



# Voice of the Servant



# 2025

## FROM THE PASTOR

### Points of Interest:

- ◆ Camp Scholarships, Pg. 2
- ◆ VBS information Pg. 2
- ◆ Micropantry needs, Pg. 3
- ◆ Mendota Prayer Night, Pg. 3
- ◆ Session Highlights, Pg. 4B
- ◆ Bible Trivia, Pg 5



### 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,

I have a wonderful treat for you to start the month of June. A dear friend of mine, Rev. Joseph M'buru from Kenya, will be with me in the pulpit on June 1. I can remember very well the first time I heard him preach in Kenya and I will share more about that on Sunday. Pastor Joe is in the states studying for his master's degree at Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Later in June he will be serving as the supply pastor for First Presbyterian Church in Rochelle until he returns to seminary for his fall classes.

The second Sunday in June is Pentecost Sunday, the fiftieth day after Easter and the end of the Easter season. Pentecost marks the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the believers and is celebrated as the birth of the church. Think about what a tremendous blessing it is to have the Holy Spirit as our comforter and our advocate. The Holy Spirit unites us, helps us understand our calling, and empowers us to advance the work of Jesus in our day. May the Spirit lead us and inspire us as we work together as God's family...

*For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. (Romans 8:14)*

Please help us to continue to reach out to the young people in our community to encourage them to take advantage of the Stronghold Camp scholarships we are offering. Numerous camps are offered for different ages and for different interests. See the camp flyers on the church table or go to <https://strongholdcenter.org/Summer-Camp> We also need help recruiting students for confirmation classes. At this time, we have a few high schoolers and middle schoolers who have expressed interest. Classes will be held on Sundays, right after church. This is a great way for young people to learn more about the church and decide if they want to make the commitment to be part of God's church family.

Finally, Vacation Bible School will be held July 20-24. We will be working with First United Methodist and Zion United Methodist to reach as many young people as possible. Please consider volunteering in one of the areas listed on the sign-up sheet.

*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. (John 14:26)*

By grace together,  
Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor





**Family Breakfast**  
 Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Micropantry.  
 8:30 to 10 AM  
**Saturday,**  
**June 21, 2024**



**Bring a friend or a neighbor!**  
**Join us for a Craft.**

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



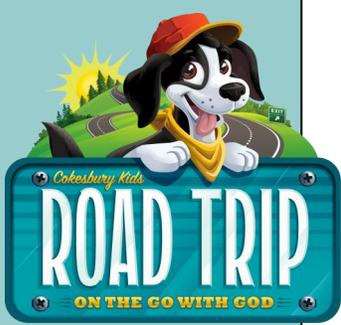
**BABY BOTTLE  
 CAMPAIGN**

**Missions**

**June 15, Father's Day**  
 Please return your filled baby bottles,  
 for Abigails yearly fundraiser.

**Recital/ Ice Cream social**

The church was filled with  
 approximately 60 people to en-  
 joy the youth playing the piano  
 followed by an ice cream social.  
 Thank you all who attended.  
 The youth did a wonderful job.



**VBS**

**July 20 through July 24**  
**July 20 is Opening Night at**  
 First UMC  
 100 E. 6th Street  
 5:30 to 6:30 PM  
**Hot dogs, fun and chips.**

**VBS will begin**  
**July 21 to 24 5:30 to 7:15**



**STRONGHOLD  
 SUMMER CAMP  
 2025**

**\*OVERNIGHT CAMPS  
 \*DAY CAMPS  
 \*GRANDCAMP  
 \*FAMILY CAMP  
 WEEKENDS**

First  
 Presbyterian  
 Church is  
 offering **10**  
**scholarships**  
 for children  
 and youth who  
 wish to go to  
 Stronghold  
 Summer  
 Camps.  
 June 15  
 through July 27

Register online  
[https://  
 stronghold-  
 center.org/  
 Summer-  
 Camp](https://stronghold-center.org/Summer-Camp)



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.

Spaghetti Sauce  
Canned Meats,  
Mayonnaise

Peanut Butter  
Canned Mixed Veggies  
Gravy Packets

Hearty Soups  
Canned Peas

Basic hygiene items are always needed. Shampoo, deodorant, soaps, shaving cream, razors, hand creams.

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.

## Hands of Hope (Joliet Pick-up)

**June 6 and June 20**

**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.**



## Produce Sorting

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

### Tuesdays Produce

June 3  
June 17  
July 1  
July 15

OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC

# MENDOTA PRAYER NIGHT

COME TOGETHER TO PRAY FOR  
THE CITY OF MENDOTA  
FAMILY, FRIENDS, BUSINESSES,  
COMMUNITY, AND FOR REVIVAL



**THURS., JUNE 5 2025**

684 8<sup>TH</sup> STREET  
MEET IN THE CHAPEL NEAR  
TRAIN DEPOT MUSEUM

**6-7PM**

OPEN TIME FOR PRAYER

**7-8 PM**

GROUP PRAYER AND WORSHIP



Contact Annie Short.  
920-242-9881 or [annieshort.hope@gmail.com](mailto:annieshort.hope@gmail.com)

## Weekly Coffee Hour 9:45 AM

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.**

## Second Sunday Breakfast

June 8, Second Sunday Breakfast  
9:30 AM

**Please bring a goodie or dish to pass.**

We will provide drinks and table service.

If you have questions, please contact Joni Bratney.

**PNC Report:** We received 14 initial matches. Of those, 3 replied yes to our invitation, 7 declined, and 4 did not respond. We've had a delay with the Earlville ONC not being able to access the CLC site, which I didn't realize until yesterday. That issue has been resolved so we are planning a joint meeting soon to discuss candidates and procedures.

**Presbytery Report:** 1) was held today and was the best Presbytery meeting she has attended. The speaker was a descendant of Blackhawk. She spoke about their way of praying and being with the Spirit. She will be invited to the September Presbytery meeting. 2) They approved a revised time frame for FMLA. It is now 12 weeks of FMLA to a pastor who needs it. 3) Created an administrative commission for Somonauk Church, as they have learned their church structure is failing.

**Communications:** 1) Donna is waiting for a response from Frontier 2) Elevator reinspection has been delayed until the alarm company and elevator company can meet. 3) Received a request to rent the Chamber of Commerce grill for the DAR and Community UMC of LaMoille, Session approved. 4) Session granted vacation to Donna June 9-11.

**Financial Report:** expenses are higher than income for the month. But we are okay year-to-date.

**Pastor's Report:** 1) VBS – signup sheet is out for volunteers. 2) Trying to combine trips as much as possible for going to both Mendota and Earlville people. Or if there are any special needs. If somebody needs a visit, let her know. 3) Organ repair investigation: Pastor spoke with former organist Corinne Sester. The man who sold the organ to the church originally came and looked at it. This one will take more than \$10,000 in repairs to make it usable. It is not worth putting that much into, given its age. He has used organs for around \$25,000. New would be \$60-60 K. Pastor will give Donna the contact info to put on file, should we find the money to buy a new one. 4) Confirmation: texted for point of contact for three high school kids. All the kids are pretty busy, so are wondering if they can join in. Pastor Laurie talked with Jessica about Keagon and Jacob time availabilities. Will need mentors and help with lunch 5) Pastor Joseph will be staying in the U.S. for the summer, he's on a student visa. Can he preach on Sunday? Session voiced their approval.

**Property and Maintenance:** 1) Donna is still working on elevator work scheduling. 2) Passed our annual backflow test 3) Matt Arjes came and did the annual boiler maintenance. 3) A light bulb on the porch needs changed. 4) Still fighting with the gutter company. Need to have the gutters removed, which was what the original plan was. 5) We need a new flag. 6) Lawn – chuck is mowing in May and Andra will mow in June. Chuck again in July. Ron will look at the push mower.

**Christian Education:** 1) lessons through the 8<sup>th</sup> of June are ready. Still using Feasting On the Word curriculum. 2) There has been interest in an Adult Sunday school or Bible study. We have discussed using Daniel Stevens' new book as a study guide. I should put up a signup sheet on the Fellowship Table.

**Worship and Music:** Pastor Laurie plans to be gone July 27 – Cathy Burke will serve as pulpit supply

**Evangelism and Outreach:** 1) Head Start preschool was looking for riding cars (Cozy Coupes) preschool. Jessica used some of the funds to buy a car for the preschool 2) Piano recital was great! 68 people in attendance. 3) One child at the easter egg hunt received a church tour from Keagon. Jessica and Keagon ran into him at Walmart and the boy gave Keagon a hug. It was a great experience. 4) Has been taking Keagon to Harvest Church in Sandwich. He is very excited to have the opportunity to talk with other kids about God. They have been trying to make worship there and here both work. Keagon wants to go to 8 AM worship and is excited to go church at Harvest and then come here to worship with us. 5) Jessica needs to step back from some things to make her life work better. She needs to step back from some duties here at church. Has spoken with Kim about taking the reins for the pantry management. Not going to be doing VBS. Will need to back away some from some of the Evangelism and Outreach duties. 6) Will need help with recording the worship service.

**Mission:** awarded the 6 for 6 missions giving an award at today's Presbytery meeting. 17 of the 62 churches in our presbytery received it. 2) Pentecost offering through June 8. (Pentecost Sunday) – 40 % of that offering stays in our church. 3) Kenya trip scheduled for next fall. 4) Baby bottles will be collected on Father's Day.

**Fellowship and Parish Life:** Fellowship is going great – much more casual now. But 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday breakfast people are just not attending. Pancake breakfast was wonderful last month. We had a lot of people here, but part of that was probably due to the Easter Egg Hunt

**New Business:** suggested logo with "To God Be the Glory" and music notes for our media box in front of the church by the curb. Bill closed our meeting with prayer. Session's next regular meeting will be held on June 10 at 7 PM at the church.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Marie Van Rheenen, Clerk of Session



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*

## June Lectionary Readings

June 01—Acts 16:16-34, Psalm 97, 2 Kings 2:1-15, Psalm 2, Revelations 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21, John 17:20-26

June 08—Acts 2:1-21, Genesis 11:1-9, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:14-17, Acts 2:1-21, John 14:8-17

June 15—Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31, Psalm 8, Romans 5:1-5, John 16:12-15

June 22—1 Kings 19:1-4 (5-7) 8-15, Psalm 42, and 43, Isaiah 65: 1-9, Psalm 22:19-28, Galatians 3:23-29, Luke 8:26-39

June 29—2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14, Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20, 1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21, Psalm 16, Galatians 5:1, 13-25, Luke 9:51-62

### What is Juneteenth?

#### June 19th

In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared a formal end to slavery in the United States. However, change was not instant after the proclamation. Nearly two and a half years later, on June 19th, 1865, the enslaved African Americans of Galveston, Texas got the news by way of the Union army troops that freedom had come at last.

The next year, the people of Galveston commemorated that day as Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom. Since then, it's been observed in communities and states as a holiday but was not officially recognized as a federal holiday in 2021.

Why is the holiday called Juneteenth? The name blends the month and the day this news reached the people of Galveston: "June" plus "nineteenth" is Juneteenth. It's also often called Emancipation Day or Freedom Day.



- 1) The Sabeans took his oxen and his donkeys, the lightning killed his sheep, the Chaldeans stole his camels and his servants were killed. To whom did all these things happen?
- 2) What Bible character was called "The Gloomy Prophet?"
- 3) To whom were the following words addressed? "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee."
- 4) How many of Jesus' brothers wrote books of the Bible?

*You can find the answers in the following scriptures:*

*Matthew 13:55, Jeremiah 25:11, Job 1:14-19, Genesis 12:1*

# JUNE

# 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<b>1</b> 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 11a Produce Sorting	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	<b>6</b> Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3p Unload and stock HOH foods	<b>7</b>	
<b>8</b> 9:30a Second Sunday Breakfast 10:30a Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7p Session	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 10a "Fill My Cup"	<b>13</b> Office Closed	<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b> <b>Father's Day</b> 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 11a Produce Sorting	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> <b>Juneteenth</b> 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	<b>20</b> Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3p Unload and stock HOH foods <b>Newsletter            Deadline</b>	<b>21</b> 8:30a—10a Family Pancake Breakfast & Craft	
<b>22</b> 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> <b>9a Newsletter            folding</b> 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	<b>27</b> 9-Noon Office Hours	<b>28</b>	
<b>29</b> 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	<b>30</b>	<p>There will be a combined <b>July/August</b> Newsletter the end of this month. Please get any information for the next two months to me ASAP.</p> <p>Thank you, Donna</p>					



**Online Giving**

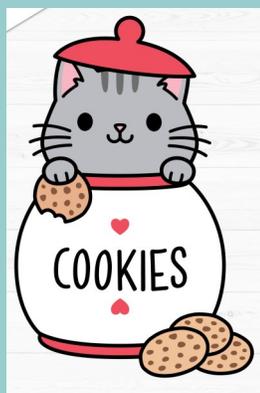


**New Address**

**Suzan Wilburn**

**241 FM 21**

**Pittsburg, TX 75686**



**June Birthdays**

- 08 Paula Presley
- 10 Judy Holland
- 23 Jessica Cox

**June Anniversaries**

- 04 Gary & Deb Stevens
- 18 Chuck & Betty Baumann
- 21 Stephen & Debra Dullard
- 29 Kevin & Susan Kilanowski

**Coffee Hour**

- 01 Tess Heckert
- 08 **Second Sunday Breakfast**
- 15
- 22
- 29

**Continued Daily Prayers**

**Julius Hagan—Belgian Missionary**  
**Kenyan Partners**  
 Angie (Faye Smith)  
 Diane Moore  
 Dixie Tonozzi (Ray Smith)  
 Eileen (Moriah's Grandmother)  
 Finn (Pastor Laurie grandson)

**Jason**  
 Joe (Cindy's boyfriend)  
 John Pohl  
 Kelly (Gary & Debbie's friend)  
 Margina & Larry (Kay Christen)  
 Mike Boyle  
 Pam Schmidt

**Pastor Dave Spaulding's brother**  
**Pat Schmidt**  
 Sarah Arter  
 Sandy & Donald Schultz  
 Cheri DeLong (Kay Christen's)  
 Tim Sondgeroth  
 Trisha Smith

*Fill My Cup, Lord*



**Every Thursday at 10 AM**

Come and gather with us for tea, coffee, hot chocolate and conversation. All are welcome.

**Ushers**

- 01 Kay Christen
- 08 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 15 Faye Smith
- 22 Kevin & Ann Goy
- 29 Bill & Joni Bratney



**Pianists**

- 01 Peggy Etheridge
- 08 Jake Schmitt
- 15 Jake Schmitt
- 22 Laura Sutton
- 29 Peggy Etheridge

**Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian April 2025**

	MTD
Budget	\$7,702
Income	\$5,508
Expenses	\$6,584
Reserves	\$-

**Per Capita**

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





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



Label

In-Person and [www.facebook.com/fpcmendota](http://www.facebook.com/fpcmendota)

**Fellowship will be at 9:45 AM**  
**Worship will be at 10:30 AM**  
**Second Sunday Breakfast 9:30 AM**



**2025**

