

First Presbyterian Church, Kewanee Celebrating its Sesquicentennial on March 26, 2022

On March 26, 1872, a group of twenty-three men and women met together with the Presbytery of Rock River to form a Presbyterian Church in Kewanee, IL. One month after its organization a Pastor (Rev. N.D. Graves) was installed.

Work began on the first church which stood upon the site of today's church at 307. S. Tremont St. The property of the church and manse were a gift and by fall the church was finished at a cost of \$5,000.00. The members held a bazaar and supper which realized enough money to pay for the pews. The manse, which is still used today, was built in 1894.

After serving the congregation for many years, the building was purchased and moved by the Christian Church and the second Presbyterian Church was erected. The cornerstone of today's church was laid in 1903. The basement annex was added in September 1951. In November 1996 the north entrance was enhanced and an elevator installed allowing those unable to climb the stairs the opportunity to attend worship services and other activities. In 1961 the church purchased the property to the north of the church which is now a parking lot.

Since the beginning of the church, we have installed twenty-three pastors with four serving the past fifty years, Rev. Glen Strang, Rev. Dr. James L Breed, Rev. Kenneth Wilson, and Rev. Dr. Dale A. Dykstra. In June of 2020, Rev. Art Blegen was ordained and installed as our current Pastor.

A tradition that began in 1947, we celebrate, on or near our anniversary date, March 26, members who have served our church for 50+ years during the worship service. This year we will recognize twenty people. Some of these people joined our church through Confirmation Class, some are a part of family generations of the church and some are dedicated to their faith in serving the Lord.

We have an Adult Class, led by Bill Scott, that meets on Sunday morning at 10:00 am, Sunday School for children, ages 3 through high school, called the "Bible Buddies" meet at 11:00 am, led by Lisa Hammons, Matt and Cindy Martin, and Worship is at 11:00 am. If you feel the need to find some inner peace and comfort, the first and third Thursdays of the month we have a prayer service at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. We welcome all who would like to join us. Check our website: [www.fpckewanee.org](http://www.fpckewanee.org) and find us on Facebook.

**Our Mission Statement:** We commit ourselves to worshipping God, growing spiritually together and reflecting Christ in our daily lives