



# PRESBY PRESS

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 46 No. 05

—MAY 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

## A O K SUNDAY IS MAY 15!

We will leave the comfort of our pews and go into the community to perform various **Acts of Kindness**. This will include going to:

**Heritage Woods** to plant flowers

**McCormick House** to plant flowers and yard clean-up

**Friendship House** to scrape and paint picnic tables

**Opportunity School** to organize a supplies and clean up the playground.

**There is something for EVERYONE so please sign-up or contact Kerry Gerding (434-4123) or the church office (433-1045) for more information.**

Work groups will meet at FPC at 8:00 a.m. for assignments & departure

Everyone will return at 11:00 a.m. for an abbreviated worship service and sharing

At 12:00 p.m. we will gather for lunch (everything will be provided)

Come spend the morning with your church family as we worship God by serving others in the community in His name.

**If you aren't able to participate in the projects,  
please join us for lunch!!**

### 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>



PLEASE  
JOIN  
US

You are Cordially Invited  
to the Ottawa YMCA  
Community Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 5th

7:15-8:30 am



Guest Speaker : Teresa Kopp

**PLEASE JOIN US**

**Free for the community!**

Prayer leaders will share words of comfort and  
inspiration. Join us for a light breakfast,  
music, fellowship and prayer

Please RSVP by May 2nd at 815-433-2395



**The Blessings of Spring ~**  
By Deborah Ann

There are many blessings,  
that each new Spring brings  
you can see it bloom about  
and hear the song it sings.

With winters bleakness over,  
and brighter days ahead  
comes promises of new life  
Springtime loves to spread.

As God unfolds the flowers,  
and their buds begin to show  
He gives to us the assurance  
grace in our hearts will grow.

He sends us the robin's song,  
with the promise to provide  
a shelter under His mighty wing  
where in His love we can abide.

He melts the snowy covers,  
and sends the refreshing rain  
sprinkling us with His mercies  
to heal winter's ache and pain.

God's given to all His Son,  
to shed upon us a new light  
and the real blessing of Spring . . .  
is keeping Jesus in our sight!

## **The Church Building Needs Your Help!**

We have joked many times “*What would happen if the boiler blew up. Do we have the funds to pay to fix it?*”

Please rest assured, the boiler did not blow up and is not needing to be replaced, but there have been some parts that had to be replaced in order to keep it running. In the last month or so two pumps had to be replaced and to top it off the hot water tank needed to be replaced also.

Unfortunately, these were unexpected repairs and funds were not set aside to pay for these items. The Session voted on using \$8500 of the Memorial Funds in order to pay the contractor who completed the repairs. The Session is determined to reimburse the Memorial Fund so that the monies that were given to the Fund are available to be used for their true intent.

Can you help with a donation to the Memorial Fund to replenish the fund back to its proper use?

If you have any questions, please contact one of the following Trustees:

Mike Farrell—815-434-2774

Dan Duggan—815-431-9168

Dan Mestelle—815-252-7462

### **Pastor**

*John W. Walker*

[jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:jwalker@ottawafirstpres.org)

### **Church Secretary**

*Cindy Arjes*

[fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org](mailto:fpcone@ottawafirstpres.org)

### **Treasurer**

*Joy Huebner*

### **Westminster Choir Director**

*Lloyd Chapman*

[Lloyd@udnet.net](mailto:Lloyd@udnet.net)

### **Organist**

*Diane Chapman*

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61350

Telephone 815-433-1045

## OTTAWA COMMUNITY FOOD BASKET

### “The Food Helpers”

Free food is available to a 1-person household with a monthly income of \$1,986 or less or a 2-person household with a monthly income of \$2,686 or less. The monthly income base is adjusted by the number of persons living in the household. An example: a 4-person household with a monthly income of \$4,086 or less qualifies for free food. Contact the Community Food Basket at 815-431-0155 or [ottawafoodbasket.org/need help](http://ottawafoodbasket.org/need help) for hours of operation and to have your questions answered. Your household may be eligible for free food

Thank you,  
Shelley Threadgill



# Community Food Basket

## **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**

### **FPC & Opportunity School COVID guidelines:**

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.



## **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 last day for Zone is May 8 until next September.

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, MAY 10!**

**FOOD, FELLOWSHIP & FAMILY**

**Youth Christian Education**

Sunday morning classes:  
 8:30-9:15 is Zone for ages 3-5th grade in the East Room.  
**The last day for Zone is May 8th.**

Meeting after worship are:  
 Jr Hi 6th-8th grade located on the 2nd floor. After worship  
 Sr Hi high school students located on the first floor.

**Adult Bible Study**

Adult Bible Study meets in the library on Sunday, mornings at 11:00 am after worship. The class will not meet on April 17<sup>th</sup> and April 24<sup>th</sup> but will resume the regular schedule on May 1.

This will be a hybrid class that also has a ZOOM connection for those who wish to participate remotely. Please contact Allen Gibbs, teacher (304-633-1069), for the Zoom link.



**MAY**

Addilyn Woodyer	3
Lisa Mestelle	10
Sue Paul	10
Tucker Clemens	11
Steve West	13
Don Morehead	15
James Burkey	15
Jackie Stevenson	19
John Bean	23
Casey Clemens	25
Betsy Feagans	25

**JUNE**

Madisyn McGrath	3
Donna Burkey	14
Beth Woodyer	15
Jenna Smithmeyer	17
Tim Huebner	20
Max McGrath	26
James Gibbs	30

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.	3.	4.	5. NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	6.	7.
8. MOTHER'S DAY Confirmation & Communion Sunday Last Day of ZONE!	9.	10.  7 pm- Committee Meetings	11.	12.	13.	14.
15. A-OK SUNDAY! Gather at 8:00 am 11:30 am- Worship Noon- Community Meal	16.	17.  7 pm—Session	18.	19.	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
29.	30. Memorial Day	31.				



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

Return Service Requested

**May 8 is Confirmation Sunday!**

We will welcome our four confirmation students into church membership: Tobias Burkey, Addison Duggan, Alayna Gibbs and Livie Trolinger.

A reception will be hosted in their honor in Scott Hall following worship.



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