



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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(815)433-1045

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

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DECEMBER 2010



*Come, let us
adore him!*

OUR MISSION

TO BE THE
LOVING
COMMUNITY OF
JESUS CHRIST
THAT WILL

WIN

NEW FOLLOWERS
OF CHRIST TO
SAVING FAITH

GROW

ALL FOLLOWERS
TO DEEPER FAITH

GO

INTO THE
WORLD AND
DEMONSTRATE
FAITH

United in JOY & WORSHIP this Advent and Christmas Season

By God's grace it has come to us again! The movement of time and life brings us back again to the season of the year that so many hearts long for, and one that the world needs desperately: Advent and Christmas. Advent prepares us for Christmas and the coming near of Christ our King. Most people understand that Christmas is the time to celebrate the light of Christ's birth in the world - a time to proclaim with joy God's gift. But how can we appreciate the magnitude of the gift and find our hearts coming alive in the season if we have not spent adequate time meditating on the darkness, on our need for a Savior, on our longing for peace? Advent gives us a time to reflect on just how much our world waits with eager longing for the coming of the Messiah. He is our joy and the reason we have joy in the festivities. He is also our hope in the midst of burdens that the world can bring for all of us.

That's why we want to place a special emphasis on being *United in JOY & WORSHIP this Advent and Christmas season*. The Worship Committee and the elders made a very good decision for our two worship services to be united in ONE service of worship every Sunday in December and into the first Sunday of January 2011. This will allow our congregation to be together as much as possible for worship during this holy season of preparing for our newborn and risen King.

(Continued on pg. 3)

Your First Presbyterian Church Family believes in the power of prayer. (See Romans 1:9b). You are hereby given the name of someone we ask you to pray for until you receive your next Presby Press.

You are encouraged to contact that person with a card, note, phone call or personal visit so they know you are praying for them this month. Be assured that your name is being given to another to also pray for you this month.

May God's richest blessings be with you always!

Yours in Christ, Discipleship Committee

Please clip this reminder & post it to remind you to pray for:



Poinsettias will be ordered by Worship committee to decorate the sanctuary. You may designate your flower be given to a shut-in, or you may take it home after the service on Friday, Dec. 24. Cost of the flowers will be \$11.00 each. Please include that with your order form. Place your order form in the offering plate or turn into the office by Nov. 30 or soon after. If you have any questions please call Nathalie Schmidt (433-0175).

Name _____

 Check# _____
 Cash _____
 Number of flowers
 desired _____

Please CIRCLE AND FILL IN DESIGNATION

In Honor
 of _____

In Memory
 of _____

I would like my flower to go:

To a shut-
 in _____

I will pick up my
 flower _____

Pastor
John W. Walker
 jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org

Church Secretary
Dianne Jamison
 fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org

Treasurer
Betty Angus

**Westminster
 Choir Director**
Lloyd Chapman
 Lloyd@udnet.net

Organist
Diane Chapman

Accompanist
Gail Cross

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Note:
*All articles for publication
 are due at 9AM on the fourth
 Monday of the month.*

***Our Elders are
committed
to serving.***

Nathalie Schmidt
(Worship)
433-0175

Lori Trolinger
(Discipleship)
795-6791

Mark Turek
(Trustee)
431-0093

Steve Burriss
(Trustee)
481-9830

Cindy Arjes
(Mission)
915-1159

Mary Lou Smith
(Discipleship)
795-5925

Steve Burriss
(Clerk of Session/Trustee)
481-9830

Jim Keely
(Administration & Personnel)
433-0868

Bruce Smith
(Deacon)
795-5925

Dave Farrell
(Worship)
252-2351

Dick Sellars
(Trustee)
434-7633

Jackie Bean
(Fellowship & Outreach)
434-3380

Diane Farrell
(Fellowship & Outreach)
434-2774

Dan Mestelle
(Administration)
434-2318

(Continued from pg. 1)

Please note the *United in JOY & WORSHIP* schedule on this page so we can all fill the pews together. Make note that our special Christmas music Sunday on December 19 will have ONE worship service at 11:00 a.m., which will differ from the 10:00 a.m. ONE worship service every other week in December and January 2.

May we all enter worship united in our expectation of the coming mystery of God's holy gift. As the darkness surrounds us, we wait for the light of Christ. Let us wait and celebrate together during these special times each Sunday and on Christmas Eve.

Be sure to invite someone to join you in worship at FPC this joyous season!
Pastor John Walker

United in JOY & WORSHIP:
ONE Worship Service Schedule for Dec 5 – Jan 2

December 5 – Worship Together at 10:00 a.m. with Communion

December 12 – Worship Together at 10:00 a.m.

December 19 – Worship Together & Christmas Music at 11:00 a.m.
(Children's bell & voice choirs, Westminster & Bell
Choirs, Music Team)

December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship at 7:00 p.m.

December 26 – Worship Together at 10:00 a.m.

January 2 – Worship Together at 10:00 a.m. with Communion

How will ONE worship service December 5 – January 2 impact Education & Fellowship time?

- The Confirmation Class will meet on December 5 & 12 only at 8:45 a.m.
- Kids' Bible ZONE will meet on December 5 & 12 only at 9:00 a.m.
- On December 19 ZONE will host a birthday party for Jesus during fellowship time at 10:00 a.m. (Worship following at 11:00 a.m.)
- Junior High and Senior High classes will meet on Dec. 5, 12 & 26 at 9:00 a.m. On Dec. 19 they will meet at 10:00 a.m.
- Jim Davey's class will meet on Dec. 5, 12 & 26 at 11:00 a.m. On Dec. 19 they will meet at 10:00 a.m.



Session News

November 2010

Session held its regular monthly meeting on November 16, 2010.

Pastor John said that the next Young Life meeting will be Tuesday November 30 at 9:30 AM in the First Presbyterian Church Library. Anyone interested in a future Youth Ministry Program is encouraged to attend. Eight area churches have been attending these meetings. Young Life is a nationwide organization for Youth ministries.

The church membership rolls were reviewed. It was decided that 12 members will be moved to the Inactive status. It was decided that 3 people currently on the Inactive status will be removed from the church rolls. A total of 9 deceased members were removed from the active membership. In total there will be 24 members leaving the active membership roll, with 10 new members being added. In 2010 we showed 201 active members. For 2011 there will be 187 active members.

For December, the Sunday worship services will be:

Sunday Dec. 5 – One service only at 10:00 AM ; Sunday Dec. 12 – One service only at 10:00 AM;
Sunday Dec.19 – One service only at 11:00 AM; Sunday Dec. 26 – One service only at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully Submitted, Steve Burris, Clerk

What is the Christmas Joy Offering?

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of the four special offerings designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need. The receipts from the Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to Racial Ethnic and Women's Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

So exactly where is the Offering used?

The Board of Pensions: The Christmas Joy Offering recognizes the faithfulness of current and retired church workers by providing funds to help them through difficult times. To help retired church workers and their surviving spouses, the board offers Income Supplements to raise incomes to a level where retirees can continue to maintain their independence.

Presbyterian racial ethnic schools and colleges: Christmas Joy Offering funds provide scholarships to deserving students as well as help with basic operating costs. This funding enables the students to discover and pursue their Professional goals.

During the month of December inserts will be placed in the bulletins every week. These inserts will explain more about what the Christmas Joy Offering is supporting.

Christmas Joy Offering envelopes will be put in the pew racks for your use during the month of December.

May the gifts we share bring joy to others as our witness to the love made human in your Son, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.



ZONE

December 5, at 9:00 a.m., we will be having another special ZONE event.

Decorating Christmas cookies! There will be all different kinds of sugar cookie shapes to decorate with icing, sprinkles and more! The kids will then package up their cookies and give to someone they love - and, of course, sneak in some bites of their own! Hope all our ZONE and Jr High-aged kids can come and participate in this fun activity!!

2nd Annual "Pick-a-Gift" Event on December 12. We are looking for new or gently used donations of things for moms, dads, brothers, and sisters, plus gift bags with tissue paper for wrapping. We have bins set up in Scott Hall where you can drop off these donations anytime between now and December 9. The kids had such a great time last year picking out gifts for the people in their family and we're excited to offer this to them again. If you have any questions please contact either Mary Lou Smith or Lori Trolinger for more information.

December 19, everyone is invited to a Birthday Party for Jesus, during fellowship time at 10:00 a.m. in Scott Hall. ZONE will not meet except for Children's Choir practice immediately following the Birthday Party. We will have ONE worship service that Sunday at 11:00 a.m. (Christmas Music Sunday).

ZONE will not meet on December 26 and January 2. Join us again on January 9!

Children's Christmas Choir and Bell Choir:

Practices for the Children's Choir will be on Dec. 5 & 12 during the ZONE hour at 9:00 a.m. and again on Dec. 19 at 10:30 a.m. right after the Birthday Party for Jesus. Children's Bell Choir practice will be on Saturdays December 4, 11 & 18 at 9 a.m. in Scott Hall.

Children's Church

Children's Church will not meet on Dec. 19, 26 & Jan. 2. Join us again on Jan. 9!

The Symbolism of our Sanctuary Chrismon Tree

The tree in our sanctuary was the idea of the Inner Circle. Over 10 years ago, several ladies gathered in homes to make the gold and white ornaments that decorate our tree. A few more symbols of Christ have been added along the way.

The symbols on the tree are from Christian history and refer to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. They tell the story of God's plan for our salvation that, through faith in Jesus Christ, we might all be restored to the Father in a community of love.

The cross is, of course, always a reminder of our Lord's saving work of redeeming mankind through his sacrifice for our sins, thereby bringing forgiveness and salvation. Different forms of the cross may point to various aspects of our Christ's life and work.

Monograms, letters and words are in Greek letters. Originally much of the New Testament was written in Greek because many of the first missionary churches were Greek.

There are also different symbols for our Lord and God including the following: triangle, circle, crown and fish.

There are various combinations of these monograms, symbols, and crosses on our tree. All of the Chrismons are in white and gold to symbolize the purity and perfection, the majesty and glory, of the Son of God.

May these symbols continually remind you of God's greatest gift to us all, Jesus Christ!

BARRY'S BLESSINGS

Now that Thanksgiving and November has concluded, we must not forget to continue thanking God for our blessings.

This month we need to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Let us pray for His peace now and always- - -

His Peace

by Barb McDowell

You may have a burden,
You may have a care.
You may find your troubles
Are too much to bear.

But there is a peace
Beyond understanding;
Not as the world knows,
But within your commanding.
The LORD said, "My peace
I will give unto you.

Receive Me in faith, that's all
You need to do.

Let your heart not be troubled,
Let it not be afraid.

The peace I give you will never fade away."

John 14:27

Merry Christmas and God bless! Shalom

Barry Cohen

WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

PADS Shelter

Volunteers are always needed but there are also supply needs that we can help with:

powdered drink mix	travel size:	toilet bowl cleaner	gift certificates from:
coffee & creamer	soap	garbage bags (39 gal)	Wendy's
dry cereal	shampoo	laundry detergent	McDonalds
coffee cups	conditioner	vinegar	Wal-Mart
paper plates	solid deodorant	bleach	Burger King
napkins	toothpaste	dryer sheets	Handi Food
toilet paper	combs	conditioner	Kroger
paper towels	brushes	assorted socks & underwear	

Prayer Shawls: Our Prayer Shawl Ministry is still going strong.

Do you know someone who could use a hug from God (who doesn't)? Please call us so that we may provide a Prayer Shawl for you to give that "someone" who needs God's hug.

Jackie Bean 434-3380 Karen Cohen 433-4308

Why not join a small group? At FPC small groups are important. Why? Because few experiences encourage and build our faith more than small groups. Small groups teach us how to better know, understand and apply God's word in daily life. They also become a place of good friendship and caring. Want to join a small group? It's easy! Just talk to Pastor John or one of the small group leaders listed below:

Lloyd & Diane Chapman (Sun. AM): 433-0368
 Mike & Diane Farrell (Sun. PM): 434-2774
 Chris Yepsen (1st Sun. PM monthly): 488-0279
 Betsy Feagans (Mon. PM): 433-5480
 Carol Engberg/Women (Mon. PM): 434-0653
 Jan & Linda Lindeman (Wed. PM): 431-9904

John Walker/Men (Thurs. AM): 434-1045
 Helen Tammen (Thurs. AM): 434-3860
 Lisa Mestelle/Women-Beth Moore Bible Study
 (Thurs. PM): 434-2318
 Kim Willis/Couples (Fri. PM): 228-7371
 Jim Keely/Men (Sat. AM): 433-0868

Handy Food Receipts

Please save your receipts and bring them to church. We can earn 1% of the receipts totals for our church! Boxes will be in Scott Hall and on the table by the church offices.



Take the time to check out our growing website!!
Just go to www.ottawafirstpres.org and enjoy this work in progress!
If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Pastor John or Dianne Jamison and we will pass on the information.

WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE cont.

Angel Food Ministries Christmas Boxes

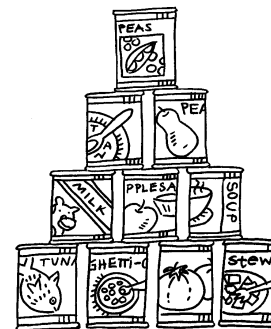
are now available for delivery during December Distribution.

These boxes are designed to provide a complete Holiday dinner for 6-8 people for only \$36! Please consider ordering a box for a family you may know in need of an uplifting gift, or donate it to a family through A Servant's Heart. Additional order forms are available at the church office. **Orders are due by Dec. 8.**

angelfood
MINISTRIES

Freezin' For A Reezin'!

Mark **December 17** on your calendar and help support the Ottawa Food Pantry by participating in the annual "Freezin for a Reezin". The goal is to fill a semi-truck to the brim with food. You can help by collecting non-perishable food items for the pantry. On Dec. 17th, pack your food up, round up your friends, family and co-workers, and meet at Handy Foods parking lot, where WCMY radio will be broadcasting live, and help fill the truck. Local group, Fishsticks and Milk will also be participating at the event this year. Volunteers and sponsors are also needed for the event. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Kris Michaels or Karen Rhodes, Co-Chairs, at 434-6050.

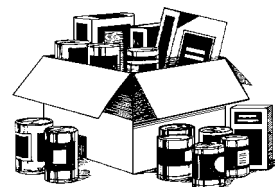


FOOD DRIVE

Ottawa Community Food Basket:

Donations for the Food Basket for the month of December will be **baking supplies**. Let's fill the barrels at the entrances to our sanctuary and see if we can do even more to share our gifts with the less fortunate in our community.

Monetary donations may also be given; just be sure to designate that it is for the Food Basket.



PADS Shelter

Have you ever had to sleep out in the cold, harsh weather?

Ottawa is blessed to have the PADS shelter to help people who have no place to sleep at night in the cold weather! But they need volunteers!!

First Presbyterian Church volunteers on the second Saturday evening of each month from October 1 to the end of April. That amounts to only 7 nights! (Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 11, Jan. 8, Feb. 12, Mar. 12, Apr. 9) We need people from our church family to volunteer to give 4 or 5 hours of their time, **once** or more to help. The times are **7:00 p.m. to 11 p.m., 11 p.m. to 4 a.m., and 4 a.m. to 9 a.m.** We would need only 36 people over the 7 month time. You would be there once for 4 or 5 hrs. and be done! **Beginning this year there will also be a 2 hr. shift for volunteers: 5-7 p.m.** Please let Dianne know right away if you can help. Over the last couple years it has come to be only a handful of people who volunteer and they have been willing to do it each month. Please help us to keep this mission going! **(Please note new shift times.)**

Volunteer, just once!!!

Contact Dianne Jamison (433-1045).



Dear FPC Family,

Greetings from El Peten, Guatemala! We feel like you all are right here with the team and us! You all are the "GREATEST!" You also all live "the Living to Give Principle!" We are so blessed you are our family!



We thank all the women who donated material for aprons. We thank all the women who sewed aprons to bless these precious women in the village and we thank everyone who donated financial blessings for more "Purpose Driven Life" books for the women's Bible studies. We also thank everyone who bought "sweet corn." We also thank everyone for all the donations for the projects!

We are so grateful for our church family! We love you all so much! Thank you for helping the team members raise the support needed for all the projects they'll be doing with the San Pedro village! Also thank you for all the donated eye glasses—what a huge blessing!

We have been so blessed to have our FPC family coming to minister and share the love of Jesus for 6 yrs. now! What a blessing for the teams to share their lives with the Guatemalans!

We send our love, prayers and blessings to all!

Serving Jesus Joyfully,
Craig & Peggy Harvey

Kum Join Us

will again be sponsoring a Mitten Tree for the Salvation Army. Start gathering mittens, scarves & hats that you can place on the tree. It will be set up in Scott Hall and all donations will be delivered to the Salvation Army close to Christmas time. This is a good chance to have your children help pick out mittens and enjoy putting them on the tree.



Saturday Morning Men's Prayer Group Meetings:

Jim Keely, leader

Saturday, **Dec. 4** at 6:30 a.m. is breakfast at First Presbyterian Church, 114 E. Jefferson St., Ottawa, and the paintings will be erected in Washington Park at 8:00 a.m. for the Christmas season in celebration of Christ's birth.

Saturday, **Jan. 8** at 6:30 a.m. is breakfast at First Presbyterian Church to celebrate the New Year and to take down the paintings at 8:00 a.m. in Washington Park.

Please keep all of these gatherings in your prayers and continue to pray for the renewal and revival of our community. Meditate on Psalm 51 as we enter the autumn season.

If you have any questions, please contact Jim Keely (433-0868).

Ladies Nite Out

Tuesday, December 7, 6:00 p.m., at
China Inn

Please contact Carol Engberg (434-0653)
for info & reservations.

All women are invited for the fun!!
Bring an extra \$1 and maybe win a free meal!

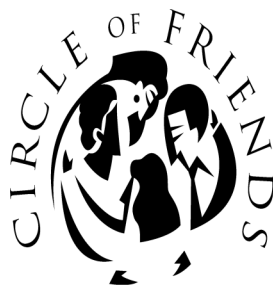
KUM JOIN US

Sunday, December 5,
12:30 p.m.
at the hospital cafeteria.

Everyone is welcome!

We are taking a break.

Watch the newsletter
for when we
will join together
again!

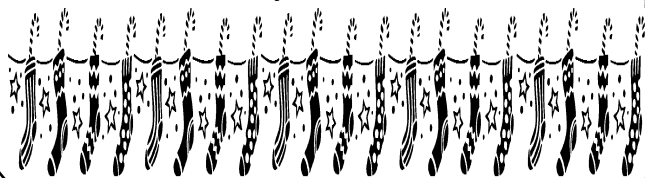


ELLIE'S JEWELS

Christmas time isn't too far off!!

If you have started your shopping or would
like too, please join Ruth Ann Stephen at
Jeremiah Joe's in Ottawa,
December 18
from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

She will be selling her special jewelry
creations! You will have much to choose
from that will make great gifts or stocking
stuffers for all the special women & girls
in your life!!



FOOD & FELLOWSHIP



DECEMBER

Aspen Stuedemann	1
Sarah Bybee	3
Ben Dial, Bruce Smith	6
Martha Whitcomb	9
Harriet Morehead	10
Helen Tammen	11
Gabriella Shea	13
Kevin O'Connor	17
Betty Angus, Graysen Bormet, Tim Arwood	18
Jaclyn Shea	19
Morgan Freeburg	20
Holly Hess	22
Jax & Marek Zarwell	24
Anna Schmidt	26
Willow Stuedemann	27
Olivia Trolinger	28

JANUARY

Colin Voigt, Joe Shea	1
Dawn Blankenship	2
Jodi Mestelle, Keith Stevenson	5
Michael Hess	6
Dick Sellars	7
Marilyn Dudgeon	8
Karen Felty	9
Betty Ehret	12
Dawn Hess	13
Jim Davey	16
Kevin Lindeman	20
Cathy Peters	21
Lois Nawrocki	22
Kerry Alonge	23
Earl Gerding, Nathalie Schmidt	26
Debbie Walker, Andrew Felty, Dana Snook	27
Lewis Bartlett, Steve Bybee	29
Winona Bartlett	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>First Sunday</u> 9:00 am Education & prayer 10:00 am ONE Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship <u>All Other Sundays</u> 8:00 am prayer 9:00 am Traditional Service 10:15 am Education & Fellowship 11:15 am Contemporary Service			<u>Every Wed.</u> 9 am Prayer library 6:30 pm RIOT 7:00 pm Choir Practice	<u>Every Thurs.</u> 6:15 am Men's Small Group 9:30 am Seniors Small Group		
			1 7 pm Choir Practice	2	3	4 6:30 am Men's Community Prayer Breakfast at: FPC 8 am Put paintings up in Washington Park
5 9 am Education 10 am ONE Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship 12:30 pm Kum Join Us	6	7 5:30 pm Prayer Ministry Team meeting 6:00 pm Ladies Nite Out	8 Angel Food Christmas Box Orders due 7 on Choir Practice	9 Angel Food Orders Due	10 7 pm Soul Shine & Friends Christmas Concert for the Salvation Army	11 7 pm Volunteers at PADS Shelter
12 9 am Education 10 am ONE Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship	13	14 6 pm Cub Scout Committee Mtg. 7 pm Session Committee Mtgs	15 7 pm Choir Practice	16	17	18 10:30 to 11 am Angel Food Distribution
19 10 am Education & Fellowship 11 A.M. ONE WORSHIP SERVICE	20	21 7 pm Session	22 OFFICE CLOSED 7 pm Choir Practice	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!
26 9 am Education 10 am ONE Worship Service 11:15 am Fellowship	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28 NEWSLETTER ARTICLES DUE	29	30	31	



DECEMBER 2010

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

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Return Service Requested

DECEMBER WORSHIP: UNITED IN ADVENT

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

We will be worshipping together at ONE worship service
each Sunday through January 2.

Invite someone to join you in worship this Advent & Christmas!

- Dec. 5 10 a.m. **ONE service with communion**
- Dec. 12 10 a.m. **ONE service**
- Dec. 19 11 a.m. **ONE service—Christmas Music Sunday**
- Dec. 26 10 a.m. **ONE service**
- Jan. 2 10 a.m. **ONE service with communion**

Don't miss the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 p.m. Invite others to join you!

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