

The Carillon

2026

First Presbyterian Church
220 East Franklin
Clinton, Missouri 64735

PASTOR'S CORNER

Fall is fading, but the leaves are putting on a show. Halloween is past, and Daylight Savings time is ending for another year. I will miss it, but I have really been thrown by it getting dark so soon. I will be glad when all the negative political advertising is over. I watched an ad the other day and the person's name who supported the ad was mentioned only one time, while the opponent's name was mentioned 9 times. That's not the way to ensure name recognition, in my mind.

In addition to the last four Sundays leading up to Advent, November is full of many special days. Election Day is the 3rd of November. No matter your political persuasion, go to the polls to vote. There are many amendment items on the ballot, and they are written in a very tricky manner. There are handouts on the table in the vestibule that give the fair reading language to help you clarify your yes/no votes. Also, the League of Women's Voters put out wonderful material on the issues and the candidates, and they have their materials online.

At the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month the war to end all wars ended. WWI did not end all war, unfortunately, but we commemorate those who served and fell in our conflicts. Veterans Day in the United States is observed annually on November 11 to honor all military veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Since that Armistice, 567,337 soldiers, airmen, and sailors have been lost in combat. More than 35 million Americans have served in the U.S. military across major conflicts since 1914, while approximately 17 million living veterans remain in the United States today. This is one of the most significant memorial observances in our nation's calendar. Pray for those veterans and their families who have endured.

The Monday before Thanksgiving we recognize a program of the Presbyterian Church USA focusing on Cultivating Economic Wholeness: Eradicating Systemic Poverty. Presbyterians believe that government is one of God's agents when it comes to the providential care of people. As disciples of Jesus Christ, Presbyterians engage in multiple components of a holistic effort to eradicate systemic poverty, address its root causes and build communities of well-being.

With God's help, together we can work to eradicate systemic poverty if we: **Worship**: incorporating confessional, biblical, theological and ecclesial understandings of poverty. **Learn**: In our Christian education and personal learning, seeking to understand the root causes of poverty. **Relate**: engaging in relationships across divisions, social status and groups as Jesus modeled. **Act**: identifying needs, organizing solutions and engaging in advocacy for change. **Share**: Recognizing that all gifts come from God and sharing our time and resources for God's kingdom on earth. Let us pray with Thanksgiving that the generations living today can bring an end to institutionalized poverty in America.

This month we continue to study the gospel of Matthew, focusing on the 23rd and 25th verses: including the Sermon on the mount, the Parable of the Ten Virgins, the Bags of Gold, the Sheep and the Goats, and the beginning of the Liturgical year on Nov. 29. Let us prepare for Advent by studying this word this month.

Your Pastor, Mary Anna

Thank you notes to:

Mike McCoy for painting the bathrooms.
Leroy Brown for lawn care.
Neil Crayden, Jr. for parking lot weeding.

Meet & Eat First Sunday Meet & Eat for November will be at Holy Rosary Catholic Church's Annual Thanksgiving Dinner.

Ushers/Greeters November

Cheryl Hicks, Sherry Himes, John Cochran

Fellowship for November

No Fellowship Hour this month.

First Presbyterian's Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on November 15th, right after the service. Sign-up sheet is on the Bulletin Board. Hosted by the Deacons.

Deacons Meeting Minutes

October 18, 2026

The Board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church met Sunday, October 18, 2026, following Sunday service. Pam Gray called the meeting to order. Deacons present: Renie Dehn, Pam Gray, Pat Brock, Melinda Dehn, Ann McCoy, David Doll, Connie Grisier, and Rick Lingenfelter.
Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed and approved.
The treasurer's report was given by Connie. Our current balance is $812.60.
Correspondence: There was no correspondence.
Committee Reports:
- Sunshine Committee – Renie continues to send cards to members and friends of the church.
- Visits – Pat reported she has delivered treats to some of our members.
- Bereavement Dinners – Thankfully no dinners were served.
- Ushers and Greeters – Going well.
- Fellowship Hour – Going well
- Kitchen – Melinda reported she has purchased items for our fall events. She will monitor the supplies to ensure we have what is needed for the Christmas Eve Eve chili supper.
- Community Awareness and Fundraising – The Deacons will be assisting with the Fall Festival.

Unfinished Business:
- Fall Festival: Work assignments have been determined by the Session. The Deacons will meet on Wednesday, October 21 at 1:00 to decorate the Fellowship Hall. Melinda will purchase tablecloths.

New Business:
- Thanksgiving Dinner: We propose hosting the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 15. Paula, our new church secretary, has created a bulletin insert with information. We will post a sign-up sheet in the lobby.
- Christmas fruit baskets: Connie and Pat will take the lead on preparing Christmas fruit baskets for some of our members.

The Deacons reviewed the Care List. Our next meeting will be Sunday, November 15 following the church service. The meeting was adjourned with the Deacons' Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,
Ann McCoy, secretary

Grant O Lord that what has been said with our lips, we may believe in our hearts and that what we believe in our hearts, we may practice in our lives. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord, Amen.

First Presbyterian Church of Clinton
Session Meeting Preliminary Minutes
Pending Approval Sunday, October 18, 2026; 11:50 a.m.

Elders Present: Donna Doll, Diane Hannah, Sharon Gilkey, Gay Smith, Linda Wilson and Debbie Wilson. Neil Crayden, Jr. and Mike McCoy were absent. Rev. Townsend asked for joys and concerns and offered opening prayer to open the meeting at 11:55 am. A quorum was declared. A motion was made and passed to approve the Docket. Minutes from Sept. 20 Session Meeting were approved.
Communication: Website and Facebook issue tabled.
Clerk's Report: Diane shared that Pam Gray; Chairman of Deacons, will be coming to visit with us today about a couple of things. Pam arrived shortly and explained that the Deacons' funds are dwindling as they provide all paper goods in the kitchen and other things. Their only source of income is collections from funeral dinners. They would like to put out a basket for free-will offering on Second Sunday fellowship time as well as during holiday dinners. Motion was made by Linda and seconded by Sharon to support the Deacons in their request.
Pam also discussed the date of our Thanksgiving dinner. After much discussion, it was decided it will be on Nov. 15 after Sunday services. The Deacons are re-working the Fellowship Committee structure and will be ready to share soon.
Treasurer's Report: Donna presented the treasurer's report for September. Debbie made a motion to accept the reports. Gay seconded and motion passed.

RECAPITULATION - AUGUST	
Beginning Cash Balance	$43,272.77
Total General Fund Income	$8,114.89
Total General Fund Expenses	$6,218.96
Special Offerings Received	0
Special Offerings Paid	0
Transfer funds from Building Fund	0
Transfer funds from Money Market	0
ENDING CASH BALANCE	$45,168.70

Moderator's Report: Rev. Townsend sent thank you notes to the pastor supply. She reported that she is in the planning stage for all sermons up until Advent.
Personnel Committee: Donna reported that our new church secretary, Paula Weston, seems to be getting along very well.
Building and Grounds: • Thank you to Mike McCoy for painting the bathrooms
• Diane reported that one of our members suggested that we have a reserved parking space for Rev. Townsend since she is sometimes in a hurry coming from Shawnee Mound before our service and it could be dangerous crossing the parking lot especially in the wintertime. Rev. Townsend said she would appreciate that very much. She chose the parking space in the middle next to the handicapped spaces. Diane will ask Neil to see about getting a sign for the space.
• We again discussed the door opener that is dead. We will contact WS Door to see if they can help us.
• Fellowship Hall use requests:
• November 7, the Zumbrunnen Family, all day
• December 3, Community Choir Hymn Sing, 4 pm – 10 pm. Diane made a motion to approve. Gay second and motion passed.
Worship: Session discussed certain aspects of the Sunday service. Prayers of the people will be extended. The Christmas Cantata will be December 20.
Mission: Debbie reported that Meet and Eat on November 1 will be at Holy Rosary Turkey Dinner at the HR Church. Debbie is waiting for word from the Warming Center as to what we can help with.
Debbie reported that things are coming along with the Fundraising Dinner scheduled for October 24. We will have a group to set up tables this week. Many people are helping out. The Silent Auction is up and ready in the Foyer. Everyone was encouraged to begin bidding. Debbie asked for permission to lay out the sample ballots for the upcoming Nov. 3 election. She also has explanations from our local County Clerk for the different propositions and can make copies as necessary. Diane made a motion to approve Debbie's request. Donna seconded and motion passed.
Christian Education: Sunday School Adult class has ordered their fall books but will not order winter books. Instead, they will use some of the materials we have in our library. Donna reported that the first payment for Jesus Camp has been made.
Fellowship Committee: Linda reported they will meet next month and begin plans for some winter activities.
Nominating Committee: A Congregational meeting was held today after services to elect two at-large committee members. Raymond Hartner and Ann Booth were elected. Others serving on the committee are Mike McCoy (chairman) and Gay Smith from Session, Mark Smith from Choir, Marti Zumbrunnen from PW, and Ann McCoy from the Deacons.
Other: NR Motion to adjourn at 1:45 pm. Meeting was closed with prayer from Debbie.
NEXT STATED MEETING: Normally it would be November 15 but has been change to November 22 to accommodate our Thanksgiving Dinner.
Respectfully submitted,
Diane Hannah, Clerk of Session

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will meet on Friday, November 6 in Fellowship Hall at 1:30 p.m. Our lesson will be "Freedom in Christ", covering 1 Corinthians 5-6. Mary Anna Townsend will lead the discussion and the hostess is Judy Lawrence. Please read the scripture and lesson to be prepared. All women of the church are invited to attend!

A note from the Deacons: As you know the Deacons provide support to this congregation and our community in many ways. They provide our monthly fellowship dinners, funeral meals, and meals for special holiday gatherings, such as helping with the Christmas- Eve-Eve meal. All of the paper products and utensils come from their budget. In addition, they contribute to a counselor meal for those working Jesus Camp and support the Samaritan Center and other civic organizations. As a result, their resources have become thin. Beginning with our Thanksgiving dinner on November 15, we will be requesting a **FREE WILL** offering to help sustain their budget. There is no minimum offering required. All are free to come, eat and enjoy the fellowship as before. Feel free to give as you are able or not at all. Your presence is the greatest gift you can bring. If you have any questions, feel free to ask Pastor Mary or any of the Deacons (Pam, Renie, Pat, Melinda, Connie, David or Rick. Thank you.

From the Church Secretary

I'm so grateful for this opportunity, here at First Presbyterian. I want to thank everyone that has stopped by to welcome me to your beautiful church. Remember to thank God for the cooler weather, and Thanksgiving, time to spend with family and friends, and don't forget to watch The Chief's!!



Some Church signs to tickle your funny bone:

You might be a preacher if…..

You thank the Lord every day for Caller ID

You get your second wind when you say, "And in conclusion…."

You read Lamentations on Monday mornings for devotions.

Your Bible has more side notes than printed text.



H.O.P.E. Project

First Annual Fall Festival Fundraiser

We held our first annual Fall Festival Fundraiser this past weekend and not only did we have a good time, we raised funds for a very worthwhile organization, the H.O.P.E. Project H.O.P.E. Project is a local ministry here in Clinton that works to be the missing link in reintroducing women who have suffered with addiction back into society as healthy, whole, and productive citizens with a firm foundation in Christ. We served a Bratwurst and Hot Dog Dinner and had a Silent Auction. We want to thank everyone that helped with the dinner, contributed an auction item, gave a donation, bid on an item, helped set up or clean up, cooked, baked, and the hundred other things that had to be done to make this event happen. Everyone graciously gave of their time and self and that is what made the evening a success.

If you were unable to attend and would like to make a donation, make your check to First Presbyterian Church and note HOPE on the memo line.

Thank you so much!

Gay Smith, Debbie Wilson, Diane Hannah, Co-Chairmen

Here's a few pictures from the auction:



Donated from Sherry Himes & Green Streets Market



Some of the items that were donated.



More items that were donated.



Thank you for your donations to the Festival of Sharing. Our gifts included student dental packs, blankets of love, reading and writing packs, Best Choice labels, eyeglasses, and garden seed donated by Green Streets Market. Our total donation to the Festival of Sharing has a value of $1,534.00. Pictured with our gifts is our secretary, Paula Weston.

Let us never forget the U.S. Veterans, current and those that served and some that gave the ultimate sacrifice.

