

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Pastor

Rev. Matthew Froeschle

Treasurer

John Swick

Youth Director

Toby Montgomery

Asst. Youth Director

Sharon Barta

Choir Director

Dick Barta

Organist

Tong Mu

Tammy Latch

Church Custodian

Administrative Assistant

Cherry Wishard

## Sunday Worship

*Adult Bible Class*

*8:30 a.m.*

*Worship Service\**

*9:30 a.m.*

*Children's Church*

*9:45 a.m.*

*(after Children's Chat)*

*\*Childcare provided*

## Wednesday

*LOGOS*

*5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.*

**March 2018**

## **“A Corrective to the Culture of Individualism”** by Rev. Matthew D. Froeschle

Scripture focus: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31

Hello church! I've included the full text of this month's scripture focus passage for your convenience below. It's a bit lengthy, but please try to read it slowly and meditatively before moving on to the rest of this article.

*For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

*Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body.*

*The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.*

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.*

The apostle Paul, inspired by God, lands upon this Christ-centered analogy for the church: *The church is the body of Christ*. Paul challenges us to think more in terms of “we” and “us” than we think in terms of “I” and “me.”

That probably does not come naturally for most of us. Especially, I would venture, this is true for those of you who, like me, grew up in the 1970s/ 1980s or later. Our parents and grandparents tended to have more of a community mindset. I, however, am part of the “ME Generation.” And with iPhones, iPads, iWhatever, that trend of elevating the self and feeling entitled to personal privileges continues.

As a result, is it any wonder that the greatest plague of recent generations seems to be one of loneliness and isolation? Sure, we have Facebook and Twitter and Snapchat and countless ways of communicating through social media, but I wonder how effective those outlets are at training us to care more for others than we care for ourselves. We're all talking - but is anyone really listening?

The Bible offers a desperately needed corrective to this cultural preoccupation with self. While it's true that God loves you very much, God's ultimate desire is to create a community of love. God wants us to learn how to live together, how to receive love and grace and then reciprocate it. Jesus calls people into relationships. Jesus created the church to bring in the Kingdom, He didn't simply hand out self-help manuals.

This particular passage from 1 Corinthians says, “Stop beating yourself up” and “Stop thinking too highly of yourself.” In love, Paul is calling the church back to its main ministry of being a fellowship united in worship and service. “You're too preoccupied with yourself. You are part of Christ's church, and the members need you as much as you need them!”

It is such a blow to God's Kingdom when churches split or compete or when when differences between believers aren't resolved. The devil is the only one celebrating when we vilify and distance ourselves from one another.

But when we truly hear the gospel message together, we will experience and live into God's community of grace. Of course it's not easy - it requires work. I am imperfect, and dependent on grace. So are you. But thankfully, it's not about us. Jesus is our hero, and we belong to him first, then to each other.

When one of us is hurting, we all suffer. When one of us celebrates, that joy is to be shared. Can we remember this passage often - especially when we're feeling too down or too high about ourselves? We are all of us ragamuffins saved by grace. God, may Your truth serve as a corrective to our culture of individualism.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Matthew



Voting for the 2018 General Primary Election is scheduled to held here at First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.



**Food pantry items are being gathered.** Please keep the food coming to help those in need.  
Food may be left in Narthex.

**March: Cookies**

#### **Reception for Tong Mu March 4<sup>th</sup>**

Please plan to join us at a reception immediately following worship on Sunday, March 4 to honor Tong Mu who has been our organist since October 24, 2014. Her last worship service with us will be March 4<sup>th</sup> and she will then be joining her family in California where her husband has a new job.

If you wish to make a love gift or send a card, you may leave it on the desk in the church office or send it In Care of Cherry, First Presbyterian Church, 10 Charleston Avenue East. All cards and gifts will be given to Tong following her reception.

Tong has blessed us by sharing her considerable musical talents each worship service and she will be truly missed.

**Priscilla Circle** will meet Tuesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Alice Jeisy 205 S. Strasburg St. in Strasburg. Kathy Beaver has devotions and Kathy Saunders will lead the lesson. Please read chapter 3 in your study book "Cloud of Witnesses". We will car pool so if you need a ride, we will meet in the church parking lot at 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions call Alice at 644-2625 or Elsie at 235-6589. New members are always welcome.








**MISSION PROJECT** - During the Month of March, the Mission Committee will be collecting items for HOPE of East Central Illinois. Items needed by HOPE this year are new underwear and new socks - Sizes women- toddler - children.

# PUZZLE

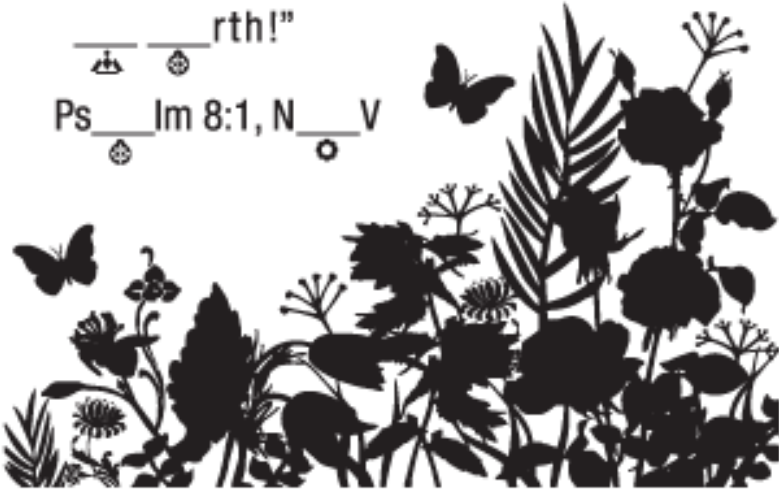
## Spring's Beauty

During springtime, the beauty of God's creation emerges in many ways.

Directions: Use the vowel code below to complete Psalm 8:1, NIV.

A=  E=  I=  O=  U= 

"L\_\_RD, \_\_r L\_\_rd, h\_\_w  
 m\_\_j\_\_st\_\_c\_\_s y\_\_r  
 n\_\_m\_\_n\_\_ll th\_\_  
 \_\_rth!"  
 Ps\_\_lm 8:1, N\_\_V



Answer: "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!" Psalm 8:1, NIV

# FRUIT LADYBUGS

Get creative in the kitchen with this sweet springtime snack.

### What you need:

- Strawberries (washed)
- Knife
- Plate or wax paper
- ½ cup melted chocolate chips
- Zippered baggie
- Scissors
- Blueberries (washed)
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. De-stem the strawberries. Cut in half and then cut a small V atop each half to make the ladybug body. Set them on a plate or wax paper.
2. Place the melted chocolate in a baggie and cut off the tip of a bottom corner.
3. Pipe a dividing line and "spots" on each strawberry. Also use the chocolate to attach a blueberry "head" by the V shape.
4. Pipe chocolate antennae and legs onto ladybugs.
5. Let harden. Enjoy!



Vacation Bible School is only 5 months away and on Sunday, March 4th we will be having a meeting in Fellowship Hall at 2pm to discuss this upcoming year. We have not picked a theme or a time yet so bring your ideas and thoughts that afternoon, so we can get something down and ready to go. The goal for this meeting is to pick a Theme and pick a Time and Date! Hope to see everyone there who wants to help out! -Toby



**Thursday, March 1**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, March 4**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.  
Mission Stitchers 2:00 p.m.  
VBS planning 2:00 p.m.  
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 6**

Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.  
Worship Committee Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 7**

Women's Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.  
Membership Committee Meeting  
10:00 a.m.  
LOGOS 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 8**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Mystery Book Club 6:00 p.m.

**Sunday, March 11**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.  
Pre-Pack Food Center 1:00 p.m.  
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 13**

B & G Meeting 9:00 a.m.  
Sarah Circle 10:00 a.m.  
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.  
Personnel Meeting 4:30 p.m.  
Priscilla Circle 7:00 p.m.  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 14**  
LOGOS 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 15**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday, March 18**

Adult Bible Study 8:45 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.  
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 20**

Election Polling Place  
PEO 9:00 a.m.  
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.  
Quadrangle 1:30 p.m.  
Mission Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 21**

LOGOS 5:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

**Thursday, March 22**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Red Cross Blood Drive  
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.  
PEO 6:30 p.m.

**Palm Sunday, March 25**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.  
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.

**Monday, March 26**

Deacons Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, March 27**

Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.  
Session Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, March 28**  
No LOGOS

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday, March 30**

Church Office Closed  
Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.

**Holy Week and Easter Services**



*Come Worship With Us!*

**Palm Sunday, March 25**

Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.  
Children's Church 9:45 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday, March 29**

Maundy Service 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday, March 30**

Tenebrae Service 7:00 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, April 1**

Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m.  
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.



The Thursday morning Bible Study meets at 9:00 a.m.



March 2  
Vicki Williams

March 4  
Mike Martin

March 6  
Kitty Fisher

March 9  
Alice Jeisy

March 12  
Marcus McDowell

March 13  
Bob Plummer  
Lydia Druin

March 15  
Stewart Druin

March 22  
Kathy Shaffer

March 26  
Addisyn Figgins

March 27  
Bill Hamel

March 29  
Ron Batterham  
Krista Kingery

March 30  
Kent Heller



Website: [www.fpcmattoon.org](http://www.fpcmattoon.org)



**Prayer Request**  
Continued prayers  
For those having treatments for medical conditions:

Barb Allen  
Mavis Bagby  
Jean Beaird  
Kathy Beaver  
Earl Bennett  
Joan Dickens  
Evelyn Furry  
Ralph Glenn  
Jo & Harlan Heller  
Jeremiah Parker  
Betty Martin  
Bob Miller  
Elnor Oliver  
Dan Spitz  
Roger Sorensen  
Betty Podeschi

For all those who are serving in Armed Forces, including:

Matt Gathmann  
Kyle & Kelly Martin  
Hunter S. McRoberts



March 1  
Rick & Sharon Mercer  
March 8  
Kenneth & Lorrie Gagnon

March 15  
Kent & Lori Heller

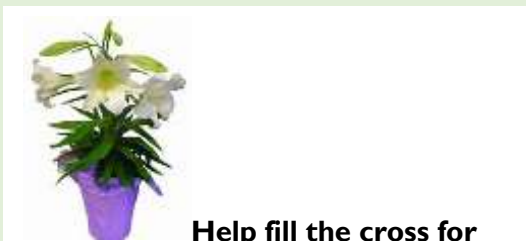
March 18  
Joe & Barb McKenzie

March 24  
David & Mary Wetzel

March 28  
Larry & Suellen Dunlap  
David & Lori Woodyard



Red Cross Blood Drive  
Thursday, March 22, 2018  
2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.



**Help fill the cross for Easter.** With your help we can fill the cross for Easter Sunday. Please consider bringing an Easter lily to the church by March 28 or making a donation and a lily will be purchased for you. You may indicate how you would like this Easter lily recognized in the Easter Sunday bulletin by completing an Easter lily form, which are available in the church office. Please have these recognition forms completed by Wednesday, March 28.

## Kemmerer Village News



### Box Tops

Thank you for all the Box Tops, they are a great way of giving to the Kemmerer Village School. Keep them coming.



### Coke Rewards

The Coca Cola Give program will donate from 5 to 30 cents for your Coca Cola rewards codes. These Codes can be under the lids of bottles, or inside the 12-pack and cases of any Coke product. Just go to <https://us.cocacola.com/give/>, choose Kemmerer Village as your school, and enter your codes to help our children and support our school. Every cent counts!



Churchwide Gathering held every 3 years will be held in Louisville, Kentucky.

August 2<sup>nd</sup>- August 5<sup>th</sup>

Anyone interested in going, contact Florence Beck for details.

**Mission Committee** is collecting products for PADS. Here is a list of the items which they continually need: paper or styrofoam plates and cups, liquid laundry detergent, bleach (they wipe down tables, door handles, etc. especially in flu season), sealed packages of plastic utensils (like we get with take-out food, no boxes of individual fork/spoons because they aren't as sanitary,) tissues, paper towels.



Just wanted to take a moment and thank everyone for coming out to the Spaghetti Dinner! The kids work so hard to put this event on for the church and they appreciate everything that you give to them for their camps and conferences. Without you, the congregation, the kids would not have as many opportunities to take some great trips that really mold their spiritual lives in Christ!

Thanks so much! -Toby

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10 Charleston Ave.

Mattoon, IL 61938

Return Service Requested

