



Voice of the Servant



SEPTEMBER



2023



Points of Interest:

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- ⇒ Guests from Kenya, Pg. 2
- ⇒ Ministries, Pg 4
- ⇒ Thank you notes, Pg 4

Pastor's Message

Church Family and Friends,

What a summer we have had from political discord, to the unbearable heat wave, to the devastating fire in Maui, to hurricane Idalia. We are living in unusual times, times when faith is invaluable! Faith gives us the assurance that God is bigger than all the challenges we face. God's plan is sure and includes each of us and our future.

Recently, I attended a Blackhawk Presbytery workshop entitled The Inherited and Innovative Church. It begged the question has the church changed or is it that the community and world around the church that have changed and the church itself has remained the same? God calls us individually and as a church to "be transformed by the renewing of the mind, so that you may discern what is the will of God" (Romans 12:2). We need to be open to change, to God's transformation, as we look to the Spirit for inspiration and innovation in how we go forward as Christ's church. The Matthew 25 initiative reminds us to be the church described by the Gospel. Doing so will revitalize us as the body of Christ as we actively engage in the world around us. Of the seven indicators of church vitality the fourth is...

Empowering every member to discover their individual calling and the gifts God has given them so they can go forth and serve.

During this time between full-time ministers, the church relies more heavily on each and every member to stand in the gap. This is a good thing! It reminds us that it is not just the pastor who is called. We are all called to use the unique gifts God has given us to "minister" to the needs of God's children.

Romans 12:6-8 ⁶In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. ⁷If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well.⁸If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

By grace together,
Laurie Walker
Covenant Pastor



Missions

A Season of Peace



SEPTEMBER 3 – OCTOBER 1, 2023

Welcome to the 2023 Season of Peace. This season culminates on World Communion Sunday, Oct. 1st. On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Since 1940, World Communion Sunday is an ecumenical celebration of our oneness in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, bringing churches together in Christian Unity. This year also marks the 40th anniversary of *Peacemaking: The Believers Calling* approved by the 192nd General Assembly.



As part of our goal to participate in all four of the Special Offerings mandated by the General Assembly, we will be collecting the Peace and Global Witness Offering between Sept. 3 and Oct. 1. 25% of this offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community, 25% goes to mid council, and 50% supports work being done across the globe.

During this time of peace, a 5-week bible study will be offered on Wednesday nights at 7:00 beginning on Sept. 6th. The study is offered by the Presbyterian Church and titled *The Things that make for Peace*. The adult study focuses on the inner and outer paths to peace as foundational to faithful discipleship. There is a daily reflection that you can receive by email from the PCUSA at this link (pcusa.org/subscribeSOP) from Sept. 3 – Oct 1 to supplement your studies.

The intersection of several of the most pressing challenges for peacemakers, namely poverty, racism, climate change, immigration, and migration are also among the primary concerns of being a Matthew 25 Church.



September 17th we will have guests from Kenya joining in leading our worship service. Kaburu and Kajuju are members of the Imenti Presbytery which has a partnership with our Blackhawk Presbytery. Pastor Laurie knows them as her brother and sister in Christ and is anxious for you to meet them as members of our extended church family. They will talk about our new church partnership with Maua Town Church and its new ministry with children living on the street.

Micropantry



Pasta	Crackers	Baked Beans
Pasta Sauce	Canned Vegetables	Hungry Mac
Hearty Soups	Canned Fruit	Sloppy Joes
Knorr Noodle	Meal Sides (<i>Rice-A-Roni, pasta with cheese etc.</i>)	Shampoo
Knorr Rice Packages	Family size Mac & Cheese	Dish Soap
Cereal	Hamburger Helper Meals	Tampons
Oatmeal	Mashed Potatoes	
Canned Meats		

Thank you for your continued support by helping keep basic meals available 24 hours a day to families in our community.
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

September Lectionary Readings

- 03**—Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6; 23-26, 45b; Jeremiah 15:15-21; Psalm 26:1-8; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28
- 10**—Exodus 12:1-14; Psalm 149; Ezekial 33:7-11; Psalm 119:33-40; Romans 13:8-14; Matthew 18:15-20
- 17**—Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21; Genesis 50:15-21; Psalm 103:(1-7) 8-13; Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35
- 24**—Exodus 16:2-15; Psalm 105:1-5, 37-45; Jonah 3:10-4:11; Psalm 145:1-8; Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16



2023

Per Capita
is \$42.00

Per Person
Per year

Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian		
July 2022		
	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$9,555	\$66,888
Income	\$9,436	\$63,484
Expenses	\$4,996	\$47,158
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.

September Coffee Hour

03	Faye Smith
10	Second Sunday Breakfast
17	Karen & Rosemary
24	

Second Sunday Breakfast

September 10, 9 AM

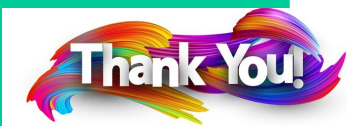
Please bring a breakfast goodie or dish to pass.

We will provide drinks and table service.
If you have questions,
please contact Diane Moore.



700 13th Avenue, Mendota, IL
Has begun "The Giving Pump"

One cent per gallon will go back to the community. Kate will match the donation, Tom Prescott will match up to 500.00 and an anonymous person will also match!
Four Cents per gallon!



The garage sale raised \$1,034.
Thank you all who picked up, donated, set up, sorted, sold, and helped clean up. It would not have happened without all your help.



First Presbyterian Church has adopted The Head Start School here in Mendota. Here are a few supplies that are needed:

Office Supplies:
Hanging Folders
Manila Folders
Pens



Art Supplies:
Thick Markers (15)
Fat Crayons (15)
Glue Sticks
Construction Paper
Pom Poms
Googly Eyes



The government will give Head Start points for every dollar donated and spent for supplies. Please include the receipt for your purchases or a copy. They use those points to get basic supplies from the government.



Abigail's Women's Center: Thank you so much for your donation of \$152 to the Change for Life. Please know that your gift will go to help any individuals with the care they need before and after pregnancy.
Betty Pappas, R.N. Executive Director

Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry: Thank you for joining our journey to construct a permanent building where we can continue to serve our community. Your gift of \$500 is greatly appreciated.
Tracy Cooper, Executive Director

PADS Illinois Valley: Thanks for your support of our mission and God Bless your congregation for their heart of compassion for those in need.
Carol Alcorn, Executive Director

Session Highlights

The Session of Mendota First Presbyterian Church met for their regular August 2023 meeting at 7 PM on August 9 in the church. Present were Elders Andra Goy, Sandy Rebholz, Bill Bratney, Don Barkowski, Church Baumann, and Jessica Cox; Treasurer Peggy Etheridge; Moderator Pastor Laurie Walker; and Clerk of Session Kim Van Rheen. Excused was Elder Diane Moore. A quorum of Elders was present.

Pastor Laurie opened our meeting with a devotion based on Luke 16:1-3, reminding us that we are God's disciples and stewards. She then led us in an opening prayer.

Adoption of the Agenda and Reading and Approval of the Minutes: The agenda was adopted by consensus. Jessica made the motion to approve the minutes, Andra seconded the motion, and it passed.

Calendar: On September 17, our Imenti Kenya partners will be visiting the church. Communion will be served September 3.

PNC Report: The PNC continues their diligent work on behalf of the church, seeking our new pastor. Since the last match at the end of June, PNC received 3 names. All three were contacted; received one reply. She wasn't interested. The next requested match brought 13 names, but all but one were out of our salary range.

Presbytery Report: Presbytery has announced a special meeting to be held August 22 via ZOOM at which they will commission to dissolve April River First Presbyterian and Winona First Presbyterian. Presbytery is also offering 2 workshops 1) On August 24 from 5-8 PM at Stronghold they will focus on New Worshipping Communities –Innovation and Inherited: combining new and old was of being in community) On September 11 from 1:30-8 PM there will be a combined Imenti/Blackhawk retreat, looking at Mission, Environment and New Worshipping Communities. The next Presbytery regular meeting will be September 12 at Stronghold.

Communications: 1) Donna let us know that the new insurance policy has arrived and she will put it on file. 2) We received a nice thank you note from Don and Carol Gooden's daughter with a monetary contribution.

Clerk's Report: nothing to report

Financial Report: Financially, the church is pretty well on track with our projected budget, thanks to our faithful contributors. Peggy sent the McLaughlin Mission money to the Kenya church. Chuck made the motion to receive the financial report into our records. Jessica seconded the motion, and it passed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Laurie has been visiting our shut-ins and taking communion to them. She will be reaching out to the people who watch our worship on Facebook. She is going to be at her home church with the Kenya church contingent, in Arizona October 29 through November 5, at her home church November 12 for their 175th anniversary celebration, and in Arizona January 12 through March 18. Pastor Laurie led us in a discussion of our People, Place, Purpose assets and needs assessment. We listed the assets we have as a church, then discussed how those assets could be used to help meet the needs of the community around us. We are each to investigate details of how needs are presenting in the community and how our assets can help.

Budget and Stewardship: nothing to report.

Christian Education: Mission and Education are proposing a 5-week Bible Study, with possibly a light dinner, through the Peace and Global Witness special offering. It would be held at 7 PM on Wednesdays, beginning September 6 and concluding October 4. It would be focusing on the things that make for peace.

Property and Maintenance: 1) the new insurance policy arrived. 2) The ADT system is working. 3) When alarms are sounded, there is a diagram in Don's session box showing where the sensors are and how to cancel the sensors. 4) Where does the organ stand as far as playability? Pastor Laurie will check into this.

Personnel and Pastoral Relations: 1) Donna has Labor Day off. 2) Donna will be on vacation September 11-14. The church office will be closed in her absence.

Worship: The pulpit supply list is complete through the end of the year.

Evangelism: The Shell gas station is hosting their giving pump fundraiser for the church. Area business people are matching the funds raised. HeadStart is looking for readers and supplies. 100 kids' goodie bags have been prepared and will be distributed to children at the Sweet Corn Festival Friday.

Mission: 1) \$293.00 was raised during the Pentecost offering. 2) We are not doing school supply or clean-up kits this year. 3) \$110.62 was raised for Church World Service – Peggy will send the funds in. 4) We are currently receiving the Peace and Global Witness Offering, which will culminate on World Communion Sunday (October 1). 5) Consideration is being given to financial support to the Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry to help raise the funds to cover their new building.

Fellowship and Parish Life: More coffee hour hosts are needed. Joni Bratney is coordinating a dinner to follow Bill Arjes' Celebration of Life August 26th here at the church.

Respectfully submitted, Kim Marie Van Rheen, Clerk of Session

SEPTEMBER

2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed	2
3 10a Worship/ Communion In-person & Facebook live Childrens Study 11a Fellowship	4 Office Closed 	5	6 7p Bible Study	7 6:30p Webelos	8 Office Closed	9
10 9a Second Sunday Breakfast 10a Worship Childrens Study Jeff Brace In-person & Facebook live 11a Fellowship	11	12 1p PEO 7p Session	13 7p Bible Study No Donna	14 6:30p Webelos	15 Office Closed	16
17 10a Worship Kaburu & Kajuju From Kenya In-person & Facebook live Childrens Study 11a Fellowship	18	19	20 7p Bible Study	21 6:30p Webelos Newsletter Deadline!	22 Office Hours 9 to Noon	23
24 10a Worship In-person & Facebook live Childrens Study 11a Fellowship	25	26	27 7p Bible Study	28 Printing Newsletter	29 Office Hours 9 to Noon	30





Birthdays and Anniversaries

September Birthdays

- 05 Rosemary Hamel
- 05 Chuck Huss
- 10 Roy Salecker
- 10 Stephen Dullard
- 13 Susan Kilanowski
- 16 Denise Woods
- 12 Jamie Rodriguez
- 20 Virginia Rose
- 28 Brian Bratney

September Anniversaries

- 07 Kenny & Kim Van Rheen
- 10 Bob & Peggy Etheridge

Ushers/Communion

- 03 Larry & Kay Christen
- 10 Faye Smith, Sandy Rebholz
- 17 Chuck & Betty Baumann
- 24



Thankyou

*Everyone,
Thank you so much for all
your thoughts, Prayers + Cards
regarding the loss of Eric.
They meant so much to me.*

*Love & Hugs
Karen Newberry*



Sunday School Teachers

- 03 Carol Erwin
- 10 Joni Bratney
- 17 Sandy Rebholz
- 24

JOIN US FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:

A five-session Sunday School study will run August 27-Sept. 24 for children. "Lessons from the Table" is a study for children centered around the communion table. Sunday School follows the children's sermon. Our service starts at 10:00 AM.

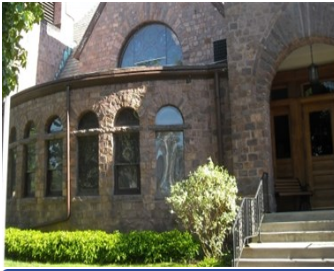
Pianists

- 03 Laura Sutton
- 10 Peggy Etheridge
- 17 Brady Hughes
- 24 Brady Hughes

Continued Prayers

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Angie (Faye Smith)
Barb Christopher
Bennett Michaels
Don Gooden
David Erwin
Debbie Goffinet (Sandy R)
Dorothy Becker
Dixie Tonzzi | Ev McNutt
James Moxness
Janet Sutton
Jason
Jim Reilly
Kevin
Lu Zeinert
Mike Boyle | Pam Schmidt
Pat Schmidt
Sarah Arter
Sandy & Donald Schultz
Tim Rebholz
Tim Sondgeroth
Trisha Smith |
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 Mendota, IL 61342-1911
 Website: www.fpcmendota.com
(815) 538-5603
Pastor: Laurie Walker (815) 274-3444



Label

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

**Sunday Fellowship 11 AM,
 Second Sunday Breakfast 9 AM**

↔

Join Zoom Meetings & Gatherings:
<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



Shell
 Shell at 700 13th Ave. will donate 1 cent per gallon purchased.

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