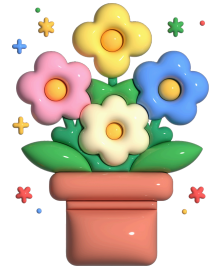


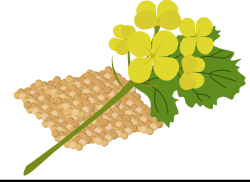


Voice of the Servant

April 2026



Pastor's Page



Church Family and Friends,

It is great to be back worshipping with you! And, let me say again what a blessing it was for you and for me to have Dale Keilman in the pulpit while I was gone. God is good and His timing is always perfect. You will see Dale again the Sunday after Easter as I will be busy at my home church flipping pancakes to raise money for Kenyan scholarships.

As Easter approaches, we are reminded constantly of the resurrection as our world turns from brown to green, from death to life all around us! God has given us His written word and in so many ways He illustrates it for us everywhere we look. As a matter of fact, that is the mission of the church, to illustrate who God is by showing His love for all people.

In their study of the book *Sailboat Church*, your session has been reminded that all churches, no matter their size, are to partner with the Holy Spirit to do whatever God wants them to do. We all have a unique part to play. I Peter 2:9 speaks to us specifically...

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Our church life is meant to reflect God's goodness, forgiveness, healing, and justice. Our actions speak louder than our words. An excellent example of that are the food baskets we distributed on April 1. They provided everything needed for a healthy Easter meal, including Easter candy and the Easter story as told by the Bernstein Bears. We pray that these meals provide health, wellness, and spiritual nourishment to our neighbors.

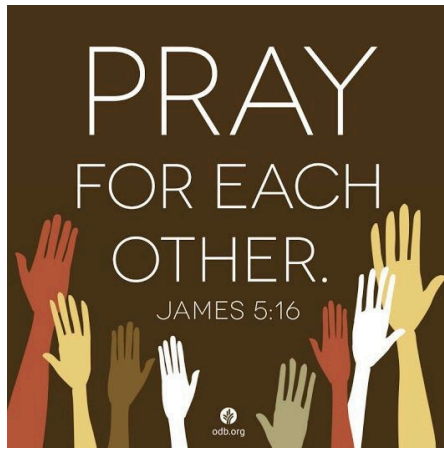
During our Tuesday Bible Study, we discussed the Day 28 Lenten devotion on mustard seeds. As we thought about it, we recognized that many of the good things, the blessings for which we are thankful started as small mustard seeds. Our Micro-Pantry is a good example. When it started no one was sure it would grow, but it has mushroomed into a huge blessing for our community.

Our shared calling is to spread the good news of Jesus' resurrection! We can do this by spreading small mustard seeds everywhere we go and then praying that by the power of the Holy Spirit they grow and grow and grow.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

By grace together,
Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor

Online Giving



Gift of Prayer

Remember your Prayer Warrior for Easter



You are blessed to pray for one person throughout the year without them knowing who is praying. You can also leave a card or small thoughtful gift on the table in Fellowship hall.

Evangelism and Outreach Committee

Easter Meal Distribution

We'll be putting together 50 meal bags to be distributed Wednesday, April 1 from 6PM to 8PM or when meals run out.

Items we can use are:

Hams

Canned peas

1# bags of carrots

Boxed biscuit mix or cornbread mix

Family sized box of Jell-O any flavor

Individually wrapped Easter candies

(each family will receive 1 bag of candy)

1 1/2 pounds bags of small yellow potatoes

Butter (each family will receive one stick of butter)

As always, cash donations are welcome, so we can shop for the items we don't get through donations.

If you have questions, contact Kim VanRheenen



Easter Flowers in honor or memory of loved ones.

Art Beck
Joni & Bill Bratney
Peggy Etheridge
Ann & Kevin Goy
Rosemary Hamel
Donna Jungnickel
Karen Menzel
Sandy Rebholz
Ray & Faye Smith

In Memory of Marjorie A. Beck
In Memory of Our Parents
In Memory of My parents Leon & Joyce, Brother John
In Memory of Loved One's who have passed
In Memory of Jack Hamel
In Memory of Loved ones who passed
In Honor of Jim Menzel
In Memory of Ray Rebholz
In Honor of loved ones who passed



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 April 03 & 17

If you can help pick-up, unload or stock the food items at 3 PM please sign-up.

Facebook Live Presenter

Please prayerfully consider taking the opportunity to spread the word via Facebook Live.

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

Produce Sorting April 7

If you are able to help sort fresh produce. Please sign-up.



Facebook Live

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

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota



Volunteer to host a coffee hour!



Weekly Coffee Hour

Please consider hosting coffee hour at 9:45 AM. 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 Joni Bratney (Easter)
- 12 Second Sunday Breakfast
- 19
- 26



Second Sunday Breakfast

April 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.

Session Highlights

March 24, 2026

Session Highlights March 24

Your Session met March 24. Pastor Laurie led us in a review of chapter 5 of Sailboat Church, then opened our meeting with prayer.

Communion will be served Easter Sunday, April 5.

PNC Report: The committee has nothing new to report, but asks that we all continue to pray for the committee and their process.

Presbytery Report: The next Presbytery meeting will be held May 19 at Stronghold. The meeting lesson will investigate AI (Artificial Intelligence) and its uses within the church.

Communications: 1) We received a letter regarding the development of a FCA club (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) at Mendota High School. There will be a kick-off meeting April 10 at the High School featuring "We The Least," a musical group comprised of MHS alumni who are currently living in Nashville and creating music. FCA is raising funds to allow the purchase of Bibles and t-shirts for students wishing to join. Session approved a donation to FCA. 2) Donna reports that the use of the new publishing program, Canva, is going well. She is in the process of transferring all her documents from Microsoft Publisher. 3) We received a letter from LaGrange Presbyterian Church. They are seeking support for their Living Waters for the World hands-on wells mission. The letter has been referred to our Missions chair. 4) Mendota Area Chamber of Commerce is organizing groups wishing to be involved at some level with the Sweet Corn Festival. Session discussed possibilities. 5) Session approved a request from Peggy Etheridge to use the fellowship hall Easter Sunday afternoon for a family gathering. 6) We received a nice note from PEO, thanking us for allowing them to use our space for their meetings.

Clerk's Report: 1) Clerk distributed sample drafts of corporate by-laws for the church for the Elders to consider. While we have church by-laws in place, we were notified by Rev. Heinekamp that we also need to have corporate by-laws in place for the business portion of what we do. 2) We need to name committee chairs for Session. We discussed some possibilities, then tabled the discussion until our April meeting.

Financial Report: 1) our income is lower for the month, but this pattern follows previous years' giving, so it is not a concern. 2) Our expenses were up for the month, mostly due to utility costs. 3) Year-to-date, our income is still ahead of our expenses.

Pastor's Report: 1) Pastor Laurie will be attending the Mendota Area Ministerial Association meeting tomorrow. This year's MAMA Maundy Thursday worship will be held in Community UMC LaMoille. 2) Communion will be served on Easter Sunday. 3) Pastor has visited and called members and friends of the church since her return, and has plans to see other shut-ins as they are available. 4) Pastor Laurie and Bill are verifying that palms have been purchased for Palm Sunday. 5) Pastor appreciates all the work Bill does in covering our pulpit supply schedule.

Maintenance and Property: 1) All the fire extinguishers have been checked, updated, and certified. 2) The new elevator certificate has been put in the elevator. 3) The step boiler was turned on for the latest snow and ice event, but has been turned off again. 4) New keys have been purchased to replace the broken ones for the towel dispensers. 5) A reminder that the Men's Lenten Dinner will be Thursday, March 26.

Evangelism and Outreach: Preparations are nearly complete for the Easter meal ingredient bags distribution, which will be held April 1. Please keep the recipients in your prayers that they may be blessed by our small but important ministry.

Missions: We will receive One Great Hour of Sharing fish boxes and other donations on Easter Sunday.

Fellowship and Parish Life: Joni loves her job of organizing the feeding of our church people through coffee times and occasional church dinners. She would like to expand to serving church dinners on a quarterly basis, as everyone really enjoys this time of taking a meal together and the fellowship that happens.

Bill closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by, Kim Van Rheenen

Our next regular Session meeting will be April 21 at 4:30 PM.



April Lectionary Readings

05-Acts 10:34-43, Jeremiah 31:1-6, Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24, Colossians 3:1-4, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 28:1-10, John 20:1-18

12-Acts 2:14a, 22-32, Psalm 16 or Exodus 15:1-11, Psalm 111, 1 Peter 1:3-9, John 20:19-31

19-Acts 2:14a, 36-41, Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19, Isaiah 51:1=6, Psalm 34:1=10, 1 Peter 1:17-23, Luke 24:13-35



26-Acts 2:42-47, Psalm 23, Ezekiel 34:7-15, Psalm 100, 1 Peter 2:19-25,, John 10:1-10

**Mendota High School of Christian Athletes are sponsoring “We The Least”.
The group is made up of Mendota HS Alumni!**

MENDOTA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

WE THE LEAST

FRIDAY, APRIL 10TH, 2026
DOORS OPEN: 6:30 PM SHOW STARTS: 7:00 PM



Sponsored By: MHS Fellowship of Christian Athletes
FREE ADMISSION – ALL ARE WELCOME!





April 2026



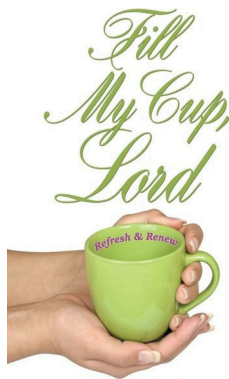
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6-8p Easter Meal Distribution	2 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos 7p Maundy Thurs Community UMC LaMoille	3 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods 7p Good Friday Zion Lutheran, LaMoille	4 6-8p Easter Meal Distribution
5  Happy Easter! 9:45 Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion	6	7 12:30p Produce	8	9 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	10 Office Closed 6:30p "We The Least" at MHS	11
12 9:45a Fellowship 10:30 Worship	16	14	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
19 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	20	21 4:30p Session	22	23 Newsletter Deadline 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	24 Office Closed	25
26 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	27	28	29	30 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos		

Happy BIRTHDAY

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

Happy Anniversary

- 02 Kevin & Andra Goy
- 23 Bill & Ola Ennenbach



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

Ushers

- 05 Bill & Joni Bratney
- 12 Faye Smith, Sandy Rebholz
- 19 Carol Erwin, Kay Christen
- 26 Ron & Melissa Blum



Pianists

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

Continued Daily Prayers

Julius Hagan—Belgian Missionary
Kenyan Partners Angie (Faye Smith)
Diane Moore Dixie Tonozzi (Kay 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

Pat Schmidt
Ray Smith
Sarah Arter
Sandy & Donald Schultz
Cheri DeLong (Kay Christen)
Tim Sondgeroth

Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian February 2026

	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$8,023	\$8,023
Income	\$4,861\$	\$20,571
Expenses	\$6,980	\$13,528
Reserves		\$-

2026 Per Capita \$45 per person

Presbytery	Synod	General Assembly
\$30.11	\$3.81	\$11.08



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
 Check out the Facebook page: facebook.com/MendotaMicroPantry
 Fellowship will be at 9:45 AM
 Worship will be at 10:30 AM
 Second Sunday Breakfast 9:30 AM

APRIL
 2026

