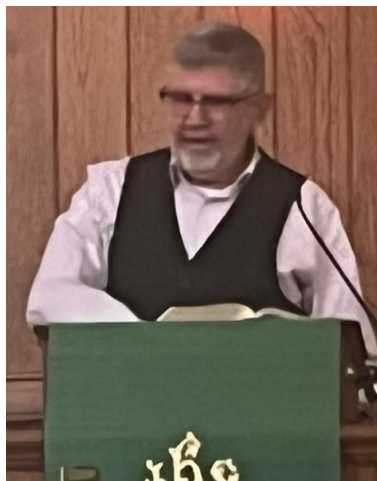


WORSHIP LEADERS



Pastor Paul Thomason preaching on September 28th on Chapter 1 of the Book of Ruth. Some scholars suggest the story may have been written by a woman because it focuses on female relationships.



Pastor Paul Thomason preaching October 12 and 26 on Chapter 2 and Chapter 3 of the Book of Ruth which illustrates the will of God and how he cares for all people.



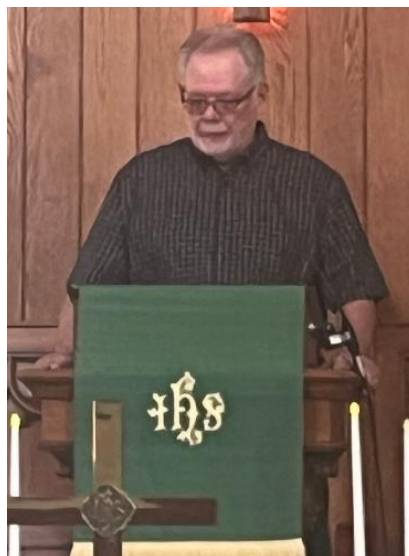
Pastor Steve Anderson administering the sacrament of Communion on October 5th. Thank you Tim Swanson and Charlie Schultz for distributing communion to our congregation.



We are grateful for Pastor Steve Anderson who gave a meaningful sermon "*Wrestling With God*" on October 19th.



November 2: Pastor Steve Anderson
Communion will be served.
November 9: Pastor Paul Thomason
November 16: Pastor Steve Anderson
November 23: Pastor Connie Bandy
November 30: Pastor Steve Anderson



Thank you Elder Ron Clow for reading on October 12th the Heed to Call for a Congregational meeting to be held on November 2nd.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month. Please see page 3 of our newsletter the pictures of our pastors. We love and appreciate them all!

PRESBYTIDINGS

November 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

Giving thanks in plenty and in want

God remains with us

By Donna Frischknecht Jackson, Presbytery Today

Give thanks with a grateful heart ... At Thanksgiving, as families and friends gather around the holiday table filled with food wafting with the scent of nostalgia, they will pause to give thanks. Perhaps some will be thankful that they are able to gather safely to enjoy a boisterous Thanksgiving meal that didn't happen in the past due to COVID-19. Perhaps some will be grateful that they were able to find the ingredients needed for Grandma's special stuffing, considering a breakdown in supply chains that may have led to bare shelves. Perhaps some will be praising God that a loved one is with them after facing a life-threatening illness.

But perhaps, too, there are

those whose Thanksgiving will not be reminiscent of a Norman Rockwell painting. There are those on this day who are sitting down to a meager meal, those watching the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade alone, and those whose eyes gaze longingly at the now-empty chair.

In our lives, there are seasons of plenty and seasons of want. There are Thanksgivings when children's voices fill the air. There are Thanksgivings where their voices are nowhere to be heard. There are holidays where laughter and food is abound. Then there are holidays where both seem scarce. We have had Thanksgivings of both plenty and want and know personally how hard it is to be thankful when everything seems to be falling apart. Yet, even in our darkest times, we are to remember to whisper our broken "thank yous," for God is not done with us nor has God ever forgotten us.

The apostle Paul once said, "I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need." And that secret was that no matter what life brought, Paul knew he could count on God to give him strength.

In plenty and in want, no matter what Thanksgiving is like for you and your family, remember that God is with you, providing the strength you need — always.

Thanksgiving Prayer

God of bounteous grace, we thank you for your steadfast love that sustains and strengthens us. May we remember to sing your praise always: on days when our tears are filled with joy and when they are filled with grief; when our tables are full and when they are scarce; and when loved ones and friends are near and when they are far. We lift this prayer, in the name of your Son Jesus. Amen.



NOVEMBER 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						
						1
2 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson Communion Birthday Luncheon Congrega- tional Meet- ing	3	4	5	6 4:30 “Dinner for One” at Country Ket- tle	7	8 FPC to work at Food Pantry
9 10:30 a.m.— Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason	10	11 Veteran’s Day Church office closed	12	13	14	15
16 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson	17	18	19	20 4:30 “Dinner for One” at Country Kettle 5:30 Session	21	22 Food Pantry 6:30 p.m.— Annual Christ- mas Parade
23 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Connie Bandy 30	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving - 	28 Church office closed	29 Small Business Saturday

FUN FACTS ABOUT NOVEMBER

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

Mary Clow:
mclow55@hotmail.com

November, as the 11th month of the year in the [Gregorian calendar](#), marks the final full month of [autumn](#) in the Northern Hemisphere and the last full month of spring in the Southern Hemisphere. With 30 days, November is filled with many cultural, national, and international events, as well as unique traditions around the globe.

The chrysanthemum, often simply referred to as a mum, is the official flower of November. In many cultures, it carries a profound symbolism of optimism, joy, and longevity. With a vast array of colors and shapes, the [chrysanthemum](#) is cherished for its vibrant blossoms that persist well into late fall, adding cheer as the days grow shorter.

World Diabetes Day happens on November 14th every year. This day is important because it helps people learn about diabetes, a health condition that affects many people around the world. The day encourages everyone to understand more about how to prevent and manage diabetes. It also supports those who are living with the condition.

[World Kindness Day](#) is celebrated on November 13th. This day is all about doing nice things for others. It encourages everyone to be kinder to each other and to spread positivity and good vibes. It’s a day to remember that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

For anyone with a sweet tooth, November 26th is a day to look forward to in the U.S. It’s [National Cake Day](#). This fun celebration encourages everyone to enjoy a slice (or two) of their favorite cake. It’s a tasty way to add a little sweetness to November. November 28th is a delicious day in the U.S., known as French Toast Day. It’s a day all about celebrating this favorite breakfast dish.

HAPPY NOVEMBER!!!

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

<i>November</i>	<i>December</i>
01: Doris Gerber	07: Charlie Schultz
06: Carla Ashmore	27: Elinor Nelson
07: Beverly Swannstrom	
18: David Schmidt	
20: Vonna Heustis	
23: Noah Swanson	

HEED NOW THE CALL for a Nominating Committee Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 2nd at 11:30 a.m. during the Church Birthday Luncheon Celebration following the service of worship for the purpose of approving nominations for officers for 2026.

HEED NOW THE CALL for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 2nd at 11:45 a.m. during the Luncheon Celebration following the service of worship for the purpose of approving the election of officers for 2026.



THANK YOUS!

Dear Friends, Thank you for the Gibson Bucks I received for my birthday! Can't wait to use them! Love, Aizza Kerchenfaut

On behalf of Men for Missions, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donation for the LOGOS software. Your support has made it possible to provide essential tools to pastors in Cuba and the Dominican Republic, resources that will empower them to more effectively share the Word of God. Your gift is more than just technology; it is a powerful investment in the truth. Because of you, pastors will now be better equipped to teach, disciple, and reach others with the message of Christ in places where resources are often scarce. Thank you for being a faithful partner in this ministry. May God richly bless you for your generosity and heart for the Gospel. Doug Tankersley, Executive Director, Men for Missions.

Thanks, it was so nice of you to be so nice to me. To the Elders of FPC, Thank you so much for the very nice and generous gift from my church family! I will enjoy the Gibson Bucks. God Bless you all! Sincerely, Barb Williams

Dear Friends, I cannot tell you how touched I was to receive your card for Pastor Appreciation Month. And then I found your most generous gift enclosed. I was incredibly moved and left speechless. I hope you know that you all hold a special place in my heart. As Paul wrote to his beloved church in Philippi, "I thank God on every remembrance of you." (Philippians 1:3) I am so grateful to be a small part of your congregation's life. Thank you for everything. Peace and blessings, Connie Bandy

Dear Presbyterian Church, Thank you so much for your donation to help with our celebration of life for Carla. Carla was a para-professional for many years at Paxon-Buckly-Loda and

will be missed by so many. Thank you! Stacy Johnson and The PBL Family

Dear Congregation, Thank you for the generous gift card that I received during pastor appreciation week. This was not really necessary, but very thoughtful of you to include me in your recognition of those who are filling your pulpit on a monthly basis. So many wonderful things are happening at your church and God is truly present in your good works. It has been and always will be a privilege to speak at your church. Sincerely, Dr. Jim Dunnan

Gibson Area Music Foundation: At this time of year, we are normally looking forward to our annual Christmas choral program. All arrangements had been made and rehearsals were set to begin Nov. 3. Regrettably, we are having to cancel as our director, Dr. Janet McCumber, recently received a cancer diagnosis requiring surgery on Nov. 4 with weeks of recovery to follow. Several other qualified directors were contracted with hopes someone could step in but all had prior program commitments. We invite you to join us in holding Dr. McCumber in your prayers through this season, and look forward to 2026 she plans "to be back in full force."



CRIS RURAL MASS TRANSIT

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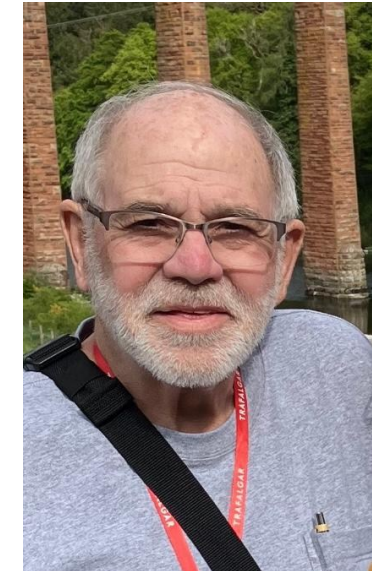
CRIS Rural Mass Transit is proud to announce that public transportation is now available in Ford County. Whether you need a ride to work, school, medical appointments, shopping, or other errands-- We've got you covered.



PLEASE CALL 217/443-2287 TO SCHEDULE A RIDE TODAY

LEARN MORE [at ruraltransits.org](http://ruraltransits.org)

PASTOR APPRECIATION SUNDAY



Pastor Steve Anderson
Our Pastor of Record



Pastor Paul Thomason



Pastor Connie Bandy

Sunday October 12th was Pastor Appreciation Sunday. We are truly grateful to the five pictured individuals for their dedication in preaching this past year. We have been blessed with their teachings to help us grow closer to God.



Dr. Jim Dunnan



Pastor David Graham

REVEREND CONNIE BANDY'S TRIP TO SCOTLAND



Reverend Bandy saw sites in and around Edinburg.



Reverend Bandy pictured here at the Dunrobin Castle.



Reverend Bandy was able to watch a sheep dog demonstration in Cambridge.



POETRY PAGE

HE IS NOT THE MAN UPSTAIRS

By: Mike Hastings

God is not the "man upstairs."
So when you offer up your prayers
Remember you're not talking to a man.
He's the God of all creation,
The only author of salvation,
Giver of your life and your life's plan.

Don't give Him human limitations,
He controls all situations.
Never is He found unawares
For He Himself is no mere mortal,
Holds the key to Heaven's portal,
No, He is not the "man upstairs."

And man will match Him NEVER
He is God and God forever.
Gave His Son that we become His heirs,
So when the doubts of life assail you
Unlike man, He will not fail you.
For He is God, He is not the "man upstairs."



A doctor can
save your life.
A lawyer can
defend your life.
A soldier can give
you a peaceful life.
But only GOD
can give you an
everlasting life.
Amen!



Pictured above: Debbie Lemons is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **OCTOBER**. There were twenty five (25) 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 (YELLOW) colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by **November 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.



Charlie and Cheryl Schultz were thrilled to welcome another great niece, Lana Jane Bridgman, to the world.

HOMEcoming 2025 FOR CHARLIE KERCHENFAUT



Charlie Kerchenfaut and his date Tenley all dressed up for the Prairie Central Homecoming Dance.



Pictured above is Connie Thomason (Pastor Paul's wife) tutoring a student at GCMS High School. Mrs. Thomason's affection, compassion and devotion to the youth of the area is amazing.



Sharon Heavilin made a card and arranged for The Gibson City Restoration Committee to surprise Jeanette Hensley with a sherbet cup on her birthday on October 22nd at the Queen of Hearts Fundraiser. Jeanette is a regular Queen of Hearts player. Sharla Williams bought her supper for her birthday so we pray she had a great day!

Thank you Elizabeth Cope for placing inspirational Fall phrases on our outdoor sign.



David Hohulin, Mission Global Director for Men's for Missions, made a presentation to Session on September 25th seeking donations for their Logos Project which is Bible Software for pastors. It is a very crucial resource for teaching and preaching. Session approved a \$5,000 donation. If you are interested in giving online, go to menformissions.org.



Charlie Schultz sure had tons of fun celebrating Trunk or Treat in Potomac with his grandsons and great nieces. Love all the costumes.



Jim and Susie Dunnan celebrating Millikan University's Homecoming with a visit to the AXO House. Jim's 1974 Football Team was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame.





CHURCH CHOIR ROBES

After much discussion at a recent Session meeting, the Elders voted to donate our church choir robes to another church that could use them. Clerk of Session Mary Clow reached out to Southeastern Presbytery Communication Associate Tracey Weddle and asked that the pictures and a notice be placed in the Presbytery's "News to Use" Newsletter in case a church in our Presbytery was interested in them. After no interest was shown after two notices, it was decided we would reach out to a company called Robe Gifting International. They were started in 2014 and developed a process for refurbishing robes so as to redistribute them to needy groups. They help interested parties throughout the United States and abroad. We have 33 green robes with gold sashes and 21 gold robes with green sashes. We also have various color sashes for different holidays. We hope our donation makes a difference in one or more churches in need.



The November Special Offering is for the American Legion Post 568 Christmas Baskets for families with children in the GCMS School District. Food and toys are distributed each Christmas Season. At Christmas, we all *like* the gifts we get but how we *love* the gifts we give.



MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – OCTOBER, 2025

OCTOBER

Year to Date September.....	\$131,070.00
Men for Mission (Bible Software).....	\$ 5,000.00
Team Building Breakfast 2-24.....	\$ 183.00
Gibson Bucks 7-20.....	\$ 500.00
Reconciliation.....	\$ 581.00
Team Building Breakfast 3-30.....	\$ 209.00
Cooper Hull.....	\$ 100.00
Hospice.....	\$ 100.00
Gibson Bucks 5-23.....	\$ 500.00
*Team Building Breakfast 10-5 (12).....	\$ 170.00
Gibson City Fire Department.....	\$ 1,000.00
Pastor Appreciation Gift Cards (5) \$100 each.....	\$ 500.00
*Team Building Breakfast 10-12 (16).....	\$ 220.00
Luparell Family.....(dog bite victim).....	\$ 1,000.00
GAH Auxiliary Love Lights a Tree.....	\$ 1,000.00
*Team Building 10-19 (14).....	\$ 200.00
Scott Lawrence (Charlie Schultzs Nephew)	\$ 500.00
Gibson Bucks 9-30.....	\$ 1,000.00
Family of Carla Latimer (Paxton).....	\$ 500.00
Year to Date October.....	\$144,333.00



The Greater Gibson City Economic Alliance Community group met for five Wednesdays in September to map out ways to improve the future of Gibson City. Each meeting was three hours long. Four working committees were put in place and include the Housing, Business Support, Childcare, and Park and Recreation committees. They will be working with the new Greater Gibson Area Economic Alliance Executive Director Matthew Burns. Our church donated \$10,000 to start up this exciting group of community members. They are all working together to make Gibson City an even better place to live, grow and thrive. Members of our church who are giving their time, focus and energy to this group include Sharon Heavilin, Tim and Janice Swanson and Aizza Kerchenfaut. Stay tuned as there is much more important work to do.