



THE LIGHT

1st Presbyterian Church
320 Park Ave E
Princeton, IL 61356

If You Look for Me At Christmas

If you look for me at Christmas,
You won't need a special star.
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me,
Amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores,
And all the decorations.
But if you take a moment,
From your list of things to do,
And listen to your heart,
You'll find I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with, You're
The reason that I came.
And you'll find Me in the stillness,
Am I'm whispering your name.
Love, Jesus
By Valerie Kingsbury

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Letter From Pastor Colleen

2023 December Greetings to All,

I write this November 2, 2023, still in the month of gratefulness.

I was coming into town today, when an elderly genet was sitting in a field driveway waiting to enter onto the road. He was in an old straight truck. I immediately went back in memory some 62 years to standing beside my grandpa.

I had walked a quarter of a mile from our farm to his and grandma's, an adjoining farm. When I arrived, grandpa was working on his old straight truck. He weas greased from head to toe. He was speaking some 'French' words. At about the age of seven, I knew he was upset. I asked him why he did not get a newer, bigger one like Howard at church. He said, "little granddaughter, the new one will cost me more money than the repairs on my old girl here. I would have to learn all her weaknesses and learn how to maneuver the new one, that will one day break down, as well. I am loyal to this old girl, and we know each other. We disappoint each other from time to time. But we are a team for she knows me too."

He never did get a newer, bigger one. As I grew, I witnessed Howard trading his equipment quite often. He was no happier or more efficient than my grandfather at farming. Both squabbled over things from time to time, yet, remained friends when I had grown to become a married women with a family, until Howard's death.

That old truck I saw today brought back another memory. I was sitting in a chair in Howard's hospital room, both old friends holding hands crying, before Howard's death two days later.

One of my favorite blessings is seeing an old broken relationship being mended. That means they were as loyal as my grandpa was to his old, small straight truck, and friend Howard.

Thank you for the blessings of old memories God.

Pastor Colleen



Women's Circle

The Women's Circle met on November 9th at the home of Kristie Cass. The evening began with dessert and great conversation around the table. Each month the hostess chooses a word for the group to discuss. In October Susan Barlow chose the word humility. This month I chose the word integrity. Everyone participates and shares what the word means to them. Our hostess for the December 14th meeting will be pastor Colleen. The word she has chosen is expectations.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristie Cass

Pastor Colleen had the blessing of performing the wedding of
Adrienne Snethen and Kyle Barkley.



November 1 is a special day in the church calendar called All Saint's Day. All Saint's Day is a day when we think about our big, wide faith family tree. We remember all of the people who have gone before us, and we specifically think about all of the people who have taught us about faith and who have shown us good examples to follow.

In Sunday School we made our own faith family tree. The birds on the tree are to remember family and friends who have gone before us and helped us in our faith. The leaves on the tree are people who are still living and teach us about our faith.

Our tree turned out beautiful with so many important names and memories on it. In the book of Hebrews, we learn that we are "surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses" (Hebrews 12:1). Let's remember all those important people in our lives, and let's remember that God has given us a place in the big, expanding, faith family tree.

All Saints Sunday

On Sunday, October 29th we celebrated all Saints Sunday remember those that have passed during the past year.

Shirley Ann (Lampe) Zimmerman
Donald O May 'M'
Lisa Sue (Hult) Bettner 'M'
Leslie "Les" A. Weder
Irma Kay (Grant) Gallagher
Carol Ann (Janssen) Whittenauer
Jan Edgerly

08/07/35 ~ 01/01/23
03/20/33 ~ 01/27/2023
08/11/66 ~ 05/11/23
02/22/42 ~ 05/18/23
03/09/26 ~ 05/28/23
11/19/45 ~ 06/08/23
08/13/24 ~ 08/19/23





Correspondence

Thank you received from Barb Brumbaugh for Halloween card received from the youth and church members. A thank you from Gideons International for the monetary donation.

At Your Service for December

Ushers

December 3 Brenna Powelson, Mark Schultz
December 10 Carmi Bohnsack, Justine Schultz
December 17 Breanna Powelson, Mark Schultz
December 24 Carmi Bohnsack, Justine Schultz
December 31 Breanna Powelson, Mark Schultz

Communion

December 3 Pam Cochran, Kristie Cass

Lay Leader

December 3 Karlie Schultz
December 10 Jan Powelson
December 17 Beth Schultz
December 24 am
December 24 pm
December 31 Carolyn Workman

Birthdays

December 3 – Margaret Stiles
December 8 – Margaret Longman
December 13 – Jeanne Hutchinson
December 14 – Mark Schultz
December 24 – Luke Schultz

Anniversaries

December 6 – Brad & Jan Powelson

Members & Friends at Retirement Communities:

Ruth Davis, Jeanne Hutchinson, Nancy Sims
& Betty Corban

Greenfield Home
508 Park Avenue East
Princeton, IL 61356

Ron Gibson
IL Veterans Home
1015 O'Connor Ave Room W8
LaSalle, IL 61301

Marlene Gibson
Hawthorne Inn Peru
1101 31st St. Room 22
Peru, IL 61354

Mary Michael
C/O Stephen & Diane Reed
9242 Carrisbrook Lane
Brentwood, TN 37027

The Sunday school class made Thanksgiving cards for our special ladies at Greenfield.



Gifts

The drama of gift buying has never been an issue in our home, because we tend to buy what one NEEDS at the time. So, birthdays, anniversaries, and Christmas have been low key. We do buy SIRUX for our vehicles as a yearly gift to cover such holidays. We enjoy it, and otherwise could not afford it.

In my past churches, I have subscribed to “Home Touch”, a Christian devotional I share with our church family and shut ins. I hope you enjoy it.

I have asked Linda to print off ten for the table in the Narthex for Sunday mornings, and enough for me to send or take to shut-ins and to Greenfield. Please let me know what you think of them.

May you enjoy,
Pastor Colleen

2023 Greetings to All,

Reflecting on our Advent series which will be during the 10:30 am Sunday morning worship, I am brought to a realization of a recent devotion I read. Mr. Potter’s wealth and George Baily’s struggles in life, the devotion hit home. Check out HomeTouch devotion and see what you think.



Sunday, November 5, 2023

Scripture Reading: Joshua 3:7-17

If you win without sacrifice you enjoy it, but it's more satisfying when you have struggled. —Andres Iniesta

In his book, *My People Is the Enemy: An Autobiographical Polemic*, William Stringfellow, a graduate of Harvard Law School, reveals that he spent much of his professional life working in the East Harlem Protestant Parish in New York City. His congregation was the very poorest of the poor as he advocated for them in their struggles against injustice.

He did this out of a deep sense of Christian vocation. In his own words: "I came to Harlem to live, to work there as a lawyer, to take some part in the politics of the neighborhood, to be a layman in the church there."

Seven years later, he was at a gathering of Harvard alumni. A dean of the law school, who had just been examining some statistics about the law school's graduates, complained to Stringfellow that by working with the poor, he was dragging down the average income of his graduating class!

The dean was working with different metrics, rubrics and standards of success than was Stringfellow! Jesus understood life to be about sacrifice, not success, and Stringfellow followed Jesus, not the culture.

The co-founder of Habitat for Humanity had a similar understanding. Millard Fuller was a successful businessman, but after his wife, Linda, left him, he realized that his material wealth was blocking him from serving God. After a tearful reconciliation, they set out to serve the Lord. Friends, family and even pastors tried to talk them out of it, but Fuller told them no. "If I think about it, I won't do it," he said, "because it's not logical. But I believe that God is calling us to do this."

You know the rest of the story. Tens of thousands of people are building equity in homes thanks to the vision of one man and his wife who understood what a life of sacrifice can accomplish.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, thank you for being the Good Shepherd who laid down his life for the sheep. Show me how I might live more sacrificially and unselfishly. In your name. Amen.

HOME TOUCH® Activity Page

Week of November 5, 2023

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: Acts 23-24

Monday: Acts 25-26

Tuesday: Ephesians 1-2

Wednesday: Ephesians 3

Thursday: Philippians 1-2

Friday: Philippians 3-4

Saturday: Psalms 130-131

VERSE TO REMEMBER

*For to me, living is
Christ and dying is
gain*

—Philippians 1:21



Can You Name the Neighbors?

Directions: What two states are tied for the most borders they share?

Can you name the neighboring states? Try not to look at the answers below. Use this area for notes.



Answers: Tie. First: what state borders Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas and Missouri? Answer: Tennessee. Second, what state borders Iowa, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Nebraska? Answer: Missouri.

Upcoming Events

December 14 – Ladies Circle @ Pastor Colleen's

December 21 – Newsletter deadline

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service 5:00 pm

January 7 - Congregational Meeting followship the worship service to vote for session

February 11 – Annual Meeting 10:30 am

Ways to Contact us at 1st Presbyterian

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