Flame On

by Kenny McGill

I knew that day would someday come,
but knowing did not make it kind.
No warning ever prepares the heart
to leave someone you love behind.

You stood before us Sunday mornings,
Bible open in your hand,
but you were more than words and sermons—
you helped me learn to understand.

There were times my faith was shaken,
times my questions filled the room,
times when life seemed dark and heavy
and I couldn't see beyond the gloom.

You never claimed to have each answer,
never pushed my doubts away.
You simply walked beside me
and helped me find a better way.

You taught me faith could handle questions,
that God was bigger than my fear,
and sometimes what a hurting soul needs
is simply someone standing near.

There were conversations you may have forgotten
that I still carry every day.
A sentence spoken without thinking
sometimes helped me find my way.

And then there were the words I remember,
simple words that still live on—
a spark of joy, a call to courage,
two little words: "Flame on."

So when the road ahead feels darker,
when my strength and hope seem gone,
I'll remember what you gave me,
and in my heart I'll hear, "Flame on."

Because faith was never meant for hiding,
never meant to quietly fade.
You taught me to keep the fire burning,
even when I felt afraid.

And now the pulpit feels much quieter.
Your familiar voice is gone.
The church will gather without you,
and somehow we must carry on.

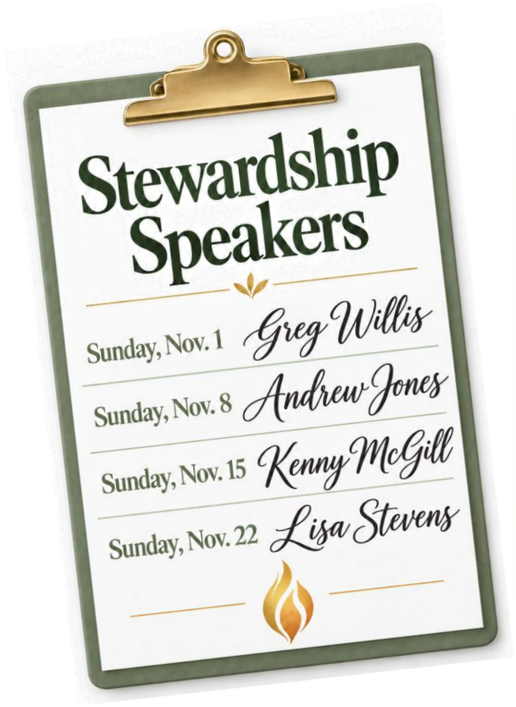
But a shepherd's work does not disappear
when his earthly journey ends.
It lives inside the people
whose broken places he helped mend.

So although I wish for one more conversation,
one more laugh, one more chance to say
just how much your life has meant to mine
and how you helped me on my way,

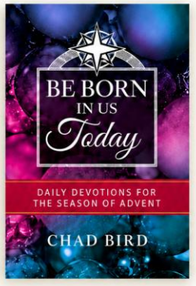
I will carry what you taught me.
I will share the light you shone.
And when someone else needs hope from me,
I'll remember: Flame on.

For every sermon, every prayer,
every moment you helped me through,
I thank God that along my journey
He allowed me to know you.

Your voice may now be silent,
but the fire you lit lives on.
And as long as faith still burns within me,
I'll carry it forward—
Flame on.



Advent Devotional 2026



As we look toward the physical birth of our Savior, Jesus, we are reminded in these devotions for Advent by Chad Bird that Christ is born in us spiritually today and every day. He enters into us daily to strengthen and support us, save us and renew us. We are changed by his presence within us as we become more and more like him in the living of our lives.

The devotionals will be available on the table in the Narthex beginning **Sunday, November 22.**

HEARTBEATS

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Stewardship Campaign 2027: It Only Takes a Spark

A single spark can kindle a flame that brings warmth and light to many. In the same way, each act of generosity can make a difference in the life of our church and community. As we begin our 2027 Stewardship Campaign, we invite you to consider how your gifts can help share God's love in the year ahead.

Our campaign, "It Only Takes a Spark," will take place **November 1–22**. During these weeks, we will reflect on the blessings God has given us and prayerfully consider how we can support the worship, ministries, and mission of First Presbyterian Church.

Stewardship is an expression of gratitude and faith—a way to share the time, talents, and resources God has entrusted to us. Together, our gifts help us care for one another, welcome our neighbors, nurture faith, and reach out to those in need. Every gift matters, and every spark has the potential to grow.

You should have received a 2027 pledge card in the mail. Pledge cards are also available on the table in the Narthex, or you may pledge online at fpcaky.org.

Our campaign will conclude on **Sunday, November 22**, with a Stewardship Celebration and Thanksgiving dinner. We are pleased to welcome Rev. Tom Hall as our preacher that Sunday. Join us for worship and fellowship as we give thanks for God's faithfulness and celebrate what we can accomplish together.

Please pray for our church and consider how you can help carry the light of Christ into 2027. It only takes a spark!

Cathy Wilson, Church Treasurer

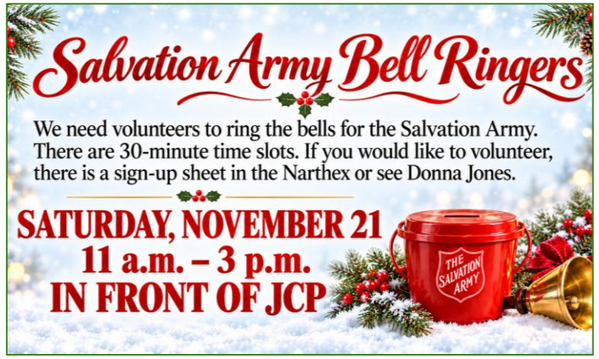
Memorial Gift Given

A gift was given in memory of Pastor Bill by the Ashland Area Ministerial Association.



Thanksgiving & Stewardship Commitment Dinner

Mark your calendar for **Sunday, November 22**, when we will gather in the Bethesda Community Hall following morning worship for a time of celebration and giving thanks for our Stewardship Emphasis success! The Church will provide turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, desserts, and drinks. We are being asked to provide sides and salads. We hope to see you as we celebrate together God's blessings in our congregation.







Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

Thanksgiving invites us to pause and recognize the many ways God's love touches our lives. Through the kindness of a friend, the comfort of prayer, and the fellowship of our church family, we find reminders of God's faithful care. At First Presbyterian Church, we give thanks for all who share their time, talents, and love. Every meal prepared, prayer offered, and helping hand extended brings Christ's love into our community. As we gather around our Thanksgiving tables, may we remember those facing loneliness, grief, or hardship. A phone call, an invitation, or a shared meal can turn our gratitude into a blessing for someone else. May our thankful hearts inspire generous hands—not only at Thanksgiving, but throughout the year. Happy Thanksgiving to our church family and friends!



Hello November!

Sunday Morning Study: Sundays, 9:28 a.m.
Armchair Theologians: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Harmony of the Gospels: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Contemplative Prayer Group: Sundays, 9:30 a.m.
Children's Sunday School (K–4th): Sundays, 9:45 a.m.
Youth Group (5th – 12th): Sundays, 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship: 10:50 a.m.
Chosen Bible Study: Sundays, 5:30 p.m. (concludes Nov. 8)
Handbell Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.
Chancel Choir Rehearsal: Wednesdays, 6:45 p.m.
Men's Bible Study: Wednesdays, 7 a.m., Bob Evans
Tai Chi Classes: Tuesdays, 5 p.m.
All Saints Sunday: Nov. 1
Stewardship Emphasis Begins: Nov. 1
Paper Angels: Thursday, Nov. 5, 1 p.m.
Operation Christmas Child Blessing: Sunday, Nov. 8
Blazer YSC Thanksgiving Drive Ends: Sunday, Nov. 8
Ministry Teams Meeting: Monday, Nov. 9, 5:30 p.m.
Men's Lunch Bunch: Thursday, Nov. 12, 11:30 a.m.
Horizons Bible Study: Thursday, Nov. 12, 5:15 p.m.
Sew Blessed: Monday, Nov. 16, 6 p.m.
Paper Angels: Thursday, Nov. 19, 1 p.m.
Dames + Dinner Bible Study: Thursday, Nov. 19, 5:30 p.m.
Thanksgiving Dinner & Consecration Sunday: Nov. 22
Empty Nesters: Monday, Nov. 23, 5:30 p.m.
Family Advent Kick-Off: Sunday, Nov. 29 following worship

November Birthdays

Natalie Robinson–November 4
John Ferguson–November 12
Erik Adkins–November 17
Andrew Wheeler–November 18
Jan Winans– November 23
Thomas Hall–November 27
Dylan Lambert–November 27
Barb Payne–November 28
Kate Hanni–November 29

November Anniversaries

Glen & Christy Thomas–November 3
Charlie & Jan Holbrook–November 11
Cathy & Larry Wilson-November 13
Ryan & Heather Whitman–November 18
Dave & Judy Eby–November 25
Brett & Brooke Gehringer–November 25
Andrew & Donna Jones–November 28



Notes of Gratitude

- Dear First Presbyterian Church and the Sew Blessed Group, Your box of dresses was opened during our LIVE on September 25. It was our very last box. Everyone was deeply touched by your letter, and we send our heartfelt condolences on the loss of Pastor Bill. We spent extra time going through your box, and your gorgeous denim dress was selected as the fan favorite! Thank you for dressing the girls. (*Mari, Ambassador, Dress A Girl Around the World*)**The Fan Favorite Dress was sewn by Geri Willis! Way to go, Geri!**

- On behalf of all the staff here at FPC, we want to express our deepest thanks for your love and generosity we experienced at the staff appreciation luncheon. We are privileged to serve you all and are so grateful for the cards, gifts, treats and words of affirmation! Thank you!

- Thank you for your very generous donation of $847.00. This will help us purchase 35 life-saving tourniquets. Donations like this inspire us to keep going as we approach five years at war. I look forward to meeting with you as I will be preaching there on December 27. God Bless you all. *(John Yeager, President of Sunflower Seeds, Inc.)*