



Voice of the Servant



2025

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- ◆ Advent Devotional, Pg 2
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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,

We are starting a new Bible Study 3:30 Tuesday, November 4 based on the book, Heaven: When Faith Becomes Sight by Jennifer Rothchild. Let Andra know if you would like her to order a book for you. Otherwise, I hope to see you on Tuesdays!

November marks a time of harvest and a time to be thankful for our abundant blessings. Amongst those blessings are each of you! We will take time to be thankful for our church family at our Harvest Luncheon on November 16 following worship. As a special treat, we will reveal the identity of our Prayer Warriors. Please sign up to join us!

Stewardship Sunday is also November 16. Thanksgiving is our grateful response to God's providence and stewardship is our practice of using God's gifts responsibly and to His glory. May we all live lives of gratitude and generosity.

Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. (II Corinthians 9:6)

If you have not already, it is not too late to stop by the Historical Museum and see the special display and documentary film, *Where Our Paths Meet*, that tells the stories of some of the first people who came here from Mexico. It is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 1:00 to 4:00 through December 12. Tess's daughter, Amy Brewer played a key role in bringing this altogether.

The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself... (Leviticus 19:34a)

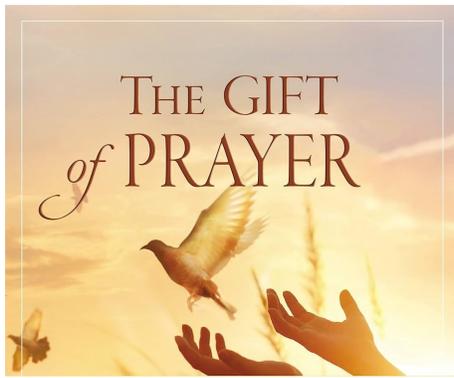
Our congregation is also blessed to include cast members (Gracie and Owen) from the upcoming high school play, *Pride and Prejudice*. We will have the opportunity to enjoy this performance either at 6:00 on November 21 at 1:00 or at 6:00 on November 22 at Mendota High School. Our liturgical calendar ends on November 23 with Christ the King Sunday. This is the conclusion of the Christian year when the church gives thanks and praise for sovereignty of Christ, who is Lord of all creation and is coming again in glory to reign.

... Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. (Revelation 1:5)

Ready or not, Advent starts on November 30. During the Advent season you can look forward to receiving the *Draw Near: Lighting the Advent Path with Hope, Peace, Joy & Love* devotions via your email. If you do not receive it, please check with Donna to add your email.

By grace together,

Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor

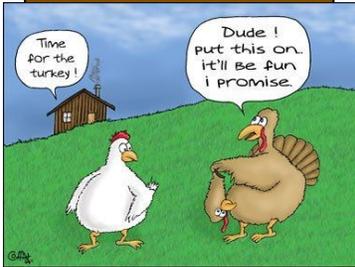


Gift of Prayer

Prayer Warrior's The Big Reveal!

Please join us for the Harvest Dinner, November 16 to celebrate a year of praying for your prayer person. Also, you may sign up for another year with a new Prayer Warrior.

Evangelism and Outreach Committee



We are planning our Annual Harvest Dinner for November 16 after Worship and we hope you will join us. Our meal will be traditional with turkey dinner with all the trimmings. We provide the turkey but ask that you sign up to bring the "trimmings." Signup sheets are on the information table in Fellowship Hall. Please call Joni (825)252-1725 with any questions.

Micro-pantry

As you are doing your Holiday prep shopping, please remember those who aren't able to go to the store and just pick things up for the holiday meals. Maybe, pick up extra for the micro-pantry and share the blessings and love.

If you are not preparing a meal these are the things needed for holiday meals.



Advent begins November 30.

Once again this year we will have the daily devotion sent via email for Advent.

2025 Advent Devotional

Written by Teri McDowell Ott

**DRAW NEAR LIGHTING THE
ADVENT PATH WITH
HOPE, PEACE, JOY AND**

Stuffing	Sugar
Evaporated milk	Flour
Sweetened condensed milk	Shelf stable milk
Canned pumpkin	Cake/Cookie mix
Pie crust mix	Vanilla
Canned sweet potatoes	Mack & Cheese
Canned white potatoes	Oil
Canned cranberry sauces	Rice
Gravy mix	Mole Sauce
Butter flavored shortening	Enchilada Sauce
Canned green beans	Salsa
Canned corn	Corn/flour tortilla
Eggs	



The Micropantry can use the following:

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------------|
| Canned meats: | Hearty soups |
| Tuna | Canned Veggies |
| Chicken | Gravy Packages |
| Spam | Granola Bars |
| Vienna sausage | Shelf Stable Milk |
| Pork | Common Spices |
| Roast beef | Cooking Oil |
| Salmon | 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 Nov. 7 & Nov. 21

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

November 18
December 23

Facebook Live Presenter

Please prayerfully consider volunteering to record the Facebook live Sunday Worship. If you would like to know more, ask any of the women below.

- 02 Ann Goy
- 09 Joni Bratney
- 16 Ann Goy
- 23
- 30 Peggy Etheridge

Facebook Live

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

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

Pulpit Supply

- 02 Dale, Keilman, Elder
- 09 Dale, Keilman, Elder
- 16 Pastor Lori Walker
- 23 Pastor Lori Walker
- 30 Pastor Lori Walker



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
- 09 Second Sunday Breakfast
- 16 Harvest Luncheon
- 23
- 30

Second Sunday Breakfast

November 9, 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 October 14th at the church.

Your session met October 14. Pastor Laurie opened the meeting with a devotion based on Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” She encouraged us to keep our hope and spread it to those around us; we have unending hope through the Holy Spirit. Pastor Laurie then opened our meeting with prayer.

Calendar: Communion will be October 26th and Session will be held November 18th at 5:00 PM.

PNC report: not much activity to report. We had one match, but they declined. A self-referral just came in.

Presbytery report: The next meeting will be November 18th. One of the topics of discussion will be the considering of a new name for our presbytery. We need a commissioner from Mendota to attend if possible.

Communications 1) Josh completed 20 hours of community service. He is now volunteering to pick up the produce each month. 2) Donna will be using a new publishing program: Canva. 3) Donna asks us to be thinking about our annual report submissions. 4) We have a request from Peggy Etheridge to use fellowship hall November 27 or 29; the request was granted.

Financial report: income was slightly lower this month and expenses higher. The insurance premium is a contributing factor to the higher expenses. Year to date we are still slightly ahead with income about 3000 higher than expenses. 2) session discussed continuing our Chamber of Commerce membership. Positive feedback to continue was received.

Budget and stewardship: 1) Andra has a draft of the letter prepared to send to the congregation. 2) she also has bulletin inserts prepared for the 2nd and 9th of November.

Maintenance and property: 1) Gary received an inspection report from Orkin. He's looking into it further. 2) Garbage service is still up in the air. Gary will look into it further. 3) Ron reports that the lawn mower has been repaired.

Christian education: 1) the Sunday school materials are ready through fall but have not been used yet at this point 2) we are still looking for curriculum for the next Bible study.

Evangelism and outreach: our prayer warriors identities will be revealed at the Harvest Dinner November 16.

Missions: 1) we will be collecting for Marion medical mission well project through the Sunday before advent. 2) during advent we will be receiving for the Christmas joy offering.

Fellowship and parish life: Joni has prepared information about the harvest dinner which will be in the bulletin and newsletter. We welcome all church members and friends to celebrate together.

Pastor's report: 1) Pastor Laurie has been taking communion out to shut-ins. 2) She has been keeping busy with session meetings at Earlville and Mendota and committee meetings in Presbytery.

New business: Sandy raised a concern regarding the recent shootings; we discussed how to address security concerns.

Bill Bratney closed our meeting with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Marie Van Rheenen, clerk of Session

November Lectionary Readings



02—Haggai 1:1-4, 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm 32:1-7; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12; Luke 19:1-10
 09—Haggai 1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5; Psalm 98; Job 19:23-27; Psalm 17:1-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17; Luke 21:5-19
 16—Isaiah 65:17-25; Isaiah 12; Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19
 23—Jeremiah 23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43
 30—Isaiah 2:1-5; Psalm 122; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 24:36-44



Please join us on Tuesdays, November 4 through December 16 at 3:30 PM to study “When Faith Becomes Sight” by Jennifer Rothschild. This is a seven session video-based bible study with a workbook.

Heaven. Who goes there? Where is it? What will we do there? Questions like these arise when we consider an eternal future beyond this physical life. How can we know the truth about what comes next?

Mission Focus for October 26 to November 23



Marion Medical Mission is a Christian, volunteer-driven organization that provides sustainable sources of clean, safe drinking water and shares the love of Jesus Christ with the extreme poor in Africa. The organization builds and maintains wells in countries like Malawi, Zambia, Tanzania, and Mozambique, ensuring local communities have access to water and are equipped to maintain the wells themselves.





2025

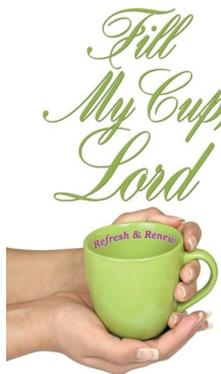
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2</p> <p>9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship No Communion (Elder Dale Keilman)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3:30p Bible Study</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:30a Second Sunday Breakfast 10:30a Worship (Elder Dale Keilman)</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:30p Bible Study Office Closed Veteran's Day 9:30a Presbytery, Bolingbrook 12:30 MAMA</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p>Stewardship Sunday 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Pastor Laurie 11:30a Harvest Luncheon Prayer Warrior Reveal</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3:30p Bible Study 9:30a Presbytery Meeting (Bolingbrook) 12:30 Produce Sorting 5p Session</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Pastor Laurie 1-5p Jenni Roether Voice Recital</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:30p Bible Study</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9a Newsletter Folding</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Office Closed Thanksgiving Day</p> 	<p>28</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Pastor Laurie</p>						

Online Giving



Birthdays

- 13 Margaret Lawrence
- 16 Kay Christen
- 16 Pastor Susan Presley
- 18 Katy Brauhn
- 18 Jason Donahue
- 30 Barbara Flanagan



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

Ushers

- 02 Sandy Rebholz, Melissa Blum
- 09 Faye Smith
- 16 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 23 Ron & Melissa Blum
- 30 Joni & Bill Bratney



Session Members Annual Reports due



Pianists

- 02 Laura Sutton
- 09 Peggy Etheridge
- 16 Jake Schmitt
- 23 Peggy Etheridge
- 30 Jake Schmitt

Continued Daily Prayers

Julius Hagan—Belgian Missionary Kenyan Partners
 Angie (Faye Smith)
 Diane Moore
 Dixie Tonozzi (Ray Smith)
 Finn (Pastor Laurie grandson)
 Jason

Joe (Cindy's boyfriend)
 John Pohl
 Kelly (Gary & Debbie's friend)
 Margina & Larry (Kay Christen)
 Laura (Diane T's Neice)
 Mike Boyle
 Pam Schmidt

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

Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian September 2025

	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$7,702	\$69,319
Income	\$4,887	\$67,762
Expenses	\$8,287	\$64,315
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
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 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



2025