



# PRESBY PRESS

114 East Jefferson Street \* Ottawa, IL 61350 \* (815) 433-1045 \* [www.ottawafirstpres.org](http://www.ottawafirstpres.org)



## A-OK SUNDAY IS COMING ON MAY 4th!

A-OK Sunday is when FPC goes out into the community to be the hands and feet of Christ Jesus. We are so excited to be gathering for our ELEVENTH year this year! Think of all the organizations and people we have been witness to in helping over those years.

Once again the Mission Committee, lead by Cheryl Stohr (elder) and her team, has put together a list that you'll find at the back of the sanctuary of many places you can get plugged in. There are opportunities to serve in different capacities based on interest and skill level. See page 2 for the list of projects. Our schedule for that morning is as follows:

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### 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 DEMONSTRATE FAITH

**8:00-8:30am - Breakfast in Scott Hall**

**8:30-10:45am - Prayer and off to PROJECTS**

**10:45-11:00am - Return to FPC**

**11:00-11:30am - Communion Service**

**11:30am - Lunch and Reflection**

# A-OK SUNDAY PROJECTS:

- FRIENDSHIP HOUSE – TBD
- PADS SHELTER – Make lunch for the residents and organize the pantry area.
- HERITAGE WOODS – Plant flowers, Choir to sing for the residents.
- OPPORTUNITY SCHOOL – Make Graduation cards and a and a gift bag for the graduates.
- FPC – Washing windows in Scott Hall, cleaning out window wells, spring cleaning around the shrubs and playground area, mulch areas that need it, possibly add bracing to a tree along Columbus Street.
- OTTAWA – General clean-up and passing out of blessing bags to our homeless community.
- POLICE/FIRE DEPARTMENTS – Make snack bags for 18 Police and 14 Fire persons.

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**IF YOU NEED A FIRST PRES CREW SHIRT, PLEASE LOOK IN THE OFFICE.  
ALL ADULT SIZES ARE AVAILABLE OR ON ORDER.**

# AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

As we enter the month of A-OK Sunday, and the important role we have in serving our community, let us also look to those in our church family who do so much to make our life together reflect the love of Christ to those in our midst. Whether it's serving visibly on a Sunday morning, or quietly in the background to make our building and ministries run smoothly, there are many hands at work to make FPC a really special place to be! There are so many that go beyond the pages of this newsletter, but here a few we'd like to honor this month.

Every first Sunday of the month, we take communion together. Nathalie faithfully shows up each month with juice and bread in hand to prepare the table. She pours the juice and cuts up the bread, so we are able to participate together in remembering our Lord and Savior's sacrifice. We are so thankful for her faithful service, not only in that area, but also in ordering and designing the flowers both at Christmas and at Easter. We're so grateful that she uses thoughtfulness and her talents to serve our church family. THANK YOU!



Whenever you see those beautiful flowers surrounding the pulpit, you may not realize that a really special lady is the one that provides those each season, and has for YEARS! Carol has created many a bouquet to decorate the front of our church. It's so wonderful that she uses her creativity for our benefit! We also want to recognize her for taking the bulletins WEEKLY to the post office for our shut-ins. If they were just stuck in the mail, they wouldn't get there by Sunday. She stops by each Thursday to pick them up to take them to the post office to be mailed in town, so our saints get them in time to worship with us. THANK YOU!

This fantastic sister duo sends out cards to everyone...for every thing! Whether it's your birthday or you just need a pick-me-up, Diane and Gayle send out the sweetest notes to let you know you're always in their thoughts and in their prayers. It's a really special thing to take time out of your day to think of how you can lift others up and we are so grateful for that kindness. THANK YOU!



# AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



Joy and Allen work so hard to keep the flowers and grass around our building thriving throughout the spring, summer, and into the fall. We're already seeing the signs of spring with the tulips peeking out from the ground. If you drive by during the week, you'll often find them watering our grass or pulling the weeds. We are so grateful for their dedication to keeping our outdoor space looking beautiful! THANK YOU!

Our committees are comprised of many of our church members. Each group meets in Scott Hall on the 2nd Tuesday of the month to discuss important parts of our ministries. Without them, and their elder leaders, we wouldn't have events like the Thanksgiving Jubilee or A-OK Sunday. We wouldn't have weekly worship, our Sunday School programs, or our ever-important Trustee Board. Each group plays an important part empowering our church body, and they volunteer their time to making sure everything runs smoothly at FPC. We thank those in our Administration, Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Mission, and Trustee teams for their faithful service. THANK YOU!

\*not included: Fellowship Committee



# AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!



Our Tech Team is busy every Sunday morning, making sure our media is working during the service. They prepare the slides that will be shown on the screen the day before, and work hard to get the livestream going and all that accompanies that. Brian heads up this team of students as they all rotate through the box throughout the year. We are so thankful for their willingness to serve our congregation both here at home and to those that are unable to attend in person. Their hard work does not go unnoticed! THANK YOU!

This is my step-ladder. I never knew my real ladder.



What can we say about our faithful trustees? They are in the building all the time! Whether it's to meet with an elevator inspector, or to change light bulbs, or to climb up on roofs to make sure raccoons are staying out of our building...they are always close by and willing to stop in to make sure our building is in tip-top shape. Dan, Mike, and Brian are invaluable to the running of our space - both for our congregation and for Opportunity School. If there's a problem, they'll solve it! There are not enough words to express our thankfulness for their tireless efforts in keeping our building running smoothly. THANK YOU!!



Our ushers are very visible members of our congregation. We are greeted by them when we enter. We watch them as they go down each aisle to collect the plate. We see them as they walk up front with our offerings for prayer. In addition to other tasks they have that morning, they never fail to show up and do what is asked of them each month. We are always happy to see their smiling faces and are grateful for their dedication to the role they've taken on. THANK YOU!

\*not pictured: Lloyd

# AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



Our Sunday School teachers are faithful servants to the exploration and teachings of the Bible to children and adults alike. Each comes prepared to share the word, to ask the questions, and to help those in their class grow in their faith. Susanne teaches our youngest, Debbie and Lori teach our Middle Schoolers, and Lloyd teaches our Sr. High Students. John leads our new Young Adult Class and Allen continues to lead the adults. We are so grateful for their dedication to the faith-growth of our people. What a gift they are! THANK YOU!

The Time for Young Disciples message is provided each week to our children, and congregation at large. These five volunteers take turns delivering those messages with kindness, thoughtfulness, and engagement with the youngest of our church family. Their effort, year-after-year, does not go unnoticed. Thank you to Betsy, Joy, Pastor John, Carol, and Nathalie for using their gifts and talents in tailoring their message in ways our kids understand. THANK YOU!



Just like we have a special volunteer to take care of setting up communion, we have this awesome team that cleans it up! Cheryl and Gayle are so quick to gather everything up after we finish the service and take it all downstairs to the kitchen. Once there, they wash it up and store it all away for the next month. We are grateful to them for seeing a need and filling it. THANK YOU!



# AMAZING VOLUNTEERS



Did you know we have a Wednesday morning prayer group that meets each week over ZOOM to pray for those in our congregation, community, and more? We all know the power of prayer and how important it is to open up our hearts to the Lord. We may not see them in action, but they are one of the groups that are behind the scenes, thinking about, praying about, and caring about our people. What a powerful, silent ministry this is. THANK YOU!

\*not pictured: Mike, Betsy, and Karen

We cannot count the number of people here at FPC that have served the Community Meal over the years. There have been SO many! It's a really special things to open up our doors and hearts to service when we provide a meal for our community. Taking time to prepare a meal for 50 or more people isn't done easily, but so many have and we want to recognize them all! Though we may not have pictures of every family, every committee, or every group that has taken on a meal each month, your willingness to provide doesn't go unnoticed. THANK YOU!



Our vocal choir meets weekly throughout the school year, while our bell choir meets in the weeks leading up to Christmas and Easter. Both groups of people use their considerable talents to bring music into our lives. Led by Lloyd and Diane, our wonderful music leaders, they make showing up for practices a fun, engaging experience for all. They bring beautiful musical meditations to our Sunday mornings and music is more than just sound—it's a gift from God that stirs our souls, lifts our spirits, and connects us to each other and to Him. THANK YOU!

\*not pictured Tyler (bell) and Madie (bell/vocal)



# GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY

Graduation Sunday is coming up on June 8th. We have several graduates this year!



HIGH SCHOOL:  
**TOBIAS BURKEY**  
**ALAYNA GIBBS**  
**ADDISON DUGGAN**

COLLEGE:  
**TIMOTHY GIBBS**  
**NICK ANGUS**



We can't wait to honor them and their accomplishments!



Please be in prayer for the Believe In Uganda (BIUG) team as they leave for Uganda from May 27-June 12. Our own former church secretary Dianne Jamison is going along with her daughter and daughter-in-law this time. How exciting! We're so glad to see them off to do God's good work within the community they so faithfully serve.



Pastor John will be away during most of May for some study leave and vacation time. However, he will be in worship on May 4 (A-OK Sunday) and May 11. During the early part of May, Pastor John will be hosting his annual Pastors' Covenant Group gathering of Presbyterian pastors from all over the country. This year 27 pastors will gather at Heritage Harbor Resort for this much-anticipated time of friendship and encouragement, to include small group time, special dinners, and time to build each other up in their calling as pastors.

On Monday, May 12, John will fly to Istanbul, Turkey to spend 4 days exploring the incredible cultural and Christian history of this great city. On Saturday, May 17, he will begin the *Footsteps of Paul spiritual pilgrimage*, retracing the history and mission of the Apostle Paul. He will return to the States on June 2 and be present to lead FPC in worship on Pentecost Sunday, June 8 (also our Graduate Recognition Sunday). Please remember to pray for Pastor John while he's away, and for Debbie who will remain in Ottawa.

For any emergency pastoral care needs during his absence, please contact Caleb Suydam of Streator Park Presbyterian Church at 815.200.4602. You may also contact any of your FPC elders.

**The Fellowship Hour will begin its summer hiatus this month. The last day of coffee and treats is May 11<sup>th</sup>. It'll resume again in September with the start of Sunday School.**





# Birthdays

## MAY

Addilyn Woodyer	3
Lisa Mestelle	10
Sue Paul	10
David Noble	10
Tucker Clemens	11
Steve West	13
Don Morehead	15
James Burkey	15
Jackie Stevenson	19
Casey Clemens	25
Betsy Feagans	25
Linda Hoadley	28

## JUNE

Madi McGrath	3
Collier Woodyer	12
Donna Burkey	14
Beth Woodyer	15
Gerry Woltering	15
Jenna Smithmeyer	17
Tim Huebner	20
Max McGrath	26
James Gibbs	30

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES END FOR THE SUMMER ON MAY 11th

*...but, they will be back in September!*

### BIBLE ZONE - 8:30-9am

3 yrs - 3rd grade  
*in the East Room*

### MIDDLE SCHOOL - 11-11:45am

4th-8th grade  
*on the 2nd floor*

### HIGH SCHOOL - 11-12pm

9th-12th grade  
*on the first floor across from the elevator*

### YOUNG ADULT CLASS - 11-12pm

*in the Pastor John's Study*

### ADULT CLASS - 11-12pm

*in the church library*

## FLASHBACK CORNER

Who Do You See?



# 1979

## FPC STAFF and ELDERS

<b>John Walker</b> PASTOR	<b>David Farrell</b> ADMINISTRATION	<b>Lisa Smithmeyer</b> DISCIPLESHIP
<b>Lori Trolinger</b> CHURCH SECRETARY	<b>Pete Trolinger</b> ADMINISTRATION	<b>Amanda Brockman</b> FELLOWSHIP
<b>Kerry Gerding</b> CLERK of SESSION	<b>Brian Huebner</b> TRUSTEE	<b>Peg Kramer</b> FELLOWSHIP
<b>Joy Huebner</b> TREASURER	<b>Mike Farrell</b> TRUSTEE	<b>Allen Gibbs</b> WORSHIP
<b>Lloyd Chapman</b> MUSIC DIRECTOR	<b>Dan Mestelle</b> TRUSTEE	<b>Ron Koestler</b> WORSHIP
<b>Diane Chapman</b> ORGANIST	<b>Cheryl Stohr</b> MISSION	



We will only have ONE Outdoor Service this summer and it will be in June. More on that to come in the June/July Newsletter!



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 9-10am. Please come join us in the church library or by ZOOM. You can ask Pastor John for the link. Come and see what great work God is waiting to do, as we thank, seek, and 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 your 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' mighty name. Amen.

**Want more help with HOW to pray and for WHAT?  
See the daily calendar for PRAYER on the next page.**

<p>1</p> <p>Pray for our Restoration and Revival</p> <p>Psalm 80:19</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Pastor John and his family</p> <p>Galatians 6:9</p>	<p>3</p> <p>FPC Staff</p> <p>1 Corinthians 16:4</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Our Hurting World</p> <p>John 3:16</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Public Schools and Opportunity School</p> <p>Proverbs 22:6</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Shut-ins</p> <p>James 1:27</p>
<p>7</p> <p>Community Meals</p> <p>Matthew 25:37-40</p>	<p>8</p> <p>Worship</p> <p>Psalm 86:9-10</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Hearts of Hurting People</p> <p>Psalm 34:18</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Session</p> <p>Isaiah 41:10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>PADS Shelter and Homeless</p> <p>Matthew 25:35-40</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Protection of the Congregation</p> <p>Ephesians 6:10-18</p>
<p>13</p> <p>Invite and Welcome the Holy Spirit</p> <p>Titus 3:4-7</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Choir and Music Team</p> <p>Psalm 92:1</p>	<p>15</p> <p>Youth Group Ministry</p> <p>Proverbs 22:6</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Our Children</p> <p>Matthew 19:14</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Pray for our Missionaries strength and protection</p> <p>Acts 1:8</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Food Pantry</p> <p>Luke 21:18-19</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Health of the Congregation</p> <p>James 5:14</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Small Groups and Missional Communities</p> <p>Hebrews 10:25</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Nation, State, and Government</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:1-4</p>	<p>22</p> <p>Bible ZONE and all Sunday School Programs</p> <p>Matthew 19:14</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Our Seniors</p> <p>Psalm 90:14</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Churches of Ottawa</p> <p>Hebrews 10:24-25</p>
<p>25</p> <p>Ottawa Mayor and City Counsel</p> <p>1 Timothy 2:1-4</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Leaders of Ministries</p> <p>Hebrews 13:17-18</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Ottawa Community</p> <p>Jeremiah 29:7</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Pray for those who are far from God</p> <p>Luke 10:2</p>	<p>29</p> <p>Servant's Heart</p> <p>Matthew 25:37-40</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Under His Wings Ministry</p> <p>Jeremiah 29:7</p>

PLEASE PRAY EACH DAY WITH US  
FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND CHURCH



# May

2025



Pastor John Study Leave

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	For emergency pastoral care, during Pastor John's absence, see page 7			Pastor John Study Leave	Pastor John Study Leave	
* SATURDAYGIFT				1	2	3
<b>A-OK SUNDAY!</b> Breakfast - 8am Projects - 8:30am Communion - 11am Lunch - 11:30am	Pastor John Study Leave	Pastor John Study Leave	Prayer Meeting by ZOOM - 9am VOCAL CHOIR 7pm Pastor John Study Leave	Pastor John Study Leave	Pastor John Study Leave	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<b>MOTHER'S DAY</b> Last day of Sunday School and Coffee Hour	Pastor John Vacation Begins 	Committee Meetings 7pm	Prayer Meeting by ZOOM - 9am			
	12	13	14	15	16	17
SOUL SHINE 9:25 am Community Meal 12pm		Session 7pm	Prayer Meeting by ZOOM - 9am <b>Opportunity School Graduation</b>			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	MEMORIAL DAY		Prayer Meeting by ZOOM - 9am			
* SATURDAYGIFT.COM						
25	26	27	28	29	30	31