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.

Special Events
Church Bazaar  
Nov. 2nd  
7:00 a.m.-noon
Church Thanksgiving Dinner  
Nov. 24

Red Cross Blood Drive  
Nov. 25th  
2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.
“For ALL THINGS give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:18

“The root of joy is gratefulness. It is not joy that makes us grateful; it is gratitude the makes us joyful.” - David Steindl-Rast

In our Bible class that meets Sunday morning before worship, we have been reading (wrestling) through the book of Exodus together. The Bible raises hard questions about God’s sovereignty and humanity’s willfulness. Currently, we are talking about the Hebrew people’s time in the desert. It’s the part of the story after the Hebrews were freed from slavery in Egypt but before they entered into the Promised Land. The Hebrews did a lot of grumbling.

We grumble, too, especially when there’s a great deal of uncertainty in our lives, or when we’re going through dramatic changes that can be painful and uncomfortable. In many ways, it is easier for us to be aware of the present challenges than to remain aware of the living God who has delivered us through challenges in the past (and who promises to be with us always).

Awareness of God can breathe gratitude into even the darkest of situations, as we stop trembling before the dark mountains and dwell instead upon the author of life who is constantly thinking about us. Awareness of the cross of Jesus Christ reminds us of the incomprehensible love of a God who would become nothing (despised and killed) so that we could be rescued from the prison of selfishness and welcomed into an everlasting community of grace.

It would be heartless to downplay the sufferings people endure. I don’t write this to say that your sufferings aren’t real or that they don’t matter to God. The Bible reminds us to bring our sorrows to the Lord - as well as our gratitude and worship.

We desperately need reminders that we are not alone - that we are loved - that there is GOOD in this world and there is the AUTHOR of goodness. I think of Job who had cause to complain, yet ultimately acknowledged that all he ever had came as a gift from God. That's radical gratitude, and an awareness that kept him sane.

May Jesus Christ bless you church. I am so very grateful for you.

In Christ’s love,

Pastor Matthew
Saturday, November 2
Holiday Bazaar
7:00 a.m.-noon

Sunday, November 3
Daylight saving time ends
Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Church 9:45 a.m.
Worship Committee meeting after service
Mission Stitchers 2:00 p.m.
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 5
Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 6
Women’s Board Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Membership Committee 10:00 a.m.
LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 7
Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Men’s Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, November 10
Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Church 9:45 a.m.
All Church Breakfast Brunch after Worship
Pre-Pack Food Center 1:00 p.m.
Youth Group 3:00 p.m.

Monday November 11
Veterans Day
Church Office Closed

Tuesday, November 12
Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
Sarah Circle 10:30 a.m.
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.
Retired Teachers Meeting 1:30 p.m.
Personnel Meeting 4:30 p.m.
Priscilla Circle 7:00 p.m.
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 13
Stewardship & Finance 1:00 p.m.
B & G 2:00 p.m.
LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 14
Church Office Closed

Friday, November 15
Church Office Closed

Sunday, November 17
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, November 19
PEO 9:00 a.m.
Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.
Quadrangle Book Club 1:30 p.m.
Mission Committee 6:30 p.m.
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 20
LOGOS 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, November 21
Bible Study 9:00 a.m.
Men’s Prayer Group
PEO 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, November 24
Adult Bible Study 8:30 a.m.
Worship Service 9:30 a.m.
Children’s Church 9:45 a.m.
Thanksgiving Dinner after service

Monday, November 25
Red Cross Blood Drive 2:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 26
Prayer Group 10:00 a.m.
Dulcimers 1:30 p.m.
Session 6:00 p.m.
Barbershoppers 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 27
NO LOGOS

Thursday, November 28
Thanksgiving Day, Church Office Closed

Friday, November 29
Church Office Closed
Thanksgiving Dinner
You all are invited to delicious Thanksgiving Dinner at the First Presbyterian Church, Mattoon Fellowship hall on November 24 at 11:00 a.m. Please sign up in the Narthex or call Cherry to reserve a spot at our tables.

CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES
Now is the time to start thinking about Christmas Shoeboxes!! Please consider sharing the love of Jesus with a poor child by filling a shoebox with toys, books, crayons, puzzles, hygiene items, (no chocolate - no glass bottles - no violent toys). There is a more detailed list of items to include with the boxes. If you have questions, please ask Sue Gathmann (217-254-3487) or a member of the Mission Committee. Empty shoeboxes are in the narthex. We need the shoeboxes back by November 17th.

PW will be hosting a craft/bake sale on November 2nd 7:00 a.m.-noon. Those interested in donating their creations, contact any of the PW board members.

First Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Blood Drive on Monday, November 25th 2:00 p.m. –6:00 p.m.

Sarah Circle will meet in the church parlor on Tuesday, November 12th, at 10:30 a.m. Karen Stone will have the devotion and Diane Coen will lead the study on the fourth of the Ten Commandments which will help us understand the gift of the Sabbath. Anyone is welcome to join us.

Priscilla Circle will meet Tuesday, November 12th. Hostess is Connie Buescher, Tami Cox has devotions and Alice Jeisy will lead the lesson on Bible Trivia. Time and place will be announced later. New members are always welcome. If you have any questions call Alice Jeisy at 644-2625.

Nov. 10th - a Sunday brunch featuring the Stewardship committee (unless otherwise told). Asking for sign-ups Breakfast casseroles, fruits and breakfast breads. Signup in narthex.

Dec. 7th - Bus trip to Purdue, Leaving church at 8:00. Concert at noon ET. Will NOT be stopping to eat on the way up but will be on the way back.
A few tips on child restraint seats

Car crashes are a leading killer of children ages 1 to 13. In 2016, 723 children under 13 were killed in passenger vehicle crashes. Of those killed, more than 1 in 3 were unrestrained. Car seats reduce the risk of infants being killed in cars by 71%. They also reduce the risk of toddlers being killed by 54%. To maximize safety, avoid early graduation to the next car seat. Follow the car seat manufacturer’s height and weight guidelines.

The Illinois law states that any child under the age of 8 must be secured in an appropriate safety restraint system. Infants and toddlers should ride in a rear-facing seat until they reach the highest weight or height allowed by the seat manufacturer. Most will allow children to ride rear facing for 2 years or more. It is best to keep the child rear facing as long as possible.

Toddlers and preschoolers who have outgrown the rear-facing weight or height limit should use a forward-facing seat with a harness for as long as possible, (up to the highest weight or height allowed by the car seat maker.)

School aged children should use a belt-positioning booster seat until the vehicle seat belt fits properly, typically when they have reached 8 thru 12 years of age or are 4 feet 9 inches in height. The seat belt should not lay against his/her neck or abdomen. When using a booster seat, the lap belt should lie low and snug across the child’s upper thighs. The shoulder belt should cross the middle of your child’s chest and shoulder and is off the neck.

Recently I heard a friend talking about leaving bulky coats off of children while in their car seats. I was puzzled by this information. After some investigation I found that in a crash, fluffy padding immediately flattens out from the force, leaving extra space under the harness. A child can then slip through the straps and be thrown from the seat. Yes, it is a pain to put that harness on tight and have to cover your child with a coat or blankets to keep warm. However, I would rather my great grand-daughter be a bit cold or a bit uncomfortable than have her injured or dead.

For more information on this subject: cyberdriveillinois.com  AAP (American Association of Pediatricians) or call for an appointment with a nationally certified car seat technician. Mattoon has two, Officer Lusk and Sergeant Brunson.  Jean Jones
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. November: Instant Potatoes.

Keep saving the Box Tops for Education for Kemmerer Village. Place them in the box in the Fellowship Hall. Thanks to all who save them.

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Daylight Saving Time Ends

ATTENTION!
Parents and Grandparents of College Students!

We will again be sending final exam care packages to all our college students. We need current addresses so that these can be delivered in time for final exams. So, if you have or know of a college student, please get their current address to me—Sue Gathmann 254-3487 or to the church office 234-6722 by November 17th.

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 number is: 234-9667 or 232-9667.
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
10 Charleston Ave.
Mattoon, IL 61938

Return Service Requested

THE FIRST ALERT

November