



# 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

### Looking Back over FPC's 150 years to April 13, 1869

In reviewing the oldest book of session minutes, I became curious about who these first church leaders were and why they felt the calling to start a Presbyterian Church in Ottawa. It will be helpful to give some historical perspective of Ottawa as the church developed. In 1837 the city of Ottawa was chartered with 80 families, 10 stores and 2 taverns/inns. In 1848 the Illinois and Michigan Canal was opened, putting Ottawa on the route of transportation to Chicago and beyond. There was still no bridge over the Illinois River, so it was crossed using ferries. The first bridge was built in 1854, and the railroad expanded to Ottawa in 1853. Building the canal and the railroad brought many people to live in Ottawa, and the population increased to 564 voters by 1853. In 1858 Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas debated in Ottawa, and at that time there was a population of 6541, with 83 city streets.

### Charles H. Force

The first book of session minutes identify the start date of 1869, but the pages are all blank until 1877. Therefore, the information on first members starts with those in 1877. C. H. Force is listed as president of the association (church session) in 1878, and is listed throughout the minutes until 1892 as one of the "subscribers" and still active in leadership. He was referred in the minutes as C. H. Force or Mr. Force.

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.**

## From Pastor Freddy in Czech Republic

### LIGHTHOUSE CONNECTION | August 2018

Dear Lighthouse friends,

here are some news from Lighthouse church in the summer 2018.

It is a great privilege to have such a great partners in ministry.

Thank you for all your prayers and support.

### SUMMER CAMPS

This summer churches in the Majak Network organised camps for people of all ages, and several of these camps were focused on English taught by Americans.

In Vsetin the Majak youth group led an English Sport camp with teams from Mountain View Community Church (Fort Collins, CO) and Crosswinds Church (Chicago, IL). There were 46 students at camp, with half of them there for the first time, and over half of them not being Christians. This event continues to be the best way to share the Gospel with new students and connect them to youth group. It is also a great tool for training student leaders in how to share their faith with peers and follow-up with them after camp.

The Velka Lhota youth group partnered with Windsor Church (Windsor, CO) to lead Multi Camp, which also focused on English and sports. At the end of camp, five students that have been attending youth group for several years said they want to know God more and start a relationship with Him. Please pray for Martin, David, and Adela, the leaders that are following-up with these students and leading them spiritually. Majak also organised a camp called "American Holidays" which was geared towards families in Vsetin, and a team from Grace Evangelical Church (Memphis, TN) came to teach English and build relationships.

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

**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

## Looking Back 150 Years (continued)

According to “LaSalle County Old and New” Charles Force was born in New Jersey in October of 1823. He graduated from the University of New York and the Union Theological Seminary and was ordained Presbyterian. He moved to LaSalle County in 1856 at the age of 33. He preached for 9 years in the Sheridan area and was forced to retire at age 42 when he “lost his voice”. He moved to Ottawa and began a successful business career. He started the Ottawa Manufacturing Company building wagons. This company was the third company to attempt to build a dam over the Fox River in order to develop power for the Ottawa area. The first two attempts in 1853 and 1859 were not successful, but in 1867 his company was able to accomplish it for a cost of \$100,000. The company received a bonus of \$60,000 at completion. This dam was at the aqueduct on the Fox River and was in operation until 1872 when it was swept away in a flood. The completion of the dam led to another business and Mr. Force became president of the Ottawa Water and Power Company. He also was President of the Ottawa/Vermillion Macadamized Road Company, President of Western Cutlery Company, President of the Ottawa Glass Company, and President of C.H. Force and Company which built the Clifton Hotel and the Fox River Railway (running from Geneva to Streator).

Mr. Force was active in developing Washington Square Park in the center of Ottawa in 1869. His petition requested that the park be fenced in so that it would be kept from ruin since this was the location of the Lincoln-Douglas Debate 11 years before.

Mr. Force also was instrumental in moving the church from the first location behind Archibald Armour’s Lime and Cement business on Clinton Street, to the south side of Ottawa. The church on Glover Street was built near his home in order to make it more convenient for the members. There were 15 original members in 1869, and the minutes in 1884 identified 41 voting members.

Charles Force died in 1892 from a stroke. He was 69 years old. There is no indication in the city directory or within the notice of his death if he had any family survive him.

**Pastor Freddy's letter from Czech** (continued)

Spending a week together with Christians is a great way for Czechs to learn more about how faith in Jesus Christ impacts one's daily life, and they get to see and experience Christians in community. Please pray that families from Majak church would know how to follow-up spiritually with new friendships made at camp.

**JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR THE FOLLOW UP WITH ALL THESE PEOPLE!**

**ZONE, Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School Are Back!**

Zone, Jr. & Sr. High School Sunday School will begin again on Sunday,  
September 16th at 10:45 am!

Zone will be meeting in the East Room

Jr. High Class will meet in Classroom D

Sr. High Class will meet in the Youth Ministries Office

**Opportunity School Greeters Needed**

Opportunity School greeters needed for Sept 4 and 5. If you can give an hour of your time to welcome all of the Opportunity School kids back to school. Call Lisa Mestelle, 252-7462.

**YMCA Community Prayer Breakfast**

Come to the first annual YMCA Community Prayer Breakfast Tuesday, September 18, 7:15 a.m.–8:30 a.m. As the Y's presence and impact grows into the future in Ottawa, it seeks to renew its historic Christian mission to build a *Healthy Body, Mind and Spirit*. Come for a free breakfast served at the YMCA, hear some words about the Ottawa Y's exciting future from its new director, Joe Capece, and listen to a brief message of Christian encouragement from guest speaker, Gary Schwerin, Coordinator of Spiritual Development, YMCA of Rock River Valley in Rockford, IL. Please RSVP by September 14 at (815)433-2395.

## **LOL4JC Kick-off Event!!**

It's almost time for our LOL4JC Kick-off Event!! On Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>, we will be spending fun afternoon at Haunted Trails in Joliet. We've even invited **our new Sr. High group to join us!** We will be leaving the church around noon and returning around 5pm. We are asking that each attendee bring \$10 to help off-set the costs of entry. This will allow us to provide lunch (pizza, anyone?!) and UNLIMITED rides - go-karts, laser tag, mini-golf, and more! All 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to attend! If you plan on going with us, please let Lori know by texting her at 815-326-0058 and let her know if you plan to bring a guest.

It's going to be a great time!

## **Scarecrow Festival**

Last year was so successful we're doing it again! Volunteers are needed to set up, run the games, clean up. We will also need to borrow some tents and other items to make this year as wonderful as last year! Mark your calendars, Saturday, Sept 29th 10am-4pm.

Call Lisa Mestelle 252-7462 to volunteer, or sign up on the Scarecrow Fest Help board outside the FPC office.

## **Meals for LOL4JC**

LOL4JC is right around the corner and we're looking for people, groups, families willing to supply our youth kids with meals. Each youth meeting begins with a quick meal together. It can be something as simple as pizza or sandwiches! Regular youth meetings begin in October and end in April. If you would like to provide a meal during those months, please see Lori Trolinger and get signed up today!

Adult Sunday school opportunity starting Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup>,  
in the library led by Allen Gibbs

*The Mission of Jesus*

**Triumph of God's Kingdom in a World of Chaos  
with Ray Vander Laan**

It's easy to think of the Bible as a collection of short stories, but each one makes up a greater story – one story of a God who created the universe and entrusted it to His human partners to care for it. They were unfaithful, and it fell back into chaos and sin. But God didn't give up on His creation. He decided to redeem it, preparing the way through His covenant with Israel and finally by sending His son, Jesus, to become the cornerstone of it all through His life, death, resurrection, and ascension. What would this mean for a people oppressed by the Roman Empire, and what does it mean for believers today? Follow the rabbi through the world of Jesus, hiking through the Galilee region, exploring the ruins of Rome, and kneeling on the stones of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem as you discover how the gospel of Jesus confronts the gospel of Imperial Rome.

**The Stewardship Kick-Off Breakfast**

The Stewardship Kick-Off Breakfast will be Sunday, September 9th at 8:45 am in Scott Hall. Please come and pick up your stewardship envelopes and enjoy fellowship and food. Steve's donuts will be provided!



## STOCK THE STORE

With the start of the 2018-19 school year here in Ottawa, IL, it is also time for the children of Uganda to prepare for yet another school year as well! As summer dwindles here, excitement starts to build as students anticipate getting back into the routine of school and school activities!! However, there are distinct differences in the two communities as they both prepare for FIRST DAY of the new school year!

Here in the U.S., families march into local stores and search for the latest, new first day of school' clothes! Crisp colorful clothes will be purchased and carried home just waiting to be worn!! A detailed list of school supplies is provided by teachers that will make the school year more productive--everything from backpacks, notebooks and folders to scissors, crayons and ink pens! Generally, it's a tradition that families look forward to year after year!!

In contrast, parents of children in Uganda struggle with providing tuition for their children. They often don't have the financial means to make that payment. A school uniform is the preferred attire which is a way to equalize the student body! Most children have very few pieces of clothing that would be acceptable to wear to school! The need for primary school supplies is minimal—backpack, school paper, pencils and pens—additional supplies are needed at the secondary level!

**Believe in Uganda** would like to STOCK THE STORE at Innovations for Transformation Initiatives with all that is needed for our families in Uganda who struggle to stay in school because they not only lack

Cont. on pg. 7

Cont. from pg. 6

money for tuition, but also the required school uniform and school supplies! Any donations can be made to the Mission Committee!

## THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!!

Tuition varies per type of school (Government VS Private) but 3 terms:

(PRIMARY) \$10/term to \$30/term. Boarding School \$90/term.(+school supplies)

(SECONDARY) \$30-50/term. Boarding school is \$100-150/term(+school supplies)

12 notebooks \$10

Pencils \$1

Pens \$2/term

Mathematical set \$2 (lasts for 2 years)

School bag \$6

Full school uniform-\$20 (includes shoes, 2 pr. socks, blouse/shirt, shorts/skirt, sweater)

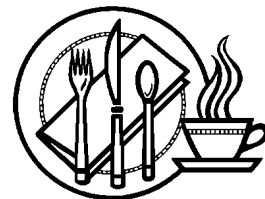




# LOVE, WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

## Free Community Meals; 3rd Sunday of every month: LOOKING TO FILL ALL MONTHS OF 2019

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

Carol Engberg/Women: 433-3465

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

(Thurs. PM, once a month)

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

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.

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 September is your choice. 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, September 4

5:30 p.m. at Red Lobster  
Carpool with Deb Damron  
at 5 pm at FPC

Contact Sandy Finnegan  
815-433-5253

for information and reservations

**KUM JOIN US**

**Will meet on September 2**

**We will meet in the library at  
11 am.**

**Lunch will follow at Halftime**

*All are welcome!*



**FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY**



**AUGUST**

Carol Engberg	2
Tobias Burkey	9
Jack Finnegan	20
Addison Duggan	22
Debbie Long	22
Jackie Bean	25
Char Bragg	31
Ashley McGrath	31

**SEPTEMBER**

Noah Mansour	1
Forest Stuedemann	3
Cindy Arjes	4
Pete Hoffmann	4
Brian Zeilmann	6
Joan Bost	10
Jon Woodyer	14
Peggy Roeder	15
Mark Brockman	15
Dan Duggan	16
Craig Harvey	22
Deb Damron	23
Katie Duggan	26
David Farrell	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Every Sunday</u> 9:15 am Prayer 9:30 am WORSHIP 10:45 am Fellowship 10:45 am-ZONE 10:45-Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School				<u>Every Thurs.</u> 9:30 am Seniors Small Group		<u>Every Saturday</u> 7:30 am Men's Small Group
						1
2.  11am-Kum Join Us	3	4  5:30pm-Ladies' Nite Out	5	6	7	8
9  8:45 am- Stewardship Kick Off Break- fast	10	11  7pm-Committee Meetings	12	13	14	15
16  Bible Sunday  Zone & All Sunday School Classes Begin! NOON- Community Meal	17	18  7pm-Session	19	20	21	22
23  NOON-LOL4JC & Senior High		25	26	27	28	29  SCARECROW FEST  FPC ROCKS!
30						

NOTE: Choir Rehearsals begin Wednesday, October 3 at 7 pm in the Library

*September 2018*

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

**Non-Profit Organization**  
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**Ottawa, Illinois**

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The Stewardship Kick-Off Breakfast will be Sunday, September 9th at 8:45 am in Scott Hall. Please come and pick up your stewardship envelopes and enjoy fellowship and food. Steve's donuts will be provided!

<i>* Looking Back 150 Years</i>	<i>pg. 1</i>	<i>* Stock the Store</i>	<i>pg. 7</i>
<i>* Lighthouse Connection</i>	<i>pg. 2</i>	<i>* Stock the Store</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>
<i>* Looking Back 150 Years cont</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>	<i>* Love, Win, Grow, Go</i>	<i>pg. 9</i>
<i>* Lighthouse cont./Announcements</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>	<i>* Food, Fellowship, Family</i>	<i>pg. 10</i>
<i>* Announcements</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>	<i>* Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 11</i>
<i>* Adult Sunday School</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>	<i>* Highlights</i>	<i>pg. 12</i>

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