



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 46 No. 08

OCTOBER 2023



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

From the Pastor's Desk: Update on our Building

Dear church family,

You may know FPC's building was closed for entry as of Tuesday night, September 26, 2023 – just over one week ago from the writing of this letter. Here's a brief update on that event and reasons for the actions of both FPC's elders and the Opportunity School Board.

The last step in the wonderful Scott Hall remodeling project was to remove all floor tiling in Scott Hall, along with the kitchen and hallway. On 9/26/23 we discerned there were possible asbestos issues that we previously thought we had properly accounted for and addressed. With additional information related to State asbestos regulations, the Opportunity School administrators and governing board along with FPC's trustees and elders, determined that the best and prudent action to take would be to close the building out of an abundance of caution for all the preschool children and families, along with all FPC church-family members. FPC trustees immediately contacted the certified environmental consulting firm, *Midwest Environmental Consulting Services (MECS)*, to guide us properly through all necessary State regulatory steps to ensure the health of FPC's building environment. On Monday, October 2, MECS conducted tests throughout the entire building and presented the results of those tests on Wednesday, October 4. The test results were the best we all were hoping and praying for. At the writing of this letter, MECS assures us that when these test results are reported to the *Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA)*, that agency's requirements of a complete bill of health for FPC's building will have been met, something the IEPA is expected to confirm in coming days.

Cont. on pg. 2

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 serving.

Ron Koestler
(Administration)

Joy Huebner
(Administration)

Dan Duggan
(Trustee)

Dan Mestelle
(Trustee)

Brian Huebner
(Trustee)

Lisa Smithmeyer
(Discipleship)

Casey Clemens
(Fellowship & Outreach)

Julie Angus
(Fellowship & Outreach)

Cheryl Stohr
(Missions)

Allen Gibbs
(Worship)

Lori Trolinger
(Worship)

Kerry Gerding
(Clerk of Session)

Cont. from pg. 1

Even though test results indicate that our building is clean and safe for re-entry, FPC's elders are choosing to go the extra mile. Out of an abundance of caution and a desire to go above and beyond regulatory requirements for the peace of all Opportunity School children and families, *and for our own church family*, FPC's session voted on October 4, with continued assistance from MECS, to pursue bids from cleaning contractors specifically certified to clean and abate any possible residual asbestos from the basement level of our building. It is hoped this will fully assure everyone that they are safe when they enter the building at its reopening.

So, when will the building reopen? Our trustees are working diligently to expedite all the necessary steps to that end, and thus far, both MECS and IEPA have been very helpful in understanding Opportunity School's and FPC's needs. At this writing, I ask everyone to please be patient and continue to pray over all these matters. Pray for the wise and patient leadership of your elders as they work to lead us through this little speedbump. Please pray for the Opportunity School community in the disruption this has been for the children, their families, the teachers, administrators, and board members. As the session receives word of when it looks like we can reopen, we will share it. We hope this can come soon. Please pray.

For now, let's join together in the ADVENTURE! It was hard not to be together in worship last Sunday, but we've got a great alternative for this Sunday, October 8: We will meet just across the parking lot behind FPC in the YMCA in their small gym. The YMCA has graciously opened this space to us for this Sunday, and any succeeding Sundays, should those be needed – I hope that's not the case, but we will have to wait and see. In the meantime, let's not miss out on this rich opportunity we have in our *Loving Community of Jesus Christ* to trust him in new ways. I think this will actually be a lot of FUN! – a change of environment and routine will draw us nearer to Jesus and to one another. Please don't miss out! Make sure you get in on the adventure and don't miss a moment of what this will be as we choose to trust God and worship him when things are just a bit different.

Come to worship this Sunday at 9:30 AM at the YMCA: Park in the lower parking lot, just behind FPC's building and down the slope to the YMCA. Enter the door into the Y just off the parking lot. Proceed upstairs past the reception desk to the small gym across the hallway. Everything will be clear as you arrive and we will have people to guide you. If you struggle with stairs, we will have doors open for you at the upper entrance to the Y building where Jackson Street turns left past the Y and the east entrance to the Y parking lot. There is also an elevator for use. ***Sunday school classes will meet*** after worship in spaces provided at the YMCA.

Cont. from pg. 2

Please, Volunteers Needed – All Hands on Deck! If you are able to come as early as 8:30 AM, help will be needed to set up chairs, basic sound system, and to take care of a few other details. If you have the ability to arrive early by 9:10 AM, help will be needed to direct people through two entrances to the gym where we will gather for worship. After worship, help to put chairs and other items away will also be appreciated. Thank you ahead of time for what you can give!

As your pastor, I am joyfully looking forward to worshipping our good God together and to share the joy of our *Loving Community of Jesus Christ*. Invite others to come for the adventure!

See you this Sunday,
Pastor John Walker

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY IS OCTOBER 15

Sunday, October 15, is Stewardship Dedication Sunday during worship when we all turn in our commitment cards for 2024. Stewardship is about the three T's...Time, Talent & Treasure. Use the commitment cards to make a faith-based pledge of the portion of your treasure that you will return to God. Also remember to consider how you will share your time and talents. Without sharing our time and talents, God's work here on earth will not be completed. Please remember the most important step of stewardship is to pray about the commitments you are going to make. Then turn in your commitment cards on Dedication Sunday. Extra commitment cards can be found in each of the pews. If you are unable to be in worship on October 15th, you can turn in your commitment cards in an envelope marked "Stewardship" and place in our treasurer's mailbox in the church office.

Thank you for your generous faithfulness and dedication of your 3 T's to the LORD and your church family at First Presbyterian!



OCTOBER

BY: ROBERT FROST

O hushed October morning mild,
 Thy leaves have ripened to the fall;
 Tommorrow's wind, if it be wild,
 Should waste them all.

Tomorrow they may form and go.
 hushed October morning mild,
 Begin the hours of this day slow.
 Make the day seem to us less brief
 Hearts not averse t being beguiled,
 Beguile us in the way you know.
 Release one leaf at break of day;
 At noon release another leaf;
 One from our trees, one far away,
 Retard the sun with gentle mist;
 Enchant the land with amethyst.

Slow, slow!

For grapes' sake, if they were all,
 Whose leaves already are burnt with frost,
 Whose clustered fruit must else be lost—
 For the grapes' sake along the wall.

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for the beautiful prayer shawl. It is just what I need to keep my
 shoulders and back warm!

~ Shirley Davey

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 the following page.



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>

To our First Presbyterian Church Family,

We share our thankfulness with you all for the tremendous support the first **Harvest Hand Up: A Benefit for Ugandan Farmers** received in so many ways from you all! What a wonderful afternoon and evening of fun, delicious food, and fellowship!! So many helping hands of volunteers to do what was needed, generous contributions, listening to God's story thus far, and sharing mission together.

We give God all our PRAISE for how He is designing and using this journey!

We shall keep watch and attend closely to how all the future details begin to get worked out as the **TUF – Transforming Ugandan Farmers** – project continues to grow. We thank you for your prayers, support, and continued curiosity...we do so love sharing God's story!!

With Gratefulness and Love, Joe & Nathalie Schmidt



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

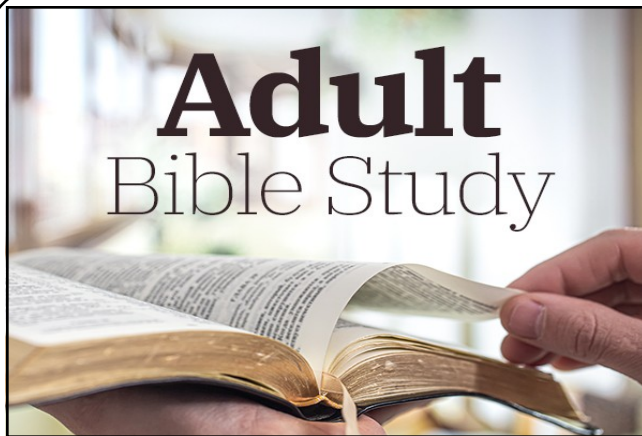
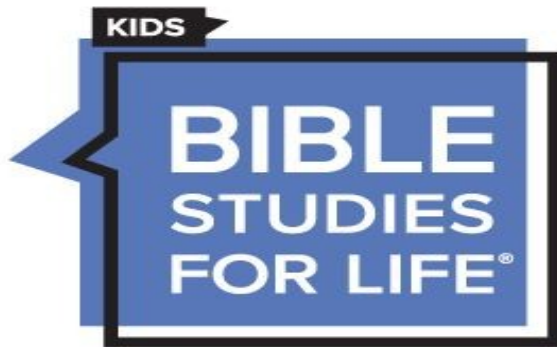
*The Presby Press is published monthly
by First Presbyterian Church
114 E. Jefferson St.,
Ottawa, IL 61350
Telephone 815-433-1045*

Youth Christian Education

8:30 a.m.—Bible Zone

11:00 a.m.—Jr. High Class
*Jr. High & Middle School students, 4th to 8th grade

11:00 a.m.—Sr. High Class



Adult Bible Study meets in the library on Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. 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



OCTOBER

Larry Schmitt	2
Hannah Walker	2
Shirley Davey	4
Arla Severson	5
Caleb Burkey	6
Rob Angus	14
Joe Schmidt	20
Dan Mestelle	22
Samantha Ehret	24
Ken Damron	26

NOVEMBER

Brad Armstrong	1
Julie Angus	1
Carol Zimmerman	6
Jean Zeilmann	6
Brian Smithmeyer	6
Chris Keely	8
Nolan Zarwell	12
Susanne Gibbs	15
Griffin Clemens	15
Laura Zarwell	15
Kevin Arjes	16
Gayle Schmitt	17
Pat Gerding	18
Kyle Zarwell	22

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Classes 8:30 a.m.-Bible ZONE 11:00 a.m.-Jr. High Class 11:00 a.m. -Sr. High Class 11 a.m.—Adult Bible Study			9:00 a.m.— Wednesday Prayer Team meets in church library 7 p.m.—Choir Practice in Library			
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.
8. Communion Sunday Worship at the YMCA at 9:30 a.m.	9.	10. 7 pm –Committee Meetings	11.	12.	13.	14.
15. Stewardship Dedication Sunday Noon-Community Meal	16.	17. 7 pm-Session	18.	19.	20.	21.
22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.	28.
29.	30.	31.				



First Presbyterian Church

114 East Jefferson Street

Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Return Service Requested



HEADS UP FPC FAMILY! - GET THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

Pictures for a **NEW** Church Directory will be taken on
Wednesday, November 15!

Watch the bulletin and your email for further information!

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