



Voice of the Servant



February 2025

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!

FROM THE PASTOR

Church Family and Friends,

I miss all of you! I feel guilty writing to you from warm Arizona, but I am anxious to reach out and let you know that you remain in my heart and prayers. It sounds like you have had your share of cold weather! At least we know February is the last of the worst of winter. And, we have Valentine's Day coming up which will bring warmth to our hearts and the hearts of those we love.

Speaking of Valentine's Day, we have scheduled our Feed It Forward Family Breakfast 8:30-10:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 15. We have refocused our breakfast on supporting our Micropantry and creating a time of fellowship for us and our community. We are planning a valentine activity for the children to teach them that Jesus loves them. Please plan on attending and enjoying pancakes and time with each other.

Super Bowl Sunday, February 9th, is another opportunity to support our Micropantry.

44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?'"

45 "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.'" Matthew 25:44-45

These verses remind us how important our Micropantry and other mission projects are as we see Christ in our neighbors in need. Please consider volunteering to help whenever you can as many hands make light work and the rewards are immeasurable.

Finally, March 23, the first Sunday that I am back with you, we will be changing our worship time to 10:30 a.m. This will enable me to go first to the United Presbyterian Church of Earlville for their 9:00 a.m. service. The sessions of both churches have met together and agreed that both churches would change their worship times by one-half hour. Moving forward, the churches will advertise for a shared pastor. Both churches will maintain their separate Pastor Nominating Committees, who will be in close communication with each other as they go through the pastor search process.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Praying that Christ's love may be shown through you to others and that you may be able to discern God's will in your life and in the life of the church. May God be glorified in us!

By grace together,

Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor





Missions



February 9th—Souper Bowl Sunday—Mission Focus

We will be collecting canned soup or other items along with cash to support the micro pantry ministry. Thank you for your continued support in helping feed those in need.

This was a note on our Micropantry Facebook page.

In my ‘Glory Days’ something for years I took for granted was my garden in my younger years. I would plant a big garden and can my produce and loved a salad before every meal. I loved sharing my vegetables with everyone. Well, now I'm in my 80s and I can't garden anymore. I'm on a fixed income, and well getting around to the store, which is not as easy anymore. Anyhow, what I'm getting at is your vegetables and salads really make my day when that bag comes through my door from a caring friend who picks it up for me. I truly enjoy your giving and all the work that goes on behind the scenes to help make this available for folks like me. I just wanted to say thank you.

Anonymous



Online Giving



Family Breakfast

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Micropantry.
8:30 to 10 AM

Saturday, February 15, 2024

Bring a friend or a neighbor!
Join us for a Valentine craft.



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



Per Capita

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.

Year	Total	Presbytery	Synod	General Assembly
2025	\$44.00	\$29.35	\$3.81	\$10.84



Micropantry



Winter weather—comfort food needs:

Cans with pull tabs to open will be helpful to those who don't have can openers or are homeless. Yes, we have a few who are currently using Micropantry for meals, so be kind when talking or donating.

Hearty Soups	Canned tuna	Stews	Mustard
Boxed meals	Spam	Tuna	Mayo
Fruits	Stuffing	Chicken	Relish
Bar soap	Boxed Meals	Shelf stable milk	Ketchup

We have a temperature controlled cooler so bread, butter, milk, eggs and cheeses are always a blessing to those in need. Thank you to all who help keep this Micropantry going strong.

Please mark you calendars!
March 23, 2025
Fellowship 10:00 AM
Worship will be at 10:30 AM
Second Sunday Breakfast 9:30 M

Fresh Produce Sorting 10 AM

- Tuesdays Produce**
 February 11
 February 25
 March 11
 March 25

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

Hands of Hope (Joliet Pick-up)

February 7 and February 21

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

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.

Coffee Hour

02	Carol Erwin
09	Second Sunday Breakfast
16	
23	Karen Menzel

Second Sunday Breakfast

February 9, Second Sunday Breakfast 9:00 AM
Please bring a goodie or dish to pass.
 We will provide drinks and table service. If you have questions, please contact Diane Moore.

Session met January 14, 2025

Communion will be served February 2. February 15 will be the “Feed It Forward” pancake breakfast. Session was moved to February 18 to accommodate schedules.

PNC Report: Peggy has reached out to Pam at Earlville, they will get together and crunch out a draft MDP to get approved by both churches. Once it is created, it will be submitted to COM. With COM’s approval, it will be posted.

Clerk’s Report: The Annual Congregational Meeting for the purpose of receiving the budget for 2025 and annual reports from 2024 will be February 2 following Worship.

Pastor’s Report: 1) Busy with Presbytery work – moderator of COM. 2) Has received a few phone calls from Mendota while she is in Arizona, which is fine. 3) Regarding Communion with shut-ins. Deacons can take communion elements to shut-ins so that they can participate in communion during the online service. 4) Hoping Deacons will do some visiting while she is away. 5) Asked if she should call anyone in her absence. She will be happy to reach out to, or receive a call from, anyone wanting to talk to her 6) LaVerle is going to be moving back to Earlville.

Property and Maintenance: 1) Gary spoke with the gutter guy regarding the issue on the east side—the flashing goes underneath the slate roof, so he’d have to lift up the slate roof to access the flashing. He is looking for other options.

Worship and Music: 1) David Spaulding did a good job last week. 2) Sundays through Pastor’s return, pulpit supply needs are filled. 3) Worship service time change will begin March 23 with 10:30 AM worship start. 4) We need to work with Pastor Laurie to come up with a new covenanted pastor agreement with her to go through the next year. 5) January 26 Ray will not be here to do the projector, so Donna will not need to do PowerPoints. Can one of our teenagers learn how to use the system for future need if they are interested? Pastor Laurie will reach out to them.

Mission: 1) Blanket offering this month. Last year they did 9825 blankets – never know where they are going to be needed, so it is a good cause to support. 2) Joseph Bundi with our Kenya church partnership and children’s ministry wrote to update the use of funds that we sent. They are helping his ministry, and it continues to grow and have success. Trying to teach trades to the children – one is going to culinary school. Our support is appreciated. 3) Per capita is \$44 this year. We need to make members aware. 4) Next month, Super Bowl Sunday is for support of the Micropantry.

Fellowship and Parish Life: 1) Our Second Sunday breakfast was fantastic! Lots of good food, good attendance, good conversation. 2) Pastor Laurie suggested we do an activity at Pancake Breakfast for children to do. 3) Pancake Breakfast will be the third Saturday of each month 8:30 AM—10:30 AM. 4) We need volunteers from the Deacons to put up signs each month.

Session will have their next regular meeting February 18 at 7 PM at the church.

Submitted by :

Kim Van Rheenen



Gift of Prayer

Prayer Warrior's

Pray daily for your secret Prayer Warrior. Maybe send a card from time to time to let them know they are in your thoughts and prayers. **If you want to leave a card or small gift, you can leave it on the table in fellowship hall.**

Evangelism and Outreach Committee

Installation and Ordination of Officers



Bill Bratney, Joni Bratney, Ron Blum, Kevin Goy, Betty Baumann, Pastor Laurie, Kim Van Rheenen



Thank you from Marion Medical Mission for the \$1,400 gift for wells. 2024—450,000 people in Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania and Mozambique received a sustainable source of safe drinking water. A MMM well is built for an entire rural village for just \$475. Thank you for loving your neighbors.



Thank you for your generous support for CWS Blankets. We raised \$220



Thank you for all the cards and well wishes for my 99th birthday. I am blessed to have such a caring church family.
Joyce Burrigth



Lectionary Readings

02—Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, 1 Corinthians 13:1-13, Luke 4:21-30
09—Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13), Psalm 138, 1 Corinthians 15:1-11, Luke 5:1-11
16—Jeremiah 17:5-10, Psalm 1, 1 Corinthians 15:12-20, Luke 6:17-26
23—Genesis 45:3-11, Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50, Luke 6:27-38



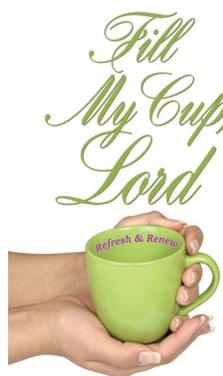
2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 10a Worship/Communion (David Spaulding) 11:00 a Annual Congregational Meeting	3	4 12:30 MAMA 1p PEO	5	6 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	7 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3p Unload and stock HOH foods	8
9 9a Second Sunday Breakfast 10a Worship (Cathy Burke)	10	11 10a Produce Sorting 5:30p Presbytery Zoom Meeting	12	13 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	14 Office Closed 	15 8:30a—10a Family Pancake Breakfast & Craft
16 10a Worship (Cathy Burke) 11a Fellowship	17 Office Closed Presidents Day	18 7p Session	19	20 Newsletter Deadline 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	21 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3p Unload and stock HOH foods	22
23 10a Worship (Jeff Roman) 11a Fellowship	24	25 10-a Produce Sorting	26	27 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	28 9 - Noon Office Hours 10 AM Newsletter Folding	



February Birthdays

- 02 Joni Bratney
- 09 Ron Blum
- 14 Gary Holland
- 17 Trenton Sanford
- 21 Erwin Stanford
- 22 Travis Van Rheen
- 26 Laura Fisher



**Every Thursday
at 10 AM**
Come and gather with us for tea, coffee, hot chocolate and conversation.
All are welcome.

Ushers

- 02 Kay Christen, Carol Erwin
- 09 Faye Smith, Lucille Knuth
- 16 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 23 Kevin & Ann Goy



LaVerle Carter's New Mailing Address

PO Box 353
Earlville, IL 60518

Pianists

- 02 Peggy Etheridge
- 09 Peggy Etheridge
- 16 Jake Schmitt
- 23 Jake Schmitt

Continued Daily Prayers

Julius Hagan—Belgian Missionary Kenyan Partners
Angie (Faye Smith)
Cassandra Jungnickel
Diane Moore
Dixie Tonozzi (Ray Smith)
Fin (Pastor Laurie's grandson)

Janet Sutton
Jason
Jim Reilly
John Pohl
Margina & Larry (Kay Christen)
Mike Boyle
Pam Schmidt

Pat Schmidt
Sarah Arter
Sandy & Donald Schultz
Cheri DeLong (Kay Christen)
Trisha Smith



Pulpit Supply February

- 02 Rev. David Spaulding
- 09 Cathy Burke
- 16 Cathy Burke
- 23 Pastor Jeff Roman

**Income and Expenses at
First Presbyterian
December 2024**

	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$9,938	\$119,260
Income	\$7,811	\$96,415
Expenses	\$9,175	\$76,489
Reserves	\$-	\$-

**2025 Per Capita
\$44 per person yearly**



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

Worship Time Change!
March 23, 2025
 Fellowship will be at 10 AM
 Worship will be at 10:30 AM
 Second Sunday Breakfast 9:30 AM

