



The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Lisa C. Hollabaugh (firstpresnews@gmail.com) / www.firstpresdale.org

First Presbyterian Church / 310 S. University Ave. / Carbondale, Illinois 62901 / 618-549-2148

Facebook First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL / YouTube @firstpresdale

More Light Presbyterians LGBTQIA+-affirming www.mlp.org

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) www.pcusa.org

Sunday Worship 10:00 am (also via Zoom)
with Childcare & Children's Church School
Zoom Worship Meeting ID: 824 8455 3329
Joys & concerns: pray@firstpresdale.org
Followed by **Coffee Fellowship**

Teachings of the Spirit
with J.P. Russell & Bill Martens
Wednesdays 10:00 am Lounge
(No meeting August 12)

Communion August 2

First Sunday Collection August 2
School supplies (lists on page 4)

Blessing of the Backpacks
August 9

Free Laundry Day August 12
10:00 am–2:00 pm Laundry World

Stated Session Meeting
August 13 6:00 pm

Adult Education: Sermon
Discussion with Pastor Meg
Starting August 16 11:30 am–12 noon
Parlor Childcare available

Fair Ladies of Faith Kickoff
August 17 Salad supper
RSVP information on page 3

Dinner Group August 20 5:30 pm
Cummare's Italian Ristorante
Murphysboro

Presbyterian Men August 27 Noon

Snider Hill Cemetery Workday
August 29 9:00 am

"Last Summer Fling" Picnic & Fun
August 30 Lunch at 12:30 pm
Giant City State Park Shelter 2

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



Like and subscribe!



"Last Summer Fling"

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2026
LUNCH AT 12:30 PM

POTLUCK PICNIC

Giant City State Park - Shelter 2
235 Giant City Road Makanda, Illinois

Bring a game and join the fun!
Bring your own tableware/cutlery
& a dish to share



Dear First Pres Family of Faith,

There's something special about August. It's a month that lives between seasons. Summer is still with us, but the signs of autumn begin to appear. School supplies fill the store shelves. Family calendars begin to fill. Vacations wind down. New routines begin to take shape. August reminds us that much of life is lived on thresholds.

Scripture is full of these in-between moments. Before the Promised Land came years in the wilderness. Before Pentecost came waiting. Before resurrection came a quiet garden in the early morning. Again and again, God meets people not only in moments of arrival, but in moments of transition.

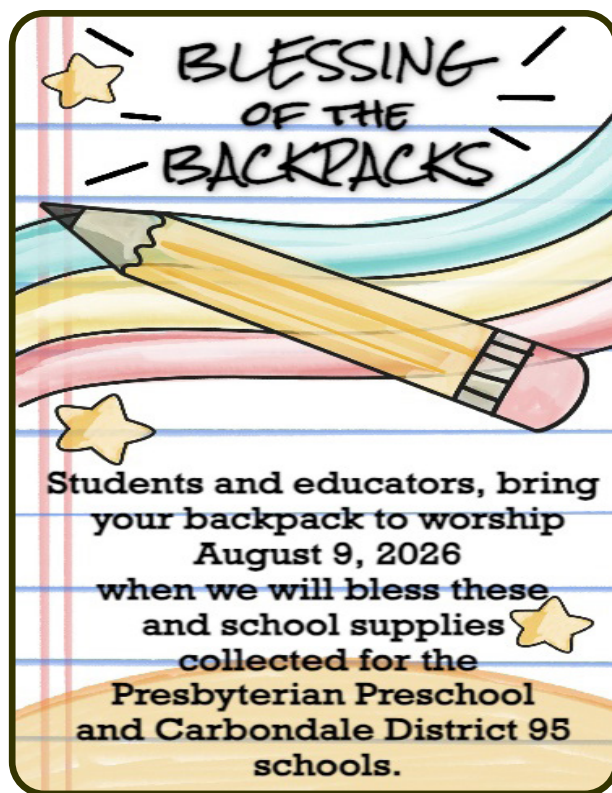
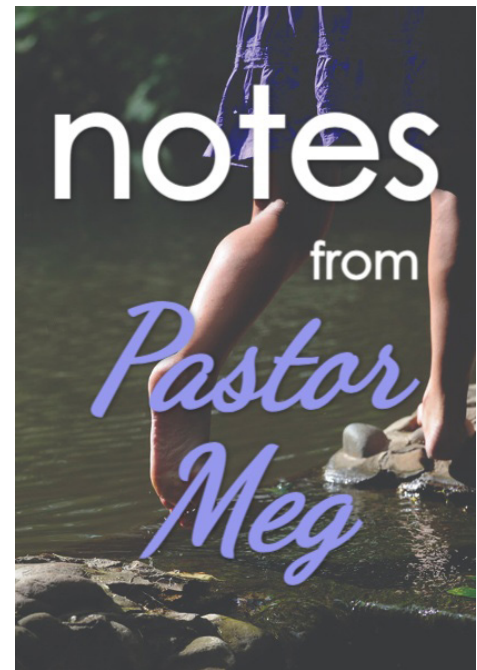
Perhaps that's why I have always appreciated this time of year. It invites us to pause before life becomes busy again. It gives us an opportunity to ask not only, "What will I be doing this fall?" but **"Who is God inviting me to become?"**

I recently returned from a time of continuing education. I'm grateful for the opportunity to step away, learn and reflect, returning with fresh ideas and renewed energy for ministry. One of the gifts of continuing education is the reminder that discipleship is never finished. No matter our age or stage of life, we are always being invited to grow, learn and discover new ways of following Christ.

That spirit of growth will shape much of our life together this fall. Together we will continue worshipping, serving, learning, laughing, praying and encouraging one another as we seek to become the people God is calling us to be. To this end, ***I'll be leading a new adult discussion group Sunday mornings after fellowship, and I hope many of you will consider joining the conversation.***

As we stand at this threshold between seasons, my prayer is that we won't simply rush into another busy fall. Instead, I hope we'll enter it with intention, gratitude, and expectation, trusting that God is already at work among us and inviting each of us into something new.

I look forward to crossing that threshold together. See you soon! —Pastor Meg



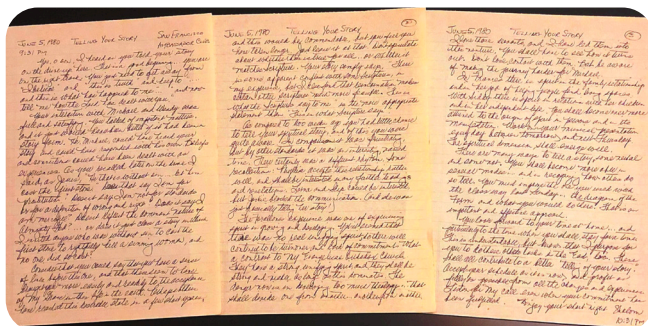
**SERMON
discussion**
11:30 am-12 noon
In the Parlor
Starting August 16, 2026

Beginning August 16, 2026 after fellowship, Pastor Meg will lead a **Sunday morning sermon discussion from 11:30 am-12 noon in the Parlor**. Bring your questions and plan on thoughtful discussion. Let the church office know if you need childcare during this activity, which will be available.

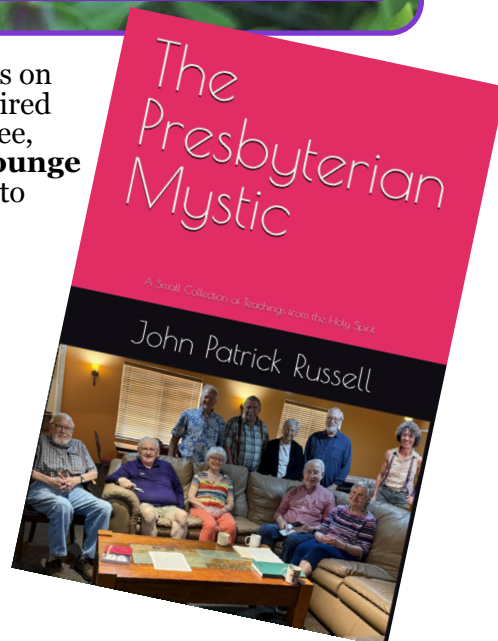


Fair Ladies of Faith's kickoff meeting will be Monday, August 17, 2026 at 6:00 pm at the home of Phyllis Beck, 96 New Campfire Road in Carbondale. All women interested in meeting monthly for prayer and a book study are invited to attend the kickoff meeting, which includes a salad supper (please bring a salad topping to share; salad greens, dessert and beverages will be provided). We plan to have both an evening group and a daytime group. If you plan to attend or for more information, contact Phyllis at 618-201-4634 or Marta Davis at 618-549-6199.

J.P. Russell and Bill Martens host an ongoing Wednesday morning class on the **Teachings of the Spirit** which were penned by Bob Russell, inspired by the Holy Spirit, beginning in 1979. All are welcome to gather for coffee, donuts and reflection **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am in the lounge** (no meeting the second Wednesday of the month). Curious? Reach out to Bill, or browse www.teachingsofthespirit.com.



"Telling Your Story" (above) in Bob Russell's longhand. (Photos: teachingsofthespirit.com, amazon.com)



MISSION Updates



Thank you to all who donated supplies and funds for fifty-five **Period Packs** which were assembled during fellowship (above). Pastor Meg delivered them to the Synod of Lakes & Praries' Synod School in Storm Lake, Iowa, in support of its goal of compiling 800 Hygiene Kits, 375 Kid's Kits and 500 Period Packs for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA).

Laraine Wright (below left, with Jane Swanson) delivered \$80 in quarters from the Carbondale Unitarian Fellowship (CUF) to the **Carbondale Laundry Project**. If you feel called to help lead Free Laundry Day, email carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com or discuss with Jane, Bill Martens, or a member of the Mission committee.



Support Free Laundry Day by purchasing **Tru-Earth Laundry Eco-Strips** at church or online at <https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject>.

FIRST SUNDAY AUGUST 2, 2026 SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Presbyterian Preschool:

Markers, Glue sticks, Play-Doh, White board (dry erase) markers, White board (dry erase) erasers, Construction paper (white & colored), Dish soap (gallon size), Paper towels, Clorox Wipes, Bleach

Carbondale District 95:

Crayons, Colored pencils, #2 pencils, Highlighters, Rulers, Markers, White board (dry erase) markers, Glue sticks, Bottles of glue, Spiral notebooks, Kleenex, Paper towels

*Feed My Sheep
at Bethel
AME*

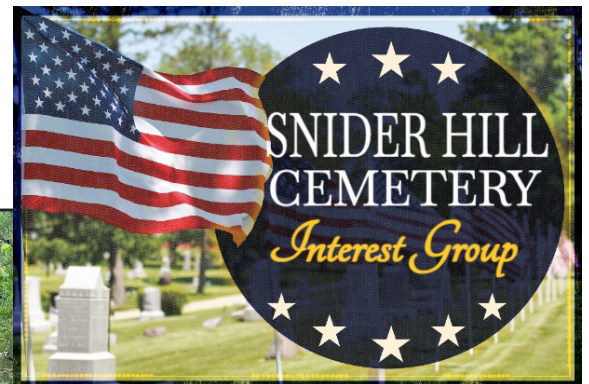


Mollie Overstreet (above far right, with Liz DiLalla and Jill Hertzberg) joined the **Feed My Sheep** team. (Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh, Jane Swanson)

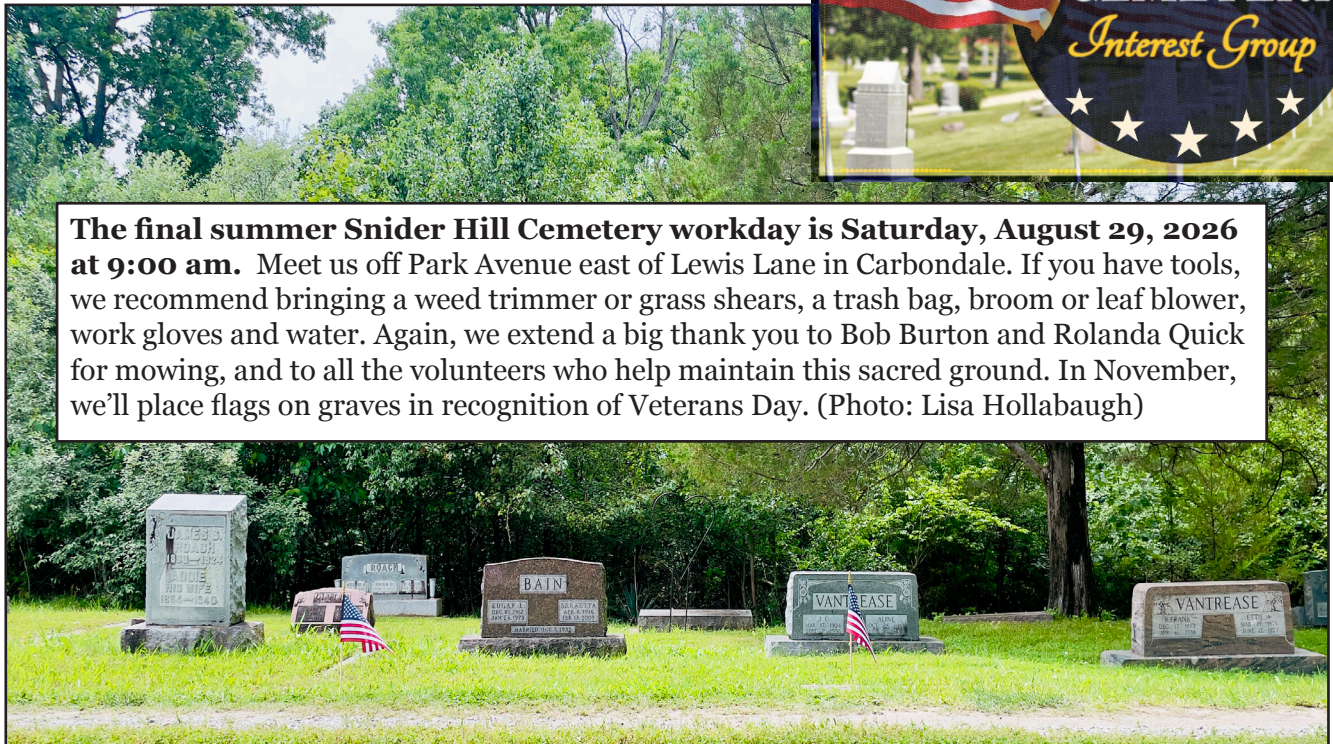


CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL

This month Lizzy Olmsted is spearheading the creation of a "Prayground" in one of our church school rooms. Children will be involved in setting things up and then spending time during the month learning more about prayer.



The final summer Snider Hill Cemetery workday is Saturday, August 29, 2026 at 9:00 am. Meet us off Park Avenue east of Lewis Lane in Carbondale. If you have tools, we recommend bringing a weed trimmer or grass shears, a trash bag, broom or leaf blower, work gloves and water. Again, we extend a big thank you to Bob Burton and Rolanda Quick for mowing, and to all the volunteers who help maintain this sacred ground. In November, we'll place flags on graves in recognition of Veterans Day. (Photo: Lisa Hollabaugh)



The choir resumes in September. Choral singing is a meaningful way to contribute to worship, and it promotes camaraderie and confidence—even if you can barely carry a tune. We even have an adorable canine mascot: Charlie Burris!

If you're considering joining Wednesday 6:00 pm rehearsals and performing about twice a month, reach out to Music Director Dr. Deborah Burris at musicdirector@firstprescdale.org. Stay tuned for some exciting percussion news in next month's newsletter!

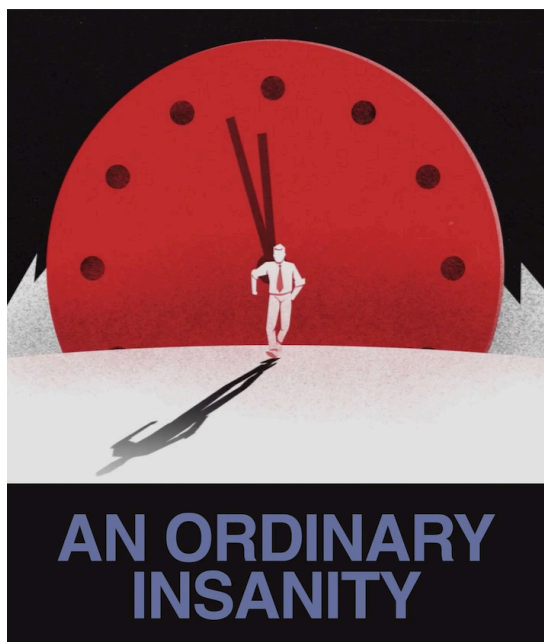


Summer has been a great time to reconnect with past church members and extended family visiting from out of the area. Among those we've welcomed are (clockwise from top) the Manfredi family; siblings Jeff Schwegman & Deb Troester; Suzanne & Keith Hillkirk; the Hooker family; Carly Calloway (with father Jim and Chris Smith); and Steve, Judy & Danielle Dawson and family (photo unavailable).



Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh, Josh Whitehurst





Hiroshima/Nagasaki
Commemoration &
Screening of
AN ORDINARY INSANITY
August 2, 2026 5:30 pm



August 6, 2026 marks 81 years since the first use of nuclear weapons. On that date the U.S.A. dropped a hydrogen bomb on Hiroshima, Japan; this was touted as necessary to propel Japan to surrender in WWII, although evidence shows they had made that decision already. The Peace Coalition of Southern Illinois was formed in 1983; since then, much has transpired, but we've come full circle and have begun to spend trillions of dollars on modernizing our nuclear arsenal, while leaving or failing to renew treaties to limit their deployment.

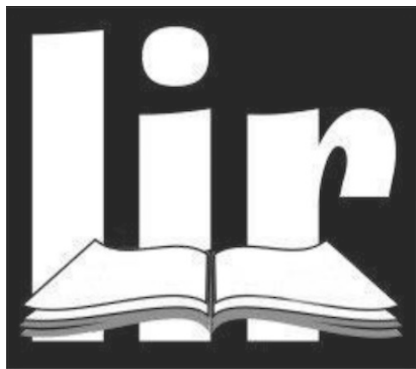
Sunday August 2, 2026 at 5:30 pm, the Peace Coalition will hold a Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration at the Church of the Good Shepherd UCC at 515 Orchard Drive in Carbondale. The event will begin with a potluck dinner and fellowship. A brief Commemoration Ceremony will remember the more than 200,000 deaths of citizens of these two cities.

The event will conclude with the screening of Judith Erhlich's award-winning short film **An Ordinary Insanity** featuring whistleblower Daniel Ellsberg, who served as a nuclear war planner with access to extensive classified information before he released the Pentagon Papers and became a peace activist. This documentary was filmed a year before Ellsberg's death and provides a powerful wake-up call about the threat posed and what we can do to reduce the risk of global annihilation.

The event is free and open to the public and is sponsored by the Peace Coalition of Southern Illinois, with thanks to host, the Church of the Good Shepherd UCC. For more information, contact Georgeann Hartzog at georgeannhartzog@gmail.com.



At the August 19, 2026 meeting of **Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement**, SIUC climate scientist



S.I. Learning in Retirement

Justin Schoof, Ph.D. (below) will discuss the role humans play in climate change. This free public presentation begins at 10:30 am at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 1501 Chautauqua Road in Carbondale. A coffee hour beforehand starts at 9:30 am. (Photo provided)



Last month's **Dinner Group** gathered at a favorite spot, St. Nicholas Brewing Company MDH. This month we'll meet at the charming **Cummare's Italian Ristorante** in downtown Murphysboro **Thursday, August 20, 2026 at 5:30 pm.** RSVP to Jill Hertzling at jillhertzling@aol.com.

Research • Learn • Share • Celebrate

Month-long focus during August:

National Water Quality Month

Environmental awareness days/weeks:

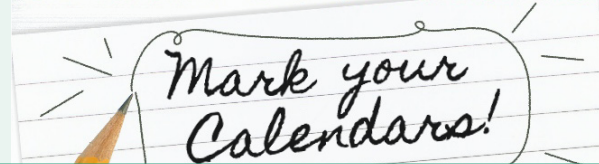
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| 1 — Marine Protected Areas Day | 7 — Cycle to Work Day | 8 — National Garage Sale Day |
| 8 — UN International Day of the World's Indigenous People* | | |
| 10 — International Biodiesel (Biofuel) Day | 11 — World Mountain Day | |
| 20 — Ecological Debt (Overshoot) Day | 22-30 — National Park Week | |
| 23-27 — World Water Week | 25 — National Secondhand Wardrobe (Recycle) Day | |
| 26 — International Dog Day | 27 — World Lake Day | 30 — National Beach Day |
| 31 — National Diatomaceous Earth Day | | |

Species awareness days:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 4 — Clouded Leopards & Owls | 5 — Tomistomas (Crocodiles) | 10 — Lions |
| 11 — Elephants, Hirolas & Krill | 13 — Wolves | 15 — Cotton-top Tamarins & Honey Bees |
| 16 — Scimitar-Horned Oryx | | |

* This is a controversial day celebrated as an alternative to Columbus Day in the USA—which some now reject, choosing to replace it with worldwide recognition to indigenous peoples. It is included here because indigenous people are among those most negatively impacted by climate change and environmental disruption. For more insight, search *Indigenous peoples and environmental issues*.

Green Guardians



Call for Singers!

no audition required



Tesserae

Southern Illinois Queer+ Chorus ©

Sing. Create. Connect.

Wednesdays @ 7:15 - 9pm

Rehearsals begin August 5

All-day retreat August 15

Concert November 21

Welcoming queer & queer-friendly folks ages 15 and up
(*participants under 17 must be accompanied by an adult*)

**To learn more, go to
tinyurl.com/tesserae2026
and sign up today!**

For more information, find us online at tesseraechorus.org



@tesseraechorus

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Last month, **Presbyterian Preschool** students learned about sports, dinosaurs, the solar system, and the zoo. **We still have spots available for the 2026-2027 school year.** As always, we encourage everyone to help spread the word about our exceptional little Preschool; word of mouth is our best form of advertisement! We are enrolling students ages 2-5 years old for the school year starting August 24, 2026. Tell any interested neighbors, family or friends to call 618-529-1264 for a Preschool tour.



Busy students enjoyed hands-on learning and play indoors and outside (photos provided).



Contributions to First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale are tax deductible under 501(c)(3) guidelines (consult your tax professional). Donate on Sunday mornings or by mail, click the "Give Now" button at www.firstprescdale.org, or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera. Consider automating your giving by setting up a recurring bank, credit/debit card, or retirement fund transfer (call church office for information).

Financial Report June 2026

50% of the year completed

Income Line	Income YTD	Annual Budget	
Pledges	\$ 120,026.00	\$ 196,372.00	61.12%
Nonpledge & Cash Offerings	\$ 6,732.30	\$ 12,500.00	53.86%
Per Capita	\$ 1,742.00	\$ 1,750.00	99.54%
Transfer From Investments	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 59,310.47	50.58%
Other (e.g., Interest, Endowments)	\$ 8,349.60	\$ 18,950.00	44.06%
Total Income	\$ 166,849.90	\$ 288,882.47	57.76%
Expenditure Line	Expenditures YTD	Annual Budget	
Mission	\$ 1,747.00	\$ 10,098.00	17.30%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 23,923.67	\$ 79,463.41	30.11%
Staff	\$ 47,693.61	\$ 95,203.43	50.10%
Faith Development	\$ 123.99 *	\$ 1,400.00	8.86%
Worship & Music	\$ 2,045.67	\$ 3,728.00	54.87%
Communication/Administration	\$ 9,627.21	\$ 17,496.00	55.03%
Facilities/Capital	\$ 55,080.78	\$ 89,800.00	61.34%
Christian Nurture	\$ 1,029.45	\$ 1,500.00	68.63%
New Pastor Moving Expense	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	0.00%
* Reflects \$700.00 Camp Carew scholarships returned d/t camp cancellation			
Total Expenditures	\$ 141,271.38	\$ 300,688.84	46.98%
YTD Income over Expenditures	\$ 25,578.52		
Annual Budget Deficit		\$ (11,806.37)	

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4 Kathryn Heins
 8 Bill Martens
 9 Lily Vucinic
 10 John Daly
 10 Rolanda Quick
 11 Keith Beyler
 22 Allan Bennett
 25 Joshua Boyle
 25 Kent Brandon
 26 Dorothy Beyler
 28 Emily Davis

4 Kathy & Pat Manfredi
 8 James & Jenny Prest
 25 Harry & Marta Davis
 30 Jill & Mark O'Donoghue

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
Rev. MargaretAnne Overstreet pastormeg@firstprescdale.org
Dr. Deborah Burris musicdirector@firstprescdale.org
Barbara Stewart, Admin. Asst. office@firstprescdale.org

**Christianity
without
Christian Zionism**

August 6-8, 2026
Louisville, KY

Free to attend:
In-person &
virtual options

Learn more/Register at: <https://hubs.ly/Qo4pRKNso>



In August 1967, a group of Black children donned graduation caps celebrating their completion of the Head Start Program, five months after four Klansmen set fire to an eight-foot cross at the headquarters of the Delta Ministry. Three years earlier, Stated Clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake had proposed a long-term civil rights project, which led to the formation of the Delta Ministry.

The Delta Ministry was central to the creation of the Child Development Group of Mississippi (CDGM), a statewide Head Start program providing students with meals, medical care and preschool education. Although the CDGM ceased operations in 1968, its three-year existence reminds us of Presbyterians' role and influence in the civil rights struggle. (From pcusa.org's *This Month in Presbyterian History*)