

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**410 Second Ave, Box 441
Sterling, IL 61081**



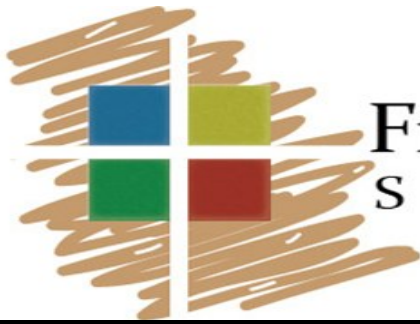
**First Presbyterian Church
410 Second Ave.
P.O. Box 441
Sterling, IL 61081
(815) 625-0452**

A heart for God in the heart of Sterling.

FirstPresbyterianSterling@live.com

www.firstpresbyteriansterling.org

Look for us on Facebook!



First Presbyterian Church

STERLING ILLINOIS

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Please enjoy this month's newsletter. Don't forget to check us out on Facebook. There is a lot of information in there that is regularly updated!

Please call the office anytime with any questions.
815-625-0452

Normal office hours
Mon-Fri 9a-1p

Rev. Katie's Sabbath days are
Friday and Saturday

Christine is out of the office
October 6,16,21 and 24





Note from Pastor Katie

Dear FPC Family,

I knew from the first conversation with your Pastor Nominating Committee that you were an amazing community — full of love, compassion, and faithfulness. Even that knowledge could not compare to the experience of your love and hospitality. I am abundantly grateful for the ways in which you, y'all, have welcomed me and my family, and I look forward to our shared work together.

First Presbyterian has long-standing commitments to loving and welcoming each and every one of God's children; showing hospitality to groups within the community who are seeking space to gather; and serving and advocating for those who are in need. These commitments aren't things we "do"...they are part of our core identity as a community of faith.

This month, we will explore how we live with open hearts, open doors, and open hands inside and outside our community. We will invite you to invest your time, your talents, and your treasure in First Presbyterian's ministry and mission in the year ahead. And we will give thanks for the many ways we have been blessed by God in this work thus far.

For those of you who are familiar with church things...some people call this "stewardship season", and in some places, stewardship season feels like a pledge drive on the radio. As I mentioned in worship, when I was a teenager, I remember looking at my mom and saying, "can we just skip church for October because all they talk about is money?"

That's not what it's going to look like here — because we're not talking about money... we're talking about ministry and mission.

Yes, we need money to live out our call to have Open Hearts...Open Doors...and Open Hands...and we need people...and we need connection...and we need our collective gifts and passions. We need each of us and all of us.

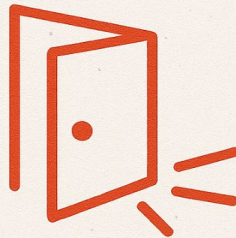
Friends, I look forward to exploring how we nurture and share the gifts that we have together to do God's work in the world.

Peace,

First Presbyterian, Sterling Mission and Ministry 2026



**OPEN
HEARTS**



**OPEN
DOORS**



**OPEN
HANDS**

Beginning October 12, we will explore First Presbyterian's ministry of open hearts, open doors, and open hands. We look forward to gathering our collective resources of time, talents, and treasures as we look towards our ministry and mission in 2026. On October 26, in worship, we will dedicate all that we bring to participate in God's work in the world. Please join us.

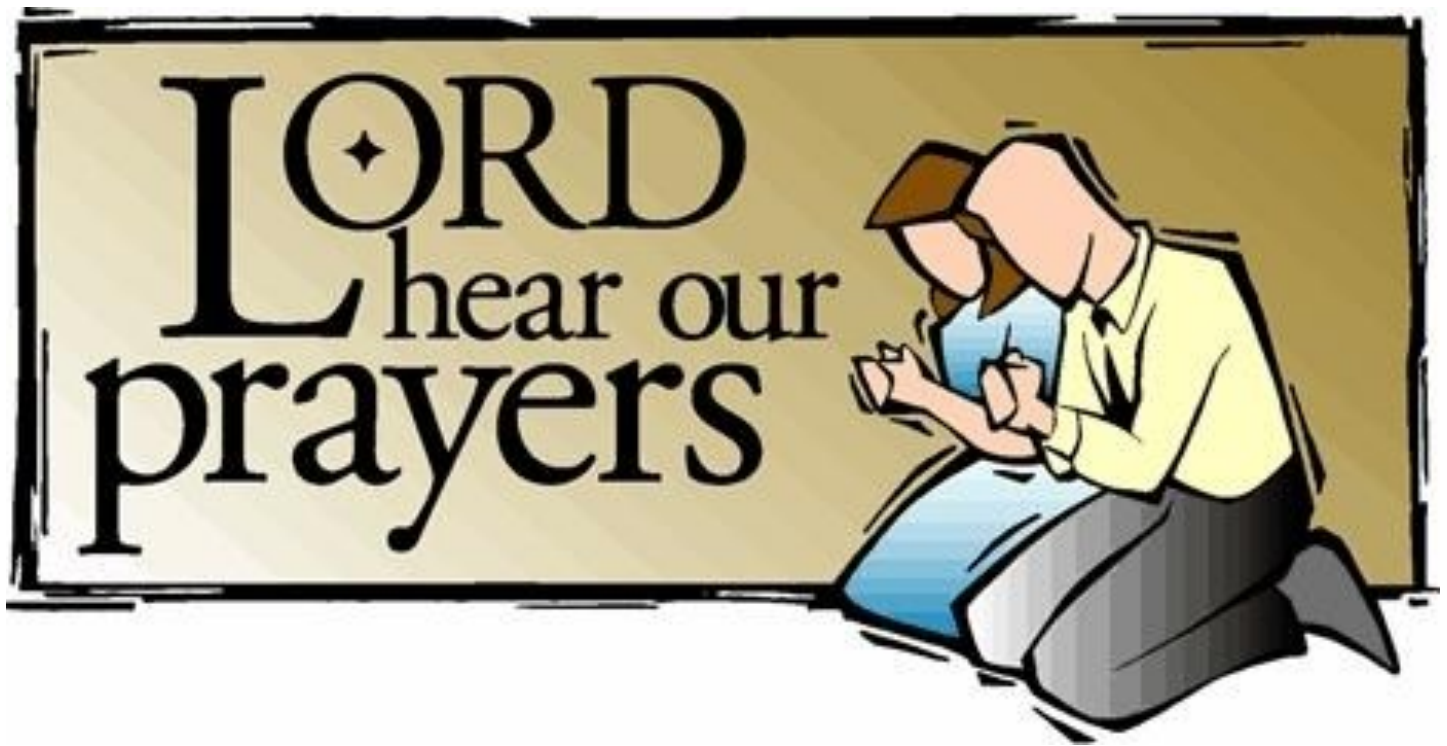
Get to Know First Presbyterian

Gather with Pastor Katie & others after worship
October 19 and November 16
for conversation & fellowship.

Are you interested in
learning more about First
Presbyterian and our
ministry & mission?

Are you wanting to be
more involved...or thinking
about joining?





Please pray for:

At Resthave - Ann Musgrove

Prayers for - Marlene Jennings, Mary-Terrie Snavely, Ron & Jackie Williams, Judy Aggen, Guy Edge, Lee Wright, Tim Weir, Cynthia Miller, David Lowe, Mary Jo Edge, Ann Henderson



SESSION CORNER

Session welcomed Pastor Katie to her first Session meeting with us. The meeting proceeded with the committee reports. Property reported on the elevator. We are seeking additional bids. It will still be sometime before work will begin on the elevator. If you would like to make a donation to the elevator you can put it in the Giving Box or drop it off at the office. Someone stole the gutter spout extensions from the front of the church. Keep your eyes open. It was decided that we would participate in Sights and Sounds of Sterling on the first Saturday night in December. This is an annual event. See Gail with your ideas, input and volunteer opportunities. Buddy Bags packed 161 bags this last week. That total is 10 more than the end of last year.

Musical Notes



We will start choir rehearsals after church 9/28. All are welcome! You don't need to know how to read music and there are at home practice tracks to help so that anyone can learn. You can also just join for special holidays like Christmas or Easter or even just a week here and there - it's not a long term commitment! See Nicole Oberg with questions or ask about joining our choir Facebook group so you can get all the details!

Presbytery name change, they would like your help!

Presbyters Vote to Change the Name of The Presbytery of Blackhawk

By a solid three-fourths majority, an assembly of Presbytery clergy and elders voted on Tuesday, September 9 to change the name of Blackhawk Presbytery. The decision came after considerable opportunities were offered to study, question, learn and jointly discern whether it was appropriate for the Presbytery to continue to use the name of the great 19th century Sauk leader, Black Hawk.

The motion approved by the assembly was: "Based on the completed research and the consensus reached during the discernment activities, we move that the name of Blackhawk Presbytery be changed."

In addition to many thoughtful remarks to the assembly, the following rationale were cited:

- In 1972 when the name was chosen, members of the presbytery were not cognizant of or considerate of the historical context or the cultural context of the name Blackhawk.
- In 2025, we as members now understand that Blackhawk is the name of a war during which men, women, and children were mercilessly slaughtered.
- In 2025, we understand the name of Black Hawk, a revered leader of the Sauk tribe, is considered holy.
- In 2025, we see it as a matter of social justice to give back the name that never truly belonged to our presbytery.
- In 2025, we seize the opportunity to choose a new name that reflects who we are and who we will be.
- In 2025, with most of our materials in an electronic format, the cost of changing the name will be minimal.

Resources related to these efforts are available on the LANA page of the Presbytery's website, (blackhawkpresbytery.org/land-and-name-acknowledgement/).

Seeking Our New Name

In order to hear as many voices as possible, the following process will be used to choose a new name for our Presbytery. All clergy members and church members from Blackhawk churches are invited to participate in the early rounds of voting to narrow suggestions until the finalists are presented for voting at the November 18 assembly meeting (by commissioners only). Google ballot links will be sent to those members on the Connections mailing list. There will be an opportunity to rank your choices. If you, or someone you know, would like to participate who is not currently on this list, they may simply send their email address to Jeannette at jeannette@blackhawkpresbytery.org (or sign up online at: <https://blackhawkpresbytery.org/e-newsletters/>)

WEEK #1 (Sept. 14-20) Receive Name Suggestions

All suggestions advance to Week #2

WEEK #2 (Sept. 21-27) Vote for Your Top 8 Names

Names receiving 3+ votes advance to Week #3

WEEK #3 (Sept. 27-Oct. 4) Vote for Your Top 6 Names

The top 6 names advance to Week #4

WEEK #4 (Oct. 5-11) Vote for Your Top 4 Names

The top 4 names advance to Week #5

WEEK #5 (Oct. 12-18) Announce the Top 4 Names and Request Comments

All comments will be compiled

WEEK #6 to #10 (Oct. 19-Nov. 18) Report will be prepared for the Presbytery Council, published for the entire Presbytery and presented for action on November 18.



THANK YOU
For all your help!!

Sterling Buddy Bags is off to a busy start this year. We began packing bags the first full week of school and have been packing 160 bags each week! In the past several years we started out with under 100 bags per week so we are seeing over a **50% increase** this year. The program services all of the Sterling schools, from kindergarten through high school. Each bag contains a can of pasta (SpaghettiOs or Chef Boyardee), a macaroni and cheese cup, a pudding cup, an applesauce cup, a fruit cup, a package of instant oatmeal, a fruit and granola bar, and a package of crackers with peanut butter. The cost of each bag is \$3.56. Please consider donating funds or items to this very worthy program

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bill Keane

Peace-Love-Thanks

Church Family,
I would like to take this time to
Thank you all for your love and
Kindness during my recent accident.
I truly appreciate your cards, calls, &
Prayers. Thank you to those who
brought food and offered rides,
especially helping me to be able to
get to Church & be with you all.
You are all a huge blessing to me

Peace - Love - Thanks,
Mary Jo Edge

BIRTHDAYS ANNIVERSARIES

October

10/01 Loretta Densmore

10/04 Thomas Densmore

Donald & Melissa Vogel (A)

10/06 Deborah Haglund

10/07 Lyle Muntean

10/12 Mary Snaveley

Michael & Kayla Hemminger (A)

10/14 Heather Finnicum

Donald & Meta Rastede (A)

10/15 Lillian Brown

10/16 Darcie Knutsen

10/17 Wanda Martens

10/18 Sarah (Nesbitt) Peltier

10/21 Alan Connelly

Jim & Vicki Olson (A)

10/24 Ann Henderson

10/25 Jennifer Holloway & Cayla Harvey (A)

10/27 Lynn Gallegos

10/28 Connie Anderson

10/30 Julie Yemm



Help us out—it's easy:

Like providing snacks?

Want to show off
your baking skills?

Sign up for Fellowship!

Think Flowers provide
a beauty to our worship?

Sign up for Flowers!

Flowers, Fellowship, & Liturgist
sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Or, call the office (815-625-0452)
and we can sign you up!

October 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:00– Bible Study 4:00-LSSI	2 6:00p-Youth Outlook	3 2:00p-LSSI	4 10:00a-LSSI
5 9:30a-Worship & Fellowship 6:30p-Boy Scouts	6 6:00p-Cub Scouts	7 6:00p-AA	8 10:00– Bible Study 4:00-LSSI	9 6:00p-Youth Outlook	10 2:00p-LSSI	11 10:00a-LSSI
12 9:30a-Worship & Fellowship 2:00p Scouts 6:30p-Boy Scouts	13 6:00p-Cub Scouts	14 6:00p-AA	15 10:00– Bible Study 4:00-LSSI	16 8:00A –Mens Breakfast 6:00p-Youth Outlook	17 2:00p-LSSI	18 10:00a-LSSI
19 9:30a-Worship & Fellowship with 10:45p– Get to know FPC 6:30p-Boy Scouts	20 6:00p-Cub Scouts	21 6:00p-AA	22 10:00– Bible Study 4:00-LSSI	23 6:00p-Youth Outlook	24 2:00p-LSSI	25 10:00a-LSSI
26 9:30a-Worship & Fellowship Dedication of Ministry Gifts. 6:30p-Boy Scouts	27 6:00p-Cub Scouts	28 6:00p-AA	29 10:00– Bible Study 4:00-LSSI	30 6:00p-Youth Outlook	31 2:00p-LSSI	 10