



# PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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VOLUME 45 No. 7

AUGUST 2021



## OUR DISCIPLESHIP ELDERS AND MINISTRIES NEED YOUR PRAYERS!

As we prepare to restart our children's and youth ministries in September, prayers and volunteers are needed for:

**Vision** for ministry after many months of hiatus due to COVID.

**Leaders** who are passionate to help kids and youth grow in Christ

**Space** for the programs

**Curriculum** to engage hearts and minds

Please pray now for God's provision. We praise God that he always meets our need! If you believe God is calling you to serve, please call or text Lisa Mestelle at 815-252-7462.

### 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

#### 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

*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.** 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.**

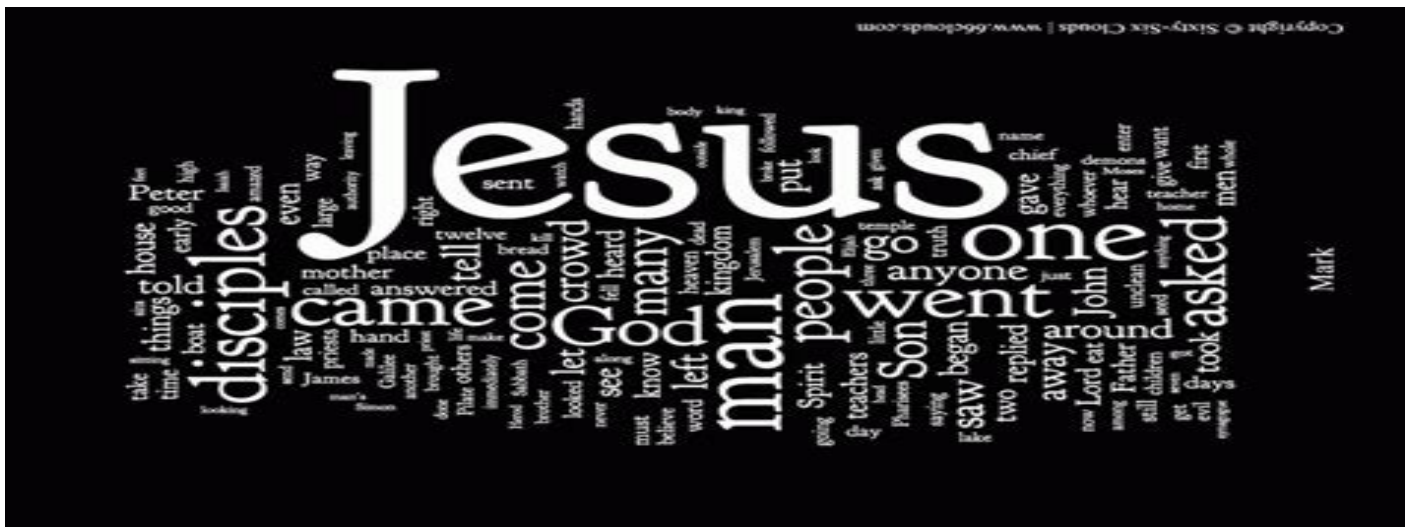


**PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY WITH US, FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH**

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>

## New Adult Class on The Gospel of Mark starting August 29th

The gospel of Mark, I believe, is both overlooked and underappreciated. Tucked away between the longer and more detailed Synoptic Gospels of Matthew and Luke, and lacking the rhetorical flair of John's account, Mark is rarely cited first when preachers and theologians look to bolster their arguments from the accounts of Jesus' life and ministry. If asked, few of us could readily say what makes Mark unique among the gospel accounts.



We need to get to know this little book. Above all, it was inspired by the Holy Spirit and included in the canon of Scripture for our edification. Moreover, it was composed for an audience of Gentiles, probably in the city of Rome itself, meaning it is highly relevant for Christians who lack a Jewish background today. Also, it is valuable for its succinct quality; the book moves quickly and emphasizes things that happened to Jesus in His ministry years.

Perhaps most important, however, Mark takes pains to show that Jesus was the Christ and the Son of God in the flesh. He opens by saying, “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (1:1), and everything in the book leads up to Peter’s great confession, **“You are the Christ” (8:29)**. In a day and age when the world insists Jesus was at best a great teacher, we desperately need to see and be reminded of these truths. Mark actually seems to downplay Jesus’ teaching in order to *focus on the power and authority* with which He carried out His ministry, demonstrating again and again that He was like no other man. This is a perspective we dare not neglect.

Cont. on pg. 5

Cont. from pg. 4

It is my prayer that as we study the Gospel of Mark, our eyes will be opened to the identity of Jesus, and our faith in Him as the Christ and the Son of God will be strengthened.

**The class will start on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.** We plan to meet at 11:00 am following worship in the library.

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

For more information, feel free to contact Allen Gibbs at 304-633-1069 or [allen-gibbs13@gmail.com](mailto:allen-gibbs13@gmail.com)

# back2school prayer

"Dear Lord, use my eyes to *see* new friends.

Open my ears to *hear* my teacher.

Open my mind to *learn* new things.

Let my heart *remember* YOU are near  
when I'm afraid.

Help me to *love* others like you do.

I want to *shine* your light so bright in my school."

*Amen.*

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## **REGATHERING TEAM INFORMATION**

**The Regathering Team has been working towards the goal of a full reopening of its programs in September. Looking ahead:**

### **Full Worship Service**

We have recently restarted passing the offering and communion trays. We will add any additional parts of the service, that have not yet returned, by Sept. 12th. Cups for communion will remain the pews for those uncomfortable with using pieces on the passed trays.

### **Restoration of all Sunday School classes**

We will resume Sunday School classes on September 19

We are currently looking for a new Jr. High Sunday School Teacher

### **Youth Group Meetings**

TBD Sr. High Youth has been meeting monthly since last spring. They will continue meetly weekly at their discretion.

LOL4JC is looking for leaders and hopes to restart in October.

### **Community Meals**

The Fellowship Team will start discussing how to move forward safely with the Community Meals.

Fellowship Hour will begin with **Sundae Sunday** on September 12<sup>th</sup> and continue each week after with coffee, tea, and treats.

Please be in prayer as we move towards these goals.

## **UPDATE FROM REGATHERING TEAM**

The Regathering Team met on Monday, August 2, and decided that for now, FPC will continue to operate in worship and ministry as we have been in regard to our safe COVID practices. We will, however, be closely monitoring all necessary data and meet more regularly if it seems adjustments are needed. Please stay tuned.



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The food pantry is implementing a new program where deliveries will be made three times a month to the lobby of the various high-rise buildings in Ottawa. The deliveries will be made on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Wednesday of each month to one building each week. Each crew of approximately 4-6 volunteers will meet at the pantry, 519 W. Madison St., and pack 15 boxes with food items and then use the pantry van to make the delivery. The pantry is currently looking for volunteers to help out with the new program whether it be packing boxes or helping with the actual delivery to the designated facility. We expect the total time commitment to be 2 to 4 hours for this endeavor. For more information contact Jim Sullivan, Board President at 815-202-1184.

## **VOLUNTEERS WANTED!**

The Fellowship & Outreach Committee is looking for families, small groups, or organizations that are willing to prepare and serve the community meal on the third Sunday of the month for the months of September, October, and December. Please contact Julie Angus (815.252.3402) if you are interested or if you know of a group that would be willing to help!

# Thank You

Thank you so much to my church family for all the cards, food, calls, texts, emails but most of all for your prayers while I have been recovering from the vehicle accident I was in July 11th. Without your love and support I would not be healing as well as I am. God is good and FROG: Forever rely on God.

Carol Woeckel

**Ladies' Night 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**



**AUGUST**

Carol Engberg	2
Tobias Burkey	9
Ralph Bean	12
Jack Finnegan	20
Addison Duggan	22
Jackie Bean	25
Diane Chapman	25
Stanley Carpenter	27
Stacey Fowler	27
Char Bragg	31
Ashley McGrath	31

**SEPTEMBER**

Cindy Arjes	4
Jon Woodyer	14
Mark Brockman	15
Dan Duggan	16
Craig Harvey	22
Deb Damron	23
Katie Duggan	26
David Farrell	28



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9:30 a.m.— In person and remote worship (on YouTube at FPC Ottawa) 11:15 a.m.-Adult Sunday School via Zoom			9:00 a.m.— Wednesday Prayer Team by Zoom			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
8.	9.	10. 7 pm– Committee Meetings	11.	12.	13.	14.
15. 10:25 am– Prelude of Praise NOON-Community Meal	16.	17. 7pm– Session	18.	19.	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
29.	30.	31.				

august 2021

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

Return Service Requested

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE**

The last Outdoor Worship Service of Summer will be on ***Sunday, August 15!*** Please join us as we enjoy the music of Soul Shine and the beautiful weather. Don't forget to come to worship at ***10:25 am*** for the ***Prelude of Praise***. Bring a chair and invite your family and friends to join us. Stay after worship and enjoy the Community Meal with our friends and neighbors.

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