



Voice of the Servant



July & AUGUST 2023

Points of Interest:

- * Garage Sale, Pg. 2
- * Micropantry, Pg. 3
- * Missions, Pg. 3
- * Session Highlights, Pg. 5
- * Birthday's Pg. 8



Church Family and Friends,

Recently, Andra and I attended a Presbytery workshop called *People, Place, Purpose: How to use what you have to make a difference in your community*. We were challenged and we challenge you to help us identify all of our church's strengths and resources, and then, to identify our community needs. What is causing people pain and stress and what can we do about it?

Again, I draw your attention to the topic of church vitality. The Matthew 25 initiative in Blackhawk Presbytery challenges us to come alive to new possibilities and to actively engage in the world around us. Of the seven indicators of church vitality the third is...

An outward focus. Our church is not a place to escape from the world, but rather our gateway to our community where we may be the hands, feet, heart and mouth of Jesus Christ for people who are suffering or marginalized.

We are not meant to focus our attention on the inside of the church. How much different for us to think of our church doors as a gateway to our local mission field. It is wonderful to enter our beautiful sanctuary, but our purpose it to prepare for our exit. Our community is filled with people starved for compassion, peace and hope. They are questioning God's faithfulness while we are slow to see them or hear them or to share the good news of the gospel.

Matt. 25:45 "And he will answer, 'I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.'

By grace together,

Laurie Walker

Covenant Pastor

Stronghold Camp



Prayers for Keagon and Jacob as they attend Stronghold Camp July 5-8.

We look forward to them sharing their experience with us in church on July 10.



One mans trash is another mans Treasure
Gently used treasures



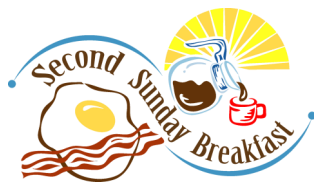
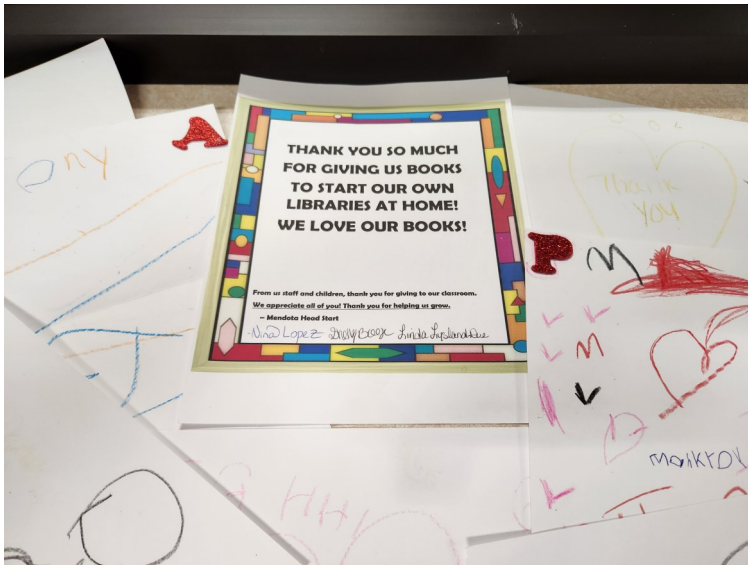
Church Rummage Sale
9 AM to 2 PM
Friday, July 21 and Saturday July 22

1 PM on Saturday everything is .25!

Volunteers needed to sort and price items, also help pack up and haul the items left over.

Sign-up sheets are on the table in Fellowship Hall.

Head Start



Second Sunday Breakfast

Breakfast July 9, August 13, 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



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.

Micro Pantry



Spaghetti
Tomato Sauce
Pasta
Peanut Butter
Jelly
Crackers
Cheese Crackers
PB Crackers
Canned Fruit
Canned Veggies
Mac & Cheese



As you harvest your gardens, if you would like to share with the Micropantry, please let Jessica know.



Missions Update



We are excited to form a partnership with the Maua Town Church in the Imenti North Presbytery which is part of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA). It is our hope that we will gain a broader perspective of God's work in the world. Through this partnership, we will share correspondence and prayers in support of their ministry. Rev. Asman Wambugu Mwangi is the Parish Minister. He started a special ministry for boys living on the street. The boys receive counseling and are encouraged to further their education. Rosalie McLaughlin, a teacher, left a bequest to our church. Of that bequest, \$10,000 was set aside to be used for mission work. \$1,000 per year for ten years is to be used as the mission committee sees appropriate. Along with forming a partnership, we will also send \$1,000 to support those boys who have shown an interest in joining technical institutions. As our church is a part of Blackhawk Presbytery, it is exciting to become actively involved in this ministry. The following is from the Blackhawk Presbytery website:

"First formed in 1996, this partnership between the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and Blackhawk Presbytery is recognized by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The agreement provides support, training, and relationship for parishes, congregations, institutions, and pastors in the Imenti Presbyteries. Blackhawk Presbytery has provided annual training programs, exchange trips between the presbyteries, consultation, and capital funds for a Conference Training Center in Meru. A number of congregations in the presbytery are partners with congregations or institutions in Imenti presbyteries."

Please check out the website for more information on the Kenyan partnership. We thank Pastor Laurie for being our liaison in this ministry. A recent newsletter from the Presbyterian Church of East Africa is on the table in the fellowship hall.

Fourth of July

Word Search Puzzle



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



ADAMS	FLAG	LIBERTY
AMERICA	FOURTH	MUSIC
BARBECUE	FREEDOM	PARADE
CELEBRATION	HOLIDAY	PATRIOTIC
COLONIES	HOT DOGS	PICNIC
CONGRESS	INDEPENDENCE	REVOLUTION
FAMILY	JEFFERSON	STATES
FIREWORKS	JULY	SUMMER

Session Highlights

Your Session met June 13, 2023 for their regular June meeting. Pastor Laurie opened our meeting with a devotion based on Romans 5, which reminds us that perseverance builds character and hope for the future through God’s love. Communion will be served July 2.

The PNC interviewed a candidate, who they liked very much. The fact that we are a Matthew 25 church and have a very utilized Micropantry were definite pluses for him, but he doesn’t feel like Mendota is where he wants to be. Diane Moore and Pastor Laurie attended the June 13 Presbytery meeting. They report that there was a very interesting talk on developing communities of faith. There is a new Presbytery task force developing the idea of “1001 Communities of Faith”. Presbytery has instituted a 3% increase to the minimum salary for pastors. COM has developed a sick days policy for local churches to use. The next meeting will be in September.

The clerk reported the death of member Bill Arjes on June 5.

Following a recent bridal shower held in the church, discussion occurred regarding the need to have the area cleaned after such use. Session voted to increase the suggested donation for facility use to \$100.00 from the current \$50.00. The increase will be used to hire a cleaner for the area after events are held.

Pastor Laurie reports that she and Kay Christen took communion to shut-ins. Pastor will stay in communication with the Deacons about visits. The piano recital and ice cream social was very nice. Pastor Laurie will attend the Presbytery event “People, Place, Purpose” with Andra Goy on the 17th. Pastor will be gone July 9 and 16 on a family vacation. She will attend her home church’s anniversary celebration on August 13. And on September 10th she will be away. Bill Bratney is arranging pulpit supply for these Sundays.

Sunday School is continuing through the summer. Keagon and Jacob have received camp scholarships from the church and will go to Stronghold camp July 5-8. They have been offered the opportunity to tour the “castle” ahead of time, to familiarize themselves with the camp setting.

Property and Maintenance is working on getting the fire alarm service in place and active.

Evangelism and Outreach received thank you notes from the Head Start kids for the books we donated. Head Start would appreciate our help again next school year with projects and interactions with the kids. Kenny Van Rheenen will go with Jessica to Joliet to pick up the donated food on Friday the 16th. Our garage sale is coming up. Volunteers are needed to help with set-up, the sale, and packing up. Plans are in the works to make kid’s bags for distribution at the Sweet Corn Festival.

Andra reports that the Pentecost mission received \$245 through the end of May. Baby bottles will be returned on Father’s Day Sunday for Abigail’s Women’s Center. The Rosalie McLaughlin mission gift will be given to the Kenya church for the boys going to tech college. Our church will also form a prayer and support partnership with Pastor Asman Wambugu M’wangi and the Maua Parish.

Our next meeting will be August 8, as it is our practice to not meet in July, unless a need arises.



Respectfully submitted,
Kim Marie Van Rheenen,
Clerk of Session

Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian		
May 2023		
	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$9,555	\$47,777
Income	\$5,056	\$46,629
Expenses	\$7,490	\$36,904
Reserves	\$ -	\$-

2022
Per Capita
is \$42.00
Per Person
Per Year


JULY

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10a Worship- Communion In-person & Facebook live 11a Fellowship	3	4 Office Closed 	5	6 6:30p Webelos	7 Office Closed	8
9 9a Second Sunday Breakfast 10a Worship- In-person & Facebook live Preacher: David Spaulding 11a Fellowship	10	11 No Session This month	12	13 6:30p Webelos	14 Office Closed	15
16 10a Worship- In-person & Facebook live Preacher: David Spaulding 11a Fellowship	17 Newsletter Deadline	18	19	20 6:30p Webelos	21 Office Closed 	22
23 10a Worship- In-person & Facebook live 11a Fellowship	24	25	26	27 Printing Newsletter 6:30p Webelos	28 9-noon Office Hours	29
30	31					



2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 6:30p Webelos	4 Office Closed	5
6 10a Worship- Communion In-person & Facebook live 11a Fellowship	7	8 7:00p Session	9	10 6:30p Webelos 	11 Office Closed Sweet Corn Festival	12
13 9a Second Sunday Breakfast 10a Worship- In-person & Facebook live Preacher: David Spaulding 11a Fellowship	14	15	16	17 6:30p Webelos	18 Office Closed	19
20 10a Worship- In-person & Facebook live 11a Fellowship	21 Newsletter Deadline	22	23	24 6:30p Webelos	25 9-noon Office Hours	26
27 10a Worship- In-person & Facebook live 11a Fellowship	28	29 Printing Newsletter	30	31		

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!



July Birthdays

- 02 Howard Brauhn
- 04 Diane Truckenbrod
- 05 Nancy Huss
- 08 Hailie Donahue
- 10 Bill Ennenbach
- 11 Debra Dullard
- 15 Peggy Etheridge
- 18 Andra Goy
- 18 Sandra Sanford
- 26 Cera Donahue
- 26 Ryan Woods
- 27 Keagon Cox
- 31 Don Barkowski

August Birthdays

- 08 Connor Dullard
- 11 Rubi Donahue
- 18 Mary Erbes
- 30 Kent Woods



July Anniversaries

- 10 Trenton & Jamie Stanford

August Anniversaries

- 11 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 17 Kent & Denise Woods

July Pianists

- 02 Brady Hughes
- 09 Peggy Etheridge
- 16 Laura Sutton
- 23 Peggy Etheridge
- 30 Brady Hughes



**In our Deepest
Sympathy**

Bill Arjes

If you would like to send
condolences to
Terry Arjes
728 Holman Street
Seymour, TX 76380

Continued Prayers

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

July Lectionary Readings

02—Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42
 09—Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67; Psalm 45:10-17; Zacharia 9:9-12; Psalm 145:8-14; Roman 7:15-25a; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30
 16—Genesis 25:19-34; Psalm 119:105-112; Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 65:(1-8), 9-13; Romans 8:1-11; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
 23—Genesis 28:10:19a; Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24; Isaiah 44:6-8; Psalm 86:11-17; Romans 8:12-25; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43
 30—Genesis 29:15-28; Psalm 105:1-11, 45b; Psalm 128; 1 Kings 3:5-12; Psalm 119: 129-136; Romans 8:26-39; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August Lectionary Readings

06—Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 17:1-7, 15; Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; Romans 9: 1-5; Matthew 14:13-21
 13—Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28; Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b; 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33
 20—Genesis 45:1-15; Psalm 133; Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Psalm 67; Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32; Matthew 15: (10-20) 21-28
 27—Exodus 1:8-2:10; Psalm 124; Isaiah 51:1-6; Psalm 138; Romans 12:1-8; Matthew 16:13-20



July Ushers/Communion

- 02 Communion-Kay & Larry Christen
- 02 Larry & Kay Christen
- 09 Faye Smith & Betty Baumann
- 16 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 23 Diane Moore & Carol Erwin
- 30 Sandy Rebholz & Suzan Wilburn

August Ushers/Communion

- 06 Communion-Susan W. & Kay C.
- 06 Larry & Kay Christen
- 13 Faye Smith & Peggy Etheridge
- 20 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 27 Carol Erwin & Diane Moore

We Have a Lending Closet

Did you know that we have a closet in the basement with supplies like: wheel chairs, walkers, canes, crutches, walkers with trays and many other items that you can borrow or if you know of someone who would like to borrow. It is as easy as filling out a piece of paper and off you go. Call the office. Donations always accepted.





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



Label

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

Sunday Fellowship 11 AM, in-person/Zoom
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



July
August
2023

