



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

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APRIL 2015

**KEEP
CALM
AND
LIVE
LENT**

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: Keeping Company with Jesus

Dear Friends,

As you receive this newsletter we will be approaching our Holy Week journey with Christ to the cross and empty tomb. Please come to worship Christ on the night of his passion on Thursday, April 2, at 7:00 p.m. for our Maundy Thursday service, and then come greet our risen Savior on Easter morning with all the joy that day offers. May we all keep company with Jesus in this awesome season of sorrow that turns to joy when death is undone.

As I write to you my heart is overwhelmed with gratitude for you. On March 22nd in worship you stunned me with your great kindness and generosity. Pastor Appreciation Sunday was a powerful gift and message to me of God's joy over this congregation and all that he is doing in our midst. Debbie and I are deeply thankful for your expressions of love, care and support, and I am so thankful that I get to be your pastor. We especially want to say thank you to Lori Trolinger, Joy Huebner and Nathalie Schmidt who did so much to organize the day's festivities. Thank you to those who led in worship and shared from the heart: Jim Keely, Lisa Mestelle, James Burkey, Noah Trolinger and Betsy Feagans. Thank you to the fantastic kitchen crew who orchestrated the meal, including among many, Kerry Gerding, Betty Ehret and Gayle Schmitt. Thank you to all the children of FPC who made wonderful cards, drew creative pictures and wrote such treasured words to me as their pastor. Thank you to the many who have supported and loved me and Debbie and our kids with your written cards, your personal words and the over-the-top love offering you gave me. We are deeply honored by all you give to us and humbled by your expressions of love. Thank you!

(continued on pg. 3)

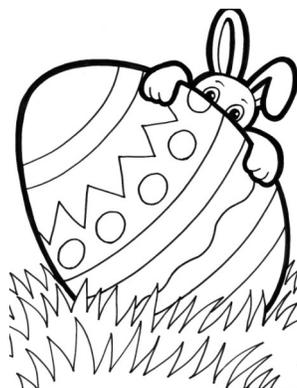
Remember to Pray for One Another!

Your First Presbyterian Church Family believes in the power of prayer. (See Romans 1:9b-10a). You are invited to pray intentionally for one another in the First Presbyterian Church family..

Please pick up a name of someone to pray for from the basket at the back of the sanctuary at the start of each new month.

EASTER EGG HUNT

Hey kids, join us after our Easter Sunday worship service at about 11:15 am for our annual Easter Egg Hunt. All children up to and including 5th grade are invited to meet in the East Room after worship. There you will receive a bag and instructions before heading outside for the fun!



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



**Scholarship applications
will be available from
March 1st - April 12th**

for all full-time college students here at First Pres. We will also have electronic submissions available as well. You can either pick up an application form on the table outside of the church office or email Lori Trolinger at troll@mtco.com to receive a form electronically to fill out and return. Please return all hard copies to the church office by the April 12th deadline.

WATCH FOR THE DATES!

The next session of the Q Place "Arts of Spiritual Conversations" adult ed class will be coming soon.
The topic is "The Art of Loving".

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love." 1 John 4:16-18 (NIV)

Please join us for meaningful conversations about love and how we can learn to better love our fellow men and women. Watch your bulletin for time and place!

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

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Joy Huebner
(Deacon)
433-5477

Diane Farrell
(Clerk of Session)
434-2774

(continued from pg. 1)

I also want to tell you of another exciting opportunity to come with me to the **Holy Land in May 2016**. Many know that I have been there several times, but this is the dream trip I have always wanted to take with the people of this congregation. My friend, Bob Rognlien, leads this trip, and he is the one who first took me to the Holy Land in 1997. His expertise and experience leading smaller groups on spiritual pilgrimage to the land of the Bible ignited my heart and mind. As I came into close contact with the places where the Bible story unfolds, I gained a much deeper understanding of God's word. Bob's teaching, leadership and trip structure make this the best and most intimate of any trip you can find to the Holy Land. He calls this journey ***The Footsteps of Jesus Experience***. It is truly an up-close experience with Jesus that gives people a deeper understanding of the Son of God. It is also a wonderful privilege to share the journey with fellow spiritual pilgrims. I would love to have any who feel led to come to join me and Bob next ***May 21 to June 3, 2016***. Please see the flier announcing this trip on pages 4 & 5. To offer you more information and to help you consider whether this trip is the opportunity for you to go to the Holy Land with your church family, I will be hosting two separate informational meetings to give many details you will need to know and to answer your questions.



**Come find out more about
*The Footsteps of Jesus
Experience 2016*
at these times:**

- **9:00 a.m. on Sunday, April 12, in the church library**
- **5:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19, in the church library**

Let me know if there are any questions you have about the trip that I might answer.

May God bless you with a growing sense of his profound love and purpose in sending Jesus to be our perfect Passover Lamb.

With love in Jesus Christ for you,
Pastor John Walker



THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS EXPERIENCE



A Spiritual Adventure in the Holy Land

The Footsteps of Jesus Experience is a unique two-week journey to the places where Jesus lived, made disciples, built a spiritual family, and fulfilled his mission. We focus on the historically verifiable sites from Jesus' life and the spiritual impact these can have on us personally. The trip begins by exploring the Old Testament roots and the social setting of

the Gospels in and around Jerusalem, Judea, and the Dead Sea. Then we follow the course of Jesus' life from his birth in the city of Bethlehem, to the Sea of Galilee where he called his disciples, to the far north of Israel, and then back to Jerusalem for the climactic conclusion of our journey.

Each day will begin with time for prayer and Scripture-reading based on our itinerary that day.

We will visit the sites with the greatest historical significance that illuminate the biblical account of Jesus' life. At each site we will offer an overview of the history and archeology and then conclude with a time of biblical reflection, sharing, and prayer. Each day we will pause at a meaningful place for worship and teaching. The evenings will alternate between opportunities for worship, processing in small groups, and free time.

The group will be limited to 24 people so we can get to know each other and to facilitate more flexible movement. We will stay in Christian guesthouses within the ancient walled city of Jerusalem and on the peaceful shores of the Sea of Galilee. We visit many sites by foot so participants need to be physically fit and able to walk 4-5 miles a day up hills in warm weather.

Before departure you will have the chance to participate in an eight-session online preparatory course introducing the biblical history and archaeology of the sites we will be visiting. The course includes an extensive handbook with hundreds of maps, plans, charts, and site reconstructions, which will become your reference guide for the trip. This book also includes reflection questions on key Scriptures related to the sites we will be visiting each day and space to do some journaling.

Our trip leader is Bob Rognlien, pastor, teacher, and guide with nearly 30 years' experience. Bob has lived in Jerusalem where he conducted post-graduate studies in the archaeology and sociology of Jesus' life. The trip cost, including meals and expenses is \$2550 per person. The additional airfare expense to Tel Aviv will be coordinated for our group through a travel agent.

This is not a tour, it is a spiritual pilgrimage. Many people who have taken this journey with us over the last 20 years have called it the trip of a lifetime. It is certainly an unforgettable experience that will profoundly shape your reading of the Gospels and your walk with Jesus. Go to www.footsteps-of-jesus-experience.com to learn more. If you are interested in joining us or want more information, please contact John Walker at jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org or (815) 433-1045, ext.4. Space is limited, so if you are feeling led to join us on this spiritual adventure, send a non-refundable deposit check for **\$550 made out to "God Experience"** to John Walker, First Presbyterian Church, 114 E. Jefferson Street, Ottawa, IL 61350.

(See next page for dates and daily itinerary)

The Footsteps of Jesus Experience

With First Presbyterian Church

and Pastor John Walker

May 21-June 3, 2016

www.footsteps-experience.com

Daily Itinerary

Friday, May 20: Depart for Tel Aviv

Sat., May 21: Arrive Tel Aviv PM, stay in Old City of Jerusalem, evening visit to Holy Sepulcher and Western Wall

Sunday, May 22: The World of Jesus, Sadducees and Pharisees: Jerusalem Museum, Temple Mount, Mount of Olives (Abraham and Issac)

Monday, May 23: The World of Jesus, Essenes & Zealots: Wilderness of Judea, Qumran, Masada, Dead Sea (Joseph)

Tuesday, May 24: The Birth of Jesus: Bethlehem, Shepherds' Fields, and Herodium (David)

Wed., May 25: Jesus' Baptism and Temptation: River Jordan, Wadi Kelt, St. George's Monastery

Thurs., May 26: Jesus' Home in Galilee: Nazareth, Sepphoris, Cliffs of Arbel, stay at Sea of Galilee

Friday, May 27: Jesus' Headquarters: Capernaum, ancient Galilee Boat, boat trip on the lake

Sat., May 28: Jesus' Mission Field: Magdala, Tabgha, Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes, Mount of Beatitudes

Sunday, May 29: Jesus' Mission Field: Chorazin, Bethsaida, Kursi, Hippo

Monday, May 30: Jesus' Retreats: Gamla, Caesarea Philippi, Baniyas Waterfalls, return to Jerusalem

Tuesday, May 31: Jesus' Triumphal Entry: Bethany, Lazarus' Tomb, Mt. of Olives, Pater Noster, Dominus Flevit

Wed., June 1: Jesus' Teaching and Healing in Jerusalem: Temple Mount, Pools of Bethesda & Siloam, Hezekiah's Tunnel, return via Herodian Street or Hakeldema and Hinnom Valley

Thursday, June 2: Jesus' Last Supper & Trials: Upper Room, St Peter in Gallicantu, Garden of Gethsemane, Wohl Museum, Palace of Herod, Passover dinner

Friday, June 3: Jesus' Crucifixion & Resurrection: Via Dolorosa, Golgotha, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Easter Service at Herodian Family Tomb, closing dinner, depart Tel Aviv on evening flight

Saturday, June 4: Arrive home!

A REPORT FROM SESSION ON FPC'S DENOMINATIONAL TASK FORCE AN ADULT EDUCATION SERIES

Last fall Session formed a Task Force on Denominational Issues, which was asked to develop recommendations to Session on how they should respond to the actions of General Assembly concerning gay marriage. These recommendations were recently presented to Session. Upon reviewing these recommendations, Session has approved a seven week Adult Education series on Same-Gender Relationships, The Bible, and the Church.

This series of videotaped lectures was originally presented at Whitworth Community Presbyterian Church in Spokane WA. These classes will present both the cases for and against same-sex marriage. They will also give us the opportunity to hear the experiences of a partnered gay Christian, as well as the experiences of a celibate gay Christian who holds a traditional view of Christian marriage. We are not offering these classes with the intent to persuade or to change anyone's mind. We offer them in the hope that they will help each of us better understand the perspective of those who hold views that are contrary to our own, so that we can engage one another in respectful conversation that acknowledges our differences, honors our common Mission, and preserves the peace and unity of our precious church family.

The schedule for this series, and the topic for each class, is as follows:

- **April 19th** - Communicating Across Differences
- **April 26th** - Blessings and Challenges in the Presbyterian Church: Where We Are and How We Got Here
- **May 10th** - What the Bible says about Same Gender Relationships - A progressive's perspective
- **May 17th** - Same Sex Practices, the Bible, and the PCUSA - A traditionalist's perspective
- **May 31st** - Perspectives of a Gay Christian
- **June 7th** - Washed and Waiting: Reflections on Christian Faithfulness and Homosexuality
- **June 14th** - What Unites Us? Reflecting on our Common Mission and Beliefs

Each class will begin after worship at 11:30 a.m. in the church library, and will last approximately one hour. Child care will be provided. We encourage everyone to attend each of these sessions.

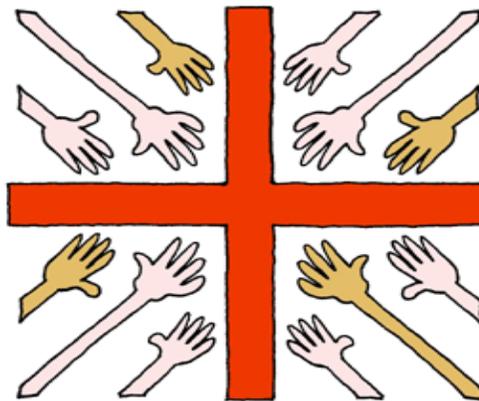
3rd Annual A OK Sunday, May 3!!

The Mission Committee is excited to be preparing for this special Sunday, out of our pews, serving our community. So far we have **8** opportunities to Go!

1. Friendship House needs help staining their picnic shelters.
2. Heritage Woods would like some flowers planted & for the choir to entertain.
3. Under His Wings has several cleaning projects inside and out.
4. Community Food Basket needs their truck cleaned inside & out.
5. The ZONE kids will be going to the Fire Station to thank the firemen & policemen.
6. There will be a couple people going with Pastor John to serve communion to our shut-ins.
7. We have projects at FPC: Opportunity School would like the play equipment in the East Room cleaned and we are hoping to clean all the folding chairs used in Scott Hall.
8. Youth Service Bureau would like outside windows washed, flowers planted and other small outside things done.

Fellowship & Outreach Committee will serve a light breakfast and lunch!

Breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m. so that people going out may leave by 7:45 to start working at 8:00. Some projects will start at 9:00 a.m. and everyone is to be back at 11:00 a.m. for a time of reflection and communion as well as lunch!



Many hands make Light work lighter

June 16-July 1, 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. If you would like to donate for Mama Kits (\$10), AFRIPads (\$15), school fees (\$90), the medical center or any amount for us to share with needy families, please contact Dianne Jamison, Debbie Damron, Betsy Feagans or Cindy Arjes.
See page 6!!

SPECIAL DONATIONS FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN KAHONDO, UGANDA

As an outreach of the Amagara Ga'Boona Medical Center, we want to help provide personal feminine products to the girls of Kahondo, Uganda.

We have located a company in Uganda that produces a reusable cotton cloth pad called AFRIPad. When properly cleaned these pads can last up to one year and give the recipient a safe way to manage her personal hygiene as well as provide dignity and the opportunity to stay in school EVERYDAY! The AFRIPad kits (3 pads, holder and case) are **\$15.00** and our goal is to provide **100 kits** which we will deliver when we go to Uganda this summer.

Your donation will help Ugandan school girls, in the Kahondo area, go to school every day and have a complete education. You will also be helping the women who produce the AFRIPads have an income to support their families.

Please contact Dianne Jamison, Debbie Damron, Betsy Feagans or Cindy Arjes for more information. Donations can be made to FPC with "Uganda kits" in the memo line.

The Mission Committee thanks you for your continued support!



They are excited to go to school!

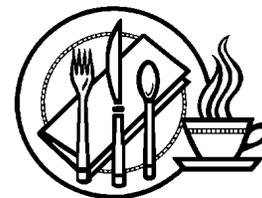
WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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 August, September & December!!**

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 (1st 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 April will be **tomato products!** 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.

LADIES' NITE OUT

Tuesday, April 7, 6:00 p.m. at

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!

KUM JOIN US

Will not meet this month.

HAPPY EASTER!

EASTER

ATONEMENT

Garden **cross** tomb

Savior  Remember

LOVE

He Lives

CHRIST

RESURRECTION

FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY



APRIL

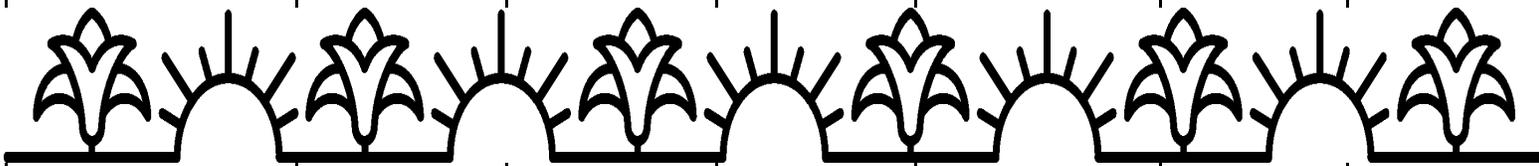
Rob McGrath	1
Shawn Yepsen	3
Sue Koestler	3
Mike Farrell	8
Lyle Robinson	8
Diane Farrell	11
Brian Huebner	12
John Roark	13
Jade Prebianca (Boaz)	16
Karla Armstrong	18
Caroline Schmidt	18
Tyler Angus	19
Brad Angus	20
Hannah Duggan	21
Loyce Beyer	22
Danielle Ehret	23
Pete Trolinger	27
Joy Nevins	30

MAY

Steve Burriss	7
Charlien Haralson	8
Lisa Mestelle	10
Patrick Bost	11
Steve West	13
Don Morehead	15
James Burkey	15
Byron Long	16
Jackie Stevenson	19
John Bean	23
Betsy Feagans	25
Danica Boaz	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday</u> 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.			<u>Every Wed.</u> 9:30 am Prayer, library 7:00 pm Choir Practice, library	<u>Every Thurs.</u> 9:30 am Seniors Small Group 7 pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service		<u>Every Satur- day</u> 6:30 am Men's Small Group
			1	2	3	4
5 RESURRECTION SUNDAY 8:30 am Easter Breakfast 11:15 Easter Egg Hunt	6	7 6 pm Ladies' Nite Out	8	9	10	14
12 9 am Footsteps of Jesus Information mtg. 6 pm LOL4JC	13	14 7 pm Session Committee Mtgs	15	16	17	18
19 11:30 am Adult Ed. Series Class 12:00 pm Community Meal 5 pm Footsteps of Jesus Information mtg.	20	21 7 pm Session	22	23	24	25
26 NEW MEMBERS JOIN FPC! 11:30 am Adult Ed. Series Class 6 pm LOL4JC	27	28	29	30		

A OK SUNDAY, MAY 3!



APRIL

2015

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

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HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

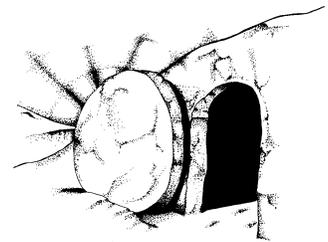
April 2, 7:00 p.m.—Maundy Thursday Worship with the Lord's Last Supper

April 5, **RESURRECTION DAY!**

8:30 a.m.—Easter Continental Breakfast

10:00 a.m.—Easter Worship Service

11:15 a.m.—Easter Egg Hunt



*“As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven,
Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.”— Luke 9:51*

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