



PRESBY PRESS

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

VOLUME 45 NO. 1

JANUARY 2021



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: Thank You!

Dear First Presbyterian Church family,

As the holy seasons of Advent and Christmas come to a close at the end of 2020, I want to share a heart full of thanks to so many who gave of themselves to make every expression of our Christ-centered faith in this season so very beautiful. This year has been challenging, to say the least. With all that's been difficult, every one of you have really stepped up to show the resilience of your faith and love for Christ, your commitment of love to one another and the witness of the undaunted good news of the gospel to the world.

To the Burkeys, Keelys, Clemens, McGraths, Farrells and Duggans that recorded the Advent Call to Worship each week, *thank you* for sharing your wonderful stories. To Nathalie Schmidt who set those recordings up, who beautified the sanctuary with the glorious poinsettias (thank you to Diane Kennedy for help with set-up!), and put the beautiful lighted garland on the outside stair rails, your artful touches have touched many. Thank you to Hannah Walker for the eye-catching Christmas Eve banner design, and to Mike Farrell who worked quickly to get it printed and up on the outside steps so the community would know about our 5:00 p.m. outdoor candlelight service.

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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

THANK YOU!

Dear church family,

My heart is so full from all the love and caring you have shown me and my family after losing my mom. Your cards and well wishes have meant so much to me, especially since I haven't seen many of you in such a long time.

God is so good!

Merry Christmas and a Happy 2021!

Lisa Mestelle

Pastor

John W. Walker

jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org

Church Secretary

Cindy Arjes

fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org

Treasurer

Betty Angus

Westminster Choir Director

Lloyd Chapman

Lloyd@udnet.net

Organist

Diane Chapman

A Prayer of Reflection for the New Year:

My Father Who is in Heaven, Hallowed be your name. I thank you for the caring and keeping of my heart, my mind, and my body this year. I know that many of the events that have transpired over the course of the year may have been a surprise to me, but none of them were a surprise to you.

I bless your name because you are holy and worthy of my trust. Therefore, I rest in your goodness and I ask that you would heal the parts of me that need it, and protect the parts of me that are whole and pure.

I walk into this coming year with open arms, knowing that you have a bright hope and a future for me. I leave this year knowing that you cause all things to work together for my good, because I love you and have been called according to your purposes.

Have your way, oh Lord and wherever you lead me, I will follow! For I pray this in your son Jesus' precious and mighty name, Amen.

By: Britnee Bradshaw

LARGE FLAT SCREEN TV IS NEEDED

Dorene Pratt is in need of a working flat screen television. If you have one to give away please contact Dorene (815-617-4040) or the office (815-433-1045).

The Presby Press is published
monthly by
First Presbyterian Church
114 E. Jefferson St., Ottawa, IL
61350
Telephone 815-433-1045

Cont. from pg. 1

Thank you to all the behind-the-scenes work and leadership provided by our worship elders, Dave Farrell and Allen Gibbs, with lots of help from Susanne, Emilie, Alayna, James and Timothy Gibbs.

Thank you to Betsy Feagans and Joy Huebner for the lovely luminaries lighting the night at our frigid but successful outdoor Christmas Eve service. Thank you to Steve and Jonah Sharp for the powerful music they added to that service despite the impossible cold. Thank you to all of our songsters and musicians present every week during this season who have loved us all wonderfully with their musical sounds and creations, led by Lloyd and Diane Chapman and James and Donna Burkey. The choir ensembles, the bell choir, Madie Trolinger's flute solo, James and Timothy Gibbs' trombone duet, the great creative on-screen designs and holy expressions of music each week from MT No More – all of it from all our music ministry folks has been exquisite! Thank you to all who helped to make the sanctuary look beautiful for this season, including Lori Trolinger and her team that made the social distancing cording on the pews look so beautiful! I think all will agree we want to give a BIG thank you to our tech team, led by Brian Huebner. With all the challenges this year has brought, our technology has been so important to help us connect and share each moment of worship in this holy season.

Thank you to Emilie, Alayna and Timothy Gibbs, and Jenna Smithmeyer and Noah Trolinger for the dedicated teamwork you put forth every week to help make the in-person and livestreaming worship experience meaningful, visible and audible. There's been a lot of moving parts you've had to stay on top of. You all do great work and inspire us all!

I hope I have not missed anyone. If I did, please forgive me. There are a lot of people in this Loving Community of Jesus Christ who step up to make so much ministry come to life for the glory of God and the blessing of God's people. It's humbling to watch you all work with such joy and commitment. What a special church family we have! One last expression of thanks I'd like to give is to Cindy Arjes. The work she has done during the challenge of Covid through this Advent-Christmas season has been a great blessing to us all. Her work requires her to attend to many moving parts every week, as well. She does it with love for and commitment to you all. I am grateful for Cindy's joyful partnership with me in the administration of many weekly details.

Giving great thanks to God for my FPC family,
Pastor John Walker

New Adult Sunday School starting Jan 17th, 2021

~ via Zoom at 11:15 am

Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes finds Solomon, a man rich in wealth and wisdom, discussing the pointlessness of a life lived in self-gratification. However, once we realize that life is God's gift to us, we will enjoy it to its fullest. This book is relevant counsel for everyday life and gives reassurance to those who are weighted down by life's struggles.

Come join in and be part of this exciting new study as we learn what God's word proclaims.

Topics in Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes: Background and Survey

All is Vanity

First Sermon: Bring God into the Picture

Second Sermon: God is in Heaven

Third Sermon: Who Knows What is Good?

Fourth Sermon: Remember Now Thy Creator

The Conclusion of the Whole Matter



Contact Allen Gibbs at allengibbs13@gmail.com or (304-633-1069) for information or a zoom invite

*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

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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!

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 is an opportunity each week to be a part of this important and special work of the church; **Wednesday mornings from 9-10 am**, by Zoom. 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. 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. Our Hurting World <i>John 3:16</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>

The Little New Year by Ellen Robena Field

One cold morning Maurice awoke from his dreams and sat up in bed and listened. He thought he heard a knock at his window; but though the moon was shining brightly, Jack Frost had been so busily at work that Maurice could not see through the thickly painted panes. So he crept sleepily out of bed, and opened the window, and whispered: "Who is there?"

"I am," replied a tinkling voice. "I am the little New Year, ho! ho! And I've promised to bring a blessing to everyone. But I am such a little fellow I need somebody to help me distribute them. Won't you please come out and help?"

"Oh, it's so cold!" said Maurice; "I'd rather go back to my warm bed;" and he shivered as Jack Frost, who was passing, tickled him under the chin with one of the frosty paint brushes.

"Never mind the cold," urged the New Year; "please help me."

So Maurice hurried into his clothes, and was soon out in the yard. There he found a rosy-cheeked boy a little smaller than himself, pulling a large cart which seemed to be loaded with good things. On one side of this cart was painted the word "Love," and on the other "Kindness." As soon as the New Year saw Maurice he said, "Now please take hold and help me pull;" and down the driveway and up the hill they travelled until they came to an old shanty.

"Here is where I make my first call," said the New Year. Maurice looked wonderingly at him. "Why, nobody lives here but an old man who works for us; and he hasn't any children!" "He needs my help," said the New Year; "for grown people like to be thought of just as much as children do. You shovel out a path to his door, while I unload some of my blessings; and the little hands went busily at work, piling up warm clothing, wood, and a new year's dinner, the New Year singing as he worked:

"Oh, I am the little New Year; ho! ho! Here I come tripping it over the snow, Shaking my bells with a merry din; So open your door and let me in."

Old Joe, hearing some noise outside, came to the door, and when he saw all the nice gifts the tears ran down his cheeks for gladness; and as he carried them into the house, he whispered: "The dear Lord has been here tonight."

"Where am we going now?" asked Maurice, as they ran down the hill. "To take some flowers to a poor sick girl," answered the New Year.

Soon they came to a small white house, where the New Year stopped. "Why, Bessie lives here," said Maurice. "I didn't know she was sick." "See," said the New Year, "this window is open a little; let us throw this bunch of pinks into the room. They will please her when she wakes, and will make her happy for several days."

Then they hurried to other places, leaving some blessing behind them.

"What a wonderful cart you have," said Maurice; "though you have taken so much out, it never seems to get empty." "You are right, Maurice, there is never any end to love and kindness. As long as I find people to love and be kind to, my cart is full of blessings for them; and it will never grow empty until I can no longer find people to help. If you will go with me every day and help me scatter my blessings, you will see how happy you will be all the long year."

"A happy New Year!" called some one; and Maurice found himself in bed, and his sister standing in the doorway smiling at him. "Have you had a pleasant dream, dear?" she asked.

"Why, where is the little New Year?" said Maurice; "he was just here with me."

"Come into Mamma's room and see what he has brought you," answered his sister. There in a snowy white cradle he found a tiny baby brother, the gift of the New Year. How happy Maurice was then! But he did not forget his dream. Old Joe and Bessie had their gifts, too, and Maurice tried so hard to be helpful that he made all his friends glad because the happy New Year had come

LADIES' NITE OUT

Will resume when we are able
to meet safely

KUM JOIN US

Will resume when we are able
to meet safely



FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY

Happy
Birthday

JANUARY

Keith Stevenson	5
Jodi Martin	5
Betty Ehret	12
Cathy Peters	21
Nathalie Schmidt	26
Debbie Walker,	27
Diane Kennedy,	28
Winona Bartlett	31

FEBRUARY

Edythe Brockman	6
Dan Brockman	11
Emilie Gibbs	13
Idalia Stricklin	13
Noah Trolinger	14
John Damron	15
Tiffini Thompson	24
Sue Brockman	27

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 a.m.— In person and remote worship (on YouTube at FPC Ottawa)			9:00 a.m.— Wednesday Prayer Team by Zoom		1. HAPPY NEW YEAR!	2.
3. 9:30 am- Communion	4.	5.	6. Epiphany of the LORD	7.	8.	9.
10. Baptism of the LORD	11.	12. 7 PM-Committee Meetings	13.	14.	15.	16.
17. 9:25 am-Soul Shine Prelude of Praise 11:15 am-Adult Zoom Bible Study - Ecclesiastes	18.	19. 7 pm-Session	20.	21.	22.	23.
24.	25.	26.	27.	28.	29.	30.
31.						

JANUARY

2021

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Return Service Requested

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

The Worship Committee invites you to join them after the service on Sunday, January 3 to help take down the Christmas decorations in the sanctuary. It should not take long and the more the merrier.

*Happy New Year
2021*

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