,  
Who gave you control?*  
Christ will rise and live again  
To save lost sinner's souls.

So let the devil celebrate  
For another day or two.  
For Christ will rise to life  
And the devil get his due.

And sure enough on Sunday  
He did just as He'd said.  
Leaving the grave behind Him  
Christ rose from the dead.

Can't you just see the devil  
As he cowers now in fear?  
As Heaven's Hallelujah Chorus  
Falls upon his trembling ear.

Yes, he thought he'd won the victory  
With Christ's death upon the Cross.  
But devil, Christ rose and lives again  
*So who died and made you boss?*



What a great team building breakfast we had on March 16th after our church service was led by Dr. Jim Dunnan. Jim and his lovely wife Susie joined us which made it even better.





## CHURCH NEWS

### And the Winner Is



Pictured above: Susie Dunnan is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **MARCH**. Susie would like to donate her card to the local food pantry. There were eighteen (18) who entered this month. Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market, Subway OR Dairy Queen. Please see the **PURPLE** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by **APRIL 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.



Our Church donated money to GASA to buy the flower seeds for this very important fundraiser.



Pictured above to the right: A message from Pastor Tim Cayton, son of Pastor James C. Cayton, who served First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City from June 12, 1949 to July 1, 1956. The picture shows Reverend James Cayton and his older son, Jay, working on a small trailer that their dad built. It is parked in the driveway next to the manse. Tim left Gibson City at the age of 11 years old. (Many of his childhood memories are from Gibson City!) Reverend Cayton was a pastor during a time when everyone attended church and space was needed. He led the building campaign for the G.C. educational wing, did the service for Highland Park educational wing, and was founding pastor of the Calvin Presbyterian Church, Tigond, Oregon that built a new sanctuary and educational wing during his 20 years as pastor.

## FACTS AND FIGURES

**SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING - GAHRE – Gibson Area Housing Rehab Foundation**  
Was a dream of Dr. Paul Sunderland's to help with local area needs-based house projects. Was formed in 2012 to assist homeowners in the GCMS School District with household repairs that the homeowner could not afford to do. Played a major role in the Gibson City major flooding that happened in 2021. Is similar to Habitat for Humanity

### MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – MARCH, 2025

#### MARCH, 2025

Year to Date February.....	\$29,347.00
FFA Auction.....	\$ 2,000.00
DQ Gift cards (Puzzle Prizes).....	\$ 200.00
Subway Gift Cards...(Puzzle Prizes).....	\$ 200.00
County Market Gift Cards.....	\$ 100.00
Gibson Bucks – Birthdays/Lottery.....	\$ 2,000.00
Team Building Lunch 3-9.....	\$ 240.00
Team Building Lunch 3-16.....	\$ 213.00
Dustin Morgan (Beth McCall) Family.....	\$ 1,000.00
Joshua Nichols & Heather Vilar Family.....	\$ 500.00
Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary – Glow Bingo .....	\$ 1,500.00
Memorial Fund Transfer.....	- \$ 560.00
Lee Barry Memorial.....	\$ 50.00
Carol Bielfeldt Memorial.....	\$ 20.00
Georgie Johnson Memorial.....	\$ 50.00
Kathryn Swope Memorial.....	\$ 265.00
Tim Shull Memorial.....	\$ 175.00
Marine Dillon Hoffman.....	\$ 905.00
Memorial Fund Transfer– Dale Houston Memorial.....	- \$ 905.00
Corn Belt Shriners Cash Bash April 19.....	\$ 1,000.00
Gibson Area Food Pantry.....	\$ 5,000.00
Gibson City Restoration Association.....	\$ 5,000.00
Women of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 568.....	\$ 1,000.00
Year to Date for March.....	<b>\$48,740.00</b>

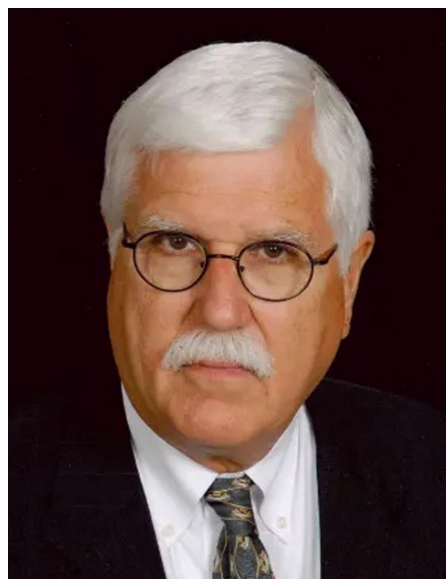


The Gibson Girls HCE Unit met at our church on March 25th and put together Easter tray favors for the residents at the GAH Annex and Goldwater Care. Pictured standing is Jean Noellsch, Janet Hammit, Karon Seib, Chris Hazen and Mary Clow. Seated is Pat Farris, Janet Flageole, Vicki Craig and Sharon Heavilin.

everyone **CAN**  
SHARE. PRAY. GIVE. GO.



Dale Huston, 84 of Springfield, passed away January 20th. His family were members of our church and he grew up on a farm in Gibson City. He received his ROTC Commission as a 2nd Lt while attending the University of Illinois and was an Army Vietnam Veteran serving from 1962-1964 and Active Reserves from 1965 to 1969. He retired as Vice President of First America Bank. The family asked that memorial donations be made to our Church or the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Springfield. Our church received \$905 in donations and will pay it forward to a 2024 G.C.M.S. graduate Dillon Hoffman who joined the Marines after High School and is stationed in Virginia. Dillon is the son of Lindsay and Justin Carpenter and the grandson of Kim and Vickie Miller.



A. Dale Huston



Dillon Hoffman



Lance Corporal Hoffman and Family.

To Meladee and Church Officers: Just a note to thank God and all of you for all the kindness! I'm looking forward to getting back to church if I'm able. Blessings, Barb Williams

*To Jean, From Tom Bennett. I want to thank you and the Presbyterian Church Session for the opportunity to talk about the need for economic development in Gibson and for the \$10,000 grant. Most kind. In the near future, we are meeting with multiple economic development groups in central Illinois to learn from their experiences! More to come! God Bless you! Tom Bennett*

The Future Business Leaders of America at GCMS High School deeply thank you for your generous donation to our organization! We will be utilizing the donation to support members as they compete at their upcoming State Leadership Conference in late March. We cannot wait to speak to you all in the upcoming months! We appreciate all of you and your efforts to our organization! Sincerely, Addy Kerchenfaut, Chloe T., Cooper B. and more

Dear First Presbyterian Friends, Hello! Thank you so much for the unbelievable, generous donation you just gave towards our mission work. We are so grateful for this gift and it will help so much as we work in Senegal, South Africa. You are very kind and thoughtful. Bless you, and thank you so very much! Sincerely, Robb and Shelia Warfield (and kids)



The Gibson City Chamber of Commerce recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award to the women of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 568 for their positive impact on Gibson City. Our church donated \$1,000 to this fine group of ladies.



Our Church donated to the Corn Belt Shriners April 19th cash bash. The Shriners Kids Day at the North City Park is always a big hit.