

THE FIRST PRES

November 2007

First Presbyterian Church

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Winnebago, Illinois

Pastor's Note

“Living With an Attitude of Gratitude Not Entitlement”

More and more with each passing year, it seems as though Thanksgiving Day becomes less and less a major holiday. What was once the defining event of every autumn and the day we came together to rejoice for all we've been given is now just another day off, lost in the stretch of commercialism between Halloween and Christmas.

Through out the United States, perhaps the disappearance of this wonderful celebration into the generic holiday season is because of the cultural shift from an attitude of gratitude to an attitude of entitlement? It makes little sense to celebrate and give thanks for all we've been blessed with when we feel as though it was all owed to us in the first place.

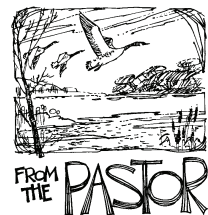
In the lives of many Americans, with our prosperity has come a loss of purpose. Plenty is so ingrained within us that we no longer treat our possessions as though they belong to God. Materialism doesn't seem as much of a sin as it once did when churches often spend more on buildings, technology, and marketing than they give to the poor and to missions. We've broken the old rule of how to handle blessings: “Increase your standard of giving, not your standard of living”.

The word of God tells us repeatedly that stewardship, not ownership, is the plan God has for our possessions. (Matthew 19:20-26). The hallmark of ownership is worry, and the hallmark of stewardship is thanksgiving. We should cultivate an attitude toward God that focuses on His being rather than His blessings. This is the key to a right relationship with Him

Among the more than fifty references to thanks and related words, the Apostle Paul states, we are to be “always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the father” (Eph. 5:20).

God's will is that we will live our lives with the overwhelming awareness of His mercy, grace, love, and blessings in spite of our sinfulness.

Accepting Christ's sacrifice and receiving His presence into our lives requires a heart of genuine thanksgiving not entitlement. Christ's presence in our lives is something worth celebrating and sharing. May you be blessed to experience the real joy of thanksgiving.



Session Synopsis

The feeling of autumn has returned with its cooler temperatures, beautiful fall foliage, and the excitement of watching and listening to our kids playing and competing in school. It's been a busy year as well for our Board of Elders, and this pattern continues as we plan ahead for our end of the year activities.

The first few minutes of our October session meeting were spent with routine matters of review and discussion. We reviewed the minutes of last month; planned for the next serving of communion, November 4, 2007; examined and approved the Treasurer's Report, and then listened as Pastor Steve shared several pieces of information which have come from the Presbytery office, and reported of the welcome of several new members coming up October 28, 2007, and the scheduled baptism of several children.

Visioning and planning ahead is a big part of our business as the Board of Elders. This is the time we begin the process of "budget preparation" for next year, and place in nomination the names of people we seek to lead and serve us as elders, deacons, and trustees. The names of these individuals will be shared at the congregational meeting coming up this fall.

A special congregational meeting has been called for on November 18, 2007 to discuss and vote on the purchase of a projector, screen, and laptop computer to facilitate worship and better communications.

A few minutes of our meeting was taken up with the active listening and sharing of comments regarding our new Christian education curriculum; the new manner we are serving and taking communion, and the possible purchase of a portable room divider, and the cost of putting a "flag pole" to fly our national flag and possibly other flags as well. Estimates on the cost and feasibility of these items will be obtained in the coming months.

We welcome your comments on the purchase and installation of these proposed items and look forward to seeing you at worship services. May God bless you, our church, our community and the United States of America.

In Christ's service,
Your Board of Elders

Greeters

This year for greeters, we will be asking all church members to take turns at our Sunday worship. You will receive a postcard with your Sunday to welcome our friends to our worship service.

November Greeters

4th	Dennis Cross Family
11th	Guy Cunningham Family
18th	Warren & Barb Cunningham
25th	Lynn & Judie Coots

Deacons

The Deacons met on October 16, 2007, at 6:30 p.m. with seven members present. Our President Rosemary Runyard welcomed everyone and led us in prayer.

The August and September minutes were read and approved. The correspondence was read. We discussed what to do with old correspondence received by the Deacons. The treasurer's report was approved. Bev Samsel presented the sunshine report with many cards being sent out. She also reported on who received visits and fall plants from the deacons in September.

Pastor Steve reported on his visits with our church's shut ins and sharing communion with them. He shared that we have some happy events coming in our church with baptisms, weddings and acceptance of new members on the future schedule. Pastor Steve also reported on families and individuals within our community and church family that are in need of support and prayer; then led us in prayer.

Discussion was had on the retiring of our President Rosemary Runyard after six years of caring service and her replacement. We will hold appointments for officer positions at our December meeting.

We verified communion schedule for November. More discussion was had regarding the new way of serving the elements. It was decided that once the bugs were worked out the new way would be acceptable.

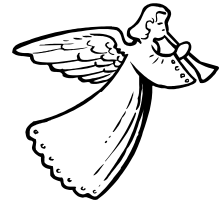
There being no more business, our meeting was closed with the reciting of the Deacon's Prayer. Our next meeting will be on November 20, 2007 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Darla Cunningham

Christmas Angels

It is time to order Christmas ornaments for our sanctuary again. This year they are Battenburg embroidered angels. They are \$5.00 and can be in memory of or in honor of someone of your choice. Please order by November 25th. Watch for order forms in early November. If you have questions call Ann fuller at 815-335-7402.

Thanks for your support!
The Presbyterian Women



September Church Budget

Beginning Checking:	\$16,894.81
Month Revenue:	\$14,436.05
Month Expenses:	\$9,351.16
Year to date Revenue:	\$115,793.54
Year to date Expenses:	\$108,183.65
End Checking:	\$21,979.70

Trustees

The Trustees met with the some of the ladies of the church to discuss several options for improving the workflow and increasing storage capacity in the kitchen.

Now that the installation of the new windows is complete for this year, if anyone would like the old window panes or the storm windows please contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,
Greg Rittmeyer



Jr. High Youth Group Movie Night

.....
: Attn: All 6th, 7th & 8th graders.
: Join us Friday, November 2nd , for
: pizza, popcorn, and a movie 6:30 -
: 9:00 p.m. Bring a friend! Call
: Cindy Benson with any questions at
: 335-1095.
:

Naomi Circle

On November 20th the Naomi Circle will meet at 12:30 PM. Vera Olesen is the hostess.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, November 18, 2007.

Thank You

Ginger, Chelsea and I would like to thank you for your continuing prayers and concerns regarding Charlie.
Pastor Steve.

Thank you to our friends and church family for the many cards and memorials to brother and Uncle Jim Brown. A special thank you to the PW ladies for sending the barbeque from your luncheon to our family. We certainly do have a loving and caring "family" in our church.

Judy Mitchell
Matt & Thessa Mitchell

Many thanks to all who have remembered me during my health problems. Telephone calls, cards, letters, and prayers were so helpful. Pastor Steve called with prayer and kind words. Each one of you is special and words cannot truthfully thank you enough for your kindness.

My Love to each of you,
Arleene Slocum-Meyers

Newsletter Articles

Newsletter articles are due on November 21, 2007. Please note that this is Wednesday. You may email them to silla2@aeroinc.net.

Mary Martha Circle

Mary Martha Circle will meet on November 8th at 7:00 PM. Bev Barker is the hostess.

The Shoe Box Ministry

A SHOWER OF LOVE...ONE WOMAN ONE BOX...OUR SHOE-BOX MINISTRY

The Presbyterian Woman's mission project is off and running. Again, we ask that all women from confirmation age on up prepare a box. This yearly mission project is focused on local agency that we feel are in need of our support.

MAYA's House, Mothers and Youth Attaining Stability is a day drop-in shelter/day care for homeless mothers and their children. Since the people are homeless, with little to nothing to call their own, we are filling plastic shoeboxes with items that will be given to them to take with them, when they leave the building of MAYA's House. Last year we sent close to 70 boxes, which were distributed by Pat Crowell and her staff.

A homeless child is one who lacks a "fixed, regular and adequate nighttime place of abode." according to Pat Crowell, Director of MAYA's House. In general, children or youth living in welfare hotels, transitional housing, shelters, the streets, cars, abandoned buildings and other inadequate accommodations are considered homeless. This includes the following groups, children in shelters, doubled-up children (living with another family due to lack of a permanent residence), Migratory children, runaways and throwaways (children whose parent will not permit them to live at home).

Along with your boxes, if you have gone through closets, toys, movies etc. and you find things that are still useable, but no longer being used by you, bag or box them up and put that under the table as well. We only have until November 11th, at which time a representative from MAYA's House will provide our congregation with information and the message during our Worship Hour. That too, is the day that all the boxes will be dedicated and sent home with this representative. So please, check out the display in the side room, fill your boxes and bring them to our Shower of Love Umbrella and watch the boxes grow. Grab a daughter, son, granddaughter or grandson and provide them the opportunity of shopping, filling and sharing their blessings to children less fortunate. If you have questions, call me at 335-2583.

Please help in this important ministry, by taking a list of the items and filling a plastic shoe box we can help share our blessings with those going through a very difficult time. Place your filled box under our "Shower of Love" umbrella and watch the number of boxes grow. All information can be found in the newsletter, regarding the agency and needed items. All woman from confirmation age on up is asked to help in this mission, however, anyone male or family, that would like to prepare a shoe box is certainly encouraged to do so.

In Christ,
Susan Slocum



One Woman One Box

The following are suggestions for putting in the "Shoe boxes" for our "One Woman One Box" mission. You can make the box either for a male or female, please note on the side of the shoe box the age and sex. All age groups will include unisex stuff and then ideas for gender specific items. All boxes should include the functional items designated by the "*" before the item. The remaining items are suggestions of what you can choose from and/or if you have something that you think that age group would like, that too is OK.

Little Children 3-5

- *Toothbrush & tooth paste
- *Wash cloth, towel & soap
- *Pack of Kleenex
- Night light
- Matching game or memory game
- Comb and Brush
- Beanie baby type toy
- Crayons and Coloring book
- Matchbox car
- Small doll
- Small book

11-14 years old

- *Toothbrush & tooth paste
- *Wash cloth, towel and soap
- *Pack of Kleenex
- Stuffed toy
- Puzzle book
- Small radio and batteries
- Hand held game and batteries
- Hair goodies for girls
- Disposable camera
- Pad of paper
- Comb/brush
- Uno cards

6-10 year olds

- *Toothbrush & tooth paste
- *Wash cloth, towel and soap
- *Pack of Kleenex
- Night light
- Journal/diary type book
- Pens/markers
- Stickers
- Disposable camera
- Small Lego kit
- Small action figures
- Comb and Brush
- They have miniature games like etch a sketch and Mr. Potato head
- Go fish or other children's card games
- Stuffed toy

Adult Mother

- *Toothbrush & tooth paste
- *Wash cloth, towel & soap
- *Pack of Kleenex
- Journal and Pen
- Small calendar
- Pad of paper
- Phone Card
- McDonald type coupons
- Comb/brush
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Inspiration book

MAYA'S House Wish List

The following list offer suggested items that would help MAYA's House throughout their day. If you would like to help with these items, that too would be wonderful. If you find yourself with clothes, coats, boots, shoes, socks, towels, sheets, that were too small and no longer being used for your family, those items would be greatly appreciated.

Diapers	Laundry Soap	Macaroni & Cheese	Baby bottles
Disposable Bibs	Bleach	Rami noodles	Latex Gloves
Snack items:	Dish Soap	Socks, socks, socks	School supplies
Fruit snacks, juice boxes, crackers with cheese etc.	Clorox Wipes	Kleenex	Personal hygiene items
	Hand sanitizer	Sheets for twin mattress	Garbage bags
	Boxed Milk	Art supplies	Baby food/formula

PW News

Thank you to all who worked so hard to made the Pig-Roast, Mini-Bazaar and Grandma's Attic a success! It takes everyone's help for this event to occur. A special thank you to Shirley Heslop and Mary Lee for all of their hard work in coordinating this event and preparing the meal and to all of the other sub-committees that worked so hard.

Coming Events:

Memory Angel Fund Raiser coordinated by Anne Fuller

November 8 - Mary Martha Circle will meet at the home of Bev Barker at 7:00 p.m.

November 11 - Thank Offering Service and Awarding of Honorary Life Memberships – Jill Sunday, Coordinator

November 15, 7:00 p.m. – Installation Service Gathering, Business Meeting and Installation of Officers – Hostess: Naomi Circle – Installation Service – Jean Meissen

November 20 – Naomi Circle at the home of Vera Olesen

November 22 – Thanksgiving

December 1 – Decorate Church – Coordinators Kathy Heeren-Ellis and Lisa Rittmeyer

December 2 – First Sunday in Advent

Mark your calendars too, for the cookie walk on December 8. Plan now for your seasonal baking to make goodies to contribute or to come and buy those tasty treats for the holidays!

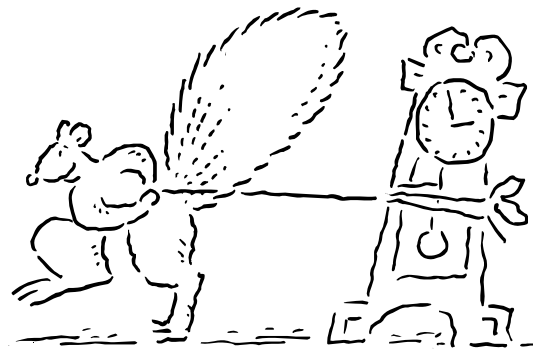
God Bless!

Sue Jansen, Moderator




Thank Offering Service

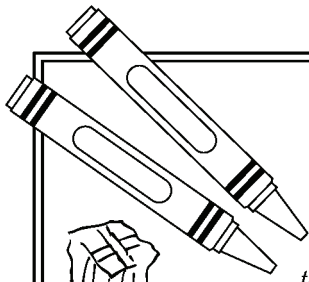
November 11th is the Thank Offering Service. Pat Clinton from the Rockford Rescue Mission will be our speaker. Please bring can goods, or paper products that day for the Mission. A box will be in the entryway.



Fall Back

November 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 6:30 PM jr. High Movie Night	3
4 9:00 AM SS 10:30 AM Worship Communion Fellowship	5 FPC Band 6:30 PM	6 7:00 PM Worship committee	7 7:00 PM Sr. High Choir	8 7:00 PM Mary Martha Trustees	9	10
11 9:00 AM SS 10:30 AM Worship Thank offering PW Life Membership	12 FPC Band 6:30 PM	13	14 7:00 PM Choir	15 7:00 PM PW Installation service gathering	16	17
18 9:00 AM SS 10:30 AM Worship Congrega- tional meeting	19 FPC Band 6:30 PM 7:15 PM Session	20 12:30 PM Naomi 6:30 PM Deacons	21 Newsletter Articles Due 7:00 PM Sr. High	22	23	24
25 9:00 AM SS 10:30 AM Worship	26 FPC Band 6:30 PM	27	28 7:00 PM Choir	29	30	



Just for KIDS

Psalm 107:1

Fill in the blanks with words that match the descriptions. Transfer the letters to the boxes below. Read the verse from Psalms.

Shape that symbolizes "love" _____

31 15 7 18 5

Part of a stove used for baking _____

12 3 24 39

Color made by red and yellow _____

28 42 7 8 27 37

A present _____

1 32 20 11

Something a girl wears _____

19 22 43 44 33

Something you open to go into a room _____

40 29 17 47

Opposite of soft (sound) _____

34 17 41 30

To take a long walk _____

14 2 9 38

A high body temperature _____

45 50 49 48 42

Equipment used to build or fix things _____

13 35 21 16 26

Edge of the sea _____

10 23 46 51 4

Home for a bee _____

6 25 36 4

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56

Answers: heart, oven, orange, gift, dress, door, loud, hike, fever, tools, shore, hive; Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever.

Thank You, Lord

Make place mat collages for everyone in your family. Use the place mats for Thanksgiving dinner or any other meal.



You will need:

- construction paper (approximately 12" x 18")
- old magazines
- scissors
- glue
- clear contact paper

How to make place mats:

- Cut out words and pictures from the magazines. Choose things that you are thankful for.
- Arrange them on the paper and glue them.
- Cut a piece of clear contact paper a little bigger than the construction paper.
- Place the contact paper over your collage and smooth it down.
- Fold the edges under so they stick to the back.