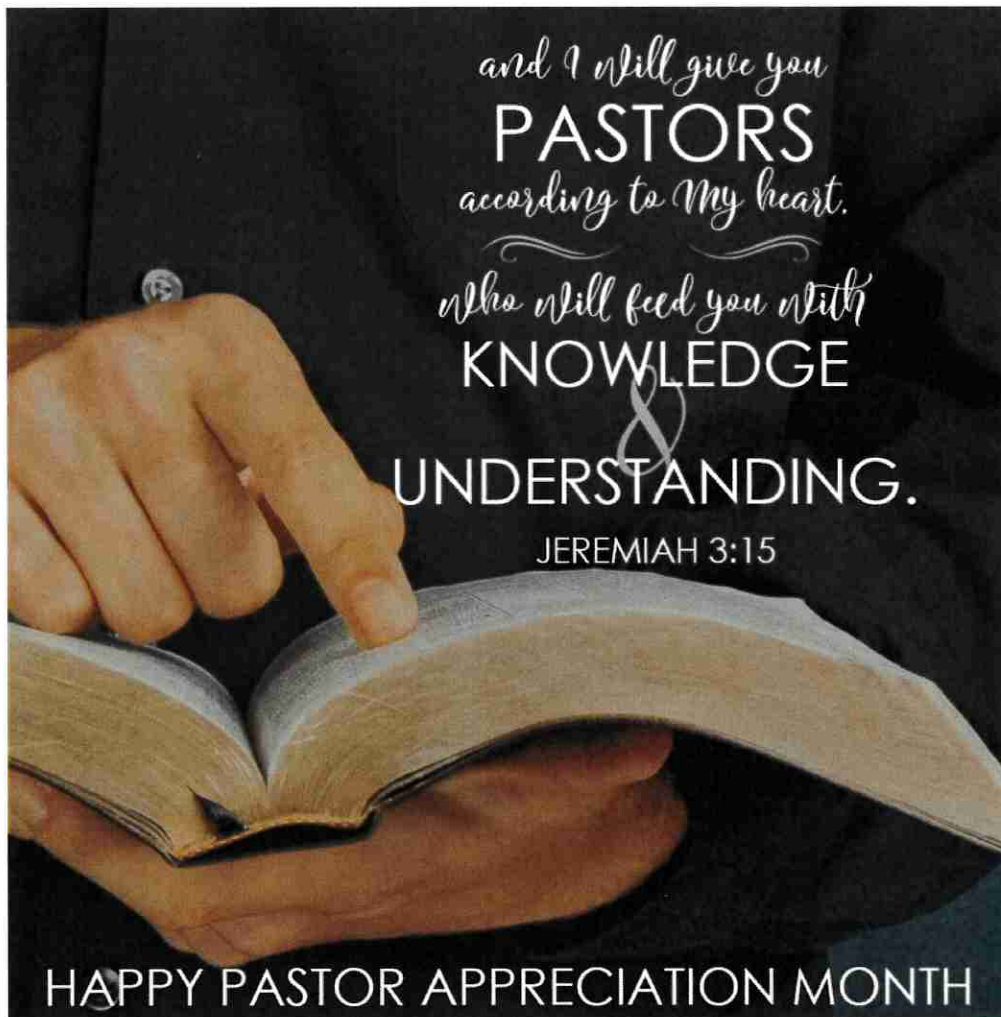


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Lanplighter October 2025



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

OCTOBER

2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM Pastor out of the office for Boundary Training Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	2 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Pastor Maria COM 10-2 in Peoria	3	4 Spoon River Drive
5  9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Baptism of Lincoln Flinn	6	7	8	9 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Session Meeting 6:30 PM	10	11 Spoon River Drive
12 Pastor Appreciation Sunday 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Children's S.S. 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Deacons Meeting	13 EBW 6:00 PM	14 Book Club via zoom 7:00 PM I'll Always Wait	15 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	16 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM Prayer Group 9:00 AM	17 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM	18
19 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 11:30 AM Worship Comm Mtg	20	21 Green Farm Management Mtg here 7pm	22	23 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	24	25  3:30-5:30pm
26 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Deacons Coffee Hour	27 PEO 6:00 PM	28	29	30 Prayer Group 9:00 AM	31 	

SCHEDULES

OCTOBER

Announcements

October Elder

Calie Stalter

Elder to be Liturgist & Assist Treasurer

October 5th Steve Winslow
October 12th Anita Asbell
October 19th Calie Stalter
October 26th Calie Stalter

Musicians for October

October 5th Lauren Feller
October 12th Judy Groeper
October 19th Pat Vaughan
October 26th Judy Groeper



1st: Sally Blunier	22nd: Danny Asbell
5th: Brandi Teel	Diane Winslow
7th: Andrea Brush	25th: Sarah Conklin
9th: Tony Morton	26th: Randy Coulter
13th: Gregg Meyers	Kurt Smith
17th: Anita Asbell	Beth Schlueter
	27th: Fred Paige
	29th: Miranda Coulter



25th: Roger & Amy Kepple



Thursday morning Bible Study & Prayer Group
Thursday's @ 9am in the Fellowship Hall.



Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets on
Sunday Mornings @ 9:00am

Everyone is Welcome!



Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School
for ages 4 - 7 will meet
on the 2nd Sunday
every month @ 10:30am



Pastor Appreciation

October is Pastor Appreciation Month!

You'll have a full month to let her know how much she is appreciated by everyone!

On Sunday, October 12th
we will be celebrating Pastor Marla!

Thank You Pastor

The work you have done for this congregation has truly been a blessing. I am praising God to be so blessed as to have a shepherd who loves his flock this much.



Book Club



Meeting by zoom once a month to discuss a faith-based book. Initial details are:
2nd Tuesdays (except Dec) at 7pm

September 9th The Broker and the Bum
October 14th I'll Always Wait
November 11th Four Cars, One Road
December 2nd Starter Seeds

Modern Parables by Brady Cook
(These novellas are available on Amazon:
Kindle \$3.99 and printed book \$9.99 each).

The church now has a Weather Radio located on the Coffee Bar. Please don't move it or unplug it. If a weather alert is issued for Knox, Peoria or Fulton counties an alert siren will sound, then will give the voice report for the National Weather Service.

Trunk or Treat



Saturday, October 25th

Community Wide Trunk-or-Treat
at Central Park from 3:30-5:30pm
sponsored by Elmwood Ministerium

* We are asking the congregation for their help in providing candy to share and to decorate their trunk and be present for the event. Leave Bags of Candy in the kitchen by 10/24.
Thanks!

"The Anointing"



ANOINTING WITH OIL... WHAT IS THIS?
It's an outward sign of an inward grace.

In the Old Testament anointing was used for designating/ consecrating a new king (King David) or prophet, or for a priest (Aaron and his sons).

In the New Testament anointing is used:

1. To set a person aside/ consecrating (such as a missionary) for lifetime or for a specified period of time,
2. for the healing (physical, emotional and spiritual sickness) of a person,
3. as a request/desire for God's protection,
4. as a request for spiritual cleansing,
5. to experience a closer relationship with the Lord.

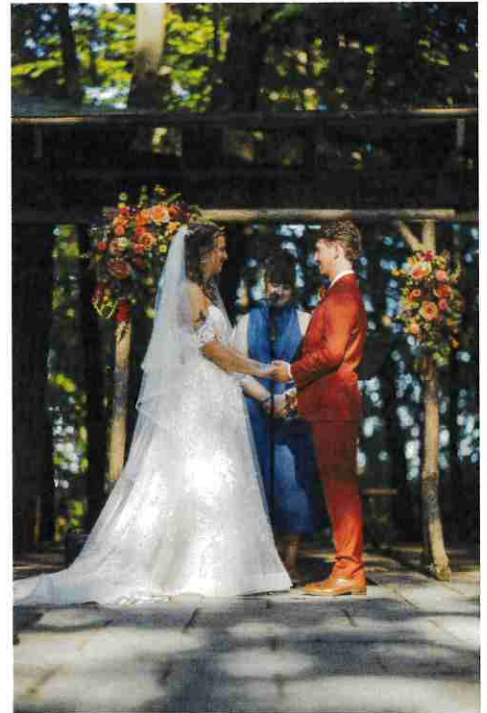
Last year we first were introduced to Anointing with Oil on Pentecost Sunday and World Communion Sunday. I'd like to continue this tradition and offer anointing twice a year for the spiritual benefit of our congregation. People may choose to participate or not—no judgement.

Congratulations

*to Kyle Alcaraz and Maggie Seer who were married
Saturday, September 6th
at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Milwaukee.*



If you would like
to send a card,
their address is
3232 N. Booth Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212





FROM THE PASTOR

October 2025

But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:13-14

⁶² Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." Luke 9:62

Greetings, dear friends!

We are cautioned in scripture not to look back as we walk our Christian journey, because that can be a stumbling block for us. God tells us that we should focus our attention on the present and what possibilities the future holds. That's a good lesson for us, as individual Christians, but also for us as a congregation. Some churches spend too much time looking in the rearview mirror and comparing themselves to what they once were. Or they spend their time looking over the fence at their neighbor, again comparing.

Let's stop looking at what we don't have or what we can no longer do or who we used to have in the pews. Let's look around and see what God HAS given us!

Some congregations are sad because there are no longer children in the Sunday School rooms and in worship. But WE do have a few – and we have grandchildren, also!

Some congregations can't find pastoral leadership. WE have been blessed with consistent pastoral leadership for decades.

Some congregations have no musician to play on Sunday, but our recent musician hardship has brought out the best in our members and friends!

Some congregations have weak lay-leadership; that's not US! We have strong elders, deacons and leaders and members who are involved in many volunteer activities.

Some congregations repeatedly are torn apart by conflicts and a spirit of disagreement, but not US!

We may not have as many folks here on Sunday mornings as we did in the past but what we do have is a blessing! So maybe it's time to hear the words of the Apostle Paul once again, Forgetting what is behind, I press on toward what is ahead—the high calling in Christ Jesus. Look around you and see what God HAS given you! Give thanks and rejoice in all the blessings of God for what we DO have because it could well be gone!

Blessings,

Pastor Marla Bauler

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL
Session Meeting Minutes August 14, 2025

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on August 14, 2025. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Ron Cox at 6:36 p.m.

Elders present: 2025 – Anita Asbell
2026 – Ron Cox, Brandy Stevens and Marty Tarter
2027 – Larry Criswell and Calie Stalter

constituting a quorum. Absent was Steve Winslow. Rev. Marla Bauler moderated the meeting. The guidelines for a quorum were established at the January 9, 2025 Session Meeting as the presence of 50% of currently serving Elders.

Elder Training: Ron Cox - The Discipline of Fasting, from The Celebration of Discipline by Richard J. Foster.

Welcome Troy Roberts, Finance Committee Chair. Motion was made to give him voice to discuss the Finance Committee's investment review.

- * Motion was made that Larry Criswell be designated as the secondary signatory at Princeville State Bank, to enable him to be a contact for the church's investments. Motion seconded & approved.
- * Motion to leave the General Fund (which includes the Harrington Fund) in it's current location. Motion seconded and approved.
- * Motion to permit the diversification of the Johah Fund for long term potential gain. Motion seconded and approved

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

Deacons didn't meet in August, so there was no report to review.

Report of the Clerk

The minutes from the May 8, 2025 Session meeting were reviewed. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for May, June & July 2025 was reviewed. Approved .

Pastor's Report

Pastor Marla shared a printed report which listed her monthly ministry activities. Communion was served to 22 members of the congregation on June 1, 2025, 31 members of the congregation on July 6, 2025 and 21 members of the congregation on August 3, 2025. A request for time off December 19 to 22, 2025 was made. Motion made, seconded and approved. Met with Graham & Mary Kate Flinn regarding request to have infant son Lincoln Flinn baptized on October 5th. Motion made, seconded and approved.

Committee Reports

Personnel: Chair – Ron Cox – No report given

Finance: Co-Chairs – Larry Criswell & Marty Tarter

Refer to item above with Troy Roberts.

Worship/Membership/Christian Ed: Co-Chairs –Anita Asbell & Calie Stalter

Worship: Committee met to discuss the 5th Sunday activity for June 29th, 2025. Decided on a game of Name That Hymn.

Membership: No report.

Christian Ed: Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting:

*Beginning Balance as of **May 1, 2025** = \$1,885.52

Deposits: \$110; \$35; \$230; \$159

Ending Balance as of May 31, 2025 = \$2,419.52

*Beginning Balance as of **June 1, 2025** = \$2,419.52

Deposits: \$149; \$129; \$154; \$156; \$151 Interest: \$4.52

Spent: \$200 (Food supplies for the Blessings Box); \$1,000 (Dream Center Peoria – for AC)

\$600 (To purchase 6 \$100 Kroger gift cards for Abby Segal)

Ending Balance as of June 30, 2025 = \$1,363.04

*Beginning Balance as of **July 1, 2025** = \$1,363.04

Deposits: \$49; \$235; \$154; \$140

Spent: \$100 (donation to Haley (Carter) Amenu for her Bible Project)

Ending Balance as of July 31, 2025 = \$1,841.04.

Marketing and Evangelism: Chair – Brandy Stevens

No report.

Missions: Chair – Marty Tarter

The quarterly Mission donations were paid .

Building and Grounds: Co-Chairs Steve Winslow and Larry Criswell

No report.

New Business

Will ask Brett to begin investigating possible updated soundboards which would allow the use of Bluetooth.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 8:15 p.m.

The next session meeting is September 11, 2025 with Devotions & Prayer by Larry Criswell.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Anita W. Asbell, Clerk of Session (bdt)

Moderator,

Rev. Marla Bauler