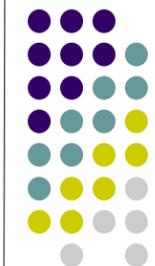


First Presbyterian Church
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First Presbyterian Church
Hoopeston, Illinois



The Bridgebuilder

September 2022

Gratitude for the Ordinary

We pray that each of us will understand
that our ordinary lives are pleasing to Christ, the King,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

That all leaders in government will realize
that the ordinary people in our country are important,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all those people who are very ordinary but also are extraordinary
because of the way they care for God's people,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For people who are sick,
and unable to do the ordinary things they used to do,
that they will be patient with themselves and with those who care for them.
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For people whose lives are recorded in our newspapers and magazines,
Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Father, hear our prayer and the prayers of all your people.
Help us to be faithful in ordinary ways,
loving and caring for your people whom we meet every day.
We ask this through Jesus, your Son and our King. Amen.

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First Presbyterian Church of Hoopeston

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

Phone: 217-283-6229
Fax: 217-283-6229
E-mail: church@fpchoopeston.com

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 Prosis, 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



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

Reprinted with permission from The
Worship Sourcebook, 2013, Faith Alive
Christian Resources, page 687

Pastor's Letter

I'm going to say that the worst of the pandemic disturbance has passed and now it's time to begin again. It's time to restore our workplace routines, school routines, family holiday traditions, and church life. It's a whole new world now, with vaccines, boosters, and public health knowledge available to all. Social life had come to a standstill and now we can begin to gather and move forward again.



It's time to restore good worship attendance habits, better than before, and pasta dinners too. It's time to begin a new post-pandemic church, here and everywhere. It's time to invite friends and family, better than we did before.

We learned as kids that the church is the people, so it's time for us people to be the people. Your pastor is one person and you are another. It's time for people of faith, people like you and me, to gather regularly on the Sabbath day and keep it holy, here and everywhere. I'm going to believe that we are called for such a time as this. Attendance is already better than last year, so we're off to a good start. Natalie Sleeth's song might be the song for today:

Come! Come! Everybody worship with a prayer or song of praise! Come! Come! Everybody worship! Worship God always! Worship and remember to keep the Sabbath Day. Take a rest and think of God; put your work away!

Yes, we are planning to offer the Pasta Dinner to our community this year, on Friday, November 11. We have no idea what post-pandemic attendance will be, but we will find out. We will prepare the same number of meals we always do. We will not raise prices. We will absorb higher food costs. We will sell tickets beforehand. We will advertise well. We will encourage all members and children to help out. We will thank Vera Keller once again. We will not compare this year to any other year, for this is a whole new world. Pre-pandemic habits may be long gone, but I bet the appetite for our pasta sauce, garlic butter, and home-made pie is still alive and well.



Three wonderful families have recently joined our congregation. We are so blessed. Read all about it on page 3. Sometimes good things happen.

Blessings, Wade

Bells, Bells, Bells

Yes, you too can hold a handbell in your hand, or both hands, shake them now and then, and viola – you have praised the Lord! Let Rick know if you would like to play in our handbell choir. The season of ringing begins in September.

Must you be able to read music or play an instrument? Well, it's helpful but not necessary. Do you enjoy laughter and fellowship? Well, handbell practice is the



place to be. Do you want to be part of a beautiful harmony and melody? Well, you will be. After ringing four verses of *Silent Night*, all will be calm and all will be bright with your holiday season.

Sharing the Bridgebuilder

If you have friends or family who might like to receive our *Bridgebuilder* newsletter in the mail every month, let the office know and we will add them to mailing. We love to share the life of our congregation and the Good News of Jesus Christ. We post the newsletter on our website too, but a hard copy on a home's kitchen table or coffee table is an extra special, warm, and very real witness.



Birthday Card Shower

Our friend, John Haughee, will be celebrating his 96th birthday on September 15. Let's wish him a Happy Birthday with a card shower. Send your cards to St. Mary's Healthcare Center, 2201 Cason, Lafayette, IN 47904.



John was a member of our congregation and a teacher in our school district for many, many years. He moved to Battle Ground, IN about fifteen years ago and in January moved to a health care home in Lafayette. His wife, Fran, continues to live in their home in Battle Ground.

Years ago, John was the one who suggested the name for our church newsletter – *The Bridgebuilder* – and we're grateful for that. Pray for John's ongoing care and for a Happy 96th Birthday.

September 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 for the Month: Julie Stump	Pray for Karson Root			1 Sweetcorn Festival	2 Sweetcorn Festival	3 Sweetcorn Festival
4 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments Sweetcorn Festival	5 LABOR DAY Office Closed Pray for Rhys Root Sweetcorn Festival	6	7 9:00 Bible Study	8	9 Recycling	10
11 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 New Member Reception 5:00 Youth Group Kick-off	12	13	14 No Bible Study	15	16	17
18 10:00 WORSHIP Guest Preacher: Judi Geertinger Change for Change Offering (Fred My Launbe) 11:00 Refreshments	19 Pray for Kevin and Suzi Root, Owen	20	21 9:00 Bible Study	22 Presbytery Meeting time thd	23 Recycling	24
25 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments 3:45 Nursing Home Devotions	26 6:00 Session Pray for Jeff and Betsy Schellhardt	27 10:45 Meals on Wheels	28 9:00 Bible Study	29	30	Oct 1
Oct 2 10:00 WORLD COMMUNION PCUSA Penecmaking Offering 11:00 Refreshments 7:00 Nominating Committee						

General Fund Giving

	2022	2021	2020
Given as of Aug 31	\$65,207	\$61,468	\$73,000
Total for Year	tbd	\$95,085	\$100,396
Pledged for Year	\$92,000	\$108,458	\$112,345

Change for Change

Our **August 21** mission offering of \$147 supported the Save the Lorraine Foundation. The Foundation continues to restore and operate our historic theater. We are grateful for their service to our community.

Our **September 18** offering will support the Feed My Lambs program, administered by the Methodist Church, which provides lunches for area children.

Fair Trade Coffee

We don't serve just any coffee in our church, we serve Fair Trade coffee from the non-profit Equal Exchange ministry, a ministry that assures growers, and not middlemen, receive the just compensation for their crops. Drinking our coffee is ministry in itself!



From their website: "Equal Exchange's mission is to build long-term trade partnerships that are economically just and environmentally sound, to foster mutually beneficial relationships between farmers and consumers and to demonstrate, through our success, the contribution of worker co-operatives and Fair Trade to a more equitable, democratic and sustainable world."

Nominating Committee

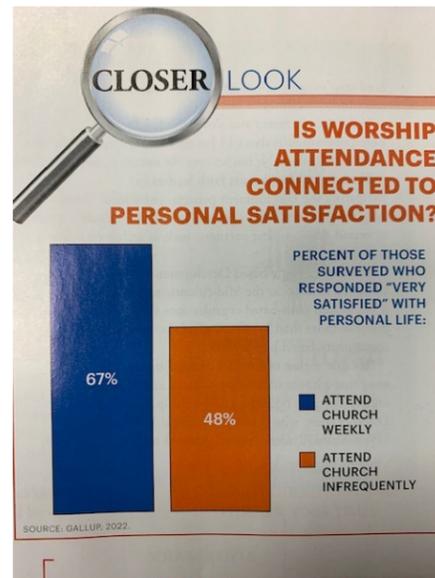
Our Nominating Committee will begin its work to discern who God has called to serve in the office of Elder and Deacon. It's a prayerful and confidential process that is done as a group. Those serving on the 2022 NC are: Donna Boyer, Shirley Wagoner, Gina Morgan, Ray Stump, Missy Prosize, Linda Martin, and Christy Lee.

The NC will present its slate at the Fall Congregational Meeting on October 30 for a vote of affirmation. Keep the NC in your prayers as they do this important work.

Session Highlights

From the August 29 stated meeting:

- 6 of 10 present
- Received new members: Margo Watson (Jolleen, Oliver), Michael and Anna Chaffin (Audrey, Lincoln, Levi), Robert and Jennifer Robinson.
- Designated Change for Change: Sept for Feed My Lambs, Oct for Food Cupboard. And Peacemaking Offering to CASA, Court Appointed Special Advocates for children.
- Nominating Committee will meet on Oct 2.
- Reviewed the September church calendar.
- Reviewed Pasta Dinner plans. Ticket prices will remain the same \$8.
- Conversation on beginning a new weekday children's ministry for K-5th grade children.
- The Community Development Institute continues to assess our facility for the possibility of renting space from us for the Head Start program here in Hoopeston.
- Office is working on an updated church directory.
- Insurance claim on roof has been paid in full. Contractor has been paid in full. Project is completed.
- Approved \$5,000 McFarland Fund support for the H.A. Marching Band trip to the Liberty Bowl over Christmas Break, with forty youth participating. Total cost of trip is \$25,000.
- Heard Youth Group Kick-off plans for Sept 11.
- Reviewed and approved finance report for July. All records are in good order.



Welcome, New Members

We are so blessed to have received three new families into our congregation. The Session has embraced their desire to join and has offered our warmest welcome. We will formally receive them into membership during worship on September 11. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

We welcome Margo Watson and her children, Jolleen (13) and Oliver (11). Margo served as our preschool director for three years, so we know her well. Margo and her husband, Joe, who works at IGA, live here in Hoopeston. We are so pleased to welcome their children, Jolleen and Oliver, as well. May God bless the Watson family as they have blessed us already. (Family picture from a few years ago.)



We welcome Robert and Jennifer Richardson, who have been worshipping with us for several months now. They moved to Hoopeston from the Peoria area in 2019 when Robert began serving as superintendent of our school district. Having attended a Presbyterian church in Peoria, our worship service is familiar. Their daughter Anna and her family are joining our church as well. Their daughter, Amber, lives and works in Danville. Their daughter, Amanda, and husband Aaron and granddaughter Evy (2) live in Springfield, IL. May God bless Robert and Jennifer as they worship and serve the Lord with us.



We welcome Michael and Anna Chaffin and their children: Audrey (8), Lincoln (2), and Levi (1). They have been worshipping with us for several months as well. Michael graduated from SIUE in May and is a civil engineer for the City of Danville. Anna has worked as a teacher and is now raising their three young children. Audrey is a 3rd grader at John Greer Grade School and Lincoln and Levi are energetic toddlers keeping everyone busy! May God bless the Chaffin family. They have enriched our congregation already.



September Birthdays

- 01 Lola Flint
- 06 Cheryl Steiner
- 07 Larry Betka
- 07 Ethan Steiner
- 08 Donna Boyer
- 11 Ann Schwartz
- 15 Terry Flint
- 15 Tonna Hofer
- 18 Lucas Hofer
- 21 Pat Catron
- 21 Jenn Robinson
- 26 Colby Burton
- 30 Vera Keller



September Anniversaries

- 9/01/2001 John and Donna Boyer
- 9/13/2003 Joe and Cheryl Steiner

Youth Group Kick-Off

Our youth (5th-12th) will meet at the church for a fall Kick-off event on Sept 11 from 5-7 p.m. Activities include a devotion, scavenger hunt, and a pizza party as well. May God be with our youth and our youth director, Sadie Hofer, as they begin a new year.



In the Spirit of Jesus himself, our program includes devotions, service projects, meals, and fellowship.

College Students

Pray for our young adults who are beginning their fall semester at college. Send them notes of encouragement during the year. We wish them well as they pursue their studies, interests, and careers.

Illinois State University

Lucas Hofer, 800 W Hovey Ave Ste 100, Apt 231B, Normal, IL 61761



Nick Hofer, 309 Watterson C North, 315 Fell Street, Normal, IL 61761

Cooper Watson, 805 Franklin Ave, Normal, IL 61761

Parkland Community College

Trent Betka, 6284 E 4000 North Rd, Rankin, IL 60960

Rhys Root, 1321 Mariner Way #204, Champaign, IL 61822

Cameron Watson, 1321 Mariner Way #204, Champaign, IL 61822

Danville Area Community College

Colby Burton, 823 W. Main St, Hoopeston, IL 60942

DePauw University

Annie Nelson, UB #6557, 408 S. Locust St, Greencastle, IN 46135

University of Illinois

Ashley Morgan, 3102 Palmer Dr, Apt 304, Champaign, IL 61822



Indiana State University

Cameron Flint, 1100 Spruce St #24, Terre Haute, IN 47807

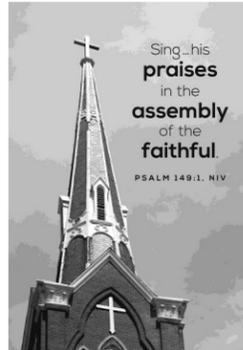
Purdue University

Logan Robinson, 108 South River Rd, Apt 213A, West Lafayette, IN 47906

Why Do We Worship?

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

We worship to glorify and enjoy God. The purpose of worship is to give blessing, honor, praise, and thanksgiving to God. In good times and in bad, in joy and in sorrow, we glorify the giver of our life. Even — or especially — when we're not enjoying life very much, through the worship of God we experience the deep promise and joy of life restored and made new in Christ. We worship God because God is God. We worship God because God is.



But let me tell you a secret. There are other good things that happen when we worship God. You might think of them as positive side effects or fringe benefits, overflowing from the grace and abundance of God.

Worship builds relationships and forms community. When we gather in God's presence, we draw closer to one another in the body of Christ. Worship teaches faith and shapes discipleship. When we hear God's word, we learn and grow as believers and followers of Christ. Worship feeds our souls and fills our hearts. When we enjoy Communion with Christ, we are nourished by the grace of God. Worship inspires action and equips for service. When we are sent out in Jesus' name, we go forth to show God's righteousness, justice, and mercy to others.

We have to be very careful that we never mistake these side effects or fringe benefits for the main thing: giving glory to God. When building relationships and forming community become the main thing, worship become a social club. When teach faith and shaping discipleship become the main thing, worship becomes a school. When feeding souls and filling hearts become the main thing, worship becomes a museum or concert. When inspiring action and equipping for service become the main thing, worship becomes a political rally.

So we keep returning to the main thing: to glorify and enjoy the holy, triune God made known to us in Scripture, made present by the Holy Spirit, and made flesh in Jesus Christ. This is our lighthouse, our landmark. As long as worship is God-directed, God will keep us in faithful paths and pour out the blessings of deep relationships, strong faith, abiding wonder and inspired service.

In the Mailbox

For prayers and service and meal:

Thank you for everything you have done for our family during Karl's cancer journey. The lunch you provided after Karl's funeral service was amazing.



We are forever grateful for all the love, prayers, and support you have given us. Karl was proud to be part of such a wonderful church and community. — Love, Holly Steiner, William and Mason

For Change for Change offering:

Thank you for your gift that was used to purchase Casey's gift cards and mouse pads for our New Teacher Welcome Baskets. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated. Thank you for the flyer too. The enclosed picture is of our wonderful group of new teachers and the basket we gave. - Michelle White, HA School District



Adult Bible Study

Our Adult Study group will begin a new six-week program on September 21 titled *Romans: Good News that Changes Everything*. All are welcome. The group meets Wednesday mornings from 9:00-10:30 a.m. We can begin a second study group at another time if there is interest. The themes of the study are:

Good News about Faith

Good News about Hope

Good News about Daily Life

Good News about God's Plan

Good News about Relationships

Good News about Eternity



In Our Prayers

Those who grieve for: 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 (Joyce Nelson's friend), Eileen Leemon, Sue Davia (D. Dixon's sister), Patti Martin (J. Stump's friend),

Those with immediate concerns: Linda Martin, 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), Tanya Obenland (R. Carter's daughter), Christopher Graham (H. Steiner's nephew), John Schertz (G. Jahn's nephew), Mary Ann Hilleary (R. Carter's sister-in-law), Karla Von Huben (J. Stump's friend), Karen Evans (R. Carter'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 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), 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 (Presbytery Moderator), Rebecca Blair (Lead Presbyter).