



The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Linda Brandon web address: <http://www.firstprescdale.org>
The First Presbyterian Church, 310 S. University Ave., Carbondale IL 62901
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Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.
Faith Development - 11:00
(Dates TBA)
Wednesday Bible Study - 3 p.m.

1st Sunday - Jan. 1

Session - Jan. 10

Laundry Day - Jan. 11

Rainbow Cafe Trivia Night
Jan. 21

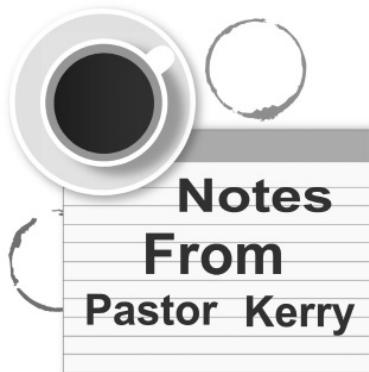
Church Office Hours

Monday through Thursday 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





You Say You Want a Resolution?

If it's a January church newsletter, it must be time to write new year's resolutions about doing new things and heading in new directions. Of course, it is obligatory to mention how quickly most of our resolutions go unresolved and to comment about how hard it is for us (as individuals and as a congregation) to change.

At the heart of the matter is our resistance- and even refusal- to change. How many of us have faced significant health challenges, and still do not change the behaviors which helped make us sick in the first place? How many of us may have received comments in our work evaluations that we ignore or discount? How easy can it be to get upset when even a minor thing happens to disturb our routine or our expectations?

All of this resistance gets amplified for a congregation, I think. As a church, we ritualize so many things. The order of worship keeps the same rhythm week in and week out. This newsletter comes out every month. Most of us probably have favorite parking spots and pews in which to locate ourselves. All of these things not only become part of our congregational routine, they become part of our identity as a church. Just think about how our experience of being church would change without worship, music, fellowship, or our mission work. Our church building both symbolizes and reinforces our desire for stability and permanence.

The thing is (and we've talked about this before) such permanence is, ultimately, an illusion. The community around us is changing almost as fast as our nation and world are changing. So many of the assumptions we used to make about our lives now have to be questioned. Certainly, the church no longer stands as one of the pillars of our society. Sundays long ago ceased being set aside as sabbath days. My kids and their significant others are just as likely to work on Sundays as they are on any other day of the week. Sports and leisure rule the day now.

I preached a sermon not long ago urging us to stop thinking of ourselves as a people who gather in one place (as beautiful and historical as that place may be) and instead to imagine ourselves aboard a ship taking a journey of faith, of life as a spiritual adventure. I do I believe that is what we ought to be doing. The thing is, I personally know very little about life at sea. I've been on one cruise. It was great, but it was basically like visiting Las Vegas with an occasional stop to leaf peep (not exactly the great adventure of faith that we're called to).

So I guess my resolution as your Covenant Pastor this year of 2023 is help us explore the new and uncharted waters that we find ourselves in and to help us plot a course for the future. Will we keep doing many of things that we associate with being our congregation? Yes, we will. But we will also need to learn, I suspect, how to leave a few things behind which isn't always fun, but often is necessary.

The one thing I can promise you is this: it won't be boring!

Happy New Year and let's make waves.

Kerry



It's a new year, and our focus needs to be on membership. Hopefully you've identified some people to invite to church, whether to worship, a mission project, or a small group.

If you're having difficulty with how to approach potential new members, Lisa Hollabaugh has generously shared her thoughts on the subject. You're invited to adapt Lisa's approach for your own use.

With friends and coworkers, I talk about my church life a lot; it's clear that church is a big part of my life. When someone demonstrates any level of interest (i.e., asking about my church, talking about their church experience), I respond in this manner....

"My church is First Presbyterian, in downtown Carbondale across from Home2Suites. The sanctuary is really beautiful and dates back to the early 1900's. It's a progressive and friendly congregation. I'd love it if you might want to visit worship sometime." I make a point to mention the 9:30 a.m. worship time followed by coffee fellowship; I also describe upcoming events of potential interest—such as when I'm singing with the choir, when an instrumentalist will perform special music, or special Mission activities. I tell them about the Zoom worship option, and may ask for their email so I can forward them the Zoom link.

I don't assume someone does not want to be invited to worship, and I keep in mind that I may extend an invitation multiple times before someone takes me up on the offer.



A Minute for Stewardship

Barb and Linda have just finished running the numbers and thanks to the generosity of members of our congregation – your church – we are ready to start 2023 in good financial health. Many folk pledged and some increased their pledge amounts. This year, some who had never pledged before chose to support our church by making a pledge. Others in our church family simply give regularly and that too is vitally important.

The bottom line is that the anticipated gifts to First Presbyterian for 2023 will fully fund the budget that the Session approved at its December meeting. Our goals will remain solidly in place as we continue to seek the faith, share the spirit, and serve God's people.

Our missions touch many lives. For example, our excellent child development programs, the diaper bank, the laundry project, and support for the warming center are all important. But best of all, we will continue proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ, enriching the lives of our members through meaningful worship services, and offering insights through Bible study, after-worship discussion sessions, and our many small-group gatherings.

Truthfully, none of this could happen without the support of you, the members of our congregation. Thanks to you First Presbyterian can continue to make a difference in people's lives and be a force for good in an increasingly divided world.

Mission Diaper Bank

The Diaper Bank is incredibly fortunate to be the recipient of more than \$7,300 from the *100 Women Who Care* event that was held in December 2022. Jane Swanson was very persuasive in her presentation about the need for diapers and the Diaper Bank was chosen by the attendees as the top vote-getting charity that night.

Jane Swanson and Bill Martens also participated in the Alternative Gift Fair on behalf of both the Laundry Project and the Diaper Bank and collected over \$500 in donations between the two projects.

Free Laundry Project

The December Free Laundry Day served 32 people and volunteers assisted with 100 loads of laundry. Approximately three-quarters of the participants are repeat customers, with the remaining one-quarter being new to this mission. The next Free Laundry Day will be held on Wednesday, January 11. Contact Jane Swanson or Bill Martens (carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com) if you're interested in volunteering. We appreciate the great work by all involved.

Spirit of Christmas

Our Spirit of Christmas offering exceeded our goal this year, bringing in \$3,447.87. Thanks to everyone for your generosity.

First Sunday in January

For the First Sunday in January, our church will focus on our local missions including the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, the Carbon-dale Warming Center, Feed My Sheep at Bethel AME, Presbyterian Daycare and Preschool, the Laundry Project, and the Diaper Bank.

**Volunteers Needed
Warming Center
January 14**

The Warming Center is seeking volunteers to help sort donations in their building. Two shifts are available: 10 am to noon, or 1:00-3:00 pm. Let Jane Swanson know if you are interested.

Sock & Mitten tree

Thank you to everyone who donated items to the Socks and Mittens Tree. Rick and Dori Jefferson took all the goodies to the local schools in Carbondale where they are always very much appreciated.

Survivor Empowerment Ctr.

The Survivor Empowerment Center (formerly The Women's Center) is accepting donations and has some immediate needs. The list of needed items can be found here: <https://www.empoweringsurvivors.org/donations/>



Photo by Lisa Hollabaugh

Our church school students spent the last four weeks learning/reviewing the Biblical Christmas story by creating their own child-size nativity scene.

From the first stories of the angel coming to Mary and to Joseph, through the travel to Bethlehem and the birth, then the angels' call to the shep-

herds and the Wise Men following the star, our students learned and then dressed the figures and created faces for them. Come see for yourself in the room that used to be the chapel.



December 18 Kathy Manfredi presented a prayer shawl to worship accompanist Chanmi Jeong, who recently returned home to South Korea.

Photo by Jane Swanson



Last month, the children enjoyed doing holiday activities and celebrating the season. We were excited to be a part of the Church's missions and activities by bringing and hanging hats, socks, and mittens on the tree. We also really enjoyed participating in a reading of the Christmas story and doing the sticker activity. The children also made amazing keepsakes for their families, discussed the holiday season, and had fun baking some holiday goodies.



Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a nice holiday and enjoyed the beauty of the holiday season.



Photos by Daycare



Next month, we will be discussing and exploring the season of winter, arctic animals, and Chinese New Year. We will also catch up on all of the holiday fun that was had over the break.

Thank you everyone who brought in cleaning supplies for our supply drive.



PRESCHOOL

Happy New Year 2023! Our first semester of preschool whizzed by and we look forward to the second half of our school year with more learning and growing. We enjoyed a lovely time together with our preschool family and friends at our annual Christmas Sing last month. The kiddos sang special songs for the parents and we had a pleasant potluck and time to connect with everyone. The Frog class enjoyed a story time with Pastor Kerry who read the beautiful pop up Christmas Story book of the real meaning for Christmas.

This month the Frog class will be learning about winter, begin our cultural study unit about Asia, as well as celebrate Chinese New Year. The Frog class will perform a Dragon Parade (with a new to us Dragon costume generously donated by Mrs. Kitty) Friday, January 20, 2023 at 11:45 for anyone who would like to attend. The Tadpole and Polliwog classes will be exploring winter, arctic animals, and our five senses. We hope everyone has a wonderful January.



Photos by Preschool



**Green Guardians highlights
our new web page**

Click on the tab for Green Guardians from the home page for First Presbyterian Church and you'll find a wealth of information. Some topics are: Recycling, Outdoor Education, Land and Water conservation, and Advocacy.

In each "leaf" of the Green Guardian tree, you can find resources with contact information along with a link to a print-ready format for that category. You can also go to the Kids Gardening tab to sign up for a monthly informative and engaging newsletter with kid-friendly activities.

Green Guardians extends our immense thanks to Harry Davis and Sara Squires for compiling this information and to Jane Swanson for putting it into a user-friendly format. Your Green Guardians are at work to help you make informed choices -- on to a new year.



- 9 - Jean Pulliam
- 12 - Carol Good
- 16 - Carol King
- 17 - Reona Daly
- 17 - Jenny Prest
- 19 - Jim Milford
- 20 - Phyllis Beck
- 21 - Brenda Gilbert
- 27 - Martha Peters
- 27 - Carly Calloway-Tesch

26 - Lisa Hollabaugh & Ro Quick



**We're
Taking
a
Break!**



Faith Dialogues will have a brief hiatus until February. We are planning to choose a book to study for Lent. Our plan is to announce the title far enough in advance to allow people to read before discussion. Recommendations are welcome and encouraged.



The flyer features a header with a row of colorful question marks in red, orange, yellow, green, blue, purple, and grey. Below this is a white box containing the date "Sat., Jan. 21". To the right, a yellow box displays "\$15 per person" and "8-player teams bring a team or join a team". The main body is set against a grey background with a rainbow gradient bar. It includes the "rainbow cafe" logo (a magnifying glass over a rainbow), event details ("First Presbyterian Church, 310 S. University Ave, Carbondale, doors: 5:30, games: 6:00"), and "cash prizes". A large "Trivia Night" graphic is shown with letters in various colors (blue, yellow, orange, green, pink) on a brick wall background. At the bottom, it says "BYOF/BYOB [N/A CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE]".

Sat., Jan. 21

\$15 per person
8-player teams
bring a team or join a team

First Presbyterian Church
310 S. University Ave, Carbondale
doors: 5:30
games: 6:00 *cash prizes*

VISIT
RAINBOWCAFE.ORG/S/SHOP
TO PURCHASE TICKETS
OR EMAIL
SANDY@RAINBOWCAFE.ORG

BYOF/BYOB [N/A CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE]

"What We Learned from Welcoming Afghan Families"

At the January 18 meeting of **Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement (SILIR)**, representatives from the four Carbondale Sponsor Circles (First Presbyterian, St. Francis Xavier, and Unitarian churches plus the independent Heartland Circle) will share what they experienced and learned while helping four Afghan families transition to living in our community. The presentation, free and open to the public, begins at 10:30 a.m. at Grace United Methodist Church. A social hour with coffee and light refreshments begins at 9:30 a.m.

SILIR has been offering learning opportunities to older adults in the Carbondale area for 25 years. If you are interested in learning more about SILIR, please visit the website: <https://conferenceservices.siu.edu/silir> or call 618-536-7751 or email silir@siu.edu. New five-week (once a week for two hours) courses will begin Feb. 6 and include classes about short fiction, recent medical research and flora of southern Illinois.



Session Synopsis

December 2022

The session met on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. We began with prayer and a short devotional.

Linda Brandon, the church treasurer, joined us to discuss the financial reports and the budget for 2023. The session had already examined an early version of the proposed budget. Linda explained some tweaks that had been made as a revision. The idea was to reduce expenses and limit the amount that we would have to use from investments for 2023. The budget was approved and will be published in the Annual Report in January (Sunday, January 22, to be precise.)

The Nominating Committee has completed its work and will be providing the congregation with candidates for church officers for the next three years. The vote for these officers will also take place at the Annual Meeting.

I had the pleasure of telling the session that the church has received a donation from the children of Mary Montovani.

We approved a request to allow the Rainbow Café to host a trivia night in the church's fellowship hall Saturday, January 21 from 4-11 p.m.

We also approved dates for communion in 2023. (They correspond to the dates we selected for this year.)

Finally, we noted that Chanmi Jeong would be finishing her service with us as accompanist on Sunday, December 18. (We recognized her service at the beginning of worship.)

We closed with prayer. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 10.

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.firstprescdale.org or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Financial Report November

91% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 212,231.50	\$ 228,824.00	93%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 16,316.91	\$ 16,000.00	102%
Per Capita	\$ 2,113.00	\$ 2,500.00	85%
Trans. From Investments	\$ -	\$ 15,111.41	0%
Miscellaneous	\$ 15,616.27	\$ 17,230.00	91%
 Totals	 \$ 246,277.68	 \$ 279,665.41	 88%
Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 9,162.87	\$ 13,520.00	68%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 72,177.71	\$ 83,936.86	86%
Staff	\$ 62,648.55	\$ 82,969.55	76%
Christian Ed.	\$ 1,282.72	\$ 3,800.00	34%
Worship & Music	\$ 1,363.73	\$ 3,875.00	35%
Comm/Administration	\$ 14,207.79	\$ 20,564.00	69%
Property/Capital	\$ 61,277.59	\$ 69,100.00	89%
Christian Nurture	\$ 982.43	\$ 1,900.00	52%
 Total	 \$ 223,103.39	 \$ 279,665.41	 80%
Revenues over Expenses	\$ 23,174.29		



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



First Presbyterian Church Carbondale, Illinois

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Web Address: <http://www.firstprescdale.org>

Pastor: Rev. Kerry Bean, Email: pastorkerry@firstprescdale.org



"Thanks for calling the Believer's Support Line. For a word of encouragement, press one. For a verbal pat on the back, press two. For immediate praise and adulation, press three. For a faith that worketh patience, press on!"



I would like to thank Dede Lingle Ittner for all the years she has provided the historical information about First Presbyterian that has appeared in this space. She has done an amazing job of connecting us with the past of this congregation and this community. Her interesting and informative "historical tidbits" were much appreciated. Thanks Dede.

Linda Brandon