



September 2026



Church Family and Friends,

Never in my wildest dreams, would we have welcomed nine new members into our church family. But, that is God's way! He constantly surprises us! He makes possible what we think is impossible. What a blessing it is to have our family grow! Please join me in welcoming and getting to know our new members as we worship and fellowship together.

For nothing will be impossible with God. Luke 1:37

Where did the summer go? With students going back to school, suddenly fall is upon us! The heat has broken and we are enjoying gorgeous weather! It is a great time to breathe in the autumn air and thank God for the ripening harvest. At the same time, we can count our own blessings. As we look back at our life's challenges we can see that God has been consistently faithful. Please let me know if you would like to share your testimony, your "God story."

**that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith.
Romans 12:1**

Your session has continued their study of the Sailboat Church with the chapter, "Preparing for Storms." Storms bring fear and anxiety. The best preparation is to strengthen our practice of prayer. In response to her sudden death, I was touched to hear clips of Dolly Parton talking about her daily practice of prayer. As successful as she was, she continued to turn to her God in daily conversation. In the same manner we can build our resilience by exercising prayer both individually and as a church. In doing so, our relationship with God grows and strengthens making us ready to face whatever the future holds.

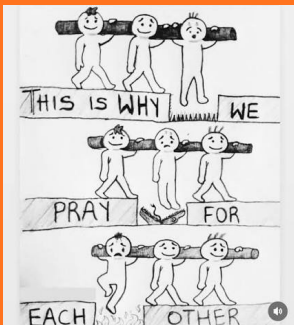
Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6

That said, please pray for our Nominating Committee as they call on people to serve in different positions of the church. Our congregational meeting to elect officers will be after church on September 27. Pray and pray some more...

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. I Peter 4:10

**Together in service,
Laurie Walker, Covenant Pastor**





Thank you!

On behalf of **Illinois Valley PADS**, we extend our sincere and heartfelt appreciation for your generous contribution of \$500 in support of our mission to provide safe shelter, nutritious meals, and access to essential services of those experiencing homelessness.

*Sincerely, Carol Alcorn
Executive Director*

Mendota Area Christian Food Pantry

Your financial support of \$500 helps us continue our mission to assist those in our community that find themselves in need of help.

Director

Tracy Cooper, Executive

Mission Focus for September & October



- 1933 Creation: Originated at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, by the Rev. Dr. Hugh Thomson Kerr and his congregation.
- Global Spread: Adopted nationally by the U.S. Presbyterian Church in 1936 and endorsed internationally by the Federal Council of Churches in 1940.
- Purpose: Designed to unite diverse Christian denominations across cultural, language, and national boundaries in a single act of worship.

“Share the Music”



Online Giving



Thank you to all the musicians and vocalists for sharing their gifts. This event was a well attended and greatly received by all who were present.

The first of many!

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			

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
September 04, 18

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



Produce Sorting
Dates TBD

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

facebook
LIVE

Facebook Live Presenters

Facebook Live

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

www.facebook.com/fpcmendota

September

06 Andra Goy
13 Andra Goy
20 Andra Goy
27 Andra Goy



*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

September

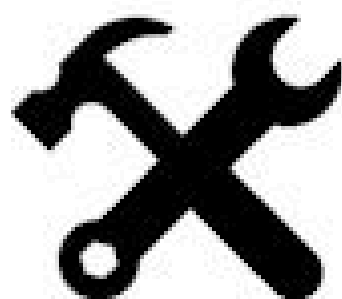
06 Kevin & Andra Goy
13 Second Sunday Breakfast
20 Jamie & Chuck
27 Ray & Faye Smith



Second Sunday Breakfast

September 13

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



LABOR DAY

Word Search



ACTIVISTS	HAYMARKET RIOT	PARADE	SPEECHES
BARBECUE	LABOR	PICNIC	SUMMER
CARPENTERS	MACHINISTS	PULLMAN STRIKE	UNIONS
CLEVELAND	MARCH	SALES	VACATION
EMPLOYEES	MONDAY	SEPTEMBER	WEEKEND
FESTIVALS	NEW YORK	SOLIDARITY	WORKERS

September Lectionary Readings

06-Exodus 12:1-14, Psalm 149, Ezekiel 33:7-11, Psalm 119:33-40, Romans 13:8-14, Mathew 18:15-20

13-Exodus 14:19-31, Psalm 114, Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21, Genesis 50:15-21, Psalm 103:33-40, Romans 14:1-12, Matthew 18:21-25

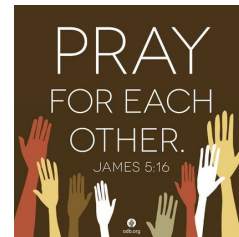
20-Exodus 16:2-15, Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45, Jonah 3:10-4:11, Psalm 145:1-8, Philippians 1:21-30, Matthew 20:1-16

27-Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16, Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32, Psalm 25:1-9, Philippians 2:1-13, Matthew 21:23-32



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



Remember your Prayer Warrior for the Autumn 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



Front row: Dawn Sass, Pastor Laurie, Char Lampson, Amber Krager, Gracie Botts, Abe Botts
Back row: Dan Estes, Chuck Olson, Jake Schmitt, Owen Schroeder



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.

September 2026

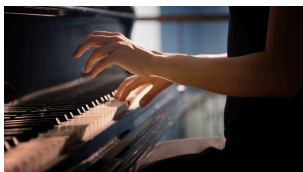
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 3p Bible Study	2	3 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	4 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	5
6 9:45 a Fellowship 10:30a Worship Communion	7 Office Closed Labor Day * Happy * LABOR DAY *****	8 3p Last Bible Study	9	10 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	11 Office Closed	12
13 9:30a Second Sunday Breakfast 10:30 Worship	14	15 9:00a Presbytery Meeting Zoom Only	16	17 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	18 Office Closed 12:30p HOH Pick-up 3:00p Unload and stock HOH foods	19
20 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	21	22	23	24 10a "Fill My Cup" 6:30p Webelos	25 Office Closed	26
27 9:45a Fellowship 10:30a Worship	28	29	30			

*Happy
Birthday!*

September

- 05 Chuck Huss
- 05 Rosemary Hamel
- 10 Stephen Dullard
- 12 Jamie Rodriguez
- 20 Virginia Rose
- 24 Cindy Baumgarner
- 28 Brian Bratney

Pianists



September

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

Happy Anniversary September

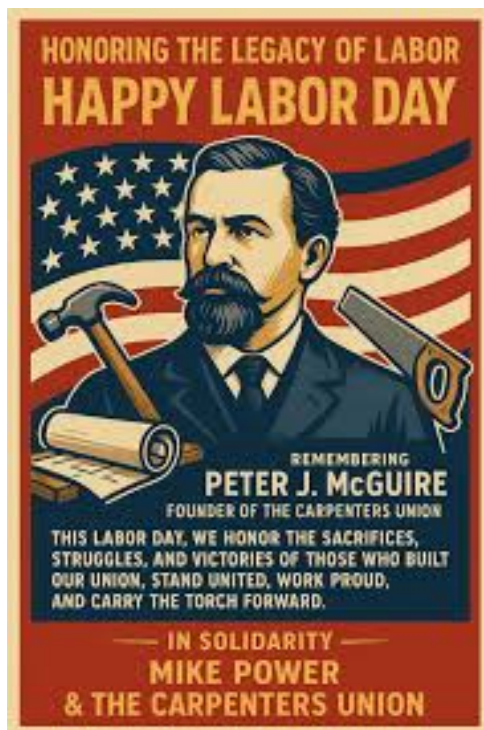
- 07 Kenny & Kim Van Rheen
- 10 Bob & Peggy Etheridge

*Fill
My Cup,
Lord*



Every Thursday
at 10 AM

Come and gather with
us for tea,
coffee, hot chocolate
and conversation.
All are welcome.



Ushers

September

- 06 Carol Erwin, Kay Christen
- 13 Sandy Rebholz, Faye Smith
- 20 Ron & Melissa Blum
- 27 Kay Christen, Tess Heckert



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

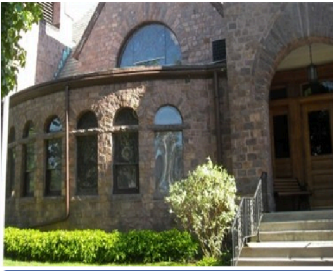
Pat Schmidt
Ray Smith
Sarah Arter
Sandy & Donald Schultz
Cheri DeLong (Kay Christen)
Tim recent cancer diagnosis (Tess)
Tim Sondgeroth

Income and Expenses at First Presbyterian July 2026

	MTD	YTD
Budget	\$8,023	\$56,163
Income	\$7,743	\$56,452
Expenses	\$7,800	\$53,211
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



September

2026