



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 40 No. 2

FEBRUARY 2016



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: *Reliving the Passion of Christ in Lent*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

The holy season of **Lent** will begin in just days as you read this message and I want to give all of you a special invitation to intimately walk with Jesus to his passion at the cross. Lent begins with worship and our *Loving Community* together on **Ash Wednesday** at 7:00 p.m. on February 10.

Would you like your experience of Lent this year to take you deeper in your faith? If so, keep reading. Through the centuries Christians have often marked their Lenten journey with an act of sacrifice, to give up something they valued or enjoyed as a way of identifying with Christ in his sacrifice for us. **Another worthy discipline is to add something** to specifically help us focus on the journey Christ made knowingly to Jerusalem where he would suffer, die and rise again as Victor over sin and the grave.

I invite you to join me in adding a 40+ day devotional study for Lent this year. Come with me on a rich journey starting on Ash Wednesday and continuing each Sunday. We will walk daily in devotion to Christ by adding something that I know will enrich our journey with him. It will help us understand more intimately just who this God is who suffers to save us.

(Continued on pg. 3)

Order your Lenten devotion book now to start reading on February 10!

Reliving the Passion, by Walter Wangerin, Zondervan House Publishers:
Order from Amazon Books, Christian Book Distributors
or by special order from the Book Mouse in Ottawa

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.

PER CAPITA 2016

Our *per capita* assessment for 2016 is **\$35.66**, which is distributed as follows: \$7.12 to General Assembly PCUSA; \$3.81 to Synod of Lincoln Trails; and \$24.73 to Blackhawk Presbytery. Our Session has determined that only those funds specifically given as *Per Capita* donations will be forwarded.

For 2016, Session determined to give the congregational members the ability to specify to which level of church government the *per capita* given by that member will go. For example, I can give the \$35.66 as in the past allocated as stated above, **OR** I can designate what portion goes to GA, what portion to Synod, and what portion to Presbytery by indicating on my *per capita* contribution my wishes. If I do not designate, then my *per capita* contribution will go as in the past allocated as stated above.

For a good explanation of *per capita* and what it does, Google “Blackhawk Presbytery Per Capita” for various articles, and see the article From the Pastor’s Study by Pastor John Walker in the JUNE 2015 Presby Press, Vol. 39 No. 6 on page 2.

God Bless you as you prayerfully consider what to do.

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Per capita review

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committed
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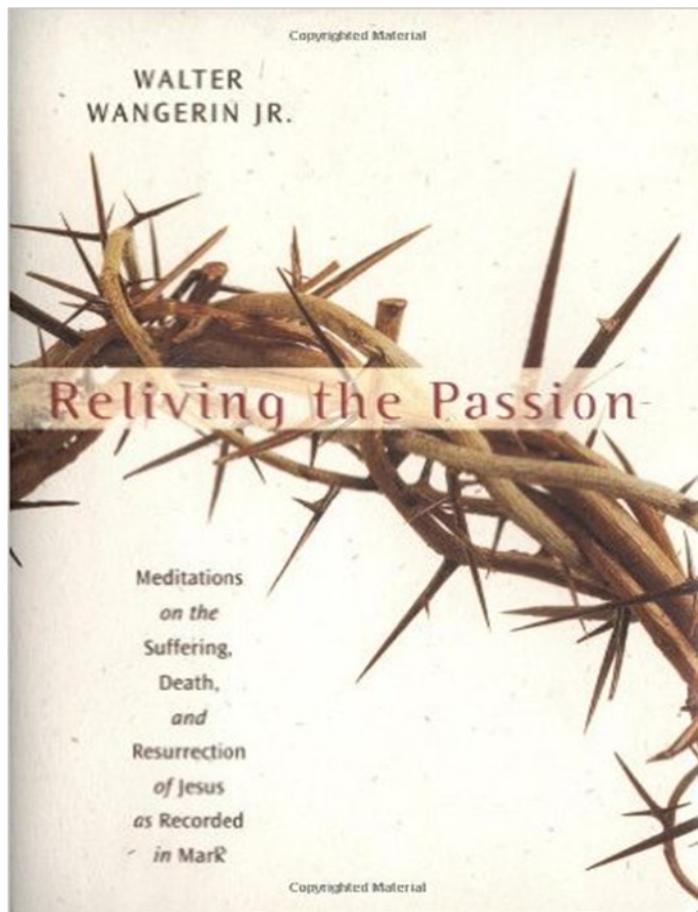
Specifically, I want to invite all who are interested to get Walter Wangerin's exceptional devotion written for Lent, *Reliving the Passion*, Zondervan Publishing House. His artful reflections on the gospel story are deep, thoughtful, revelatory and sometimes gut-wrenching. It is simply the best Lenten devotional I have read! I know it will move you deeply into the transforming love God has for you and ignite in you wonder and a deeper love for him in response. On Sundays I will use the brief daily readings of the prior week for my preaching material each week. Additionally, your small group may decide that using Wangerin's book for the group's Lenten study will be a good way to grow more deeply together. If you are not currently in a small group but would like to be, please let me know and we will get you placed in one.

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, wonder and confidence in the victory Christ alone has accomplished for us in his death and resurrection. Let us all gather for worship and begin this rich journey of faith with him to his cross and passion on **Ash Wednesday**.

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

**Order your Lenten devotion book now to start reading on
February 10**

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*Order from Amazon Books, Christian Book Distributors
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Can you imagine what education would be like in the US if a teacher's only educational tool was a chalkboard and chalk?? That was the case at Glory Primary School in Uganda! It was sad to observe, especially knowing how available they are available in every school in America!

For several years now, our Uganda team has been collecting CHILDREN'S BOOKS for Uganda! We were frequently asked HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET THEM TO UGANDA? We had to honestly say that we had no idea but we were confident that God would make a way to get them there! To make a long, GOD-DRIVEN STORY shorter, the 1,600 books are now in the Glory Primary School Library! And the good news is, Milton has found us another small school that is in dire need of books!!!

ST. PAUL PRIMARY SCHOOL children are excited to have been chosen by us for our next project! We have already collected several hundred books and Carol Woeckel and Debbie Damron are in the process of duplicating the process of preparing the books for their eventual shipment to Uganda, hopefully, summer 2017. But we are very short on our goal of 1,500 books. Would you consider blessing this project with children's books?—Christian, hard back, sturdy paperback, sets of children's books, beginning reader books, junior chapter books and baby books! If in doubt you can contact Dianne, Debbie or Carol Woeckel. FPC can be proud to know that they have helped improve the education of children in Kahondo, Uganda, and have given them a sense of school pride. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!



2016 LOL4JC SCHEDULE!

Here's a look at what's ahead for the rest of the year:

Sunday, February 14	5pm-7pm	Road Trip (Lesson 3)
Sunday, February 28	5pm-7pm	Road Trip (Lesson 4)
Sunday, March 13	5pm-7pm	TBD
Sunday, March 20	5pm-7pm	TBD
Sunday, April 10	5pm-7pm	TBD
Sunday, April 24	5pm-7pm	TBD
Sunday, May 15	5pm-7pm	TBD
Sunday, May 22	5pm-7pm	TBD

It has been several years since we had a new Church Directory printed (without pictures). We would like to get a new one printed in January!

Please contact the office and let Cindy know if you have any changes in your address, phone number or email address NOW so the directory can be passed out at the Annual Meeting on February 14th!



UPDATE



Dear friends in Ottawa First Presbyterian Church,

I wanted to thank you for your ongoing support of our ministry in Czech republic and especially for the support you send during our difficult time at the end of last year when our daughter Sophie died.

We are coming back home tomorrow to start again after 2 months we spent in USA resting and processing.

Again Thank you for all the prayers and support. Please extend my gratitude to the whole congregation.

Freddy

Your Help Is Needed!

A new group is forming to replace some of the ornaments on the sanctuary Crismon tree. Please join us for crafts and conversation at 9:00 a.m. each Sunday in Scott Hall. Additional crafting dates will be held occasionally at Chris Keely's home, 500 E. Main Street.
For questions please phone 433-0868.

“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit”

Check out the Happy Birthday Bulletin Board in Scott Hall to see who was born when...

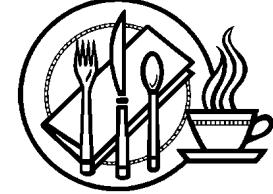
Then check up when someone in our FPC family is celebrating a birthday!
Send them a blessing!

“Truly, truly I say to you unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

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 January!! 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 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 June is pasta/spaghetti. 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. This is a great way to contribute to the life of your church.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 14th, 2016 @ 11:10 a.m. in Scott Hall for the purpose of: (a) Reviewing the 2016 budget; (b) Electing of congregational members of the Nominating Committee; (c) Receiving annual reports

LADIES' NITE OUT

Tuesday, February 2nd 6:00 p.m. at

Please contact:

Char Bragg
815-343-3906

for info & reservations.

The carpool will leave at 5:30 from FPC.

KUM JOIN US
SUNDAY, FEB. 7TH
**12:30 P.M. FOR MEETING
IN SCOTT HALL**
MEAL WILL BE AT
HALFTIME RESTAURANT
FOLLOWING MEETING



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY



FEBRUARY

Edythe Brockman	6
Nathan Hess	10
Dan Brockman	11
Idalia Stricklin	13
Noah Trolinger, Barb White	14
John Damron	15
Erin Stuedemann	19
Tiffini Thompson	24
Sue Brockman, Jackie Boaz	27
Dianne Jamison	28

MARCH

Beverly Boudreau	1
Lisa Smithmeyer	2
Kerry Gerdung	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
George Mansour	29



A Statement on Marriage First Presbyterian Church of Ottawa, IL

In light of recent decisions by our denomination concerning Christian marriage, the session of First Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, IL, meeting this 19th day of January, 2016, reaffirm the following confession, originally put forth by our session on August 21, 2001:

- That Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the way to salvation.
- That Holy Scripture is the triune God's revealed Word, the Church's only infallible rule of faith and life.
- That God's people are called to holiness in all aspects of life. This includes honoring the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman as the only relationship within which sexual activity is appropriate.

We recognize that this confession is at odds with many of the views of our culture, and that there is a lack of consensus within today's Church concerning the nature of Christian marriage. We seek to be a people of both grace and truth, and as such we affirm the following:

- That all Christians do well to approach any discussion of marriage and human sexuality with the humility of those who know their own sin;
- That we *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God* (Romans 3:23), and that there is no "us" and "them" when it comes to sexual longings, dysfunctions, or sin;
- That core to the gospel message is a vast forgiveness that is found in Jesus Christ; and
- That, as beneficiaries of this vast forgiveness, our desire is to welcome all, and to encourage all to live in conformity with the Gospel, as members of the loving community of Jesus Christ.

Nothing God made is a Mistake
Sitting by the lake,
nothing God made is a mistake.
Water so peaceful flowing in a
rhythm of it's own.
Knowing which way it's supposed to go.
Oceans with tides going in and out,
with a definite time and usual route.
Water coming down from the sky,
to nourish the flowers,
so they don't die.
Sitting down by the lake,
nothing God made is a mistake

By Ruth Stephan



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday</u> 9:00 am Fellowship 9:00 am Prayer 9:30 am Choir 10:00 am WORSHIP			<u>Every Wed.</u> 9:30 am Prayer, library 7:00 pm Choir in Library	<u>Every Thurs.</u> 9:30 am Seniors Small Group		<u>Every Saturday</u> 6:30 am Men's Small Group
	1.	2. 6 pm— Ladies Nite Out	3.	4.	5.	6
7. 12:30PM— Kum Join Us	8.	9. 7pm— Session Committee Meetings	10. 7pm— Ash Wednesday Service	11.	12.	13.
14. 1st Sunday of Lent 11:10 am— ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING 5PM-LOL4JC	15.	16. 7pm-Session Meeting	17.	18.	19.	20.
21. 2nd Sunday of Lent Noon— Community Meal	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
28. 3rd Sunday of Lent 5PM-LOL4JC	29.					



FEBRUARY 2016

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

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