



# PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

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APRIL 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

### *From the Pastor's Desk During COVID-19*

My dear church family,

We have been under our governor's shelter-in-place order for 11 days, an order which has now been set through the end of April. These days have certainly brought many different experiences to life and faith for us as a church family. I pray that each one of you are doing all you can to keep yourself and others healthy as we move through this time. I pray that your faith is strengthened and that your minds are at peace, because we know that Christ is our Peace. Let me also say and acknowledge that anxiousness can creep in, especially as we are aware of the reports and updates given with each passing day. The unknown can be worrisome, and fear can be a part of the human experience in this life. But God, in his delight over us as his children and his desire for our well-being, does not want us to be afraid. He says to each of us when we become anxious, *"Child, I'm here!"* Remember the straightforward words from our worship experience on Sunday, March 29 – the words of the prophet in Isaiah 41:10.

***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand."***

I encourage all of us in these days to wrap our hands around these words – literally, to carry them with you! Let us fill our minds with their power to remind and reassure us that nothing has really changed in this world. It is true, someone has said, that this world is always filled with sorrow. But God is always faithful, never surprised by what happens in any given day or time. He is faithful, and he will deliver us through this and every hardship. Even death has been overcome by Christ's resurrection.

Cont. on pg. 2

### **Do you have a prayer request for the Wednesday prayer team?**

Your First Presbyterian Church Family believes in the power of prayer. (See Romans 1:9b-10a). If you would like to submit a prayer request to the prayer team, please send your request to Mike Farrel at [farrell1031@sbcglobal.net](mailto:farrell1031@sbcglobal.net)

Your request will be prayed for on Wed. morning and by Pastor John Sunday morning during our video worship services.

Cont. from pg.1

In this time when we are about to enter with Christ into Jerusalem and remember his suffering and victory for us over sin, death and the enemy, let us take heart and have courage. Fear is our enemy's playground. It's not where God calls us to dwell. Rather he calls us to find our lives are hid with Christ in Him (Colossians 3:3). While we trust in him and lift our prayers for help and deliverance daily to him, let us be wise and use all prescribed cautions as we move about in our days, but let us not be fearful for ourselves or our loved ones. Let us trust our God who is with us! He will give us help, strength and victory. Let us share this good news with one another and with all our neighbors daily as we await the end of this virus together. God bless you and give you his deep peace in Christ Jesus.

With all love and affection for you in Christ,  
Pastor John Walker

## **Please Continue Your Faithful** **Stewardship to FPC**

As you are able in these current circumstances, the Administration Committee, the Trustees and your FPC session ask that you continue to send your tithes, gifts and offering checks to:

First Presbyterian Church

114 E. Jefferson Street

Ottawa, IL 61350

ATTN: Treasurer/Betty Angus

Also, watch for details about how you can make your FPC contributions on-line in a safe and secure fashion, for those who might like to give that way. The Administration elders are working out details with the Presbyterian Foundation and will advise us soon.

### **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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61350

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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)

795-6791

**Lisa Mestelle**

(Discipleship)

252-7462

**Gayle Schmidt**

(Fellowship & Outreach)

815-667-4964

**Julie Angus**

(Fellowship & Outreach)

815-252-3402

**Kerry Gerding**

(Missions)

343-6088

**Brad Angus**

(Trustee)

433-2946

**Dan Mestelle**

(Trustee)

252-7462

**Dan Duggan**

(Trustee)

431-9168

**Allen Gibbs**

(Worship)

(304) 633-1069

**David Farrell**

(Worship)

815-252-2351

**Diane Farrell**

(Clerk of Session)

434-2774

**PRAYER IS POWERFUL. LET'S PRAY TOGETHER**

**BY ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE!**

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.

***During this season of staying home we can still gather for prayer*** – and perhaps you are home more now and have the time? If so, please come join us by Zoom videoconference call on Wednesdays at 9:00 AM. It's really not difficult to do! Please send your email request to join to Pastor John Walker at [jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org) and he will send you the simple invite to get you connected.

When we are able to physically gather together again, we will return to our previous prayer gathering schedule:

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 your 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 your 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**

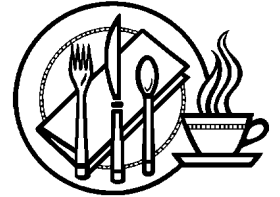
1. <b>Pray for Restoration and Revival</b> <i>Psalm 80:19</i>	2. <b>Pastor John and his family</b> <i>Galatians 6:9</i>	3. <b>FPC Staff</b> <i>1 Corinthians 16:4</i>	4. <b>Our Hurting World</b> <i>John 3:16</i>	5. <b>Public Schools &amp; Opportunity School</b> <i>Proverbs 22:6</i>	6. <b>Shut-ins</b> <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>

# 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 April is tomato products. 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.

## THANK YOU!

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for all the cards and prayers coming my way. You have no idea how they have brightened my days and warmed my heart. You are all truly a blessing.

Sincerely, Chris Keely

### High Sunday School and Confirmation class will continue by ZOOM. The Senior

We meet weekly 10:45 am to 11:45 am by ZOOM video conference.

### Adult Bible Study Class Will Continue On ZOOM

We are continuing study of Ephesians through the month of April.

During the "PAUSE" our start time is moved up to **10:30 am** using **ZOOM**.

Please let anyone know that they can join in by emailing me at

[allengibbs13@gmail.com](mailto:allengibbs13@gmail.com) their interest so I can send them a ZOOM invite.

### If you cannot connect by internet to FPC's Sunday video worship, would you like a DVD copy of the services?

Please send your request for FPC's Sunday worship video to Cindy Arjes at [fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org) or call 815-433-1045

### The Church Office will not be open regular hours until further notice

If you need to contact Cindy for anything please email to [fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org) or call 815-433-1045 or Cindy's cell phone 815-915-1159 before 8 pm.

## FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY



### APRIL

Rob McGrath	1
Sue Koestler	3
Mike Farrell	8
Amanda Brockman	10
Diane Farrell	11
Brian Huebner	12
Karla Armstrong	18
Caroline Hill	18
Tyler Angus	19
Brad Angus	20
Hannah Duggan	21
Danielle Ehret	23
Rhonda Love	26
Pete Trolinger	27

### MAY

Addilyn Woodyer	3
Lisa Mestelle	10
Tucker Clemens	11
Steve West	13
Don Morehead	15
James Burkey	15
Byron Long	16
Jackie Stevenson	19
John Bean	23
Casey Clemens	25
Betsy Feagans	25

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 am– Worship Service On YouTube 10:45 am– Senior High Confirmation Class on ZOOM 10:45 am-Adult Bible Study on ZOOM			9 am– Prayer Time on ZOOM if you'd Like to come email Pastor John at <a href="mailto:jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org">jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org</a>			
			1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
9:30 am PALM-SUNDAY on FPC YouTube Channel				7 pm MAUNDY THURSDAY on FPC YouTube Channel	GOOD FRIDAY	
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
9:30 am-EASTER SUNDAY on FPC YouTube Channel						
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
9:30 am-Worship Service on FPC YouTube Channel		7pm-Session MTG BY ZOOM				
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.		
9:30 am-Worship Service on FPC YouTube Channel						



*April* 2020

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

Return Service Requested

### ***Be Sure to Join Us For Holy Week Worship Services***

Note: worship services can be found on FPC's YouTube channel or they can be accessed from FPC's Facebook page or website: [www.ottawafirstpres.org](http://www.ottawafirstpres.org)

**Palm Sunday: 9:30 a.m. – April 5**

**Maundy Thursday: 7:00 p.m. – April 9**

**Easter Sunday: 9:30 a.m. – April 12**

Look for updates on FPC's YouTube channel, remind.com and your FPC emailings to learn when we can expect to gather together again.

*Still need the remind.com app to receive current FPC updates?*

See FPC's Facebook page for instructions, or contact Cindy Arjes at [fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org)

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