



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

114 EAST JEFFERSON STREET † OTTAWA, IL 61350
(815)433-1045

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

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MAY 2015



*"Honor ... your
mother, as
the LORD
your God
has
commanded
you ..."*

Deuteronomy 5:16

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 STUDY

Dear friends,

Is God important to you? Do you think you are important to God? How much of your life is formed and shaped by God? Would you say that you have a "longing" for God in your life, or would you be fine to shift your focus and energy of faith somewhere else? I imagine most from FPC who read these words would say, "Yes! I want to have a life with God in it! At the center!" If that's you, would someone who knows you agree that God is central in your life? Would they describe you as one who has a longing for God? Further, would you say you know God longs or you?

On May 10th we will begin a summer sermon series: *Longing for God Longing for Us*. Each week we will consider an Old or New Testament person or historical figure whose life demonstrates a unique longing for God, and for whom God longs. We will hear a variety of personal stories from many different times and places of real people who, through different means revealed hearts, however imperfect, that longed for God and who found out how much God longed for them. I am excited to enter a season together where we realize how God longs for us and how we can be those who long, in turn, for God.

On another important topic, I want to let you know that your elders are continuing their good work to address concerns you may have about the national denomination First Presbyterian is a part of, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Specific concern for many of us (though not all) is the action of the 221st General Assembly of the PC(USA) last June to change the definition of marriage from the biblical-historical model of a man and a woman to include same gender marriage. Briefly, you will recall that we began conversations about these matters from the week the decision was made at the 221st G.A. in late June. When I returned from my July vacation, I preached an August sermon series to help us all think biblically and theologically on the nature of marriage, sexuality and the church's witness. We had an all-church family meeting on August 31st to openly share our

(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.**

Thank you so much for all the many phone calls and visits. They really brightened my day. I also want to thank everyone for all the thoughtful and beautiful cards. It truly lifted my spirits to receive them. And words can't express how grateful we are for all the wonderful meals we received. God bless the cooks that prepared them and brought them. It was wonderful to receive them. We are so grateful for our Church family.

Thank you all and God bless,
Cheryl and Dick Sellars



Many thanks to my church family for the cards, calls & visits.
God Bless you all,
Helen Tammen

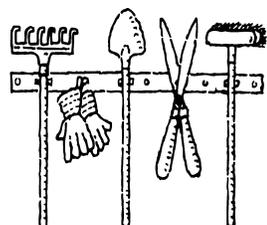
Pastor
John W. Walker
jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org

Church Secretary
Dianne Jamison
fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org

Treasurer
Betty Angus

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

Organist
Diane Chapman



**Help Us Maintain the
Church Grounds**

SPRING CLEAN-UP AT FPC
Saturday, May 9
8 a.m. to noon

Put on your gloves, bring your rakes, clippers, brooms, etc and join us for a little "clean fun"!!

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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114 E. Jefferson St., Ottawa, IL
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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

Betty Ehret

(Fellowship & Outreach)

228-2217

Joy Huebner

(Deacon)

433-5477

Diane Farrell

(Clerk of Session)

434-2774

(continued from pg. 1)

diverse thoughts on the issue. Your elders took time in the following weeks to sit and listen to any who wanted to share thoughts and reactions in a more intimate setting. Then session commissioned a Denominational Issues Task Force of 7 members to more closely examine the impact of these matters upon FPC, our mission and ministry, and to explore and offer to session an array of options to consider for appropriate response. That Task Force, chaired by Ron Koester and made up of good and wise people of more than one perspective on the issue, diligently studied, prayed, researched and talked together for several weeks into 2015 before coming to session with their final report this February.

What's being done with the Task Force's report and recommendations? Currently a 7-week class is under way that uses excellent material from a church in our denomination that invited theological, biblical and other faculty members from a nearby PC(USA) university to speak to the issues in a balanced way (see information on that class in this newsletter). Even though it is in video form for us, I am certain that all who attend will be blessed, encouraged and challenged across the spectrum of topics presented. It has been emphasized that the content of this class is not intended to try and change anyone's mind. I think we all know that on these issues, whatever position people take, they are seldom swayed to the opposite. But that doesn't mean the class will not be very effective and important for each of us to come and learn from. I urge you to avail yourself of this really good, quality content. It will better enable us as a loving church family to have productive conversation together and decide what response(s) we will have as a congregation to denominational action. Again, I urge you as your pastor to please come so more of us can be part of a fruitful, loving and God-honoring process of decision-making.

When the class is completed, session will ask the congregation to give feedback in survey form. Afterward, session will prayerfully discern how God wants us to respond as they consider more of the Task Force's recommendations. So please be in prayer for your elders. They need your prayers!

Some have asked specifically what is happening with per capita. Please know that per capita is being regularly and carefully discussed at session meetings as to appropriate use of those funds which support the ministry of the PC(USA) at several levels. Action on per capita, which is not paid until the end of each year, could be one option to be considered among several good options, and we want to be sure we make the right choices for the right reasons.

I encourage all to be patient in this discerning process as these are important matters and we desire to make decisions that honor Jesus Christ, his church and its witness in the world. Though you may not always hear of progress, be assured that matters are being given important consideration and we are moving ahead as a session and congregation. Remember that anyone is welcome to attend monthly session meetings at 7:00 p.m. on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the library. There is an opportunity provided early in the agenda at each meeting for appropriate feedback from any member of the congregation who desires to give it, and then any are welcome to stay and listen as the elders conduct the business of the monthly session meeting. Please come join us if you like. You will be welcome!

Longing for God and his will with 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-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!

Z O N E

COMING UP IN MAY

May 3rd - A-OK SUNDAY

NO ZONE - Join your family for a special morning of service in the community

May 10th - RECAP DISCIPLES

A Special Activity about the Disciples

May 17th - LAST DAY

Preparing for the Community Meal

PRIZE TIME!

SERVING THE COMMUNITY MEAL 11-1:15, May 17

Thank you to all of the adults and parents that helped out in ZONE this year! We are so grateful that you were willing to give of your time to help these kids learn about Jesus. It's always awesome to see their faith grow and it grows because so many are willing to take the time to teach and lead. A special thanks to Debbie Walker, Diane Farrell, and Pete Trolinger for their continued weekly support and attendance. :)

We are looking for someone to be the Director of Summer ZONE this summer. Leading this program involves finding the volunteers to lead each week and making up that volunteer schedule, as well as making sure that the video and questions for that week are made available to those leading. To find out more information or to offer yourself as a volunteer for one week this summer, please see Lori Trolinger. Thank you.

We will have spots to fill this fall in our children's ministry programs. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can help, or get involved, with Children's Church and ZONE once September rolls around. There will be more information about the specific roles we will be hoping to fill as the summer winds down, but please consider how God can use you in these programs.

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 **9** opportunities to Go!

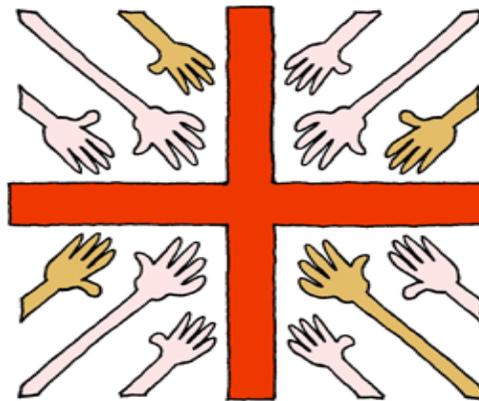
1. Friendship House needs help staining their picnic shelters.
2. Heritage Woods would like some flowers planted.
3. Under His Wings has a bedroom to be cleaned & painted.
4. LaSalle Co. Nursing Home where choir will entertain and visit.
5. The ZONE kids will be going to the Fire Station to thank the firemen & policemen then head to Rigden Park.
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.
9. Pleasant View Lutheran Home would like flowers planted.

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!

We are happy to have Calvary Baptist Church members joining us!!

We hope that everyone will be able to help in some way!



Many hands make Light work lighter

Contact Dianne Jamison, Cindy Arjes or Debbie Damron for more information.

Mission trip to Uganda. June 16-July 1

We always have several projects to work on while we are in Uganda 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. This year we are a team of 5. Two young ladies from Ottawa High School and three "older" ladies. We appreciate your prayers for successful planning, safe travel and great blessings while we are in Uganda!

If you would like to donate to this mission trip, we are looking to raise funds for:

Mama Kits (\$10 each)

AFRIpad Kits (\$15 each)

School fees (\$90 for a 1 year's fees, uniform & supplies)

Amagara Ga Boona medical center (to help finish the building)

To share with needy families (for food, blankets, mosquito nets, etc)

Please contact Dianne Jamison, Debbie Damron, Betsy Feagans or Cindy Arjes.

The Mission Committee thanks you for your continued support!



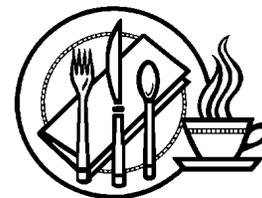
WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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 May will be **canned vegetables**. 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.

Red Cross Blood Drive:

The OSF Elizabeth's Medical Center is sponsoring a blood drive on Wednesday, May 6. Call Sylvia, 815-433-5260 to make an appointment. Summer is coming—a time when the Red Cross is always needing more blood—so let's help them get ahead!

LADIES' NITE OUT

Tuesday, May 5, 6:00 p.m. at
Mi Margarita's (Cinco De Mayo)

Please contact:
Dianne Jamison (433-1045)
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!
Please join FPC for
A OK Sunday!!

Wanted: Artsy Craftsy Types

**Canvas Painting Party
in Scott Hall**

**Friday, May 8, 2015 at 6:30 pm
sharp (lasts approx 3 hrs).**

**Cost \$20 per person.
Payment due by May 3, 2015.**

**(Limited to the first 25
paid registrants)**

**Contact Kerry Gerding or Betty
Ehret to register or for more
information.**



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY



MAY

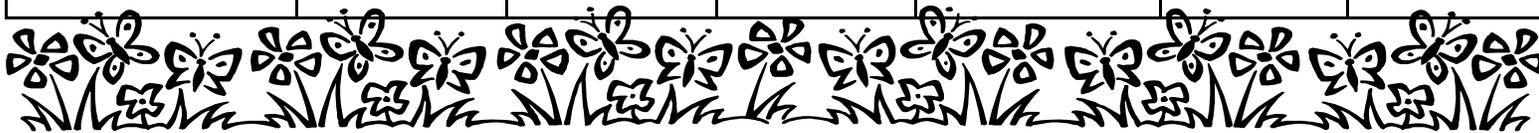
Steve Burris	7
Charlien Haralson	8
Lisa Mestelle	10
Patrick Bost	11
Steve West	13
Don Morehead	15
James Burkey	15
Byron Long	16
Jackie Stevenson	19
John Bean	23
Betsy Feagans	25
Danica Boaz	31

JUNE

Nicole Stevenson	1
Madisyn McGrath	3
June Buckingham	8
Fran Hess	10
Maxine Brockman	10
Ruth White	14
Donna Burkey	14
Jenna Smithmeyer	17
Tim Huebner	20
Bill Buckingham	26
Max McGrath	26
Chuck White	28



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		<u>Every Satur- day</u> 6:30 am Men's Small Group
			1	2	1	2
3 COMMUNION A OK SUNDAY!	4	5 6 pm Ladies' Nite Out	6	7	8 6:30 pm Canvas Painting Party	9 8-12 Spring Clean Up at FPC!
10 11:30 am Adult Ed. Series Class 6 pm LOL4JC	11	12 7 pm Session Committee Mtgs	13	14	15	16
17 11:30 am Adult Ed. Series Class 12:00 pm Community Meal	18	19 7 pm Session	20	21	22	23
24 PENTECOST 11:30 am Adult Ed. Series Class 6 pm LOL4JC	25	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27	28	29	30
31						



MAY

2015

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
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Permit No. 271

Return Service Requested

A OK SUNDAY

MAY 3

**All are invited to GO into our community and help
with different projects.**

Join with FPC & Calvary Baptist at 7:15 for breakfast; projects will
be worked on from 8 to 11, then return to FPC for communion
and lunch.

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