

# WORSHIP LEADERS



Thank you Rev. Graham for rolling with the punches and preaching in the Fellowship Hall on April 6th since the heat would not come on in the Sanctuary. It was fun and something different for us all to enjoy as we listened to your sermon on *Extravagant Love*.



Several of our members and Rev. David Graham and his wife Linda supported the First Christian Church's April 6th Barbecue Fundraiser. They raised \$1400 for the two local families who lost everything due to fires that destroyed their homes.



Thank you Connie Bandy for preaching and serving Communion on April 13th. Your sermon on *Watching for the Messiah* was enjoyed by all.



Thank you Pastor Paul Thomason for preaching on April 27th. Your message on not "coasting" at this time in our life hit home and we left wanting to actively pursue spiritual growth and not just drift through life.

## Worship Leaders for May:

May 4: Janice Swanson

May 11: TBA

May 18: Dr. Jim Dunnan

May 25: Reverend Connie Bandy

# PRESBYTIDINGS May 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  
Elizabeth Cope: Administrative Assistant



## GETTING TO KNOW ELIZABETH COPE

We are delighted to welcome Elizabeth Cope as our new Administrative Assistant. Please stop in and meet Elizabeth if you are in the building. Elizabeth will be assisting Clerk of Session Mary Clow, Executive Secretary Meladee Ferguson, and Treasurer Phil Noellsch. Elizabeth started April 14<sup>th</sup> and will be working Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Elizabeth graduated in 2000 from the GCMS School District. She earned an Associate's Degree from Parkland College in Criminal Justice. She then went on to attend ISU and graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice. She married her

husband Corey in 2017. He is employed by Bloomer Line Railroad in Gibson City. Elizabeth previously worked at the Onarga Academy for 5 years counseling young boys. She then went on to work at One Earth Energy resigning in 2018 to become a stay-at-home mom. Her daughter Abigail is 6 years old and in kindergarten. Elizabeth and Corey are kept busy home-schooling her. Elizabeth is the daughter of Tom and Sandy Fairchild. Sandy fills in playing the organ on Sundays for Beverly Nagle when Beverly is off. Elizabeth has a love of all kinds of music. She states "music just makes everything better". She is an avid listener of podcasts and audiobooks. She is the oldest sibling with a sister named

Meg and brother named Brenton. Elizabeth loves spending time with her family. Her mother hosts a family dinner twice per month. Elizabeth loves getting together with friends even though they are all super busy at this stage in their life. They try to meet once per month, which helps Elizabeth stay grounded. Elizabeth has a deep love for God. She grew up going to the Methodist Church in Foosland. As a freshman, she became actively engaged in the youth group at the United Methodist Church is Gibson City. She went on two mission trips. One to Georgia and one to Canada. Elizabeth and Corey have been attending the GCUMC regularly and Elizabeth is currently teaching the Pre-K through first grade Sunday School class. She loves teaching them about God's love for us and how Jesus came to earth to save us. Elizabeth shares that she is very appreciative of the opportunity to serve God at the First Presbyterian Church. Mary is already impressed with her technological skills and willingness to help in any way. The flexibility of her job with us works wonderfully with their family goals of home-schooling and giving Abigail a slower calmer childhood. Elizabeth also loves how much our church has given and helped our community and is very excited to help us continue that mission. She ends this article about herself with God is so Good!!



MAY 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
4 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship with Mrs. Janice Swanson</i>	5 <i>Cinco de Mayo Day</i> 	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Gibson Area Food Pantry 8-12 pm</i>
11 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship with</i>  <i>Happy Mother's Day</i>	12	13	14	15 <i>Gibson City Wide Garage Sale</i>	16 <i>Gibson City Wide Garage Sale</i>	17 <i>Gibson City Wide Garage Sale</i>  <i>GCMS High School Graduation</i>
18 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship with Dr. Jim Dunnan</i>	19	20	21	22 <i>5-8 p.m.—GAH Pot N Wine - Country Side Camp Ground</i>	23	24 <i>Gibson Area Food Pantry 8-12p.m.</i>
25 <i>10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Connie Bandy Communion</i>	26 <i>Memorial Day—church office will be closed.</i>	27	28  <i>5:30 Session</i>	29 <i>Last day of school for GCMS</i>	30	31

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.

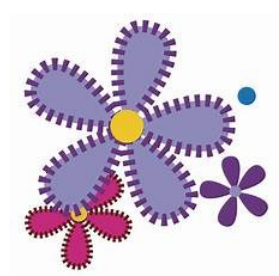
**Elizabeth’s working hours:**  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 a.m. —12:30 p.m.

Monday and Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Email addresses as noted below:

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

**Elizabeth:**  
[ecope@firstpresbygibson.org](mailto:ecope@firstpresbygibson.org)



*FUN FACTS ABOUT MAY*

May is the fifth month of the Gregorian calendar and has 31 days. It is typically associated with the spring season in the Northern Hemisphere and the autumn season in the Southern Hemisphere.

The month of May is named after the Greek goddess Maia, who was associated with fertility and growth. In many countries, May Day or Labour Day is celebrated on May 1st as a public holiday to honor the achievements of workers.


In the United States, Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May to remember and honor the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military. May is also known for the Kentucky Derby horse race, the Eurovision Song Contest, and various cultural festivals around the world.

In many countries, May is associated with the spring season and is celebrated with various cultural festivals, such as Cinco de Mayo in Mexico, Vesak in Buddhism, and the Eurovision Song Contest in Europe.

May is also known for various historic events, such as the sinking of the Lusitania in1915, the end of World War II in Europe in 1945, and the birth of Queen Victoria in 1819.

May is National Osteoporosis Awareness and Prevention Month in the United States, a time to educate people about the prevention and treatment of osteoporosis, a condition that weakens bones and increases the risk of fractures.

HAPPY MAY!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<i>Second Sunday Offering</i> <i>May 11: ACT Theater Group</i> <i>June 8: Hanley School Supplies</i>
<i>May</i> 02: Emma Swanson 07: Jesse Swanson 09: Trudy Lantz 10: Ruth McClure 14: Mary Jane Roth 22: John Davis 26: Ron and Mary Clow	<i>June</i> 01: Mary Clow 01: Rick Kerchenfaut 03: Stacy Johnson 08: Gene & Mary Jane Roth 12: Chad & Stacy Johnson 20: Michael and Karen Mott 27: Dorri Groom 29: Hunter Johnson	



## CONGREGANT ACTIVITIES



Mary Clow, Sharla Williams, Pat Farris and Sharon Heavilin had great fun at the Cornbelt Shriners Cash Bash on April 19th. Our Church donated to this very important fundraiser for kids.



Harry & Dorri Groom and Chad & Stacy Johnson working hard and supporting this event as always. Harry has been a member of the Cornbelt Shriners for a very long time.



Pat Farris had one of the winning Church tickets and the \$250 cash prize was donated back to the Shriners.



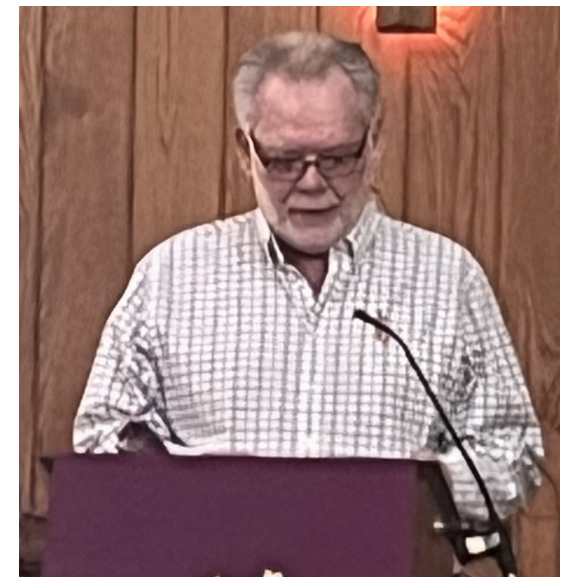
## EASTER SUNDAY!



Grateful for a beautiful Easter Service full of family and friends. Thank you Pastor Paul Thomason for preaching and your wonderful sermon on this special day. Thank you Ron Clow for making announcements and introductions. Thank you Meladee Ferguson for reading your brother's poem and making Easter bags full of goodies.



Thank you Danny Heustis and Ron Clow for putting up the outside cross for Easter.





## POETRY PAGE

### BOW YOUR HEART

By: Mike Hastings

Many times we go to God  
To offer up a prayer.  
We seek to change the path we trod  
To cast on Him each care.

Oft times with this we struggle  
Not sure how we should start.  
We bow our head, when really  
It's time we bowed our heart.

Our words at times, flow, oh so fast  
We can't wait for God to hear.  
Our prayer is quick, it doesn't last  
For we're often insincere.

It's as if, with our bowed head  
God should honor what we say.  
But our heart should do the talking  
If we want to truly pray.

So next time you hit your knees  
And you bow your head in prayer,  
Let your heart's desire release  
To the One who's always there.

Yes, when you come before our God  
Praise or petition to impart.  
Remember though your head is bowed  
You should also bow your heart.

## And the Winner Is



Pictured above: Trudy Lantz is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **APRIL**. There were twenty two (22) 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 **TURQUOISE** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by **MAY 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.



Jean Williams celebrating Easter with her adorable great grandchildren.



## HEAVEN BOUND AT HOLLY BROOK

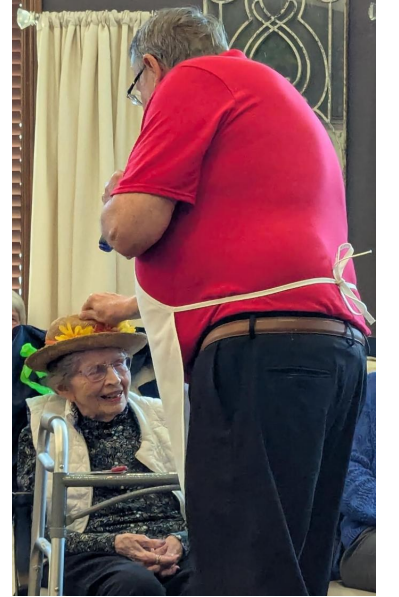


Ed McCammack singing tenor on *Daddy Sang Bass* (*mama sang tenor*).



Ed passed the hat to our own Val Hunt.

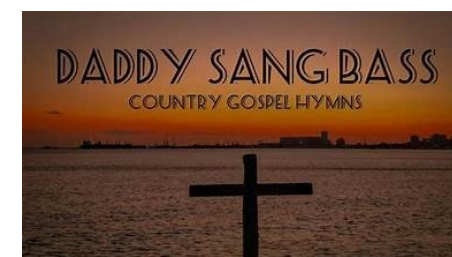
Ed passed another hat to Mona Summers



Another hat landed on the head of Meladee Ferguson. So much fun!



A great group of Godly men who know how to praise the Lord in song.



Norm Fisher sang bass for the group when they sang *Daddy Sang Bass*. They have so many wonderful songs that they sing.





## CHURCH NEWS



**Second Sunday Collection for May** - The Act Theater Group of Gibson City. They are a small community-based theater group for both adults and children. This summer welcomes their 25<sup>th</sup> Season. Auditions will be conducted May 13<sup>th</sup> for an elementary musical “Space Pirates” which will be held at the North Park Pavilion. This past winter, their musical “White Christmas” was held at the Countryside Campground Event Center showcasing the talent of many local singers and actors from Gibson City. They welcome individuals of all ages, experience levels, and backgrounds to participate. They rely on volunteers for various acting roles, directing, stage management, technical crews and more. They foster a sense of community by bringing people together around a shared interest in the arts.

*A very special thank you as warm as it can be. To express appreciation to you-from grateful me! My flowers are beautiful. Love to all, Vonna*

Thank you for all the ways you make this world a brighter one. Thank you for the Gibson bucks and the donation to the Cash Bash. We appreciate all you do! Love, Sharon Heavilin and GC Restoration Association

*Dear family at the First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for the Gibson Bucks for my birthday! I greatly appreciate the kind gesture! I miss you all and hope everyone is doing well. Love, Anneliese*

I want to thank the Presbyterian Church for the wonderful lunch that you had catered for us, for Marion “Mac’s” funeral service. And thanks for your prayers. I will never forget your kindness. God Bless you, Ruth McClure and Family

*Dear First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for the Gibson Bucks for my 18th birthday! I am very grateful for them. Thank you! Addy Kerchenfaut*

We are incredibly grateful for your generous donation to Carle Hospice in memory of Sally Kilham (mother of Pastor Dave Terrinoni). Carle Health is strong because of our communities, our donors and our generations-long commitment to exceptional care. Gifts to local Carle Health healthcare entities provide the resources needed to bring life-changing services, treatments and technologies to those who count on us. Contributions to Methodist College support academic programs and enable students to fulfill their dreams of becoming healthcare professionals. In gratitude, Ross Richards, Director of Operations

*Thank you for my birthday present. It will be well enjoyed. Thanks once again. Charlie Kerchenfaut*



## FACTS AND FIGURES

### MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – APRIL, 2025

#### APRIL, 2025

Year to Date March.....	\$48,740.00
Gibson City Youth Baseball League.....	\$ 5,000.00
\$50 each - Four Students who helped move furniture.....	\$ 200.00
Team Building Lunch 3-30.....	\$ 209.00
Team Building Lunch 4-13.....	\$ 218.00
Mac McClure Funeral Lunch.....	\$ 1,000.00
GAH Foundation Nash Bash.....	\$ 1,000.00
GAH Auxiliary Pot n Wine Party Fundraiser.....	\$ 1,000.00
Community Garden Lease, Supplies, Sign.....	\$ 3,000.00
Year to Date April.....	<b>\$60,367.00</b>

#### Buy Gibson City Program Returns – Launching May 15!

We’re thrilled to announce that the Gibson Area Chamber of Commerce, in collaboration with the City of Gibson, is bringing back the Buy Gibson City program!

#### **Program Highlights:**

- Launch Date: May 15, 2025
- Total Gibson Bucks Available: \$100,000

#### **How It Works:**

- Customers who purchase a single item over \$200 from any Gibson City business can present their receipt at City Hall to receive \$100 in Gibson Bucks.
- These special Gibson Bucks coupons are valid at participating Chamber businesses and will expire on September 30, 2025—no exceptions.
- Redemption is capped at \$100,000; once funds are depleted, the program concludes.





# OTHER ACTIVITIES

## GIBSON CITY COMMUNITY GARDEN PARTNERSHIP

The First Presbyterian Church is excited to announce that the Gibson City First Christian Church is assuming management of the Gibson City Community Garden located at Railside Golf Course. The First Presbyterian Church will continue to be a financial sponsor. Both churches feel blessed to be able to continue to offer this very important program as an option for interested members of Gibson City. Community gardens offer numerous benefits including enhanced food security, improved health and nutrition and stronger community bonds. They would also like to thank Dr. Darrin Ray and Dr. Bernadette Ray for providing the land and water resources for the program. If you are interested in signing up for a garden plot, please contact Beth Tabor of the First Christian Church at 217-840-4323.



Our member Cheryl Schultz and family had a great time at the GAH Glo Bingo Fundraiser on April 4th.

# MORE NEWS



Mac McClure passed away on March 26, 2025. He is the husband of our Church member Ruth McClure. A funeral service was held at Rosenbaum Funeral Home. A catered dinner paid for by our church followed at the American Legion. We extend our prayers to Ruth and her family.



A big thank you to Rick Kerchenfaut who put together a team of young men including Charlie Kerchenfaut to help move furniture at Church to set up an office for our new Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Cope. Ron Clow and Phil Noellsch also helped. This work included moving furniture from the third floor.



Congratulations to our very own Queen Addison Kerchenfaut and King Carter Eichelberher crowned at the 2025 GCMS Prom held on April 26th.



Congratulations Addison Kerchenfaut and Anna Warren for qualifying for the FBLA Nationals in Anaheim, California this summer.