



# PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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FEBRUARY 2015



**KEEP  
CHRIST  
AND  
CARRY  
ON**

## 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

### *From the Pastor's Desk*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On Sunday, February 15, we will close our preaching series, *KEEP CHRIST AND CARRY ON*, from Paul's letter to the Colossians. I want to finish that Sunday with a special invitation to you, which you will see on the next page as you continue reading my pastor's letter.

I also want you to know that the season of **Lent** begins this month with **Ash Wednesday** worship at 7:00 p.m. on February 18, and the first Sunday of Lent on February 22. I am looking forward to deepening our faith together in this holy season by examining *The Cries of the Heart from the Cross*, a sermon series that will take the position of several key players from the gospels in the drama that unfolded in Christ's Passion. I am praying that God will draw us all more deeply into the wonder of his love for us, his mercy for our weakness and the power that he gives us through Christ to live our lives every day full of hope and confidence in the victory Christ alone has accomplished for us in his death and resurrection. Let us all gather for worship of our faithful, obedient Savior and begin this 7-week journey of faith with him to his cross on **Ash Wednesday**.

With love and joy for you in this journey,  
Pastor John Walker

(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:**

**Please pick up a name to pray for from the basket  
when you pick up a newsletter.**

Join a Small Group



**A small group will be meeting on Thursday evenings  
at 7:00 p.m. beginning January 29**

at the home of Linda Lindeman , 639 Epworth Place.  
Call Linda, 431-9904 or Diane Kennedy, 870-740-0442.  
We will be reviewing "The Lessons from a Sheep Dog"  
by Phillip Keller.

We are looking for more books and more members for our small  
group. Please join us, especially during the Lenten Season, while  
we focus on coming closer of Jesus. Hope to see you there.

**New Beth Moore Bible Study**

**"Here and Now...There and Then" a study of Revelations**

beginning on Thursday, March 5  
in the church library at 7:00 p.m.  
Books can be purchased at [lifeway.com](http://lifeway.com)  
For more info call, Lisa Mestelle 252-7462.

**"Thru the Ups and Downs"**

Thru the ups and downs,  
God is always around.  
He sees everything,  
And knows what your thinking.  
God puts people in our path  
When we need them there.  
He is a merciful God  
And he truly cares  
When you're up or when you're down,  
Look to God, he is around.  
Pray silently or out loud by yourself  
Or in a crowd.  
Be diligent reading the Bible;  
God's word will be heard.

Ruth Stephan

**Pastor**

*John W. Walker*  
[jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org)

**Church Secretary**

*Dianne Jamison*  
[fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org)

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*Diane Chapman*

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

**Diane Kennedy**  
(Worship)  
870-740-0442

**Dave Farrell**  
(Worship)  
252-2351

**Lori Trolinger**  
(Discipleship)  
795-6791

**Lisa Mestelle**  
(Discipleship)  
252-7462

**Brad Angus**  
(Trustee)  
433-2946

**Steve Kennedy**  
(Trustee)  
343-6731

**Dan Duggan**  
(Trustee)  
431-9168

**Dianne Jamison**  
(Mission)  
343-3673

**Jim Keely**  
(Administration)  
433-0868

**Fran Hess**  
(Administration)  
433-4237

**Kerry Gerding**  
(Fellowship & Outreach)  
434-4123

**Joy Huebner**  
(Deacon)  
433-5477

**Diane Farrell**  
(Clerk of Session)  
434-2774

(continued from pg. 1)

***KEEP CHRIST AND CARRY ON***  
***An Invitation from Pastor John for February 15 Worship***

***Never give in!*** Those famous words were spoken by Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, in a speech given on October 29, 1941, to the student body at the Harrow School in northwest London where Mr. Churchill had attended as a boy. It was a time when Churchill, England and all the world were having to stare-down an expanding, evil Nazi regime in Germany. It was a dark time. It was a time to cry out for God's goodness and righteousness to overwhelm the arrogance of hell and the wicked plans of human hearts. It was a time for courage. It was a time for great faith.

Consider some of what Mr. Churchill said that day as he described the course of the battle they were facing:

*"Appearances are often very deceptive...you cannot tell from appearances how things will go. Sometimes imagination makes things out far worse than they are; yet without imagination not much can be done. Those people who are imaginative see many more dangers than perhaps exist; certainly many more than will happen; but then they must also pray to be given that extra courage to carry this far-reaching imagination. But for everyone, surely, what we have gone through in this period...this is the lesson: Never give in. Never give in. Never, never, never – in nothing great or small, large or petty – never give in, except to convictions of honor and good sense...Never yield to the apparently overwhelming might of the enemy."*

Those are powerful and meaningful words for us to recall today. They are words to embolden our courage and faith as we live in a world that hell still wants to devour (remember John 10:10?) and human hearts want to take by self-willed force. They are words for us to consider as we seek to ***KEEP CHRIST AND CARRY ON***. This is the every-day calling of the Christian. In living. In marriage. In friendship. In relationship and all our associations. In work and classroom. In decision-making. In the quiet and in the rage. In facing our difficult selves and working through our trying circumstances with others. We are learning in every moment – *or being offer by God an opportunity to learn* – what it looks like to *"clothe ourselves with Christ,"* as Paul says.

I pray for you all every week, and my heart's desire is to proclaim to you faithfully the word of God that equips us to ***KEEP CHRIST AND CARRY ON***. I hope you have been learning, as I have, a bit more of what this looks like through Paul's great letter to the Colossians.

I love thinking about the many of you and others God has given me whose example in Christ-like living from day-to-day has been a great help to lead me in my faith. So here's what I'd like to invite you to help me do on Sunday, February 15: ***Would you please come to worship, February 15, thinking about at least one person in your life who has faithfully demonstrated to you what it means to KEEP CHRIST AND CARRY ON? What did that person do to show you a life of faithfulness to Christ that impacted you?***

Please bring that treasure with you that day, and let's see together what God might show us.

Pastor John Walker

## STEWARDSHIP

We must recognize God's blessings in our own community. We are challenged to celebrate our strengths as a church. Focusing on our strengths allows hope to be a part of the conversation. These gifts help us fulfill our purpose, our mission, and our vision.

Recognize that God has blessed you. God did not bless you for you to keep that blessing to yourself. Share it with others! Be a blessing to others! Our church has an opportunity to be a blessing to others today more than ever.

Our clearly stated Mission Statement should motivate us. Taking measurable steps to achieve that Mission Statement will change people's lives.

Cultivating stewards is a year-round ministry that will change people's lives to become as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Our Mission Statement: To Be The Loving Community of Jesus Christ That Will, Win new followers of Christ to saving faith, Grow all followers to deeper faith, and Go into the world and demonstrate faith.

## MISSION

Our Mission Committee would like to tell you of a couple opportunities to **"Go"** that we have planned so far this coming year:

We will be working on our **3rd Annual A OK Sunday** coming up in May. You have responded in a great way the last 2 years and we want to continue going out into our community. We are just in the planning stages, so if you have any ideas of projects that we may work on, please let one of us know. (Dianne Jamison, Betsy Feagans, Cindy Arjes, Debbie Damron)

Next, possibly in July, we are planning another **mission trip to Uganda**. We always have several projects to work on while we are there and, best of all, we get to visit many families in their homes and work with the precious children at Glory Primary School. It is truly a life-changing trip. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you for this trip. Let Dianne Jamison or Debbie Damron know if you are interested and we will get more information to you.

More to come!

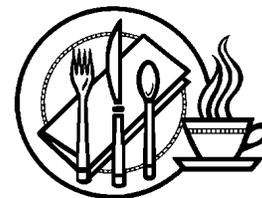
## WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

### Wednesday Prayer Team:

Please come pray each Wednesday, 9:30 am—10 am, in the church library with a team of dedicated pray-ers lifting praises and concerns to the LORD for members of our church family, the greater Ottawa community, our missionaries and prayers for our nation and the world.

### Free Community Meals; 3rd Sunday of every month: LOOKING TO FILL 2015 MONTHS!!

Might God call you to work on the community meal project? On the third Sunday of each month volunteers are needed to do the following: Organize the meal (decide what to make, plan the purchase of food); cook the meal; visit with those eating; clean up. Who can help? Anyone, any age. Are you feeling like you and your friends can be the next ones? Contact Kerry Gerding (434-4123) or Betty Ehret (228-2217) for more information and to sign up.



### Prayer Ministry Team:

Please consider joining this group. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Library, and we would love to add to our group. Please contact any of our current team: Mike & Diane Farrell, Gayle Schmitt, Cindy Arjes, Susan Hayward, or Pastor John Walker.

### 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

**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 contacts listed below:

Mike & Diane Farrell (Sun. PM): 434-2774

John Walker (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. PM monthly): 433-1045

Betsy Feagans (Mon. PM): 433-5480

Jack & Sandy Finnegan (Thurs. AM): 433-5253

Carol Engberg/Women: 433-3465

(Thurs. PM, once a month)

Diane Kennedy (Thurs. PM): 870-740-0442

Lisa Mestelle/Women-Beth Moore Bible Study (Thurs. PM): 434-2318

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.

### Ottawa Community Food Basket:

Donations for the Food Basket for the month of February will be **cereals!** Let's fill the barrels at the entrances to our sanctuary and share our gifts with the less fortunate in our community.



### Sunday Greeters needed:

We need your smiling face to greet newcomers and "oldcomers" at the front door on Sunday mornings. Please contact Chris Keely (433-0868) to pick a Sunday for you and/or your family. This is a great way to contribute to the life of your church.

### The Annual Congregational Meeting

will be held Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2015 @ 11:10 a.m. in Scott Hall for the purpose of:

- (a) Reviewing the 2014 budget;
- (b) Electing of congregational members of the Nominating Committee;
- (c) Receiving annual reports
- (d) Transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

**LADIES' NITE OUT**

Tuesday, February 3, 5:30 p.m. at  
B.A.S.H. in Ottawa

Please contact:  
Debbie Damron (434-3606)  
for info & reservations.

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

(Menus are available to look at in the office.)

**KUM JOIN US**

Meets on Sunday, February 1, 12:30 p.m.  
at the hospital café

All are welcome!

**COMING SOON! Q PLACE  
ARTS OF SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS  
ADULT ED CLASSES!**

We will be having the Q Place Arts of Spiritual  
Conversations starting after the 1st of the new  
year. Watch your bulletin for more details on  
the time and place. Hope to see you there!!

Any questions about the classes? Contact  
Cindy Arjes 815-915-1159

**Secret Sister Tea**

Saturday, February 7 at 2:00 p.m.

We will meet in Scott Hall.

Please note that there are new sheets in  
the Secret Sister basket to complete  
before the 7th.

Any questions, please contact Kerry Gerding  
or Betty Ehret

**FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY**



**FEBRUARY**

Darlene Larabee	1
Cheryl Sellars	5
Nathan Hess	10
Dan Brockman	11
Idalia Stricklin	13
Noah Trolinger, Barb White	14
John Damron	15
LuAnn Atwood	18
Erin Stuedemann	19
Tiffini Thompson	24
Sue Brockman, Jackie Boaz	27
Dianne Jamison	28

**MARCH**

Beverly Boudreau	1
Lisa Smithmeyer	2
Kerry Gerding	5
Nancy Lewis	6
Randy Ehret, Sr.	8
Kathy Gonzalo	13
Darren Bragg	15
John W. Walker	16
Sarah Walker	17
Grant Smithmeyer	21
Ed Grobe, Madeleine Trolinger	22
Matthew Walker	24



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><u>Every Sunday</u></b> 9:00 am Fellowship 9:00 am ZONE 9:00 am Prayer 9:30 Choir Practice 10:00 am WORSHIP 11:15 am Adult Ed.			<b><u>Every Wed.</u></b> 9:30 am Prayer, library  7:00 pm Choir Practice, library	<b><u>Every Thurs.</u></b> 9:30 am Seniors Small Group		<b><u>Every Saturday</u></b> 6:30 am Men's Small Group
1  <b>COMMUNION</b>  12:30 pm Kum Join Us	2	3  5:30 pm Ladies' Nite Out	4	5	6	7  2 pm Secret Sister Tea
8  <b>Annual Congregational                      Meeting                      11:10 a.m.</b>  6 pm LOL4JC	9	10  7 pm Session Committee Mtgs	11	12	13	14
15  12:00 p.m. <b>Community Meal</b>	16  Deadline for Opportunity School early registration	17  7 pm Session	18  7 pm <b>Ash Wednesday                      Worship Service</b>	19	20	21
22  <b>First Sunday of                      Lent</b>  6 pm LOL4JC	23	24	25	26	27	28



# FEBRUARY 2015

**First Presbyterian Church**  
114 East Jefferson Street  
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

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*Ash Wednesday*

**ASH WEDNESDAY  
WORSHIP  
SERVICE**

**February 18,  
7:00 P.M.  
at FPC**



Please join us as we begin the season of Lent.  
Invite others to come with you!

<i>* From the Pastor's Desk</i>	<i>pg. 1</i>	<i>* Win, Grow, Go</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>
<i>* Small Group/Beth Moore/Poem</i>	<i>pg. 2</i>	<i>* Food, Fellowship, &amp; Family</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>
<i>* Keep Christ and Carry On</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>	<i>* December Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 7</i>
<i>* Stewardship/Mission</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>	<i>* Highlight of the Month</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>

*\* Prayer Partners: pg. 1*