



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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

From the Pastor's Desk for Advent and Christmas

Dear friends,

As we enter the start of the new Christian calendar-year with the holy season of Advent, I want to thank our worship elders, Mike Farrell and Brian Huebner, and the great helpers who prepared our sanctuary and building for the joy of the season. It looks so beautiful!

This Advent and Christmas season, may we remember that Jesus Christ is the Victor over all evil, sin and suffering. We are filled with hope because Jesus Christ reveals God's salvation in the most profound way: He is a King like no other who comes to us, God in the flesh, to save us from our sin. We may know heartache and tears now, but Jesus is faithful to get us through it all. Now and for all eternity, we join our hearts with heaven and earth to praise our Savior. ***Joy to the World! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her KING!***

Please be sure to see the following pages to learn what's coming this month in worship, life and mission at FPC. I am especially excited for the season to come after Advent and Christmas as we move into the New Year and start the great adventure of ***Explore God***. Please pray that God will use us to invite others to ***Explore God*** with us!

With joy and affection for you,

Pastor John Walker

JOIN US FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS!

ADVENT 1: December 2 – *Called to Share A Meal*

ADVENT 2: December 9 – *Called to Trust God for his Time*

ADVENT 3: December 16 – *Called to the Mystery of God's Salvation*

ADVENT 4: December 23 – ***CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH JOY-FILLED SONG!***

CHRISTMAS EVE – ***CELEBRATE CHRIST'S BIRTH WITH GLORIOUS LIGHT***

Looking back 150 years

When the church was formed in 1869 the world was significantly different. Characters from the “wild west” were just developing a reputation. The battle of Little Big Horn took place in 1869, it was a significant battle in the Indian Wars in Montana. Crazy Horse was the leader of the Lakota nation and involved in battles with the US Armies as settlers moved into the territories. Jesse James committed his first bank robbery, women still did not have the right to vote (except in Wyoming), and Purdue University was founded. In the eastern part of our country, Georgia, Texas, and Mississippi were all readmitted to the United States as the Confederate States (CSA) was dissolved. Much of the south was under reconstruction as the Civil War had ended only 4 years before.

Locally, at First Presbyterian church, there are 6 men listed on the church board.

J.W. Pettit is listed in session minutes throughout the first years we have documents. Dr. Pettit was born in far southern IL in Sparta in 1848. Illinois records indicate that his mother’s family was one of the first families to settle in Illinois in 1783. Dr. Pettit graduated from the Louisville Medical College in 1873. He moved to Ottawa shortly after finishing school. One of the first duties he was assigned was to be the Ottawa city Health officer in 1878, and along with this he was LaSalle County Coroner and the LaSalle County Health Officer. He became active in the newly organized National Guard and was a Second Lieutenant in Company C until 1898.

Dr. Pettit had done some research while in medical school and recognized that the recommended treatment for Tuberculosis, involving sending patients to specific climate had no impact on the disease. He began an uphill battle to convince people that climate had no impact on the recovery from TB. In 1904 he formed the Ottawa Tent Colony on the south side of the river (where Ottawa Pavilion is now). He worked with the state legislature to develop state funding for the center but when the funding was cut from \$100,000 (almost \$3,000,000 today) to \$25,000 the governor vetoed the bill because this was not enough money to fund the treatment center. Dr. Pettit developed a private treatment center and patients from all over the United States came for effective treatment. His son was the director of the tent colony, and Dr. Pettit became nationally known for his private treatment clinic. He was president of the state medical association during the time the tent colony was operating.

Cont. on pg.4

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*Our Elders are
committed
to serving.*

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433-5477

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(Worship/Deacon)
434-2774

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(Administration)
433-0868

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(Administration)
795-6791

Kerry Gerding
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434-4123

Betty Ehret
(Fellowship & Outreach)
228-2217

Ron Koestler
(Missions)
343-6088

Diane Farrell
(Clerk of Session)
434-2774

**WE ALL
WONDER**
*explore***God**.com

DOES LIFE HAVE A PURPOSE?

IS THERE A GOD?

WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

IS CHRISTIANITY TOO NARROW?

IS JESUS REALLY GOD?

IS THE BIBLE RELIABLE?

CAN I KNOW GOD PERSONALLY?

Cont. from pg. 2

Dr. Pettit was secretary of the church board in 1876, he was elected for a two year term. He is not mentioned in the minutes after his term ended, and according to the LaSalle County Old and New he passed away leaving a wife and two sons. One son was a physician practicing in Boston, the other son lived in Ottawa and was the business officer for the Tent Colony.

Meanwhile, at FPC the 10 year old church faced financial challenges. The pastor's salary was agreed to be \$624.39 per year with a total budget of \$769.00. The church did not receive that amount in "subscriptions" and ended the year 1879 owing the pastor \$202.66. In today's economy his salary would be around \$17,000 and the church budget total would have been approximately \$20,000. The minutes do not reflect a solution to the issue, and the next minutes were dated 1881.

Prayer Needed!

We invite you to join us in praying as we prepare for the Explore God Chicago outreach event coming in January. Here are a couple of specific ways you can pray this week:

Pray for courage, confidence, and opportunities to speak to our friends and invite them to explore God with us.

The Explore God Chicago ~ "Everyday • Everywhere • Everyone" Prayer: I will pray as the Lord leads me; everyday, everywhere, for everyone.

"In Jesus' name, for this day, I ask you Holy Spirit for confidence and opportunities to pray for someone who is far from God to care for someone at their point of need with love and share my Jesus story with an invitation to explore God."

EXPLORE WITH US

explore**God**.com

EXPLORE GOD FACILITATORS MEETINGS

There will be 3 brief meetings for Explore God facilitators on Dec.2 (TODAY) & Dec. 9. If you plan to facilitate an Explore God discussion group, please join us in the library following Sunday School at 11:45 am.

Christmas Joy Offering

During the month of December inserts will be placed in the bulletins every week. Every year, we pour out our gratitude by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering which supports church workers and their families in need and nurtures the promise of our future racial ethnic leaders. Christmas Joy Offering envelopes will be in the pew racks for you to use. If you plan to donate please do so before the end of December.

MITTEN TREE FOR SALVATION ARMY

The Mitten Tree is in place in Scott Hall again this year! Please place your mittens and hats on the tree, or on the stage, to be donated to the Salvation Army by December 16. Thank You!

PICK-A-GIFT IS BACK!

Our kids will be participating in our annual Pick-a-Gift Event on December 16th during the Sunday School hour. They look forward to this every year and we love seeing all the great stuff they pick out for their family members. We haven't asked for donations for a couple years now, so we're seeing a shortage of things in certain areas. We have a mom section, a dad section, and a kid section and each of these sections could do with some updating. Our dad section and things for boys, however, are very low and we would love to see some donations come in for these groups in particular. All donations can be dropped off in the Pre-school ZONE Room across from the elevator on the bottom floor. We thank you so much for helping keep this fun event going for our kids!



PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR YEAR-END PER CAPITA CONTRIBUTION

A friendly reminder to all members who haven't given their per capita of \$36.34 for 2018. Please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church and note "per capita" on the memo line.

Per capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of the coming together of the Presbyteries and Synods and through the General Assembly.

- It is how Presbyterians are trained to become better ruling elders, teaching elders and deacons and ministers.
- It is how Presbyterians are helped to discern God's call in their lives.
- It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the wider church by serving on Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly committees and commissions, regardless of distance or financial resources.
- It is how Presbyterians participate in the life of the church universal as we commit ourselves to work and live in fellowship with "all persons of every nation". (Book of Order, G-4.0101)

All Presbyterians are called to take part in the ecclesiastical and administrative work shared by the whole church through per capita giving. The annual rate is a per-member apportionment that is assessed biennially by the General Assembly. (Book of Order, G-4.0106) All congregations—large and small—are encouraged to participate, whether through an annual budget item or through the special direct appeal to their congregations.

NOTE: The largest share of Per Capita goes to fund our local Blackhawk Presbytery ministries, paying for programs and salaries of the numerous good people there who work hard and faithfully to serve all Blackhawk congregations, including First Presbyterian Church in Ottawa.

- Blackhawk Presbytery's share of Per Capita for 2018: \$24.80
- Synod's share (Lincoln Trails): \$3.81
- General Assembly's share: \$7.73

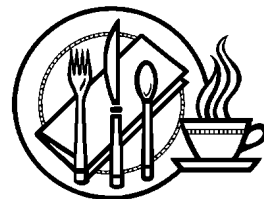
LOVE, WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

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 February, April, July, August, September and December 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 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

Carol Engberg/Women: 433-3465

John Walker (1st 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 December are soups. 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.

LADIES' NITE OUT

Tuesday, December 4

6:00 p.m.at
Betsy Feagans' Home
at 1319 W. Jackson St.
Ottawa

Free Meal.
Donations will be taken to help a family
for Christmas
Please contact:

Betsy Feagans at
433-5480

for info & reservations.

KUM JOIN US

**SUNDAY, December 3 at
11:00 a.m.**

IN THE SANCTUARY

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

All are welcome!



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY



DECEMBER

Aspen Stuedemann	1
Sandy Finnegan	4
Lori Olson	4
Ben Dial	6
Bruce Smith	6
Karen Mikkelsen	6
Helen Tammen	11
Sawyer Booras	11
John Gibbs	12
Betty Angus	18
Holly Hess	22
Jax & Marek Zarwell	24
Anna Schmidt	26
Willow Stuedemann	27
Olivia Trolinger	28

JANUARY

Jodi Martin	5
Keith Stevenson	5
Michael Hess	6
Betty Ehret	12
Dawn Hess	13
Cathy Peters	21
Nathalie Schmidt	26
Debbie Walker,	27
Dana Snook	27
Diane Kennedy,	28
Winona Bartlett	31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Every Sunday 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, Adult Education Class		Every Tuesday 7 pm-Bell Choir in Scott Hall	Every Wed. 7 pm Choir in the Library	Every Thurs. 9:30 am Seniors Small Group		Every Saturday 7:30 am Men's Small Group
						1.
2. 1st Sunday of Advent	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
9. 2nd Sunday of Advent 5 pm-LOL4JC	10.	11. 7 pm-Committee Meetings	12.	13.	14.	15.
16. 3rd Sunday of Advent 11:45 am-Pick-A-Gift NOON- Community Meal	17.	18.	19.	20.	21.	22.
23. 4th Sunday of Advent 9:30 am-Music Sunday	24. 7 pm--Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	25. Merry Christmas!	26.	27.	28.	29.
30.						



December 2018

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

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MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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