

First Presbyterian Church
10 Charleston Ave.
Mattoon, IL 61938
Phone: (217) 234-6722
Email: fpchurch@consolidated.net
Website: www.fpcmattoon.org

Pastor
Rev. Matthew
Froeschle

Treasurer
John Swick

Administrative
Assistant
Cherry Wishard

Youth Director
Toby Montgomery

Music
Scott Hines

Worship AV
Brandon Barta

Church Custodian
Rick Plummer

Treasurer
John Swick

Stated Clerk
John Jeisy



Sunday Worship

Adult Bible Study
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.



“Jesus Tries to Talk People Out of Following Him”

Large crowds were traveling with Jesus, and turning to them he said: “If anyone comes to me and does not hate his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters - yes, even his own life - he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.” -Luke 14:25-27

Recently, I’ve enjoyed meeting with a number of wonderful people who wish to (and have) become members here at First Presbyterian Church in Mattoon. When speaking of the reasons they feel called to join FPC, they consistently speak of the warm spirit of fellowship in worship and the church’s obvious love for mission and for people. Church, your Christ-empowered hospitality is *winsome*. God is doing wonderful things through us.

In Jesus’ day, too, the evident love and presence of God drew a crowd. People recognized God’s Spirit in Jesus and wanted to be around Him. This, I’m sure, delighted Jesus and the disciples. After all, Jesus came to earth in order to save people and draw them back to God.

However, Jesus needed to make sure that people really wanted to become His disciples, not just His fans. And so we have passages like the one above from the gospel of Luke, in which Jesus says hard, challenging (awful?) words. “If you want to be my disciple, you have to be willing to put me above everything else.”

Talk about high enrollment costs! “Hate” your Dad and Mom, your spouse and kids, your brothers and sisters, and your own life? Ouch. David Platt, Christian pastor and author of the book *Radical*, commented that Jesus seems to be talking people OUT of following Him.

Now, let me emphasize that Jesus isn’t advocating for hatred. Don’t get thrown by this particular use of the word “hate” in that passage above. Jesus is clearly a proponent of love (there are countless passages which emphasize that). Jesus is in no way justifying cruelty to family members or to yourself. The disciples understood this.

But the Lord IS saying that following Him must come first. If there should arise a decision between either following Jesus or pleasing people, the disciple is to choose Jesus.

But, seriously, Jesus, why are you being so mean and so demanding?

Here, I believe, is the answer: ***Only that which is placed under the Lordship of Jesus is redeemed.*** The early church preached that there is no other Name (other than the Name of Jesus) by which humanity is saved.”

If we don’t put our valuables in the bank, they can not be protected by the bank. In the same way, if we do not place ourselves and our relationships and all the gifts we’ve been given under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, they are not sanctified. Rather than keeping us close to Jesus, they are liable to take us away from Him.

Remember that Jesus also said: “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” If Jesus is not our greatest treasure, than we are trusting in something else to save us. Jesus asks us through these Scriptures: “Is that wise?”

Jesus is simply being up front about the cost of truly seeking Him first. It won’t always be comfortable. It will mean challenges and trials and difficulties. But it will bring rewards far greater than the world can offer.

I love it when people join our church. That fills me with such joy! Both our new members and our long-time members are such a blessing! Yet let us all remember that our first priority is ***being*** and ***making disciples of Jesus***, not just adding to the active membership roll.

God bless you all, and let’s have a truly blessed and God-honoring 2019. May Jesus use FPC to expand His Kingdom, and make committed followers of Jesus Christ!

Yours in Christ’s love, *Pastor Matthew*



Wednesday, January 2

Women's Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Membership Committee 10:00 a.m.
NO LOGOS

Thursday, January 3

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Men's Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 6

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.

Tuesday, January 8

Prayer Group 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, January 9.

LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 10

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Men's Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
Mystery Book Club 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 13

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, January 15

PEO 9:00 a.m.
Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
Quadrangle Book Club 1:30
Mission Committee 6:30 p.m.
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 16

LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 17

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Men's Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 20

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.

Tuesday, January 22

Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m. Session
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m..

Wednesday, January 23

LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 24

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Men's Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
PEO 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 27

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, January 28

Deacons 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, January 29

Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 30

LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, January 31

Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Men's Prayer 10:00 a.m.

Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, January 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. Anna Marie Froeschle is hostess, Kathy Saunders has devotions and the Lesson. Please read chapter 8 in your study book "Cloud of Witnesses". New members are welcome. If you have any questions call Alice Jeisy at 644-2625.

PRAYER groups and BIBLE STUDY groups are forming/meeting to help you in your journey of faith. Are you thirsty for a more intimate time of learning together with fellow believers, or just in need of some prayer and spiritual refreshment? Meeting on Tuesday mornings at 10:00 a.m. at the church.

The Thursday Morning Bible Study Group at 9:00 a.m. Keep reading through the Bible in a year. Come join us, no previous experience is necessary.



Snow Alert

Winter Weather Hotline... If you happen to find a winter wonderland on Sunday morning and are concerned or wondering if there will be church services....

our contact person is **Paul Daily** or tune in to **WMCI 101.3** on the radio.

Paul will be in contact with Rev. Froeschle and a determination will be made regarding the weather and our services.

Paul's numbers are: 234-9667 or 232-9667.

2019 Offering Envelopes are in the Narthex. If you don't have a box and would like one, please contact the office and we'll get you one.



It's time to start thinking about **Annual Committee Reports**. They are due to the church office no later than January 21st.

Flowers for 2019

Would you like to provide flowers for the sanctuary one Sunday during the year?

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Special Date: _____

Second choice/Special date: _____

In Honor of / In Memory of (circle one) _____

Do you want the church to order the flowers and charge to you? Yes____ No____

After the service, please take your flowers.

Please return flower request form to the church office. Thank you!



Food pantry items are being gathered.

Please keep the food coming to help those in need.

Food may be left in a box in the Narthex.

January: Flour



Keep saving the Box Tops for Education for Kemmerer Village.

Place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall.

Faith Step

Next time you receive a gift, a paycheck, or some other blessing, ask Jesus to show you a way to pass that blessing along to someone else.

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

James 1:17 (NIV)



Jan. 2nd

David Wetzel

Jan. 8th

Sue Gathmann

Jan. 9th

Sibyl Etchason

Jan. 10th

Jo Swick

Jan. 11th

Cadance McDaniel

Jan. 12th

Betty Miller

Jan. 13th

Brian McDowell
Gloria Thompson

Jan. 14th

Elnor Oliver

Jan. 15th

Susan Montgomery

Jan. 16

Zachery Froeschle

Jan. 17

David Cline

Jan. 18th

Max Jaeger

Jan. 26th

Art Willaredt

Jan. 28th

Kathy Beaver

Prayer Requests



Continued prayers For those having treatments for medical conditions:

- Mavis Bagby
- Catherine Beachy
- Kathy Beaver
- Jean Beard
- Earl Bennett
- Joan Dickens
- Evelyn Furry
- Jo & Harlan Heller
- Jeremiah Parker
- Betty & Bob Miller
- Betty Martin
- Elnor Oliver
- The Barta family

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

- Matt Gathmann
 - Kyle & Kelly Martin
 - Hunter S. McRoberts
-



January 16th

Roy & Elizabeth Druin

January 26th

Steve & Vicki Williams

Dear members and friends of First Presbyterian Church, Mattoon,

You have access to a huge library of Christian content - Bible Studies - videos - and more! Simply scan the QR code below with your smartphone's scanner app, or type the link below into your web browser. This will take you to our church's custom registration page, where you can create your free profile and have instant access to all these great materials provided by RIGHTNOWMEDIA. This is a free gift to you and to your family and your friends near and far. Share the link! Enjoy the content! God bless you.

In Christ, Pastor Matthew



Kemmerer Village News Thanks to all who donated toys, gift cards and sent checks to Kemmerer for the childrens Christmas and those children in foster care. Currently there are 25 children and 160 children from infant to teens in foster care.

Thanks to Kathy Saunders for the beautiful quilt she made and gave to the Village. Kathy's mother had started the quilt and Kathy finished the quilt.



NEW WAY TO GIVE

Generally when we think of giving to the church we think of only writing a check. Whether we give for our tithes or a special gift we now have a new way to do it.

Now you can give by going to the church's website and link over to an online donation form. It is really simple to use!

This will allow you to use your checking account or a credit card to make a gift to the church. You can make a one time gift,

weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annual gift to the church.

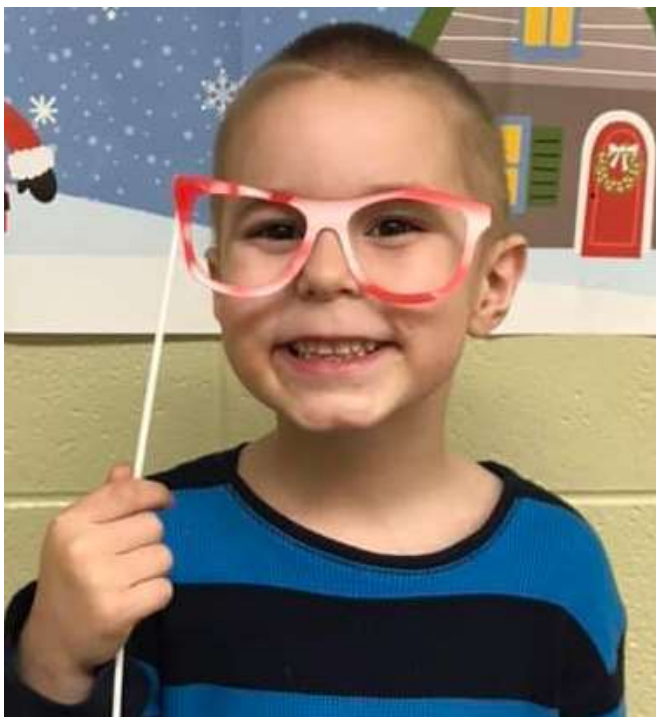
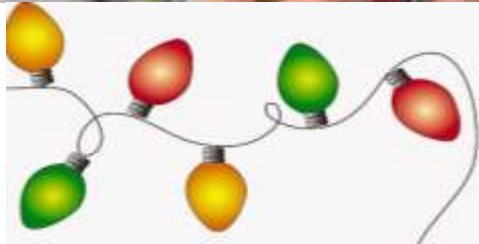
You can also designate where you want the funds to go. The choices are **General Operating Fund**, **Memorial Fund** or the **Youth Fund**.

Now if you travel or even get home bound

for whatever reason you can continue to give to the church.

Ask Pastor Matthew or any Stewardship & Finance Committee Member for details!

LOGOS CHRISTMAS PARTY



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

10 Charleston Ave.
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THE FIRST ALERT



Return Service Requested