



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 45 No. 2

FEBRUARY 2021



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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 Annual Report: *Hope in 2021*

My dear FPC family,

After this year we've just had, what's next? I know all will agree that 2020 was one that has changed us all. But instead of the temptation to grumble or despair (though none should be faulted if that's what they feel like doing), I'd like to take this opportunity to laugh. Always good, right? Here are some reflections on 2020 that I hope will cause you to smile, if not laugh out loud, like I did when Cindy Arjes shared them with me.

- *The dumbest thing I ever bought was a 2020 planner.*
- *The world has turned upside down. Old folks are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors!*
- *Every few days try your jeans on just to make sure they fit. Pajamas will have you believe all is well in the kingdom.*
- *Does anyone know if we can take showers yet, or should we just keep washing our hands?*
- *I never thought the comment, "I wouldn't touch him/her with a 6-foot pole" would become a national policy, but here we are!*
- *I need to practice social distancing from my refrigerator.*
- *Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money! (My fave)*

Yes, 2020 was quite the year! Covid has reshaped so many things about our lives. It's definitely impacted FPC's ministry. We could say some of it has not been good, most notably the physical separation from one another and from our active ministry and mission life in the world. That's been very painful at times, some of us still feeling the sting of the isolation from those we love worshipping and fellowshiping with. We really miss each other in the ways we used to share life together.

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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

ANNUAL MEETING

2021 Annual Meeting is February 24, 2021

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, February 14, 2021 @ 10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and on Zoom, for the purpose of: **(a)** Reviewing the 2021 budget; **(b)** Electing of congregational members of the Nominating Committee; **(c)** Receiving 2020 annual reports **(d)** Transact any other business that may properly come before the meeting. **NOTE:** Cindy Arjes will send out the Zoom invitation on Feb. 11 by email to all who have asked to be on the FPC's email notice list.



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).

Pastor

John W. Walker

jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org

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Treasurer

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The Presby Press is published
monthly by
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Cont. from pg. 1

The negative impact notwithstanding, there have also been some creative, loving adjustments and some great new innovations that have brought us together despite the pandemic's interruption. I know not all are fans of Zoom, but this adaptive technology has been a big help in keeping us together in worship, small groups, Sunday school classes, committee and session meetings, congregational meetings, and beyond. Zoom has drawn in "newcomers" to our FPC family. We don't often know who they are, but it's clear by the viewing numbers that others are tuning in for words of hope and connection. Covid has not shut down Jesus' Church. Hallelujah!

It has been a joy to watch and observe this *Loving Community of Jesus Christ* reject defeat and despondency over the gut-blow to normal life from this pandemic. Over the year you have done marvelously to reach out and stay connected to each other, making sure to check in with one another across the congregation using all kinds of technology, even the ancient ones of phone and USPS! With brilliant help from Timothy Gibbs and brother James, FPC launched quickly into the new world of connective technology so that we could continue to "have church" each Sunday. We have come very successfully into a new day of ministry that will help us be lean and flexible for the gospel's impact in the future on some new levels, along with the old. This is a good thing!

I want to say "thank you!" to you all for your patience and forbearance through all the twists and turns. Thank you for your very faithful stewardship that continued so robustly during this trial. Thank you to the elders who proved themselves as good and faithful shepherds to our FPC flock under challenging circumstances. Thank you to all our music staff and volunteers who have had to pivot, innovate and accommodate so much in their lives and ministry so we can hear the beautiful spirit of music that lifts our hearts. Mostly, I lift my gratitude to Jesus Christ who sustains and keeps his church in perfect care. His Holy Spirit has brought us through this tough and strange season. We can have every hope and confidence that he will continue to shepherd us into this next and succeeding years as we fix our eyes upon him.

Full of hope together with you in Christ,

Pastor John Walker



*Our Elders are
committed to serving.*

Jim Keely
(Administration)
433-0868

Joy Huebner
(Administration)
815-343-3379

Mike Farrell
(Deacon/Trustee)
434-2774

Gayle Schmitt
(Trustee)
815-667-4964

Brian Smithmeyer
(Discipleship)
815-313-5843

Lisa Mestelle
(Discipleship)
815-252-7462

Casey Clemens
(Fellowship & Outreach)
815-343-7245

Julie Angus
(Fellowship & Outreach)
815-252-3402

Kerry Gerding
(Missions)
343-6088

Allen Gibbs
(Worship)
(304) 633-1069

Lori Trolinger
(Worship)
815-795-6791

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>

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



FEBRUARY

Edythe Brockman	6
Dan Brockman	11
Idalia Stricklin	13
Emilie Gibbs	13
Noah Trolinger	14
John Damron	15
Cathy Peters	21
Tiffini Thompson	24
Sue Brockman	27

MARCH

Lisa Smithmeyer	2
Kerry Gerding	5
Randy Ehret, Sr.	8
Kathy Gonzalo	13
John W. Walker	16
Sarah Walker	17
Grant Smithmeyer	21
Madeleine Trolinger	22
Matthew Walker	24

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.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
7.	8.	9. 7pm– Committee Meetings	10.	11.	12.	13.
14. 10:30 am- ANNUAL MEETING HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!	15.	16. 7 pm– Session	17. ASH WEDNESDAY 7pm-Ash Wed. Service	18.	19.	20.
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
28.						

FEBRÚÁRÝ
2021

First Presbyterian Church
114 East Jefferson Street
Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Return Service Requested

The Season of Lent Begins Wednesday, Feb. 17

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

7:00 p.m.-a simple, meaningful start to our Lenten journey

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