



# PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 46 No. 02

FEBRUARY 2022

February

## 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

## The Pastor's Annual Report:

My dear FPC family,

2021 was another extraordinary year as we move through the effects of this pandemic on our lives and our world! Covid continues to impact FPC's ministry. While 2021 has given us the gift of vaccines and boosters to lessen our risk of severe sickness and separation from one another, we know that we are not out of the woods yet and separation has continued to be necessary for some. How we long to return fully to worshipping, fellowshiping, and ministering with each other as the *Loving Community of Jesus Christ* in Ottawa.

The frustrating impact of Covid notwithstanding, we still continue in life and ministry with creative, loving adjustments. Our response to the challenges have brought technological innovations and creativity which have allowed us to gather together despite the interruption. I know not all have been 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 also drawn in "newcomers" to our FPC family. We don't often know who they are, but its clear by the viewing numbers that others are tuning in for words of hope and connection. In fact, our new worshippers span the globe as we have had people joining us weekly from California, Canada and Germany! Covid has not shut down Jesus' Church. Hallelujah!

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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

*Our Elders are  
committed to serving.*

**Ron Koestler**  
(Administration)  
815-343-6088

**Joy Huebner**  
(Administration)  
815-343-3379

**Mike Farrell**  
(Deacon/Trustee)  
434-2774

Dan Duggan  
(Trustee)  
815-431-9168

Dan Mestelle  
815-252-7462

**Gayle Schmitt**  
(Discipleship)  
815-343-6147

**Lisa Smithmeyer**  
(Discipleship)  
815-313-5843

**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.<br>Pray for<br>Restoration<br>and Revival<br><i>Psalm 80:19</i>    | 2.<br>Pastor John<br>and his family<br><i>Galatians 6:9</i>                   | 3.<br>FPC Staff<br><i>1 Corinthians<br/>16:4</i>               | 4.<br>Our Hurting<br>World<br><i>John 3:16</i>                       | 5.<br>Public Schools<br>& Opportunity<br>School<br><i>Proverbs 22:6</i>        | 6.<br>Shut-ins<br><i>James 1:27</i>   |
| 7.<br>Community<br>Meals<br><i>Matthew<br/>25:37-40</i>               | 8.<br>Worship<br><i>Psalm 86: 9-<br/>10</i>                                   | 9.<br>Hearts of Hurt-<br>ing People<br><i>Psalm 34:18</i>      | 10.<br>Session<br><i>Isaiah 41:10</i>                                | 11.<br>PADS Shelter &<br>Homeless<br><i>Matthew<br/>25:35-40</i>               | 12.<br>Protection of<br>the Congrega-<br>tion<br><i>Ephesians<br/>6:10-18</i> |
| 13.<br>Invite & Wel-<br>come the Holy<br>Spirit<br><i>Titus 3:4-7</i> | 14.<br>Choir & Music<br>Team<br><i>Psalm 92:1</i>                             | 15.<br>LOL4JC & Sr.<br>High Ministry<br><i>Proverbs 22:6</i>   | 16.<br>Our Children<br><i>Matthew 19:14</i>                          | 17.<br>Pray for<br>Missionaries<br>Strength &<br>Protection<br><i>Acts 1:8</i> | 18.<br>Riverside<br>Women's<br>Center<br><i>Luke 21:18-19</i>                 |
| 19.<br>Health of the<br>Congregation<br><i>James 5:14</i>             | 20.<br>Small Groups<br>& Missional<br>Communities<br><i>Hebrews<br/>10:25</i> | 21.<br>Nation, State &<br>Government<br><i>1 Timothy 2:1-4</i> | 22.<br>Z.O.N.E.<br><i>Matthew 19:14</i>                              | 23.<br>Our Seniors<br><i>Psalm 90:14</i>                                       | 24.<br>Churches of<br>Ottawa<br><i>Hebrews 10:24<br/>-25</i>                  |
| 25.<br>Ottawa Mayor<br>& City Counsel<br><i>1 timothy 2:1-4</i>       | 26.<br>Leaders of<br>Ministries<br><i>Hebrews<br/>13:17-18</i>                | 27.<br>Ottawa Com-<br>munity<br><i>Jeremiah 29:7</i>           | 28.<br>Pray for those<br>who are far<br>from God<br><i>Luke 10:2</i> | 29.<br>Servant's Heart<br><i>Matthew<br/>25:37-40</i>                          | 30.<br>Marseilles<br>Community<br><i>Jeremiah 29:7</i>                        |

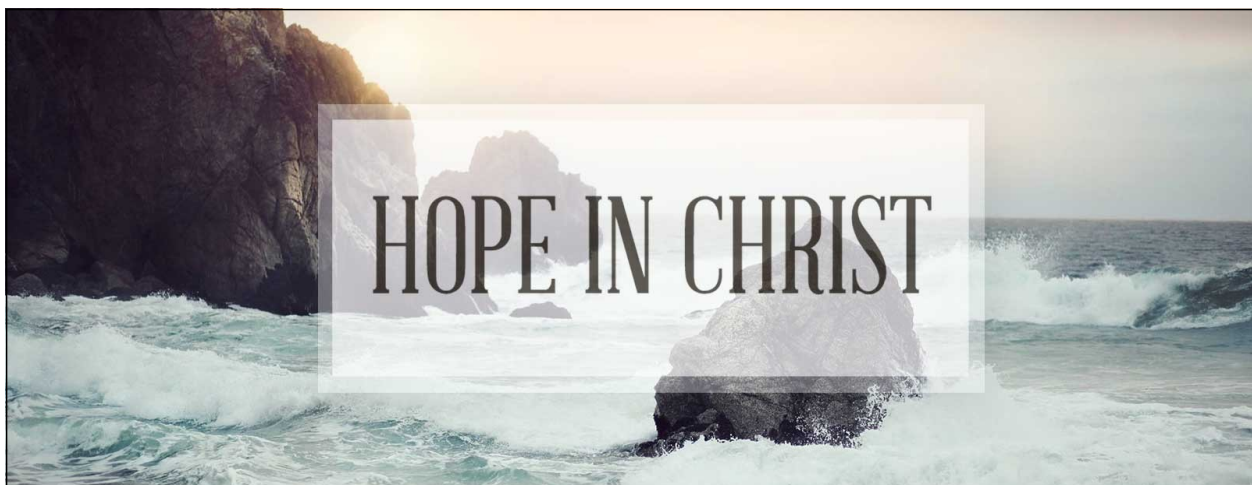
Pastor's Annual Report cont. from pg. 1

So, even as this strange season of life in the world lingers, it has been a joy to watch this ***Loving Community of Jesus Christ*** reject defeat and despondency. You continue 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 the US mail. Our elders continue to be the faithful leaders and shepherds whom God has called to work through the difficult challenges, coming to the table as often as is necessary, in prayer and humility, to seek the LORD's sovereign guidance for his church. I am so thankful for each one of them and commend them to you to remember to pray for each.

I want to say ***"thank you!"*** to all for your patience and loving forbearance through the twists and turns. Thank you for your very faithful stewardship that continues so robustly during this trial. Thank you to the elders who have proved to be good and faithful shepherds to our FPC flock under challenging circumstances. Thank you to 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. Thank you to our tech volunteers who work hard over many hours weekly to make sure we have successful live streaming of our worship services. Mostly, I lift my gratitude to Jesus Christ who sustains and keeps his church in his perfect care. His Holy Spirit is bringing 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. I am so grateful I get to be part of what God is building here at FPC with you!

**Full of hope together with you in Christ,**

Pastor John Walker



## Community Meals for 2022

The Fellowship & Outreach Committee is looking for small groups, Sunday School classes, families, friends or elders who would be willing to host a Community Meal in 2022. The months we are looking to fill are July, August, September and October. If you are interested in any (or all) of these months, just let us know. Please contact Julie Angus (815.252.3402) or Casey Clemens (815.343.7245) if you are interested.



## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held February 13, 2022 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and on Zoom for the purpose of:

(a) Reviewing the 2022 budget; (b) Electing of congregational members of the Nominating Committee; (c) Receiving 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. 10 by email to all who have asked to be on the FPC's email notice list.

## **NEW CHURCH TREASURER NEEDED**

Ad Hoc Treasurer Committee is seeking a new Treasurer and will consider anyone who is qualified and submits an application. Church Treasurer is a paid part-time position and is elected by Session annually. Anyone interested should send a letter applying for the position and stating the applicant's qualifications to the Church Office, 114 East Jefferson St. Ottawa, IL 61350 marked "TREASURER" A job description is available at the Church Office or please contact Jim Keely, Joy Huebner, Mike Farrell, or Dan Mestelle.

## **REGATHERING TEAM INFORMATION**

As of December 12th, the Regathering Team made the decision that masks are recommended for all due to the rise in the number of Covid cases and the burden it is causing on the healthcare system. The team will continue to monitor the situation and make decisions accordingly. The regathering team continues to meet every other Monday night by ZOOM to update and assess the current situation for the well-being of our congregation.

### ***The Mission of First Presbyterian Church:***

*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*



**OSF HealthCare in Ottawa, Streator, and Mendota are looking for great volunteers to join our team.**

We would love to talk with you and discuss some unique and flexible opportunities to volunteer; to become an extension of our Community of Caregivers.

Our Volunteer teams include dedicated individuals who bring a personal touch to helping comfort our patients and visitors directly or indirectly. Our Volunteers are of a wide variety of different ages and backgrounds. All of these passions and skills bring the greatest care and love to our patients, families and visitors.

Volunteers are needed weekdays for 4 hour shifts; positions vary at each location but include gift shop, escorts, information desk, surgery waiting room and emergency department volunteers.

Anyone interested in learning more about our volunteer programs, please contact Danielle Bourell, Community Outreach Coordinator at (815) 431-5432.



**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**



**FEBRUARY**

|                  |    |
|------------------|----|
| Edythe Brockman  | 6  |
| Dan Brockman     | 11 |
| Idalia Stricklin | 13 |
| Emilie Gibbs     | 13 |
| Noah Trolinger   | 14 |
| 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 |
|---|--------|------------------------------------|--|----------|--------|----------|
| 8:30 a.m.-Bible Zone<br>9:30 a.m.—In person and remote worship<br>10:45 a.m.-Jr. & Sr.High Sun. School<br>11:00 a.m.-Adult Sunday School in person or via Zoom<br>4:30 pm - Sr. High Ministry |        |                                    | 9:00 a.m.—Wednesday Prayer Team in person and by Zoom<br><br>7pm– Choir Practice |          |        |          |
|   |        | 1.                                 | 2.   | 3.       | 4.     | 5.       |
| 6.<br><br>Communion Sunday  | 7.     | 8.<br><br>7 pm– Committee Meetings | 9.   | 10       | 11.    | 12       |
| 13.<br><br>10:30 am - Annual Meeting  | 14.    | 15.<br><br>7 pm– Session           | 16.  | 17.      | 18.    | 19.      |
| 20.<br><br>9:25 am-Prelude of Praise with Soul Shine<br><br>NOON– Community Meal  | 21.    | 22.                                | 23.  | 24.      | 25.    | 26.      |
| 27.   | 28.    |                                    |  |          |        |          |



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

Return Service Requested

## **Opportunity School Early Registration for FPC Members**

Registration for Ottawa Opportunity School for the 2022/23 school year will be open to church members beginning Sunday, Feb. 6. Application packets will be available in the church office. Please see Joy Huebner, or call 433-2731, with any questions.



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