

November 15, 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1100 CALVIN ROAD // ROCHELLE, IL 61068
PHONE: 815-562-7053 WEB: PLACEFORGRACE.COM

Welcome

November 15, 2026 - 9:00am

Welcome and Announcements -Lizzie Cartwright

Time of Preparation for Worship

Call to Worship - -Lizzie Cartwright
Leader: We are a community of faith created by the love of God.
People: We are a people set free by His Word of grace and mercy.
Leader: We exist to proclaim salvation in Jesus Christ alone.
People: We, the people of First Presbyterian Church, Rochelle, IL, grateful for the Saints who have walked here before us, aware of the sacrifice made by our ancestors in the faith, do gratefully confess our call to continue the line begun here by their work, and joyfully carry it boldly into the future as Christ shall lead us.
Leader: With all our being, let us together praise God and tell of His kindness as we worship Him now. Amen.

Song: hymn #797 "Come, Ye Thankful People Come"

Prayer of Confession - from 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13
Holy and Perfect God, forgive us where we are not holy and perfect. We fail to follow your commandments, and have ignored your loss when it is to our gain. May we recognize our short-sightedness and with one voice glorify You, our Savior and God. Amen.

Song: Refiner's Fire

Remembering Those Who Have Gone Before Us

Scripture: Psalm 61:5, Luke 1:50 - Brad Chapman

Sermon: "Growing our Heritage"

Song: Praise to the Lord, #8

Prayers of the People - Deb Schiller

Offering and Doxology

Song: I Give You My Heart

Call To Discipleship

Blessing
As the risen Christ has made himself known to you in the breaking of bread, so set your faith and hope on God, fulfill your vows and live in genuine mutual love. Go now as witnesses of God's eternal presence. Amen

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On Nov. 29th, the 1st week of Advent, we will be celebrating in worship the "Hanging of the Greens". Please plan to join us in worship that Sunday as we decorate the sanctuary together.

We are a drop off center for shoeboxes again this year and volunteers needed for OCC Shoebox. - November 16-23.

Nan has the sign up form for helping - choose your date and times!

We have daytime and evening hours available! The clipboard with a sign up form will be in the Fellowship Hall.
Take a cookie and sign up to help!

Adult Ed

Join us in an exciting study of the 5th Chapter of Acts during the month of November. This was a great time for the Church in its infancy and many things were taking place. This study will provide a "Cliff Notes" account of the action that will pave the way for thought provoking parallels to today and engaging discussion. We'll look at the signs and wonders taking place at the time, the arrest and release of the Apostles (talk about a jail break!), and the wisdom of the teacher Gamaliel who unlike many of his peers, knew that something huge was going on in the area that would affect not alone the current Jewish culture but society hundreds of years down the road. Grab your coffee and cookies and join us for this insightful discussion led by Mike Chunko beginning November 1 - 22 at 10:00 A.M. in the Adult Ed room

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Anyone who is interested in recent Session minutes is welcome to view them in a binder in the office.

Book Review: Church History for Everyone by Kevin DeYoung
Reviewed by John Haselton

Kevin DeYoung's Church History for Everyone offers a remarkably clear, engaging introduction to the story of the Christian church. DeYoung writes with his characteristic blend of accessibility, theological conviction, and pastoral warmth, making this book an ideal entry point for readers who may feel intimidated by the vast sweep of church history. Rather than overwhelming the reader with dates and technical debates, he focuses on the people, movements, and ideas that have shaped Christian faith across the centuries.
One of the book's greatest strengths is its ability to show how the church's past speaks meaningfully to the present. DeYoung highlights both the triumphs and failures of Christians throughout history, reminding readers that the church has always been a mixture of grace and human frailty. Yet he consistently highlights God's faithfulness, showing how the gospel has endured persecution, doctrinal controversy, cultural upheaval, and renewal.
The writing is crisp, often humorous, and intentionally concise. Each chapter stands on its own, making the book easy to read in short sittings or to use in a smallgroup or Sunday School setting. DeYoung's summaries of major figures—Augustine, Luther, Calvin, Edwards, and others—are especially helpful for newcomers who want a reliable orientation without diving into academic detail.
Church History for Everyone makes the church's story feel both accessible and deeply relevant. It is an excellent resource for congregations, teachers, and anyone seeking a trustworthy and enjoyable introduction to the history of Christ's people.

CHURCH *calendar*

SUNDAY, November 15
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Adult Ed, Sunday School
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Chunko Small Group
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

MONDAY, November 16
10:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study
6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group

TUESDAY, November 17
7:00 p.m. Committee Night & Deacons

WEDNESDAY, November 18
11:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting
6:00 a.m. Choir
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

THURSDAY, November 19
7:00 a.m. Kiwanis
4:00 p.m. 2-5th Grade Youth Group
6:30 p.m. Girl Scouts

SATURDAY, November 21
7:30 a.m. Men's Breakfast
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

SUNDAY, November 22
9:00 a.m. Worship
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Adult Ed, Sunday School
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group
6:00 p.m. Chunko Small Group
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

To provide information and transparency about what is taking place here at church during our ongoing process of leaving the PC(USA), I am going to provide periodic updates from Session meetings and Sunday morning post-worship informational gatherings in the old kitchen and fellowship hall area. Last Sunday we had the first of two meetings, and I took notes on questions-and-answers and transcribed them into a document that will be placed in the blue notebook in the office that is available for anyone to see when the church office is open.

Approved Minutes of our stated and called Session meetings, and Congregational meetings will also be included. Any documents generated through this process are available to anyone who would like to see them, and if you have questions concerning them or any document or steps taken in our process, please reach out by email, phone, during fellowship, or if you happen to run into me in the Walmart parking lot.

Michael Chunko
Clerk of Session

We have Sunday School classes for all ages!
After Serivce until 10:45/11:00

Pre-K - 2nd Grade : Children's Classroom
3-5th Grade : Small Group Classroom
Middle & High School : "Red Couch" Room
Adult Ed : Adult Ed Classroom

The Rochelle Police Department posted a thank you on their Facebook page for our youth groups!

They said:

"A Special Thank You!

The Rochelle Police Department would like to extend a heartfelt THANK YOU** to the First Presbyterian Church Youth Group for the thoughtful goodies and continued support!
Your kindness and generosity mean so much to our officers and staff. We are truly grateful to have such caring young people in our community who take the time to show their appreciation."

Our Go ' N Serve team is getting ready to go serve in Puerto Rico this summer! Please be praying for our team, the people we will serve with and alongside, and our travels.

Our team of 31 participants is :

Students: Aaron Hernandez, Annalyce Harris, Caleb Johnson, Campbell Adolph, Cooper Holmgren, Elizabeth Rowley, Emma Svela, Giselle Hernandez, Gracee Holmgren, Grayson Campbell, Ivan Xelhua, Josie Slattengren, Kayl True, Megan Johnson, Nolan Johnson, Quinn Miller, Reed Rowley, Rylie Thomas, Schekina Gati, Sydney Burke, and Taylor Burke

Chaperones: Jared Burke, Julia Harris, Kara Burke, Lori Hughey, Mark Hughey, Matt Svela, Mike Koolidge, Sara Slattengren, Tarah Holmgren and Toni Rowley

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Please keep our nursing home and rehab residents in your prayers. We list them here with their addresses - they would love to get a note or card!!

Franklin Grove Healthcare,
502 N. State Street, Franklin Grove, IL 61031
Mildred Danekas

Hawthorne Inn
2201 Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068
Shirley Villa
Judy (Nelson) Messer
David Guest

Liberty Village Manor Court
2203 E Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068
Codelle Leonard
Nancy Detig
Jan Hann
Clyda Lamb
Doyle Curtis
Arlyn VanDyke

Flagler Heath and Rehab Center
300 Dr. Carter Blvd.
Burnnell, FL 32110
Pearl Fromm

Brighton Gardens of St. Charles
600 Dunham Road Room 326
St. Charles, IL 60174
Bill Frederick

HERITAGE SUNDAY
First Presbyterian Church Rochelle, Illinois
November 15, 2026

Thank you, dear friends, for these many years that you have been the church! Your love, faithfulness, prayers, worship, and strong commitment to Jesus Christ have made us what we are today!

We only have a future because you have built our past.

There's an old saying that goes something like this: If you see a turtle on a fencepost, you can be sure he didn't get there all by himself. The same can be said of a thriving, healthy church.

Such a community doesn't happen by accident, it is built over time as God's people serve Him with energy and faithfulness.

We're grateful to God for this congregation and for those who have joined Him in His work in this place.

Our long time members listed here have a story to tell, and we do well to listen to it.

We are happy to honor the following people who have been members of the First Presbyterian Church of Rochelle for forty years or more:

Virginia Kettleson, 86 years
Phil Nye, Jr., 76 years
Jean Tyler, 72 years
Kathy Kaminski, 72 years
David Guest, 71 years
Nancy Detig, 70 years
Judy Messer, 70 years
Ione McAnly, 70 years
Shirley Villa, 68 years
Ed Rice, 67 years
Neil Andersen, 66 years
Ginnie Christopherson, 66 years
Karen Bearrows, 66 years
Susan Andracke, 65 years
Kristen Weeks, 64 years
Connie Garrison, 64 years
Karen Collier, 64 years
Jean LeMar, 63 years
Denise McDermott, 61 years
Jane Ramsey, 61 years
Codelle Leonard, 61 years
Loretta Bell, 61 years
Cathy Horton, 59 years
Debra Drew, 59 years
Marshall Weeks, 58 years
Susan Hillison, 58 years
Brian Bearrows, 58 years
Craig Danekas, 58 years
Ann Andersen, 57 years
Donna Tastad, 57 years
Kathy Olson, 57 years
Richard Bearrows, 55 years
John Bearrows, 55 years
Joe Peters, 55 years
Dawn Smith, 54 years
Tom Guest, 52 years
Paul Bearrows,50 years
Jim Blomberg, 50 years
Karen Tracy, 50 years
Jim Chisamore, 50 years
Sarah Chisamore, 50 years
Rebecca Huntley, 50 years
Patricia Bearrows, 49 years
Brent Tracy, 49 years
Joyce Weeks, 49 years
Bob Book, 49 years
Deb Book, 49 years
Sonja McCulloch, 46 years
Dorothy Heltness, 46 years
Tom Hillison, 45 years
Marilyn Overby, 45 years
Phyllis Jones, 44 years
Cory Keilman, 44 years
Jeffrey Young, 44 years
Dennis Bartels, 43 years
Steve Merema, 42 years
Mary Kay Merema, 42 years
Pat Turner, 40 years
Loyd Pohl, 40 years
Sara Pohl, 40 years
Ann Rice, 40 years