



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

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Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Fellowship - 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study - 3:30 p.m.

Session - July 12

Laundry Day - July 13

Dinner Group - July 21

VBS - July 25-29

#### Church Office Hours

Monday through Thurs-  
day 9:00-11:30 a.m. and  
12:30-4:00 p.m.

#### Phone Extensions:

Rev. Bean 101  
Barb 100  
Carlyn: 106  
SI Diaper Bank 110



Notes from Kerry for July 2022

## How to Grow the Church

There are many sources on the internet to tell us how to grow our attendance at worship and also to increase a congregation's membership. Some sources are excellent and others pretty sketchy. Most recently I found a basic but well-written article at [Simpletexting.com](http://Simpletexting.com) which provides their take on the six most effective ways to grow church attendance today.

Here are their suggestions (annotated by me):

1. **Make newcomers feel welcome.** It's always a balance, isn't it, to greet folks and to give them a little space to orient themselves to the church and the folks around them. From what I've seen, our church does this well.
2. **Shorten your sermons.** Now while you may be rejoicing at this idea, they recommend that sermons only last **30** minutes. So I guess I'll start *doubling* the length of mine. Awesome.
3. **Ask your congregation for feedback.** We try to do just that on a regular basis. (Again, let me thank those of you whom completed the Congregational Worship Survey back in May.) But we can always do more.
4. **Encourage Church Members to Bring Friends.** This is the one guideline I see at the top of every list regarding building membership numbers. It is undoubtedly the *most effective way* for a church to grow and the great thing is that we can all share this work together.
5. **Share videos on social media.** We are making strides in this area. We have a website and Facebook page, of course. We also have a YouTube Channel where folks can watch recorded worship services. The next step seems to be to establish more of a presence on some other platforms like Instagram, etc.
6. 😊 **Invite people with Text Messages.** Remember the source here: *Simpletexting.com*. Still, it seems that more and more people today are apt to respond most quickly to text messages rather than emails or phone calls. I know this seems strange to many of us. Phone calls are so much more personal than texts. But lots of people are now used to text messaging being their primary means of communication. Plus, you get to use emoticons!

Why do I mention all of this? Well, the session is trying to create a church growth strategy (not that we officially called it that) in which we implement steps like those above along with innovative efforts from Worship, Faith Development, Mission, Small Groups, Fellowship, and Membership Ministries. We want to coordinate our work with the Preschool and Daycare programs as well.

Of course, our main mission as a church is to share, seek, and serve, proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. But we also recognize that to be effective moving forward we must welcome new members and increase worship attendance. That will provide us new energy for our ongoing mission.

This is a big challenge. Statistics show that only about 1 in 5 Americans now attend worship on a regular basis. The church is no longer central to our culture and our society. The good news is that we do not do our mission alone. We are led by Christ and inspired by the Holy Spirit. Like the Blues Brothers so aptly put it: "We're on a mission from God."

So find a place or two to plug in in our effort to re-grow our congregation. Join one of our Ministries, invite someone to church, and pray, pray, pray. We are in this together.

*Kerry*

# Membership Ministry



Membership Ministry has launched a new PR campaign with a mission focus. In Matthew 5:15-16, Jesus tells the disciples they are the light of the world and tells them, "let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven." We are doing good works at First Pres, and it's time to take the lamp out from under the bushel basket and share what we are doing. By recruiting others to help us, we will be able to do even more of God's work.

There are posters at the main entrance to the church as well as the entrance used by the Daycare and Preschool programs that highlight various missions of the church. At the main entrance there are also copies of a new church brochure, again emphasizing mission activities. In the pews, there are new cards that allow visitors to indicate ministries about which they would like more information. Our hope is that we can draw potential new members who are interested in how we put our faith into action.

The entire congregation will be asked to assist with this exciting new membership development campaign, and we hope you will be as generous with your involvement as you are when we ask for monetary donations. This is indeed a campaign for new members, which we need.

Please identify people to invite to a church mission, small group, or worship. The key here is that you don't have to limit invitations to worship. Visitors may be more interested in our mission work or a small group, and that's fine. Once you identify someone, give them a copy of the new brochure. It will help give them a better understanding of how we at First Pres serve our community. Be prepared to extend the invitation again and again, as research shows it often takes 5 or 6 invitations before someone takes action.

If you see a visitor in the pew beside you, hand them one of the visitor cards and let them know they can put it in the offering plate or give it to you once it's completed (you can then turn them in to the church office).

Our plans are to talk more this fall about how we can reach out as a congregation to potential new members. Until then, take the initiative to invite guests to join you in church activities. Something as simple as inviting folks to join the Dinner Group can be an easy way to introduce guests to members of the congregation. As Jesus commands us to do, go forth and share news of the good works that we are doing!



Photos by Linda Brandon

The Dinner Group will meet Thursday, July 21 at 5:30 p.m.  
The restaurant is yet to be determined - more information will follow.

## First Sunday Collections

Mission Ministry continues our monthly collection of items on First Sundays. In addition to donations for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, the Carbondale Warming Center, Feed My Sheep at Bethel AME, Presbyterian Daycare and Preschool, the Diaper Bank, and the Laundry Project, we will have a special focus on back-to-school items for the months of July and August (I know, I know, it feels like school just ended). First Sunday, July 3, we will collect the items in support of the Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church back to school drive (see a list on page 8). First Sunday, August 7, we will focus on items needed by the Presbyterian Daycare and Preschool, as well as Thomas School.

Bring your donations with you to worship on Sunday morning and drop them off in the narthex. Or just drive through the porte cochere and we'll help you unload. A list of requested items is available on the church website.

### Carbondale Laundry Project

June 8 we served between 30-35 people, including 4 children, and spent approximately \$175 in quarters. Some folks come every month, and they often help spread the word and bring new participants. Thank you to all our volunteers and contributors.

### First Presbyterian Sponsor Circle for Afghan Newcomers Update

Our Afghan family continues to acclimate well to Carbondale. The three-year-old boy is attending the Presbyterian Preschool summer program and seems to really enjoy it. Big sister is attending summer school at Thomas where she is rapidly learning more English every day. While the children are at school, mom is receiving tutoring in English by an SIU graduate student from Afghanistan. We are enjoying watching the family's skills grow every day. In addition to using a portion of the Pentecost Offering to pay summer preschool expenses, the church also identified existing funds that could be used to support two weeks of summer camp in July for the 8-year-old girl. We are very grateful for all the support we have received for the family.

MISSION

### Feed My Sheep

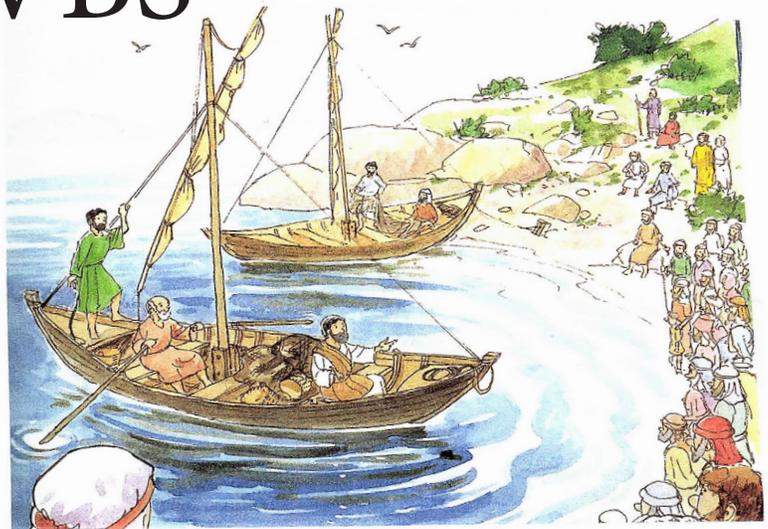
Mission Ministry agreed to make a donation of \$100 to Bethel AME for their 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Feed My Sheep program.

### Good Samaritan

Mission Ministry also voted to make a donation of \$1000 to Good Samaritan Ministries to support their ongoing vital work in our community.

We are unsure at this point whether we will have enough registrations to do VBS. Our cut-off date for registrations is July 5. If we reach a number of children that will work, we will need more volunteers. Right now, we just need people to INVITE children.

# VBS



July 25-29 our church will create a week with Jesus and the disciple Peter in our VBS “Peter – Fisherman/Disciple.” Each day from 9:30-noon (with the option of 8:00 a.m. drop-off) children will learn the story of how Peter changed from a fisherman to a disciple as he watched Jesus teaching and healing. Along the way, children will learn how life looked in Jesus’ time and try ancient crafts.

Any child age 5-11 is welcome. Children 12 and up and adults are needed as helpers. Registrations are available in the church office.

How can you help?

- Invite children in your neighborhood or your grandchildren or greats to participate
- Volunteer to help a day or two doing a craft or the whole week as a shepherd of children
- Bake or buy food for snacks
- Help set up trays of snacks each day and clean up after
- Share your laptop for the week
- Share a small boat for décor/atmosphere

Let Kitty Trescott (618-203-1807) or Judy Beyler (618-319-0123) know how you can help – and INVITE, INVITE, INVITE.



### Pentecost Offering



Photo by Lisa Hollabaugh

**P**entecost Sunday, June 5, 2022 we observed the Lord's Supper, while enjoying the paper lanterns and dramatic red paraments—designed and sewn by Wendi Zea—adorning the Sanctuary. Thanks to the pulley system designed by Deb Burris, it's easy and (some say) fun to change the paraments according to the PC(USA) Liturgical Calendar. If you're interested in learning how to change the paraments, talk to a Worship Ministry member. We collected \$2,560.00 for the 2022 Pentecost Offering. The Pentecost Offering is used to support young people and inspire them to use and share their unique gifts with the world. This year, Mission Ministry has agreed that a portion of the offering retained for use by our congregation locally will be used to pay the preschool expenses for the 3-year-old Afghan boy our church is sponsoring. Thank you for your generosity.



After Slay's Restoration was unable to fulfill its verbal commitment to clean the Fellowship Hall ceiling. Rapid Mold Removal was hired at a cost negotiated to stay within the original approved amount. Work was completed mid June.

Photos by Ro Quick



#### Birthdays

- 5 - Kathy Manfredi
- 5 - Darrell Bryant
- 5 - Conner Daly
- 12 - David Peters
- 19 - Gary Williams
- 22 - Nick Owen
- 28 - Bobbie Ogletree

#### Anniversaries

- 29 - Rich and Carlyn Zimmermann



Photos furnished by Daycare



## DAYCARE

The kiddos have been busy little bees. Last month, our preschoolers finished their study of the unit about trees. Our center follows the Creative Curriculum which focuses on the whole child and has studies, investigations, and focus questions in each unit. We have extended it to include plants and life cycles since we have planted a majority of our garden. We have our first cherry tomato. In our littles' classroom, we have been focusing on achieving milestones, routines, and experiences. Our youngest friends have just learned to crawl, roll over, and wave. The children enjoyed making gifts and celebrating fathers/father figures for Father's Day.

This month we will study the plants and the life cycles as well as work on writing our names, practicing the letter sounds, and identifying sight words. We will also celebrate America's birthday. Thank you to Ms. Linda who donated some bamboo for the children's flag project. We wish everyone a safe and cool month ahead.



Photos furnished by Daycare



## Preschool NEWS

Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July. We finished up our first month of summer session and are taking a two week break for the holiday and some much deserved rest and relaxation for the teachers. In June, our students enjoyed learning about oceans, the solar system, and (back by popular demand) yoga week. We will return for our second half of summer session July 11. We will be learning about healthy bodies and nutrition, and hands on exploration of art and science. We have openings for July and the upcoming 2022-2023 school year in all of our classes so please help spread the word of our wonderful preschool.

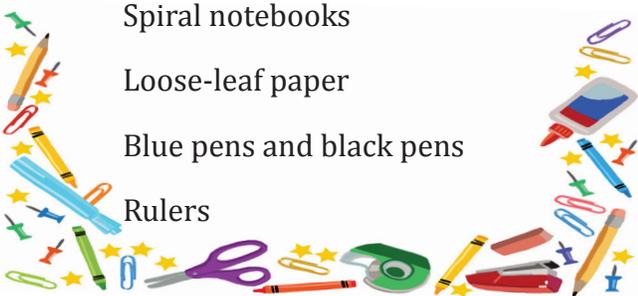


Photos furnished by Preschool



**BACK TO SCHOOL LIST**  
for  
**Hopewell Baptist Church**

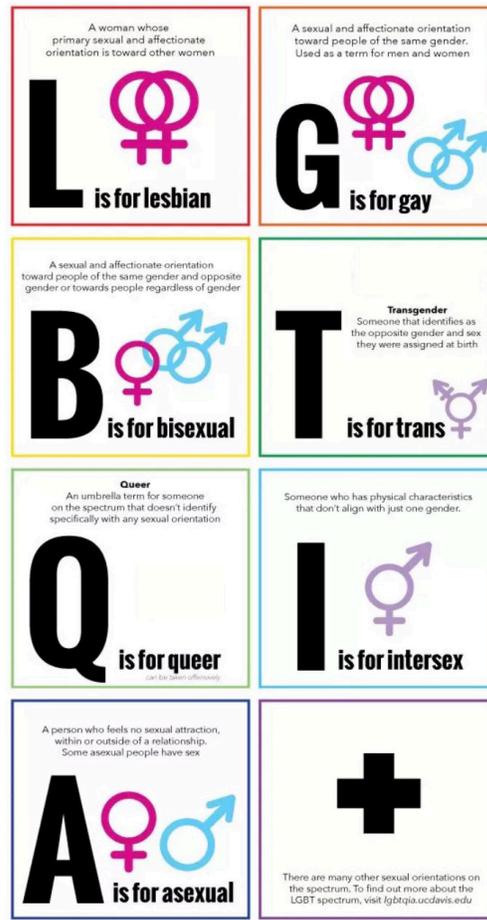
- Book bags/backpacks
- Folders
- Crayons
- Colored pencils and markers
- Pencils
- Glue and glue sticks
- Scissors
- Composition books
- Pencil boxes and pencil bags
- Pencil-top erasers and pink erasers
- Binders
- Spiral notebooks
- Loose-leaf paper
- Blue pens and black pens
- Rulers



**MORE LIGHT**

“First Pres” affirms and supports More Light Presbyterians’ mission statement: “To work for the full participation of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual and other (LGBTQIA+) people in the life, ministry and witness of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and in society.” (Some shorten this acronym to LGBTQ, LGBT+ or simply LGBT.) Mark your calendars for October 2, 2022 when we host the Southern IL LGBTQ Fest community worship service.

(Image adapted from PCHC)

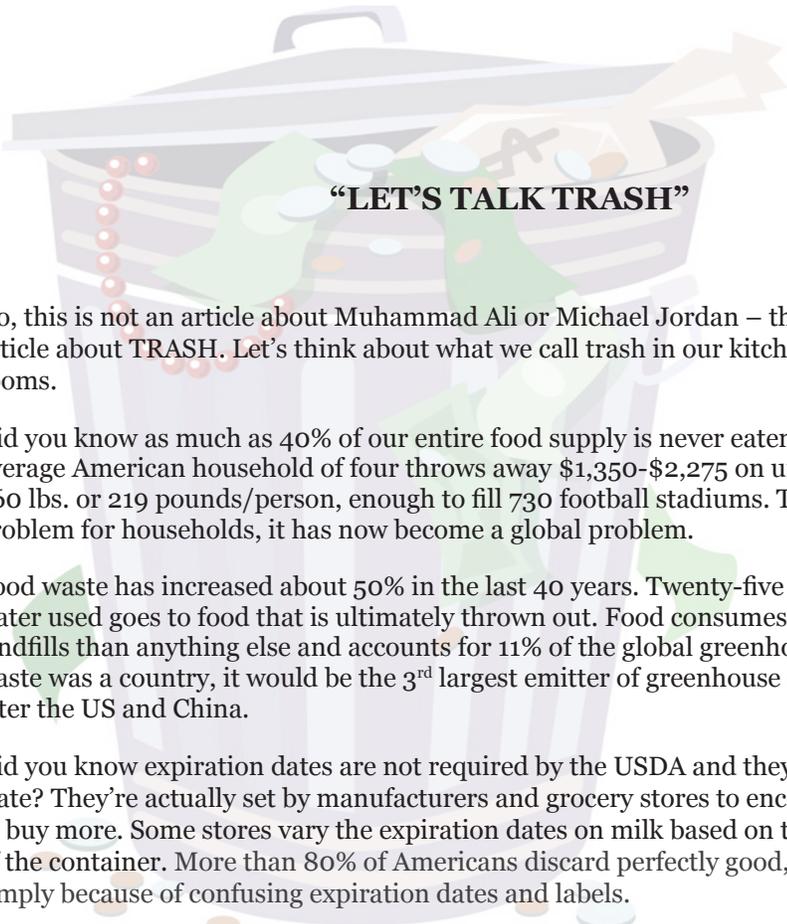


**PRIDE MARCH & CRUISE**

About two dozen church members and friends showed their support at the June 25, 2022 Southern IL Pride March & Cruise and were featured in the Southern Illinoisan. More event photos will appear in next month's newsletter.

Photo by Byron Hetzler





**“LET’S TALK TRASH”**

No, this is not an article about Muhammad Ali or Michael Jordan – this is TRULY an article about TRASH. Let’s think about what we call trash in our kitchens and dining rooms.

Did you know as much as 40% of our entire food supply is never eaten? In one year, the average American household of four throws away \$1,350-\$2,275 on uneaten food – that’s 960 lbs. or 219 pounds/person, enough to fill 730 football stadiums. This is not just a problem for households, it has now become a global problem.

Food waste has increased about 50% in the last 40 years. Twenty-five percent of all fresh water used goes to food that is ultimately thrown out. Food consumes more space in our landfills than anything else and accounts for 11% of the global greenhouse gases. If food waste was a country, it would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest emitter of greenhouse gases, coming only after the US and China.

Did you know expiration dates are not required by the USDA and they vary from state to state? They’re actually set by manufacturers and grocery stores to encourage consumers to buy more. Some stores vary the expiration dates on milk based on the size and material of the container. More than 80% of Americans discard perfectly good, consumable food simply because of confusing expiration dates and labels.

Getting to the bottom of what causes food waste in America is a challenge. People connect cooking to their values and their emotions. Sometimes, the act of cooking can be meditative or reflective or even adventurous. At other times, we feel the stretch of limited budgets and resources. Time can be at a premium or we just don’t want to cook. What is the solution?

The Green Guardians, along with Bo Sullivan, will present a program later this summer to help you find some solutions to these problems. We will show you how to understand expiration dates, how to improve your food storage, and ways you can reduce food waste. Bo will also give a demonstration about tasty and healthy ways to use leftovers.

In the meantime, plan meals ahead of time, check your fridge before shopping, buy those fruits and vegetables that might not measure up to traditional “cosmetic” standards. Consider composting food scraps or create some of your own “kitchen sink” recipes – quiches, pastas, tacos, and stir-fries are all great ways to use leftovers. Invite friends or family to share if you have too much and let’s see how creative you can be next time we talk trash. ☺



# Session Synopsis

June 14, 2022

We opened the meeting with a prayer from This Week in Prayer, which also served as our devotional.

We started out with some discussion items, as is our practice lately. These included:

1. A brief report about the results of the Congregational Worship Survey. A more detailed report will be shared with Worship Ministry- and then back to session again.
2. Covid-19 safety protocols. We reconfirmed that we would follow CDC Guidelines in the matter of masking and other safety practices. When the Covid-19 transmission rate is “high” in Jackson County, we will be “mask required”. If the rate is below “high”, we will be “mask available”.
3. We again discussed general Church Security measures including best practices for locking doors after worship has started on Sunday mornings. Worship and Facilities Ministries will be bringing some new ideas (for instance, greater use of security cameras) to the session. This is a very challenging conversation as we try to find the balance between keeping members secure and continuing to be as welcoming as possible.
4. Nominating Committee brought a proposal suggesting that the size of the session remain the same until new officers are elected in January. Membership and Fellowship Ministries will get assistance from the Deacons and the Clerk. I will be the contact person for Small Groups Ministry.

We transitioned into the business part of the meeting. Minutes and Financial reports were approved. The financial health of the congregation remains strong. Thanks to all who have given over the years to help pay for the roof repair and cleaning of the Fellowship Hall.

Folks attending worship in the sanctuary will notice that Allison Forsberg is now serving as our A/V Technician, meaning that she basically runs the sound, camera, and Zoom connection each Sunday morning. Also, the installation of a new large screen TV/monitor will be taking place shortly, replacing the projector and laptop currently in use. In addition, the current plan is for the choir to start rehearsals again in late August with a proposed performance during worship September 11.

Finally, the session approved dates for me to use my two weeks of Continuing Education to finish re-writes of this fall's murder mystery- and a couple of weeks of vacation in August.

*Kerry*



Contributions to First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale are tax deductible under 501(c)(3) guidelines (consult your tax professional). Donate on Sunday mornings, by direct deposit or mail, by clicking the "Give Now" button at [www.firstpresdale.org](http://www.firstpresdale.org) or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Financial Report May 2022

42% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget
Pledges	\$ 123,329.50	\$ 228,824.00
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 7,214.00	\$ 16,000.00
Per Capita	\$ 2,053.00	\$ 2,500.00
Trans. From Investments	\$ -	\$ 15,111.41
Miscellaneous	\$ 8,232.41	\$ 17,230.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 140,828.91</b>	<b>\$ 279,665.41</b>

Line	Expenditures	Budget
Mission	\$ 4,102.80	\$ 13,520.00
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 31,844.60	\$ 83,936.86
Staff	\$ 26,438.92	\$ 82,969.55
Christian Ed.	\$ 838.82	\$ 3,800.00
Worship & Music	\$ 340.64	\$ 3,875.00
Comm/Administration	\$ 8,998.21	\$ 20,564.00
Property/Capital	\$ 30,606.88	\$ 69,100.00
Christian Nurture	\$ 238.11	\$ 1,900.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 103,408.98</b>	<b>\$ 279,665.41</b>

Revenues over Expenses \$ 37,419.93

**Oops**

This weeks Bible -reading regiment.

This appeared in some other church publication, not one of ours.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
Carbondale, Illinois

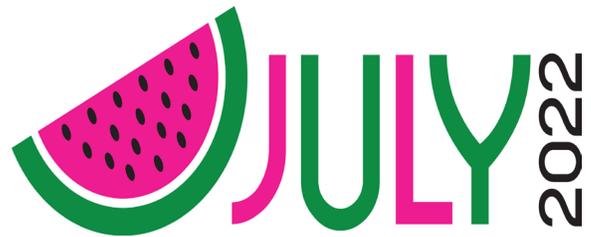
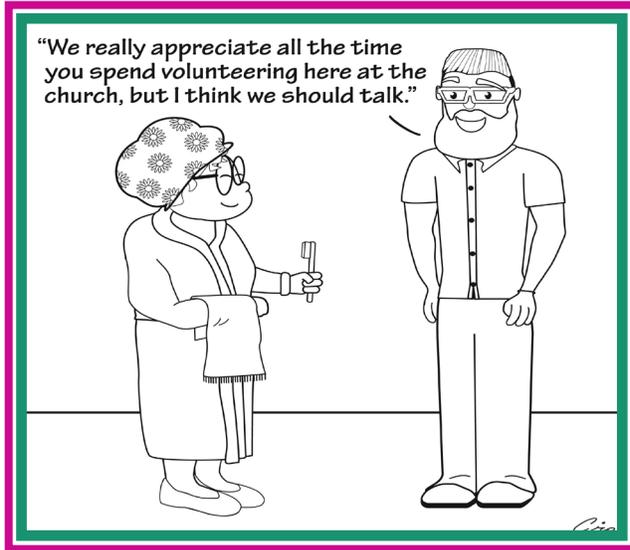
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**JULY 1922:** Church membership grew to 232. The number of Southern Illinois University faculty attending increased.