



# PRESBY PRESS

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 42 No. 3

MARCH 2018



## Looking back over 150 years

1930-1931



## 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

Debbie Walker and Char Bragg found the picture of the 1934 “Ottawa Presbys” basketball team. We know that the second from the right in the front row is Betty Angus’ father Wally Watts. It is difficult to determine what the story is about the team, but we know the trophy is in the church library. What we are able to discover from “Ottawa Old and New” can give us some insight into the community and this team.

Cont. 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.**

## **Presbytery of Blackhawk**

### ***Our Vision and Values***

Grounded in the biblical image for human community, as disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, we challenge and support congregations to be thriving faith communities by facilitating competent leadership and resourcing to energize ministry and mission.

As Christians, guided by the principles of love, trust, open communication, and genuine relationships, we value each other as sisters and brothers in faith in all our varied theological understandings. Therefore, we relish respectful discussions of differing opinions as a necessary part of discerning the will of God.

#### ***We Resource to Energize Ministry through:***

- Shared mission opportunity which include presbytery-wide mission trips. Youth Triennium and the annual Church World Service Kits collection
- Presbytery-wide seminars and learning opportunities for clergy and lay leaders
- Communication, connection and technical assistance including e-Connections email newsletter, website, Missional Analysis Process (MAP) for churches in transformation or transitions, POINT representatives to assist with Christian education resources.
- Providing Mission Grants-supporting congregations and entities in their local and world mission actions or creative new ministries.
- Campus Ministry-supporting ministry with college students at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb
- World Mission-supporting the shared mission and ministry of the Partnership between Blackhawk and the Imenti Presbyteries of Kenya (Presbyterian Church of East Africa)
- Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center ministry and mission:
- Supporting Christian Faith formation through residential summer camps for children and families, confirmation and adult retreats, team building and other programs
- Positively impacting lives through outdoor learning experiences with religious and secular programs for children and adults

#### **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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Looking Back cont. from pg. 1

Ottawa had a population of about 15,000 in the 1930 census. This was an increase of 40% from 1920, and it was identified that the increase was due to the national poor economy. Ottawa was able to provide work for those who were unemployed building ramps on the bridges of the Illinois and Michigan Canal. Ottawa also had 46 industries providing employment for over 3000 people. In 1930, the State Waterway Department committed to building a new bridge over the Illinois River, and the Hilliard Bridge was started in 1931 and completed in 1933. The community sold bonds to be able to afford their part of the \$350,000 project, and some of the taxes were returned to the community. The Hilliard Bridge was in place until April 1982, when Dan Mestelle and other IDOT workers demolished it making way for the current bridge.

The community decided in 1927 to build a recreation program to meet the needs of the community. After the economy took a down turn, the community committed to continuing the programs that they had developed. These included swimming lessons at the high school, ice skating on the canal, building and maintaining tennis courts, arts and crafts, drama and pinochle. Local groups sponsored teams and tournaments for a variety of programs and age groups. By the 10<sup>th</sup> year of the recreation program they were averaging over 100,000 hours of recreation a year.

The session minutes do not specifically mention the team or any of the competitions. Beginning in 1930 the minutes reflect a growing concern related to “subscriptions”, or members who actively participate in giving financially to the church. The church had over 450 members at this time with Reverend McClelland as the leader. The church had completed the “new” addition and were struggling with how to best use this, should it be rented? Could it be an outreach to the community? Could it be used for the larger Presbytery body to have offices? How should the church move forward in this poor economy? The session continued to review the rolls of the active “subscribing” members and dismissed 30 at one meeting and 49 at another meeting. They documented the reasons for each member or family, and many were “cannot afford to contribute”.

In 1932 a “Church Cabinet” was formed of elders with the goal “to give wise and prayerful consideration the program and life of the church.” They met 19 times in the first 6 months, minutes reflect that the moderator assigned readings to complete for each meeting. The minutes are vague, but eventually identify that their decision was to hold elections within the membership to manage education, mission work, and outreach, as well as electing a treasurer and secretary. All of these positions except one, were filled by women in the church. (at this time only men were elders). Part of their plan included activities connected to the community, such as hosting and participating in plays in the church basement, participating as a church in various athletic events and pinochle games.

*Our Elders are  
committed  
to serving.*

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mark Brockman**  
(Administration)  
815-333-8429

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

**Gayle Schmitt**  
(Fellowship & Outreach)  
815-667-9892

**David Farrell**  
(Fellowship & Outreach)  
815-252-2351

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

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



### **An Opportunity to Serve!**

Fellowship and Outreach is looking for people to serve. This is a fun committee, planning activities and reaching out into the community serving others. Please consider being part of the “fun”!!! Please contact Gayle Schmitt (815-667-4964) or David Farrell (815-252-2351) with any questions.



ChurchArt Online | www.churchart.com

### **LOL4JC Is Asking for Your Service**

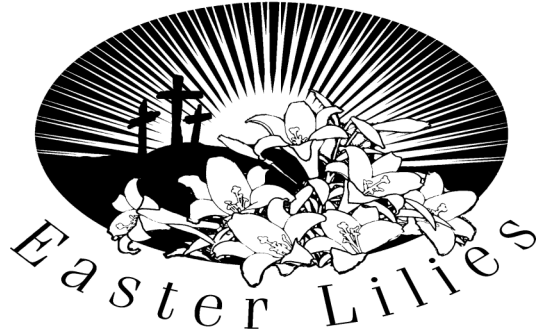
We are looking for people to provide meals during our LOL4JC youth events. We have four dates still available for our remaining year together. If you are interested in providing a meal for our junior highers, please see Lori Trolinger (815-795-6791).



ChurchArt Online | www.churchart.com

### **EASTER IS COMING ON APRIL 1!**

It won't be long and we will be celebrating Easter. As usual, orders will be taken for Easter Lilies in the weeks before Palm Sunday. The last day to place your order will be Sunday, March 18! **If you would like to place your order by mail you will find an order form on page 5.** Please fill out and mail to FPC at 114 E. Jefferson St., Ottawa, IL 61350. You can also place an order form in the offering plate. If you have any questions please contact Nathalie Schmidt (815-433-0175)



Lilies will be ordered by Worship committee and will be in the sanctuary on April 1. You may designate your flower be given to a shut-in, or you may take it home after the service.

Cost of the flowers will be \$14.00 and must be included with the order form. These can be sent to the church office or placed in the offering plate (in an envelope marked "Worship Committee"). Please complete and turn in the order form by

March 18. If you have any questions please call Nathalie Schmidt (433-0175)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Number of flowers desired \_\_\_\_\_

Please CIRCLE AND FILL IN DESIGNATION

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my flower to go:

To a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my flower \_\_\_\_\_



## A Garden Walk / Craft Make & Take to Benefit *Believe in Uganda!*



On June 16, you will have the opportunity to view one of the most interesting and gorgeous gardens in the Ottawa area. Penny Besenhard, Opportunity School Board President, has graciously volunteered her garden for a special fundraising GARDEN WALK Craft Make & Take. The Medical Center in Kahondo, Uganda (Amagara Ga'Boona) is in need of two motorcycle ambulances. All proceeds from this experience will be designated for this purpose! The \$20 entrance fee will allow you to wander through the two acres of eclectic gardens, all lovingly cared for by Penny and her husband, Gerard, who have lived in this same location for over 48 years and gardened for 20 years! Enjoy cookies and beverages as you are educated on the names of the various flowers and trees, feed the fish in the koi ponds, as well as take photos throughout your walk! Plus you will hear stories about lives that have been enhanced by the mission projects of BELIEVE IN UGANDA since 2008. Discover the many niches of this amazing wonderland while you enjoy drinks and cookies!

One free simple garden craft awaits your participation; and for an additional \$5, you can make a second creation that will enhance your yard or garden. Tables filled with a variety of premade crafts, which have been donated by the Uganda team, will be sold as well.

We would love to see you on June 16! Directions and hours will be available soon!

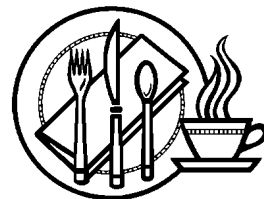
# LOVE, WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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

They meet on the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 5 pm to 7 pm, and 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

for July, August and September of 2018. 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 Dave Farrell (815-252-2351) or Gayle Schmitt (815-667-4964) 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 (1<sup>st</sup> Sun. PM monthly): 433-1045

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

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

Carol Engberg/Women: 433-3465

(Thurs. PM, once a month)

Women's Bible Study (Thurs. PM):

Debbie (252-7309) or Amanda (424-333-8429)

## 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 March is 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.

This is a great way to contribute to the life of your church please contact Brian Huebner (815-433-5477) for more information.

**LADIES' NITE OUT**

Tuesday, March 6

6:00 p.m.at  
Annie's  
in Naplate

Please contact:

Idalia Stricklin  
815-488-5182  
for info & reservations.

**KUM JOIN US**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 4  
at 11:00 a.m.**

**IN THE LIBRARYS**

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

*All are welcome!*



**FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY**



**MARCH**

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, Madi Trolinger	22
Matthew Walker	24
George Mansour	29

**APRIL**

Rob McGrath	1
Sue Koestler	3
Mike Farrell	8
Diane Farrell	11
Brian Huebner	12
John Roark	13
Karla Armstrong	18
Caroline Schmidt	18
Tyler Angus	19
Brad Angus	20
Hannah Duggan	21
Danielle Ehret	23
Pete Trolinger	27
Joy Nevins	30



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday</u> 8:45 am Prayer 9:00 a.m. Choir Practice 9:30 am WORSHIP 10:45 am Fellowship 10:45 am-ZONE, Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School			<u>Every Wed.</u> 6 pm-Bell Choir in Scott Hall 7 pm Choir in the Library	<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. <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT</b> <b>COMMUNION SUNDAY</b> 11 am- Kum Join Us	5.	6. 6 pm-Ladies' Nite Out	7.	8.	9.	10.
11. <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> 11:45 am-Future Cast Team 5pm-LOL4JC	12.	13. 7pm-Committee Meetings	14.	15.	16.	17.
18. <b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b> NOON-Community Meal	19.	20. 7pm-Session Meeting	21.	22.	23.	24.
25. <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 11:45 am-Future Cast Team 5PM-LOL4JC	26.	27.	28.	29. 7PM- Maundy Thursday Worship	30.	31.

**HOLY WEEK**



*March*

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

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

Return Service Requested

### **LENT SCHEDULE**

**Palm Sunday**            Soul Shine leading us in joyful song!  
**Maundy Thursday**    7 p.m. with the Lord's Last Supper  
**Easter**                    Resurrection Sunday! April 1 Glorious music, bells & choir



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<i>* From the Pastor's Desk cont.</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>	<i>* Food, Fellowship, Family</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>
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**\* Prayer Partners: pg. 1**