

## WORSHIP LEADERS



Thank you Pastor Paul Thomason for an excellent sermon on June 1st - Boating with Jesus and his Disciples across the lake. It was an interesting start to your sermon when you talked about your brother's wake surf boat.



Thank you Pastor Connie Bandy for preaching and serving Communion on June 15th. Your sermon on the Trinity Doctrine was so enlightening.

July 6: Mr. Ron Clow

July 13: Pastor Paul Thomason

July 20: Pastor Paul Thomason

July 27: Reverend Connie Bandy—Communion



Thank you Jean Williams for preaching on Pentecost Sunday sharing that Pentecost Sunday is considered the beginning of the Christian Church because it marks the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles empowering them to preach the gospel and establish the early church.



Thank you Deacon Paul Sarantakos for preaching on June 22nd. Your sermon - *He Will Love Me Anyway* - was moving and most appropriate for the times we are in.

### COMMUNION CHANGE

Session has decided that starting Sunday, July 27th, we will begin offering communion like we did before the Covid pandemic. We will be cutting up a loaf of bread into smaller individual pieces and providing the wine in individual cups. The communion plate with the bread and wine will be taken and offered to the attendees in the pews by some of the Elders on a rotating basis. If you are a member of our Church and interested in helping, please notify Mary Clow. The pre-packaged communion will also be available should you desire to continue receiving communion that way.



## PRESBYTIDINGS July 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

### SUMMER – A TIME FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH AND RENEWAL

Summer, for many, is a time of relaxation and recreation, but it can also be a valuable season for spiritual growth and renewal within a religious context. It offers unique opportunities to deepen one's faith through increased time for reflection, engaging with nature, and connecting with loved ones.

1. Time for Reflection and Prayer:

- **Increased daylight hours:** can be used for extended periods of prayer, meditation, and Bible study.

- **Quiet moments in nature:** can be a powerful way to connect with God's creation and experience His presence.

- **Summer vacations:** can be an opportunity to explore new spiritual practices or revisit old ones, such as journaling.

2. Engaging with God's Creation:

- **Summer's natural beau-**

ty: provides a tangible reminder of God's power and artistry.

- **Outdoor activities:** like gardening, hiking, or simply spending time in nature can be incorporated into spiritual practices.

- **Family time outdoors:** can be a chance to share faith-based conversations and create lasting memories.

3. **Taking time to appreciate** the abundance and beauty of summer can foster a sense of gratitude and deepen one's spiritual awareness.

4. Maintaining Spiritual Habits:

- **Don't take a vacation from your faith:** While summer may bring changes in routine, it's important to maintain regular worship attendance and spiritual discipline.

- **Summer camps and retreats:** can offer focused spiritual learning and community building.

- **Engage with your church community:** Attend ser-

vices, participate in summer events, and connect with fellow believers.

By intentionally incorporating faith into the summer months, individuals can find that this season becomes a time of deep spiritual growth, renewal, and connection with God and others.

Events in July

7-3. GC Community Band Music in the Park

7-18 Gibson City Cruise Night


7-19 Greyhound Festival

7-25 *Seussical the Musical*



summer



JULY 2025						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 GC Communi- ty Band Music in the Park	4 Happy 4th of July. Church office will be closed.	5 GC Fermer's Market
6 10:30 a.m. Worship with Mr. Ron Clow	7	8	9 Meladee will be away from the church of- fice at doctors' appointments	10	11	12 GC Farmer's Market
13 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason	14	15	16	17	18 Gibson City Cruise Night	19 GC Farmer's Market Greyhound Festival
20 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason	21	22	23	24 Seussical the Musical 5:30 Session	25 GC Farmer's Market	26
27 10:30 a.m. Worship with Reverend Connie Bandy Communion will be served	28	29	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 and Fri-  
day 8:30 to 1:30  
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 JULY

July was named after the famous Roman general Julius Caesar by the Roman senate; as it was the month he was born in. Julius Caesar was a formidable military general and statesman who was largely responsible for changing the Roman Republic into the Roman Empire. The month was previously called Quintilis (Latin for fifth) as it was the fifth month of the 10-month-long ancient Roman calendar.

In early July, a period of time called the “dog days of summer” begins. Historically they were observed within Ancient Roman and Greek as-  
trology and were connected with bad luck, mad dog attacks, unex-  
pected [thunderstorms](#), heat, and drought. They gained their name as  
“dog days” as they were connected with the star Sirius, which is part  
of the Canis Major (Greater Dog) star system. Nowadays, “the dog  
days” refers to when the hottest days of summer begin.

On [July 5](#), 1946, the world's first [bikini](#) was unveiled in the famous  
Piscine Molitor swimming pool in Paris. Just in time for the heat of  
summer, the bikini was modeled by showgirl Micheline Bernardini.  
While two-piece forms of swimwear previously existed, none used little  
fabric as the bikini.

July isn't just the month for Independence Day, though. There are  
plenty of other great holidays observed around the world! [July 2<sup>nd</sup>](#) is  
World UFO Day, while [July 3<sup>rd</sup>](#) is Stay out of the Sun Day. In the US,  
July 6<sup>th</sup> is a pretty delicious day, as it's National Fried Chicken Day!  
At the end of the month, we also have International [Tiger](#) Day on [Ju-  
ly 29<sup>th</sup>](#).

HAPPY JULY!

BIRTHDAYS  
AND  
ANNIVERSARIES

July


01: John and Barb Kirkpatrick  
24: Larry Ricks  
26: Chad Johnson

August

12: John and Ruth Davis  
18: Valeree Johnson  
21: Teresa Alexander  
24: Tim and Janice Swanson  
31: Sandy Brucker

Second Sunday Offer-  
ing  
July 13: Building Im-  
provements  
August 10: Gibson Ar-  
ea Service Association

Pictured below is Pastor Steve Anderson (our current Moderator assigned to us by the Presbytery of South-eastern Illinois) with Elders Jean Williams and Charlie Shultz at a recent Personnel Committee meeting. When one door closes, another door opens. Stay tuned.





## CONGREGANT ACTIVITIES



Mary Johnson Davis (Georgie Johnson's daughter) was a big winner with her dog Maji in the 4 Rally Trials at Paw Power Blues Agility Club in Lowell, Indiana. Georgie would be so proud and our Church family sure misses her infectious smile and optimistic attitude. Congratulations Mary and Maji!



Congratulations Nicole Schultz on your new job right out of college as a math teacher at the North Marshall Middle School in



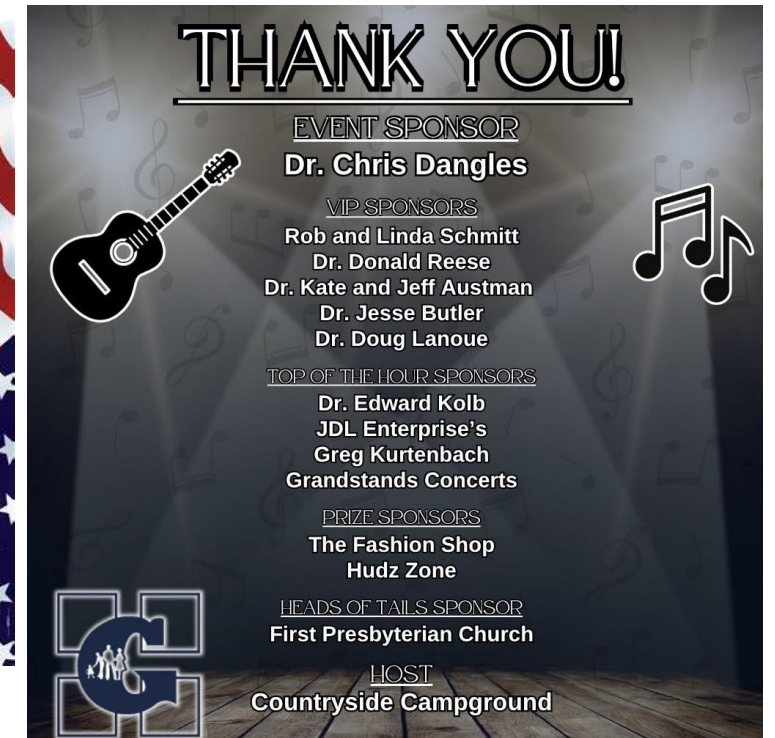
Thank you Barb Williams for the lovely flowers on the altar for our Sunday Pentecost Church service that you ordered in honor of the June birthdays of your son Rob and grandsons Matt and Alex Williams.



Our Church Family is excited for Jim and Susie Dunn as they hold their soon to be new member of the family - female lab pup Briar - who will be joining big sister Darby. Congratulations! The only thing more precious than a sleeping puppy is the pitter patter of puppy feet. ♥

## THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Gibson City-Melvin Sibley FFA Chapter, we would like to express our greatest appreciation for your contribution to our 21st Annual Scholarship Auction. At this year's auction we were able to raise over \$28,000. All of the proceeds go directly back to our members through scholarships. These scholarships will be used by students for college expenses, fees for leadership conferences and workshops, as well as state and national conventions. It is because of your generous support we are able to provide these opportunities and education to the future leaders of the agricultural industry. Again, we greatly appreciate your support of our chapter and of agricultural education here at Gibson City-Melvin Sibley High School. Sincerely, The 2024-2025 GCMS FFA Officer Team



*Thank you so much for awarding me with your scholarship. I'm grateful for your support and appreciate all that you do! Sincerely, Matt Allen*

I would like to thank the Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee for picking me for this scholarship. The money will go a long way. I've been working really hard to save up for college, and this will help me so much. Thanks. Carter Eichelberger

*Dear First Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for awarding me the nursing scholarship and gifting more. I'm truly grateful for your support—it means a lot and will help me focus on my studies without the added financial stress. I appreciate your generosity and belief in my potential towards being a nurse! Thank you! Sincerely, Addison Kerchenfaut*

Dear Supporter, We are grateful for your donation in response to our appeal. Donors such as you showed that despite the year's economic challenges, support for the needs of our local hospital is still a priority. Because of your support, the Auxiliary will be able to help Gibson Area Hospital and Annex with any items they need for the success and comfort of their patients. Events such as this will be planned for the future and we hope we have the opportunity to partner together for the continued success of Gibson Area Hospital and Annex. Again, thank you for your generosity. In gratitude, Linda VanDyken and Linda Goltz



**Singers Needed for Community Hymnfest and Choir** - The Gibson Area Music Foundation is hosting their Annual Community Hymnfest at 3:00 PM on Sunday, August 24, 2025, at the Gibson City United Methodist Church located at 206 E 10th St. The theme this year is "Hymns of Faith Throughout the Year" and will feature songs from various Christian Holidays. A community choir will also sing at the event and all area singers are invited to participate. Practice will be at GC UMC at 10:00 AM on Saturday, August 23, and also at 2:00 PM on the 24th prior to the Hymnfest. An ice cream social will follow for a time of fellowship. You won't want to miss this great afternoon of singing praises to our God!



## POETRY PAGE

### TOMORROW

BY: Mike Hastings

What if Christ was coming tomorrow  
And of His coming you were for sure.  
Would you choose then to accept Him  
So before God you'd stand secure?  
Would you finally make that decision  
Those others might scorn and scoff?  
Or just wait to see what tomorrow brings  
And again put our Savior off.

See, the Bible states quite clearly  
Today's the day, now is the time.  
Why would you wait one more second  
With the fate of your soul on the line?  
Why would you postpone for a heartbeat  
Salvation that's paid for yet free?  
Why wouldn't you say yes to Jesus  
Who hears every lost sinner's plea?

Could today be that inconvenient  
And your plans for tomorrow are set?  
Well, please don't put off your decision  
And live with eternal regret.  
Though to you there is always tomorrow  
And it's a day you most anticipate.  
Just remember the future we borrow  
And what if our Lord doesn't wait??!

ACCEPT  
**Jesus**  
Christ

DON'T  
Wait till  
TOMORROW  
DO IT  
Now

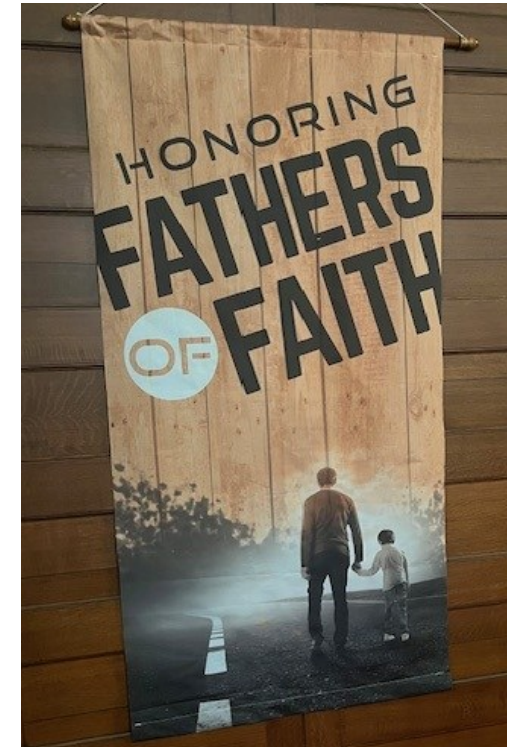
## And the Winner Is



Pictured above: Rick Kerchenfaut is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **JUNE**. 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 **RED** colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by **JULY 25!** 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.



## “HAPPENINGS” IN OUR CHURCH



Thank you Mary Clow for ordering a new Banner for Fathers Day.



Charlie & Cheryl Schultz with their great nieces Austin on the left and Myleigh on the right watching and celebrating their last dance recital. They were in a dance group called Jodi's Dance Unlimited in Indiana.



Congratulations to our very own Jeanette Hensley who won \$173 at the June 11th Gibson City Restoration Queen of Hearts 50-50 drawing.



Congratulations to this lovely couple Gene and Mary Jane Roth pictured at church on Sunday June 8th celebrating their 62nd Anniversary. They were married in our Church Sanctuary exactly 62 years ago on the 8th.



## CHURCH NEWS



It is always fun to have the handsome Lantz twins in church on Sunday. Here they are with Grandma Trudy on May 25th. They are growing up so fast!



Elders Ron and Mary Clow recently celebrated turning 70 a few weeks apart. They are grateful for another year of life and the blessings that come with it including being a part of our church.



Sharla Williams celebrating her Aunt Carolyn William's birthday on June 3rd along with Carolyn's daughters Susie Tongate and Teri Naour.



Have you seen painted rocks around town like the one left at the base of our outside cross? It is a cat paw that says Rock, Paper, Scissors. There is a Facebook group of 690 members called Rockin Around the Town Gibson City (RATTGC) that started doing this during COVID. They make and hide their creations around town. What a cool idea and how fun is that.

## MORE CHURCH NEWS

### McCormick Tutoring Program for 2024-2025



Thank you, Shara Williams, for managing the 2024-2025 McCormick Tutoring Program at the GCMS School District. Sharla worked with 3 teachers at the Elementary School, 1 teacher at the Middle School and 1 teacher at the High School as well as the principals at each School.

Thank you, Meladee Ferguson, for processing the payments for the teachers and expenses associated with the Program.

How awesome that this program continues to grow. We provided 363 hours of tutoring to 146 students!

A big thank you to the Funk Foundation who helps us support this program!

#### MONTHLY BREAKDOWN

Month	Elem	Middle	HS	Students	Hours
Sept 24 Students	0	7	3	10	
Sept Hours	0	12	5		17
Oct Students	8	8	9	25	
Oct Hours	29	18	13		60
Nov Students	7	8	7	22	
Nov Hours	22	10	7		39
Dec Students	8	6	11	25	
Dec Hours	26	12	10		48
Jan 25 Students	6	2	7	15	
Jan Hours	27	6	9		42
Feb Students	9	4	10	23	
Feb Hours	37	10	11		58
March Students	6	4	3	13	
March Hours	28	12	9		49
April Student	6	2	5	13	
April Hours	30	12	8		50
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>146</b>	<b>363</b>

### JULY SECOND SUNDAY OFFERING

The second Sunday offering for July is Building Improvements for our Church.

The Session recently approved roof repairs for the Fellowship Hall using a new restoration roof coating called Ecodur by Castagra Products. Several ceiling tiles will also need to be replaced.

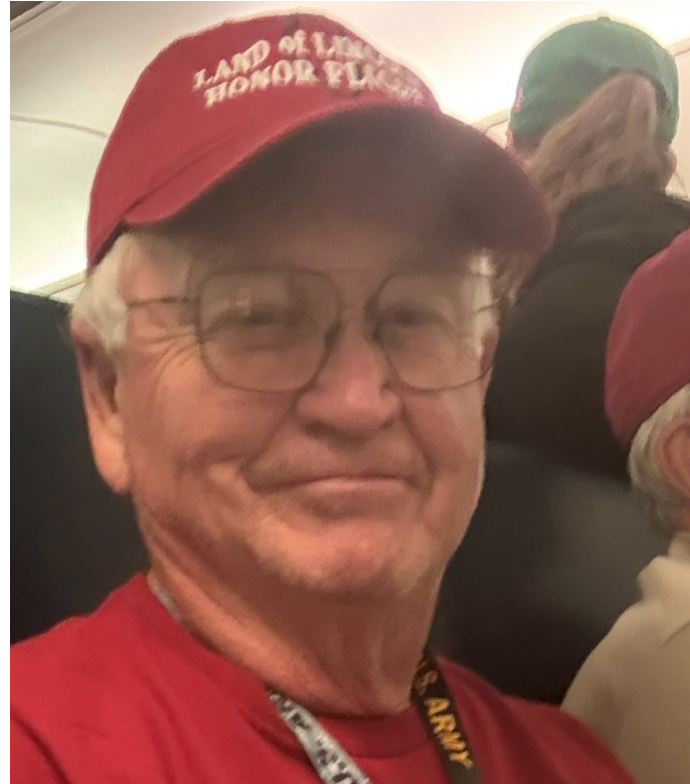
In addition, the roofer will be repairing a leak in the area of the southwest corner of the sanctuary by the chapel. Most likely, due to the leak, repairs to the wall will also need to be made.



## EMMA SWANSON AND TOM HEAVILIN



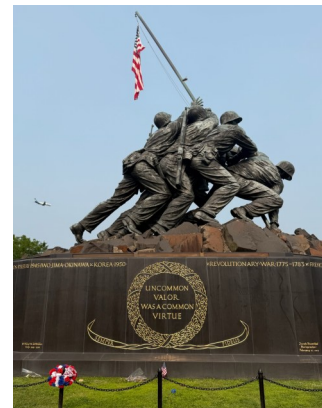
Emma Swanson is working for the Rocky Mountain Youth Corp this summer. She is pictured below in the top row third from left with the crew she leads and above holding a pot of food for the group. Way to go Emma. Stay safe.



Tom Heavilin, a Vietnam Veteran was honored and enjoyed his recent Honor Flight on June 3rd flying from Springfield to Washington D.C. His son Logan (below) was his Chaperon. Congratulations Tommy on this well earned celebration and "Thank You" for your service, sacrifice and selflessness!!



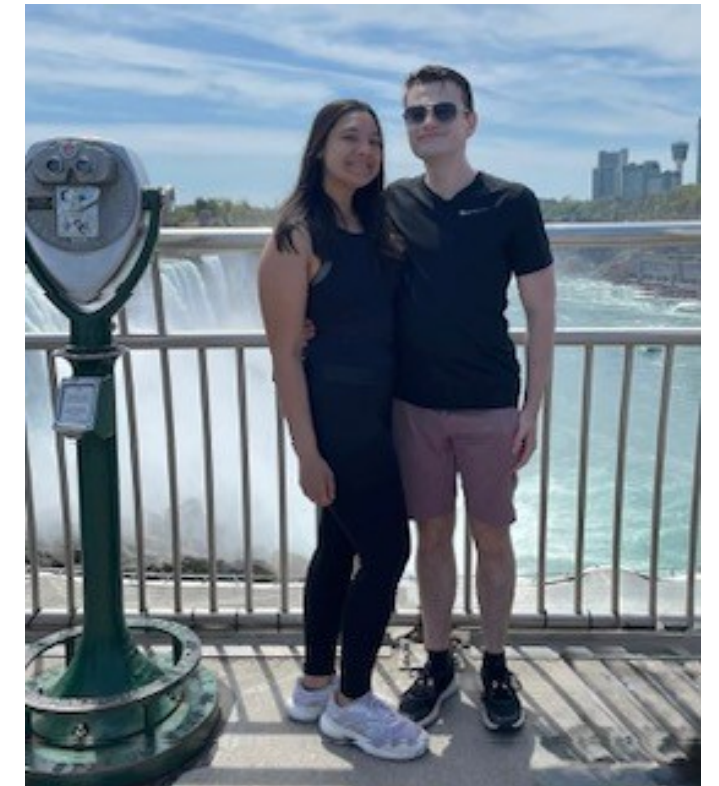
Mary Clow on behalf of Session put together a goody box and mailed it to Emma Swanson.



## THE KERCHENFAUT GIRLS



There is our travel-loving girl at it again enjoying Niagara Falls with boyfriend Jordan Hofbauer. Looks like they did the Maid of the Mist voyage into the Falls.



The GCMS Girls Track Program held their awards banquet on June 4th. Addy Kerchenfaut (second from left) received the MVP Award for 2025. Congratulations Addy. The awards keep on coming.



MORE CHURCH NEWS



Another great breakfast together after Sunday services on June 1st.



**GAH Auxiliary Pot and Wine Fund-raiser was a big success. Our church was a Rose Sponsor.**  
**Pictured Above: Sue Walker, Susie Tongate, Mary Clow, Pat Farris and Ellen Hanks**  
**Pictured Left: Mary Clow, Ellen Hanks and Sharon Heavilin**

ALL AWARENESS DAY—JULY 20-North Park Pavilion



**Jumbo sized for kids and adults, oversized floor activity for indoor and outdoor play.**

Here are just a few of the items our church bought as a donation towards the 3rd Annual All Awareness Day to be held on July 20th at the Gibson City North Park Pavilion.



# FACTS AND FIGURES

## MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – JUNE, 2025

### JUNE

Year to Date May.....	\$82,900.00
Emma Swanson Goodie Package.....	\$ 135.00
Little Achievers Day Care.....	\$ 4,000.00
Team Building Breakfast June 1.....	\$ 200.00
All Awareness Day.....	\$ 500.00
Harvest Fest Sponsorship.....	\$ 3,000.00
Team Building Breakfast May 25.....	\$ 150.00
HOH/Angel Warriors.....	\$ 500.00
InterVarsity – Todd Epps.....	\$ 500.00
Gibson Bucks June 16.....	\$ 500.00
Year to Date June.....	<b>\$92,385.00</b>

## WISSMILLER MEMORAL FUND DONATIONS

### Jerry Wissmiller Memorial Fund

Starting Balance January 2025.....	\$34,581.94
FFA Fundraiser February 15, 2025.....	\$ 2,000.00
GC Economic Development Startup April.....	\$ 5,000.00
Lions Club Pancake Breakfast April.....	\$ 300.00
GCMS Scholarship Awards.....	\$ 2,000.00
Gibson City Farmers Market June.....	\$ 1,000.00
Ending Balance June, 2025.....	<b>\$24,281.94</b>

CD Balance..... **\$54,137.64**



Several of our Summer banners have been hung on the light poles in downtown Gibson City.



Mary Clow stands in front of the new Farmers Market sign and the 6 foot galvanized trough full of flowers. Our church made a donation to the Farmers Market Committee with funds from the Jerry Wissmiller Memorial Fund.

# MORE WAYS OUR CHURCH HELPS



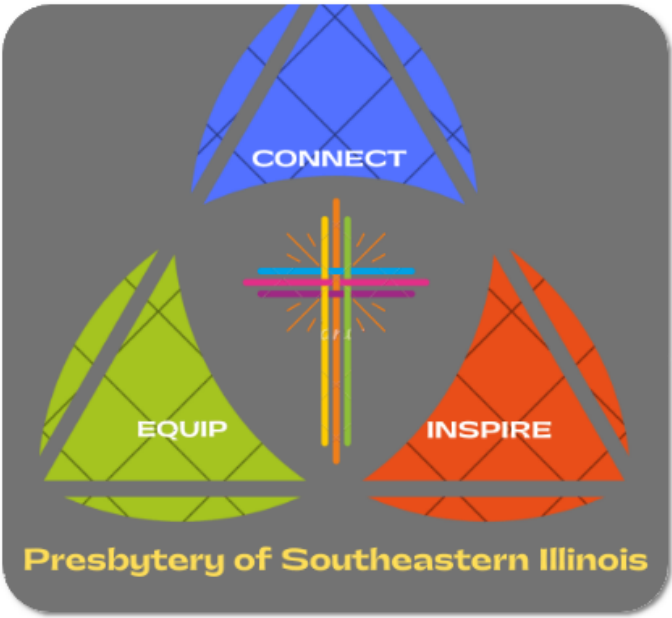
Mary Clow, Sharla Williams and Elizabeth Cope took a tour of the Little Achievers Preschool Program. The Director, Paige Lange, provided us with a tour of the classroom and information about the Program. We were all very impressed.

They will be serving 16 children in the Pre-K Program (age 4) on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

On Tuesday and Thursday, they will be serving 15 children in the Pre-School Program (age 3) in the morning and 9 children in the afternoon. This is a very important program for Gibson City. Our Church made a donation to assist them with replacing the classroom carpet with vinyl planking as recommended by DCFS. Pictured above presenting Paige with the check is Elizabeth and Sharla.



The Community Garden plots are full of greenery that will eventually be fresh produce for the families of the hard working gardeners. The First Christian Church has been a great partner on this project.



A Community in which God in Christ is present in our relationships, and the Spirit is apparent in our actions of welcome, hospitality, witness, leadership and service.