

WORSHIP LEADERS



Thank you Janice Swanson for filling in on Sunday, May 4, when we were in need of a worship leader. Good job well done!



Thank you Pastor Judi Geislinger for preaching on Mothers Day and preaching on Psalm 23 - The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.



Thank you Dr. Jim Dunnan for preaching on May 18th. Your sermon “Are you a Believer or a Disciple?” was excellent and asking us to find a “prayer partner” for two weeks is a great challenge. Dr. Dunnan also shared with our Congregation the website: pretty simple ideas.com to learn about modern day discipleship.

June 1: Pastor Paul Thomason

June 8: Mrs. Jean Williams

June 15: Pastor Connie Bandy—
Communion

June 22: Paul Sarantakos

June 29: Pastor Paul Thomason



Thank you Reverend Connie Bandy for preaching, serving communion and bringing your granddaughter Bea to church with you on May 25th.

Visiting Gibson City was on Bea’s bucket list.

She is truly an adorable young lady and we were happy to meet her.



PRESBYTIDINGS June 2025

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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

Website: www.firstpresbygibson.org

Meladee Ferguson: Executive Secretary

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator

Elizabeth Cope: Administrative Assistant



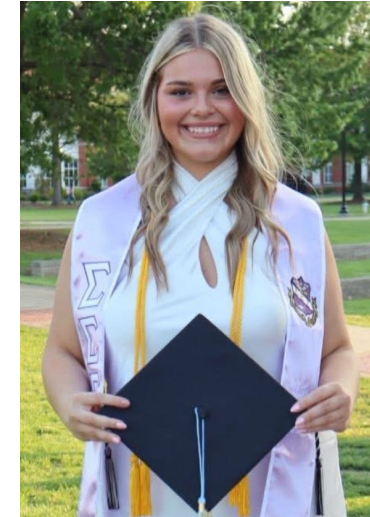
Spotlight on the Young Adults in our Church



Noah Swanson has completed his 5-year Apprenticeship with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers in Champaign.



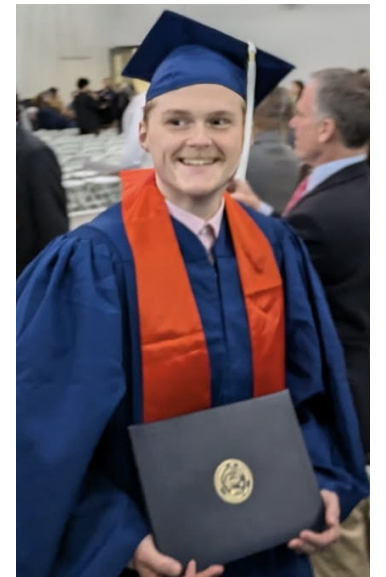
Anneliese Kerchenfaut has returned home after studying abroad in Madrid, Spain for 6 months.



Nicole Schultz graduated from Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky. She is seeking a position as a middle school math teacher in the Murray area.



Emma Swanson graduated from Parkland College with an Associate Degree in Horticulture. Her 1st degree was in Digital Media.



Jesse Swanson graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Psychology Degree.



Addison Kerchenfaut graduated from GCMS High School Summa Cum Laude and will continue her Education in Nursing at the University of Missouri.

JUNE 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason GC Youth Fishing Derby	2	3	4	5	6	7 GAH Founda- tion Nash Bash GC Farmer's Market
8 10:30 a.m. Worship with	9	10	11	12	13	14 GAH Food Pantry 8-12 GC Farmer's Market
15 10:30 a.m. Worship with Reverend Connie Bandy Communion	16	17	18	19	20 GC Friday Night Cruise Night	21 GC Farmer's Market
22 10:30 a.m. Worship with Paul Saran- takos	23	24	25	26 5:30 Session	27	28 FPC to work at Food Pantry 8- 10 a.m. GC Farmer's Market
29 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason	30	<div><p>GIBSON CITY AREA FARMERS MARKET Saturdays • 8AM until sellout Tuesdays 4-7PM Also GC Special Event Dates</p><p>SEASONAL PRODUCE • BAKERY ITEMS • ARTISAN GOODS • AND MORE! For More Info:  Gibson City Area Farmers Market www.gibsoncityillinois.com</p></div>				

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 and Fri-
day 8:30 to 1:30

Email addresses as noted below:

Meladee:

fpcgc60936@sbcglobal.net
Office@firstpresbygibson.org

Elizabeth:

ecope@firstpresbygibson.org

FUN FACTS ABOUT JUNE

June 24 brings Midsummer Day, also St. John the Baptist's Feast Day. Traditionally, this was the midpoint of the growing season, halfway between planting and harvesting. It is celebrated in many cultures on the night of June 23, as Midsummer Eve!


There are multiple theories as to what the month of June was named after. One theory is that it was named after the Roman goddess of marriage, Juno. Another theory is that its name originates from the Latin word *juniores*, which translates into "younger ones". Yet another possibility is that the month was named after Lucius Junius Brutus, the founder of the Roman Republic.

June has both the longest and the shortest days of the year, depending on where you're standing! If you live in the northern hemisphere, then June 21st is the longest day of the year. If you live in the southern hemisphere, then the 21st is the shortest day of the year.

The period of time from the middle of May to the middle of June was considered by the ancient Romans to be an ill-omened time for marriage. The story goes that Ovid, a Roman poet, consulted with the high priestess of [Jupiter](#) and asked when would be a good time for his daughter's wedding. The high priestess decreed that he should wait until after [June 15th](#).

Many incredibly important and influential people throughout history have been born in June. Among many others born in June, Anne Frank, Che Guevara, Jean-Paul-Sartre, Marilyn Monroe, George Orwell, and George H. W. Bush all share a common birth month!

HAPPY JUNE!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES		<i>Second Sunday Offering</i> <i>June 8: Hanley School Sup- plies</i> <i>July 13: Building Improve- ments</i>
<i>June</i> 01: Mary Clow 01: Rick Kerchenfaut 03: Stacy Johnson 08: <i>Gene & Mary Jane Roth</i> 12: <i>Chad & Stacy Johnson</i> 20: <i>Michael and Karen Mott</i> 27: <i>Dorri Groom</i> 29: <i>Hunter Johnson</i>	<i>July</i> 01: <i>John and Barb Kirkpatrick</i> 24: <i>Larry Ricks</i> 26: <i>Chad Johnson</i>	

CONGREGANT ACTIVITIES



Thank you Ron and Mary Clow for installing the new Community Garden Sign. The First Christian Church has been a great partner.



Three members of the GCMS Future Business Leaders of America recently made a presentation to the Session about their organization. Five members have advanced to the National Competition in California. Session approved donating \$5000 to them to help with the cost of their trip. The members making the presentation included Cooper Brake, Addy Kerchenfaut and Chloe Tjarks.



Thank you Ron Clow and Tim Swanson for changing the lightbulb in the middle room.



It's always nice seeing Carla Ashmore and friends enjoying a tea party at Hollybrook on April 30th. Carla is now at the Annex awaiting some medical procedures. Please send her a card of encouragement. (430 East 19th Street)



THANK YOU!

During a time like this we realize how much family and friends really mean to us . . . Your expression of sympathy will always be remembered. The flowers were beautiful. Thank you for your kindness. The family of Nelda Jordan

Thank you for your words of sympathy, Your voice of concern, your gesture of caring and the love you offer. Thank you for the flowers. They were beautiful. John and Barb Kirkpatrick, Bruce and Carol Amdor

The Gibson Area Food Pantry gratefully acknowledges your recent gift of \$5,000 to support distribution of food for those in need in the Gibson City Area and throughout Ford County. Currently all financial donations go for the purchase of food and supplies. Due to the local supply line disruptions and economic turmoil with inflation our local needs have increased. We continue to serve many new users as our pantry becomes a lifeline to their families. Your generous donation will help us to continue to support that increased need. We thank you for your contribution to your local food pantry. Gibson Area Food Pantry Board

Mary Clow and members of the First Presbyterian Church: Easter is the best possible reminder of God's blessings . . . And knowing you is one of the best of all. Happy Easter. Thank you so much for your gracious hospitality. We always enjoy seeing all of you when we are at your church. We love you. May God richly bless you. Pastor Graham and Linda

First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for investing in my future. This scholarship will provide for my education and assist in my journey to becoming a pediatrician. Thank you, Elizabeth Giroux

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for the peace lily, as well as for your prayers. I am recovering slowly and steadily, getting better each and every day. It is a lift to know that you were thinking of me. Bill Ogg (See picture on another page.)

First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for your generous donation for our trip to FB:A Nationals this June! Your support means the world to us and we cannot wait to make lasting memories and perform/compete to the best of our abilities! We are so grateful for your support to our GCMS FBLA Chapter!

It's easy to be grateful when there are wonderful people like you in the world. To the church family: The Corn Belt Shrine Club thanks you very much for the generous donation for the 2025 Annual Cash Bash. The profits will go to help local children who have orthopedic problems at our hospitals. Thanks! Harry Groom and the Shriners

Dear Presbyterian Church, Glo Bingo was a huge success! On behalf of the Gibson Area Hospital Personnel and Retention, Thank You! We appreciate your support as a VIP sponsor and would not be able to have such a successful event without the support of you and our community! Sincerely, Gibson Area Hospital Personnel & Retention Committee

Friends at the Presbyterian Church, I would like to thank you for being so generous and granting me with a scholarship. This money will be very beneficial to my family and me in helping me pay for a great education! Thank you, Samantha VanSwol

Heartfelt Thank You From Jesse Swanson.

Hello! I have just graduated from the University of Illinois with a bachelor's in psychology which I am currently using to work at Cunningham Children's Home for the

next couple of years. I am ultimately going to pursue a master's degree in some form of counseling which will allow me to work in private practice. My goal is to work for a private practice and work with teenagers building better coping skills to combat the stressors of life. At Cunningham Children's Home I work with other Trauma Informed professionals to help the clients process their traumas and work towards their goals of treatment. My time as a student is never ending as I am constantly reading more informed ways to treat those with traumatic pasts. The support the church has given me has been invaluable as I have been able to go back to school to not only graduate but also start building my career right away. I deeply appreciate the scholarships that the church has given but above all else I appreciate the undying support of me while I move forward through life. I have hope that the world can be better, and the work that the people of the church do helps bolster that belief. Of course, I am driven to make our community a better place with the help of the scholarships I feel more confident in my ability to do such work. Overall, I am excited to see what the world has to offer after graduation, so I deeply appreciate all the help you all do.

Thank you,

Jesse Swanson

Thank you for the gift card I know that we'll enjoy it.

Can't wait to get to the Roadhouse

Where we'll get to employ it.

I'm glad you like the poems I write

I hope each one tells a story.

I just supply the pen and paper

May God get all the glory.

Thank you again, Mike Hastings

POETRY PAGE

IF GOD HAD A WALLET

BY: Mike Hastings

If God had a wallet
How thick that it could be.
With pictures of his children
Of those he has set free.
Each one shown with Jesus
Who died to save the lost.
His arm draped around them
With a backdrop of the Cross.

If God had a wallet
Oh, the joy that it must bring.
Each time that He looked at it
Would make his great heart sing.
Knowing that He'd filled it up
Because of His great love.
Knowing that those pictured there
Would live with Him above.

And if God had a wallet
Of those saved by His grace,
It would surely stir up memories
Of the one who took their place.
It would surely stir up memories
Of His loved Son sacrificed,
Thus the backdrop of the Cross
And the saved ones shown with Christ.

If God had a wallet
It would be never put away.
For He'd want to add more pictures
With each and every passing day.
He'd want to view those pictures
Every second, every minute.
So friends, that begs the question
Would He find your picture in it?



And the Winner Is



Pictured above: Barbara Williams is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **MAY**. There were nineteen (19) 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 **PINK** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by **JUNE 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.



The Peace Lily, along-side flowers from my yard.

Bill Ogg



Significant Achievement

The Gibson Area Food Pantry recently recorded its 750,000 meal served since the start of the Pantry in February of 2015. We have one of the best food pantries in the State of Illinois thanks to financial donations from the Gibson Area Hospital, Churches and Companies in Gibson City and the many volunteers helping on Saturdays with distribution.



Sentiments we share as noted on Presbytery USA's Facebook Page: We join our Catholic Siblings in celebrating the election of Pope Leo XIV! We pray that this first selection of a pope from the United States will usher in unity and peace during a time of great upheaval in this world. In the words of Pope Leo himself, "United and hand in hand with God, let us advance together."



Thank you Elizabeth Cope for putting up the new very cute bulletin board outside the kitchen.

Thank you Mary Clow for purchasing another new banner to brighten up the Sanctuary.



CHURCH NEWS



Charlie and Cheryl Schultz with their daughter Nicole at her graduation from Murray State in Kentucky.



5 Generations-All Girls

Val Hunt was thrilled to announce in Church that she is now a Great Great Grandma with the birth of Hallie Belle Haake on May 11, 2025. Also thankful for this blessing is Great Grandma Dorri Groom, Grandma Stacey Johnson and mom Valeree Johnson.

Below: A Blast from the Past

THE HUNT GIRLS

Taken in 2016 at the home of Beth Ryan in Dallas, Texas

(Picture provided by Val Hunt.)

What a beautiful group of ladies!



Left to Right: Judy Jo Arbour, Jean Williams, Beth Ryan, Linda Chizewski, Dorri Groom, Jan Fisher, Val Hunt and Amy Burchard.

History: Tom & Val Hunt had two daughters: Dorri & Judy Jo, Frank & Margaret Hunt had two daughters: Beth & Amy, Jim & Jean Hunt had two daughters: Linda & Jan

MORE CHURCH NEWS



SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING – HANLEY SCHOOL SUPPLIES

As everyone knows, school supplies are an important part of every child's school year. Yet, there are children in our local community whose families cannot afford the basic supplies to start school each fall. The Hanley School Supply Fund assists qualifying families with this need. This program began through the efforts of Bob and Grace Hanley. Their desire was to help teachers who were buying students supplies with their own money. Working from donations only and with the help of Shepherd's Closet, the organizers of this fund strive to see that every child in need receives his or her basic school supplies at the beginning of each school year. Not all supplies listed by the school will be available. The demand seems to increase every year. Assistance is available to all families who qualify for the free lunch program at school. The school hands out the necessary form during registration or through the mail for direct qualifying students.

Thank you Janice Swanson for placing flowers on behalf of our church on the following gravesites on Memorial Day:

1. Chloe Rady Barrow
2. Sam Rady
3. Ivy Rady Reed
4. Florence Woodbum
5. George Bruce & Mabel Farlin
6. Cordie Raymond & Alice Ogg
7. Margaret A. & Loel Helmich
8. Raymond Holm
9. John & Eunice Onken
10. Della Lamb



Gene and Mary Jane Roth celebrating Mother's Day with daughter Leigh Ann Sharp and son-in-law Steve Sharp.



Thank you Mary Clow for purchasing the new banner for Mother's Day. It blended beautifully with the white roses that were on the altar.



May 13th Luncheon

What a great luncheon we had in the Fellowship Hall on May 13th before being recognized by the Presbytery of Blackhawk at their assembly meeting held in Elgin, Illinois. The recognition was to honor us as we leave Blackhawk and start a new journey with Southeastern Illinois Presbytery. We were able to set up four laptops and watch the meeting by Zoom. The recognition of our Church was delivered by Rev. Lisa Lopez-Meyer, the Presbytery Moderator of Blackhawk. We received a round of applause by all in attendance for our accomplishments and prayers for the future of our Church. Mary Clow spoke on behalf of our Church thanking the Assembly for approving the transfer and personally thanking Rev. Eric Heinekamp, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk for his support and guidance of our Church through the years. As an extra treat, everyone was also able to meet our new Administrative Assistant Elizabeth Cope and get to know her.



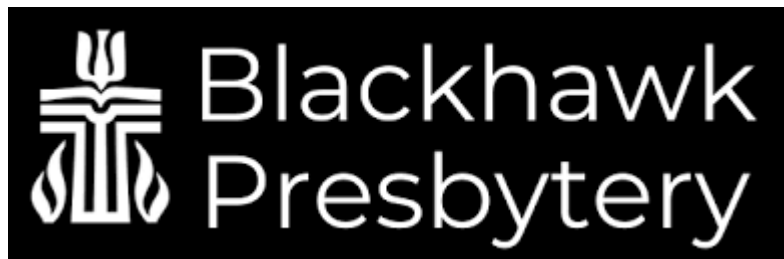
Those attending the luncheon included Ron Clow, Tim Swanson, Charlie Schultz, Danny Heustis, Jean Williams, Janice Swanson, Elizabeth Cope, Sharla Williams, Val Hunt, Vonna Heustis, Meladee Ferguson and Jeanette Hensley.



Reverend Lisa Lopez-Meyer



Mary Clow and Sharla Williams



SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



First Presbyterian Church General Scholarship Winners



First Presbyterian Church Nursing Scholarship Winners



Jerry Wissmiller Scholarship Winners



McCormick Tutoring Scholarship Winner



Thank you Aizza and Charlie Kerchenfaut for representing our Church and handing out 16 scholarships to GCMS students at the Awards Ceremony on May 16th. You did an awesome job.

MORE CHURCH NEWS



Emma Swanson is hard at work again this summer working for the Rocky Mountain Youth Corps in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. She has been certified as a Wilderness First Responder. If you want to send a card to Emma, her address is 991 Captain Jack Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80487



Samantha VanSwol is shown on the first day of her freshman year of school at the University of Kentucky. Samantha made the Dean’s List first semester and she made 2 A’s and 3’B’s the second semester. She is active in a church and youth group in Lexington. She is working 3 days a week as a nanny and 2 days a week at a youth camp this summer. (Proud “Nini” is Meladee Ferguson)



Anneliese Kerchenfaut made a presentation to our Congregation on May 18th about her studies abroad. She lived in Madrid, Spain for six months, visited 13 new countries and made six solo trips. She spent spring break in South Africa. Anneliese is one of our young adult members, a multi year scholarship winner and will be finishing up her last year at MSU in the fall. A copy of her presentation is included with our newsletter.



Anneliese Kerchenfaut and traveling partners riding a camel while visiting Tangier, Morocco.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Name	Major	School	Scholarship Type	Amount
Braden Elliott	Business	Illinois Wesleyan	General	\$ 1,000
Addison Kerchenfaut	Nursing	Univ of Missouri	Nursing	\$ 1,000
Calvin Rachiehl	Animal Science	Knox College	Wissmiller	\$ 1,000
Carter Eichelberger	Marketing	U of I Springfield	General	\$ 1,000
Alexander Pollard	Computer	Undecided	General	\$ 1,000
Mallory Rosendahl	Criminal Justice	Spoon River	General	\$ 1,000
Anna Warner	Accounting	Illinois State	McCormick	\$ 1,000
David Hall	Agriculture	Parkland	Wissmiller	\$ 1,000
Kyra Kietzman	Nursing	Illinois State	Nursing	\$ 1,000
Austin Kasper	Criminal Justice	U of I Springfield	General	\$ 1,000
Matthew Allen	PE Teacher	Illinois State	General	\$ 1,000
Cohen Kean	Athletic Trainer	Millikin University	General	\$ 1,000
Elizabeth Giroux	Pre-Med	SIU Carbondale	Nursing	\$1,000
Ryker Grauer	Physical Therapy	Monmouth	General	\$1,000
Allison Taylor	Early Childhood Ed	Parkland	General	\$1,000
William Nussman	Aeronautics	Missouri University	General	\$ 1,000
Samantha VanSwol	Elementary Ed	Univ of Kentucky	General	\$ 1,000
Ashley Wells	Accounting	Illinois Wesleyan U	General	\$1,000

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS-MAY, 2025

Year to Date April.....	\$60,367.00
FBLA.....	\$ 5,000.00
Ashley Wells Scholarship (Danny H. granddaughter)..	\$ 1,000.00
Sammi VanSwol Scholarship (Meladee’s granddaughter)	\$ 1,000.00
Nichole Schultz College Graduation	\$ 1,000.00
Emma Swanson College Graduation.....	\$ 1,000.00
Jesse Swanson College Graduation.....	\$ 1,000.00
Noah Swanson 5-year internship completion.....	\$ 1,000.00
Addison Kerchenfaut Internal Scholarship.....	\$ 1,000.00
Anneliese Kerchenfaut Internal Scholarship.....	\$ 1,000.00
Additional GCMS Scholarships.....	\$ 8,000.00
Gibson Bucks Birthdays/Lottery.....	\$ 500.00
DQ gift cards – GCMS students helping at garden.....	\$ 400.00
Luncheon May 13 – Blackhawk Recognition.....	\$ 233.00
Texas Roadhouse Card – Mike Hastings.....	\$ 100.00
County Market Cards (puzzle prizes).....	\$ 100.00
Team Building Lunch 5-18.....	\$ 200.00
Year to Date May.....	\$82,900.00

ADDISON KERCHENFAUT

Addison Kerchenfaut Awards & Achievements

Class President for 4 years – Made Class Commencement Speech.
Salutatorian of GCMS Class of 2025.
Selected for National Honor Society membership receiving the gold cord.
Graduated Summa Cum Laude receiving the black V-Shape collar for her GPA.
Selected for Illinois State Scholar membership.
Received Heart of Illinois All Conference Academic Award.
Received the All-Seasons Award.
Received the Family Consumer Science Student of the Year.
Awarded December Student of the Month for Longview Bank.
Awarded First Presbyterian Church internal young adult member Scholarship.
Awarded GAH Auxiliary Verna Buck Scholarship.
Awarded First Presbyterian Church Nursing Scholarship.



Presidential Address Addison Kerchenfaut

To the right: Addison Kerchenfaut and Sharla Williams



Addison's Family: Mom Aizza, Brother Charlie, Addison, Sister Anneliese and Dad Rick.

ADDISON KERCHENFAUT CONTINUED



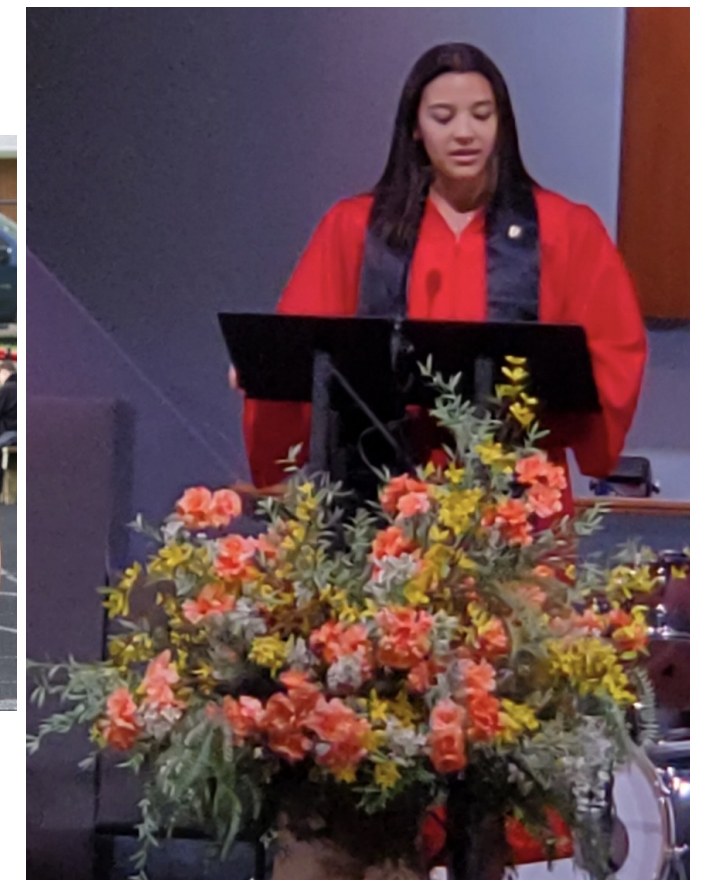
Congratulations Addy Kerchenfaut who was accepted at the University of Missouri to study nursing.



Rick and Aizza Kerchenfaut escort Addison on Senior Night for the GCMS Track Team.



This ad was placed in the Ford County Chronicle's Graduation section by our Church congratulating Addison Kerchenfaut



Addison Kerchenfaut giving the Welcome at the GCMS Baccalaureate ceremony on May 14th at the Gibson City Bible Church.

GRADUATION HIGHLIGHTS