



# PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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(815)433-1045

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

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DECEMBER

## OUR MISSION

TO BE THE  
LOVING  
COMMUNITY OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
THAT WILL

## WIN

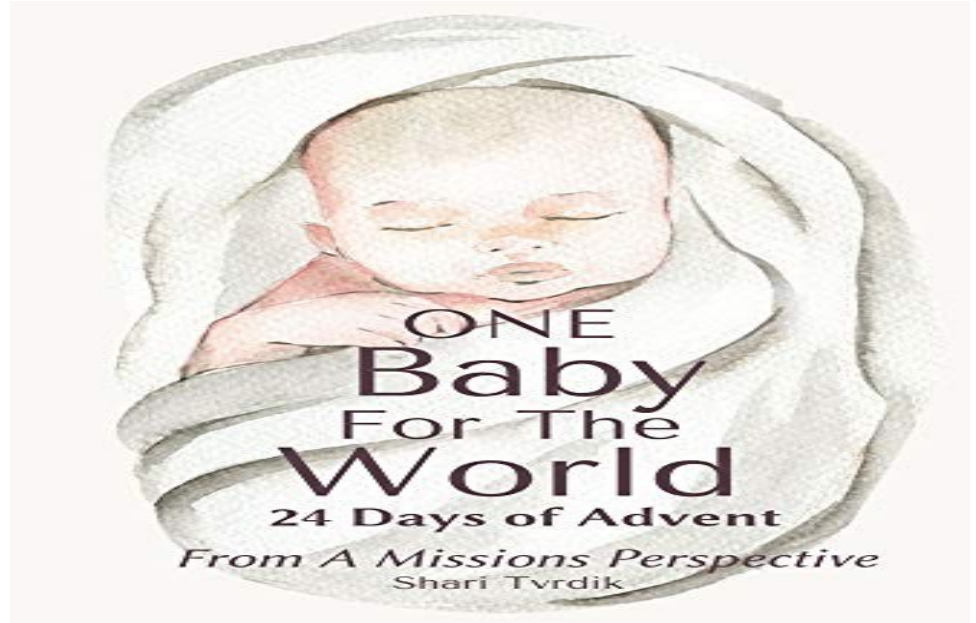
NEW FOLLOWERS  
OF CHRIST TO  
SAVING FAITH

## GROW

ALL FOLLOWERS  
TO DEEPER FAITH

## GO

INTO THE  
WORLD AND  
DEMONSTRATE  
FAITH



Get your advent devotional TODAY! Copies of “One Baby for the World” by Shari Tvrdik are available on the table outside the office. Paperback: \$15. Hardcover: \$20. Please get your payment into the envelope in Pastor John Walker’s mailbox in the office. Cash, or checks made out to: Cup of Cold Water Ministries (CCWM) which receives 100% of sales.

### 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)  
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**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 in the church library or by Zoom (ask Pastor John for the link). Come and see what great work God is waiting to do, as we thank, seek & ask Him in a weekly season of prayer together.

*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 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 Hurt- ing 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 Congrega- tion <i>Ephesians 6:10-18</i>
13. Invite & Wel- come 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 Com- munity <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>



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT\*  
FOR HEALTHY LIVING  
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

# Blue Christmas

a service of healing and hope



The Holiday Season is hard for those who are hurting. You are not alone. Blue Christmas is a gentle, contemplative service for those who are carrying pain or loss during this season of celebration. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

**Tuesday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m.**

**FREE**

**FOR THE COMMUNITY**

**Please Join Us!**

**Sponsored by the YMCA Chaplain Team**

Ottawa YMCA 201 East Jackson St. Ottawa | 61350 [www.ottawaymca.org](http://www.ottawaymca.org) 815-433-2395

# Thank you!

Thank you for all of your compassionate words, phone calls, and cards following my dad's passing. I was blessed by each one and uplifted by your prayers!

Betty Ehret

## **UPDATE FROM REGATHERING TEAM**

The Regathering Team met November 22. We are glad to report stable downward trends in COVID infections in our area and continue to watch those trends. FPC mask guidance: Masks are optional for those vaccinated.

## **BATTLE OF THE CHURCH BELLS**

The Salvation Army is looking for bell ringers and is calling all youth groups, small groups, women's groups, choirs and more!

Church Ring Week is December 13-18. Sign up by

1. Going to [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com)
2. Choose a time/place during the week of Dec. 13-18
3. Show up and have a FUN time!

Certificates and trophies will be awarded.

Get ready to ring those bells!



**FOR CHRISTMAS**

Poinsettias will be ordered by Worship committee to decorate the sanctuary. You may designate your flower be given to a shut-in, or you may take it home after the service on Christmas Eve.

Cost of the flowers will be \$13.50 each. Please include that with your order form. Place your order form in the offering plate or turn into the office by, **December 10**. If you have any questions please call Nathalie Schmidt (434-0175).

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check# \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

Number of flowers desired \_\_\_\_\_

Please CIRCLE AND FILL IN DESIGNATION

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my flower to go:

To a shut-in \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my flower \_\_\_\_\_

## What the Bird Said Early in the Year

### *C.S. Lewis*

I heard in Addison's Walk a bird sing clear:  
This year the summer will come true. This year. This year.

Winds will not strip the blossom from the apple trees  
This year, nor want of rain destroy the peas.

This year time's nature will no more defeat you,  
Nor all the promised moments in their passing cheat you.

This time they will not lead you round and back  
To Autumn, one year older, by the well-worn track.

This year, this year, as all these flowers foretell,  
We shall escape the circle and undo the spell.

Often deceived, yet open once again your heart,  
Quick, quick, quick, quick! – the gates are drawn apart.

### **Thank You!**

Thank you, truly, from the bottom of your hearts for your thoughts, prayers, well wishes, love, and the support you have shown our family during Bill's passing. We are truly grateful to have had such a beautiful soul in our lives. He meant the world to us and we believe whole-heartedly that he is with his beloved June, waiting for us to join him in our own time, God willing. We feel so incredibly blessed to have so many wonderful, thoughtful, and caring people like you in our lives to help comfort us and make such a difficult loss a little easier to bear. We pray that God will bless you and keep you.

With love and sincere appreciation, The Buckingham family

## 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

## BIRTHDAYS

### DECEMBER

Sandy Finnegan	4
Lori Olson	4
Ben Dial	6
Bruce Smith	6
Karen Mikkelsen	6
Helen Tammen	11
Sawyer Booras	11
Timothy Gibbs	12
Betty Angus	18
Jax & Marek Zarwell	24
Anna Schmidt	26
Olivia Trolinger	28

### JANUARY

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

HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY.  
*Jesus!*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>9:30 a.m.— In person and remote worship</p> <p>11:15 a.m.-Adult Sunday School in person or via Zoom</p> <p>4:30 pm - TBD-FPC's Sr. High Ministry</p>			<p>9:00 a.m.— Wednesday Prayer Team in person and by Zoom</p> <p>7pm— Choir Practice</p>			
			1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
		<p>6:30 pm— YMCA Blue Christmas Service</p>				
12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.	18.
		<p>7 pm— Committee Meetings</p>				
19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.
<p>Christmas Music Sunday</p> <p>10:45 am— Session Meeting</p> <p>Noon— Community Meal</p>					<p>7 pm-Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>Christmas Day</p>
26.	27.	28.	29.	30.	31.	
<p>Come to worship for a special Christmas and Psalm 23 message</p>					<p>New Year's Eve</p>	



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

Return Service Requested

### Christmas Holiday Schedule

Dec. 5, 2nd Sunday of Advent: Psalm 23–You prepare a table before me (Communion)

December 12, 3rd Sunday of Advent: Psalm 23–My cup overflows with JOY

December 19, 4th Sunday of Advent: A morning of Christmas Music JOY—

December 24 (Friday), 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight worship service

December 26, 1st Sunday of Christmas: Psalm 23– Surely goodness and mercy

January 2, 2nd Sunday of Christmas: Psalm 23–Dwelling in the House of the LORD

<i>* Get your copy of Advent Devotional</i>	<i>pg. 1</i>	<i>* Poinsettia Order Form</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>
<i>* Prayer is Powerful</i>	<i>pg. 2</i>	<i>* Advent Poetry</i>	<i>pg. 7</i>
<i>* Prayer Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>	<i>* Food, Fellowship, Family &amp; Announcements</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>
<i>* YMCA Blue Christmas Service</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>	<i>* December Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 9</i>
<i>* Announcements</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>	<i>* Highlights of the Month</i>	<i>pg. 10</i>

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