

The Messenger

First Presbyterian Church,
Kewanee

OCTOBER 2024

Elmira United Presbyterian
Church, Toulon

Upcoming Scripture:

October 6 (Communion)

- Pastor on Vacation

October 13

- Psalm 22:1-15 Why have you forsaken me?
- Hebrews 4:12-16 Sharper than a 2-edge sword.

October 20

- Isaiah 53:4-12 He has borne our infirmities.
- Mark 10:35-45 Not lord it over them.

October 27

- Job 42:1-6, 10-17 Job Restored.
- Mark 10:46-52 Blind Man in Jericho.

Rev. Art Blegen Wife: Annabell

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Elmira United Presbyterian

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Pastor Art's Office Hours are as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday - Kewanee church office 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Thursday – Elmira church office 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Administrative Assistant office hours in Kewanee

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



From the Pastors Desk:

Seven Marks of Vital Congregations

Mark 4: Empowering Servant Leadership

This month's mark of vital congregations is "Empowering Servant Leadership". The idea of servant leadership has been buzzing around since 1977 when Robert Greenleaf introduced it in his book.

In the corporate world, this is not the style of leadership that comes to mind. We are more accustomed to seeing the leadership that Jesus described in Mark 10 verse 42. "You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them." The concept of servants in leadership positions is incomprehensible.

Yet even in the corporate world, this leadership model is gaining momentum. Servant Leadership puts the priority on the employees rather than the budgets. It has been shown to improve job satisfaction, productivity, and even the ethical climate of the workplace.

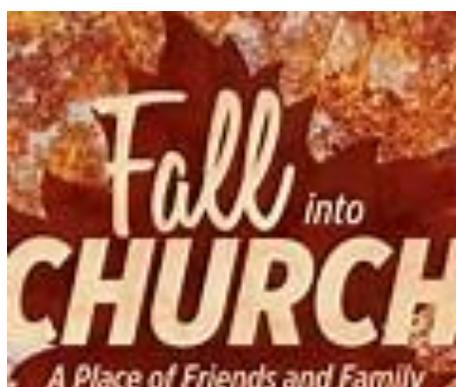
How does this apply to the church? Servant leadership is a break from the traditional view that it is only the pastor's job to lead, and everything will be solved if we can just find the right pastor to take control for us. Servant Leadership realizes that every person in our church has an important part to play, and every person must feel a reason to belong.

Jesus, the ideal servant leader, said, "For I have set you an example, that you should also do as I have done to you" (John 13:15). Let's turn to scripture and look at some of the other examples laid out for us in God's word. When God wanted the church to expand into Africa, he didn't send Peter or John. Instead, he sent Philip to teach a eunuch and empowered that eunuch to spread God's word. By the time Peter, John and James made it north into Assyria, new believers had already spread the word and founded a series of new churches. The "leaders" were well behind the power curve.

Across Asia Minor and into Europe, the same story repeats itself. Paul equipped new believers and tasked them with spreading the faith. Lydia in Philippi, Prescilla & Aquilla in Ephesus. Apollos, Timothy, Luke, empowered for God's work. Notice that it begins with the word "empower". We are encouraged to ask ourselves: Are we empowering servant leadership both inside and outside of the church? Are we equipping the next generation to be a force that will shape the future? Are we encouraging believers in our congregation to take on leadership roles?

What traits should we look for in finding our servant leaders? A servant leader should be a person of empathy capable of sensing the emotional needs of people around them. They should be skilled listeners willing to hear the words and the ideas shared by others. Servant leaders should be people of high integrity and trustworthiness. Servant leaders should be committed to continuous learning, both for themselves and for those they are serving. Servant leaders should possess a collaborative spirit, empowering others so that they can accomplish their goals together.

Our congregation, working together under this model of Empowered Servant Leadership, will be ideally positioned to



respond to any challenges and opportunities presented, and do so while growing in faith, hope, and love.

Grace and Peace!

Rev Art Blegen

❖ **Memory Verse: Mark 10: 49-52:**

- 49 Jesus stood still and said, "Call him here."
And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart; get up, he is calling you."*
- 50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.*
- 51 Then Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" The blind man said to him, "My teacher, let me see again."*
- 52 Jesus said to him, "Go; your faith has made you well." Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.*

Memorization of Scripture should never be seen as a burden, but as a way to grow closer to God. Psalm 1 tells us that our "delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law [we] meditate day and night." With that in mind, try to memorize one verse of the following passage each week. If you struggle with memorization, don't worry about it. Spend some time reading and thinking about each verse. When we get to this passage at the end of the month, God's words will already be alive in your heart.

❖ **Prayer Prompt:**

Father in heaven, I often feel alone and unworthy, help me to remember that you are happy to restore me...

At First Presbyterian Church of Kewanee, we commit ourselves to worshipping God, growing spiritually together, and reflecting Christ in our daily lives.

SESSION NEWS

On October 13th Church service with Elmira in Kewanee at 10:00. The Pastor appreciation luncheon following service. Joint session will follow luncheon at 2:00
 Garage Sale raised \$454.50; Bake Sale raised \$255 for a total of \$709.50
 The Annual Holiday Bazaar is scheduled for November 23, 2024. More info to follow
 Garage roof: Scheduled for October 5th assuming we have the materials in time
 The next Kewanee session meeting is October 17th @6:00



BECKY VIGOR

BECKY VIGOR

Becky was called home to her Lord on September 15th, 2024. Becky was a member of our church for 55 years. In those years, Becky served on many committees and groups including the Pricilla's and kitchen committee. Kent and Becky were married for 57 years. Becky enjoyed spending time with her family, grandchildren, and friends. She was an avid reader, an excellent baker, and enjoyed quilting. She also enjoyed bowling and in 2015 was inducted as an Honorary Hall of Fame member of the Kewanee USBC WBA. We will

miss Becky and her smile. God Bless her and her family.



HELPING HANDS

I would like to thank everyone that vounteered and/or donated food for Becky's funeral luncheon. We had a bounty of dishes to choose from and plenty of helpers. All was appreciated very much.

Janie



HOG DAYS SUNDAY SERVICE

Pastor Art and Annabell participated in the Community Church Service held on Sunday, September 1st during the Hog Festival weekend. Pictured is Pastor Art playing his guitar and singing with the band. Annabell also read the scriptures. There was a good crowd of people who enjoyed the service and the music.



IZAAC & REECE

Thank you to Izaac and Reece for lighting the candles for the service on Sunday, September 22nd. They are Pastor Art and Annabell's grandsons. Great job guys...such concentration!!

CROP WALK

Crop Walk will be Sunday, October 6th at the Congregational Church at 2:00 p.m.



Hello everyone,

We are starting our Kid's Sunday School on September 29th. We have changed things up this year a little bit and are excited to have enough kids to have 3 different classes. We are having Pre-K – 1st in the old choir room Teachers are Lisa Hammons and Terri Wolfe; 2nd – 6th Grades Wilson Room Teachers are Matt and Cindy Martin 7th – 12th Grades; Sr High Room Teachers are Chris and Curt Reeves, and they will be having a Communicants class; Adult class, Teacher Bill Scott. All children are welcome, parents too. Invite your neighbors and friends to come to Sunday School, classes will be every Sunday from 10:00 – 10:45 am. Drop the kids off, go upstairs to join the adult class have coffee and Bible discussions. Then come pick up your children and join them for our Church Service 11:00 – 12:00 am. The church sounds so much better when there are little voices in the sanctuary!!!

The Bible Buddies (our Sunday School kids) will be starting a mission project and will be collecting items for college students at Black Hawk East. This year a lot of the college students are struggling and come from many different states. The students are having a hard time providing for themselves. The campus does have a food pantry but this year it just isn't enough. We will be collecting these items through the month of October. There will be a table set up in the back of the sanctuary. The items needed are toilet paper, paper towels, Clorox wipes or spray (generic is ok), shampoo/conditioner, and body wash. Food items are milk, cases of water, canned food, hamburger helper, spaghetti noodles, cereal, breakfast bars, etc.

Christian Ed Committee, Lisa & Matt



TRUCK OR TREAT

The Christian Ed Department will be handing out candy at Truck or Treat at Good's Main Street parking lot on October 19th from 3:00 to 5:00. Last year, they had over 500 kids getting candy! In order to help out, they are asking for donations of bags of wrapped candy which can be left on the counter by the office. Lisa will pick it up and take it to the event.



YARD/BAKE SALE UPDATE

We would like to say thank you to all of you that helped out during our sale and also all of the donations of items for the yard sale and all the goodies that were donated for the bake sale. We had another great turnout. For the bake sale we took in \$255.00 and the yard sale was \$454.50 for a total of \$709.50. We value all your time and effort!!

Fund raising committee
Lanny, Janie, Terri & Lisa



WELCOME SILAS BATES

Meet Silas Bates, son of Steven & Amanda Bates was born on August 30th, weighing in at 9lbs and 20.5" tall. Silas is the first grandson of Roger and Annette Bates and Great Grandpa, Earl Bates. Their address is 416 Summit Ave, Ligonier, PA 15658. Congratulations to Steven & Amanda!!



Roger & Melanie Johnston will be hosting an Adult Fellowship October 20th beginning at 5:00 p.m. Johnston's will provide hot dogs, buns and drinks. You are asked to bring a dish to share and lawn chairs. **Be on the lookout for a jar Roger**

could be putting on the serving table!!! 🍷



MISSION FOR OCTOBER

Abilities Plus, founded in 1959, is a nonprofit charitable organization, providing health care services to children and adults with disabilities in Henry, Stark and Western Bureau counties. They also have a resale shop to help with expenses.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

On September 1st, Dr Breed's family had an 80th birthday party for him at the church. All of his family and friends showed up to wish him a happy birthday and to reminisce. Dr. Breed said he really enjoyed the day with so many special people. Happy Birthday!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 10 – Anita Infante
- 22 – Mary Jane Stabler
- 29 – Kennedy Hulslander
- 31 – Chris Reeves

PRAYER CONCERNS

- Baker, Lisandra – stroke
- Behnke, Tommie Jane – health problems
- Bennett, Cody – car accident, grandson of Vicki Bennett
- Bock, Lauren – 14-year-old diagnosed with leukemia, Wendy Smith's, friend's daughter
- Bornstein, Jaimee – stage 4 cancer – cancer is in remission
- Bowman, Jeff, and Peg – cancer
- Bridgewater, Kari – seizure disorder
- Brown, Jeff – health problems friend of Lanny & Carolyn Anderson
- Bystry, Dave – health problems
- Craig, Clifford – Heart surgery and his wife Jean
- Cruse, Lynette – leukemia
- Danielson, Robin – leukemia, friend of Vicki Bennett
- Diane – health issues
- Don & Jan – health problems, Bill & Ruth Anne's friend
- Donavon, Kevin - cancer – friend of Chris & Curt Reeves
- Duncan – health issues
- Edelman, Dave – health problems and Sharon for his care
- Evans, Dan – health problems
- Faber, Peggy – MS and dementia
- Faber, Steve – recovering from lung transplant
- Ferkel, Randy – recurrence of cancer
- Feldner, Hannah – recovering from eye surgery
- Fryer, Alvah – breast cancer, friend of Lanny & Carolyn Anderson
- Gasaway, Larry – health problems, friend of Lanny & Carolyn Anderson
- Good, Billie – Health issues
- Harding, Jack, Robert, Richard & Susan – health problems
- Heane, Jeremy – tumor and angina
- Huber, Denny – recovering from hip replacement Janet Huber's son
- Huber Karessa _ - health problems, Janet Huber's daughter-in-law
- Huber, Mallery – health problems, Janet Huber's granddaughter
- Huggins, Cindy – kidney & brain problems, Niles & Sheila's daughter
- Hughes, Andrew – health problems
- Jackson, Estavan – recovering from surgery, Annabell's grandson
- Johnson, Clay – many health problems
- Johnson, Jerri – health problems
- Kopp, Brenda – recovering from fall and health issues
- Lamb, Paul – Lymphoma
- Larson, Ken – health problems, , friend of Lanny & Carolyn Anderson
- Lindstrom, Madeline – health issues
- Lloyd, Carla – recovering heart surgery, Pastor Annabell's cousin
- Martin, Anna – daughter of Freddie Martin, Jr. has MS
- Marselle, Frank – health problems
- McCullough, Kathryn – health problems
- Miller, Bob – recovering from cranial aneurysm, Mary Jane's brother
- Naslund, Ron – health problems, friend Lanny & Carolyn Anderson
- Newell, Nylan – 7-year-old has Lorenzo's Oil Disease (ALD)

Olson, Rusty – inoperable tumor
 O'Neill, Kay – her family
 Pease, Mark - infection
 Perrin, Steve & Debby – health problems
 Scott, Gene – has MS- wife Rowann – health issues
 Skinner, Dave – health problems
 Smith, Wendy – good, on-going test results
 Stacie – pancreatic cancer, Mary Jane's friend
 Stead, Tim – heart problems, Chris & Lisa's cousin
 Thompson, Michael – stamina
 Thron, Butch – serious health problems
 Thurston, Elmer – health problems
 Vigor, Becky – dementia, on hospice
 Wade, Lori (Scott) – MS & diabetes
 Ward, Debi – congestive heart failure, Lanny & Carolyn's niece
 Ward, Dona – Parkinson
 Weeks, Judy –Melanoma. Vicki Bennett's sister
 Welgat, Nick – stage 4 lung cancer Abby Hamilton's brother
 Wentworth, Al – health problems
 Wentworth, Michele – continuing health problems
 Winter, Debbie – health problems
 Willa Drake - Cancer, Pastor Annabell's friend
 Williams, Alan – many health problems, Annabelle's brother
 Chris Wood – health issues, Autumn Brown's fiancée
 Wood, Chris – cancer
 Wolf, Jackie – health problems
 Family & Friends of Becky Vigor who passed away on September 15th
 Family & Friends of John Hand (Becky's brother) who passed away
 September 22nd
 Family & Friends of Barb Elliott who passed away on September 12th
 Family & Friends of Mike Bishop who passed away on September
 12th

Elmira United Presbyterian Church, we will continue to be a thriving faith community reaching out to our community and the world.

SESSION NEWS

Time for the Nominating committee to get to work seeking new nominees for Elders and Deacons. When asked if you would be willing to serve a 3 year term as Elder or Deacon, please consider carefully. This does involve some time but we have numerous Zoom meetings now. This type of service to your church can be a real learning experience as well as an important part of your faith journey. In our everyday lives, costs are going up and income staying the same or decreasing. The same is true for our church, insurance costs, Pastor's salary and other day to day expenses.. With the loss of several members and a challenging economy things can change quickly. Please continue to do as you have in the past, give as generously as you can. We are blessed to have a faith-based budget and it has not failed us in the past.

Deacons presented \$20.00 gift cards to all the elementary teachers in the Stark Co. School District to help with buying needed supplies for their classrooms.

Save the date: October 20, 2024 we will celebrate the All Church Birthday Party following worship. A time of food, fellowship and a little fun for all members to enjoy! Bring a dish to pass for the potluck and your historical trivia knowledge for some of Dawn's games.



While Clyde, Milo and Elsie Currier were traveling, EUPC had children step up and fill the position of Junior Ushers during Sunday morning worship. Thank you to these young people, some children, grandchildren or great grandchildren of members, who participated in this important job on Sunday mornings! We are so grateful for our backup Jr. Ushers: Jameison, Kenzie, Jonathan, Hailey, Olivia, Issac and Reese. Thank you. Job well done!



BARB ELLIOTT

September has been a month of loss for Elmira. God needed 2 new angels to help Him in Heaven so He took two of our members, on the same day, to help out. Barbara I. Elliott, 88, died on Thursday, September 12, 2024 at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, Il. She was an active member of our church until health issues arose. She was born September 23, 1935. Barb was president of the Bradford American legion Auxiliary Post #445 for 25 years and served as 16th District President. She also belonged to the Kewanee VFW Auxiliary Post # 8078 and dedicated many years of her life working with veterans, especially the homeless veterans. Burial was in the Lehigh Cemetery, Elmwood, Il. followed by a Celebration of Life, held at the Bradford American Legion on September 21, 2024. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Barb's family. She will be missed.



MIKE BISHOP

Michael L. Bishop, 73, of Elmira, Il., passed away on Thursday, September 12, 2024\ at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. He was born April 19, 1951. He and wife Sonna were active members of our church. Mike loved people and loved his family. He also liked to laugh. Burial will be at a later date with a Celebration of Life being held on September 21, 2024 at Driftwood Pizza, located in Creve Coeur, Il. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Sonna and all of their family. Mike will be missed.

BECKY VIGOR

Becky Vigor passed away on Sunday, September 15, 2024. She was a 50 year member of Kewanee First Presbyterian Church. She grew up in Osceola and has family in Elmira. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband, Kent, and family in this time of loss. Becy's brother, John Hand, 74 of Elmira, Il., passed away at home on Sunday, September 22, 2024 Our prayers go out to wife Crystal and their family. Such a loss for the entire family of Becky and John.



OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 – Janet Cole
- 13 – Gary Thurston
- 20 – Pat Hyer
- 21 – Jake Alexander
- 25 – Barb Shambaugh

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 – Tim & Dawn Green

CALL OR SEND CARDS TO:

Don Oliver

Courtyard Village
860 Sunset Drive, Box 112
Kewanee IL 61443

Lois Seger

The Heritage
3121 Macineery Dr, #110
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

Barb Shambaugh

203 Willow Street
Lafayette, IL 61449

PRAYER CONCERNS

Abbineti, Dabe & Lisa
Barnhold, Debbie
Bayer, Peggy Grant
Bean, Cecelia
Beck, Lia
Bennett, Cody
Bennet, Matt & Chris
Bishop, Jeremy
Bishop, Sonna
Bickhauser, Angie
Brattie, Nancy
Bimmerle, Mike & Annette
Boardman, Donna
Campbell, Nick & Jenny
Cantwell, Barb
Chapman, Frank
Clark, Gloria
Carlson, Mike
Collette, Brian
Cook, Dave
Currier, Ron
Daniels, Eunice & Tom
Dennis, Chrysta
Dienst, Rodney
Donavan, Kevn
Doran, Amanda
Drake, Willa
Ehnle, Dean
Eddy, Jack
Elliott, Debbie
Emily, Ellie
Eshe, Rev. Dave
Fogelsonger, Pat
Fry, Matthew
German, Brenda
Gjeramo, Brent
Goodall, Pat
Grant, Austin
Grant, Dave
Green, Allison
Green, Ken
Greene, Samantha
Grieve, Kay
Hebdon, Ali
Hotchkiss-Kucukas, Diane
Hulslander, Donna
Jackson, Estevan

Jackson, David & Lisa
Jacobson, Del
Johnson, Alex
Jones, Noah
King, Judy
Klien, Kaitlyn
Lindstrom, Diane
Maher, Jack
Marshall, Maggie
May, Scott
McGinnis, Debby
Milburn, Cindy
Milburn, Tom
Miller, Bob
Miller, Carol
Minton, Tom
Montooth, Tim
Morris, Geneva, Jo & Pam.
Nelson, Dan
Nelson, Paul
Rev Nurtzorn, Art
Oliver, Adam
Oliver, Olivia
Parish, Brandon
Parker, Jim & Arlene
Perkins, Kathleen Grant
Peters, Julie
Pullen, Whitney
Rose, Sue
Russell, Melissa
Sandy & Beth
Schaeffer, Bob
Scott, Gene
Seckman, Marilyn
Seger, Lois
Sellnow, Celina
Sinkovich, Cindy
Smallee, Kaylee
Smith, Charlie
Sovey, Angela
Shipp, Matthew & Matt
Steelman, Kendra
Steward, Karen
Talbot, Ben
Taylor, Debbie
Thurmon, Lisa
Thurston, "Sy" & Gary
Tolley, Joe & Jenna
Tuthill, Connie
VanVoren, Rev Patrick & Pat
Walker, Laurie
Welgat, Nick
Wentworth, Al & Michele
West, Emily
Wilkinson, Patty
Williams, Alan
Wilson, David
Wilson, Nancy
Winslow, Emily & Katelyn
Woods, Chris
Joe, Jenna, Kathy, Olivia, Katie, Emily & Sophia
All who Grieve

OCTOBER 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Pastor Art on vacation this week		1	2	3	4	5 Working on garage roof in Kewanee
6 Elmira Service 9:00 a.m. Kewanee Adult Discussion 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Service 11:00 a.m. Crop Walk 2:00 at Congregational Church	7	8 Pastor Art returns from vacation	9	10	11	12
13 Elmira & Kewanee will have a joint service in Kewanee starting at 10:00 a.m. There will a Pastor Appreciation luncheon served after the service followed by joint Session meeting. Service 10:00 a.m.	14	15	16	17 Kewanee Session meeting 6:00	18	19 TRUCK OR TREAT 3:00 TO 5:00 P.M. GOOD'S MAIN STREET PARKING LOT
20 Elmira Service 9:00 a.m. Kewanee Adult Discussion 9:45 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 Service 11:00 a.m. Adult fellowship weenier roast at Johnston's beginning at 5:00	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Elmira Service 9:00 a.m. Kewanee Adult Discussion 9:45 a.m. Service 11:00 a.m.	28	29	30	31 		