

WORSHIP LEADERS

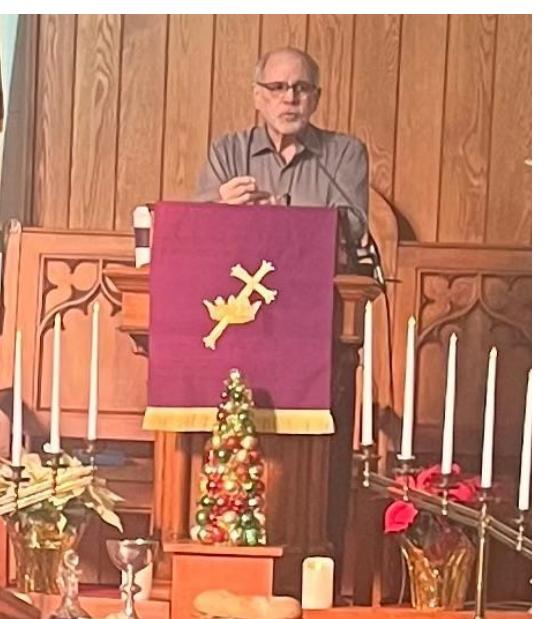


Thank you Jean Williams for preaching December 7th.



Our Church was beautiful at our Christmas Eve Service and Pastor Steve Anderson gave a great sermon.

January 25: Pastor Paul Thomason
February 1: Pastor Steve Anderson
February 8: Pastor Paul Thomason
February 15: Pastor Steve Anderson—Communion and Annual Meeting
February 22: Pastor Steve Anderson



Thank you Pastor Anderson for preaching on December 21st.



Thank you Rick Kerchenfaut and Ron Clow for helping with Communion on December 21st.



Thank you Pastor Paul Thomason for preaching on January 11th.

PRESBYTIDINGS

January-February 2026

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



Spiritual New Year's Resolutions

By: John Isaac Edwards,
Church of Christ, Indianapolis

Lord. Make it your aim to have perfect attendance this year and see how much you "...grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior".

4) Read the Bible Daily.
It's a good time to start a daily Bible reading schedule. Daily Scripture searching helps one to keep from being misled and grow as a child of GOD.

5) Pray Always.

How about worrying less and praying more in the new year? Paul declared, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God".

6) Win One to the Lord.

Since he that wins souls is wise, how about making it your resolution to find one and win one to the Lord. Find one and bring him to Jesus. Think what it would do to the church, if each of us would do that!

3) Be At Every Service.

It's a good time to attend every service of the Lord's church. This is part of putting first things first as Jesus taught. Let us go into the house of the

way to do what we want to do, right? "Use hospitality one to another without grudging".

8) Go to Heaven.

Let's make it our spiritual resolution to live in such a way as to go to Heaven. This requires keeping the Lord's commandments as John said, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city". Let's be firmly determined to do the will of the Lord **this year!**

Starting in 2026 the Presbytidings will only be published every other month.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026

JANUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:30 a.m. <i>Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson</i>	5	6	7	8	9	10 <i>Food Pantry</i>
11 10:30 a.m.— <i>Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason</i>	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 a.m. <i>Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson</i>	19 <i>Church office closed in observance of Martin Luther King's BD</i>	20	21	22	23	24 <i>Food Pantry</i>
25 10:30 a.m. <i>Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason</i>	26	27	28	29	30	31

CHURCH RELATED INFORMATION

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 Friday 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](tel:217-737-4948)

Mary Clow:
mclow55@hotmail.com

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

January

02: David Stoltz
06: Rick and Aizza Kerchenfaut
13: Danny and Von-na Heustis
23: Edith Kaufman

February

03: Addison Kerchenfaut
11: Karen Mott
15: Charles and Cheryl Schultz
16: Jean Williams
19: Anneliese Kerchenfaut
23: Ruthie Lantz

UPDATE: THE BURWELL BUILDING, ALSO KNOWN AS THE LOY BUILDING, has been a landmark in Downtown Gibson City.

Originally serving as the town's first Opera House, it housed various local businesses that contributed to the town's growth. Over the decades, the building's architecture and design have made it a symbol of Gibson City's past. Preserving this building is more than just maintaining bricks and mortar; it is about keeping a tangible connection to the community's roots. The goal of the Restoration Association is to fully restore the 140+ year old former Opera House. Our work is being broken down into stages on the advice of our architectural engineer.

- The first phase is to repair/restore the outside of the building to prevent further deterioration of existing construction and address existing building conditions. This is the phase we are currently in.
- The second phase is to restore the main floor into a usable space with restrooms, storage area, and a small prep kitchen. This will allow the Association to rent out this space to provide income needed to restore the second floor.
- The third phase will be to restore the upstairs opera house into an event venue with overnight accommodation space.

Current Restoration Progress since the creation of the restoration association 5 years ago:

- Purchased the building in 2021 at a cost of \$8,00
- Demolished the back addition that was in a state of disrepair
- Repaired the crumbling parapet walls on the roof

- Completely tore off the old roof and replaced it with a new membrane roof
- Had new gutters installed to help move that rainwater away from the walls
- Completely tore down the west wall and replaced it with a new concrete block wall
- Painted the new concrete block west wall a soothing slate grey color
- Installed a new double door on the first floor in the back of the building
- Tuckpointed the South Wall
- Purchased new windows for the South and West wall

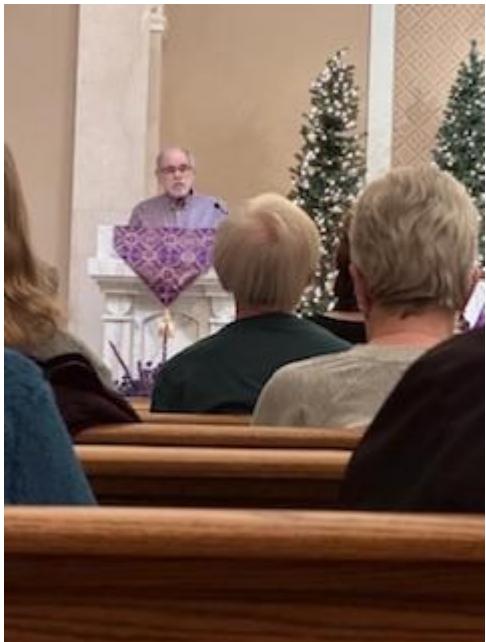
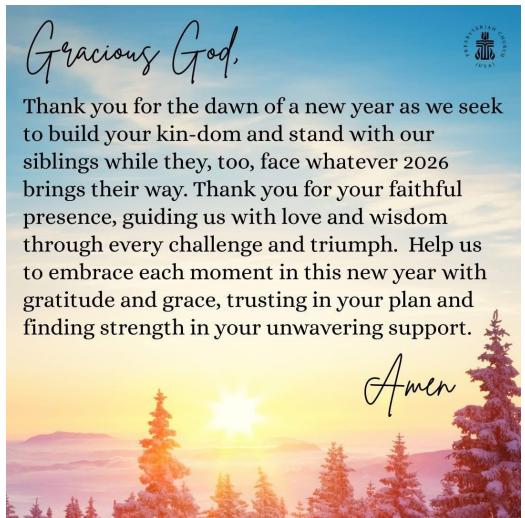
Our church continues to show support for this group led by Sharon Heavilin, President and their continued effort to restore this historic building.

MORE WORSHIP PICTURES



Mary Clow and Charlie Schultz were installed as Elders on December 28th. Leading the installation was Pastor Steve Anderson and Elder Jean Williams.

Thank you Sandy Fairchild for providing us beautiful music on December 28th.



The Blue Christmas Service put on by several local churches on December 21st was attended by many in the community. It was held at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. Pictured to the left is our very own Pastor Steve Anderson who participated in the service.



What a great team building breakfast on December 21st including Meladee's son John and daughter-in-law Becky visiting from Texas for the holidays.

FEBRUARY 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>1 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson</i>	2	3	4	5	6	7
<i>8 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Paul Thomason</i> <i>Super Bowl LX</i>	9	10	11	12	<i>13 Act Theater presents Wands, Rings and Loaded Decks Murder Mystery Dinner at 6:00 p.m.</i>	<i>14 Food Pantry Valentine's Day</i>
<i>15 10:30 a.m.—Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson</i> <i>Communion-Luncheon-Congregational Meeting</i>	<i>16 Church office will be closed in observance of President's Day</i>	17	<i>18 Ash Wednesday</i>	19	20	21
<i>22 10:30 a.m. Worship with Pastor Steve Anderson</i>	23	24	25	26	27	<i>28 8-10 a.m. FPC Food Pantry</i>

HEED NOW THE CALL for the Annual Meeting of the First Presbyterian Church of Gibson City Illinois to be held on Sunday, February 15, 2026 following worship and lunch in the fellowship hall. Reports will be received and the 2026 budget will be discussed and received and church by-laws will be updated and any other business that can properly be transacted. The Installation of Officers will also take place at this time. All members are encouraged to attend this meeting.

POETRY PAGE



Thank you Charlie and Cheryl Schultz for lighting the Advent Candles on December 7th.



Big thank you to the Kerchenfaut family for the reading and lighting of the Advent candles on December 21st.



Thank you Ron and Mary Clow for lighting the Advent candles at our Christmas Eve Service.

AND THE WINNER IS:



Pictured above: Sandy Fairchild is the winner of the Bible Word Search Puzzle for **December**. There were eighteen(18) who entered this month (one with NO name). Anyone receiving this newsletter is eligible to win a \$25 gift card to County Market OR Dairy Queen. Please see the (**YELLOW**) colored card in the center of this publication to play. Turn it into the church office by **February 15th**. (**January puzzle**). 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 **GRAY** puzzle is for **February** and should be turned in to the church office by **February 25th**. Due to the fact that we will be publishing the newsletter every two months, it will include **TWO** puzzles.

GOD'S PLAN is always the ~~BEST!~~

SOMETIMES

By: Mike Hastings

Sometimes we don't understand
The things life sends our way.
Is it part of God's great plan
And how long will it stay?

What must God be thinking
To allow this kind of pain?
What can be His purpose
And how are we to gain?

How can our hearts keep beating
When our minds can't find relief?
Why is happiness so fleeting
Despite all of our belief?

Is it just some kind of test
That we must pass or fail?
To see if we still trust in God
When doubts start to assail.

Why me, why us, we often ask.
What have we done so wrong?
That life should treat us as it does
When we're really not that strong.

Now, no one person has the answer
To this path of life we trod.
Except the One all knowing
And that's our Father God!

See, He too shares our sorrow,
He too shares our grief.
Yesterday, today, tomorrow
He is there to bring relief.

He may not give the answers
That we so long to hear.
But He's there to love and listen
For we always have His ear.

It's faith in Him that sees us through
As fear of tomorrow climbs.
We just must put our trust in Him
Though we don't understand sometimes.

So when this world weighs you down,
With it's heartaches and demands,
In all ways remember this
He still has us in His plans.



Thank you Elizabeth Cope for changing our front outside sign.

Sharla Williams recently made a trip to visit her brother Lance Williams in Scottsdale Arizona. Here they are pictured at a Top Golf Sports Venue and later having dinner with some of Lance's friends.



Thank you very much for the Gibson Bucks and gift card. They are very much appreciated and will be put to good use. Sharla Williams



Don't forget to support the GCMS varsity boys basketball team. Charlie Kerchenfaut wears number 15.

FINANCIAL FACTS AND FIGURES

January Second Sunday Offering: The McCormick Tutoring Program provides after school tutors to help the students of the GCMS school system. Tutors are existing GCMS teachers who offer their services at the Elementary School, the Middle School, and the High School. Sharla Williams is the Program Liaison for our church.

February Second Sunday Offering – Shepherd's Closet Food Pantry

The Shepherd's Closet Food Pantry is a provider of emergency food and supplies for those in the Gibson City Community who are in need of immediate assistance. They are the focus of our second Sunday collection for February. Please give generously. This food pantry is different from the Gibson Area Food Pantry that we also provide donations to.

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS- DECEMBER, 2025

DECEMBER

Year to Date November.....	\$176,927.00
Barb Williams Lift Chair.....	\$ 2,500.00
Blue Christmas Service Ad.....	\$ 234.00
Elizabeth Cope.....	\$ 500.00
Judy Williams – Elliot Fire.....	\$ 2,000.00
Gibson Girls HCE.....	\$ 500.00
Beth Tabor.....	\$ 200.00
Cheryl Elder.....	\$ 200.00
Jim Allen.....	\$ 200.00
Lutheran Church Christmas Dinner.....	\$ 500.00
Heifer Project.....	\$ 1,000.00
Cooper Hull.....	\$ 200.00
Retirement Gifts.....	\$ 208.00
Droesch Family – Random Acts of Kindness.....	\$ 500.00
GCMS School District 2026 Playground Upgrade	\$ 10,000.00
New Years Ad.....	\$ 195.00
Team Building Breakfast (12-14 & 12-21).....	\$ 486.00
Special Session Meeting/Installation Breakfast....	\$ 200.00
Year to Date December.....	\$196,550.00

MISSION COMMITTEE SUGGESTIONS – JANUARY 2026

JANUARY

Global Outreach – Rob & Sheila Warfield.....	\$ 2,500.00
Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois Pledge.....	\$ 4,000.00
Community Chest.....(Meals on Wheels).....	\$ 2,000.00
GC Chamber of Commerce Dues.....	\$ 2,500.00
Team Building Breakfast 1-11 (12).....	\$ 200.00
High School Scholarships	
Trade School/Beauty School/HVAC.....	\$ 1,000.00
Nursing/Medical School.....(2).....	\$ 2,000.00
General Scholarships.....(2).....	\$ 2,000.00
Annex – Bingo Prizes.....	\$ 500.00
Gibson City Restoration Association	\$ 5,000.00
Year to Date January.....	\$21,700.00

FPC FAMILIES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!



THE RICK KERCHENFAUT FAMILY!



That's our very own Rick Kerchenfaut playing Santa at the Kerchenfaut family Christmas party held at our church on December 21st.



It's always great to see the Kerchenfaut family on Sunday when they are all together for the holidays. Pictured is Ron Clow, Addison K, Sharla Williams, Mary Clow, Anneliese K. Charlie K and Anneliese's boyfriend, Jordan.



Rick Kerchenfaut and his parents, Charles and Marilyn Kerchenfaut.

AND A GOOD TIME WAS
HAD BY ALL!

FPC FAMILIES CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



A Five Generation Christmas:
Great Great Grandma Val Hunt,
Dorri Groom, Stacey Johnson,
Valeree Johnson and baby Hallie
Belle Haake.

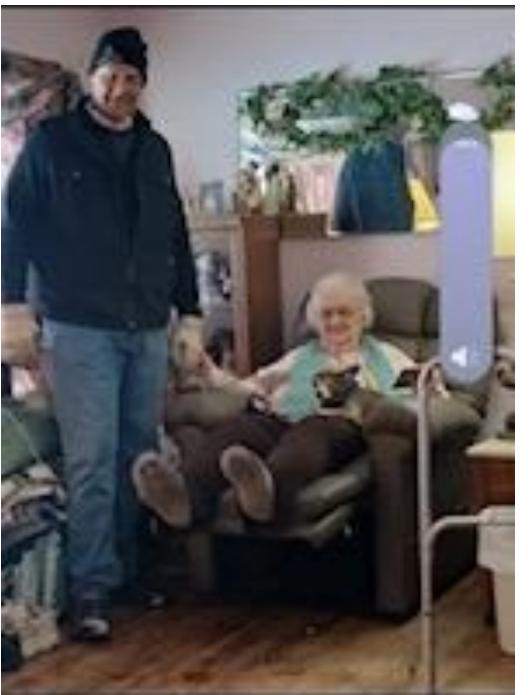


Val Hunt celebrating Christmas with grandson JT Arbour and great grandsons Cayden and Tyson.



Meladee Ferguson and a big part of her family! Her son John and daughter-in-law Becky came from Texas.

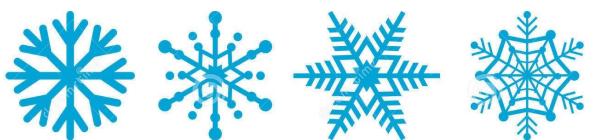
NEWS OF CHURCH MEMBERS



Barb Williams enjoys her new lift chair that the church purchased for her with the help of her caregiver Carrie Watson. Here she is pictured with her son Rob and dog Lucy. We hope this chair helps her with getting up and keeps her safe.



Jeanette Hensley opening a present from her Secret Santa at a holiday party at the Annex.



CELEBRATING NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE LION'S CLUB CASH BASH!



Sharon Heavilin, Pat Farris and Mary Clow



Ron and Mary Clow

CHRISTMAS PARADE



The Gibson City's Lighted Christmas Parade was a huge success and enjoyed by many members of our church. The Gibson City Restoration Committee was serving hot chocolate and hot apple cider in the Loy Building and provided a great backdrop for holiday pictures with all their lovely Christmas trees filling their windows.



Ron and Mary Clow



Sharon Heavilin, Mary Clow and Pat Farris.



Sharon Heavilin with daughter in-law Brittany and granddaughters Harper and Autumn.

As one of the sponsors of this year's Gibson City Lighted Christmas parade, we were assigned the most appropriate float showing baby Jesus being held in God's hands.

THANK YOUS

Dear Mary and Elders: Thank you for the card for the groceries. Thank you for your kindness and compassion. Barb Williams.

Dear Session: You are all special as is the Church I was baptized in. Thank you for the chair. It is sometimes easy to forget that there are nice people out there doing nice things for others. Thank you for your generosity. Love Barb Williams

Dear First Presbyterian Family: Thank you for all your support during my academic journey! I am very excited for my study abroad to South Africa. I will bring back lots of stories and photos. Anneliese Kerchenfaut.

Dear Friends at the First Presbyterian Church: Thank you for your continued support of GASA. Your recent donation is very much appreciated. We will continue to use your funds and others to keep making improvements throughout Gibson City. With Sincere Thanks, GASA Board of Directors

Dear First Presbyterian Church: We at Telecare are grateful for your support. We honestly could not do this work without you as we operate on donations. You have made a difference. Thank you! The Telecare Board

Dear FPC: Thank you for your donation to the Hanley School Supply Fund. This year we were able to help 186 students in the GCMS School District with your help. We appreciate your continued generosity and support. We could not do it without you. Bonnie Clark

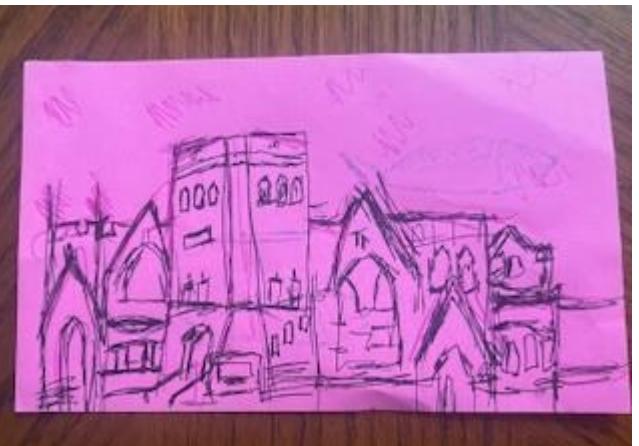
Dear Jean and Presbyterian Members: On behalf of my son Patrick and our entire family, I would like to extend our sincere Thank You for the generous gift you have given. Your thoughtfulness will always be appreciated and remembered. Please continue to pray for God's comfort for Pat, Kaitlin, Ana, and Jack. Please pray that all home nursing services Patrick needs continue to be put in place. Your monetary gift will help in many ways. Thank you for loving my son and for your support.

Blessings, Lori Harper

FPC – Your kind expression of sympathy will always be held in grateful remembrance. The family of Tim Keim.

Dear First Presbyterian Church: I would like to thank you all for the money you gave me back in June. I got super busy with the season and cannot remember if I sent you a letter. It has helped me out so much! I was able to put some in a CD and use some of it to go to Portugal. I hiked the Fisherman Trail. I walked a lot in 10 days and met many people and saw many things. Traveling has given me life and without money, you cannot travel. Ha Ha So, you in a way have given me life!! In more ways too LOL! I also want to thank you for the food gift over the summer. The food was enjoyed and appreciated. I hope everyone is well. I think of everyone often.

With LOVE, Emma Swanson. (See the picture of Emma's sketch of our church that was included with her letter. Such a talented young lady!)



Thank you for the Christmas Gibson Bucks! Phil Noellsch

Corey and I would like to thank the 1st Presbyterian Church for the Random Acts of Kindness Gift. We had just totaled our van, and the money will be used to purchase a new one. I would also like to thank Session for the Christmas Gift. The Gibson Bucks were a blessing in a time when lots of gifts and food were needed to be purchased. I feel very fortunate to have found an amazing employer and community within the Church!! All my love, Elizabeth Cope

THANK YOUS

First Presbyterian Church: Thank you for the Birthday Gibson Bucks. I really appreciate them and the Church family. Pat Farris

First Presbyterian Church: Thank you so much for your generous donation to the GCMS Choral Program. We had such a great time spreading the holiday cheer and singing to the folks at the Annex. They seemed to really enjoy hearing the carols and it helped put them in the Holiday spirit! We also stopped at the Villas of Hollybrook, but unfortunately Val was out when we stopped by. We will go back in January so hopefully we can catch her then. Again, thank you so much for your donation and have a wonderful holiday season. Thank you! Hailey Monreal (Director)

Dear First Presbyterian Church: On behalf of the GAH Auxiliary, thank you for your donation of \$1,000 to support our Love Lights a Tree campaign. Your gift, along with many others, will be used by the Auxiliary to purchase items for the Gibson Area Hospital. It is our way of helping to support and provide excellence in healthcare. Sincerely, Linda Goltz and Linda VanDyken, First Vice Presidents, Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary

Dear Friends of the First Presbyterian Church: The Spirit has carried us across continents and through countless storms, earthquakes, floods, and wildfires. Together with Supporters like you, we have rebuilt schools and homes, restored livelihoods, and helped millions of people begin again. Thank you for believing in the power of community and for helping us build a lasting legacy of resilience, compassion, and hope. Your generosity makes everything we do possible. With heartfelt gratitude – All Hands and Hearts Organization

FPC: Happy Holidays. We would like to thank you for your generosity in making the holidays easier for families and seniors in need. We did our best to provide toys for the children and food assistance for those families. We thank you for your generosity. The American Legion Christmas Basket Committee.

Dear Friends of the Shepherd's Closet: God has richly blessed the Shepherd's Closet, and it is our honor to partner with you as we help others in our community. We appreciate your gifts and prayers for our ministry. Sincerely, The Shepherd's Closet Board of Directors.

FPC: The Gibson Area Food Pantry gratefully acknowledges your recent gift to support the distribution of food for those in need throughout Ford County. Due to local supply line disruptions and economic turmoil with inflation, our local needs have increased. Your generous donation will help us to continue to support the increased need. The Gibson City Food Pantry Board

FPC: This Christmas we celebrate the miracle of God's love made known through his Son, Jesus Christ. May your heart be filled with Peace and your home with Joy. The staff of Kemmerer Village

First Presbyterian Church: Thank you for the generous gift that was sent to me for my work at the Community Garden. The support you have provided for the Community Garden is greatly appreciated by all. Jim Allen

Dear FPC: Thank you so much for the Gibson Bucks for Christmas! They will certainly be used when I go to the grocery store. With Christian love, Meladee

Dear Church Members: Thank you for the Christmas gift. Beverly Nagle

First Presbyterian Church: May the meaning of the season be deeper, its friendship stronger and its hopes brighter as Christmas comes to you this year. Gibson Harvest Fest.

Dear Friends at the First Presbyterian Church: Thank you for your generous donation to the Gibson Area Emergency Food Pantry and for the Prepare the Table event. Pam Gee, Treasurer