



# PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
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## SEMI-ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 27

The Semi-Annual congregational meeting will be held Sunday, November 27 following worship at 10:30am in the Sanctuary for the purpose of:

A. Reviewing and voting on the adequacy of the compensation of the pastor upon report of prior review by session (copies will be available at sanctuary entrances)

B. Electing of new elders

**NOTE:** Any who choose should be able to attend remotely by Zoom. Watch for details to be sent by email on Nov. 23.

# SEMI ANNUAL MEETING

### 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 DEMON-  
STRATE 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.*

**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**  
(Trustee)  
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

Dear Church Friends,

To say we were surprised on Sunday, Sept. 11th is an understatement. When entering the church and starting our routine, we saw many things that did not make sense - the set-up bell tables in the decorated sanctuary, Madie and Noah Trolinger and greetings from Alayna Gibbs telling us that we did not belong in the sanctuary.

As the service unfolded, we began to realize that this was a special Sunday for us. Diane and I felt overwhelmed with the Bell Choir, Madie's flute solo and special words that were spoken. We tried to take it all in. It was definitely unexpected.

We have enjoyed our 20 years with FPC. So many memories and friends. It really hasn't felt like a job since we enjoy so much sharing the Lord's music with you.

Additionally, we learned of the months of secret preparation . We had no idea what was being planned.

You are truly a blessing to us and there is no other place we would rather worship. Thank you for being who you are and thank you for all you have done. Your kindness is greatly appreciated.

Lloyd and Diane



## **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<br>Community<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>                        |

## ***Sunday School Classes for All!***

***GROW all followers to deeper faith - Sunday School classes for all ages at FPC this fall:***

**The Bible ZONE is FPC's Sunday School ministry** for kids Pre-K to eighth grade. The word ZONE stands for “**Z**eal for God, **O**neeness in Relationships, **N**urture in God's Word, and **E**xercising our Faith, all of which are our goals. We have two groups, the younger ages (Pre-K to fifth grade), and sixth to eighth grade.

**The younger group meets Sunday mornings from 8:15 – 9 am in the East Room** (big playroom downstairs). We will be going through the New Testament using a giant felt board with very elaborate and colorful felt pieces to build each Bible lesson. We also spend some time memorizing scripture and catechism. There's usually time for a snack, plenty of paper and crayons/colored pencils for those who love to draw, and time to play. The curriculum is published by Veritas Press and “Through the Bible in Felt” by Betty Lukens.

**The older kids up through 8<sup>th</sup> grade meet after church, from 10:45 – 11:30 am in an upstairs Sunday School room.** We will continue to go through scripture in chronologic order. Our conversations are insightful, and it's such a joy to watch our young people grow up and learn about God's Word. The curriculum is by Veritas Press and includes reading scripture and talking about the concepts/ events that took place. It's always so much fun to hear everyone's perspective at such a formative age. If you have any questions, ask or call Susanne Gibbs at 304-633-7172

**Senior High kids meet at 10:45am in the classroom on the east end of the main floor.**

**Adult Bible Study meets in the library on Sunday, mornings at 11:00 am** after worship. 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.



## **War Won't Stop Christmas in Ukraine**

**From Samaritan Purse's September newsletter:** Through our Operation Christmas Child project, Samaritan's Purse has been working in Ukraine since 1996 and has delivered 11.6 million shoebox gifts. We thank God that these children have had an opportunity to hear and respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

You might think it would be impossible to continue this ministry in a war zone, but our dedicated church partners have been unstoppable—reaching another 400,000 children through shoebox outreach events since the fighting began. This year, it's more important than ever to reach children who have been traumatized by all the bloodshed, blasts, and sirens. They need to know that God loves them and has not forgotten them.

Not only are churches working faithfully to hand out shoebox gifts, but they are also holding The Greatest Journey classes. This is the 12-lesson discipleship program that we offer to children who receive shoebox gifts. We thank God that the year before the fighting began, more than 125,000 children graduated from The Greatest Journey, receiving a Bible in their own language from Samaritan's Purse. Most importantly, we praise God for each one who prayed to receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

### **National Christmas Shoebox Collection Week will be Nov. 14-21.**

Go to [samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child](https://samaritanspurse.org/operation-Christmas-child) to find out how you can either make a shoebox to send by mail or take advantage of making an Operation Christmas Child box online.

In addition to Ukraine, we are planning to send Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts to more than 100 countries around the world. Each and every gift is a powerful demonstration of God's love.

Please join us in praying for peace in Ukraine. May these children and their families find hope in the words the angels spoke over Bethlehem the night Jesus was born: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men" (Luke 2:14).





## **From the Administration Committee**

Thank you to all who have responded to the recent Stewardship Season and turned in a Commitment Card. Due to your generosity we have a significant increase in giving which will be reflected in the budget that is prepared for 2023. The details of this budget will be available in part at the November 27 semi-annual meeting, and in full at the annual meeting in February.

If anyone would still like to turn in a Commitment Card, please put it in an envelope, marked "Stewardship". It may be given to Joy Huebner, put in the offering plate or sent to the church office.

Thank you for being the Loving Community of Jesus Christ and demonstrating your generosity and faithfulness!



## **CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY NOVEMBER 20**

The festival of Christ the King (or Reign of Christ) ends our marking of Ordinary Time after the Day of Pentecost, and moves us to the threshold of Advent, the season of hope for Christ's coming again at the end of time.

The day centers on the crucified and risen Christ, whom God exalted to rule over the whole universe. The celebration of the lordship of Christ thus looks back to Ascension, Easter, and Transfiguration, and points ahead to the appearing in glory of the King of kings and Lord of lords. Christ reigns supreme. Christ's truth judges falsehood. As the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, Christ is the center of the universe, the ruler of all history, the judge of all people. In Christ all things began, and in Christ all things will be fulfilled. In the end, Christ will triumph over the forces of evil.

Such concepts as these cluster around the affirmation that Christ is King or Christ reigns! As sovereign ruler, Christ calls us to a loyalty that transcends every earthly claim on the human heart. To Christ alone belongs the supreme allegiance in our lives. Christ calls us to stand with those who in every age confessed, "Jesus Christ is Lord!" In every generation, demagogues emerge to claim an allegiance that belongs only to God. But Christ alone has the right to claim our highest loyalty. The blood of martyrs, past and present, witnesses to this truth.



# Thank You Veteran

*There are not words enough.*

*There is not a hug strong enough.*



*All I can offer is thank you.*

*You are my hero.*

*You are in my thoughts.*

*You are in my prayers.*

*For all you've done, thank you*

*For your service.*

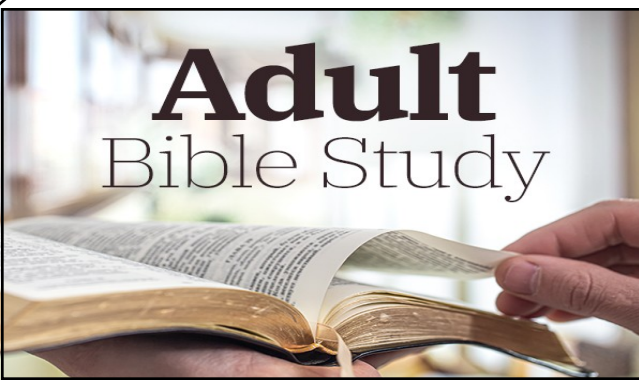
## Youth Christian Education

Younger children (pre-K to 5th grade) will meet at 8:15 am. in the East Room (basement level)

Older children and senior highs will meet in various rooms at 10:45 am.

6th to 8th grade (top floor class room)

9th to 12th grade (main floor senior high room)



Adult Bible Study meets in the library on Sunday, mornings at 11:00 am after worship. 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.

## **Education & Fellowship**

### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### **NOVEMBER**

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Brad Armstrong     | 1  |
| Julie Angus        | 1  |
| Carol Zimmerman    | 6  |
| Jean Zeilmann      | 6  |
| Brian Smithmeyer   | 6  |
| Chris Keely        | 8  |
| Nolan Zarwell      | 12 |
| Griffin Clemens    | 15 |
| Laura Zarwell      | 15 |
| Kevin Arjes        | 16 |
| Gayle Schmitt      | 17 |
| Pat Gerding        | 18 |
| Kyle Zarwell       | 22 |
| Thaddeus Armstrong | 26 |
| Ron Koestler       | 28 |
| Lori Trolinger     | 30 |

#### **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 |

| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday                            | Wednesday   | Thursday                | Friday | Saturday  |
|---|--------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------|---|
| 8:15 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 |        |                                    | <u>EACH WEDNESDAY</u><br>9:00 a.m.—<br>Wednesday Prayer Team in person and by Zoom<br><br>7 pm-Choir Practice |                         |        |   |
|   |        | 1.                                 | 2.  | 3.                      | 4.     | 5.<br><br>Set your clocks back one hour before bed! |
| 6.<br><b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!</b>  | 7.     | 8.<br><br>7 PM– Committee Meetings | 9.  | 10.                     | 11.    | 12.   |
| 13.   | 14.    | 15.<br><br>7 pm– Session           | 16.   | 17.                     | 18.    | 19.   |
| 20.<br>Christ the King Sunday<br><br>Noon– Thanksgiving Feast & Community Meal  | 21.    | 22.                                | 23.   | 24.<br><br>Thanksgiving | 25.    | 26.   |
| 27.<br>1st Sunday of Advent<br>10:30 am-Semi-Annual Congregational meeting  | 28.    | 29.                                | 30.   |                         |        |   |



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



## **THANKSGIVING JUBILEE IS SUNDAY, NOV. 20!**

The jubilee will be held in Scott Hall from 12 pm-1 pm on Sunday, November 20. Turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans, dressing and gravy will be provided.

If your last initial is:

**A-M** please bring a salad to pass.

**N-Z** please bring a dessert.



|  |              |  |               |
|--|--------------|--|---------------|
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|  |              | <i>*</i>   |               |

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