



October

2026



Church Family and Friends,

How blessed we all were to listen to Kim Van Rheenen's message on September 20. If you missed it, it is still posted on the church's Facebook page. Kim did a great job of making us all think about how we are to sing our praises to God.

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.
Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and extol him with music and song. Psalm 95:1-2

We kick off the month of October with the celebration of World Communion. This is a time for all of God's people to gather around the Table to celebrate the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Part of the atonement that happens around this Table is reconciliation, which is the focus of the World Communion Offering. Experience the grace that comes from reconciling all peoples from all nations around the corner and around the globe through the ministry of this offering.

...what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

On October 6-19 I will be on a mission trip to Kenya celebrating the 30th anniversary of the partnership between the Kenya presbyteries called Imenti and our Illinois Prairie Presbytery. I will give some Mendota church shirts to your partner, Maua Town church. You have been supporting their Street Children Feeding Program and I will receive an update on this special ministry. October 26, I look forward to sharing what I have learned and experienced with all of you during my Sunday message.

Your session concluded their book study of the Sailboat Church. We re-affirmed that God is calling us to navigate into His will in our mission and ministry. We need to orient our sails toward God so that His Spirit can move and transform us.

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

This points to the fundamental truth that God cares about this/His church today and every day. He cares about us because we matter to Him. He loves us, so He sent His Spirit to act as the wind that fills our sails and gets us moving in the right direction, guides us through storms, and pushes us to where God wants us to be.

Sailing together,
Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor



Illinois Valley Quilts of Valor

Ray Smith recently shared with our congregation the honor of receiving a handmade quilt from the Illinois Valley Quilts of Valor. Ray's quilt is sewn with colors and motifs representing the army to commemorate his service in Vietnam from 1966 to 1967.

Mission Focus for September to October 4



Online Giving



OCTOBER IS
PASTOR
APPRECIATION
MONTH

First Presbyterian has purchased 5 bags for the cause.



The Giving Pump at the Shell Station located

at 700 13th Ave. in Mendota will give one cent per gallon if you fill up with pump #3 and #4. Beginning September 1 through November 3.

The money goes back into the community through the Micropantry.



Starting at 4pm at Lake Mendota Park. We will light the path around the lake with hope, love, and remembrance. Each lit bag will create a beautiful display in honor of those touched by cancer.



Micropantry

The Micropantry can use the following:

We are so fortunate to have a busy, very utilized Micropantry. God continues to provide food and paper goods for our recipients. One of the ways He provides is through your generosity, both in donations and in time and energy maintaining the pantry. One area where we are currently seeing an increased need is for protein sources. Some suggestions for donation:

canned tuna	canned chicken	Spam	Vienna sausages
canned pork	canned roast beef	canned salmon	tuna pouches
peanut butter	hearty Soups	granola bars	canned pasta sauce

We also have a temperature controlled cooler by the Micropantry, so refrigerated or frozen meat can be donated.

Thank you for helping us feed His children!

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.



Hands of Hope (Joliet Pick-up)

Pick up Dates
October 02 and 16

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

October Facebook Presenters

04 Peggy Etheridge
11 Joni Bratney
18 Andra Goy
25 Joni Bratney

facebook
LIVE



Martha (Kay) Brauhn

November 18, 1947 - September 20, 2026



*Volunteer
to host a
coffee hour!*



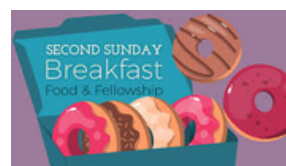
Weekly Coffee Hour

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

October

04 Carol Erwin
11
18
25



Second Sunday Breakfast

October 11

Please bring a dish to pass. We will provide drinks and table service. If you have questions, please contact Joni Bratney.

September 15, 2026 Session Highlights

Session met September 15 at the church. Pastor Laurie led us in a discussion of chapter 10 of Sailboat Church, then opened our meeting with prayer.

The agenda and minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

Communion will be served October 4, which is World Communion Sunday.

PNC Report: Our PNC has received a new match. Peggy has sent an email and is waiting for a reply.

Presbytery Report: Presbytery met September 15 via Zoom. 1) Presbytery is beginning a new program, Spark, through which Presbytery will offer support to churches, participate in discussions, and help the churches discern ways in which individual churches can utilize their strengths and gifts to re-energize their ministry. 2) For 2027, there will be a 3% raise in terms of call for pastors. 3) The Presbytery covenant of closure has been updated to assist in transitions to new pastors. 4) Presbytery's policy allowing Elders to serve communion is being worked upon. Watch for training opportunities. 5) A brief General Assembly report was given. 6) The next Presbytery meeting will be in November.

Clerk's Report: Kim thanked Peggy for taking Session minutes in August.

Financial Report: 1) for the month, our income was lower than expenses, but in the year-to-date, we are still in the positive. 2) After paying for the Air Conditioning repairs, we still have some readily available funds.

Pastor's Report: 1) Pastor is elated with the response from those willing to serve as Worship Assistants. She currently has 11 volunteers. Anyone interested in serving in some way is encouraged to talk with Pastor Laurie. 2) Pastor appreciates Bill keeping the pulpit filled. 3) Pastor visited and took communion to shut-ins. If anyone would like a visit, please let Pastor Laurie know. 4) Donna has requested Elders begin putting together their annual reports for the booklet to be printed in December. 5) Donna has let Pastor know that we will no longer have access to the free produce to distribute through the micropantry. 6) Pastor Laurie will check into the availability of this year's Advent and Lent studies through the PC(USA).

Maintenance and Property: 1) The ridge cap on the top line of the church has an area that needs to be sealed. Mortenson Roofing submitted a bid, and it has been approved. 2) Gary is trying to contact the sales person from our fire alarm company to see what steps need to be taken. 3) Gary checked into a change in insurance carrier but learned that we will need to stay with Church Mutual to have the most comprehensive insurance coverage.

Christian Education: We are just beginning a new Bible study. There has been good interest. We have had several interesting studies this year. Anyone who wishes to participate in the new study may join in at any time, as the lessons each week can be studied independently, without relying on the previous week's discussion.

Worship and Music: 1) Bill has provided Session with the latest update to the pulpit supply calendar. 2) We will be planning a Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols service.

Mission Outreach: 1) \$950 was raised for the Marion Medical Mission shallow wells project. This allows us to fund the cost of almost 2 wells (\$500/well) 2) World Communion Sunday offering will be collected the 1st Sunday in October. 3) We received a thank you from PADS for our regular donation. 4) We received an appeal to become a Lights of Hope sponsor for the local event taking place October 17. Lights of Hope is the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's signature fundraising event dedicated to honoring those who have been touched by cancer and remembering those we've lost. The church will be a sponsor. 6) Andra will be updating our church's website by including an inclusivity statement.

Finance and Stewardship: Peggy will be working on this year's stewardship campaign.

Fellowship and Parish Life: Joni will be changing things up a bit this year, organizing a Christmas lunch for the church. The lunch will be held following worship on December 13.

The Nominating Committee shared the results of their August meeting, which will comprise the ballot for our September 27 Annual Congregational Meeting and meeting of the Corporation.

Our October Session meeting was pushed to October 27 at 4:30 PM to accommodate calendars. Sandy will prepare the devotions for that meeting.

Bill closed our meeting with prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
Kim Marie Van Rheen*

October Lectionary Readings

04-Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20; Psalm 19; Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b;
Matthew 21:33-46
11-Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23; Isaiah 25:1-9; Psalm 23; Philippians 4:1-9;
Matthew 22:15-22
18-Exodus 33:12-23; Psalm 99; Isaiah 45:1-7; Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13); 1 Thessalonian 1:1-10;
Matthew 22:15-22
25-Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17; Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1: 1 Thessalonian
2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46



The Dementia Caregiver Support Group

Meets with a certified Caregiver Coach.

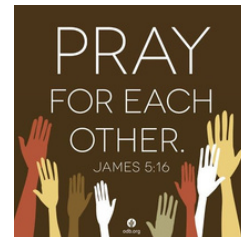
Anyone who cares for someone with dementia is welcome. The meetings take place at Zion United Methodist Church, the first Thursday each month, 1 to 2:30 pm
Please call for information at 815-538-2186



Bible Study

3:00 PM every Tuesday

The next study will be Reading the Bible in a year.
Each week will be a different theme.



Remember your Prayer Warrior for the Harvest season!



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 & Outreach Committee



The Giving Pump at the Shell Station located at 700 13th Ave. in Mendota will give one cent per gallon

if you fill up with pump #3 and #4.

Beginning September 1 through November 3.

The money goes back into the community through the Micropantry.

October

2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	2 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	3
4 9:45 a Fellowship 10:30a Worship World Communion	5	6 3p Bible Study 7p PEO Meeting	7	8 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	9 Office Closed	10
11 9:30a Second Sunday Breakfast 10:30 Worship Cathy Burke	12	13 3p Bible Study	14	15 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	16 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	17
18 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Dale Keilman	19	20 3p Bible Study	21	22 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	23 Office Closed	24
25 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	26	27 3p Bible Study 4:30p Session	28	29	30	31 

Happy Birthday!

October

- 05 David Setchell
- 10 Bethany Bratney
- 13 Ola Ennenbach
- 18 William Bratney
- 22 Dan Estes
- 23 Carol Erwin

Happy Anniversary

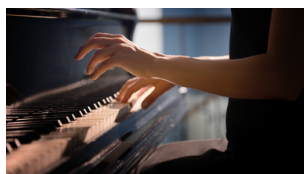
October
18 Chuck & Nancy Huss

*Fill
My Cup,
Lord*



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

Pianists



October

- 04 Jake Schmitt
- 11 Jake Schmitt
- 18 Peggy Etheridge
- 25 Laura Sutton



Ushers

October

- 04 Carol Erwin, Kay Christen
- 11 Sandy Rebholz & Faye Smith
- 18 Ron & Melissa Blum
- 25 Kevin & Andra Goy



Continued Daily Prayers

Art Beck
Bratney's daughter-in-law
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)
Laura (Diane T's Neice) Mike
Boyle Pam Schmidt

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

Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian August 2026

	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$8,023	\$64,187
Income	\$3,641	\$60,096
Expenses	\$5,792	\$59,003
Reserves	\$-	\$-5,500

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

