

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 297
915 E. Orange St
Hoopeston, IL 60942
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First Presbyterian Church
Hoopeston, Illinois



The Bridgebuilder

October 2022

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For All the Saints

We thank you for the many people throughout the ages who have followed your way of life joyfully: for the many saints and martyrs, men and women, who have offered up their very lives so that your life abundant may become manifest and your kingdom may advance. For those we have known and loved, for teachers and colleagues and friends, for parents and grandparents, husbands and wives, brothers and sisters, for all who by their faithful obedience and steadfast hope have shown the same mind that was in Christ Jesus, we praise you, O God.

For your love and faithfulness we will at all times praise your name.

O Lord, we thank you for those who chose the way of your Son, our brother Jesus Christ. In the midst of trial, they held out hope; in the midst of hatred, they kindled love; in the midst of persecutions, they witnessed to your power; in the midst of despair, they clung to your promise.

For your love and faithfulness we will at all times praise your name.

O Lord, we thank you for the truth they learned and passed on to us: that it is by giving that we shall receive; it is by becoming weak that we shall be strong; it is by loving others that we shall be loved; it is by offering ourselves that the kingdom will unfold; it is by dying that we shall inherit life everlasting. Lord, give us courage to follow your way of life.

For your love and faithfulness we will at all times praise your name. Amen



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 Prorise, 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



First Presbyterian Church
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We're on the web!
www.fpchoopeston.com



Reprinted with permission from The Worship Sourcebook, 2013, Faith Alive Christian Resources, page 765

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

As you know, in the Presbyterian tradition, the Session (church board) is called to discern the will of God for the life of the congregation. The Session meets every month to manage all matters in the church, including worship planning, hiring of staff, finance management, building and grounds upkeep, prayer concerns, Presbytery interactions, education and mission programs, and anything else needed to keep the church moving faithfully forward. Our Session is made of nine elders and the pastor, so we have ten voting members.

I've been moderating Session meetings for many years now and can say that our Sessions discuss issues well and routinely make decisions with unanimous support. Determining God's will is never a clear cut endeavor, but I know we do our best. We are blessed to have a spirit of reverence and hope guiding us at Session meetings. We are blessed by the elders who serve.



The Session is looking to begin a younger youth group for K-5th graders. The group would meet maybe twice a month, much like our older youth group does. Activities would include fellowship, food, crafts, Bible stories, games, and maybe some mission projects. The planning will take some time, but we are working on it.

The Session continues to be in conversation with the Community Development Institute about the possibility of having our church be the host site for the Federal Head Start program in Hoopston. CDI would lease our preschool room for one classroom and the lower level for a second classroom. CDI is currently working with the State Fire Marshall's office to find a way to make our lower level compliant with fire codes for Head Start facilities. We are hoping that these compliancy issues can be worked out, but time will tell.

The Session is looking to find a way to replace the dying ash trees in the parking lot island sometime next spring or summer. It's unfortunate to lose these trees.

The Session is continually looking for ways to support local youth programs with the McFarland Endowment Fund entrusted to our care. Every year, we strive to support many different programs for all ages of children - infant to normal collage age - as Dick McFarland asked us to do. If you hear of a need in town, contact a Session member or myself and we will have the Session consider the cause. We have about \$20,000 to distribute every year.

Blessings, Wade

Organ and Handbells

During October and November, I will play seven of J.S. Bach's preludes and fugues. Following a habit that Bach frequently employed, I will split each prelude and fugue, playing the prelude at the beginning of the service and the fugue at the end.

As part of our 5th Sunday worship on October 30, I will play special music celebrating All Saints' Day and All Hallows' Eve (Halloween). This is a hymn-sing Sunday and we will sing many hymns of the saints.



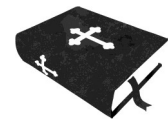
The last Sunday of November begins the season of Advent and Christmas music, so be ready to sing with a spirit of anticipation and joy!

We have welcomed three new ringers to our Handbell Choir this year: Kristy Kelnhofer, Caroline Lee, and Robert Richardson. We plan to ring in worship at least once a month and more during December. We have more ringers in our group this year that anytime in the past 22 years. Ring on! - Rick Brackmann



Bibles for 5th Graders

We have a tradition of providing a special keepsake Bible to our 5th grade children. The leather bound Bibles have their names engraved on the front and are "red letter" Bibles to highlight the words Jesus spoke. We will present the Bibles during an upcoming worship service. God bless the children.



Fall Congregational Meeting

Our fall congregational meeting will be held on **October 30** after worship. The congregation will be asked to affirm the slate of officers provided by the Nomination Committee for the offices of Elder and Deacon. Our bylaws identify a quorum as thirty members. We appreciate those who are serving on the Nominating Committee this year: Donna Boyer, Shirley Wagoner, Ray Stump, Gina Morgan, Linda Martin, Christy Lee, and Missy Prosisie.



October 2022

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

Sabbath Day of Rest	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elder of the Month: Sadie Hofer		OCTOBER				1
2 8:30 Handbells 10:00 WORSHIP Peace-making Offering Holy Communion 11:00 Refreshments 11:15 Nominating Committee 5:00 Youth Group	3 Pray for Stu Smith	4	5 9:00 Adult Study	6	7 Recycling	8
9 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments	10 Pray for Holly Steiner, William Mason	11	12 9:00 Adult Study	13	14	15
16 10:00 WORSHIP Change for Change, Benarck Blessings 11:00 Refreshments	17 Pray for Jane Steiner	18	19 No Adult Study	20	21 Recycling	22 1-4 Open House Vera Keller's 90th
23 8:30 Handbells 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments	24 6:00 Session Pray for Joe and Cheryl Steiner, Etbarn, Abby	25	26 9:00 Adult Study	27	28	29
30 10:00 5th SUNDAY WORSHIP Hymn Sing: All Saints' Day 11:00 Fall Congregational Meeting 11:15 Trunk or Treat & Refreshments 11:30 Fall Work Day	31 Halloween! (All Hallows' Eve) Pray for Ray and Judy Stump	Nov 1 ALL SAINTS' DAY				



General Fund Giving

	2022	2021	2020
Given as of Sept 30	\$72,302	\$67,552	\$81,433
Total for Year	tbd	\$95,085	\$100,396
Pledges for Year	\$92,000	\$108,458	\$112,345

“One of the dangers of having a lot of money is that you may be quite satisfied with the kinds of happiness money can give and so fail to realize your need for God. If everything seems to come simply by signing checks, you may forget that you are at every moment totally dependent on God.” - C. S. Lewis



Change for Change

The **September 18** mission offering was \$193 and supported the Feed My Lambs programs (Methodist Church) which provides lunches for area children. Thanks to all who gave.

The **October 16** offering will support Bismarck Blessings, a program that supplies backpacks of food and school supplies for about 70 children in the Bismarck-Henning School District.

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. So far this year:

- Feb Special Needs Program at Maple School
- Mar Caring for Kids Program at UMC
- Apr Infant Needs Center at Christian Church
- May Youth Bowling League at Fast Lanes
- June Back to School Supplies at Multi Agency
- July Project Success program at Hoopeston Schools
- Aug HAHS Golf Team
- Sept Girls Softball Team

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



Session Highlights

From the **September 26** stated meeting:

- 8 out of 10 present
- Reviewed the October church calendar.
- Plans made for Oct 30 5th Sunday All Saints’ Day service, including Trunk or Treat afterwards.
- Planning for upcoming Advent/Christmas seasons: decorate church Nov 27, Hanging of Greens service Dec 4, Christmas Breakfast Dec 11, Music Service Dec 18, Christmas Eve service 7:00 p.m., no Christmas morning service due to worship the evening before.
- Directed Change for Change offerings: Oct 16 Bismarck Blessings and Nov 20 Grant Township Food Cupboard.
- Approved financial report for August; all is in good order.
- Plans to form a K-5th grade Youth Group are underway.
- Sadie shared some of the 6th-12th Youth Group events coming up.
- Reviewed preparations for the Nov 11 Pasta Dinner: jobs posted, advertising plans, tickets available, work day on Oct 30 for cleaning and prep.



This notice is from Vera Keller’s Family.

World Communion Sunday

As an expression of our oneness in Christ, on **October 2**, followers of Jesus around the world will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper together. World Communion Sunday reminds us that we are all God’s children and we all belong to God. The ecumenical hymn *One Bread, One Body* speaks well:



One bread, one body, one Lord of all, one cup of blessing which we bless. And we, though many, throughout the earth, we are one body in this one Lord. Gentile or Jew, servant or free, woman or man, no more. One bread, one body, one Lord of all . . .

Our denomination’s **Peacemaking Offering** will be received on **October 2** and the local portion (25%) will support the Vermilion County CASA program (Court Appointed Special Advocates) which trains adult volunteers to speak up for the best interest of abused and neglected children in our county courtroom.

5th Sunday Worship / All Saints’ Day

Our next 5th Sunday worship service will be on **October 30**. We will recognize All Saints’ Day with a hymn sing to celebrated the saints in our lives. Rick will provides some special organ music as well.

Please bring pictures of the saints you have loved - both those who are living and those who have died - and place them on the Lord’s Table prior to worship. We’ll read the names in worship and we’ll sing *For All the Saints*. It’s chorus speaks well:

O bless communion, fellowship divine! We feebly struggle; they in glory shine; yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia! Alleluia!



Trunk or Treat

A favorite event for children and adults returns this month. Kids can wear their Halloween costumes to church on **October 30** and following worship we’ll have our own Halloween party in the parking lot with “Trunk or Treat.” As the children make their way from car to car, adults (who can also dress up or decorate their vehicles if they like) are invited to hand out treats—homemade or store bought. All Hallows’ Evening is the evening before All Saints’ Day, a time when many Christians celebrate the mystery of life after death using a variety of playful costumes. and traditions.



Pasta Work Day

We have some set-up and clean-up chores to do as we prepare the church for the Pasta Dinner. If you can stay after worship and refreshments on **October 30** and help, please do. We have a kitchen to clean, windows to clean, items to be brought up from the basement storage, and other chores.

Pasta Dinner – Nov 11

Plans are underway for our annual Pasta Dinner on Friday, **November 11**. Meals are served from 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. Sign-up sheets for helpers are on the bulletin board. Tickets are available, so pick some up in the office and do your best to invite friends and neighbors. May God bless this time fellowship and joy!



Youth Group

The Youth Group (6th-12th) kicked off the year on Sept 11 with eight in attendance. They will meet again on Oct 2 at 5:00 p.m. for devotions, games, and food. A fall gathering at Hardy’s Reindeer Ranch is being planned for later in October.

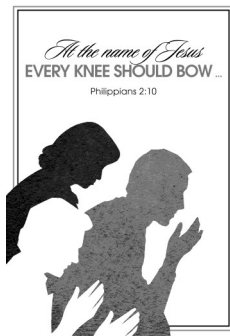


How Can We Make Worship More Seeker Friendly?

(By David Gambrell in *Presbyterian Worship: Questions and Answers*, Westminster John Knox Press, 2019.)

The most powerful, effective way of drawing others into Christian life is to live that life as fully as you can, as an offering of thanks and praise for the grace of God. Here are seven ideas on how to do that. These are not intended to be a road map for renewal or strategies for success; in fact, they may be counterintuitive, contradicting conventional wisdom on church growth.

Embrace mystery. Seekers are seeking something . . . And it's probably not a lecture on Presbyterian worship. Let songs, symbols, and silence speak. Don't try to fill up every space in the service with explanations of things we scarcely understand. Just point to the glory of God.



Keep it simple. The beauty of Christian worship is that it doesn't require many ingredients – word, water, bread, and cup; the gathering of the beloved body of Christ; the sending of God's people in mission to the world. Focus on these things – as though your life depends on them. They are signs of the saving grace of God.

Be who you are. Inauthenticity stinks and seekers can smell it a mile away. Be the "aroma of Christ" (2 Cor 2:15). Bear witness to what Christ is doing among you, in your own awesomely awkward, clumsily charming way. Don't try to be who you think seekers want you to be. But . . .

Be ready to change. Newcomers will bring new songs, new prayers, new offerings, and yes, new challenges. They'll change the way you worship. Receive this as a gift, with gratitude. Christian life is a pilgrimage. Seekers may be God's way of saying, "Keep moving."

Love your neighbors. Get to know your neighborhood. Contribute to your community. And when you gather for worship, pray for that community; collect items for the food bank; recruit volunteers for the soup kitchen and community garden. Get involved.

Love one another. This is how people will know you are Jesus' disciples: how you shake hands before the service begins, how you embrace at the passing of the peace, how you lift up one another in prayer, how you stoop down to serve Communion to children, and so on.

Love God . . . And just worship. Worship God with joy, with delight, with abandon. Let go of your anxiety about "doing it right." Only God is holy. Nothing will be more compelling or attractive to seekers in your midst than authentic prayer and praise to the true and living God.



October Birthdays

- 02 Logan Robinson
- 03 Peg Clem
- 10 Gina Morgan
- 15 Cameron Flint
- 17 Ashley Morgan
- 30 Marge Foster
- 31 Jeff Schellhardt



October Anniversaries

- 10/10/1992 Brad and Sue Burton
- 10/12/1996 Wade Meranda and Ann Schwartz

In the Mailbox

For Memorial Gift from McFarland Fund:

For all the kindness you have shown, we thank you very much. For sympathy in sorrowing days, for friendships healing touch. With gratitude, our hearts are full, though words cannot convey the tender thoughts and thankfulness we hold for you today. Thank you so much for your generous memorial gift for Karl's children, William and Mason. – The Steiner Family

For staff birthday gift:

Session, thank you so much for the lovely mum you gave me for my birthday. Your kindness is very much appreciated. – Pat Catron



For Change for Change offering:

The Save the Lorraine Foundation gratefully acknowledges the receipt of your donation. With donations such as yours we continue work toward the ultimate goal of complete restoration/renovation of our beautiful historic Lorraine Theater. – Lorraine Foundation

For the PCUSA One Great Hour of Sharing offering:

On behalf of the Presbyterian Mission Agency, we appreciate your gracious and faithful support (\$570) of the One Great Hour of Sharing disaster assistance program. You are a valued partner in support of God's mission around the world. – Rev. Chris Roseland, PMA.

For McFarland Fund support:

Thank you for your kind and generous donation to the HMA's Back to School Supplies (\$1,200) and the Back to School Shoe Drive (\$700). We were able to assist 300 children! We are so blessed to have your support.

90th Birthday Card Showers

If you would like to send a card to our fab four members who are celebrating their 90th birthday milestone, here you go!



Vera Keller, Sept 30 718 E Lincoln St, Hoopeston

Peg Clem, Oct 3 Mail to: Logos Unlimited, 221 Bank St, Hoopeston

Marge Foster, Oct 30 1033 E Orange St, Hoopeston

Marty Kloska, Nov 1 Heritage Health, 423 N. Dixie Hwy, #225, Hoopeston

In Our Prayers

Those who grieve for: Jim Peterson (Joyce Nelson's brother), Karen Evans (R. Carter's friend), Lisa DeWitt Amore (R. Carter's friend), Nancy Runge (J. Nelson's friend), Karl Steiner, Sadie Evans (R. Carter's friend), Sharon Blackwell (M. Prosis's friend), Donna Rich (D. Lankford's sister), Helen Jahn (L. Jahn's sister-in-law), Sally Keith (J. Nelson's friend).



Those with immediate concerns: Linda Martin, Toby and Kim Wagoner, Paul and Patti Ziemnisky (R. Carter's friends), Scott Watson, Larry Betka, Dwight Judy (D. Dixon's friend), Vickie Anderson (J. Stump's sister), Landon Potter (S. Burton's cousin), Kathy Grobowski (L. Martin's friend), Mark Spidle (J. Stump's friend), Christopher Graham (H. Steiner's nephew), John Schertz (G. Jahn's nephew), Karla Von Huben (J. Stump's friend), Marie Seaman (D. Boyer's friend), Tina Skender (C. Flint's daughter).

Those with long-term concerns: Mason Steiner, Ann Wise (L. Martin's friend), Emma Winslow (G. Morgan's friend), Bob Murphy (M. Betka's dad), Lindsay Boyden (C. Lee's friend), John White, Larry and Jan German (L. Martin's friend), Marcie and A.J. Wright (L. Flint's cousins), 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



PRAYERS of the CHURCH

John Hanson (Vi Hanson's children), 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), 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, Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace and Rev. Shavon Starling-Louis (General Assembly Co-Moderators), Rev. J. Herbert Nelson (G.A. Clerk), Rev. Jean Wollenberg