



# PRESBY PRESS

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

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## 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



**Got questions about life?** Everyone should have the chance to explore the Christian faith, ask questions and share their point of view.

Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, run over eleven weeks. It covers the basics of our faith in a relaxed and inclusive way. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation. Alpha is run all around the world, and everyone is welcome. Each Alpha session has 3 parts: a meal, a video, and a small group conversation. At Alpha, relationships are formed, trust is built and the seeds of faith begin to grow.

Alpha Ottawa begins Thursday, May 4th 6:00-7:30pm @ Wallace Hall (813 LaSalle St., Ottawa, IL). Visit [www.alphaottawa.com](http://www.alphaottawa.com) for more information.

### 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.**

## Looking Back over 150 years

Life In 1989 in the United States saw us ending our time with President Ronald Reagan, and starting with a new president, George H. W. Bush. Likewise, at FPC, we had just ended under the leadership of Reverend Alan Good, and were working to find a new pastor. The Pastor Nominating Committee was formed at the end of 1988 and was working at each session meeting gathering input from the session on how to best complete the Church Information Form to submit as part of the application process. We had 313 members at the start of the year. FPC had an interim pastor, Louis Swartz, who had been the interim pastor at FPC in the early 1970's. Session minutes reflect members stepping up to help out with the vacancy of the pastor role and taking on some new roles. Carol Woeckel began to do the children's sermon each week (and continues to take part in this, almost 30 years later). Committees expanded their role in managing the budget, providing support to personnel, directing the after school program (Pioneer Club) and ministering to shut ins. Choir members identified the need to redecorate the choir room and with the support of membership, it was painted, new carpet purchased, new window covers were purchased and file cabinets were purchased to organize the music. Pioneer club started the year with over 50 children involved in this Wednesday after school program for the K-8 age group. The big event each year was the youth choir Cantada. I'm sure there are still family videos of the youth group, some are still active in our church as adults.

Cont. on pg. 4



### **Pastor**

*John W. Walker*

[jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org)

### **Church Secretary**

*Cindy Arjes*

[fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org)

### **Treasurer**

*Betty Angus*

### **Westminster Choir Director**

*Lloyd Chapman*

[Lloyd@udnet.net](mailto:Lloyd@udnet.net)

### **Organist**

*Diane Chapman*

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*Our Elders are  
committed  
to serving.*

**Brian Huebner**  
(Worship)  
433-5477

**Mike Farrell**  
(Worship/Deacon)  
434-2774

**Brian Smithmeyer**  
(Discipleship)  
795-6791

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

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

**Dan Mestelle**  
(Trustee)  
252-7462

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

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

**Pete Trolinger**  
(Administration)  
795-6791

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

**Betty Ehret**  
(Fellowship & Outreach)  
228-2217

**Ron Koestler**  
(Missions)  
343-6088

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



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### INVITE SOMEONE

- A friend you'd like to see at church
- A colleague at work who asked about your faith
- A family member who stopped going to church
- You, or others, looking to renew their faith
- **Simply share an Alpha Ottawa invitation, found in the pew**  
**Pray for our Alpha guests and helpers**

### JOIN THE TEAM

- Help make and serve a meal for an Alpha session
- Lead a small group, encouraging questions and conversation each week
- Watch the holy spirit change lives

To learn more, contact David at  
[alpha4ottawa@gmail.com](mailto:alpha4ottawa@gmail.com)

cont. from pg. 2

As 1989 progressed, we became interested in a new television show “Seinfeld”, we watched the Oscars and saw “Rain man” win as best picture. We watched Nolan Ryan break pitching records, and Wayne Gretzky break hockey scoring records. We saw low unemployment and hoped to reduce the unemployment rate even further with hiring a pastor. Finally, in mid October, James Miller came to preach a candidate sermon and was voted in as our pastor. Over the next month he moved his wife and son to Ottawa from Michigan City, Indiana, and by the end of the year we had our pastor in place for Christmas! We are grateful that we had the leadership of session members that held us together, encouraging us to support each other and our church programs during 1989.

### **SPRING CLEAN UP AT FPC!**

The Spring Outside Clean Up will be Saturday, May 6 from 8 a.m. to Noon. Put on you gloves and bring your rakes, clippers, brooms and anything else you think you may need.

### **ZONE WRAP UP IS ON MAY 21!**

Zone will wrap up our year on May 21st serving the Community Meal. Parents that are willing to help please contact Lisa Mestelle (252-7462) or Lori Trolinger (795-6791)

### **JOIN US FOR THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

We will gather in Washington Park at 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m. on Thursday May 4 for **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** and pray for our nation's welfare. Please find attached a news release explaining the history and significance of this special day. Please distribute to your friends and neighbors, inviting them to join us. The theme this year is **FOR YOUR GREAT NAME'S SAKE** based on Daniel 9:19. God Bless.

## **My Forever Lord**

Tell me, loving Lord, the promise in your Word:  
You, the God who chose to make me, will not leave me or forsake me.  
Tell me, once again! I need to be assured.  
Though much grief or pain I suffer, though I'm injured by another,  
You will never leave me orphaned and forlorn.  
You are my forever Lord.

Teach me, holy Lord, the guidance in your Word.  
Gently give me your correction as I strive to reach perfection.  
Tell me once again! I'm weak and insecure.  
You forgive my past behavior and you'll always be my Savior;  
I will never be abandoned or ignored.  
You are my forever Lord.

Show, eternal Lord, the comfort in your Word,  
Flowing through the Bible pages, steadfast love throughout the ages.  
Tell me once again the truth I'm longing for.  
Let the world be false and hateful; you have proven to be faithful.  
You will never change. Of that I can be sure.  
You are my forever Lord.

**Linda Bonney Olin**

## GO into the World

"Believe In UGanda" is the new motto for the Uganda mission outreach, which perfectly expresses the heart of all who have chosen to get involved in this



mission! God has abundantly blessed the work of the teams who have ventured to Uganda since 2008!! And this year will be no different! It is an answered prayer that there are three teams going this year!

The airline tickets have been purchased and the pilgrims are eager to go to work!

Team members are (l to r) Lori Johnson, Debbie Damron, Marta Johnson, (Dianne Jamison and Cindy Duncan--not shown, this team will serve from June 9-25.) LuAnn Atwood (her team of 4 will fly out in July), Patti and Larry Good (who left March 27th and will return April 10th.)

Before the main point of this article begins, there is deep sadness as we announce the passing of our dear friend, Teresa, who passed away in February! We grieve for her husband, Paul, whose health is also failing! Please keep him in prayer! We will miss seeing this wonderful woman!

Many projects have been planned and Milton, director of ITI in Ft. Portal, is working "round the clock" making arrangements to accommodate this! Please pray that time will allow our work to be safely completed and that deeper relationships will be developed for the team and those we serve!! Pray that eyes and hearts will recognize all the ways God has shown up in all the varied projects!

Tentative itinerary items are:

1. Stocking the small library at St. Paul Primary School in Kamwenge with about 2,200 books!! These books were alphabetized at FPC last year!!
2. Assist with a jigger clinic in Jinja--This will be our second clinic with the non-profit, SOLE HOPE! Last year we were able to provide \$350 and 100 denim shoe patterns!

Cont. on pg. 7

Cont. from pg. 6

3. Mobile Medical Clinic at the Glory Primary School hub--Cindy will use her nurse's training to assess the community's needs and also provide a questionnaire to participants to express their opinion about the future medical center! There will be a music fundraiser at Jeremiah Joe on April 21, 6-8pm, to supply the funds for all the medicines needed at this event! Plan to join us for a fun evening!!
4. Character Development seminar at 3 schools! This is our second year as we create a dialogue with the students on how to live our lives like Jesus!
5. Mother and baby seminar--"MOMS--FIRST TEACHERS" (lead by Lori Johnson)
6. We have a new orphanage that we will be visiting! We are excited to meet and encourage these young children with our love and attention!! God willing, they will be presented with a poultry business for sustainability!
7. Physical work--carrying bricks at a new home we started last year for Flavia and Priscilla and possibly plastering and painting at AMAGARA GA'BOONA Medical Center!
8. Every year we visit sponsored families and bless them with gifts of food and clothing. We have some funds remaining from last year so that effort will be \$20/family this year!
9. We are privileged to distribute life saving MAMA KITS to expectant mothers and AFRIpads to young women to help them stay in school! These items will be purchased from their respective non-profits, MERCY FOR MAMAS and AFRIpads. Costs are \$10 and \$5.
10. Kabarole Rotary meeting where Milton is a member!

There are many financial needs as we GO into Uganda and we welcome any donation! All will be used to improve the lives of these under-served families! Those donations can be made to the FPC Mission Committee, Uganda projects. It is such a blessing and a privilege to be used by God as we mingle and serve HIS chosen ones in this great country!

**GOD IS THERE--MAY HE BE GLORIFIED IN ALL WE DO!!**

***AMERICANS READY TO ANSWER THE PRESIDENT'S CALL TO  
PRAY FOR OUR NATION ON THE 66TH ANNUAL NATIONAL  
DAY OF PRAYER, THURSDAY, MAY 4TH***

The National Day of Prayer is not just a vital part of America's heritage, but is as relevant and critical today as it was at the first call by our Continental Congress in 1775. Established in public law by a joint resolution of Congress signed by President Truman in 1952, then amended to designate the day under the 100th Congress and President Reagan in 1988, it states that "*The President shall issue each year a proclamation designating the first Thursday in May as a National Day of Prayer on which the people of the United States may turn to God in prayer and meditation at churches, in groups and as individuals.*"

As our nation struggles with foreign and domestic threats, economic insecurity, cultural tensions, and continual challenges to basic constitutional rights, citizens of the United States are preparing to heed the call by our elected leaders to exercise one of their most precious freedoms – the right to gather, turn to God, and pray. In response, millions will assemble at thousands of local events across the nation, where they will take time out of their daily schedules to intercede on behalf of their communities, their nation, and their leaders.

The theme for the 2017 National Day of Prayer observation is **For Your Great Name's Sake**. Based upon Daniel 9:19, it emphasizes our need as a nation, to cry out to God, who is sovereign over all governments, authorities, "*O Lord, Listen! O Lord, Forgive! O Lord, Hear and Act!*"

Best-selling, award-winning author and speaker, and founder and president of AnGeL Ministries, Anne Graham Lotz, serves as the Chairperson of the National Day of Prayer, and will give the keynote address at the National Observance in Washington, D.C.

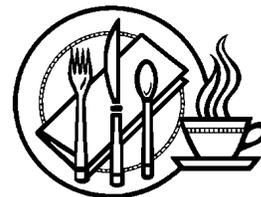
# LOVE, WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

## Would you be willing to supply a meal for our Jr. High Youth Group (LOL4JC)?

They start each meeting with a meal to begin a time of fellowship before launching into their discussion and game time. Please contact Lori Trolinger (815-795-6791) or Lisa Smithmeyer (815-313-5843) if you would like to commit to preparing a meal for our LOL4JC kids

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

July, September and December 2017. 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

Betsy Feagans (Mon. PM): 433-5480

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

Lisa Mestelle/Women-Beth Moore Bible

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

Study (Thurs. PM): 252-7462

Jim Keely/Men (Sat. AM): 433-0868

Carol Engberg/Women: 433-3465

(Thurs. PM, once a month)

## 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.

If you have any questions please contact Gayle Schmitt (815-667-9892).

## Ottawa Community Food Basket:

Donations for the Food Basket for the month of May is canned meats. 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. Contact Chris Keely (433-0868)

**LADIES' NITE OUT**

Tuesday, May 2 6:00 p.m.at

Olive Garden  
 Carpool will leave FPC at 5:30 p.m.  
 Please contact:

Carol Engberg

815-433-3465

for info & reservations.

**KUM JOIN US**

**SUNDAY, May 7 at 11:00 a.m.**

**IN THE LIBRARY**

**WE WILL MEET AT  
 HALFTIME RESTAURANT  
 FOLLOWING MEETING**

*All are welcome!*



**FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY**



**MAY**

Addilyn Woodyer	3
Preston Hoffman	4
Steve Burris	7
Lisa Mestelle	10
Sue Paul	10
Tucker Clemens	11
Patrick Bost	11
Steve West	13
Don Morehead	15
James Burkey	15
Byron Long	16
Jackie Stevenson	19
John Bean	23
Casey Clemens	25
Betsy Feagans	25
Danica Boaz	31

**JUNE**

Nicole Stevenson	1
Madisyn McGrath	3
Donna Burkey	14
Jenna Smithmeyer	17
Tim Huebner	20
Bill Buckingham	26
Max McGrath	26

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday</u> 8:45 am- Pre-worship Prayer 9:00 am Choir 9:30 am-WORSHIP 10:45 am -Fellowship 10:45 am-ZONE, Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School			<u>Every Wed.</u>  7:00 pm Choir in Library thru 5/10	<u>Every Thurs.</u>  9:30 am Seniors Small Group		<u>Every Saturday</u>  7:30 am Men's Small Group
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
		6 pm-Ladies' Nite Out		6 pm-Alpha Begins! Wallace Hall		
7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
11 am- Kum Join Us				6 pm-Alpha Course Wallace Hall		
14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!				6 pm-Alpha Course Wallace Hall		
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
Noon- Community Meal  5 pm- LOL4JC				6 pm-Alpha Course Wallace Hall		
28.	29.	30.	31.			

# May 2017



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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
**U.S. Postage Paid**  
**Ottawa, Illinois**

Return Service Requested

**FPC Celebrating the Lord's Table on May 14**

Because Pastor John will be away the first Sunday of May, we will celebrate the Lord's Table together on the second Sunday, May 14—Mother's Day!

<i>* Alpha Information</i>	<i>pg. 1</i>	<i>* Uganda Mission cont.</i>	<i>pg. 7</i>
<i>* Looking Back Over 150 Years</i>	<i>pg. 2</i>	<i>* National Day of Prayer</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>
<i>* My Greatest Adventure/Alpha</i>	<i>pg 3</i>	<i>* Love, Win, Grow, Go</i>	<i>pg. 9</i>
<i>* Looking Back cont.</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>	<i>* Food, Fellowship &amp; Fun</i>	<i>pg. 10</i>
<i>* "My Forever Lord"</i>	<i>pg 5</i>	<i>*Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 11</i>
<i>* Uganda Mission</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>	<i>*Highlight of the Month</i>	<i>pg. 12</i>

**\* Prayer Partners: pg. 1**