



# PRESBY PRESS

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 47 No. 02

FEBRUARY 2024

## HELLO

*February*



## LENT BEGINS ON ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14!

Show your loved ones how much you care on Valentine's Day. Bring them to the Ash Wednesday worship service, at 7 p.m. to begin the journey of Lent.

### 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 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)

## Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held February 11, 2024 at 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. 8 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.



### **The Adult Bible Study Will Continue A Study Of The Gospel of John**

We meet in the library at 11:00 am after worship each Sunday. This is a hybrid class that also has a ZOOM connection. The Gospel of John is usually the first to be studied by new Christians and newly created study groups because it is a primer for the study of foundational truths. John deals with the nature and Person of Christ and what it means to have faith in Him. In this class, we will learn about the seven important miracles, of which five are not recorded anywhere else in Scripture, and how John used those miracles to reveal the Person and mission of Jesus Christ.

I hope that you can join us for this exciting study about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus and how our lives are forever changed.

For more information please contact Allen Gibbs (304-633-1069).

Blessings, Allen

## **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 "Zeal for God, Oneness in Relationships, Nurture in God's Word, and Exercising 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, 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. 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 worship, from 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. in the 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.

**Senior High students meet at 10:45 a.m. in the classroom on the east end of the main floor.**

**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)

### **Pastor**

*John 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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## **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 9:00-10:00 a.m. (NOTE: from January through March we meet by Zoom)**. 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>

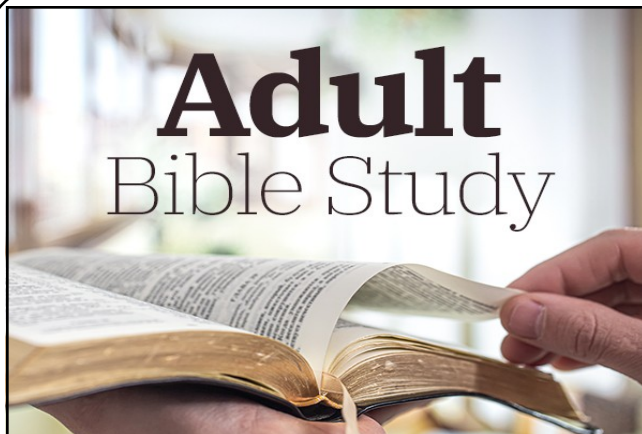
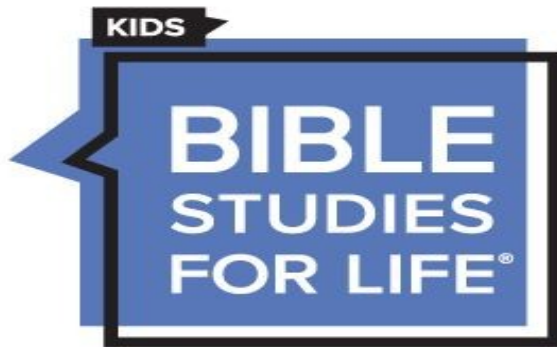
## Youth Christian Education

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**



### FEBRUARY

Edythe Brockman	6
Dan Brockman	11
Idalia Stricklin	13
Emilie Gibbs	13
Noah Trolinger	14
Erin Stuedemann	19
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
<b>Weekly Classes</b> 8:15 a.m.-Bible ZONE 10:45 a.m. -Sr. High Class 11:00 a.m.-Jr. High Class 11 a.m.—Adult Bible Study			9:00 a.m.— Wednesday Prayer Team meets in church library 7:00 p.m.—Choir Practice in Library			
				1.	2.	3.
4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.
9:30 a.m.- Communion Sunday						
11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	16.	17.
		7 p.m.— Committee Meetings	7 p.m. -Ash Wednesday Worship Service			
18.	19.	20.	21.	22.	23.	24.
<b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> 9:25 a.m.-Prelude of Praise Noon-Community Meal		7 p.m.-Session				
25.	26.	27.	28.	29.		

# February

# First Presbyterian Church

114 East Jefferson Street

Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Return Service Requested



## ASH WEDNESDAY

**Wednesday, February 14**

### **Coldest Night of the Year Walk (CNOY): Feb. 24th**

CNOY is a one-mile walk in the cold dedicated to raise awareness about homelessness. The walk provides opportunity for the community to come together and make a positive impact. By participating, we care for the needs of the homeless by supporting the Illinois Valley PADS shelter. Here's how FPC can get involved.

**Form a Walking Team:** Youth groups, Small groups,  
anyone who wants to participate.

**Volunteer Opportunities:** Adult groups, Small groups, Youth Groups or any one  
wanting to get involved

**Contact:** Sally Van Cura, CNOY Coordinator,  
630-502-9400

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