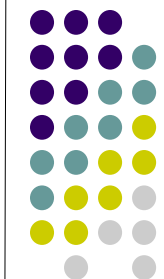


First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 297
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First Presbyterian Church
Hoopeston, Illinois



The Bridgebuilder

June/July 2022

Prayer of the Spirit

O Spirit of God,
you are a fire cleansing and consuming;
you are a dove coming from on high;
you are a still, small voice;
you are everywhere;
you are in us and about us;
you have prompted our faith;
you have suggested our good works;
you have formed us into your people;
you have built the church on earth.

You are a fire; you are a dove; you are a still small voice
and we listen for you and we follow you,
lest we turn aside into the ways of darkness.

Move in and through your church.
Set it to the preaching of the gospel
and the doing of your will.
Where it is narrow, enlarge its vision.
Where it is weary, restore its strength.
Where it is wrong, give it sense.
Surge within the lives of your people in every place.

Spur them to visit the sick and the imprisoned,
to care for the needy and the underprivileged,
to right the wrongs done by the accidents of life,
to encourage each other in the doing of love.

Even when people refuse to believe,
work within them to the good of others.
And set us, God, to reaching for high goals,
to noble and helpful purposes,
to the improvement of our lives.

Prevent us from being discouraged,
and let us see visions of the world as it could be
in peace and prosperity
by commitment to Jesus Christ,
who lives and rules with you and the Father,
one God forever. Amen.

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First Presbyterian Church
915 E Orange St
PO Box 297
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First Presbyterian Church of Hoopeston

Head of the Church	Jesus Christ
Ministers of the Good News	All of Us
Session Elders	Gwen Bandy, Wayne Bandy, Sadie Hofer, Christy Lee, Waylon Lee, Jill Nelson, Missy Prosise, Julie Stump, Ray Stump
Deacons	Gina Morgan, Debby Dixon Linda Martin
Organist and Music Director	Rick Brackmann
Administrative Assistant	Pat Catron
Custodian	Gary Deck
Youth Group Director	Sadie Hofer
Pastor	Wade Meranda
Childcare Provider	Lindsey Paredes



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Worship Sourcebook, 2013, Faith
Alive Christian Resources

We're on the web!
www.fpchoopeston.com

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

I'm grateful to have Lindsey Paredes on our staff now. She will provide childcare for young children during our worship service. Her kind and warm heart for children is a blessing for our congregation.

I'm grateful for the recent visitors who have been worshipping with us. Thanks be to God. Worship lifts my spirit and the presence of others does as well.

I'm grateful for the heartfelt recognition of our 150th anniversary on May 15, for the worship service, displays, picnic, and fellowship. I'm grateful for our past pastors who shared a word with us. I'm grateful for the planning team and for all who attended. The cloud of witnesses from the past is a blessing for us as we move forward day by day.

I'm grateful for the Spirit of endurance that shepherded us through the covid disruptions during the past two years. It was a foggy period and somehow we have emerged and continue to share the good news of Christ. I'm grateful for our faithful staff – Pat, Rick, Kathy, and Gary – who stuck with it and navigated through these disruptive years so well. With their grace and grit, they have blessed our congregation. They helped me stick with it too.



I'm grateful to be able to worship with beautiful people in a beautiful sanctuary and to hear a beautiful word of hope from the Lord week after week. I'm grateful to worship side by side with so many good-hearted people. We are a blessing to each other.

I'm grateful to Jesus for sending the still, small voice of the Holy Spirit to prompt our faith, suggest our good works, and form Christ's church on earth. The Prayer of the Spirit (on page 1) speaks of the Spirit that moves in and through our congregation day after day doing God's will, enlarging our vision, restoring our strength, and improving our lives. We are blessed.

I'm grateful for the stillness of the summer months and for some weeks of downtime from routines. I welcome the lazy days of summer, a time for the Spirit to help us recharge and renew our faith.

Blessings, Wade

Childcare at Worship

We now have childcare available for infants and young children during worship. We are pleased to have Lindsey Paredes on staff as our childcare provider. Parents can have their children stay with Lindsey during worship in the childcare room or children are welcome in worship as well.

Lindsey brings childcare experience and a warm and loving heart for children. She is a HAHS graduate and is currently studying at DACC and plans to receive a social work degree next summer. Lindsay also works part time as an after-school teacher for the Project Success program in the Hoopston schools and part time at Illinois Express Eyecare in Danville.



Thanks to Kathy Watson

We are grateful for the terrific leadership Kathy Watson provided our Youth Group ministry over the past seven years. We will recognize Kathy's service during worship on June 5, with a reception afterwards.

Kathy plans, teaches, plays, and serves with youth so well. She led many summer mission trips and many local mission projects as well. She has blessed our youth with the love and grace of Jesus and has been a warm and friendly colleague with our staff. She has blessed us all.

Memorial Service: Janet Smith

We will provide a memorial service for the friends and family of Janet Smith (79) on **Thursday, June 30, at 4:00 p.m.** at our church. Janet died on January 25 at her son's home in California where she was receiving care.

Janet and her husband Dale joined our congregation in 2011 and were a big part of our church family year after year. We miss them. We are grateful for the love and grace Janet shared with us. She was an ordained elder and deacon and served for several terms.




We will commend our good friend to the hands of God and offer our condolences to her sons Matt and Marshall and to the rest of her family. And to our church family as well. The family asks that memorial gifts in honor of Janet be given to our church.



First Presbyterian Church
915 East Orange Street, Hoopston, Illinois 60942
www.fpchoopston.org 217-283-6229

July 2022

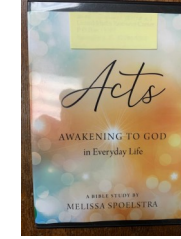
Sabbath Day of Rest	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elder for the Month: Gwen Bandy 	Office closed Pray for Matt & Gina Morgan	10:45 Meals on Wheels	9:00 Bible Study		1 Recycling	2
3 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments 	4 Office closed Pray for Matt & Gina Morgan	5 10:45 Meals on Wheels	6 9:00 Bible Study	7	8	9 The 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) ends, Louisville and Zoom, June 18-July 9
10 10:00 WORSHIP Guest Preacher: Ibd 11:00 Refreshments	11 6:00 Session Meeting Pray for Annie Nelson	12	13 9:00 Bible Study	14	15 Recycling	16
17 10:00 WORSHIP Change for Change Offering 11:00 Refreshments 5:30 Family Movie Night 	18 Pray for Ella Nelson	19 4:00 HAMA	20 9:00 Bible Study	21	22	23
24 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments	25 Pray for Jill and Dave Nelson	26	27 9:00 Bible Study	28 10:00 Presbytery Meeting Zoom	29 Recycling	30
31 10:00 5th SUNDAY WORSHIP Hymn Sing: Christmas in July! 11:00 Refreshments 	Pray for Barb Park					

Sabbath Day of Rest	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elder for the Month: Ray and Julie Stump						
   8:45 Handbells 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments	Pray for Laura Meranda	7	1 9:00 Bible Study	2 6:00 Mission Trip Meeting	3 Recycling	4
12 10:00 WORSHIP Guest Preacher: John Mairhead 11:00 Refreshments	Pray for Samantha Meranda	14	8 9:00 Bible Study	9	10	11
19 10:00 WORSHIP Change for Change Commissioning Youth for Mission Trip 11:00 Refreshments Mission Trip Youth Depart	Pray for Wade Meranda and Ann Schwartz	21	15 9:00 Bible Study	16	17 Recycling	18 The 225th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) begins, Louisville and Zoom June 18-July 9
26 10:00 WORSHIP Guest Preacher: Betty Hollister 11:00 Refreshments	Pray for Ashley Morgan	28	22 No Bible Study	23	24 Mission Trip Youth Return	25
26 10:00 WORSHIP Guest Preacher: Betty Hollister 11:00 Refreshments	Pray for Ryan Morgan	28	29 9:00 Bible Study	30 Memorial Service for Janet Smith	July 1 Recycling	July 2

New Bible Study

Our Bible Study group meets on Wednesday mornings at 9:00 a.m. On June 6 we will begin a new program called "Acts: Awakening to God in Everyday Life." Through this study of the book of Acts, we will journey with the first followers of Jesus and witness the birth and growth of the early church through a spiritual awaking to the power of God's spirit, message, freedom, grace, mission, and directions. The six video-led sessions are:

- Awakening to God's Power
- Awakening to God's Message
- Awakening to God's Freedom
- Awakening to God's Grace
- Awakening to God's Mission
- Awakening to God's Direction



Insurance Claim: New Roof

You will see new shingles being installed on the roof of the church soon. A contractor will be removing the old shingles and installing new. The work is scheduled to begin in June.

Our insurance company, Church Mutual Insurance, discovered that our building sustained damage to the shingles on the roof from a severe wind storm in June, 2021. A claim was processed to repair the damage. The same storm surge damaged some of the electrical equipment in the church as well. The damage to our audio and video systems in the sanctuary and to our phone and computers have been repaired under the same insurance claim.

We are grateful for the good service that Church Mutual Insurance is providing. High quality shingles will be installed and the color will be similar to what we have. The church was built in 1978 with cedar wood shingles. Those were replaced with asphalt shingles about twenty years later. The flat roof portion of the church was replaced about fifteen years ago with modern roofing materials and is still in terrific condition.



"Flood insurance is very expensive, Mr. Noah, and besides, it would have to rain 40 days and 40 nights to flood around here."

Youth Mission Trip

Our youth group will participate in the Mission Immersion Program provided by the Maxwell Street Presbyterian church in Lexington, Kentucky, June 19-24. The church is located in the heart of the city.

The group will serve at several social service agencies in the city, including the city's food bank, childcare facilities, homeless shelters, and others. The experience allows participants to see social issues up close and to appreciate how our government and nonprofit agencies work hard to fill the unmet needs of God's people day after day.



We will commission the mission trip youth during worship on June 19: Trent Betka, Waylon Lee, Abby Steiner, and Ethan Steiner. Sadie Hofer (Youth Group Director) and Rev. Wade will attend as well. Sadie has planned the trip and will be leading the group.

Please pray for our group as they head out to see and serve in Christ's name.

Church Garden

Our beautiful flower and vegetable garden is about all planted now. We thank those growing vegetables this year: Rita Carter, Skip and Melissa Betka, Larry and Gloria Jahn, Pat Catron, and Wade.

We have several plots of perennial flowers which we cut occasionally and take to those who might need some flowers of encouragement. We thank Pat Catron for tending to the flower plots all year long.

Our gardeners have garlic, strawberries, cucumbers, tomatoes, Indian corn, and much more growing in our 24 plots.

Our Garden of Eden is a peaceful place but requires ongoing work and care. May God give us rain as needed and encourage the weeds to grow elsewhere!



General Fund Giving

	2022	2021	2020
Given as of May 31	\$42,942	\$40,337	\$49,527
Total for Year	tbd	\$95,085	\$100,396
Pledges for Year	\$92,000	\$108,458	\$102,345

If there is among you anyone in need . . . do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly giving enough to meet the need, whatever it may be.

—Deuteronomy 15:7

Change for Change

Our **May 15** mission offering was \$209 and supported the Legion Women’s Auxiliary’s sundry bag program for vets at the VA in Danville.

Our **June 19** mission offering will support the environmental clean-up work that the Keep Vermillion County Beautiful organization provides.



Our **July 17** mission offering will support the Hoopeston Area Rescue Team, our non-profit animal shelter that rescues stray dogs and cats here in town, tends to their needs, and places them in new homes. HART is a no-kill shelter run by faithful volunteers.

Session Highlights

From the May 16 stated meeting:

- 7 of 10 present
- Shared good comments on our 150th recognition service, displays, and picnic.
- Approved offering the position of Childcare Provider to Lindsey Paredes, funded by McFarland Church Fund.
- Approved contract with Jackson Construction to replace shingles on roof. The work is funded by an insurance claim from the storm damage that occurred in June 2021.
- Approved McFarland grant of \$1,000 to provide city pool passes for kids in need this summer.
- Directed the July Change for Change to the HART animal shelter.
- 5th Sunday service theme on May 31 will be “God and Nation” in recognition of Memorial Day.
- Approved Finance Report for April.

Pentecost Offering

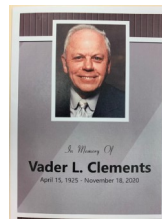
Presbyterian congregations will give to our denomination’s Pentecost Offering on June 5 this year. The offering nurtures young people as they grow in faith and provides opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders – all in the name of Jesus. Please give.



Bequest from Vader Clements

Our church has received a bequest from the estate of Vader Clements for \$70,721. We are so grateful for Vader’s love of his church for his generous support of Christ’s ministry.

Vader was a faithful member here for many years and kept in touch with us through the *Bridgebuilder* and pastoral visits in his later years. Vader (95) died on Nov. 18, 2020 at Washington Senior Living in Washington, IL. Rev. Wade provided a graveside service for family and friends at Floral Hill Cemetery on Nov. 23, 2020. Vader’s wife, LeMoyn, died in 1996. He is survived by one daughter, Sharon Maurer, of Peoria, IL and two grandchildren.



Golden Ticket for Kids

On the first Sunday of the month one person receives a \$100 Golden Ticket in their worship bulletin. His or her mission is to use the \$100 to support a youth program in town. The funds are provided by our McFarland City Fund.

In February, the recipient of the ticket used the \$100 to support the special needs program at Maple School, in March, the caring for kids program at the UMC, in April, the Infant Needs Center at the Christian Church, and in May, the youth bowling program at Fast Lanes.

We will keep supporting children and youth programs in our area all year long, one ticket at a time.



In the Mailbox

For graduation service and gift:

Thank you for the graduation recognition service and gift. I really appreciated the reception afterwards and all the support my church family has given me throughout the years. —Nick Hofer

For graduation service and gift:

Thank you for the graduation card and gift. I will be using it toward books and expenses at Parkland. I appreciate your kindness and generosity. —Cameron Watson

For graduation gift:

Thank you for remembering my graduation and for the generous gift. So thoughtful. —Laura Meranda

For graduation service and gift:

I wanted to thank everyone for the cards and gifts I received on graduate recognition day at church. I will be putting the gifts to good use while attending Parkland in the fall. —Trent Betka

For care and support:

What a beautiful floral arrangement. Thank you to my church family for thinking of me. I appreciate all the prayers, cards, messages, visits, flowers, and food. It is so good to finally be home again. I’m so blessed to have such a caring church family. I’m looking forward to being able to join you again on Sundays. Love to all of you. —Linda Martin

For Youth Group’s service and donations:

Thank you for your continuing support. The work of changing clothes for the seasons is a large job and we needed your help. We also needed the clothing, socks and underwear you provided. —Fair Hope Children’s Ministry

For cards and prayers:

Thank you so much for your love and support and prayers during John’s hospitalization and surgery. We are blessed to have so many prayer warriors. The power of prayer kept us on the journey of a medical miracle and for that we are extremely grateful. John is continuing to improve every day. Thanks again and so much love to all. —John & Karen White

Birthdays and Anniversaries

<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
07 Karl Steiner	05 Carol Betka
12 Gwen Bandy, Lee Cox	06 Julie Stump
13 Rita Carter	10 Jessica Brackmann
14 Michael Donley	11 Kathy Watson
18 Nolan Lee	12 Rick Brackmann
20 Chelsea Flint	16 ML Brackmann, Gloria Jahn
<u>July</u>	20 Mason Steiner
01 Dave Lankford	21 Ronan Cox
04 Laura Flint	24 Ryan Morgan

Anniversaries

06/15/1974 Wayne and Gwen Bandy
 06/27/1998 Kevin and Suzi Root
 06/29/1999 Ray and Julie Stump
 07/02/2016 Jerry and Missy Prosis
 07/09/1977 Craig and Gail Lithgow
 07/29/1978 Rick and Mary Lou Brackmann



In Our Prayers

Those who grieve for: Sally Keith (Joyce Nelson’s friend), Eileen Leemon, Sue Davia (D. Dixon’s sister), Patti Martin (J. Stump’s friend), Dorothy Willard (R. Stump’s friend), Winnie Thomas (R. Stump’s friend), Judy Clinger (Wade’s aunt), Paul Nash (K. Watson’s step-father), Joyce Stock (V. Keller’s friend), and Roscoe Elmore (K. Watson’s uncle).

Those with immediate concerns: Karl Steiner, Linda Martin, Vera Keller, Annie Nelson (on college trip to France), Marcie and A.J. Wright (L. Flint’s cousins), Vickie Anderson (J. Stump’s sister), Ann Wise (L. Martin’s friend), Landon Potter (S. Burton’s cousin), Julie Stump, Emily Carter (M. Prosis’s cousin), Kathy Grobowski (L. Martin’s friend), Sherry Clinton (K. Watson’s family), Emma Winslow (G. Morgan’s friend), Mark Spidle (J. Stump’s friend), Bob Murphy (M. Betka’s dad), Tanya Obenland (R. Carter’s daughter), Christopher Graham (H. Steiner’s nephew), Donna Rich (D. Lankford’s sister), John Schertz (G Jahn’s nephew), Mary Ann Hilleary (R.



Carter’s sister-in-law), Karla Von Huben (J. Stump’s friend), Mike Johnson (R. Carter’s friend), Rhonda Miller (Watson’s friend), Sadie and Karen Evans (R. Carter’s friends), Marie Seaman (D. Boyer’s friend), Lindsay Boyden (C. Lee’s friend), Tina Skender (C. Flint’s daughter).

Those with long-term concerns: John White, Larry and Jan German (L. Martin’s friend), Sam Matthews (home fire), Jane Steiner, John Roark (M. Prosis’s friend), John Zollar (E. Donley’s brother), Beth Farias (L. Martin’s cousin), Sue Burton, Roberto Martinez (R. Carter’s friend), Crew Feltner (child with leukemia, K. Kelnhofer’s friend), Tina and John Hanson (Vi Hanson’s children), Perry Mitchell (T. Hanson’s fiancée), Leonard Goldstein (D. Boyer’s brother), Patti Root (K. Root’s mom), Joyce Cottingham (L. Martin’s friend), Mary Kane (K. Root’s aunt), Natalie Zollar (E. Donley’s niece), Martha Barner, Carole Ronane (J. Stump’s friend), Beth Meese (G. Morgan’s friend), Sandy Glenn (J. Steiner’s cousin), Mason Steiner, Cookie Galloway (B. Schellhardt’s sister), Carol Schrepfer (J. Stump’s friend), Ian Anderson (J. Stump’s nephew), Karen Peterson (D. Dixon’s sister), Troy Flint, John Long (D. Dixon’s brother), Brian Lemenager (M. Foster’s grandson), Rob Burton Family (J. Stump’s brother), John Masengale (S. Burton’s dad), Lori Egnew Vaughan (G. Morgan’s friend) and Sophia Voyda (E. Donley’s niece).



Those homebound in assisted living or nursing homes: Marty Kloska, Mike Blankenship, Judy Benjamin, Sam Terrell, and John Haughee.

Those in church leadership: Our Session and Deacons, Rev. Wade, Rev. Ann, Gregory J. Bentley and Elona Street-Stewart (General Assembly Co-Moderators), Rev. J. Herbert Nelson (G.A. Clerk), Rev. Heidi Weatherford (Presbytery Moderator), Rebecca Blair (Lead Presbyter).