



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Lisa C. Hollabaugh ([firstpresnews@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresnews@gmail.com)) / [www.firstprescdale.org](http://www.firstprescdale.org)  
First Presbyterian Church / 310 S. University Ave. / Carbondale, IL 62901 / (618) 549-2148  
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL / YouTube: @firstprescdale  
More Light Presbyterians LGBTQIA+-affirming [www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

**Sunday Worship** 10:00 am  
w/Childcare & Children's Church School  
Zoom Link 824 8455 3329  
Email Zoom prayer joys & concerns to  
[sanctuaryimac@firstprescdale.org](mailto:sanctuaryimac@firstprescdale.org)  
Followed by **Coffee Fellowship**

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
April 2 7:00 pm  
at First Christian Church  
306 W. Monroe Street, Carbondale

**Bible Study with Bill & J.P.**  
Wednesdays 10:00 am Lounge

**Choir Rehearsal**  
Wednesdays 6:00 pm (not April 8)  
Saturday April 4 1:00 pm

**Easter, Communion & First Sunday collection** April 5

**Choir performs** April 5 & 26

**Office closed** April 6

**Free Laundry Day** April 8  
10:00 am-2:00 pm Laundry World

**Stated Session Meeting**  
April 14 7:00pm

**Dinner Group** April 16 5:30 pm  
The Turn Restaurant & Lounge  
Kokopelli Golf Club, Marion

**Welcome Pastor Meg Overstreet to the pulpit** April 19

**Presbyterian Women**  
April 21 1:00 pm

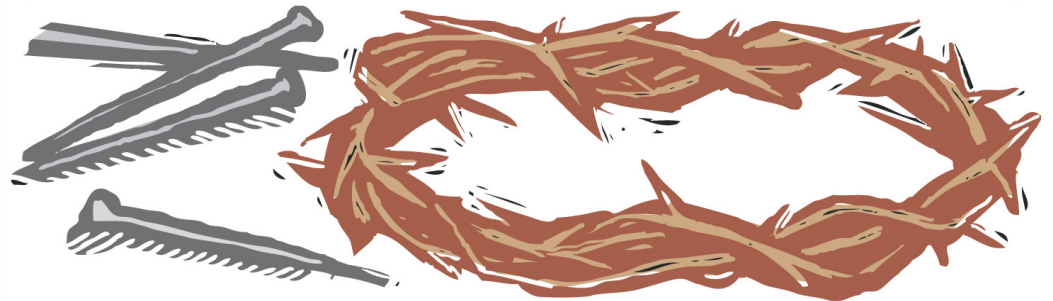
**Presbyterian Men** April 23 Noon

**Church Women United 51st Annual Thrift Sale to Fight Hunger**  
**Donation Drop Off** April 28-29  
9:00 am-6:00 pm University Mall

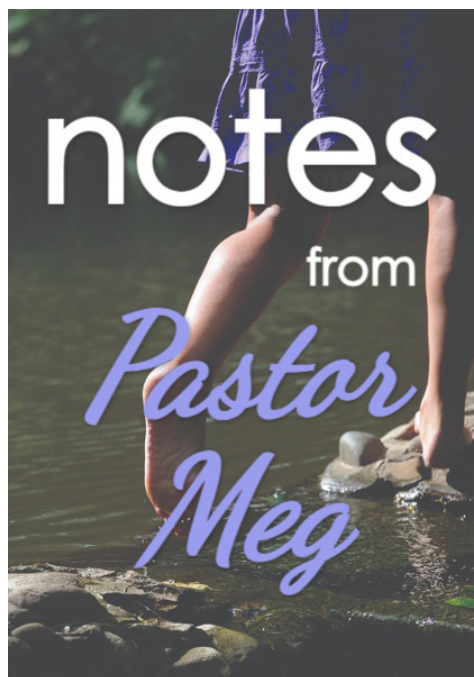
*Sunday worship services are livestreamed via Zoom and are later posted on our YouTube channel @firstprescdale*



*Like and subscribe!*



# HOLY WEEK



This month, as I've been saying some goodbyes and saying some hellos, I've been thinking a lot about change.

Some change feels great. (Advances in medicine that foster greater health are often something to celebrate.)

Some change feels terrible. (Saying "goodbye" to a loved one can be devastating.)

Some change excites us. (A new job can be something that we're enthusiastic about.)

Some change makes us feel anxious. (That same new job can also make us nervous.)

As people of faith, what is our response to change?

Because we are people of faith who celebrate God's enduring faithfulness to God's people, *and* because we worship the God who created the world (including the cycle of the seasons), not only can we trust that God is always present with us during the seasons of change in our lives...we can also trust that God continues to be at work in those seasons of change.

In other words, we can be assured that God does not leave us alone in seasons of change. Instead, we can trust that no matter how anxiety-inducing, difficult, or painful change is—no matter how joyful, exciting, or wondrous change is—God is always with us to support us, nurture us, grow us, and bring us through the season of change...into the new life that is on the other side of change.

The Biblical image for those seasons of change and transformation is the "wilderness." Scripture teaches that not only is God present to God's people as they travel the wilderness, we often see that God is present in new and powerful ways when the people of God find themselves in a wilderness season.

As the season of Lent winds down, and the celebration of resurrection and new life is on the horizon, it seems appropriate that we not only notice the wilderness seasons in which we find ourselves, but also pay attention to the new life for which God is preparing us.

Are you ready to come out of the wilderness?

Are you ready for all the joy, and new life, and hope and grace that God will offer in the season ahead?

Are you ready for God to turn the world upside-down with the unexpected and improbable news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

God calls us into a future that is unknown to us...and while we can't be certain of what the journey ahead will be, we can absolutely be certain of God's presence, guidance, and sustenance in the wilderness, and in every season of our lives. In the coming days, may the stories and observances of Holy Week bless you and prepare you for the season ahead.

See you soon! —*Pastor Meg*

**MargaretAnne (Meg) Overstreet** is a PC(USA) pastor, author, consultant, and (intentionally) single mom. For more than thirty years, she has helped people embrace the fullness of life and grow into who God has created and called them to be. She preaches, teaches, and leads retreats while wearing no shoes (like Moses) to remind herself and her listeners that every square inch of creation is holy ground.

“My call is to preach—in word and deed—the Good News of Jesus Christ, which I believe to be a message of the unfailing love and abundant life found in relationship with the Triune God. A message of love and life does not sugar-coat the world as we know it. Rather, it takes seriously the tragedy and woundedness all around us and it calls for discipleship through acts of compassion and justice. I strive to be a living witness to that Gospel of Abundance and Love.”

She might be called a cradle-Presbyterian, but having grown up in a family that spanned the spectrum of Christian denominations (including a few beloved Buddhists), she has always loved wrestling with questions of theology and faith-in-practice. She appreciates any venue where those of different faiths gather in mutual love and respect to learn from one another and find collaborative ways to make the world a better place.

“For two decades, I have sought to accompany the Body of Christ on the always-prayerful and often-uncomfortable journey toward a deeper sense of identity and an increasingly authentic sense of call. I feel led to help draw congregations and individuals out of a place of anxiety about what they should be and do, and to help them find the freedom that comes from discovering their gifts and their own holy longings.”

Pastor Meg has old-fashioned ideas about food; she is passionate about sustainable agricultural practices and can't resist the temptation of a farm stand or farmers market. Her soon-to-be-12-year-old daughter Mollie has inherited this passion; together they test their neighbors' patience by removing more and more lawn for the dual purposes of growing food and supporting pollinators. Mollie, in turn, tests her mother's patience by attempting to rescue and/or adopt every vulnerable critter (animals, rodents, and even insects) she comes across. They currently live with slightly too many animals and slightly too many germinating seed trays.

Originally from Southern Illinois, Pastor Meg spent many happy summers at Camp Carew. She did her undergraduate work (in communications) at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, before completing a Master of Divinity degree (with concentrations in Theology and Spirituality) at San Francisco Theological Seminary. Over a long career, she has served institutions and congregations across the country and has worked with individuals around the world. She is the author of one book (with a second one forthcoming) and has written for *Presbyterians Today* and *The PC(USA) Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study*.

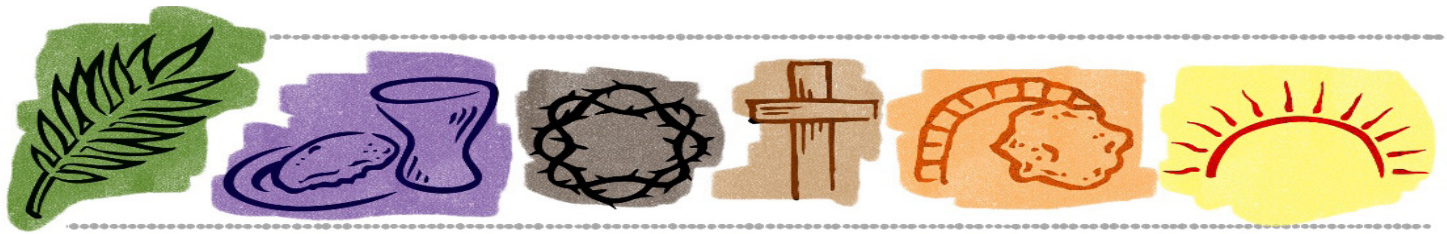


Mollie and MargaretAnne Overstreet with session moderator Judy Beyler are pictured above, after the unanimous congregational vote approving Pastor Meg's terms of call March 22, 2026.



Welcome  
PASTOR MEG





## Palm Sunday kicks off Holy Week



Affiliate choir members Roberto Bell, Olivia Norrington & Kyle Loring (right) sang solos and as a trio.



Palm Sunday morning the choir (above) was accompanied by brass quintet Alex Cude, Adam Arbetello, Ty Sechrist, Taylor Page & Ainsley Pierce (below).

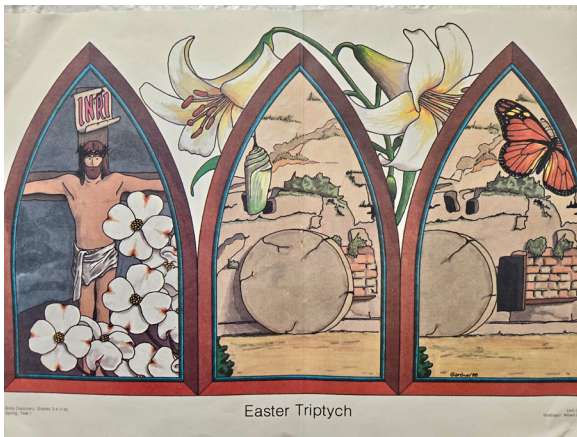


*Pietro Lorenzetti, Entry of Christ into Jerusalem c. 1320 Fresco, Lower Church, San Francesco, Assisi*

Palm Sunday worship focused on the *Stations of the Cross*, providing a meditative and meaningful experience. Thank you to Kathy & Pat Manfredi for organizing the service and designing the keepsake bulletin featuring historic artwork.



*Rembrandt, Descent from the Cross, 1634*



Palm Sunday, **Children's Church School** studied the events of Holy Week depicted on the Easter triptych and symbolized by caterpillars transforming into butterflies. Following worship, they released their butterflies which had hatched earlier than expected.



Aryah and Archer joined Judy Beyer for the butterfly release on the green space. (Photos: Judy Beyer, Morgan Quick)

**MAUNDY**  
  
**THURSDAY**  
April 2, 2026 7pm  
First Christian Church  
306 W. Monroe St.  
Carbondale

# MISSION Updates

The Carbondale Kiwanis Club and the Carbondale Community High School Key Club held their semi-annual diaper drive for the **Diaper Bank of Southern Illinois** in February. Peter Alexander (far right, pictured with Bill Martens) delivered 1,295 diapers and 4,236 baby wipes which will support underserved families in our region.



Cindy Buys, Elizabeth Hamilton, Lisa Hollabaugh (left), Sarah Merideth and Jane Swanson raised **\$12,459.25** for the Carbondale Warming Center and Take Action Today at February's **Coldest Night of the Year**. The Presbyteamians again placed first among 32 local teams, and they placed sixth out of 1,553 teams nationwide! They couldn't have done it without their donors' generous support—thank you.

### AFGHAN FAMILY UPDATE

Sheeba has a new job at The Branch Cafe & Market restaurant in Carbondale, and lawful permanent residence (green card) applications have been completed for the entire family.

The March **Free Laundry Day** served 37 guests. Support the Carbondale Laundry Project by purchasing **Tru-Earth laundry eco-strips** at church or online at <https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject>.



Photos: Facebook



Mission shares with the First Pres church family a deep thank you for the many years of service **Brenda Gilbert** (left) has provided to the Presbyterian Preschool Board of Directors. At its April meeting, the session is expected to approve the appointment of Lance Davis, Jr., who has graciously agreed to step up as Board president. Thank you, Lance!



**Bob & Elena Luebbers** celebrated their 18th wedding anniversary during fellowship March 15, 2026. Congratulations!



The March **Dinner Group** greeted spring by driving through the premier Giant City State Park and dining in the historic Lodge. Ten of us enjoyed good conversation and food (and not everyone had fried chicken)!



**April 16, 2026 at 5:30 pm, we will meet at The Turn Restaurant & Lounge** on the grounds of Kokopelli Golf Club in Marion. This is quickly becoming one of our favorite spots with tasty food in a gorgeous setting. We hope you'll consider joining us; RSVP at [jillhertzing@aol.com](mailto:jillhertzing@aol.com).



Church Women United of Carbondale hosted **World Day of Prayer** March 13, 2026 in the fellowship hall. Readings and music led by interfaith leaders focused on the theme "I Will Give You Rest: Come."



Church Women United is hosting the **51st Annual Thrift Sale to Fight Hunger** May 1 & 2, 2026 at the former Old Navy store at University Mall in Carbondale.



**Donation Drop-off Dates:** (Unload from the University Mall parking lot; pull up to the double doors near the FedEx drop-off box. *No major appliances or mattresses*).

**Tuesday, April 28, 2026 9:00 am–6:00 pm**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2026 9:00 am–6:00 pm**

**Sale Dates: Friday, May 1, 2026 9:00 am–6:00 pm**

**Saturday, May 2, 2026 9:00 am–2:00 pm**

Volunteers are needed before (to set up, sort/price donations) and during the sale. Email [hungersalecwu@gmail.com](mailto:hungersalecwu@gmail.com) or sign up online at <https://signupschedule.com/hungersale>. For more information, reach out to Brenda Myers or Ann Warner.

# Green Guardians



The Green Guardians encourage you to reflect on and celebrate these environmental and species awareness days\* and observances in April.

- 3 – Jane Goodall Day & World Aquatic Animal Day
- 12 – Big Wind Day
- 13 – International Plant Appreciation Day
- 14 – National Gardening Day
- 20 – International Cli-Fi Day
- 25 – National Go Birding Day (Audubon Day)
- 27 – Air Quality Awareness Day
- 29 – Stop Food Waste Day

April 19–23 – National Environmental Education Week    April 19–27 – National Park Week  
April 25–May 6 – International Stewardship Week

April is Children and Natural Awareness Month, Keep America Beautiful Month, and Poetic Earth Month

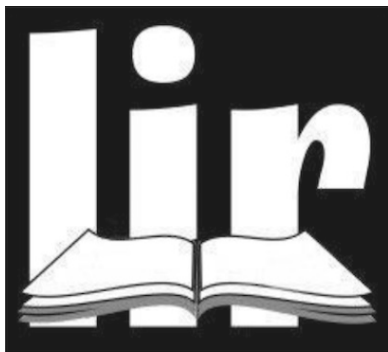
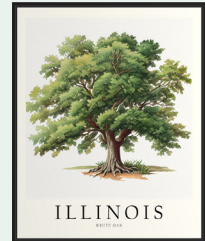
## Featured Environmental Days in April

- 8 – **National All is Ours Day**—a kind of worldwide day of thanksgiving for our natural world.
- 22 – **Earth Day (Earth Action Day)**—the premier environmental awareness and concern day. The Earth Day 2026 theme “**Our Power, Our Planet**” invites everyone around the globe to unite behind renewable energy and triple global generation of clean energy by 2030.

24 – **National Arbor Day**—hug a tree; plant a tree!  
The white oak is the Illinois state tree.

See back page for information about the PCUSA’s Earth Day resource  
“The Canopy of Creation: Trees, Faith, and the Work of Justice.”

\* For species-specific days, search “Wildlife and Conservation Themed Days.”



## S.I. Learning in Retirement

Darrel Dexter’s interactive presentation “Famous Visitors to Cairo, Illinois” will be featured at the **April 15, 2026 meeting of Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement (SILIR)**. Those visitors have included presidents, renowned authors, entertainers, civil rights leaders...and even a few infamous outlaws.

Dexter (right) is a retired educator who has taught at the elementary, middle school, high school and college levels. His books on southern Illinois history include *Bondage in Egypt: Slavery in Southern Illinois* and *Pulling Off the Sheets: The Second Ku Klux Klan in Deep Southern Illinois*. He also edited *Stained with Blood and Tears: Lynchings, Murder and Mob Violence in Cairo, Illinois, 1909-1910*.



This presentation will be held as part of SILIR’s annual luncheon at Giant City Lodge. While the 9:30 am coffee hour and 10:30 am presentation are free, the noon lunch is by reservation only and costs \$28. To make a reservation, call (618) 536-7751. (Photo provided)



Last month **Presbyterian Preschool** students enjoyed learning about dinosaurs, St. Patrick's Day, and life-cycles. As April arrives, we look forward to learning about the weather and opposites, and celebrating Easter.

We extend our heart-filled thanks to Brenda Gilbert for leading the Presbyterian Preschool Board for many years. Her attention to solving challenges and promoting growth has helped the Preschool prosper, and in turn inspire countless young learners. Thank you Brenda, for your dedication to our students and program!

We're excited to again share with the First Pres church family our Preschool Spring Flower Fundraiser, featuring nursery-quality plants from McNitt Growers. Please consider ordering your flowers through this fundraiser which supports the Preschool. Order forms will be available at the beginning of April.

Enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year has begun. Please help spread the word to families and friends that the Presbyterian Preschool provides high-quality education to children 2-5 years old. (Photos provided)



We thank the Children's Church School for sharing their beautiful caterpillars with our fascinated preschoolers.



Director Tristen Meinert shared insights and information about Camp Carew March 15, 2026.

**Camp Carew**, a mission of Kemmerer Village, provides Christian summer camps for children and youth, and hosts retreats for people of all ages throughout the year. Established in 1952, Camp Carew is built on 60 acres nine miles south of Carbondale in the woods of Little Grassy Lake inside the Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge.

Registration is open for the summer 2026 camping season. Sessions range from day camps for children entering kindergarten to early elementary school age, to week-long leadership training camps for those entering 12th grade. Discounts are available for early registration and registering multiple children from a household. Camp and registration information is online at <https://campcarew.org/>.

You can support Camp Carew with monetary donations, or by pitching in at volunteer work days April 25, May 16, September 26, or October 24, 2026. (Photo: Lisa Hollabaugh)





**Tesserae**

Southern Illinois Queer+ Chorus©

**PRESENTS**

**THE LUMINOUS LINE**  
**FINDING FREEDOM & PEACE**

**SATURDAY, MAY 2, 6PM**

**SUNDAY, MAY 3, 6PM**

**FREE ADMISSION, DONATIONS APPRECIATED**

**CARBONDALE UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP**

**105 N. PARRISH LANE**

**CARBONDALE, IL**

**FEATURING WORKS BY SAEZ & ORTIZ,  
PEDERSON, MORLEY, NDLOVU,  
ELGAR, LABARR, HAGENBERG  
AND MORE**



**TESSERAE IS A PROGRAM OF  
RAINBOW CAFE.**

**SPONSORED IN PART BY THE  
SIU WESLEY FOUNDATION  
& DONORS LIKE YOU!**



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.firstprescdale.org](http://www.firstprescdale.org) or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Financial Report February 2026		17% of the year completed	
Income Line	Income YTD	Annual Budget	
Pledges	\$ 67,695.00	\$ 194,000.00	35%
Nonpledge & Cash Offerings	\$ 1,757.42	\$ 12,500.00	14%
Per Capita	\$ 920.00	\$ 1,500.00	61%
Transfer From Investments	\$ -	\$ 59,310.47	0%
Other (e.g., Interest, Endowments)	\$ 4,090.35	\$ 18,950.00	22%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 74,462.77</b>	<b>\$ 286,260.47</b>	<b>26%</b>
Expenditure Line	Expenditures YTD	Annual Budget	
Mission	\$ 100.00	\$ 10,098.00	1%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 1,103.68	\$ 67,035.04	2%
Staff	\$ 14,706.03	\$ 95,203.43	15%
Faith Development	\$ -	\$ 1,400.00	0%
Worship & Music	\$ 1,282.30	\$ 3,728.00	34%
Communication/Administration	\$ 5,924.68	\$ 17,496.00	34%
Facilities/Capital	\$ 19,260.18	\$ 89,800.00	21%
Christian Nurture	\$ 688.49	\$ 1,500.00	46%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 43,065.36</b>	<b>\$ 286,260.47</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>Income over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 31,397.41</b>		

## APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Kitty Trescott
- 4 Ernest "Bo" Sullivan
- 8 Beth Corker
- 10 Jeff Franklin
- 12 Jonathon Brooks & Marta Davis
- 14 Ruby Beyler & Sara Chaney
- 21 Darlene Gaskins & Melissa Jensen
- 23 Orlan Brown

14 Lewis & Sara Chaney

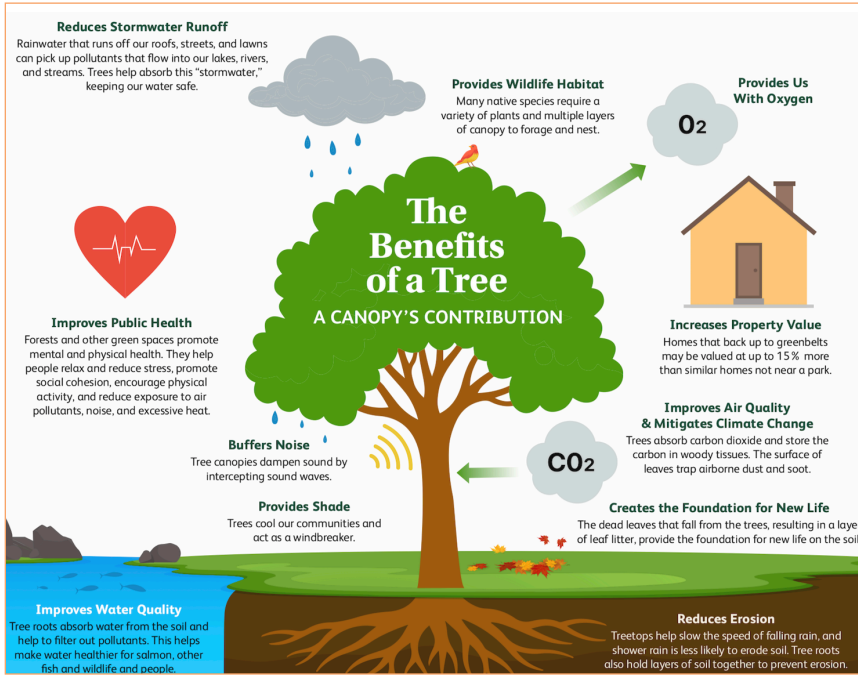
*If we missed your special day,  
please accept our apologies  
and notify the church office  
so we can update our records.*





# First Presbyterian Church Carbondale, Illinois

310 S. University Avenue Carbondale, IL 62901  
Phone: (618) 549-2148 / Fax: (618) 549-6423  
[office@firstpresdale.org](mailto:office@firstpresdale.org) / [www.firstpresdale.org](http://www.firstpresdale.org)  
Rev. MargaretAnne Overstreet [pastormeg@firstpresdale.org](mailto:pastormeg@firstpresdale.org)



Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) hymnals, the Book of Common Worship, and the Directory for Worship highlight ways in which all Creation praises God's name. These resources explore how we can give thanks to God for the wonder and beauty of the world around us.

Each year, the PC(USA) partners with Creation Justice Ministries to offer Christian education materials to equip faith communities to protect, restore, and more rightly share God's creation.

The 2026 Annual Resource theme is *The Canopy of Creation: Trees, Faith, and the Work of Justice* (excerpt above). Download it for free at <https://pcusa.org/resource/canopy-creation>.