



The Circuit Rider

Princeton First United Methodist Church
316 S. Church Street ♦ Princeton, IL 61356
princetonfirstumc.org

Pastor Michael Ray Hickok

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♦ NOVEMBER 2025 ♦

A Word from Pastor Mike

November 27 is Thanksgiving Day in 2025. What comes to mind when you think about this holiday? Do you reflect on past celebrations or look ahead to coming ones? Sometimes the anticipation of important events is very meaningful. Often, our recollection of past experiences captures our imagination and attention.

For many of us, Thanksgiving is connected to family and extended family. As a child, my joy came in visits to the home of my paternal grandmother. Immediately as you entered the front door, the aroma of home-made bread baking in the oven greeted you. We knew that soon we would be treated to this warm delicacy smothered in butter.

It was years later when I became cognizant of the effort that led to our feasting on this bread. My younger brother, Don, and I entered her kitchen to find her kneading the dough. We saw the strength of her powerful hands, showing the signs of seventy years of hard work. We wondered aloud about why she wore a hairnet for this task. "Can't risk any hairs falling into the dough" she replied while continuing to labor. In eager anticipation, my brother asked when the bread would be ready to eat. "We need to let the dough rise before we place the pans into the oven" she remarked with patience.

How true to remember that many of our blessings resulted from the sacrificial efforts of those who love us. The God of abundance, who gave us life and offers to love us eternally; places women and men in our lives, that sustain, comfort and nurture us. My grandmother, Margaret Aker Hickok, died in 1979. Our awesome God enables me to hold on to this precious memory today. May your Thanksgiving 2025 be filled with the knowledge of our Lord's infinite blessings and may he strengthen you to experience his matchless grace again this year.

*May God in Christ bless you richly,
Pastor Michael Ray Hickok*

November Worship Schedule

Sunday Worship
Sundays 9:00

Saturday Evening
Service

November 1st 5:30*
November 15th 5:30

Holy Communion

November 1st 5:30*
November 2nd 9:00

From the Office

Please coordinate with the office on any events or repairs going on at the church, so we don't have two things happening in one room. Thank you!

November at a Glance

November 2 - 6:00 Youth Group
November 10 - 3:00 Nominating Committee
November 11 - 1:30 Care Team
4:00 Staff Parish Committee
November 12 - 1:00 YAH Pie with Pastor
November 13 - 6:30 Finance Committee
November 16 - 6:00 Youth Group
November 17 - 3:00 Nominating Committee
November 19 - 1:30 UWF Meeting
November 24 - 3:00 Nominating Committee
November 27 - Thanksgiving
November 29 - 9:00 Hanging of the Greens
November 30 - 2:00 Church Christmas
Sing-a-Long

Holy Communion

The sacrament of Holy Communion will be served on the first weekend of November- **Saturday the 1st and Sunday the 2nd.** If you prefer to take communion at home with the live broadcast, you are welcome to pick up a communion pack from the office during the week before.



Our Table

Our Table will meet twice in November to provide a meal and fellowship to anyone who would like to attend. Everyone is invited to come on Mondays, **November 10 and 24 from 5:00 – 6:00 pm.**



November Change the World

November's Change the World will be donated to **Christmas for Kids.** The school districts provide the program a list of those in need and letters are sent to families to get an idea of what items kids are wishing for. The donated toys are matched with the lists received from families and then donated funds are used to purchase what they haven't received in toy donations. Please consider buying a toy and putting it in the box or donating your change. Thanks for donating your change into the jar outside the Sanctuary, as we "change the world" with each and every coin!

All Saints Sunday



November 2
On **Sunday, Nov. 2,** we will remember people in our church or related to our parishioners who have gone on to receive their eternal reward in the last year.

Their names will be read, their picture on the screens, and a chime rung. Please be here to remember our saints – they will never be forgotten.

Change the World October Report

In October, we raised over \$540.78 for Princeton Ministerial Assn. \$1,081.56 with the match from Missions. Thanks for donating your change into the jar outside the Sanctuary, as we "change the world" with each and every coin!

A Few Notes To Remember

- **Office Hours for Thanksgiving:** the Church Office will be closed on Nov 27 & 28 for Thanksgiving.
- **Calendars:** 2026 Calendars are here. They are on the table outside the office. A big thank you to Fiocchi-Jensen Funeral Home for giving us the calendars every year.
- **Parking Reminder:** We encourage those with no mobility limitations to park on the north and west sides of the building. This will free up spaces on the east side for those who need to park closer. Thank you for your kindness.
- **Updates and Events:** Be sure to like and follow the PFUMC Facebook page to be updated on events happening in our Church

SUNDAY SCHOOL



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School was so much fun this month! Our faith focus was "God Protects Us" and we read Psalm 121, the story of David, and the story of Elijah. The children enjoyed building towers using Magnatiles to symbolize God's protection, played memory with pictures from the story of Elijah, and talked about when they notice God's protection in their everyday life.

Amanda Noord
Children's Sunday School Director



YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Princeton United Methodist Church will offer Sunday School for Jr. and Sr. High students who want to improve their relationship with Jesus. The class will meet **every Sunday from 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM in the Upper Room** at the church. All Jr. and Sr. High students are welcome, no matter where they are in their relationship with Jesus.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

The **Righteous Renegades** Sunday School welcome anyone who would like to **join in Cushing Hall at 10:15.**

The Middles Sunday School meets Sundays in **the library at 10:15.** The group is focusing on a study on parents of adult children.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group is for anyone interested in grades 6-12 and will be held at church on Sunday **November 2 and November 16 from 6-7:00pm.** Friends are welcome!

UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH



United
Women
in Faith

All women are invited to attend the **Wednesday, November 19th meeting of United Women in Faith at 1:30 PM in Cushing Hall**. Judy Harris will give an inspirational talk. Also, the annual Thank Offering will be collected accompanied by a Meditation on Giving Thanks. Hostesses are Myrna Roggy and Sherri Parker.

Then, looking ahead, our annual **Christmas Luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, **December 3rd at 11:30 AM at Ye Olde Underground Inn** on 219 S. 6th Street in Princeton. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the table in front of the church office if you plan to attend and to reserve your spot at the table. Everyone attending should bring a wrapped gift costing not more than \$10. It can be something you already own and are looking to part with, an item from the Princeton closet, a food item, a homemade item, or something that caught your eye while shopping. It can be something humorous, or something useful, something decorative, or something inspirational. We will try to stay with the Christmas theme and the gifts will become part of a grab bag.

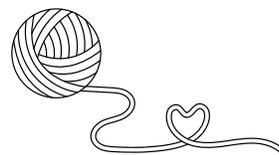
ECUMENICAL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Every Monday Morning, the Ecumenical Women's **Bible Study meets at 10:00** am in the Conference Room at the Church. This is the room next to the Choir Room. We will finish the DVD series "God Never Gives Up On You" with Max Lucado on November 3. Starting November 10, we will start an Advent Study called "The Messiah". **All women are invited to attend regardless of Church affiliation**. This is a "drop-in" group which means that you come when you can. You are not required to be there each week. For more information you can contact Janet Becker at beckerjnj71@gmail.com.



Young at Heart Pie with Pastor & Linda

Pie with the Pastor and Linda! Please join us on Wednesday, November 12th at 1:00pm for pie and a fun time with Pastor Mike and Linda in Cushing Hall. Everyone is invited. Please come and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship. Signup sheet on table outside the office.



Knitter's Group

Calling All Knitters and Crocheters! All skill levels are invited to come knit, crochet, loom or just chat on **Tuesdays at 2:30** pm in the conference room.



BOOK GROUP

Please consider attending our next discussion on **November 11 at 10 am** in the church library. Here is the current schedule for the rest of 2025.

November 11 *Someone Knows My Name*

December 9 *How Far to Bethlehem* by Norah Lofts

SHREK THE MUSICAL



Come see Josh and Landon Bush perform with the River Valley Players in Henry. The dates available are Nov. 15 at 6:00 pm, Nov. 16 at 12:30 pm, Nov. 22 at 6:00 pm, and Nov. 23 at 12:30 pm. . The cost is \$45 a ticket for the dinner theater.



GRIEF SHARE

This weekly group meets through November 17 on Mondays from 1-3 pm at the **Evangelical Covenant Church** in Princeton for those grieving the loss of a loved one. There is no fee for the course. There is an optional workbook for \$20. For more information call 815-875-2124.

Daylight Savings

The official time to set the clocks back is **2:00am on Sunday, Nov. 2**. Make sure you 'fall back' before you go to bed on Saturday night!

Hanging of the Greens

Mark your calendars! The hanging of the greens will take place Saturday, **November 29 at 9:00 am**. Join us!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG



Please join us in our church sanctuary **Sunday, November 30 at 2:00pm** for a Christmas Carol sing-a-long. We will welcome in the Christmas Season by singing "The Joy of Christmas" together.



FROM THE GREEN TEAM

A Four Part Series: Christian calling, Save water, save lives by Joe Iovino (<mailto:jjiovino@umcom.org>)

Part 2 (of four parts)

CONSIDER LANDSCAPING

Lawns and landscaping can use a great deal of water. because grass, bushes, and other plants do not naturally grow everywhere, they need extended periods of watering. Choose indigenous plants and landscaping elements that do not require water. When you do need to water, consider collecting rainwater to use for this purpose.

USE LOW FLOW FAUCETS, SHOWER HEADS, AND TOILETS

Upgrade to more efficient faucets, shower heads and toilets when building or remodeling can greatly reduce water usage. In the US, the US Environmental Protection Agency certifies and labels Water-Sense (<https://www.epa.gov/watersense>) products-that use at least 20 [er cent less water than models using more water.

OPT OUT OF LINEN SERVICE WHEN TRAVELING

A significant portion of a hotel's water usage is laundering guests, sheet and towels. Simply reuse your towels and sleeping on the same sheets during multi-night stay is a water saver.

USE CLOTH NAPKINS

"Laundering cloth napkins is much better in terms of water use verses paper napkins, because of the water needed to produce on sheet of paper," Lee shares. Consider using cloth napkins more frequently.

REDUCE FOOD WASTE

Raising the plants and animals we eat requires water. "So reducing wasted food reduces wasted use of water," Lee explains.

(Part three to follow in December Circuit Rider.)



Photo Credit: Jannifer Powelson

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE

Our Princeton First United Methodist Church Endowment Funds were established over 40 years ago from generous Church members.

These generous gifts over 40 years ago still pay BIG dividends to our Church today. The Endowment Funds are only used to improve and maintain our Church Building and Grounds. Endowment funds are not used for Church operating expenses.

Our Church is very fortunate to have these Endowment Funds. Without these Endowment Funds, it would be extremely difficult for Our Church to maintain the Church building and grounds to high standards. Improving and maintaining our beautiful Church building and grounds heavily depends on our Endowment Funds.

Endowment Fund Balance:

August 29, 2025 \$817,027.32
July 25, 2025 \$809,276.65
June 27, 2025 \$794,736.48
May 30, 2025 \$766,080.10
April 25, 2025 \$726,612.69
December 31, 2024 \$730,968.83.
December 31, 2023 \$683,466.55.

From 2022 – 2025, the Endowment Fund will provide \$200,000 towards \$400,000 of much needed improvements to our Church building and grounds. The Endowment Committee matched an anonymous \$50,000 donation in 2022, in addition to the 3-year capital campaign match of \$150,000 for the \$200,000 total.

The Church Endowment Committee encourages all Members to contribute to our Church Endowment Fund as you plan your Estate. New Gifts to the Endowment Fund will help improve and maintain our Church Building and Grounds for the next 40+ years.

Ways you can contribute to the Endowment Fund are: Gifts of Cash, Stocks, Bonds, Real Estate (farms, homes, commercial), retirement fund required minimum distributions, and naming the Church Endowment Fund as beneficiary of Life Insurance policies.

Please contact an Endowment Committee member with your questions. Endowment Fund information brochures are available in the lobby. Please take one.

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Endowment Committee

Doug Ray
Barb Skean
Birney Brown
Brian Church
Mike Vrana
Lora Corban

Worship Videos Online

The Sunday worship videos are always available on PFUMC's youtube.com channel. Open the YouTube app on your device, or type www.youtube.com into your internet browser. Then search for 'Princeton IL First United Methodist Church'. When you see one of our videos show up on your screen, click on it. If that's not the one you want to view, simply click on where it says 'First United Methodist Church' under the video that's playing. Then you'll be able to see the whole selection of videos you can choose. Worship Videos are live Sundays on the church's Facebook page.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FINANCIAL PERSEVERANCE

On behalf of the PFUMC Finance Committee, we would like to say a big 'thank you' to all the people who have continued to contribute financially to the ministries of our church. Below are some of the ways in which you can give to the church.

1. Via mail – 316 S. Church Street, Princeton.
2. In the locked white mailbox by the main glass doors of the building.
3. Via your bank's on-line bill pay program. A physical check is then mailed to the church.
4. An automatic withdrawal (EFT/ACH) taken from your checking, savings or investment account. This can be done through your bank, or at our bank. **Contact Shelly Grabill for the bank information (i.e. routing number and acct. number).**
5. Through PayPal. Just visit our website (princetonfirstumc.org) and click on the 'giving' button. Then follow the instructions. You can set it up for a one-time use, or on-going. See Shelly if you have difficulties.

We continue to do ministry because of God's grace and your support.

REMEMBERING PFUMC IN YOUR WILL

We never like to think about the time when we won't be here, but it comes for all of us. Thankfully, we know the next phase of our life is a joyful one – being reunited with loved ones and with God. But we will all leave behind both the 'stuff' of this life and a legacy. What better way to combine both than by including your church in your will. Hopefully you have wonderful people to leave gifts to as well, but if you include PFUMC in your will, you'll be ensuring important ministry will continue long into the future because of your generosity. See a member of the Endowment Committee if you have questions.



PRAYER CORNER

Remember in your prayers...Janet Becker (surgery), Bob Lindsey (Alan Bergh's friend – lung cancer), Cliff Peddicord (Marcia's son - health issues), Max Lauritzen (health issues), Kathy Jessen (recovery), Ed James (Alan Bergh's friend - recovery from stroke), Gerald & Rhonda Leadley (health issues), Bob Parker (health issues), Lynn Kautz (Paul Kautz's sister-in-law – lung cancer), Jim Bradshaw (Carol Byrd's dad – recovery from broken leg), storm victims in our nation, those with cancer, or illness in our congregation, those awaiting tests/results, those recovering from surgery & treatments, the lonely, the homeless, refugees, immigrants, military personnel, health care workers, law enforcement, fire and emergency personnel.

****IF YOUR LOVED ONE IS IN THE HOSPITAL OR AT A NURSING HOME, PLEASE LET THE CHURCH KNOW WHERE THEY ARE AND THEIR STATUS. MOST HOSPITALS/NURSING HOMES DON'T LET THE CHURCH KNOW WHEN YOUR LOVED ONE IS ADMITTED.**



Altar Flowers

If you're interested in providing flowers for the altar, let the church office know. Flowers are a beautiful part of God's creation, and people love seeing them in the Chancel area. You can order them from a florist, or pick them from your garden. Share the beauty with others as we worship God!



Treats for Social Hour

Volunteers are needed! The church provides the coffee, lemonade and water, but we rely on your baking skills/donations for the treats. Please consider signing up on the sheet outside the office, if you can provide treats of your choice. Thank you!



Donation Cart

If you have items to donate to Tri-County Food Pantry, please feel free to bring them in and drop them in the shopping cart located in Cushing Hall. The need is great, and all gifts are appreciated.

NOVEMBER

Celebrations

Birthdays

- | | | | | | |
|----------|------------------|-----------|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1 | Sue Moss | 8 | James Metz | 19 | Eloise Stabler |
| 2 | Brian Beams | | Joyce Bickett | | Bill Wendle |
| | Jessica Chase | 10 | Suzanne Denton | 20 | Christy Gramer |
| | Dennis Guither | | Donna Prinz | 22 | Brock Taylor |
| 3 | Emma Zelenik | | Mary Underwood | 24 | Dan Kniss |
| 4 | William Livey | 11 | Trevor Atkinson | | Calvin Moell |
| | Debbie Vrana | | Hannah Noord | 26 | Trent Kloeping |
| 5 | Bill Cass | 12 | Josh Bush | 28 | Emily Boes |
| | James Krieger | 14 | Tommy Fehlhafer | 29 | Larry Lawson |
| | Doug Ray | | Shelly Grabill | 30 | Rita Dunlap |
| 6 | Alan Klingenberg | | John Prinz | | |
| 7 | Beth Mulcahy | | Ulrike Schneider | | |
| | | 15 | Kaitlynn Grabill | | |

Anniversaries

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Brent and Karen Kloeping | 20 | Robert and Val Horras |
| 5 | David and Wendy Mussche | 25 | Gary and JoAnn Patterson |
| 11 | Brent and Heather Loftus | 29 | Joe and Kim Park |
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November 2025 at First United Methodist Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	November Change the World: Christmas for Kids					1 5:30 Saturday Evening Worship with Holy Communion 
2 9 am Worship <i>in-person or live-stream</i> with Holy Communion Children's Sunday School Youth Sunday School 10:15 The Middles 10:15 Righteous Renegades 6:00-7:00 Youth Group	3 10 - Women's Bible Study	4 2:30 Knitters Group 6:00 Handbells Practice	5 6:30 Choir practice	6	7 Church Office Closed 6:00 Board Games Group	8
9 9 am Worship <i>in-person or live-stream</i> Choir Sing Children's Sunday School Youth Sunday School 10:15 Righteous Renegades 10:15 The Middles	10 10 - Women's Bible Study 3:00 Nominating Committee Meeting 5 pm Our Table Meal 	11 10:00 Book Group 1:30 Care Team 2:30 Knitters Group 4:00 Staff Parish 6:00 Handbells Practice	12 1:00 Young at Heart Pie with the Pastor 6:30 Choir practice	13	14 Church Office Closed	15  5:30 Saturday Evening
16 9 am Worship <i>in-person or live-stream</i> Handbells Play Children's Sunday School Youth Sunday School 10:15 Righteous Renegades 10:15 The Middles 6:00-7:00 Youth Group	17 10 - Women's Bible Study 3:00 Nominating Committee Meeting	18 2:30 Knitters Group 6:00 Handbells Practice	19 6:30 Choir practice 12:30 UWF Board Meeting 1:30 United Women in Faith Meeting	20	21 6:00 Board Games Group	22
23 9 am Worship <i>in-person or live-stream</i> Choir Sing Youth Sunday School Children's Sunday School 10:15 Righteous Renegades 10:15 The Middles 6:00-7:00 Youth Group	24 10- Women's Bible Study 3:00 Nominating Committee Meeting 6:30 Trustees Meeting 5 pm Our Table Meal 	25 2:30 Knitters Group 6:00 Handbells Practice	26 6:30 Choir practice	27 6:30 Finance Committee	28 6:00 Board Games Group	29 9:00 Hanging of the Greens
30 9 am Worship <i>in-person or live-stream</i> Choir Sing Children's Sunday School Youth Sunday School 10:15 Righteous Renegades 10:15 The Middles 2:00 Church Sing-a-Long				Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed		



The First United Methodist Church of Princeton, Illinois

Worship Service	9:00 a.m.
Saturday Service (1st & 3rd Saturdays)	5:30 p.m.
Michael Ray Hickok	Pastor
Fallon Bush	Treasurer
Josh Bush	A/V Technology Director
Charles Gebeck	Organist
Pat James	Chancel Choir Accompanist
Shelly Grabill	Office Manager & Financial Secretary
Amanda Noord	Children's Sunday School Leader
Shelley Orwig	Youth Sunday School Leader
Karen Newby	Handbell Choir Director/Chancel Choir Director
Tom Newby	Lay Leader
Elizabeth Schlender	Communications Director
Chris Rucinski	Nursery
Church Office	(815) 872-2821
Church General E-mail	office@princetonfirstumc.org
Church Website	princetonfirstumc.org

The First United Methodist Church of Princeton
316 South Church Street
Princeton, IL 61356

**POSTMASTER:
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



November
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