



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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SEPTEMBER 2019



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: A deep, deep Gratitude

My dear Church family,

Whenever I think of you, my heart and mind are full of a deep gratitude to God that I am the one God has chosen to be your shepherd. That I am the one God has chosen to receive the blessing of your generous hearts and great kindness toward me and my family. Surely I am one of the most blessed pastors who gets to rejoice greatly in his labor and work because you make my labors and work among you so rewarding.

Your willingness to give me a truly rich season of Sabbath-rest for 16 weeks this summer is a testament to your kind care for me and your trust in the LORD. Your readiness to accept with grace the risk that comes with sending your pastor off while you assume so many ministry responsibilities speaks to the *Loving Community of Jesus Christ* that you are and the faith that is growing in you. I am full of gratitude and wonder to God for what he is accomplishing among us. It makes me very excited to see what God is calling us to in the next seasons of our journey ahead.

Thank you to the Sabbatical Renewal Team, the elders, Cindy Arjes and Pastor Jenny Suydam for their strong leadership this summer. Thank you to all my dear brothers and sisters in Christ for the ways you show me more fully who Jesus is in your ministry to me!

Deeply grateful,
Pastor John Walker

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 with, and for, one another on Sunday mornings, at 8:45 am, and Wednesday mornings, at 10 am, at FPC

150th Anniversary Committee

The 150th anniversary committee is trying to put together information, pictures, videos, movies, artifacts of activities in the Church since 1960 (Bob McClellan was pastor). Please look through your cupboards, closets, drawers, and basements to dig out some of the momentos and artifacts you have saved. They do have enough of the old picture directories. Please bring them to the church office or give them to Chris Keely or Don Morehead. Be sure your name is on it, so it can be returned to you. We need these items by August 31st.

PRAYER IS POWERFUL. LET'S PRAY TOGETHER!

We invite you to be a part of refreshing the PRAYER LIFE of our congregation! We know that the foundation of prayer is so important for anything we do. There are two opportunities each week to be a part of this important and special work of the church; **Sunday mornings from 8:45-9am AND/OR Wednesday mornings from 10-11am**, in the library. Please come join us to see what great work God is waiting to do, as we thank, seek & ask Him.

Heavenly Father, Thank you, that we can come before you, our loving, powerful Father and ask for you help and guidance. Thank you for how you have blessed FPC these past 150 years. Will you please continue to pour out your blessings upon us? We ask for you protection and provision, for our church and leaders, as we enter this time of wanting to grow closer to you, and be your disciples. Please help our hearts to be open to what you want to teach us. Help us to see your love for us, and others all around us. Show us where we can be your hands and feet. Give us courage to speak out in love and kindness, in your Name, where we see need. Please heal those who are sick; comfort those whose hearts are hurting; provide for those in need; bless and protect our families; heal our nation and world. Jesus, thank you for your amazing gift of complete forgiveness, because of your obedience and sacrifice on the cross, on our behalf. Please help us t live with new awareness of the freedom we have been given, as yor deeply loved sons and daughters. Help us to grasp and understand the rich PRIZE you have for us, and those all around us. Holy Spirit, please reveal yourself to us, guide, lead, and protect us.

In Jesus's Mighty Name,

Amen

Want more help with HOW to pray and for WHAT? See the daily Calendar for PRAYER on page 6.

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jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org

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Treasurer

Betty Angus

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Organist

Diane Chapman

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committed to serving.*

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431-9168

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(Worship)

433-5477

David Farrell

(Worship)

815-252-2351

Diane Farrell

(Clerk of Session)

434-2774

TOWN HALL MEETING

PER CAPITA GIVING RECONSIDERED

PER CAPITA AMOUNT= The amount per member as determined by Blackhawk Presbytery times the number of active members in the congregation, said amount being given to support the ministries of Blackhawk Presbytery, Synod of Lincoln Trails, and General Assembly of PCUSA.

For many years, First Presbyterian Church of Ottawa (FPCO) paid the total per capita amount in full through Presbytery, regardless of how many members actually contributed their individual per member amount. Several years ago, Session voted to pay through Presbytery only the amount of per capita actually contributed by the FPCO members. Because not all members paid their share, this left a greater shortfall in the amount paid to Presbytery.

Session is now considering returning to the original method of paying the total per capita amount requested, and not just the amount collected from the FPCO members for that purpose. In this way, even though there may be a shortfall in the per capita giving by the members, FPCO will fulfill its obligations to the larger Church of Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

Session is requesting input from the FPCO members and will hold a TOWN HALL MEETING on Sunday September 15 immediately following worship service in the sanctuary. Please join us to offer your suggestions and recommendations. Session will vote on the per capita question on Tuesday September 17 at 7:00 o' clock p.m., so please offer your ideas to Session before then, or come to the Session meeting with your input. Thank you for your prayers in this regard. God Bless.

Administration Committee on behalf of FPCO Session.

In Pursuit of Peter

How did Peter transform from an uneducated fisherman into one of the most celebrated and beloved Jesus-followers in history? New Testament scholar Con Campbell wanted to find out. It's one thing to read about people in Scripture. It's another thing to trace their life histories to more fully understand their backgrounds and the profound effect Jesus had on them. Con invites you to join him in his pursuit of Peter.

Explore the places where Peter lived and traveled, starting by the Sea of Galilee where he labored as a fisherman--an unlikely disciple, but purposely called by Christ. Continue the journey to Jerusalem, Turkey, Rome, and other locations where Con meets people who provide insights into Peter's passionate personality. You'll see the life of Peter unfold through Scripture, interviews, and stunning on-location footage.

In Pursuit of Peter is an extraordinary introduction to the Apostle Peter. The captivating film series features Professor Con Campbell, a gifted and masterful teacher. Viewers will be blessed by investing time with this excellent six-part series (22 minutes in length each week), which is enjoyable, informative, insightful, edifying, and transformative.

The Man and the Sea (21 minutes) - A fisherman from the Sea of Galilee has his world disrupted when he meets Jesus. Immediately Jesus changes his name from Simon to Peter, meaning "Rock." But Peter doesn't understand why. The answer would be revealed over the next few years.

Who is this Man? (21 minutes) - As a follower of Jesus, Peter had a front row seat to His teaching and miracles. Seeing them through Peter's eyes shows how they altered his paradigm of who Jesus is and the kingdom Jesus came to build.

Hope of Messiah (21 minutes) - With Jesus as Messiah, Peter anticipates the conquest of the Roman occupiers and a Jewish kingdom. But when Jesus surrenders to the authorities in Jerusalem, Peter panics. He denies knowing Jesus and is flooded with grief, but soon his hope is renewed when Jesus restores him.

Hope of the Nations (22 minutes) - After Jesus departs for heaven, Peter's rock-like boldness emerges when the Spirit comes and indwells all who believe in Jesus. Three thousand people from around the Roman world respond in faith, and Peter becomes the foundational leader of the Jesus movement.

In Pursuit of Peter cont. from pg. 4

New Horizons (23 minutes) - After Peter leads the church in Jerusalem for a decade, his role changes. As an eyewitness to Jesus's life and with the heart of a pastor, he moves across the Mediterranean world reminding troubled followers that this world is not their home.

Veneration (22 minutes) - Peter's final destination is Rome, the center of world influence. From there he writes his final words-words to live by and words to die by. Although he's crucified by Emperor Nero, his contribution to establishing the faith is incalculable.

The Pursuit of Peter class will begin Sunday, September 8 in the Library at 11 a.m. The class will last six weeks. Teacher: sAllen Gibbs If you have any questions please contact Allen (304-633-1069)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL

We are looking for 8 people to welcome the Opportunity School parents and students the first week of school. 2 people each of these day: Tuesday, Sept 3rd, Wednesday, Sept. 4th, Thursday, Sept. 5th and Friday, Sept. 6th. at 8:20 am-8:40 am and 11:50am-12:10pm each day. If you can spare 20 minutes it will be much appreciated. Please contact Lisa Mestelle (815-252-7462) for more information or to sign up.

ZONE IS BEGINNING SOON

Exciting new things happening in ZONE this year! Beginning September 22nd, 10:45 am - 11:30 am. We will begin our new Kairos Quest curriculum. Our kids will be on the adventure of learning to listening for God's voice and taking action when they hear him speak! Watch for more information coming soon!.

SCARECROW FEST IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Scarecrow Festival is just around the corner! September 28th. 10:00 - 4:00. Sign up for times that fit your schedule or donate some of the listed supplies. We have some new games as well as the classics. Volunteers can sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary. Let's be the face and hands of Jesus to our community!

PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY WITH US, FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

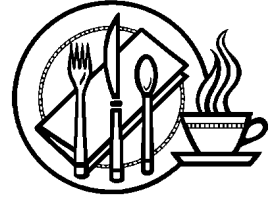
| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1. Pray for Restoration and Revival <i>Psalm 80:19</i> | 2. Pastor John and his family <i>Galatians 6:9</i> | 3. FPC Staff <i>1 Corinthians 16:4</i> | 4. Sabbatical <i>Leviticus 25:1-4</i> | 5. Public Schools & Opportunity School <i>Proverbs 22:6</i> | 6. Shut-ins <i>James 1:27</i> |
| 7. Community Meals <i>Matthew 25:37-40</i> | 8. Worship <i>Psalm 86: 9-10</i> | 9. Hearts of Hurting People <i>Psalm 34:18</i> | 10. Session <i>Isaiah 41:10</i> | 11. PADS Shelter & Homeless <i>Matthew 25:35-40</i> | 12. Protection of the Congregation <i>Ephesians 6:10-18</i> |
| 13. Invite & Welcome the Holy Spirit <i>Titus 3:4-7</i> | 14. Choir & Music Team <i>Psalm 92:1</i> | 15. LOL4JC & Sr. High Ministry <i>Proverbs 22:6</i> | 16. Our Children <i>Matthew 19:14</i> | 17. Pray for Missionaries Strength & Protection <i>Acts 1:8</i> | 18. Riverside Women's Center <i>Luke 21:18-19</i> |
| 19. Health of the Congregation <i>James 5:14</i> | 20. Small Groups & Missional Communities <i>Hebrews 10:25</i> | 21. Nation, State & Government <i>1 Timothy 2:1-4</i> | 22. Z.O.N.E. <i>Matthew 19:14</i> | 23. Our Seniors <i>Psalm 90:14</i> | 24. Churches of Ottawa <i>Hebrews 10:24-25</i> |
| 25. Ottawa Mayor & City Counsel <i>1 timothy 2:1-4</i> | 26. Leaders of Ministries <i>Hebrews 13:17-18</i> | 27. Ottawa Community <i>Jeremiah 29:7</i> | 28. Pray for those who are far from God <i>Luke 10:2</i> | 29. Servant's Heart <i>Matthew 25:37-40</i> | 30. Marseilles Community <i>Jeremiah 29:7</i> |

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

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

December in 2019 and all of 2020. 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 Julie Angus (433-2946) 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:

Brian & Joy Huebner (Sun. PM): 343-3379

Carol Engberg/Women: 433-3465

John Walker (1st Sun. PM monthly): 433-1045

(2nd Thursday PM each 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 (433-5477) for questions or to sign up.

LADIES' NITE OUT

Tuesday, September 3

At Annie's

6:00 p.m

Contact Carol Woeckel
at 434-6852
for information and reservations

KUM JOIN US

Will meet on September 1

at 11 am in the Library

Lunch will follow at Halftime



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY



SEPTEMBER

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Cindy Arjes . | 4 |
| Brian Zeilmann | 6 |
| Jon Woodyer | 14 |
| Peggy Roeder | 15 |
| Mark Brockman | 15 |
| Dan Duggan | 16 |
| Craig Harvey | 22 |
| Deb Damron | 23 |
| Katie Duggan | 26 |
| David Farrell | 28 |

OCTOBER

| | |
|----------------|----|
| Larry Schmitt | 2 |
| Hannah Walker | 2 |
| Brenda Wegner | 3 |
| Shirley Davey | 4 |
| Arla Severson | 5 |
| Caleb Burkey | 6 |
| Mary Lou Smith | 12 |
| Rob Angus | 14 |
| Joe Schmidt | 20 |
| Dan Mestelle | 22 |
| Samantha Ehret | 24 |
| Sharon Roark | 25 |

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|----------------------------|--|--|--|--------|---|
| <u>Every Sunday</u> 8:45 am Prayer 9:30 am WORSHIP 10:45 am Fellowship 10:45 am-ZONE 10:45-Jr. & Sr. High Sunday School 11 am-Adult Bible Study | | | <u>Every Wed.</u> 10 am -Prayer Time 7 pm-Choir Practice | <u>Every Thurs.</u> 9:30 am Seniors Small Group | | <u>Every Saturday</u> 7:30 am Men's Small Group |
| 1. | 2. LABOR DAY | 3. OFFICE FOR THE | 4. CLOSED HOLIDAY 7 pm- Choir Begins Come sing with us! | 5. | 6. | 7. |
| 8. 8:45am- Stewardship Kick Off Breakfast! | 9. | 10. 7pm-Committee Meetings | 11. | 12. | 13. | 14. |
| 15. 11am-Town Hall NOON-Community Meal | 16. | 17. 7pm-Session | 18. | 19. 9 am- October Newsletter Deadline | 20. | 21. |
| 22. | 23. | 24. | 25. | 26. | 27. | 28. Scarecrow Fest 10am-4pm |
| 29. | 30. | Do you want to serve, help others in need? Sign up for FPC's Ottawa Labor of Love Team Ottawa Labor of Love is Saturday, October 5! | | | | |



September 2019

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Non-Profit Organization
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Ottawa, Illinois

Return Service Requested

SCARECROW FEST IS SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28th

- Sign up in the sanctuary to help in 1-hour time slots
- Share the joy of games with children & families in our community
- Help by donating needed supplies listed at sign up center in the sanctuary
- Let's serve Ottawa with a day of joyful fun & show that FPC cares!



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|--|--------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| <i>* From the Pastor's Study</i> | <i>pg. 1</i> | <i>* Prayer Calendar</i> | <i>pg. 6</i> |
| <i>* 150th Anniversary, Call to Pray</i> | <i>pg. 2</i> | <i>* Love, Win, Grow, Go</i> | <i>pg. 7</i> |
| <i>* Town Hall Meeting</i> | <i>pg. 3</i> | <i>* Food, Fellowship, Family</i> | <i>pg. 8</i> |
| <i>* In Pursuit of Peter: Adult Ed class</i> | <i>pg. 4</i> | <i>* September Calendar</i> | <i>pg. 9</i> |
| <i>* Announcements</i> | <i>pg. 5</i> | <i>* Highlights of the Month</i> | <i>pg. 10</i> |

*** Refresh Your Prayer Life on Sunday & Wednesday Mornings**