



# Voice of the Servant



# July & AUGUST 2025

### Points of Interest:

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- Aug. 10 Worship, Pg. 2
- Micropantry, Pg. 3
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## A NOTE FROM YOUR PASTOR

Church Family and Friends,

The summer is flying by and each day is shorter than the day before. Make sure you make the most of our beautiful summertime. Take time to take in the beauty of God's creation, smell the flowers, enjoy the sunsets, and go fishing. Yes, fishing! I have already helped my grandson catch a small catfish, but what I really look forward to is fishing for souls. Following are four fishing opportunities for you...

*"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will send you out to fish for people." Matthew 4:19*

Join us and invite a friend to our summer Bible Study on Wednesdays starting July 9 at 3:30. We will be reading and discussing Songs of the Son: Reading the Psalms with the Author of Hebrews by Daniel Stevens, son of Gary and Debbie Stevens. Knowing the author will be a special advantage to us as we hope to interact with him at some point in our study.

Come hungry and let others know about our monthly family breakfast. It is a chance to pay it forward by bringing items for our micro-pantry. We have kids' activities available and time to visit with a variety of folks from our community. The next breakfasts are July 19 and August 23.

Please recruit children to attend this year's Vacation Bible School July 20-24 at the First United Methodist Church. Please consider volunteering as a helper or making a financial contribution as we attempt to offer a free VBS experience to the children in our community. The theme is "Road Trip: On the Go With God."

Finally, plan to attend and bring a neighbor to the Sweet Corn Festival Worship Service at 9:30 am August 10 at Immanuel Lutheran Church (398 Church Road, Compton). This will be a wonderful opportunity to combine our voices in worshipping our God together. It will make God smile to have us act as one.

*There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28*

By grace together,  
Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor





### Family Breakfast

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Micropantry.

8:30 to 10 AM

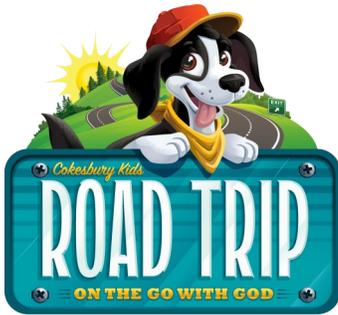
**Saturday,  
July 19, 2024  
August 23, 2025**



**Bring a friend.  
Join us for a Craft.**

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

### Missions Focus for July is VBS



### 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



We will be collecting the following hygiene supplies for our area schools:

- \*Deodorant
- \*Shampoo/Conditioner
- \*Swallow Safe Toothpaste
- \*Toothbrushes
- \*Mouthwash
- \*Soap/body wash
- \*Combs/Brushes
- \*Toothpaste
- \*Tear Free Shampoo/Conditioner
- \*Handi Wipes/Baby Wipes

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16

The Mendota Area Ministerial Association invites you to

## SWEET CORN FESTIVAL WORSHIP

Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
398 Church Road, Compton

*Join us under tents by the cornfields to celebrate  
community in Jesus' name and raise our voices  
in praise and thanksgiving.*

Lawn chairs are encouraged; folding chairs are available.

Offerings will support the  
Mendota Good Samaritan Fund





Please note the pick up days have changed in July



Hands of Hope (Joliet Pick-up)

July 11 and July 25

August 1 August 15



Hands of Hope of Illinois is a food network and ministry striving to assist in God's business of caring for his children. Our main objective is to share the gospel through the giving of food. In church and places of worship you can read and learn the Gospel. At Hands of Hope of Illinois we live and experience the Gospel every day. Through networking with local business and other food ministries we are able to provide food, clothing, household goods, medical supplies and sometimes building materials to those in need.

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.

Micropantry Needs for July/August

- Hearty Soups
- Peanut butter
- Gravy packets
- Canned fruits
- Ramen
- Canned meats
- Shelf-stable milk
- Fruit snacks
- Spices
- Cooking Oil



**Adult Bible Study**

**Every Wednesday**

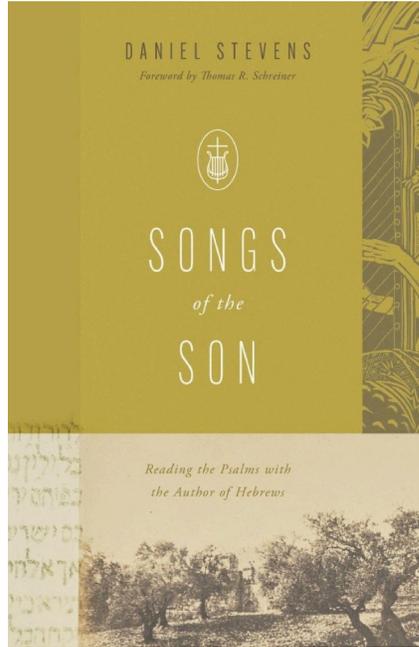
**Beginning July 9, 3:30 to 4:30 PM**

We will be using Daniel Stevens book

“Songs of the Son.”

Daniel is the son of

Gary and Debbie Stevens.



**Theological and Devotional Reading of the Psalms through a New Testament Lens**

The book of Psalms expresses our human experiences through its beautiful prose. But this Old Testament book is more than just relatable poetry—it reveals a rich theology of God, the nature and work of Jesus, and Christ’s voice hidden in Scripture. The Psalms are the songs of the Son. But how can these songs point to Jesus if they were transcribed centuries before his life and death on the cross?

Songs of the Son explores 9 psalms cited in Hebrews. Each chapter focuses on a single psalm—exploring its role in the argument of the Hebrews, uncovering the psalm’s central themes, and then reexamining the psalm through the lens of Hebrews’ interpretation. Ultimately, readers will gain a better understanding of the Psalter and discover how all Scripture, including the Old Testament, reveals the preincarnate glory of Christ.

**Biblical Study on Psalms:** Examines the themes of the Psalms and how the Bible presents Jesus in the Psalter.

**Perfect for Small-Group Study:** Contains short chapters and reflection questions that make it suitable for weekly Bible study.

**Format that Prompts Rereading:** Each chapter looks at every psalm twice, allowing readers to fully grasp the meaning of the psalm through Hebrew's interpretive lens.

**Accessible:** Written for everyday Christians who want to explore the book of Psalms on a deeper level.

**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.**



**“Fill My Cup”  
Thursday’s at 10 AM**

All are welcome to fill their cups with caring, coffee and tea.

**Second Sunday Breakfast**

**Second Sunday Breakfast  
July 13**

**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.

**No Second Sunday Breakfast  
August 10**

**We will be worshipping at Immanuel Lutheran in Compton.**

**No Worship at First Pres.**

The Session of Mendota First Presbyterian Church met for their regular June 2025 meeting on June 10, 2025 at 7 PM at the church. Present were Elders: Ron Blum, Bill Bratney, Andra Goy, Sandy Rebholz; Moderator Pastor Laurie Walker; and Clerk of Session Kim Van Rheen. Excused were Elders Jessica Cox, Joni Bratney, and Gary Stevens and Treasurer Peggy Etheridge. A Quorum of Elders were present. Pastor Laurie opened our meeting with a devotion based on John 14. Jesus has promised always to be in us and us in him, through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit I always with us, in us, and surrounding us. She reminded us about the concept of holy indifference – letting go of our own will and seeking and following God’s will.

**Adoption of the Agenda and Reading and Approval of the Minutes:** The Agenda was adopted by consensus. Minutes were approved by unanimous assent.

**Calendar:** Communion will be served July 6.

**PNC Report:** They are having 3 candidate interviews and will have more to report when the interviews are complete.

**Presbytery Report:** The next Presbytery meeting will be in September.

**Communications:** 1) We received a request from PEO to use our church for their meeting on February 3 and March 3. Sandy made the motion to grant use of space to PEO February 3 and March 3, 2026. Ron seconded the motion, and it passed. 2) Joni received a call from former member Phyllis Anderson letting her know that David’s mother, Virginia May Anderson, had died recently at the age of 103.

**Clerk’s Report:** nothing

**Financial Report:** As Peggy is excused, we will receive her report next month.

**Pastor’s Report:** 1) no progress to report on confirmation. PC USA has new curriculum focused on Mission—Faith In Action, rather than focusing solely on membership as the goal. 2) Regarding the Corn Festival Community Worship service—It will be hosted by Compton Immanuel Lutheran Church and their pastor Jeff Schlesinger on August 10 at 9:30 AM. There will not be a worship service here that week. People could carpool and are invited to bring a lawn chair, as it will be an outdoors service. 3) There will be another community prayer service on July 31 at the train museum chapel. 4) Pastor Laurie served communion to two shut-ins this month.

**Budget & Stewardship:** nothing

**Property and Maintenance:** 1) Donna is still working on elevator work. ADT & the elevator company both need to inspect the elevator at the same time. 2) all 4 air conditioners need to be inspected for the year. Ron made the motion to approve that the units be inspected and repaired as necessary. Bill seconded the motion, and it passed. 3) Our boiler passed inspection today.

**Christian Education:** 1) Andra downloaded the summer Sunday school curriculum and it is ready to go beginning June 15. 2) Adult Bible study will begin July 9<sup>th</sup> at the church from 3:30-4:30 PM. We will be using Daniel Stevens’ book Songs of the Son. 3) Abe and Gracie have signed up to help with VBS.

**Personnel and Pastoral Relations:** Donna and Dave are still looking for a home.

**Worship and Music:** 1) Donna is gone the first part of this week, so Bill will work on Power Point review on Thursday. 2) Cathy Burke will serve as pulpit supply on July 29.

**Evangelism and Outreach:** 1) Had a great blessing through Sullivan’s Grocery. Was able to buy 80 jars of peanut butter for the Micropantry for a wonderfully low price, thanks to their generosity.

**Mission:** 1) We have completed the Pentecost offering. 2) For July our mission focus will be VBS. 3) Regarding the annual \$1000 mission gift from Roslie McLaughlin’s bequest. Andra made the motion to use the annual gift to further the work of education through our partner church in Kenya, Sandy seconded the motion, and it passed. 4) The Bottles for Change for Abigail’s Women’s Clinic will be turned in on Father’s Day. 5) Andra talked with Amy Brewer regarding the artwork for our Surf Media box. 6) Andra updated our church website.

**Fellowship and Parish Life:** Things are going okay.

**Memorial Committee:** nothing

**Deacons:** nothing

**Old Business:**

**New Business:**

Bill closed our meeting with prayer. Session’s next regular meeting will be July 8 at 7 PM at the church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Marie Van Rheen, Clerk of Session



<b>Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian May 2025 MTD</b>	
Budget	\$7,702
Income	\$8,223
Expenses	\$7,307
Reserves	\$ -



2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 10a Fill My Cup 6:30p Webelos	4 Office Closed 	5
6 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion	7 12:00p MAMA China House	8 7p Session	9	10 10a Fill My Cup 6:30p Webelos	11 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pickup 3p unload & sock	12
13 9:30a Second Sunday Breakfast 10:30a Worship	14	15	16	17 10a Fill My Cup 6:30p Webelos	18 Office Closed	19 8:30—10 AM Family Breakfast & Craft
20 9:30a Second 10:30a Worship	21	22	23	24 10a Fill My Cup 6:30p Webelos	25 9to Noon Office Hours 12:30p HOH Pickup 3p unload & sock	26
27 9:30a Second 10:30a Worship (Cathy Butke) <b>VBS</b> <b>5:30 –6:30p</b> <b>Kickoff</b>	28	29 <b>VBS</b>	30	31 10a Fill My Cup 6:30p Webelos <b>VBS</b> <b>5:30 –6:30p</b>		



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pickup 3p unload & stock	2
3 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion	4	5	6	7 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos 	8 Office Closed 	9 
10 No Worship at FPC 9:30a Worship Immanuel Lutheran Church 	11	12 7p Session	13	14 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	15 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pickup 3p unload & stock	16
17 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	18	19	20	21 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	22 9-noon Office Hours	23 8:30 to 10:30a Family Breakfast & Craft
24 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	25	26	27	28 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	29 9-noon Office Hours	30
31 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship						

### 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!



### July Birthdays

- 02 Howard Brauhn
- 04 Diane Truckenbrod
- 05 Nancy Huss
- 08 Hailie Donahue
- 10 Bill Ennenbach
- 11 Debra Dullard
- 11 Deborah Inman
- 15 Peggy Etheridge
- 18 Andra Goy
- 18 Sandra Sanford
- 26 Cera Donahue
- 27 Keagon Cox

### August Birthdays

- 08 Connor Dullard
- 11 Rubi Donahue
- 31 Sean Christen



### July Anniversaries

- 10 Trenton & Jamie Stanford

### August Anniversaries

- 11 Bill & Joni Bratney



### Bible Trivia

- 1—What bible personality was called a half-baked pancake?
- 2—Absalom caught his hair in what kind of tree?
- 3—Four rivers flowed out of the Garden of Eden. What are the names of these four rivers?
- 4—What tribe had 700 left-handed men who could sling stones a hair breadth and not miss?
- 5—When the seventh seal was opened in the book of Revelation, there was silence in heaven for:  
*A. A minute, B. A half-hour, C. An hour, D. A day, E. A month, F. Half a year, G. A year.*

### Answers

- 1—Hosea 7:8
- 2—2 Samuel 18:9
- 3—Genesis 2:10-14
- 4—Judges 20:15,16
- 5—Revelation 8:1

### 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  
 John Pohl  
 Margina & Larry  
 (*Kay Christen*)  
 Mike Boyle

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

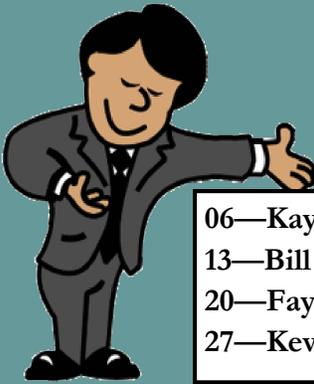


**July Lectionary Readings**

06—2 Kings 5:1-14, Psalm 30, Isaiah 66:10-14, Psalm 66:1-9, Galatians 6:(1-6) 1-16, Luke 10:1-11. 16-20  
 13—Amos 7:7-14, Psalm 82, Deuteronomy 30:9-14, Psalm 25:1-10, Colossians 1:1-14, Luke 10:25-30  
 20—Amos 8:1-12, Psalm 52, Genesis 18:1-10, Psalm 15, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42  
 27—Hosea 1:1-10, Psalm 85, Genesis 18:20-32, Psalm 138, Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19), Luke 11:1-13

**August Lectionary Readings**

03—Hosea 11:1-11, Psalm 107:1-9, 43, Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14, 2:18-23, Psalm 49:1-12, Colossians 3:1-11, Luke 12:12-21  
 10—Isaiah 1:1-10, Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23, Genesis 15:1-6, Psalm 33:12-22, Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16, Luke 12:32-40  
 17—Isaiah 5:1-7, Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19, Jeremiah 23:23-29, Psalm 82, Hebrews 11:29-12:2, Luke 12:49-56  
 24—Jeremiah 1:4-10, Psalm 71:1-6, Isaiah 58:9b-14, Psalm 103:1-8, Hebrews 12:18-29, Luke 13:10-17  
 31—Jeremiah 2:4-13, Psalm 81:1-1, 10-16, Proverbs 25:6-7, psalm 112, Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16, Luke 14:7-14



**July Ushers**

06—Kay Christen  
 13—Bill & Joni Bratney  
 20—Faye Smith  
 27—Kevin & Ann Goy

**August Ushers**

03—Kay Christen  
 10—Ecumenical Worship Immanuel  
 17—Faye Smith  
 24—Kevin & Ann Goy  
 31—

**July Pianists**

06—Laura Sutton  
 13—Peggy Etheridge  
 20—Peggy Etheridge  
 27 —Jake Schmitt

**August Pianists**

03—Peggy Etheridge  
 10—Ecumenical Worship  
 17—Jake Schmitt  
 24—Laura Sutton  
 31—Jake Schmitt

**Second Sunday Breakfast**

Breakfast July 13,  
NO breakfast on August 10  
 Please bring a breakfast goodie or dish to pass.  
 We will provide drinks and table service.  
 If you have questions,  
 please contact Joni Bratney.





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

**Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 AM:** In-Person and [www.facebook.com/fpcmendota](http://www.facebook.com/fpcmendota)

<p><b>Sunday Fellowship 9:45 AM,          Second Sunday Breakfast 9:30 AM</b></p>		<p><b>Join Zoom Meetings &amp; Gatherings:</b>  <a href="https://us05web.zoom.us/j/994465263">https://us05web.zoom.us/j/994465263</a>          pwd=zF6RMy          Or dial in for voice only: 1-312-626-6799  <b>Meeting code: 994 646 5263</b>  <b>Password: zF6RMy</b></p>
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**July 2025**

**August 2025**

