



Voice of the Servant



2024

Points of Interest:

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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!

Church Family and Friends,

As a result of our work together discerning God's vision for our church we are offering many opportunities for you this summer. We hope you will share them with others in our community because Jesus told us in John 10...

¹⁶I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also.

They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd.

Reaching out to the youth in our community we are combining our efforts with the Methodist churches to offering Vacation Bible School July 29—August 2. Please let Jessica Cox know if you are available to help. Additionally, our church is offering 10 youth scholarships to summer camp at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in Oregon. Please see the articles later in this newsletter for more information on these youth opportunities.

Hoping to serve the young families in our area, we are going to offer our first Free Family Breakfast from 8:30—9:30 a.m. on May 11. We hope all of you will join us in gathering around a table with our neighbors. Please let Bill and Joni Bratney know if you would like to assist with this event.

Valuing the important ministry of Head Start, please consider their invitation to help on Tuesdays from 10:00—10:30 a.m.. Please call Nina Lopez at Head Start 815-538-3026 to schedule a time to volunteer.

For us older folks, at least those old enough to drink coffee, please consider coming to church for Fill My Cup...a time to share a cup of coffee or tea. Watch the bulletin for dates and times as we see what works best for people.

In an attempt to share the good news we are working at designing yard signs with simple sayings. Please see a list of suggested sayings on Pg. 4 and provide us your feedback on the ones you like best. Also, let us know if you would like to display a sign in your yard. We will periodically trade signs.

Finally, I have been serving on the Blackhawk Presbytery Land and Name Acknowledgement Task Force (LANA) and we are encouraging all church members to learn their local history around the time of the Blackhawk War. If you like history, please consider joining me on a Field Trip on June 5, or on the date of your choice, consider independently using the Discovery Guide to plan your only summer vacation taking advantage of out many historical sites. See more information in this newsletter on Pg. 5.

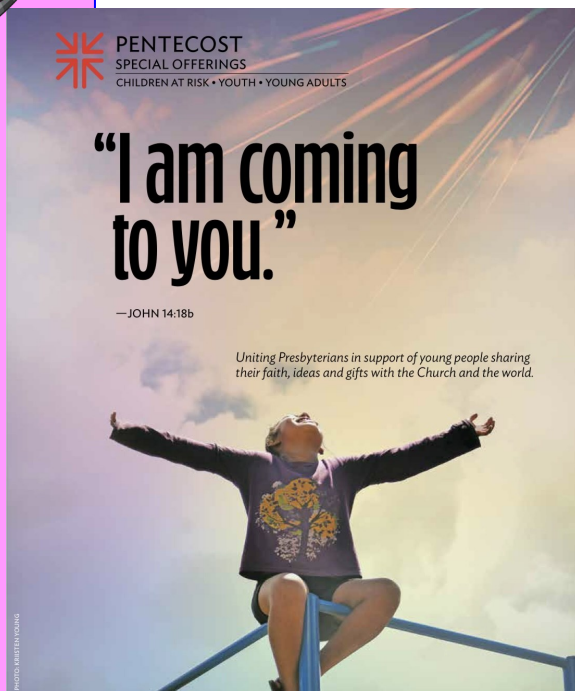
May the Holy Spirit stir you and inspire you to join in God's work and play!

By grace together,
Laurie Walker
Covenant Pastor





Missions



We will be taking the Pentecost offering April 1 through May 19th. Since 40% of the offerings stay with our church, I think this could be used towards Vacation Bible School.
Please make checks to FPC, Memo Pentecost.

40%

STAYS WITH YOUR CONGREGATION
to support ministries with children, youth, and young adults.

25%

SUPPORTS YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEERS (YAV), serving in communities around the world, and growing as leaders through transformative Christian service.

25%

SUPPORTS MINISTRIES WITH YOUTH
including the Presbyterian Youth Triennium.

10%

IS DEVOTED TO CHILDREN AT-RISK and supports to improve education and provide safe havens.

Thankyou

Thank you for your generous gift of \$195 to the CWS Blankets.



“Abigail’s Baby Bottle Yearly Fundraiser”

Please pick-up your baby bottles on May 12 and return them June 16.
Mother’s Day through Father’s Day!



A new outreach opportunity
Free Family Breakfast
8:30 to 9:30 AM
May 11, 2024

Please contact Bill & Joni Bratney for more information of how to help.

Micropantry

Check out the Facebook page: facebook.com/MendotaMicroPantry



Canned Meats

Chicken breast
Tuna
Vienna
Chili with meat
Canned ham
Canned Beef
Canned Pork

Canned Vegetables

Green beans
Corn
Carrots
Mixed veggies

Canned Fruit

Small snack size fruit
Fruit cocktail
Pineapple
Peaches
Pears

Other

Soups
Instant potatoes
Peanut butter
Jelly
Pasta Sauce
Instant potatoes

Fresh Produce Sorting

Tuesdays Produce

May 7
May 21
June 4
June 8



If you are able to help sort fresh produce at **11 AM** or maintain the Micropantry, please sign-up.

Online Giving



WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

- ⇒ Donate food items for Micropantry.
- ⇒ You can sign-up to fill the pantry
- ⇒ You can help sort fruit and vegetables every other Tuesday 11 AM
- ⇒ Help fold monthly newsletter 10 AM, May 30
- ⇒ Pick-up food from Hands of Hope Joliet, IL
- ⇒ Unload and stock food items from Hands of Hope 3 PM



Hands of Hope (Joliet Pick-up)



Pick-up dates—May 3, May 17, June 7, June 21

If you are able to go to Joliet any of these dates and pick up free food for our pantry, please sign-up.

If you can help unload and stock the food items at 3 PM please sign-up.



Weekly Coffee Hour

Please consider hosting coffee hour after worship on Sundays.
Bring a simple dessert, make coffee, pour juice.
Cheese and crackers are supplied by the Fellowship Committee.

The sign-up is on the wall outside the Kitchen.

May Coffee Hour

May 5
May 12 Second Sunday Breakfast
May 19 Diane Moore
May 26 Karen Menzel & Suzan Wilburn

Second Sunday Breakfast

May 12, 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.

Session met for their regular April meeting April 9, 2024.

Calendar: Rev David Spaulding is preaching on May 5. Communion will be served May 5.

Financial Report: Treasurer Peggy Etheridge reported that the two \$50,000 CD's have been purchased.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Laurie reported she and Faye served shut-in communion to 3 individuals. She attended a planning meeting for Vacation Bible School. This will be ecumenical with First Methodist and Zion Methodist. It will be held July 29 through August 2 in the evening at Zion, starting with a light meal at 5:30. The theme is "Rocky Railroad" for grades Pre-K through 6th. Pastor Laurie will be preaching in her home church on September 8, and will also be absent for November 3 and November 10.

Maintenance and Property: 1) Gary reported that on April 3, water was coming into the basement through the floor drain near the kitchen. He called TJS Excavating to clean out the drain, and the issue has not returned. 2) Ron Blum fixed the door closer on the women's restroom. 3) Gary reattached some loose downspouts. 4) The shingle repairs will take place this coming week. 5) Matt Arjes will be performing routine boiler maintenance. 6) Gary had two estimates for repairs to rotted gutters on the east side: Elite Seamless Gutters-\$8000; Alpha Storm Solutions-\$2376.

Worship and Music: Jacob Schmitt will be playing for worship on April 21, 2024.

Evangelism, Outreach and Missions: 1) In Jessica's absence, Pastor Laurie reported on the success of the egg hunt. With children, parents, and church helpers, it was estimated that 100 people were in attendance. 2) Head Start is now able to have outside visitors. Tuesdays are the selected days, but we need to confirm with Jessica how to facilitate this. 3) The current mission focus is the Pentecost Offering, through May 5. 40% of this offering will remain with our church, earmarked for VBS. 4) Offerings for Abigale's baby bottle campaign will be taken May 12 through June 16.

Pastor Laurie reviewed the results of the all-church discerning meeting and Session agreed to move forward with the top three suggestions:

- 1) Bible verse yard signs with church logo. 4M Graphics was a suggested vendor
 - 2) Saturday morning free breakfast, once a month; 2nd Saturday suggested
 - 3) Coffee time during the week; suggested Tuesdays at 10:30
- The next Session meeting will be Tuesday, May 21, 2024 at 7 pm.

Submitted by Peggy Etheridge, Clerk Pro Tem of Session

Yard Sign Sayings

- PRAYER provides unlimited minutes & guaranteed coverage
- The key to heaven was hung on a nail.
- God saw you do that.
- Now is the time to invest in eternity.
- Need a new life? God does trade-ins.
- Jesus died for you. Why not live for Him?
- Be thankful you don't get what you deserve.
- God made you on purpose for a purpose.
- There is still time to change the road you are on.
- If temptation knocks, let Jesus get the door.
- God loves you whether you like it or not.
- God has answers. Are you listening?
- Solar powered by the Son.
- You can't enter heaven unless Jesus enters you.
- God gives you peace when you go to pieces.
- Faith makes things possible-not easy.
- God always gives enough strength for the next step.
- The Bible doesn't need to be rewritten, just reread.
- God is our wireless provider.
- When life gives you more than you can stand...kneel.
- You are never too lost to be saved.
- Exercise daily. Run from satan. Walk with God.
- God is at the end of your rope.



Stronghold Summer Camp Scholarships

First Presbyterian Church Mendota is offering 10 full scholarships for young people in Mendota to attend a five-day summer camp. Please fill out the camp application form (the center page of the Stronghold Summer Camp booklet) and turn it in to the church office or mail it to:

**First Presbyterian Church
1003 5th Street
Mendota, IL. 61342**

Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. More information is available at www.strongholdcenter.org or by emailing mendotafirstpres@gmail.com

You Are Invited to Go on a Field Trip

The Land and Name Acknowledgement Task Force (LANA) of Blackhawk Presbytery is hosting a Field Trip on Wednesday, June 5 to visit various sites in the Northwest corner of the Presbytery. See the attached flyer or the one posted on our bulletin board for details—all are welcome to join us for the full day or any portion of the day.

“Discovery Guide”

And, LANA is also sharing a “Discovery Guide” of places to visit that will increase our knowledge of the Indigenous people who lived in Illinois before European settlement. We hope that by learning the history of “our” land (before “us”) we can expand our thinking, honor the past, and create a peaceful and just future. We hope this helps you plan an affordable and educational family outing/vacation! See the attached flyer or the one posted on our bulletin board.



Per Capita

2024

Per Capita
is \$43.00
Per Person
Per year

It has been said that **per capita** apportionment is like a utility bill. Just as we pay for heat, light, water, and telephone in order to remain connected to the utility systems and benefit from the services provided, we also pay per capita so that the Presbyterian system can function on behalf of all of us. It is the necessary linkage in our connectional system.

The payment of the per capita apportionment can be seen as a sign of healthy relationships within the church, giving tangible witness to the unity and wholeness promised to us in Jesus Christ, and is a way of sharing the costs that equitably belong to the whole Presbyterian Church.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 6:30p Webelos	3 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3p Unload and stock HOH foods	4
5 10a Worship In-person & Facebook live (Rev. David Spaulding) 11a Fellowship	6	7 11a Produce Sorting 12:30 MAMA	8	9 6:30p Webelos	10 Office Closed	11 8:30 to 9:30a Free Family B reakfast
12 9a Second Sunday Breakfast 10a Worship In-person & Facebook live (Pastor Laurie) 11a Fellowship 	13	14 9:30a Presbytery Meeting Oswego Presbyterian Church	15	16 6:30p Webelos	17 Office Closed 12:30 HOH Pick-up 3p Unload and stock HOH foods	18
19 10a Worship— Honoring Carol & Don Gooden In-person & Facebook live (Pastor Laurie) 11a Fellowship	20	21 11a Produce Sorting 7 PM Session	22 Newsletter Deadline!	23 6:30p Webelos Newsletter Deadline	24 9– Noon Office Hours	24
26 10a Worship In-person & Facebook live (Pastor Laurie) 11a Fellowship	27 Office Closed Memorial Day 	28	29	30 10a Newsletter Folding	31 9– Noon Office Hours	



MAY Birthdays

May 2 Faye Smith
 May 3 Tyler Blum
 May 6 Joanne Wacker
 May 6 Sean Dullard
 May 11 Jamie Stanford
 May 13 Tyler Cox
 May 16 Riley Stanford
 May 20 Dr. Charles Lewis
 May 20 Art Beck
 May 21 Jasmine Matteson
 May 31 Bob Etheridge

MAY Anniversaries

May 27 Jason & Jennifer Donahue
 May 27 Ray & Faye Smith

May Lectionary Readings

May 05—Acts 10:44-48; Psalm 98; Genesis 35:9-15; Psalm 101; 1 John 5:1-6; John 15:9-17
May 12—Acts 1:15-17, 21-26; Psalm 1 or Jeremiah 10:1-10a; Psalm 108; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17:6-19
May 19—Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekial 37:1-14; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:22-27; Acts 2:1-21; John 15: 26-27, 16:4b-15;
May 26—Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 29; Romans 8:12-17; John 3:1-17

Pulpit Supply

May 5—Rev. David Spaulding
May 12—Pastor Laurie Walker
May 19—Pastor Laurie Walker
May 26—Pastor Laurie Walker

Ushers/Communion

May 5—Kay Christen, Carol Erwin
May 12—Suzan Wilburn, Kay Christen
May 19—Gary & Deb Stevens
May 26—Ron & Melissa Blum

Continued Prayers

Julius Hagan—Belgium Missionary
 Kenyan Partners
 Angie (Faye Smith)
 Art Beck
 Dorothy Becker
 Dixie Tonozzi

Finley Walker (*Pastor's Grandson*)
 Janet Sutton
 Jason
 Jim Reilly
 Margina & Larry (*Kay Christen*)
 Mike Boyle

Pam Schmidt
 Pat Schmidt
 Sarah Arter
 Sandy & Donald Schultz
 Tim Sondgeroth
 Trisha Smith





First Presbyterian Church

1003 5th Street

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/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



2024

