



Voice of the Servant



Points of Interest:

- ◆ Thank you notes, Pg. 2
- ◆ Micropantry needs, Pg. 2
- ◆ Session Highlights, Pg. 4
- ◆ October Calendar, Pg. 6



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,

We are in the middle of collecting the Peace & Global Witness Offering. This is one of the denomination's four special offerings. The Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. It is timely that we will end this offering that supports global witness on World Communion Sunday, October 5. How meaningful it is to know that we will be united around the world in our celebration of the Lord's Supper as we support peace-making around the world.

The second Sunday of October we will celebrate Indigenous People Day a day early. Our worship service will include worship elements taken from Native American churches. Did you know that the Presbyterian Church USA includes 95 Native American congregations and that there are 16 presbyteries and 6 synods which have Native American constituents in their bounds? As part of the message that day, you will hear a native voice speaking about changing the name of Blackhawk Presbytery and I will share about the discernment process used to make the decision. Please plan to attend to learn and grow in cultural awareness.

Saturday, October 25 please plan to attend our last Saturday Family Breakfast of the year. It will be our second annual opportunity for children in our community to carve a pumpkin together. Of course, we would welcome adult carvers as well! We hope that sharing the "pumpkin prayer" will add a redeeming note to the traditional Halloween celebration. The prayer is actually a good one for all seasons; pray it with me...sometime carve a pumpkin and pray with a child...

Lord, open my mind and fill me with your wisdom and guidance.

(Cut off the top)

Lord, take away all my sins and forgive me for the wrong things I do.

(Clean out the inside)

Lord, open my eyes to see all the beautiful things you have made.

(Carve out the eyes)

Lord, forgive me for turning my nose up at all you have given me.

(Carve out the nose)

Lord, help me to always speak your words of love and kindness.

(Carve out the mouth)

Lord, let me be the light to others, for you have filled me with your light.

(Add a light)

By grace together,

Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor





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



On behalf of **Illinois Valley Pads**, we extend our heartfelt appreciation for your contribution of \$500 to support our mission of providing safe shelter, nutritious food, and providing access to essential services for those in need.

*Warmest regards,
Carol Alcorn
Executive Director*

Special offering:

“Peace & Global Witness”

Please return your envelopes
October 5, 2025



We are so grateful for your financial support in our Change for Life fundraiser! What a difference you make to our Center.

Youth Event “Chill and Chat”

October 8. 7 to 8 PM at the Coffee Barn. Email marteaga@mendotacity.com to R.S.V.P. Join the City of Mendota’s **Live Well Program** for an evening of conversation about opportunities for our youth and a free ice cream bar provided by La Esquinita de Oro Ice Cream.



Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry

On behalf of the MACFP, I would like to thank you for your donation of \$500 we received on 8-15-25.

Your financial support helps us continue in our mission to assist those in our community that find themselves in need of help.

Sincerely, Tracy Cooper

Dear First Presbyterian Church
Thank you so much for your donation to Abigail Women's Center for the Change for Life. Please know that your gift of \$ 97.30 will go to help provide pregnancy tests, Limited Obstetrical Ultrasounds, Earn While You Learn Classes, formula, diapers and many other baby supplies and clothing up to size 5T, for women and men who are in crisis pregnancy situations.

Our services are of no charge to our clients because of donors like you who are so faithful to support this ministry. I'm sure that you are aware that when a woman sees her baby on ultrasound, at least 85% of women will choose life for their babies.

We cannot thank you enough for your support, and we pray that God will bless you abundantly.

In Christ Jesus,
Shelly J Bell
Shelly J. Bell, Executive Director

Bless your faithfulness

Micropantry



The Micropantry can use the following:

- Canned meats:
- Tuna
- Chicken
- Spam
- Vienna sausage
- Pork
- Roast beef
- Salmon

- Hearty soups
- Canned Veggies
- Gravy Packages
- Granola Bars
- Shelf Stable Milk
- Common Spices
- Cooking Oil
- Canned/Packaged Meals

Cans with pull tabs to open will be helpful to those who don't have can openers. Basic hygiene items are always needed. Shampoo, deodorant, soaps, shaving cream, razors, hand creams.

We have a temperature controlled cooler so perishables can be distributed.

Hands of Hope (Joliet Pick-up)

Pick up Dates Oct. 3 & Oct 17

If you can help pick-up, 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.

Monthly Tuesday Produce

- October 14
- November 18
- December 23



Shell Gas is offering a percentage of the money received for sales through October 31, 2025. The money goes back into the community. Please use the purple giving pump.

Facebook Live Presenter

- 05 Andra Goy
- 12 Peggy Etheridge
- 19 Joni Bratney
- 26 Joni Bratney

Facebook Live

If you are unable to attend worship in person, you can watch it live on Facebook.

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota



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

- 05
- 12 Second Sunday Breakfast
- 19
- 26

Second Sunday Breakfast

**October 12, 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.

Your Session met September 9th at the church.

Pastor Laurie opened our meeting with a devotion regarding how when God changed people's name in the Bible, he changed their life's course. She then led us in prayer.

Calendar: 1) Communion will be served October 5, which is World Communion Sunday.
2) Our next Session meeting will be held October 14 at 5 PM.

PNC Report: There is nothing new to report. There are still no new matches in CLC. Pastor Laurie has an idea for another place to post our opening.

Presbytery Report: 1) Presbytery met September 8 and 9. A workshop was held regarding the possible changing of the name of our Presbytery. During the Presbytery meeting, a vote was held to determine whether a name change was favored. The vote came back 39 to 11 to proceed with changing the name. Presbytery is interested in receiving name suggestions from members. At the November Presbytery meeting, a final vote will be taken for the new name. 2) COM report: The required health insurance coverage has gone way up. Coverage is now on a per person basis, so covering a single pastor will be less expensive than covering a pastor with spouse or children. Pastors in a current contract will continue with the same insurance coverage and the extra cost of their insurance will not come out of their salary.

Communications: 1) Jessica asked us to spread the word about Shell's Giving Pump program. Now through the end of October, our church will receive a portion of the proceeds from sale of gasoline at Shell's purple giving pump. 2) Dawn and Dan (new neighbors to the West of the church) requested our signature on a request for zoning regulations variance form, to allow them to build a garage on their property to the south of their house. Session provided that signature.

Clerk's Report: 1) the Clerk has prepared an updated membership report. 2) The Nominating Committee met and prepared a slate of officers for the Annual Congregational Meeting to be held September 28 following worship. Everyone is encouraged to attend the meeting and vote.

Maintenance and Property: 1) Bats and birds have been joining us in church. They are being dealt with. 2) Received a note saying the upstairs ladies' washroom toilet needs attention.

Christian Education: 1) Everything is printed out for the Fall quarter for Sunday School. There is a sign-up sheet for teachers. 2) On the Sundays we have pulpit supply, how should we handle Sunday School. 3) There is interest in another Bible study. We are looking at a source of study. Would be Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons.

Worship and Music: The Presbytery pulpit supply list is becoming much shorter. Bill is working on pulpit supply for the days Pastor Laurie is out of the pulpit.

Evangelism and Outreach: Earlville Presbyterian is hosting a drive-through chicken dinner fundraiser. Attendance would be a good way to support our partner church.

Missions: We are in the midst of the Peace and Global Witness mission campaign.

Fellowship and Parish Life: 1) need more hosts for Fellowship time. 2) The October Saturday family breakfast will be the last monthly breakfast.

Memorial Committee: submitted a written report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor 1) visited a parishioner, 2) sought information about some friends of the church, 3) will be officiating the funeral of Roger Moore.

New Business: Names were lifted up of members and friends of the church who are facing health concerns. Sandy closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Marie Van Rheenen, Clerk of Session

October Lectionary Readings



- 05—Lamentation 1:1-6 & Lamentations 3:19-26, Psalm 137, Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4, Psalm 37:1-9, 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Luke 17:5-10
- 12—Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 and Psalm 66:1-12, 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15, Psalm 111, 2 Timothy 2:8-15, Luke 17: 11-19
- 19—Jeremiah 31:27-34, Psalm 119:97-104, Genesis 32:22-31, Psalm 121, 2 Timothy 3:14-5:5, Luke 18:108
- 26—Joel 2:23-32, Psalm 65, Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22, Psalm 84: 1-7, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18, Luke 18:9-14

*Where Our Paths Meet:
Journeys to Mendota*



We're opening a new exhibit at Hume Carnegie honoring the Hispanic community and the paths they traveled to get here today. *Where Our Paths Meet: Journeys to Mendota* focuses on the first individuals who came to Mendota from Mexico in the 1960s and '70s, highlighting their heritage and culture. The exhibit opens on September 13th and will remain until November 2nd.

Where: Hume Carnegie Museum
When: Saturdays and Sundays from 1pm— 4pm or by appointment (815-539-3373)

This project is funded by a grant from Illinois Humanities.



**Pumpkins will be provided for carving.
Se proporcionarán calabazas para tallar.**

**Family Breakfast Pay it Forward
All Are Welcome!
Saturday October 25, 2025
8:30 AM to 10:00 AM**

**Desayuno familiar y manualidades
20 de Octubre de 8:30—10:30 AM
Comparte tu favor**

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

**Please consider bringing
a nonperishable item
for the Micropantry!**



“The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little.”
Franklin D. Roosevelt

**Your gift is truly appreciated.
Thank you for your thoughtfulness.**



Dear First Presbyterian Family,
We want to thank you all for your generous gift for our new home. We have not owned a home in 22 years. We are quickly reminded, how many little things need renewing.
The move went smoothly and we are now living in LaSalle, IL.
Thank you again for thinking of us.
Sincerely, Donna and David Jungnickel



October

2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2 10a "Fill My Cup"	3 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	4
5 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion	6	7	8	9 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	10 Office Closed	11
12 9:30 a Second Sunday Breakfast 10:30a Worship	13	14 12:00 to 12:30 Produce Sorting 12:30 MAMA 5p Session	15	16 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	17 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	18 9:30a Presbytery meeting in Bolingbrook, IL
19 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	20 Newsletter Deadline	21	22	23 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	24 9-Noon Office Hours	25 8:30a—10a Family Pancake Breakfast & Pumpkin Carving
26 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	27	28 10a Produce Sorting	29	30 9:00a Newsletter Folding 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	31  Halloween 9-Noon Office Hours 	

Session Members, please begin to think about your Annual Reports due in two months!

Online Giving



Birthdays

- 05 David Setchell
- 18 William Bratney
- 23 Carol Erwin



Anniversaries

- 18 Charles & Nancy Huss

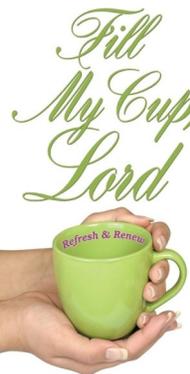


Continued Daily Prayers

Julius Hagan—Belgian Missionary
 Kenyan Partners
 Angie (Faye Smith)
 Diane Moore
 Dixie Tonozzi (Ray Smith)
 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
 Pat Schmidt
 Sarah Arter
 Sandy & Donald Schultz
 Cheri DeLong (Kay Christen)
 Tim Sondgeroth
 Trisha Smith



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

Ushers

- 05 Kay Christen
- 12 Faye Smith, Lucille Knuth
- 19 Chuck & Betty Baumann
- 26 Sandy Rebholz & Melissa Blum



Pianists

- 05 Peggy Etheridge
- 12 Jake Schmitt
- 19 Laura Sutton
- 26 Jake Schmitt

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

	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$7,702	\$61,617
Income	\$6,345	\$62,875
Expenses	\$7,661	\$0
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



OCTOBER

2025

