



# PRESBY PRESS

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 44 No. 3

MARCH 2020



## 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

## LENT SCHEDULE

**Wednesday, Feb. 26**—Ash Wednesday Service 7 pm

**Sunday, April 5**—Palm Sunday Service

**Thursday, April 9**—Maundy Thursday Service 7 pm

**Sunday, April 12**—Easter Sunday



**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 9 am, at FPC

## The Lord's Plans and Purpose

Proverbs 19:21 “Many are the plans of a person’s heart. But it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

Joe & Nathalie Schmidt’s February 2020 Ugandan Mission Trip

Hello, FPC Church Family! We have returned and we are excited & thankful! We had a safe and blessed mission trip to Uganda this past month. We first and foremost THANK YOU for your loving and prayerful support for our journey. We spent just under two weeks in the west side of Uganda, specifically in the area of Fort Portal, the office home of ITI, our friend Milton Tusingwire’s non-profit organization. After the Summer 2019 BIUG Mission Trip with our wonderful leader Debbie Damron, we were inspired to come back for more of an agriculture focus. It was our desire to dig deeper into how farmers do their practices in Uganda, learning from them their successes and their challenges. We had the amazing opportunity to share with about 100 Ugandan village farmers. We found in our conversations with them that the essence of being a farmer carries deep connections that truly surpass the disconnect of the passage of time or international boundaries. Even though we find their farming practices are at least a century behind those of ours in the USA, there is something inherently the same if you are a farmer. Our passion and vocation to utilize the earth carries so many similarities no matter what country in which one lives. Successes they find in farming – growing corn/maize & soybeans as well as their garden crops for their daily food needs, the sale of crops helps them keep their kids in school, improved health and ability to access medical care, buy clothing, build small and better houses, build strong community relationships/friendships and sense of helping one another and working together, barter for needs of the household, ability to buy small plots of land to increase growing acres. Yet, there are challenges, and to us they seemed so heavy. Insects & pests attack the crops, disease and weeds riddle the yield potential, selling what crop they do produce poses a challenge to sell it due to the lack of quality roads on which to travel, occasionally they need to rent land apart from their home soil because it is not sufficient, soils are over used and have lost fertility, wildlife/rodents help themselves to their grain/food sources, the labor is all by human effort so injuries/illness/fatigue set in, lack of modern tools, not enough land to utilize as plots of land are generally small.

Cont. on pg. 5

### Pastor

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[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.*

**Jim Keely**

(Administration)  
433-0868

**Pete Trolinger**

(Administration)  
795-6791

**Mike Farrell**

(Deacon/Trustee)  
434-2774

**Brian Smithmeyer**

(Discipleship)  
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252-7462

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343-6088

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(Worship)  
(304) 633-1069

**David Farrell**

(Worship)  
815-252-2351

**Diane Farrell**

(Clerk of Session)  
434-2774

## **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 9-10 am**, 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 to live with new awareness of the freedom we have been given, as your 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 4.**



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

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

The Lord's Plan cont. from pg. 2

In noting the Proverbs verse above, we went into this journey with certain thought processes and expectations of ways to help. With our open hearts we have come to understand better ways that God might lead them and us in a collaboration of help and path to better self-sufficiency. As we begin to process all we have learned this month, what we hope to do is assist in the implementation of some small ways of help that could make manageable improvements for these very hard-working people.

We also had extended time to meet with two families of young men who find themselves navigating life without their parents for several years now. We spent quality time with the James Family (James, Clovis, Sylvia, Derrick) and the Alberts Family (Albert, James, Steven, Joseph, and Robert). Most all these young Ugandans are in their mid 20's striving to make things work to become self-sufficient. They are concerned that they are not winning at the challenges of getting to that place in their lives. We took the time to meet with them, love them, and encourage them. And as a gift to our hearts, we actually introduced to two families to one another. It was a joy for us to have us all meet together! They share similar paths in life, we hope they find community and strength by knowing one another.

Other activities on this work mission trip included...

- Sat in on an ITI staff meeting & a Work Day at ITI office setting up donated computers
- With help from our farming friends here in the USA (The Biehl, Walker, Reilley Families) who supplied funds we for Revolving Seeds & Revolving Livestock Gifts.
- Attended Milton's local Rotary Club meeting
- Interviewed Agronomist candidates to begin a new potential ITI Program to assist village farmers
- Attended VSLA Meetings and local farmer groups to begin conversation of areas of need and help
- Attended Anglican Church Service on Sunday
- Met two amazing women, Victory (age 63) & Jovanis (age 90 yrs), heard their stories while ITI Staff collected their profiles. They are two elderly women in need of basic needs to be met.
- Treked White Rhinoceros

## Senior High Fund Raisers

The Senior High Youth Group is excited to announce a couple of fund raisers that will go toward a possible Mission Trip this summer or next. The youth will bake some delicious treats that will be for sale on Easter Sunday before and after church. Since we have been studying the book of Daniel, we've learned and continue to learn how God uses His children to bless those who don't even expect it, and to receive blessings in places we don't expect. And all that in a world where God seems very far away. A mission trip would round it all off and be an exciting way to connect the kids on a different level with each other and others.

Also, watch out for more announcement to come regarding ways how this church can further support the youth in their efforts to be a blessing to others.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you church family for your many kind words, cards, encouragements, and your many prayers during my recent hospitalization. It was truly a comfort knowing that I was being lifted in prayer by my church family. You are all a blessing.

Ron Koestler

## DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ON SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH!

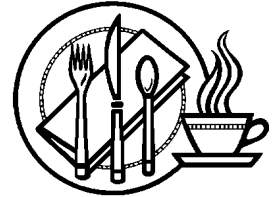


# LOVE, WIN, GROW, GO: SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

**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**

of the months of June, July, August, Sept., and December. 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 (815)202-2870

## **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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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 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 (433-5477) for questions or to sign up.

**LADIES' NITE OUT**

Tuesday, March 3

At R Groto's

At 6:00 p.m.

Contact  
Adalia Stricklin

At 815-488-5182

for reservations or information

**BRING A GUEST!**

**KUM JOIN US**

**Will meet on March 1**

**Immediately after worship in  
the Library**

**Lunch will follow at Halftime**



**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
Madi Trolinger	22
Matthew Walker	24

**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



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		7 pm- Choir Bells Rehersal	<u>Every Wed.</u> 9 am -Prayer Time 7 pm-Choir Practice			<u>Every Saturday</u> 7:30 am Men's Small Group
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.  <b>SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD!</b>
8.  5 pm-LOL4JC & TBD	9.	10  7 PM-Committee Meetings	11.	12.	13.	14.
15.  NOON- Community Meal	16.	17.  NO SESSION	18.	19.	20.	21.
22.  5 pm-LOL4JC & TBD	23.	24.  <u>SPECIAL DATE</u> 7 pm-Session	25.	26.	27.	28.
29.  SOUL SHINE LEADS IN WORSHIP	30.	31.				



# March 2020

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

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

Return Service Requested

**SOUL SHINE RETURNS**

*to lead us in worship of the LORD!*

**STEVE SHARP\*MIKE STOHR\*BRYAN GUENTHER**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 29 AT 9:30 am**

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<i>* Prayer Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>	<i>* February Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 9</i>
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**\* Refresh Your Prayer Life on Sunday & Wednesday Mornings**