



Voice of the Servant



2024



Points of Interest:

- ⇒ Missions, Pg. 2
- ⇒ VBS Pg. 2
- ⇒ Summer Camp, Pg. 2
- ⇒ Micropantry, Pg 3
- ⇒ Session Highlights Pg. 4-5



Mission Statement

Empowered by the Holy Spirit through every aspect of our lives, we strive to become more like Christ. Our purpose is to praise and worship God, support each other as a family, and reach out to others to spread the good News of our salvation through Jesus Christ!

Church Family and Friends,

With Trinity Sunday behind us, we now enter the part of the church calendar called Ordinary Time. It is just as it suggests, time for us to live out our faith in the ordinary days of our lives. These summer days when the crops, gardens, and flowers are growing, we, too, are to grow. We can grow together in our knowledge and love of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. We will look at His life and pray that God transforms our lives to be more like His.

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. (Ephesians 5:15-17)

Please take advantage of our summer opportunities for growth. Men and women alike are invited to stop in Thursday mornings at 10:00 for Fill My Cup. We will give you a choice of coffee or tea and you can also fill your cup with fellowship and caring.

We welcome you to attend our second monthly Free Family Breakfast on Saturday, June 8 from 8:30 to 10:00 am. We need hungry people, welcoming people, and a few kitchen helpers. Bill and Joni will be our leaders in this outreach activity.

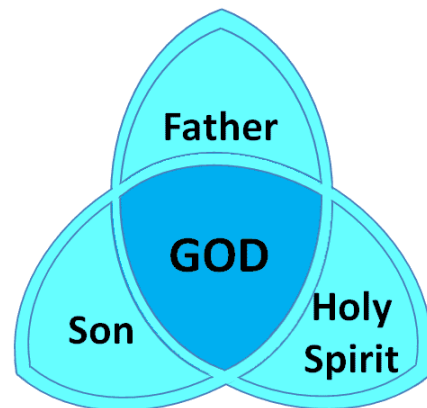
Remember we are combining our efforts with the Methodist churches in offering Vacation Bible School July 29 – August 2. Thank you to those who have volunteered to help that week. Now, we need everyone to help recruit children to attend. Additionally, our church is offering 10 youth scholarships to summer camp at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in Oregon. Again, we ask that you help reach out to the youth in our community to offer these scholarships.

Finally, we hope you will volunteer to put a sign in your yard as a simple act of evangelism. Please see a revised list of sayings later in this newsletter. Please sign up if you would like to display a sign in your yard. We will periodically trade signs.

Make your ordinary time extraordinary by asking Jesus to light your path. Hope to see you 10:00 Sundays in-person or on-line for worship.

By grace together,

Laurie Walker
Covenant Pastor



Missions

Online Giving



Congratulations! We are delighted to inform you that your congregation has met the requirements to receive Blackhawk Presbytery's "Six for Six" award for 2023 - for the very first time! We are so grateful for the many ways your congregation has supported the work of Blackhawk Presbytery and the broader church. We are grateful for your faithful financial stewardship and your hands-on commitment to the presbytery and your community. Your commitment has not gone unnoticed.

As a reminder, this important award is given to those congregations who:

- Pay their assessed per capita in full
- Make and fulfill a mission pledge to Blackhawk Presbytery

Promote and receive the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church (USA):

- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Pentecost Offering
- Peace and Global Witness Offering
- Christmas Joy Offering



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

The Pentecost Experience of Presence
John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Thank you for your contributions to the Pentecost offerings.



"Abigail's Baby Bottle Yearly Fundraiser"

Please return your baby bottles on **Father's Day, June 16!**

Rocky Railway VBS

July 29 — August 2

You can pick up registrations at First UMC, Zion UMC, First Presbyterian Church and the Micropantry.



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

- ⇒ Donate food items for Micropantry.
- ⇒ You can sign-up to fill the pantry
- ⇒ You can help sort fruit and vegetables every other **Tuesday 11 AM**
- ⇒ Help fold monthly newsletter **the last Thursday of the month**
- ⇒ Pick-up food from Hands of Hope Joliet, IL **the first and third Friday each month**
- ⇒ Unload and stock food items from Hands of Hope **3 PM**



Stronghold Summer Camp Scholarships

First Presbyterian Church Mendota is offering 10 full scholarships for young people in Mendota to attend a five-day summer camp. Please fill out the camp application form (the center page of the Stronghold Summer Camp booklet) and turn it in to the church office or mail it to:

**First Presbyterian Church
1003 5th Street
Mendota, IL. 61342**

Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. More information is available at www.strongholdcenter.org or by emailing mendotafirstpres@gmail.com

Micropantry

Check out the Facebook page: facebook.com/MendotaMicroPantry



We here at First Presbyterian Church are fanning the Lords love of feeding his people. We want to fan this flame until the whole community is on fire. We want the people that reside within our community to feel the **WARMTH OF GOD'S LOVE** among them rather than the burn of hunger inside them. Our Micropantry is stocked regularly with donations of food, fruit, and basic hygiene items and is open to anyone in need. We always welcome anyone and everyone that we see utilizing our pantry. Share the love of God every chance you can. You can help by donating non-perishables, laundry soap, hand soap, diapers, baby food, shampoo, conditioners, toilet paper, money to help purchase items needed. If you would like to help, please reach out and we can let you or your organization know how we can use your help.

Tuesdays Produce
 June 04
 June 18
 July 02
 July 16
 July 30

Fresh Produce Sorting



If you are able to help sort fresh produce at 11 AM or maintain the Micropantry, **please sign-up.**

Hands of Hope (Joliet Pick-up)

June 21 and July 5 "Someone is needed to pick up at 12:30 PM"



Pick-up dates— June 7, June 21, July 5, July 19
 If you are able to go to Joliet any of these dates and pick up free food for our pantry, **please sign-up.**
If you can help unload and stock the food items at 3 PM please sign-up.



Weekly Coffee Hour
 Please consider hosting coffee hour after worship on Sundays. Bring a simple dessert, make coffee, pour juice. Cheese and crackers are supplied by the Fellowship Committee.
The sign-up is on the wall outside the Kitchen.

May Coffee Hour
 June 2
 June 9 Second Sunday
 June 16 LaVerle Carter
 June 23
 June 30 Lucille Barkowski

Second Sunday Breakfast
 June 9, 9 AM
 Please bring a breakfast goodie or dish to pass. We will provide drinks and table service. If you have questions, please contact Diane Moore.

Session met Tuesday, May 21 at the church.

Communion will be served June 2. A second Free Family Breakfast will be served to the community June 8 from 8:30 to 10 AM.

Our PNC met with Presbytery's Committee on Ministry representative, Pastor Laurie Walker, recently who provided them with guideline documents with information for different levels of pastoral leadership available to churches seeking pastors. Peggy and the PNC will develop a variety of church ministry information forms to post online to widen the range of possible employment applications. Pastor Laurie is continuing as our covenant pastor through March 2025. Rev. David Spaulding has expressed interest in assisting Pastor Laurie as needed for her schedule.

Pastor Laurie attended the most recent Presbytery meeting and accepted our congregation's "Six for Six" award recognizing our dedicated missions giving to six vital appeals: Christmas Joy, One Great Hour, Peace and Global Ministry, Pentecost offering, Per Capita, and Presbyterian Mission Pledge. Thank you to the congregation of Mendota First Presbyterian for your generous stewardship practices!

The Clerk reported that a request has been received from Don Barkowski to have his name removed from our membership. He has moved and is worshipping at a different church. With regret, Session granted Don's request. Hands of Hope food distribution ministry thanks Mendota First Presbyterian Church for feeding and caring for the needs of our community. They realize the commitment, dedication, and generosity required to keep our Micropantry stocked.

Treasurer Peggy Etheridge submitted her monthly report, which shows our income ahead of expenses for the month, thanks to an annual contribution made in the last month. Our year-to-date income is also greater than our year-to-date expenses, thanks to your faithful tithes and offerings.

Pastor Laurie 1) was away when last month's communion was served, so she was not able to take communion to shut-ins for May. She will be taking communion out in June. 2) She had a chance to visit with Art Beck, who hopes to be going home soon. 3) The inaugural Free Family Breakfast was fun. We will have to do it a few more times to get it established within the community. Bill suggested we advertise it next time on the church signs on Routes 251 and 34. 4) The special worship service dedicated to the memories of Don and Carol Gooden was very meaningful. 5) It is nice having Jacob Schmitt playing in our musicians rotation. 6) The weekly Fill My Cup tea and coffee time is well-attended, a good time of fellowship, and growing in number. 7) Pastor Laurie and her husband, John, are potentially planning a move, but it will not affect her covenant with our church.

Andra reported that all the Sunday School materials are prepared through the end of August.

Gary informed us that 1) the boiler has been shut down for the season and the air conditioning system has been set to run, 2) he fixed the light on the south side of the building, 3) Ron Blum fixed the ladies' room door, but the stud behind the wall may be broken, 4) the correct alarm codes for the security system have been obtained for ADT and given to Donna so that she can turn off alarms as needed, 5) Gary has gotten the information regarding the cost of adding two cameras downstairs. After discussion, Session authorized Gary to go ahead with getting the necessary equipment to add two more cameras, 6) the estimates for fixing the gutters are in. Session authorized Gary to go ahead with getting the work done by accepting the lower of the two bids. There is money in the Pretty Practical Projects fund to cover the cost, 7) The roof work has been completed with new slate tiles being put in where missing or damaged slates had been. Everything matches and looks good.

Sandy presented our Personnel and Pastoral Relations report. Donna 1) questions whether we can discontinue keeping our COVID attendance sheet. Session feels that it is time to discontinue. 2) has ordered parts for the floor cleaner, 3) reports that her computer is running very slowly. She is in conversation with Chris Matheson about this, 4) reminded us that the deadline for newsletter articles is May 23 and folding will take place May 30.

Bill reported that he has updated the pulpit supply list and it is current to date.

On behalf of Jessica, Pastor updated us on Evangelism and Outreach items. 1) Pastor will make signs to put by our church signs on the highways for the Free Family Breakfast. 2) There was an ecumenical VBS meeting. They discussed t-shirts for VBS, the fact that we have 7 volunteers signed up so far, our church will be serving Wednesday night's supper, the students and leaders will walk to the Mendota Train Depot on Friday, as the VBS theme is railroading. 3) Jessica is following up with the young family that came to Breakfast. 4) We followed up on the front yard signs ideas brought up at the Discerning God's Vision meeting. There were several sayings in last month's newsletter that were possibilities for being printed on signs and displayed in members' front yards. We discussed them and Sandy gave us a few others. We need to reach out to the vendor and see what their criteria is for printing them.

We will need to know how many wish to display them so we know how many to print.

The Mission focus for Mother’s Day through Father’s Day is baby bottles for change for the work of Abigale’s Ministry.

The Deacons met April 14 and discussed 1) which members can they can be reaching out to, 2) they are encouraged to take time to reach out to residents of the nursing home, 3) being intentional in being in the rotation of those who take communion to shut-ins.

Our next regular Session meeting will be June 11 at 7 PM at the church.

Submitted by Peggy Etheridge, Clerk Pro Tem of Session

Yard Sign Evangelism

Please sign-up if you would like to be part of our rotating yard sign evangelism effort. This is one of our brainstorm ideas from discerning God’s vision for our church. We have narrowed our sign list to the following and are in the process of getting them printed.

- Don’t give up! Moses was once a basket cast!
- God always gives enough strength for the next step.
- God give you peace when you go to pieces.
- God saw you do that.
- Jesus died for you. Why not live for Him?
- Life is a puzzle. Look to Christ for the missing peace.
- God made you on purpose for a purpose.
- Need a new life God does trade-ins
- If temptation knocks, let Jesus get the door.
- God loves you whether you like it or not.
- God has answers. Are you listening?
- Now is the time to invest in eternity.
- The best vitamin for a believer is B1.
- The key to heaven was hung on a nail.
- Faith makes things possible-not easy.
- God always gives enough strength for the next step.
- The Bible doesn't need to be rewritten, just reread.
- God is our wireless provider.
- The struggle is real. But so is God
- There is still time to change the road you are on.
- Exercise daily. Run from satan. Walk with God.
- God is at the end of your rope.
- Tweet others as you’d like to be tweeted.
- When life gives you more than you can stand...kneel.
- You are never too lost to be saved.
- You can’t enter heaven unless Jesus enter you.
- You have a new friend request from Jesus.

Bible Trivia “Jesus and Special Friends”

1. Whom did Jesus dine with after the Lord raised him from the dead?
2. What believing friend of Jesus prepared the Savior’s body for burial and placed Him in his own tomb?
3. What man helped Jesus carry His cross?
4. Who had a dialogue with Jesus about the birth and helped prepare Christ’s body for burial?
5. Which friend did Jesus first meet in a tree near Jericho?
6. What unnamed woman from Samaria did Jesus offer the “living water” to?

1. Lazarus, John 12:1-2.
2. Joseph of Arimathea, Matthew 27:57-60.
3. Simon of Cyrene, Matthew 27:32.
4. Nicodemus, John 3: 19:39-40.
5. Zacchaeus, Luke 19:1-5.
6. The woman at the well, John 4:7, 10.
7. Mary Magdalene, Luke 8:1-2.
8. Mary, John 12:1-3.
9. Martha, John 11:20-22.
10. James and Johns, Matthew 20:20-21.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2</p> <p>10a Worship In-person & Facebook live</p> <p>11a Fellowship</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11a Produce Sorting</p> <p>12:30 MAMA</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10a “Fill My Cup”</p> <p>6:30p Webelos</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>12:30 HOH Pick-up</p> <p>3p Unload and stock HOH foods</p>	<p>8</p> <p>8:30—10a Free Family Breakfast</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9a Second Sunday Breakfast</p> <p>10a Worship In-person & Facebook live</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>7 PM Session</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10a “Fill My Cup”</p> <p>6:30p Webelos</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>10a Worship—In-person & Facebook live</p> <p>11a Fellowship</p> <p>HAPPY Father's DAY</p>	<p>17</p> <p>-----No Donna-----</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11a Produce Sorting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10a “Fill My Cup”</p> <p>6:30p Webelos</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Office Closed</p> <p>12:30 HOH Pick-up <i>(Need a Volunteer)</i></p> <p>3p Unload and stock HOH foods</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>10a Worship In-person & Facebook live</p> <p>11a Fellowship</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>10a “Fill My Cup”</p> <p>10a Newsletter Folding</p> <p>6:30p Webelos</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9– Noon Office Hours</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>10a Worship In-person & Facebook live</p> <p>11a Fellowship</p>						



June Birthdays

10 Judy Holland
23 Jessica Cox

June Anniversaries

04 Gary & Deb Stevens
21 Stephen & Debra Dullard
29 Kevin & Susan Kalinowski

Coffee Hour

June 02
June 09 Second Sunday
June 16 LaVerle Carter
June 23
June 30 Lucille Barkowski



Sunday School Teachers
New teachers are always welcome

Teaching materials are provided.
June 02 Ann Goy
June 09 Ann Goy
June 16
June 23
June 30

Pianists

June 02 Peggy Etheridge
June 09 Peggy Etheridge
June 16 Jake Schmidt
June 23 Jake Schmidt
June 30 Laura Sutton

June Lectionary Readings

02—1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20); Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Psalm 81:1-10; 2 Corinthians 4:5-12; Mark 2:23-3:6
09—1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15), 16-20 (11:14-15); Psalm 138; Genesis 3:8-15; Psalm 130; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1; Mark 3:20-35
16—1 Samuel 15:34-16:13; Psalm 20; Ezekial 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10 (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34
23—1 Samuel 17:(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49; Psalm 9:9-20; 1 Samuel 17:57-18:5, 10-16; Psalm 133; Job 38:1-11; Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13, Mark 4:35-41
30—2 Samuel, 17:-27; Psalm 130; Lamentations 3:22-33; Psalm 30; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 4:35-41

Pulpit Supply

For the month of June,
Pastor Laurie Walker will be sharing God's word.



Ushers/Communion

June 02 Kay Christen, Carol Erwin
June 09 Kay Christen, Suzan Wilburn
June 16 Gary & Deb Stevens
June 23 Sandy Rebholz, Faye Smith
June 30 Lucille



Continued Prayers

Julius Hagan—Belgium Missionary Kenyan Partners Angie (Faye Smith) Art Beck Dorothy Becker Dixie Tonozzi	Finley Walker (<i>Pastor's Grandson</i>) Janet Sutton Jason Jim Reilly Margina & Larry (<i>Kay Christen</i>) Mike Boyle	Pam Schmidt Pat Schmidt Sarah Arter Sandy & Donald Schultz Tim Sondgeroth Trisha Smith
--	--	---



First Presbyterian Church
 1003 5th Street
 Mendota, IL 61342-1911
 Website: www.fpcmendota.com
(815) 538-5603
 Pastor: Laurie Walker (815) 274-3444



Label

Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM: In-Person and www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

**Sunday Fellowship 11 AM,
 Second Sunday Breakfast 9 AM**

Join Zoom Meetings & Gatherings:
[https://us05web.zoom.us/j/994 465 263](https://us05web.zoom.us/j/994465263)
 pwd=zF6RMy
 Or dial in for voice only: 1-312-626-6799
Meeting code: 994 646 5263
Password: zF6RMy

