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.
hello@firstpresbyteriansterling.org
www.firstpresbyteriansterling.org
Look for us on Facebook!

First Presbyterian Church
Sterling Illinois, 61081

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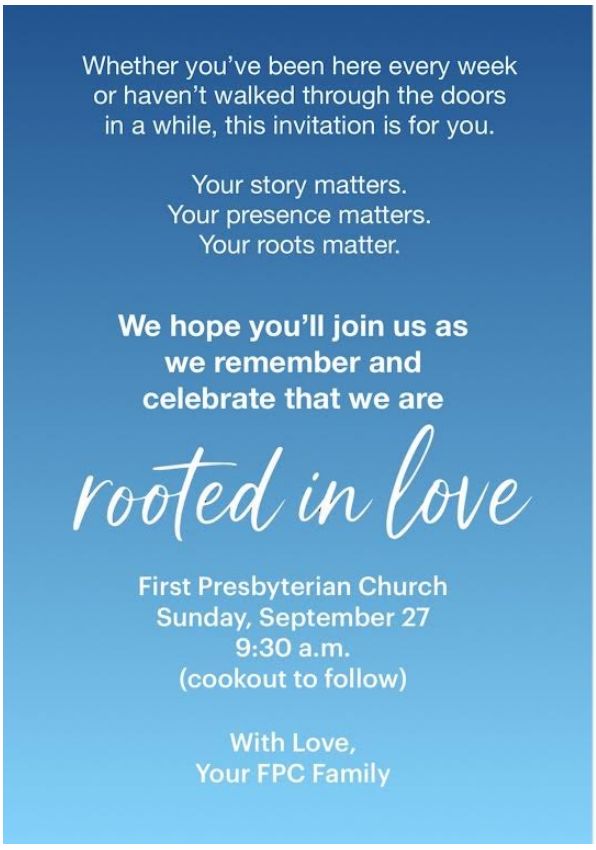
Please enjoy this month's newsletter.

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 questions.
815-625-0452.
Normal hours– **M-F 9-1**
Chris is off-**Sept 2, 9, 11, 23**

Pastor Katie's Sabbath days are **Monday and Saturday.**
Pastor Katie **will be at a conference from Sept 15-21, 2026**

Mission meeting: **September 15**
Men's Prayer breakfast: **September 17**
Session meeting: **September 22**



Note from Pastor Katie

Becoming Us

Dear FPC Family,

One year ago, we officially began our journey together, and I am even more excited about our lives together now than I was then — something I didn't think would have been possible.

This past Sunday, mom and I went to her Wisconsin church. People asked about the church I serve, and I told them about the way we love, our feeding of children, our commitment to the community, including hosting 8 different organizations in this space. It is the same story I have told since I learned about you, and yet…I noticed something different. I realized that I was talking about *our ministry, instead of their (FPC's) ministry.*

I don't know at what point in this year those pronouns shifted in the story, and I am grateful they have. I am grateful to be a part of the story of FPC — the story of God's work within us…within this community.

In the past year, we have laughed and cried, prayed and shared, wondered and wandered, worshipped and broken bread together…and cookies…and pies…and…so much more. We have packed food bags, pulled weeds, mopped up spills, moved chairs…and tables…and the entire worship space. We have felt joy and grief, frustration and overwhelm, confusion and grace, love and love and more love.

Through living together, we have become one…or, well, we have realized it. The Holy Spirit took care of that a long time ago!

I'm pretty sure that's exactly how we've been doing things for the past 182 years here in Sterling…and I have a hunch it'll look like that for the next 182…

On September 27, we are going to pause and give thanks for us…for the us God has created and equipped to live and love and serve in this community. I hope you'll be there, and I hope you'll invite others to join us — to give thanks to God for all who have journeyed here — yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

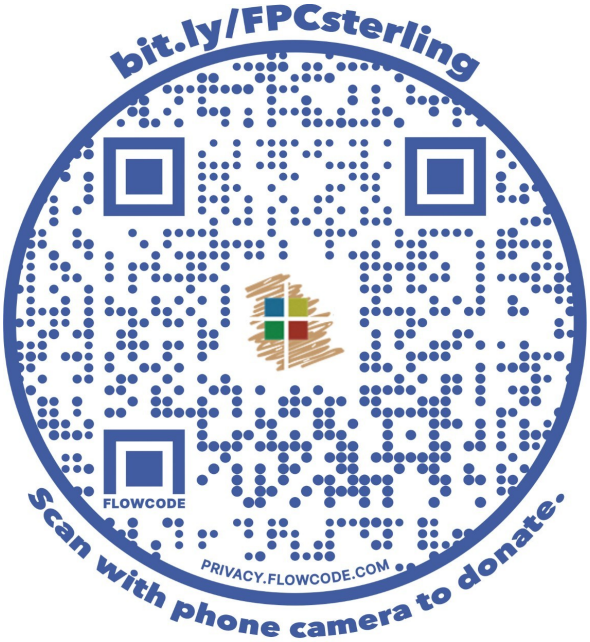
I can guarantee love…laughter…and great food!!

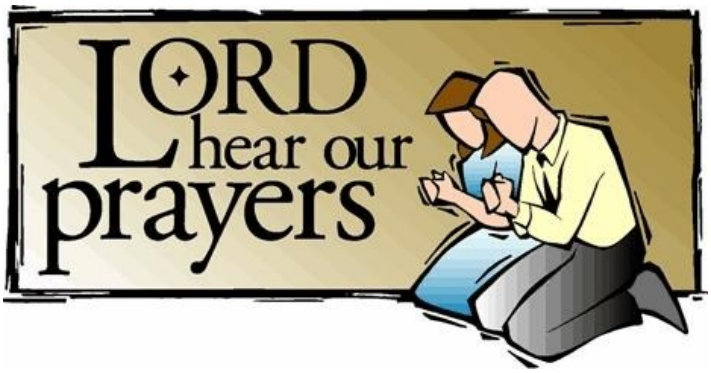
Peace,

Katie

September 2026

09/01	Pauline Kettler
	Morgan Penwarden
	Amy Regalado
09/03	Derrick Peltier
	Tim & Nan Pashon (A)
09/07	*Gabe & Melissa Billiett (A)*
09/12	Norman Asbury
09/16	Erik Oberg
09/17	James Olson
09/26	Jeff Conklen
09/28	*Darcie & Kraig Knutsen (A)*
09/29	Bob Schwindenhammer
09/30	*Eric Pease & Alison Bjork (A)*





Please pray for:

Marlene Jennings,
Mary-Terrie Snavely,
Ron & Jackie Williams,
Judy Aggen,
Guy Edge,
Lee Wright,
Tim Weir,
Cynthia Miller,
Judy Lowe,
Rob Boze

Fellowship Host Bring snacks to share, and clean up afterwards.
Greeter Welcome folks as they arrive each week to worship.
Liturgist—Assist in leading worship

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.
Or, call the office, 815-625-0452,
and we can sign you up!

Session Corner & Building Updates

The Session discussed property work going on — two workdays to clean up weeds around the church building; waiting for parts for the water fountain in the basement; and drain in the exterior stairwell unclogged and repaired. Session approved Lisa Zacharski as a member of the Personnel Committee. Christian Education Committee discussed the success of VBS. VBS was able to collect $1,287.91 for Buddy Bags. First Presbyterian Church had a wonderful group of volunteers for the meal for VBS. Mission Committee discussed that 100 bags with school supplies were packed during the potluck on Sunday August 16th, 2026. The bags will be taken to Stronghold, then they will be transported to Indiana.

Important dates:
September 22nd: Session Meeting
September 27th: Rooted in Love. Welcome Home Cookout

Mission Corner

In August, the World Service School Kits were packed during the potluck on August 16. We were able to provide 100 bags which will be delivered to Presbytery in September. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project! At our meeting, we also approved funding to two programs within the Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery — Cledy's House of Hope in Rock Falls, a holistic, residential recovery program for women, and Tevin's Tribe, which works to prevent drug and alcohol abuse.

Important dates:
September 15th: Mission Meeting

Buddy Bags

Buddy Bags begins its 12th year supplying weekend food to our Sterling school children. August 19 is our first packing for this new school year. We are so grateful to everyone who has been a part of this very important mission. So many have worked at packing the bags, providing food for distribution and contributing financially to keep the program running. Thank you! We receive heartfelt feedback from the children, families, and school staff who are all touched by this program.

Welcome Back Cookout

Sunday, September 27

Worship @ 9:30 am
Cookout to follow!

FPC has always been deeply rooted in the abundant love of Jesus. On September 27, we will give thanks for our witness — past, present, and future by gathering to praise God in worship and enjoy an early Fall cookout. Please join us, and invite any and all people from FPC's past, present, and future (!) to join us as well.

Please bring a salad or dessert to share.
All other cookout food and fixings provided!

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		01	02 **10:00a**–Bible study **11:30a-** Buddy bags at Wesley UMC	03 **6:00p**-Youth Outlook	04 **10:00a – LSSI visit**	05 **10:00a– LSSI visit**
06 **9:30a-**Worship & Fellowship **6:30p-**Boy Scouts World Communion Offering	07 **6:00p–** Cub Scouts	08 **6:00p**-AA	09 **10:00a**–Bible study **11:30a-** Buddy bags at Wesley UMC **3:00p**–Girl Scouts	10 **6:00p**-Youth Outlook	11 **10:00a – LSSI visit**	12
13 **9:30a-**Worship & Fellowship **6:30p-**Boy Scouts	14 **6:00p–** Cub Scouts	15 **6:00p**-AA **6:00p–**Mission **Pastor Katie at a conference**	16 **10:00a**–Bible study **11:30a-** Buddy bags at Wesley UMC	17 **8:00a-**Men's Prayer Breakfast, Benny's restaurant **6:00p**-Youth Outlook	18 **10:00a – LSSI visit**	19 **1:00p** Dining hall Reserved
20 **9:30a-**Worship & Fellowship **6:30p-**Boy Scouts	21 **6:00p–** Cub Scouts	22 **6:00p**-AA **6:00p–**Session	23 **10:00a**–Bible study **11:30a-** Buddy bags at Wesley UMC **3:00p**–Girl Scouts	24 **6:00p**-Youth Outlook	25 **10:00a – LSSI visit**	26 **9:00a-** Woodlawn
27 **9:30a -**Worship & Welcome Back Cookout **6:30p-**Boy Scouts	28 **6:00p–** Cub Scouts	29 **6:00p**-AA	30 **10:00a**–Bible study **11:30a-** Buddy bags at Wesley UMC			