



PRESBY PRESS

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 467 NO. 02

FEBRUARY 2023



© dak

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

Ash Wednesday February 22, 2023

From: Companion to the Book of Common Worship

The Lenten journey from the ashes of death to resurrected life begins on the first day of Lent, Ash Wednesday, which signifies a time to turn around, to change directions, to repent. This first day of Lent reminds us that unless we are willing to die to our old selves, we cannot be raised to new life with Christ. The first step of this journey calls us to acknowledge and confront our mortality, individually and corporately. In many traditions, this is symbolized through the imposition of ashes — placing a cross on one’s forehead. During the imposition of ashes the words: “You are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Genesis 3:19) are repeated again and again. We are to remember that we are but temporary creatures, always on the edge of death. On Ash Wednesday, we begin our Lenten trek through the desert toward Easter.

Ashes on the forehead is a sign of our humanity and a reminder of our mortality. Lent is not a matter of being good, and wearing ashes is not to show off one’s faith. The ashes are a reminder to us and our communities of our finite creatureliness. The ashes we wear on our Lenten journey symbolize the dust and broken debris of our lives as well as the reality that eventually each of us will die.

Trusting in the “accomplished fact” of Christ’s resurrection, however, we listen for the Word of God in the time-honored stories of the church’s Lenten journey. We follow Jesus into the wilderness, resist temptation, fast, and proceed “on the way” to Jerusalem and the cross. Our Lenten journey is one of *metanoia* (“turning around”), of changing directions from self-serving toward the self-giving way of the cross.

Come to Ash Wednesday worship on February 22 at 7:00 p.m.

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 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. at FPC

*Our Elders are
committed to serv-
ing.*



The FOOTSTEPS of JESUS EXPERIENCE

Join *Pastor John Walker* this May 20-June 3 for a Spiritual Adventure in the Holy Land

The Footsteps of Jesus Experience is a unique two-week journey to the places where Jesus lived, made disciples, built a spiritual family, and fulfilled his mission. We focus on the historically verifiable sites from Jesus' life and the spiritual impact these can have on us personally. The trip begins by exploring the social setting of the Gospels in and around Jerusalem, Judea, and the Dead Sea. Then we follow the course of Jesus' life from his birth in the city of Bethlehem, to the Sea of Galilee where he called his disciples, to the far north of Israel, and then back to Jerusalem for the climactic conclusion of our journey.

Each day will begin with time for prayer and Scripture-reading based on our itinerary that day. We will visit the sites with the greatest historical significance that illuminate the biblical account of Jesus' life. At each site we will offer an overview of the history and archeology and then conclude with a time of biblical reflection, sharing, and prayer. Each day we will pause at a meaningful place for worship and teaching. The evenings will alternate between opportunities for processing in small groups and free time.

The group will be limited to 22 people so we can get to know each other and facilitate more flexible movement. We will stay in Christian guesthouses within the ancient walled city of Jerusalem, in the Old City of Nazareth, and on the peaceful shores of the Sea of Galilee. We visit many sites by foot so participants need to be physically fit and able to walk 5-6 miles a day in warm weather, including hills and stairs.

Before departure you will have the chance to participate in an eight-session online preparatory course introducing the biblical history and archaeology of the sites we will be visiting using lots of visual images. The course includes an extensive handbook with hundreds of maps, plans, charts, and site reconstructions, which will become your reference guide for the trip. This book also includes reflection questions on key Scriptures related to the sites we will be visiting each day and space to do some journaling.

Our trip leaders are Eric Laverentz and John Walker, experienced pastors and teachers who have been trained to lead this pilgrimage. The cost of the trip is \$3250 per person double or triple occupancy, not including airfare to Tel Aviv. This includes all your meals and expenses during the trip.

This is not a tour, it is a spiritual pilgrimage. Many people who have taken this journey with us over the last 25 years have called it the trip of a lifetime. It is certainly an unforgettable experience that will profoundly shape your reading of the Gospels and your walk with Jesus. Go to www.footsteps-experience.com for more information and testimonials. If you are interested in joining us, contact Bob at [bo-brognlien@gmail.com](mailto:brognlien@gmail.com). Space is limited, so if you are feeling led to join us on this spiritual adventure, send a non-refundable deposit check for \$950 made out to "3DM West" to Pam Rognlien, PO Box 7718, Torrance, CA 90504 or pay online on at <http://www.footsteps-experience.com/register>

Ron Koestler
(Administration)

Joy Huebner
(Administration)

Mike Farrell
(Deacon/Trustee)

Dan Duggan
(Trustee)

Dan Mestelle
(Trustee)

Gayle Schmitt
(Discipleship)

Lisa Smithmeyer
(Discipleship)

Casey Clemens
(Fellowship & Outreach)

Julie Angus
(Fellowship & Outreach)

Kerry Gerding
(Missions)

Allen Gibbs
(Worship)

Lori Trolinger
(Worship)

Diane Farrell
(Clerk of Session)

PRAYER IS POWERFUL. LET'S PRAY TOGETHER!

NOW is a great time to join this vital ministry by Zoom, Jan. to March!

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 Community <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>

Cont. from pg. 2



The FOOTSTEPS of JESUS EXPERIENCE

May 20 – June 2, 2023

www.footsteps-experience.com

Daily Itinerary

- Friday, May 18/19:** Depart for Tel Aviv, arrive to start by 11:00 AM on Saturday, stay in Old City
- Saturday, May 20:** Jesus' World, Herodians, Sadducees, and Pharisees: introduction to Jerusalem, Temple Mount, Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulcher
- Sunday, May 21:** Jesus' World, Romans, Essenes, and Zealots: Qumran, Scroll Caves, Masada, Dead Sea
- Monday, May 22:** Jesus' Birth: Bethlehem, Church of the Nativity, Shepherds' Fields, and Herodium Fortress
- Tuesday, May 23:** Jesus' Baptism and Temptation: River Jordan, Jesus' Baptism site, Wadi Kelt, St. George's Monastery, Wilderness of Judea
- Wednesday, May 24:** Jesus' Home: Jordan Valley, Nazareth Village, House of Mary, Church of the Annunciation, House of Joseph
- Thursday, May 25:** Jesus' Family: Mount Precipice, Sepphoris, Cana of Galilee, Cliffs of Arbel, stay at Sea of Galilee
- Friday, May 26:** Jesus' Family: Capernaum, ancient Galilee Boat, boat trip on the Sea of Galilee, swimming in the lake
- Saturday, May 27:** Jesus' Mission Field: Mount of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Church of the Multiplication of Loaves and Fishes, Magdala, First-Century Synagogue, swimming in the lake
- Sunday, May 28:** Jesus' Mission Field: Bethsaida, Hippos, Chorazin, swimming in the lake
- Monday, May 29:** Jesus' Retreats: Gamla, Caesarea Philippi, Banias Waterfalls, return to Jerusalem
- Tuesday, May 30:** Jesus' Triumphal Entry: Bethany, Lazarus' Tomb, Mt. of Olives, Pater Noster, Dominus Flevit, Pools of Bethesda
- Wednesday, May 31:** Jesus' Teaching and Healing in Jerusalem: Temple Mount, Southern Temple Excavations, Western Wall Tunnel, Hezekiah's Tunnel, Pool of Siloam, return via Herodian Street
- Thursday, June 1:** Jesus' Last Supper and Trials: Upper Room, Garden of Gethsemane, St Peter in Gali-cantu, Palace of Herod, Tower of David Museum, Passover dinner
- Friday, June 2:** Jesus' Crucifixion & Resurrection: Via Dolarosa, Golgotha, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Easter Service at Herodian Family Tomb, closing dinner, depart Tel Aviv
- Saturday, June 3:** Arrive home!

Sunday School Classes for All!

GROW all followers to deeper faith - Sunday School classes for all ages at FPC

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 8th 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.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held February 12, 2023 10:30 a.m. in the sanctuary and on Zoom for the purpose of:

- (a) Reviewing the 2023 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 Thursday, Feb. 9 by email to all who have asked to be on the FPC’s email notice list. Please contact the office (433-1045) by February 7 to have your email added to the list.

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

**NOTICE: FEBRUARY
COMMITTEE NIGHT**

CHANGE Committee meeting night for February will be delayed one week. Committees will meet in Scott Hall on Tuesday, February 21.

Accordingly, session will also meet one week later on the following Tuesday night, February 28.

The Presby Press is published monthly
by

First Presbyterian Church
114 E. Jefferson St., Ottawa, IL
61350

Telephone 815-433-1045



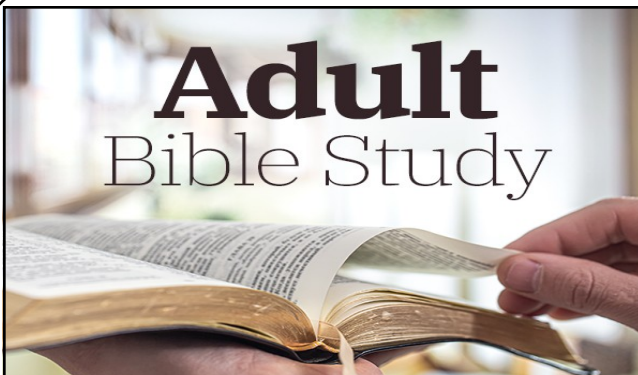
Youth Christian Education

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 classroom)

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



FEBRUARY

Edythe Brockman	6
Dan Brockman	11
Idalia Stricklin	13
Emilie Gibbs	13
Noah Trolinger	14
Lloyd Chapman	22
Tiffini Dial	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
Colin Sebastian	27

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 by Zoom	7:15 p.m.-Choir Practice		
			1.	2. 	3.	4.
5. Communion Sunday	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.
12. 10:30 am-Annual Congregational Meeting	13.	14. Valentine's Day Note: Committees will meet Next Tuesday	15.	16.	17.	18.
19. 9:25 am—Prelude Of Praise with Soul Shine Noon-Community Meal	20.	21. 7 pm- Committee Meetings	22. ASH WEDNESDAY 7 pm- Worship Service	23.	24.	25.
26. 1st Sunday of Lent	27.	28. 7 pm Session				



FEBRUARY

First Presbyterian Church

114 East Jefferson Street

Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Return Service Requested

The
Season
of
Lent



Opportunity School Early Registration for FPC Members

Registration for Ottawa Opportunity School for the 2023/2024 school year will be open to church members beginning Sunday, Feb. 5.

Application packets will be available in the church office. Please see Joy Huebner, or call 433-2731, with any questions.



* What is Ash Wednesday?	pg. 1	* Classes for All	pg. 6
* The Footsteps of Jesus Experience	Pg. 2	* Annual Congregational Mtg.	pg. 7
* Prayer is Powerful	pg. 3	* Education & Fellowship	pg. 8
* Prayer Calendar	pg. 4	* February Calendar	pg. 9
* The Footsteps of Jesus Experience cont.	pg. 5	* Highlights of the Month	pg. 10

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

