



PRESBY PRESS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WWW.OTTAWAFIRSTPRES.ORG

VOLUME 47 No. 05

—MAY 2024

MAY

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

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.

See pg. 2 to discover the different projects and sign up where you want to serve during worship on April 28! Also see the A-OK morning schedule of events and times.



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.*

Ron Koestler
(Administration)

Joy Huebner
(Administration)

Mike Farrell
(Trustee)

Dan Mestelle
(Trustee)

Brian Huebner
(Trustee)

Lisa Smithmeyer
(Discipleship)

Casey Clemens
(Fellowship & Out-
reach)

Julie Angus
(Fellowship & Out-
reach)

Cheryl Stohr
(Missions)

Allen Gibbs
(Worship)

Lori Trolinger
(Worship)

Kerry Gerding
(Clerk of Session)

AOK Sunday May 5th Projects:

- May baskets for our nursing home members, 6 in all; Heritage Woods 3, Pleasant View 3
- Police/Fire Dept.-deliver chips and salsa for Cinco de Mayo
- FPC-Clean up around the church window wells
- Friendship Village--Clean debris by the creek and picnic area
- Blessing Packets for our homeless community
- Making lunch at PADS for the residents

The schedule for AOK Sunday

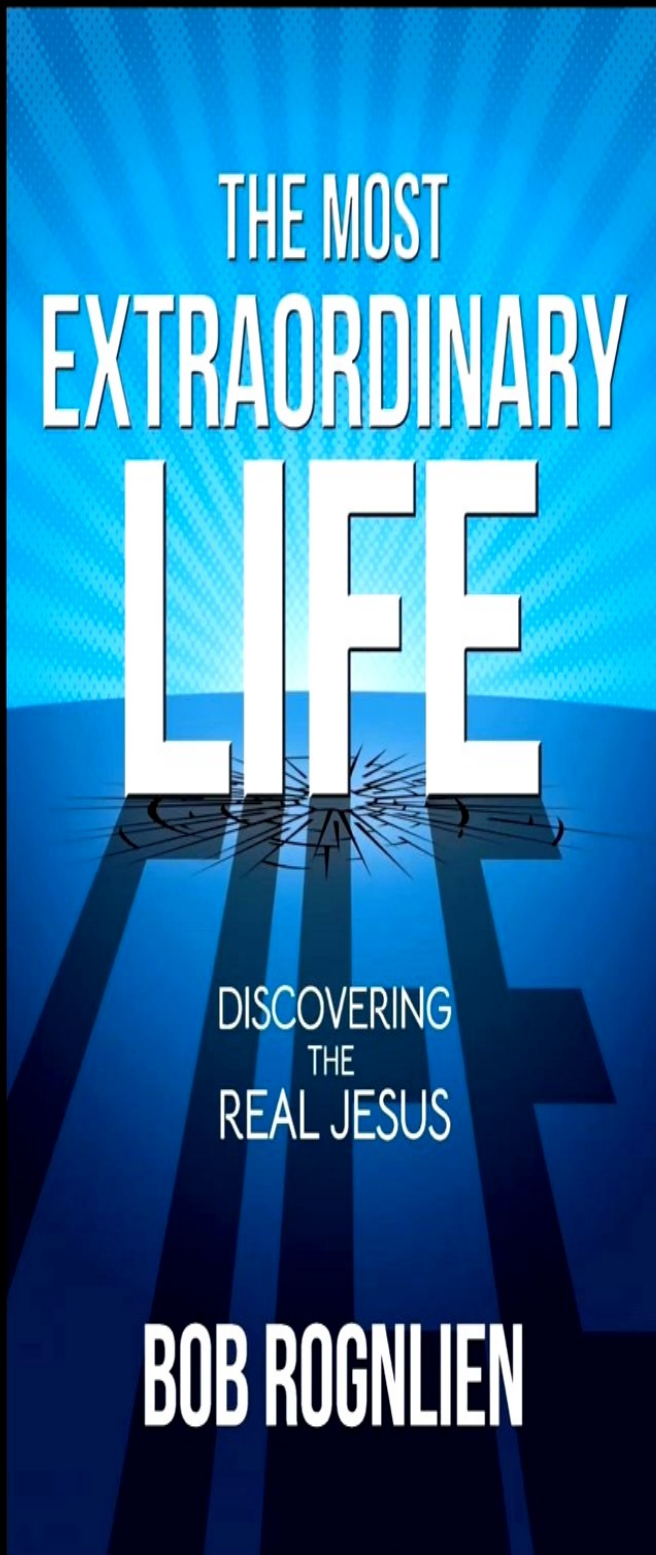
Come and join us! AOK (Acts of Kindness) on Sunday, May 5th AOK Sunday where we turn our worship into serving others, going out into the community to be the hands and feet for God's church. So for Worship Service, that's what we will do. We will go into the community to perform various jobs as our acts of worship, no special skills required. Be sure to sign up for the project of your choice today! Here's the morning schedule

8:00 ~ 8:30 a.m.-Come early for breakfast

8:30~ 8:45 a.m.-Head out to your chosen project

**10:45 a.m.-Return to Scott Hall for brief worship and
communion together**

11:30 a.m. –let's enjoy a provided lunch together!



**BOOK
DISCUSSION
GROUP**

**TUESDAY MAY 7
TUESDAY MAY 28
7:00 - 8:00 PM**

**First Presbyterian Church
114 E. Jefferson St, Ottawa Illinois**

This book discussion group will meet on the first and fourth Tuesday evenings through August 27

**Books are \$20 each and will be available for
purchase at the discussion group
815/433-1045 for more information**

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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Happy Mother's Day!

When I was small, you held me tight,
And kept me safe from day to night.
You taught me how to walk and talk,
And helped me learn to ride a bike.

You were always there for me,
Through thick and thin, you were my rock.
You cheered me on when I was sad,
And helped me celebrate my successes.

I am so grateful for everything you have done for me,
And I love you more than words can say

HELP NEEDED!

Over the past several years we have had several people helping to beautify and maintain the landscaping in the front of our church. Thank you to Joan Damron, Betsy Feagans, Chris Keely, Kerry Gerding, Cindy Arjes, Cheryl Stohr, and Susanne Gibbs. We are in need of some new volunteers to help with weekly weeding and watering. Please contact Joy Huebner if you are interested. 815-343-3379.

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.

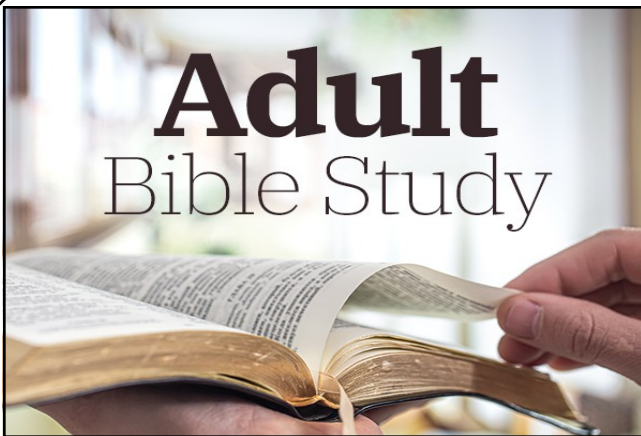
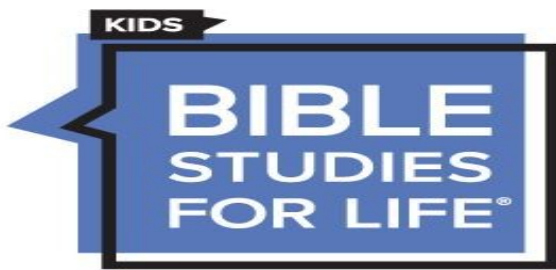


PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY WITH US, FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH

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
 10:45 a.m.—Sr. High Class
 10:45 a.m.--Young Adult 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**

*Celebrate
 May Birthdays*



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
Jackie Stevenson	19
John Bean	23
Casey Clemens	25
Betsy Feagans	25
Jack Marvel	27
Linda Hoadley	28

JUNE

Madisyn McGrath	3
Donna Burkey	14
Beth Woodyer	15
Jenna Smithmeyer	17
Tim Huebner	20
Max McGrath	26
James Gibbs	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Weekly Classes 8:30 a.m.-Bible ZONE 10.45 a.m.-Sr. High Class 10:45 a.m. - Young Adult 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. AOK SUNDAY 8-8:30 a.m.- Breakfast	6.	7. 7 p.m.- Following the Footsteps Book Discussion Group	8.	9.	10.	11.
12. Mother's Day	13. RSVP TODAY for YMCA Prayer Breakfast (on May 23)	14. 7 p.m.-Committee Meetings	15.	16.	17.	18.
19. Pentecost Sunday Welcoming confirmation students in Worship Noon-Community Meal	20.	21. 7 p.m.-Session Meeting	22.	23. 7:15 a.m.-YMCA Prayer Breakfast at the new "Y" • RSVP by May 13	24.	25.
26.	27. Memorial Day	28. 7 p.m.- Following the Footsteps Book Discussion Group	29.	30.	31.	

May

First Presbyterian Church

114 East Jefferson Street

Ottawa, Illinois 61350

Return Service Requested



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

Come to a Book Discussion Group at FPC: First & Fourth Tuesday each month

- Book Discussion: “The Most Extraordinary Life-Recovering the Real Jesus”
- When: 1st and 4th Tuesdays, April through August (**Next on May 7 & 28**)
- 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 and Lisa Mestelle
- Books available from Pastor John—\$20 each

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