



Voice of the Servant



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!



Church Family and Friends,

It is so wonderful to be back worshipping with you! This is my favorite time of year as the sun gets warmer and the grass gets greener, the anticipation of spring typifies the arrival of Easter. When we forget the good news of our faith, the spring rains and budding plants remind us of the gift of life we have in Jesus.

Not to get ahead of ourselves, as we continue to journey with Jesus to the cross, we have the opportunity to fully realize who Jesus is and consequently, who we are. My hope is that as part of your journey, you will make time to attend our Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services; and our Saturday Family Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt, and of course our Easter Service.

Palm Sunday we will have our traditional palms and think about how we welcome Jesus into our lives. Do we roll out the red carpet or do we forget to invite Him?

Maundy Thursday we will have our own service at 7:00 pm. The service will include sharing communion reminiscent of the Lord's Last Supper and will end with the stripping the church of its vestments. Time spent at this reverent service deepens the experience of Easter morning.

Good Friday we have been invited to worship at First United Methodist Church at 7:00 pm. This will be an opportunity to worship with our neighbors on this solemn day to reflect on Jesus betrayal and crucifixion.

Saturday Family Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt is a great opportunity to bring your extended family, friends, and neighbors for a fun time of fellowship. I look forward to sharing the Easter story with all the children some of whom will hear it for the first time!

Easter Sunday we will welcome the choir from Earlville UPC (and perhaps some of you) as they join us with some special music. What a joy it will be to praise God together for sending His Son to live and die for us that we might share in the joy of the resurrection and the promise of eternal life.

Luke 24:7-8 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.' " Then they remembered his words.

This Lenten season may we remember His words and make time to walk with Jesus and experience the joy of the resurrection!

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, April 19, 2024

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

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



**EASTER
EGG
HUNT**

Easter Egg Hunt
10 AM
April 19

Missions

Lenten Worship Services

10:30 AM Palm Sunday April 13

7 PM Maundy Thursday-First Pres. Church
April 17

7 PM Good Friday-First United Methodist
April 18

10:30 AM Easter Sunday, April 20



**WE ARE
THERE**

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for justice, resilience, and sustainability.

**PLEASE GIVE
GENEROUSLY.**

MARCH 5 - APRIL 20, 2025  **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

Dear Session,

Thank you for my HYMNL.

I will try to learn the songs we play on SUNDAY so I can play them when we don't have a piano player. I thought that it would not be fun but it is fun. I learned the HYMNL has 7 indexes and O to JOY has 3 ways to sing it. I have been trying to learn play be to the father. It was hard at first but then it got easier. It is helping me learn music notes faster. Thank you so much for my Hymn!

FROM Reagan

Gay



Micropantry



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 |
| Cake mix | Cookie Mix | Frosting | Basic Biscuit mix |

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)

April 4 and April 18

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

- April 8
- April 22
- May 6
- May 20



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- April 17 Maundy Thursday, 7 PM First Presbyterian
- April 18 Good Friday, 7 PM First United Methodist
- April 13 Palm Sunday, 10:30 AM First Presbyterian
- April 20 Easter Sunday, 10:30 AM First Presbyterian

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

- 06 Melissa & Ron Blum
- 13 Second Sunday 9:30 AM
- 20
- 27 Rosemary Hamel

Second Sunday Breakfast

April 13, 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.

Session met March 11 at the church.

Pastor Laurie opened our meeting with a devotion based on God's promise found in Isaiah 41:9, that He is with us, and will strengthen and uphold us. She then led us in prayer.

Calendar: Communion will be served April 6. Volunteers will be stuffing Easter eggs Tuesday, April 15 at 1 PM for the April 19 pancake breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt.

PNC Report: Lisa from Earlville just sent Peggy their MDP. Peggy will review it this week and then it will be sending it to COM for their approval. Session will then vote via email.

Presbytery Report: next meeting is May 13.

Communications: 1) Donna's notes a: Fred Robertson seeking a church to partner with him in serving the children of Mendota—has worked with Holy Cross in the past, b: Surf will have to return with two technicians, c: we have received the addition to the insurance policy, listing the new copier, as required by our lease contract, 2) The church and Session received a nice note from Keagon Cox thanking us for the hymnal we gave him so he could practice some of the songs he hears in Worship on Sunday. He has been working on Glory Be to the Father and Ode to Joy.

Financial Report: The report was received into our records.

Pastor's Report: 1) reached out by phone to some members 2) will be back in Illinois March 22 and in church on March 23 3) two churches in Blackhawk Presbytery have just filled their pulpit.

Property and Maintenance: 1) At Gary's request, Donna signed the addendum to the contract for the roof. They will put us on their schedule and get the work done. 2) haven't caught the bat yet.

Christian Education: 1) Sandy reported that while we had discussed a change to the Sunday School schedule, it has been decided to leave it the same as it is for now. 2) She also talked about an incident at her son's church. Our Safe Sanctuary policy sets standards for safe student attendance. We brainstormed as to possible improvements to our arrangements. Will continue in this discussion. 3) Session approved offering 10 Stronghold scholarships to area students again this year, with funds coming from our designated scholarship line item.

Worship and Music: Bill attended the opening of the Earlville Session meeting and presented the covenant that has been developed for securing Pastor Laurie's presence with both churches for the next year.

Evangelism and Outreach: 1) Got some more of the paper airplane messages from area family in the pantry. It is nice to be in communication with them. 2) Jessica is glad people are sharing the church posts on Facebook 3) she's working on a flyer to put in the Easter bags of activities coming up here 4) considering having the other churches collect supplies for the Micropantry on a rotational basis.

Mission: Presbytery is doing a Kenya trip. Pastor Laurie would like to have someone from Mendota First apply to go. Fill out an application if you are interested. 2) Currently doing One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

Fellowship and Parish Life: 1) Everything is going great. 2) Joyce's funeral dinner was a wonderful thing for the family. They were able to be together and share memories and good fellowship.

New Business: April 13 Sandy's family will be here to celebrate her 80th birthday. Sandy would like to request use of the church for the gathering. Sullivan's will cater a dinner. Session granted use of the church on April 13 by Sandy Rebolz for her family birthday celebration.

Respectfully submitted,
Kim Marie Van Rheenen, Clerk of Session



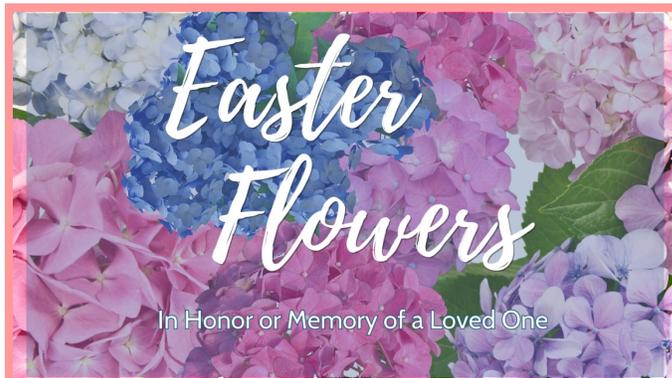
Prayer Warrior's

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

April Lectionary Readings

06—Isiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126, Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8
13—Luke 19:28-40, Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29, Isaiah 50:4-9a, Psalm 31:9-16, Philippians 2:5-11, Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49
20—Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25, Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24, 1 Corinthians 15:19-26, Acts 10:34-43, John 20:1-18, Luke 24:1-12; evening Isaiah 25:6-9, Psalm 114, 1 Corinthians 5:6b-8, Luke 24:13-49
27—Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-29, Psalm 150, 2 Kings 7:1-16, Psalm 2; Revelations 1:4-8, John 20:19-31



Easter Flowers in Memory and Honor of loved ones

Art Beck	In Memory of Marjorie A. Beck
Bill & Joni Bratney	In Honor of Our Church Family
Kay Christen	In Memory of Larry Christen
Debra Lewis & Kay Christien	In Memory of Chuck and Margo Lewis
Carol Erwin	In Memory of Stanley & David Erwin
Kevin & Ann Goy	In Memory of Loved Ones
Rosemary Hamel	In Memory of Jack
Sandy Rebholz	In Memory of Ray Rebholz
Ray & Faye Smith	In Memory of Loved Ones

APRIL

2025

Sun	Mo	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 10a "Fill My Cup"	4 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3p Unload and stock HOH foods	5
6 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion <i>(Laurie Walker)</i>	7	8 10a Produce Sorting 12:30 MAMA 6:30p VBS Meeting FUMC 7p Session	9	10 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	11 Office Closed	
13 Palm Sunday 9:30 a Second Sunday Breakfast 10:30a Worship <i>(Laurie Walker)</i>	14	15 1p Fill Easter Eggs 	16	17 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos 7p Maundy Thursday FPC	18 Good Friday Office Closed Newsletter Deadline 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3p Unload and stock HOH foods	19 8:30a—10a Family Pancake Breakfast & Easter Craft 10a Easter Egg Hunt
20 Easter Sunday 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship <i>(Laurie Walker)</i> 	21	22 	23	24 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	25 9-Noon Office Hours 10a Newsletter Folding	26
27 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship <i>(Laurie Walker)</i> 	28	29 10-a Produce Sorting	30			

Online Giving



Birthdays

- 02 Diane Moore
- 06 Cyrus Matheson
- 10 Kenny Van Rheenen
- 10 Corinne Shotliff
- 14 Madra Fischer
- 14 Sandy Rebholz
- 15 Ev McNutt
- 20 Pok Minder
- 20 Melissa Blum
- 25 Chuck Baumann

April Anniversaries

- 02 Kevin & Ann Goy

In Our Deepest Sympathy

Ron Laatz —*Diane Truckenbrod's Brother*

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

- 06 Kay Christen
- 13 Ron & Melissa Blum
- 20 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 27 Kevin & Ann Goy



Pianists

- 06 Peggy Etheridge
- 13 Jake Schmitt
- 20 Brady Hughes
- 27 Laura Sutton

Continued Daily Prayers

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

Janet Sutton
Jason
Jim Reilly
John Pohl
Kelly (*Gary & Debbie's friend*)
Margina & Larry (*Kay Christen*)
Matt Conrad (*Nancy Huss*)
Mike Boyle

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

Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian February 2025

	MTD
Budget	\$ 7,702
Income	\$6,155
Expenses	\$6,534
Reserves	\$-

Per Capita

2025 Per Capita \$44 per person yearly

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





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



Label

In-Person and www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

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

APRIL
 2025

