



# PRESBY PRESS

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 46 No. 03

— MARCH 2022



## 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

## Join us for the Season of Lent 2022!

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service ~ March 2**  
7:00 p.m.-a simple, meaningful start to our  
Lenten journey

**Palm Sunday ~ Sunday, April 10**

**Maundy Thursday ~ Thursday, April 14**

**Good Friday ~ Friday, April 15**

**Easter Sunday ~ Sunday, April 17**



**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. 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>



**SEAN, SARAH, ILLIANA & HEZEKIAH SMITH  
OUR MISSIONARIES IN CZECH REPUBLIC**

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

May your celebration together bring your hearts deep joy as you celebrate God's greatest gift-Jesus!

We thank God for you and your continued partnership with us here in Czech Republic!

Grace & Peace,

Sean, Sarah, Hezekiah and Eliana



**Pastor**

*John W. Walker*  
jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org

**Church Secretary**

*Cindy Arjes*  
fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org

**Treasurer**

*Joy Huebner*

**Westminster  
Choir Director**

*Lloyd Chapman*  
Lloyd@udnet.net

**Organist**

*Diane Chapman*

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

## *Marked by Ashes*

Walter Brueggemann

Ruler of the Night, Guarantor of the day ...

This day a gift from you.

This day like none other you have ever given, or we have ever received.

This Wednesday dazzles us with gift and newness and possibility.

This Wednesday burdens us with the tasks of the day, for we are already halfway home halfway back to committees and memos, halfway back to calls and appointments, halfway on to next Sunday, halfway back, half frazzled, half expectant, half turned toward you, half rather not.

This Wednesday is a long way from Ash Wednesday, but all our Wednesdays are marked by ashes we begin this day with that taste of ash in our mouth:

of failed hope and broken promises, of forgotten children and frightened women, we ourselves are ashes to ashes, dust to dust; we can taste our mortality as we roll the ash around on our tongues. We are able to ponder our ashes with some confidence, only because our every Wednesday of ashes anticipates your Easter victory over that dry, flaky taste of death.

On this Wednesday, we submit our ashen way to you —you Easter parade of newness. Before the sun sets, take our Wednesday and Easter us, Easter us to joy and energy and courage and freedom; Easter us that we may be fearless for your truth. Come here and Easter our Wednesday with mercy and justice and peace and generosity.

We pray as we wait for the Risen One who comes soon.

# LIVE STEAM FOR FREE

THE HEART OF THE GOSPEL IS FORGIVENESS



# SABINA

TORTURED FOR CHRIST

THE NAZI YEARS

**PG-13**  
PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED  
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13

Register at [SabinaMovie.com](http://SabinaMovie.com) to watch for free March 4–6.

**NAZIS KILLED HER ENTIRE FAMILY.  
SHE RISKED EVERYTHING TO SHARE THE  
LOVE AND TRUTH OF CHRIST WITH THEM.**



***Sabina: Tortured for Christ, the Nazi Years*** is the story of how God's love transformed an ambitious, atheistic hedonist into one of the greatest Christian women of the 20th century. Experience the amazing true story that has redefined the concepts of love and forgiveness for millions around the world.

1. Register your family for free and watch wherever you are, **OR**
2. Register to host a movie screening at your church and receive a license to stream *Sabina* throughout the month of March, promotional materials to announce the event and a free gift for everyone who attends.

Register at [SabinaMovie.com](http://SabinaMovie.com) to watch for free March 4-6.



## **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.

## **NEW REGATHERING TEAM INFORMATION**

### **Current FPC COVID guidelines:**

At the February 14 meeting of the Regathering Team it was determined that since all data of infections and cases in LaSalle County and Illinois are dramatically declining, FPC can now move to the status of: **masks are optional for all.** Please continue to be the *Loving Community of Jesus Christ*, even as all have been during this 2-year long ordeal, showing loving respect of one another and being vigilant in the protection of everyone's health. Thank you. **NOTE:** Please be aware that Opportunity School still requires masks for all who enter the building during school hours.

## **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, 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.



## **SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES FOR ALL AGES**

Zone is an interactive program for children 3 yrs to 5th grade. They meet in the East Room from 8:30 am to 9:15 am. Lisa Mestelle and Susanne Gibbs are the leaders.

The Jr Hi. class meets on the 2nd floor, room D, from 10:45 am to 11:45 am with Debbie Walker and Lori Trolinger leading.

The Sr Hi class meets in the Youth Ministry Room from 10:30 am to 11:30 am with Ron Koestler as leader.

Sr Hi Youth Group evening group meets Sundays, except for the 1st Sunday, at 4:30 pm in the Youth Ministry Room and is lead by Lloyd and Diane Chapman.

The Adult Bible Study meets after worship at 11am in the Library and on Zoom. Please contact Allen Gibbs, teacher (304-633-1069), for the Zoom link.



### **7:00 pm Committee Meetings-2nd Tuesday of Each Month**

As Covid restrictions lift and masks are now optional at FPC, we will resume our pre-Covid practice on committee night-We will start with all committees and their members gathering at 7:00 pm in Scott Hall to briefly check in together and pray with one another.

**SEE YOU ALL IN SCOTT HALL, TUESDAY, MARCH 8!**

**Ladies' Night Out**

Will resume when we are able to meet safely

**FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY**



**MARCH**

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

**APRIL**

Rob McGrath	1
Sue Koestler	3
Mike Farrell	8
Amanda Brockman	10
Diane Farrell	11
Brian Huebner	12
Karla Armstrong	18
Tyler Angus	19
Brad Angus	20
Hannah Duggan	21
Danielle Ehret	23
Rhonda Love	26
Pete Trolinger	27

**KUM JOIN US**

Will resume when we are able to meet safely



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:30 a.m.-Bible Zone 9:30 a.m.—In person and remote worship 10:45 a.m.-Jr. & Sr.High Sun. School 11:00 a.m.-Adult Sunday School in person or via Zoom 4:30 pm - Sr. High Ministry			9:00 a.m.—Wednesday Prayer Team in person and by Zoom  7pm- Choir Practice			
		1.	2.  ASH WEDNESDAY  7 pm - Ash Wednesday Service	3.	4.	5.
6.  Communion Sunday	7.	8.  7 pm- Committee Meetings (start in Scott Hall)	9.	10	11.	12  TURN YOUR CLOCKS FORWARD ONE HOUR TONIGHT!
13.	14.	15.  7 pm- Session	16.	17.	18.	19.
20.  9:25 am-Prelude of Praise with Soul Shine  NOON- Community Meal	21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.
27.	28.	29.	30.	31.		



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

Return Service Requested

**ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 2**

Please join us as we celebrate the Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

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

*Ash*  *Wednesday*

* <i>Lenten Schedule 2022</i>	<i>pg. 1</i>	* <i>Movie: Sabina cont.</i>	<i>pg. 7</i>
* <i>Prayer is Powerful</i>	<i>pg. 2</i>	* <i>Announcements</i>	<i>pg. 8</i>
* <i>Prayer Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 3</i>	* <i>Announcements</i>	<i>pg. 9</i>
* <i>Updates from the Smith Family.</i>	<i>pg. 4</i>	* <i>Food, Fellowship &amp; Family</i>	<i>pg. 10</i>
* <i>Announcements</i>	<i>pg. 5</i>	* <i>March Calendar</i>	<i>pg. 11</i>
* <i>Movie: Sabina</i>	<i>pg. 6</i>	* <i>Highlights of the Month</i>	<i>pg. 12</i>

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