



# Voice of the Servant



# 2023

## Points of Interest:

- ⇒ Ice Cream Social, Pg 2
- ⇒ Garage Sale, Pg. 2
- ⇒ Micropantry, Pg. 3
- ⇒ Session Highlights, Pg. 5



Church Family and Friends,

Suddenly summer is upon us! We have had a beautiful spring that correlated perfectly with our Easter celebration of new life. A celebration that ended with the ascension of Christ our Lord and on Pentecost, the descension of the Holy Spirit. Now, may this season after Pentecost be one filled with the inspiration of the Spirit to use our gifts and talents to continue the work that Jesus started and God calls us to finish.

Last month I wrote about church vitality, something emphasized by Matthew 25, the gospel-driven focus to help churches come alive to new possibilities and actively engage in the world around us. Of the seven indicators of church vitality the second is...

**Embracing the call to evangelism. We show forth the love of Christ by our actions and our lives even more than by our words. Our relationships are genuine and caring. People know we are Christians by our love.**

Evangelism means looking for opportunities to show the love of Christ! Jessica Cox is doing a great job of recognizing such opportunities for us as stocking the micro-pantry, donating books to Head Start, and participating in the church-wide garage sale. These are all part of our ministry to show caring and compassion to people hurting and struggling. The love of Christ gives us the eyes to see all people as brothers and sisters in God's family, helping us move beyond the barrier of our differences. God calls us to action and to overcome our complacency and judgement with love. It is time for us to follow the actions of Jesus Christ.

*<sup>14</sup>Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. <sup>15</sup>I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you.*

### Stronghold Camp Scholarships Available

If you know a child in our church community interested in going to Stronghold Camp this summer, contact us.....

By grace together,  
Laurie Walker  
Covenant Pastor





**Thursday, June 8, 6:30 PM**

Laura Sutton's students will have a recital followed by an ice cream social!

If you would like to help, these are the items needed: Ice-cream, sprinkles, gummies, chocolate chips, Bananas, and cherries.

We have caramel and other toppings.



**Mark your calendars!**

July 21 & 22 there will be a church wide garage sale. If you have gently used items, you can drop them off at the church Monday through Thursday 9 to noon.

Please no electronics, TV's etc.

If you need help moving items, please contact Jessica Cox or the office. 815-538-5603

**Missions**

**Our Mission Focus for May and June will be Abigail's Baby Bottles.**

Please return your bottles **June 18th, Father's Day.**



**Pentecost Offering**

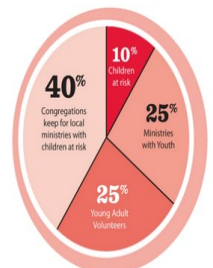


**PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

CHILDREN AT RISK • YOUTH • YOUNG ADULTS

**BY GIVING TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING**

you're supporting ministries that unite young people and inspire them to share their faith in Christ.



**Mendota Agricultural Kids**



Thank you to the Mendota Agri kids for helping those in need in our community

## Micropantry



**Micropantry news:** Kids out of school always equals, Mom I'm hungry, what can we snack on?" So, this month, we will focus on popcorn, granola bars, fruit snacks, oatmeal packets and pudding, or Jell-O mixes. Cereal and pancake mix and syrup.

Special thanks to Kim, Diane, Sandy, and Kay for helping bag up items for the Micropantry. With friends and fellowship, it only took an hour and a half. We look forward to filling bags every other month.

Please notice a new sign-up sheet for helping fill the Micropantry. If you are in the church, please check that it is stocked including a few of the prepacked bags.

Please consider helping re-stock the Micropantry during the week.  
There is a sign up on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Check out the Facebook page: [facebook.com/MendotaMicroPantry](https://facebook.com/MendotaMicroPantry)

## June Lectionary Readings

04—Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Psalm 8; 2 Corinthians 13:11-13; Matthew 28:16-20  
 11—Genesis 12:1-9; Psalm 33:1-12; Hosea 5:15-6:6; Psalm 50:7; Romans 4:13-25  
 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26  
 18—Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7), Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19; Exodus 19:2-8a; Psalm 100;  
 Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)  
 26—Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-16; Jeremiah 20:7-13; Psalm 69:7-10  
 (11-15), 16-18; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39



**2023**  
Per Capita  
is \$42.00  
Per Person  
Per year

Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian		
April 2022		
	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$9,555	\$38,222
Income	\$7,177	\$41,573
Expenses	\$6,234	29,413
Reserves	\$-	\$-

**Weekly Coffee Hour**

Please sign up to bring cookies or baked goods and to make coffee and set out cheese, crackers and juice the morning of. Juice, coffee, cheese & crackers are supplied by the Fellowship Committee.  
**The sign-up is on the wall outside the Kitchen.**

**June Coffee Hour**

04	Rosemary Hammel
11	Second Sunday Breakfast
18	
25	

**Second Sunday Breakfast**

**June 11, 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.

# Garden Words

B J B Y Z I K R X B O W Q W J S D E E W K L T H  
 I P J S L F M B T F Z U O A T T R O W E L T H K  
 X E Q H X I R L E Y E E O J M W Y P H G Z F P C  
 E R I E M A P E L O E Q B U D S O T P Q U W I W  
 M E M E S D O A A G L Z Q A W O R M S P A W G Z  
 K N Z C O Q Q F L T B Y I K M B L A U N N A H K  
 S N C P I O S C R Q A B U L B S E Z T L F B L P  
 T I D Y L S H F O S T C I D Z A E E W V L T X H  
 E A J M E V E I H O E Z Y B Z U B A V U I H N H  
 M L W G M E Z R X S G V Z D A E K D A Y W T P H  
 R L A V V S C L X T E N N E Y W E R I Y R S J Z  
 Y U T W D H V A E H V H Z E S P Q I U O W L Z K  
 P R E C O E M L N Y U T I S K Y R L E X B N G I  
 M B R P O L L I N A T O R K S B I D E Q D K E U  
 Z R G W I W Z P A E K P W C X E S Q Z U R Y F L  
 Z C S A S P R V C O V E H U M M I N G B I R D H  
 O W G R Q R E C G B Z J Q M K F G D S E M E P Z  
 K R B A I H W P A R A B S T U E O Y I D G Y Z U  
 N T W K W Z O H H O H R N T K D Y O L M N G Y N  
 F Q X E S B L A H O U G B F B A R D S C O T W C  
 Y L P I P R F R X T W A J O Z P N K R M Q B B J  
 U Y T Y M M J Y D S O J K M O S J G H E R Y Q N  
 B H N S S Z X Z X V O Y J H R D J W U A I M R Q  
 Z E B L G Q Y N A C G N I R E T A W W P O R T K

watering can  
 annual  
 leaf  
 water  
 pollinator  
 Soil

vegetable  
 bulbs  
 buds  
 seed  
 rake

flower  
 roots  
 worms  
 hummingbird  
 spade

perennial  
 stem  
 weeds  
 bee  
 trowel

## Session Highlights

Your session met Tuesday, May 16 for our regular May meeting. Pastor Laurie led us in an opening devotion based on Luke's account of the ascension of Christ. We were reminded that we, like the disciples, are here on earth to carry on Christ's work. She then led us in an opening prayer.

**We added to the calendar** a piano recital featuring Laura Sutton's students, followed by an ice cream social on June 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM. Communion will be served on June 4.

**The PNC** reported that they had a 1<sup>st</sup> meeting via ZOOM with the interested candidate. The candidate liked the fact that we are a Matthew 25 church. The PNC liked the candidate, but didn't feel they would be a good match for our church. They requested and received another match list from Presbytery. PNC emailed 6 of the newest candidates. Three responded "decline" and there was no answer from the other three. It is somewhat frustrating, but they feel that prayerful waiting is the best course of action.

**The next Presbytery meeting** will be at Ridgefield Crystal Lake on June 13 via ZOOM and in-person. Pastor Laurie and Diane Moore will attend.

**The clerk** reported the death of Carol Gooden on 5/15/2023. In God's good timing, Pastor Laurie had just recently visited Carol and Don and brought them communion.

**This month's financial report** shows income slightly ahead of budget and ahead of expenses year-to-date, thanks to steady giving from the congregation despite a slow decline in membership numbers over the past several years.

**Pastor Laurie reported** that she was out making visits and taking communion to our church family who are not able to attend worship in person and often do not have the technology to attend via ZOOM. When visiting Joyce Burright, Pastor Laurie asked if she has any words of wisdom for the church family. Joyce's hope is for the Holy Spirit to guide us and support us. Thanks, Joyce, and "Amen" to that! Pastor will meet with the Deacons at their next meeting. Pastor will be with us each Sunday until July 9, at which point she will be on vacation for two weeks. Bill Bratney is searching for pulpit supply for those two Sundays. On September 10, Pastor Laurie will not be here, due to a visit from the Kenya partnership representatives. Pastor Laurie will help facilitate the June 17 Matthew 25 Summit. Pastor Laurie made the suggestion that the church could possibly offer Stronghold camper scholarships to local children as an outreach. Session liked the idea and voted to offer three camp scholarships for Stronghold summer camps.

**Sunday School** will continue through the summer.

**Don reported** that the annual backflow valve test revealed a small leak. Walter Bros. will check into it. Matt Arjes from Boiler Whisperers inspected and cleaned out the boiler to get it ready for the next heating season. Steam condensation is causing moist conditions in the boiler room. The pipe could be moved outside so less condensation is in the space. The church currently has no working fire alarm. In 2008, an ADT fire/burglar alarm system was put into the church and was working until the contract was terminated. ADT came out and assessed the system and space. We are waiting on a report from ADT. Property and Maintenance will take steps to make sure we have a fire alarm system in place. The elevator passed the annual inspection. Don has been replacing light bulbs around the church as needed.

**Sandy reminded** session that Donna will be out of the office June 6-8.

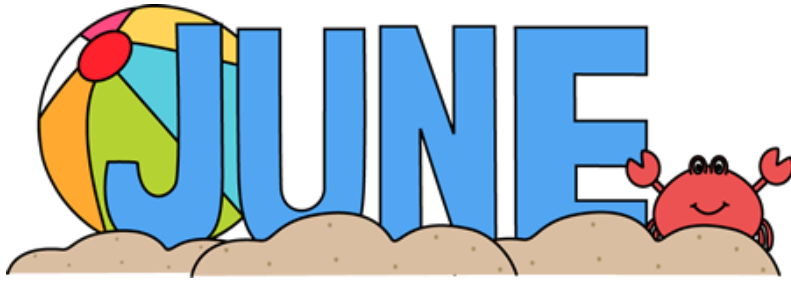
**Evangelism and Outreach** activities have been keeping Jessica busy. The piano recital and ice cream social is always a popular event at the church, so planning is taking place for the upcoming (June 8<sup>th</sup>) event. The books we collected were taken to the Head Start preschool. The kids are really enjoying them. Head Start is revamping their COVID protocols for the 2023-2024 school year, so it is possible they will be able to re-implement the "grandparent" helpers. The teachers have asked if we would be willing to make more video recordings reading books for the kids. What are some other ways we can help with the preschool? Jessica welcomes any ideas. There is discussion regarding how we can reach out to the community for this year's Sweet Corn Festival. Perhaps we could distribute goodie bags to the kids with a few fun items and information about what our church is doing for the community, especially for the kids. Jessica welcomes ideas for fun activities we could sponsor for the kids of the community.

**Andra has made some more updates** to the church's web page. She and Pastor Laurie are working on adding more Matthew 25 information. \$235 was sent to the One Great Hour of Sharing fund. Of the Pentecost offering currently being received, 40% stays in the local church to help fund youth-related activities. The Rosalie McLaughlin mission funds for this year are still undesignated. The Kenya church is looking for a partner church for the Kenya church to help keep kids in schools there. The church is also seeking a prayer relationship church to offer them support in that manner as well. The baby bottle mission is currently in place through Father's Day.

**Second Sunday** breakfast in May was very well attended.

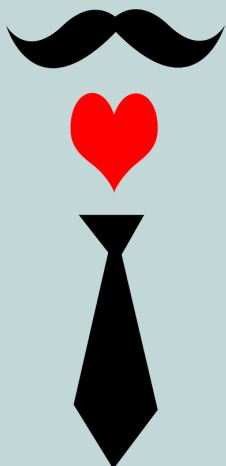
Our next regular Session meeting will be June 13 at 7 PM.

*Submitted by Kim Van Rheenen*



**2023**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9a Elevator Insp.</p> <p>6:30p Webelos</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>3</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10a Worship/ Communion In-person &amp; Facebook live 11a Fellowship</p>	<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>No Donna</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>6:30p Recital/Ice Cream Social</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Office Hours 9 to Noon</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>
<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9a Second Sunday Breakfast 10a Worship In-person &amp; Facebook live 11a Fellowship</p>	<p><b>12</b></p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>9a Presbytery, Rockford</p> <p>7p Session</p>	<p><b>14</b></p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>6:30p Webelos</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p><b>17</b></p>
<p><b>18</b></p> <p><b>Father's Day</b></p> <p>10a Worship In-person &amp; Facebook live</p>	<p><b>19</b></p>	<p><b>20</b></p>	<p><b>21</b></p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>6:30p Webelos</p> <p><b>Newsletter Deadline!</b></p>	<p><b>23</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>
<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10a Worship In-person &amp; Facebook live 11a Fellowship</p>	<p><b>26</b></p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>Printing Newsletter</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Office Hours 9 to Noon</p>	
					<p><b>Happy Father's Day</b></p> 	



## Birthdays

- June Birthdays**
- |    |              |
|----|--------------|
| 10 | Judy Holland |
| 23 | Jessica Cox  |



- June Anniversaries**
- |    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 04 | Gary & Debbie Stevens    |
| 21 | Stephen & Debra Dullard  |
| 29 | Kevin & Susan Kilanowski |

**Ushers/Communion**

- |    |                            |
|----|----------------------------|
| 04 | Communion Larry & Kay      |
| 04 | Larry & Kay Christen       |
| 11 | Kevin & Ann Goy            |
| 18 | Carol Erwin, Suzan Wilburn |
| 25 | Chuck & Betty Baumann      |



with deepest  
*Sympathy*

Carol Gooden

**Continued Prayers**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Angie</b> (Faye Smith)<br/> <b>Barb Christopher</b><br/> <b>Becky Matheson</b><br/> <b>Bennett Michaels</b><br/> <b>Don Gooden</b><br/> <b>David Erwin</b><br/> <b>Debbie Goffinet</b> (Sandy R)<br/> <b>Dorothy Becker</b><br/> <b>Dixie Tonozzi</b></p> | <p><b>Ev McNutt</b><br/> <b>James Moxness</b><br/> <b>Janet Sutton</b><br/> <b>Jason</b><br/> <b>Jim Reilly</b><br/> <b>Cathy Dahm</b><br/> <b>Kevin</b><br/> <b>Kim Van Rheenen</b><br/> <b>Lu Zeinert</b></p> | <p><b>Mike Boyle</b><br/> <b>Pam Schmidt</b><br/> <b>Pat Schmidt</b><br/> <b>Sarah Arter</b><br/> <b>Sandy &amp; Donald Schultz</b><br/> <b>Tim Rebholz</b><br/> <b>Tim Sondgeroth</b><br/> <b>Trisha Smith</b></p> |
|---|---|---|



**Safe Travels**



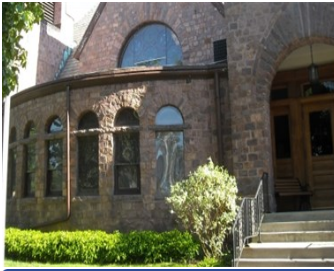
**June Sunday School Teachers**

- |    |               |
|----|---------------|
| 04 | Sandy Rebholz |
| 11 |               |
| 18 |               |
| 25 |               |

**June Pianists**

- |    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 04 | Brady Hughes    |
| 11 | Peggy Etheridge |
| 18 | Laura Sutton    |
| 25 | Brady Hughes    |





First Presbyterian Church  
 1003 5th Street  
 Mendota, IL 61342-1911  
 Website: [www.fpcmendota.com](http://www.fpcmendota.com)  
**(815) 538-5603**



Label

**Sunday Morning Worship 10 AM:** In-Person and [www.facebook.com/fpcmendota](http://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**



**June**  
**2023**