

WORSHIP LEADERS



Thank you Jim Dunnan for preaching on August 10th. We enjoyed your sermon on generosity which is not always financial but offering time and talent



Thank you Ron Clow for preaching on August 17th on the dual meaning of fire in Scripture.



August 24th was a wonderful Communion Sunday with Pastor Anderson preaching on "God's Words in our Mouths". Thank you Jean Williams and Charlie Schultz for passing out the bread and wine.



Thank you Pastor Connie Bandy for preaching on August 31st. We thank God for you and your service to our church.



Pastor Anderson preached on September 7th and also served Communion. Everyone could relate to his sermon *Happiness is More Than a Warm Puppy*. Thank you Ron Clow and Jean Williams for distributing communion.



Thank you Janice Swanson for preaching on September 14th. We are grateful for your service to our church.



Thank you Pastor Anderson for your meaningful message on September 21st.

October 5: Pastor Steve Anderson Communion will be served.

October 12: Pastor Paul Thomason

October 19: Pastor Steve Anderson

October 26: Pastor Paul Thomason

PRESBYTIDINGS

October 2025

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

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

Steve Anderson: Pastor

Website: www.firstpresbygibson.org

Meladee Ferguson: Executive Secretary

Mary Clow: Ministry Coordinator

Elizabeth Cope: Administrative Assistant

Autumn: Trust the Seeds That Are Being Planted By Rev. Dr. Steven Koski. First Presbyterian Church of Bend Oregon

Autumn is my favorite season of the year. My soul comes alive with the brilliance of colors, the crispness of air, and the smells of autumn. I confess that I abhor Pumpkin Spice Lattes, but I do love autumn.

There is so much in the world around us that seems to be "falling," decaying, and even dying. It is easy to succumb to despair and pessimism. Autumn reminds us that all of the "falling" that is going on around us is full of promise – even if we cannot see it.

Autumn reminds us that hidden beneath the surface, seeds are being planted, and leaves are being composted, and new life is being prepared. Could it be that possibility that something infinitely richer is being planted in the soil of our souls, even now, in this painful season of our common life together? Barbara Brown Taylor wrote, "... New life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark. New life al-

ways starts in the dark."

Parker Palmer suggests seasons are trustworthy guides for our spiritual lives: "Autumn is a season of great beauty, but it is also a season of decline: The days grow shorter, the light is suffused, and summer's abundance decays toward winter's death. Faced with inevitable winter, what does nature do in autumn? She scatters the seeds that will bring new growth in the spring – and scatters them with amazing abandon.

In retrospect, I can see in my own life what I could not see at the time – how the job I lost helped me find work I needed to do, how the 'road closed' sign turned me toward terrain I needed to travel, how losses that felt irredeemable forced me to discern meanings I needed to know. On the surface it seemed life was lessening, but silently and lavishly the seeds of new life were always being sown...

In the visible world of nature, a great truth is concealed in plain sight: diminishment and beauty, darkness and light, death and life are not opposites. They are held together in the paradox of 'hidden wholeness.'"

I encourage you to be present to



the sheer beauty and "falling" of autumn. Find a beautiful leaf that has fallen to the ground and hold the leaf in your hand. Be reminded that deep down – even now – new life is being prepared. In the dying, what seeds of new life are being planted in your life for a season yet to come?

Please do not offer me a Pumpkin Spice Latte. However, I do encourage you to gather together to worship this fall in this season of our common life together that seems dark, divided, and full of despair. May our faith be strengthened by the promise that new life always begins in the dark. May we not be fixated on surface appearances but encourage each other to look more deeply and trust the seeds that are being planted for a season yet to come.



OCTOBER 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						
			1	2	3	4
5 10:30 a.m.— Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson— Communion will be served World Com- munion Sun- day	6	7	8	9	10 Meladee will be away from the church of- fice at Gailey Eye Clinic	11 Food Pantry
12 10:30 a.m.— Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason	13 Columbus Day— Church of- fice will be closed	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson	20 Mary Clow on jury duty	21 Mary Clow on jury duty	22 Mary Clow on jury duty	23 Mary Clow on jury duty	24 Mary Clow on jury duty	25 Food Pantry
26 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason	27	28	29	30 5:30 Session	31 Halloween 	

FUN FACTS ABOUT OCTOBER

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

Pastor Steve:
Pastorsteveanderson
@gmail.com
Phone #: 217-737-4948

The first televised presidential debate took place on October 4, 1960.
October 7 is National Frappe Day.
The World Mental Health Day is observed on October 10.
The Columbus Day holiday is celebrated on the second Monday in Oc-
tober.
The Nobel Prize in Literature is awarded on October 13.
The New York Stock Exchange was established on October 24, 1929.
The first flight of the Concorde supersonic airliner took place on Octo-
ber 1, 1969.

The first McDonald’s restaurant opened in Des Plaines, Illinois, on Oc-
tober 5, 1955.

On October 1, 1908, Henry Ford introduced the Model T automobile,
revolutionizing transportation.

The poem “October” by Robert Frost beautifully captures the essence
of the month. John Keats’ famous ode “To Autumn” is believed to
have been inspired by an October walk in 1819. The classic horror
novel “Dracula” by Bram Stoker begins its narrative on October 3rd.
Pablo Picasso, one of the most influential artists of the 20th century,
was born on October 25, 1881.



HAPPY OCTOBER!!!

BIRTHDAYS
AND
ANNIVERSARIES

October	November
02: Cheryl Schultz	01: Doris Gerber
09: Aizza Kerchenfaut	06: Carla Ashmore
15: Barbara Williams	07: Beverly
22: Jeanette Hensley	Swanstrom
24: Michael Mott	18: David Schmidt
26: Harry Groom	20: Vonna Heustis
28—Happy Birthday FPC GC 1871	23: Noah Swanson



THANK YOU!

Dear Members of First Presbyterian Church, On behalf of the Ford County Sheriff's Department, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your generous monetary donation. Your support means more than words can express, and it serves as a powerful reminder of the strength and compassion within our community. Your contribution will directly assist us in continuing our mission to serve and protect the citizens of Ford County with integrity, professionalism, and care. Whether it helps us enhance our equipment, support community outreach, or provide additional training for our deputies, your gift will have a meaningful impact. We are deeply moved by your kindness and the spirit of generosity that defines your congregation. It is partnerships like these that reinforce the bond between law enforcement and the community we serve. Thank you again for your thoughtfulness and generosity. We are proud to serve a community that stands together in faith, service and goodwill. With sincere appreciation, Chad Johnson, Sheriff

Dear Partners in God's Ministry, On behalf of Ministry Engagement and Support, please convey our appreciation to your mission committee, pastor, session, and congregation for your gracious and faithful support. Thank you once again for your support, dedication and partnership in furthering God's mis-

sion around the world. You are a valued partner. As always, please let me know how I can support you in your mission and ministry efforts. Yours in Christ, Rev. Lemuel Garcia-Arroyo, Stewardship Officer, Office of Stewardship of Funds Development

Dear Members of the First Presbyterian Church, Thank you for your generous check sent regarding my Community Band participation. It is a joy to get to play every summer and I am thankful that our music is enjoyed and appreciated. Thanks for thinking of us. Sincerely, Lauren Blackford

Members of the First Presbyterian Church, The Gibson City Police Department would like to send our heartfelt thank you for your generous donation. The support from the community has been so appreciated by the officers and staff. The officers in the department are proud to serve this community and its citizens. GCPD will continue its tireless work to keep the City of Gibson safe. Thank you again for your assistance during this time and please know that your donation will be put to good use. With sincere appreciation, Chief Adam Rosendahl

Dear First Presbyterian Church, The board, teachers and students at Little Achievers Academy would like to send you our deepest and most sincere thank you for your generous donation to our program. Due to your

gracious, giving hearts, we have been able to install fencing around our outside play area. This project was a long term goal that you made a reality and it will serve our students for years to come. Many thanks, Little Achievers Academy



FIVE GENERATIONS OF LOVE



Great Great Grandma Val Hunt with Hallie Belle Haake



Five Generations - Great Great Grandma Val Hunt seated with baby Hallie held by mom Valeree Johnson. Standing is Great Grandma Dorri Groom left and Grandma Stacey Johnson right.



Hallie Belle Haake



Thank you Jeanette Hensley and the Women's Organization for purchasing a new refrigerator for the church kitchen.

To the left: First day of first grade for Abigail Cope, daughter of Elizabeth Cope, our Administrative Assistant.

NEWS AROUND THE CHURCH



The tree trimming, shaping and cleanup of the six arborvitae in the Memory Garden was completed on September 16th by Meyer and Sons of Urbana. They are licensed arborists and said the trees were very healthy. Now you can see and sit on the benches that were placed there years ago.



Thank you Mary Clow for buying a new Fall Banner for the Sanctuary.



Random Acts of Kindness – 2nd Sunday Collection for October

Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference. Offering a helping hand to someone in need can make a difference in their day. It has been a long tradition of our church to award several gifts to both members of the church and members of the Community especially around the Christmas season. Session will add \$500 to any donations collected.

POETRY PAGE

LIFE IS A JOURNEY

BY: Mike Hastings (1-14-2013)

Like is a journey
That we all share.
We all have our burdens,
Our crosses to bare.
We make many mistakes
That's true of us all.
Life is a trip
So we're bound to fall.

Some, more than others
Seem to stumble about.
They strain and they struggle
And live life in doubt.
Some, they find Jesus
And invite Him to sup.
Then whenever they stumble
He helps them back up.

Yes, life is a journey
One tries to survive.
And if you know Jesus
You'll leave it alive.
With Christ as your Savior
Your steps will be strong.
Life is a trip
So invite Christ along.

And though He is with you
Still you may falter.
Well, just drop to your knees
And make that place an altar.
Then acknowledge that Jesus
Will see you through it all.
Twenty four seven
He's there when you call.



Pictured above: Jeanette Hensley is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **August-September**. There were twenty one (21) 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 colored card (**LIME GREEN**) in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by **October 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.



It's always a delight to see Charles and Debbie Lemons in Church on Sunday. They just moved from Tennessee to Roberts and they sometimes join us for breakfast after church. Our Congregation has come to know and love them.

GCMS HOMECOMING



Thank you Elizabeth Cope for decorating for Fall reflecting the changing season and creating an inviting atmosphere.



To the left: Val Hunt is in back row second from the right dressed in red celebrating Homecoming 2025 at Hollybrook.

GO
GCMS!



Tom and Sharon Heavilin recently enjoyed an Alaskan cruise with Skyler Heavilin, Tom's son, and Kathryn Payne.



To the right: Val Hunt in the Homecoming parade riding on the back of a golf cart.



WGCY RADIO - 106.3

Our church is a WGCY sports game sponsor this year for all GCMS Falcon games. Be sure to listen for our 30 second radio ad during all broadcast games for all sports.



To the left: Charlie Kerchenfaut on the GCMS football players float.

ADDY AND CHARLIE BACK TO SCHOOL

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – SEPTEMBER, 2025

SEPTEMBER

Year to date August.....	\$117,544.00
Team Building Breakfast August 24 (15).....	\$ 250.00
Shepherds Closet/Baby Closet.....	\$ 1,000.00
Team Building Breakfast September 7 (15).....	\$ 245.00
Telecare.....	\$ 10,000.00
Tiffany Readus Family.....	\$ 1,031.00
Gibson Bucks.....	\$ 1,000.00
Year to Date September.....	\$131,070.00

Thank Yous . . .

Thanks, Mary!
That is incredibly generous of you and First Presbyterian Church. We are so grateful for the \$1000 donation to help restock our baby closet. It will make a huge difference for the families we serve.

Samuel Horsch
Manager@Shepherd's Closet



Dear Members of the Presbyterian Church
I was pleasantly surprised when I opened my birthday card from the Church to find Gibson Bucks inside. It was very thoughtful and kind and I can't wait to use them. Thank you for thinking of me. I really enjoy attending your Sunday services.
Carolyn Clow

Church Friends, Thank you so much for the birthday gifts of Gibson Bucks. You are all so awesome and I am so glad you are my home church. Love, Tom and Sharon Heavilin

First Presbyterian Church, I recently received a check/monetary gift from your church. I feel so honored to be able to participate with such a talented group of musicians who enjoy playing a variety of music styles together simply for their love of music and our community. Thank you for your expression of appreciation. It was kind of you to think of the Gibson City Community Band with your generosity.

Sincerely, Vicki Rhodes (a thankful trumpet player)

Ameren and I thank you for the Gibson Bucks from the weekly lottery drawing.
Jean Williams

Thank you for your generous donation to the Food Pantry this year. This summer we have taken on the 2 small food pantries in town to help feed the children until school starts.
Melissa Jamison and Pam Gee

Dear First Presbyterian Church Leadership Team,
Thank you for the Community Band appreciation gift. It was truly a surprise and it means a lot that you thought of us. I enjoy running the Band and performing for the community during the summer and I know our band members do as well. Please convey my thanks to your entire Leadership Team. Sincerely, Kyle Renchen



Addison Kerchenfaut recently met with the President and Chancellor Mony Choi of the University of Missouri at a business leadership meeting. That's our girl starting out strong.



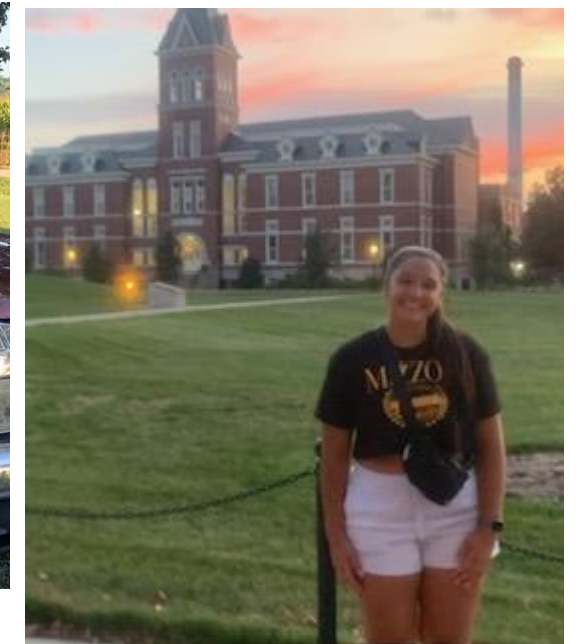
Charlie Kerchenfaut saying goodbye to big sister Addison as she heads off to college.



Sharla Williams hugs Addison Kerchenfaut in church on August 17th wishing her good luck as she gets ready to head to the University of Missouri.



Charlie Kerchenfaut ready for the start of his junior year at GCMS. We can't wait to watch him play football.



Addison Kerchenfaut's first day at college - University of Missouri - ready to start a new journey.