



PRESBY PRESS

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 47 No. 04

—APRIL 2024



A-OK SUNDAY IS COMING MAY 5

We will once again celebrate Acts of Kindness (A-OK) Sunday. This year's AOK Sunday will be on May 5th. For those who are new to this event, AOK Sunday is a time when we worship God thru service to our community.

This year marks the Tenth Anniversary of the First A-Ok Sunday. Come join one of several teams that will GO out into the community to demonstrate FAITH according to FPC's mission. We will go out in the love of Christ to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Work projects will be offered at varying levels of needed energy and activity so that people of all ages and abilities can find the right place to serve. If you know of an organization or parts of the community that need a helping hand, please contact Cheryl Stohr, Mission committee elder, 815-313-9779. Be sure to mark your calendars. Details and sign-up sheets will be coming in April.

(See pg. 2 for details.)

Watch for further details in April bulletins!

**KINDNESS
CHANGES
EVERYTHING**

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)

A-OK Sunday is set for May 5th, 2024

A-OK Sunday, where FPC goes out into the community and organizations to be the hands and feet of Christ Jesus. If you know of an organization or parts of the community that need a helping hand, please, call Cheryl Stohr, Mission committee elder, 815-313-9779.

Details and sign-up sheets will be coming in April

Be sure to mark your Calendars for May 5th Now!

The schedule for AOK Sunday

8:00am - 8:30am Breakfast at FPC in Scott Hall

8:30am - 10:45am Projects

10:45 a.m. return to FPC

11:00am - 11:30 a.m. Communion Service in Scott Hall

11:30am Lunch and reflection on the morning



Ukrainian Refuge Family Needs Help

Ukrainian refugee family living in Ottawa—Help Needed! A single father with a 17 year old son and 15 year old daughter have moved to Ottawa to start a new life here. Area churches are working to supply immediate and long term needs. The Ottawa Welcome Team is organizing this support and accepting donations of needed items and financial gifts. Any monetary gifts can be made directly to FPC and those will be forwarded. See Cheryl Stohr, Mission Committee elder, with any questions (815-313-9779).



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 8th 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

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
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Ottawa, IL 61350
Telephone 815-433-1045



In case you missed the Palm Sunday showing in Ottawa...
COMING SOON TO AMAZON PRIME!



FOLLOWING *the* FOOTSTEPS

WALKING WHERE JESUS WALKED
PALM SUNDAY - MARCH 24 - 2:00 PM

ROXY THEATER OTTAWA
FREE ADMISSION 187 SEATS

Sponsored by:
First Presbyterian Church &
Christ Community Church

Preparing Hearts For Holy Week

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

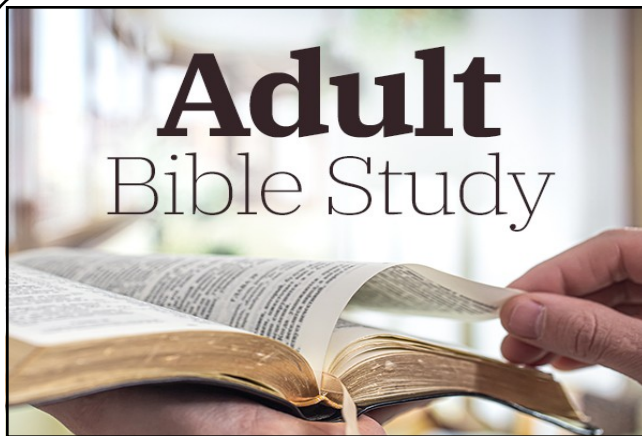
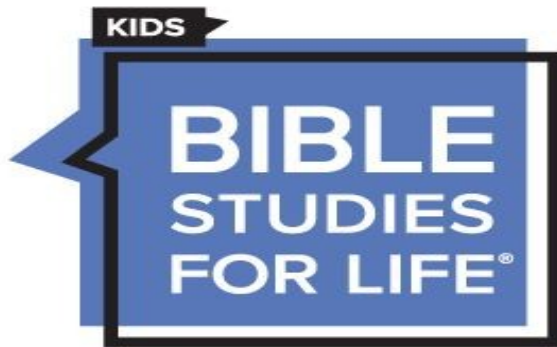
1. Pray for Restoration and Revival <i>Psalm 80:19</i>	2. Pastor John and his family <i>Galatians 6:9</i>	3. FPC Staff <i>1 Corinthians 16:4</i>	4. Our Hurting World <i>John 3:16</i>	5. Public Schools & Opportunity School <i>Proverbs 22:6</i>	6. Shut-ins <i>James 1:27</i>
7. Community Meals <i>Matthew 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**

APRIL

Rob McGrath	1
Sue Koestler	3
Mike Farrell	8
Amanda Brockman	10
Diane Farrell	11
Brian Huebner	12
Karla Armstrong	18
Tyler Angus	19
Brad Angus	20
Hannah Duggan	21
Danielle Ehret	23
Rhonda Love	26
Pete Trolinger	27

MAY

Addilyn Woodyer	3
Lisa Mestelle	10
Sue Paul	10
Dave Noble	10
Tucker Clemens	11
Steve West	13
Don Morehead	15
James Burkey	15
John Bean	23
Casey Clemens	25
Betsy Feagans	25
Jack Marvel	27
Linda Hoadley	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Classes 8:30 a.m.-L.L. 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 and Zoom in the winter 7:30 p.m.—Choir Practice in Library			
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
		7:00 p.m.—Book Discussion Group “Most Extraordinary Life”				
7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.
9:30 a.m.—Worship and Communion		7:00 p.m.—Committee Meetings				
14.	15.	16.	17.	18.	19.	20.
		7:00 p.m. - Session				
21.	22.	23.	24.	25.	26.	27.
Noon- Community Meal		7:00 p.m.—Book Discussion Group “Most Extraordinary Life”				
28.	29.	30.				



APRIL

First Presbyterian Church

114 East Jefferson Street

Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Return Service Requested



be kind

Do You Want to “Follow the Footsteps” of Jesus?

Come to a Book Discussion Group at FPC starting Tuesday, April 2

- Book Discussion: “The Most Extraordinary Life—Recovering the Real Jesus”
- When: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, April through August
- Time: 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
- Where: FPC (Library, Sanctuary or Scott Hall—Come & See)
- Leaders: Pastors John Walker & John Nordstrom with Dan Hennefent
- Books available from Pastor John—\$15 each

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