



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

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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](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 Meeting ID 824 8455 3329  
Email Zoom prayer joys & concerns to  
[pray@firstpresdale.org](mailto:pray@firstpresdale.org)  
Followed by **Coffee Fellowship**

**Bible Study with Bill & J.P.**  
Wednesdays 10:00 am Lounge  
(No meeting July 8)

**First Sunday Collection** July 5

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

**Stated Session Meeting**  
July 9 6:00 pm

**Assemble PDA Period Packs**  
(Menstrual Hygiene Kits) July 12

**Ice Cream Social** July 12 4:00 pm  
*Bring a topping to share, if you like!*

**Sean Johnson Memorial Service**  
July 16 11:00 am Reception to follow

**Dinner Group** July 16 5:30 pm  
St. Nicholas Brewing Company MDH  
Southern Illinois Airport

**Bill Davis Celebration of Life**  
July 18 11:00 am Sunflower Farms  
4423 County Club Road, Murphysboro  
*Information on page 3*

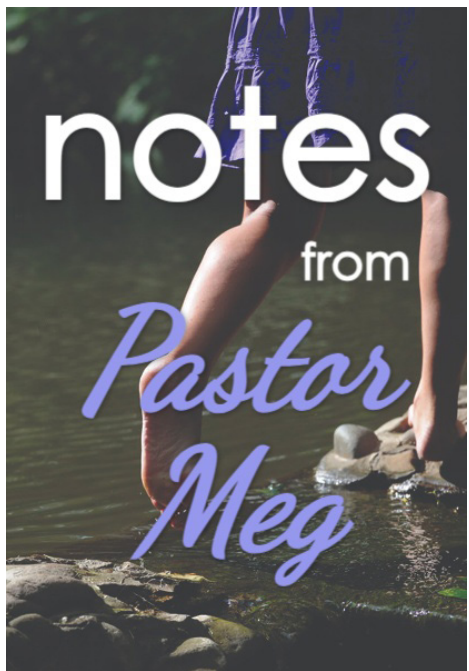
**Presbyterian Men** July 23 Noon

*Sunday worship services  
are livestreamed via Zoom  
and are later posted on  
our YouTube channel  
[@firstpresdale](https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresdale)*



*Like and subscribe!*

"Liberty is not  
a statue to be admired;  
it is a torch to be carried.  
The promise of freedom  
is not a relic of the past—  
it is a call to action  
for the present."  
Mary Coughlin  
States of America  
America's 250th



Dear First Pres Family of Faith,

In June and early July, Presbyterians from across the country have been gathering for General Assembly—the highest council of our denomination. Not long after it concludes, our nation will mark the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

At first glance, these two events may seem to have little in common. One is a church gathering; the other is a national milestone. Yet, both invite us to consider the same question: **How does a group of individuals become a “we”?** (Our sermons for a couple of months have all been related to this issue, in one way or another!)

The older I get, the more remarkable “we” seems. It is easy to become a collection of people who happen to occupy the same space, but it’s much harder to become a community.

Communities are made up of people with different experiences, different priorities, different hopes, and different fears. They bring different histories and different visions of the future. They do not always agree. In fact, in a healthy community, they probably disagree rather often.

What keeps those differences from tearing a community apart? One answer is **process**. Now, process is not a particularly glamorous word. It doesn’t inspire songs or fireworks. No one hangs banners celebrating parliamentary procedure...yet, **process matters**.

Process is the collection of habits, practices, and agreements that allow people to stay in relationship when they disagree. It’s how communities remind themselves that every voice deserves to be heard; that decisions should not belong only to the loudest or most powerful; and that discernment takes time. Good process can’t guarantee good outcomes. But it can create conditions where wisdom has a chance to emerge.

At its best, the Presbyterian tradition understands this. We gather. We pray. We listen. We debate. We vote. We sometimes change our minds. We trust that the Holy Spirit is at work not only in our conclusions but in our conversations.

Democracy, at its best, rests on a similar conviction. It assumes that living together requires more than winning arguments. It requires shared commitments, mutual accountability, and structures that help us navigate our differences without destroying one another. These systems are imperfect because people are imperfect. They can be frustratingly slow. They can fail. They sometimes need reform.

Yet, there is wisdom in choosing process over force, listening over coercion, and participation over exclusion. In a culture increasingly tempted by outrage, certainty, and division, there is something quietly radical about communities that keep showing up and continue listening, doing the slow work of discernment, together. The goal is not uniformity, nor everyone thinking exactly alike. **The goal is learning how to remain connected, while making room for difference.**

Communities do not become healthy by accident. They become healthy because people commit themselves to the patient work of becoming a “we.” Churches know something about this. Families know something about this. Healthy communities know something about this.

At First Pres, we know something about this, as well. Much of the work of a congregation happens quietly. Committees meet. Questions are asked. Roles are clarified. Decisions are made. New ideas are tested. Relationships are strengthened. It is not the sort of work that makes headlines, but it is the sort of work that helps a community become more fully itself. Like tending a garden, much of the growth happens below the surface, long before anyone sees the blossoms.

Here at First Pres—as we continue examining our structures, strengthening communication, and discerning our future together—we are practicing the same habits that healthy communities have always required: listening carefully, sharing responsibility, and seeking a path forward that serves the whole. This work is not separate from our faith; it is one of the ways we live our faith.

Perhaps this is one of the most important tasks facing our church and society in the years ahead: not simply deciding what “I” believe...but learning, again and again, how to become **“we.”**

See you soon! —Pastor Meg



## BILL DAVIS

SATURDAY, JULY 18<sup>TH</sup> AT 11AM

SERVICE TO BE HELD AT

SUNFLOWER FARMS  
4423 COUNTRY CLUB RD  
MURPHYSBORO, IL

FOLLOWED BY  
A CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
12:30PM-3PM

Anna Smith-Davis has reported that (as of newsletter publication): *“Bill is still with us. We have planned his memorial with him per his request. If we are blessed enough to have him join us July 18th, then we will have a living memorial to celebrate his life. If not, we will have a Celebration of Life for him.”*

The memorial service and celebration of life reception will be held at Sunflower Farms Event Center Saturday, July 18, 2026.

The service will begin at 11:00 am with a reception held from 12:30–3:00 pm. A buffet-style lunch will be served with a rootbeer float bar (Bill’s daily favorite). The meal has been curated to support local, cottage industry businesses and farmers. Gluten- and lactose-free options will be available.

### *In sure and certain hope...*

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life, through our Lord Jesus Christ...

The church family extends sympathy to the family and friends of  
**Sean Ross Johnson February 14, 1979–June 28, 2026**

*Sean was the son of Anne Veech and previously attended First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale*

*I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me, will never die. John 11: 25–26*





## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Join us for an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social Sunday, July 12, 2026 at 4:00 pm. We'll provide the ice cream, and you're welcome to bring a topping to share, if you'd like.

Join us on the outdoor green space (and/or fellowship hall, depending on the weather and temperature). We'll have a cornhole-style bean bag toss game; feel free to bring other games to add to the fun.

*Extending an invitation to a friend, coworker, or neighbor is a great way to display our congregation's friendliness...consider bringing someone along to join the fun!*

## Help Create Our Advent Devotional

It may be the middle of summer, but we're already beginning to look toward Advent. **This year, we are creating a congregation-wide Advent devotional, and we'd love for you to be part of it.**

The devotional will be made up entirely of contributions from members and friends of our church and community. Each participant will be assigned a scripture passage and invited to respond to it through their own unique gifts and perspective.

Your contribution can take many forms. You might write a reflection, prayer, poem, story, or meditation. You might create a drawing, painting, photograph, quilt square, collage, piece of calligraphy, musical composition, or another creative expression.

Whether you consider yourself an artist, a writer, a crafter, a musician, or simply someone who enjoys reflecting on scripture, there is a place for you in this project. The goal is not perfection. The goal is to see how God's Word comes alive through the many voices, experiences, and gifts that make up our community. One of the beautiful truths of Advent is that we wait together. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's coming into the world, this devotional will offer us an opportunity to learn from one another's insights, creativity, and faith.

**If you'd like to participate, contact Pastor Meg ([pastormeg@firstprescdale.org](mailto:pastormeg@firstprescdale.org)) by July 15, 2026.** We'll provide a scripture passage and all the information you'll need. So consider this your official invitation to celebrate a little Christmas in July—and help us create something beautiful together for the Advent season ahead.



# MISSION Updates



Thank you to everyone for your generous donations our local **Pentecost Offering**. With your support, we collected over \$1,400 which was added to funds left over from an earlier offering. The Mission Ministry voted to divide over \$3,000 equally between the following organizations to support their youth-related programming (learn more at their websites below):

- **Boys & Girls Club of Carbondale** (<https://bgcsi.org>)
- **Gum Drops** (<https://gumdropkids.org>)
- **Rainbow Café LGBTQ Center** (<https://rainbowcafe.org>)
- **Specialized Equine Services** (<https://sestherapy.com>)

**Feed My Sheep** volunteers continue to serve lunch to approximately forty people the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month, when they also prepare and deliver lunch and dinner meals to guests at the Carbondale Warming Center.



The June 2026 **Free Laundry Day** served 50 guests and spent \$480 in quarters. To volunteer at the July 8, 2026 Laundry Day, email [carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com](mailto:carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com). Don't forget: we're looking for a new coordinator of the Carbondale Laundry Project; if you feel called to this ministry, please contact Jane Swanson or Bill Martens to discuss.

Support Free Laundry Day by purchasing **Tru-Earth Laundry Eco-Strips** at church or online at <https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject>. All of the proceeds from these sales will be used to pay for using the washers and dryers at Laundry World.

Thank you to everyone who has brought in contributions for our **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) "Period Packs."** We will continue to collect personal hygiene items during July, when you can provide menstruating people living in period poverty the essentials they need to feel clean, be healthy, and live with dignity during their menstrual cycle. If you aren't able to purchase items, you're welcome to make a monetary donation (note "Period Pack" in the check memo line), and a member of the Mission team will purchase needed supplies. **We'll gather during fellowship time Sunday, July 12, 2026 to assemble the packs** which Pastor Meg will deliver to Synod School later this month.



**One "Period Pack" consists of the following (new) items:**

- One 1-gallon size resealable bag
- Three 4-gallon bathroom trash bags
- 5 super absorbency tampons
- Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger. No Ivory or Jergen's soap. Do not remove from packaging)
- One pack of flushable wipes (Unscented/42 count)
- Six fragrance-free laundry sheets (placed in small, Ziploc bags. We will donate the Carbondale Laundry Project's Tru-Earth Laundry Eco-Strips)
- Two 2 oz. bottles hand sanitizer
- 5 regular tampons
- 12 pads (Unscented, long super ultra-thin)

Many of us in the First Pres family of faith consider ourselves to be welcoming and friendly...but how can we engage visitors on the pathway toward becoming returning worship attenders and—possibly—potential members? **Some simple reminders when greeting and welcoming newcomers:**



- **Wear your nametag** and let Barb Stewart in the church office know if you need a new one.
- **Get them a visitor nametag (from the narthex podium)** if the greeter missed the chance to do this.
- **Make sure they have a worship bulletin** (retrieve one for them, or give them yours if we're run out) and **hand them a hymnal** if one is not nearby.
- **Keep your nametag on during fellowship** (where we often get the chance to know someone more in depth) and **sit with someone you don't already know well.**
- **Introduce yourself by name and try to learn their name.** Mnemonic (memory) devices can help (such as "Bailey has hangs"). If you're forgotten, smile and politely ask them again (they'll probably appreciate being reminded of *your* name)!
- **Introduce them to someone** (like Pastor Meg, if she's nearby!) and/or **invite them to an upcoming event** such as the Dinner Group, or a fellowship event or mission activity.
- **Offer them a copy of the newsletter** from the credenza inside the double glass doors and point out upcoming events listed on the front cover.
- **Finally, anyone can invite a visitor to fill out an information card.** Ask if they've filled one out; if not, offer them a card and pen from the narthex podium. Invite them to provide as much information as they feel comfortable sharing (name, phone number and email address are most pertinent). Ensure the information is legible and place the card in Barb's mailbox (she will photocopy the information and forward it to relevant ministries).



First Pres custodians Brooke & Brad Lam (above center) are moving on to Alabama, following Detective Brooke's retirement after 22 years of service with the Carbondale Police Department. We welcome Ashlee Rednour (far right with family) as our new custodial staff. (Photos: Facebook)



In addition to paid staff (such as custodial and landscaping), talented volunteers work behind the scenes to keep our facility operational and attractive. **Thank you** to these and other hardworking folks for sharing their sweat and expertise, while minimizing church expenses in the process. (Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh)



Rick Jefferson (above) sanded and applied a bonding agent to the exterior fellowship hall doors before he and Rolanda Quick painted them.



Roberto Bell, Rick Jefferson and Deb Burris (left) moved the front center sanctuary pew to expand the orchestra pit and permit easier passage through this area.

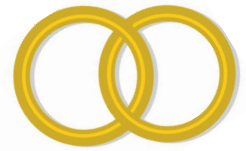
Pat Manfredi (below) replaced buttons on the discontinued sanctuary lighting wall panel, after finding parts costing less than \$50 on eBay (compared to \$900 for a refurbished unit)!



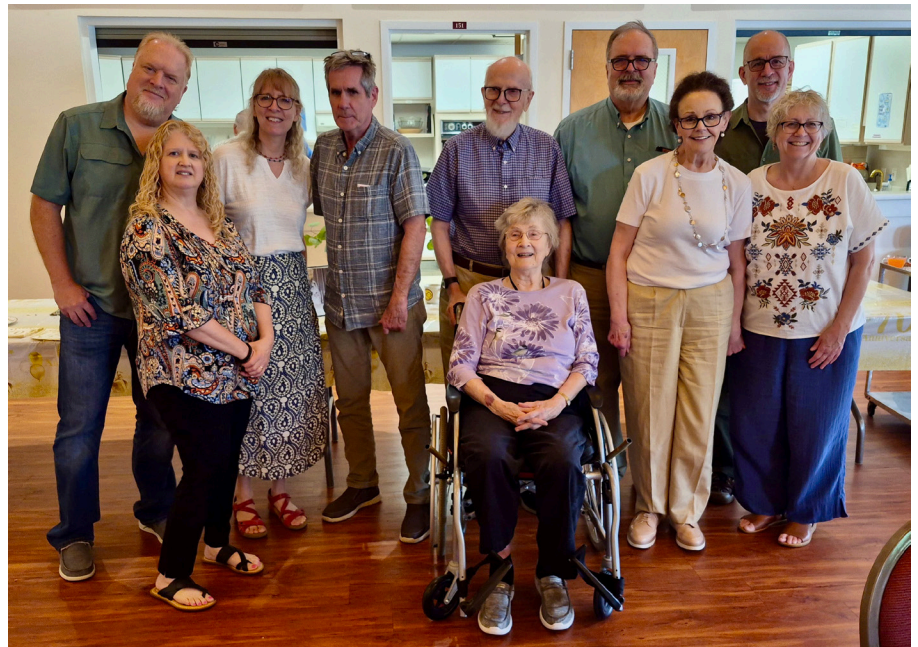
June saw TWO 70th wedding anniversaries of beloved long-time church members Allan & Barbara Bennett (June 9th) and Carolyn & John Hooker (June 30th).  
*Congratulations!*



The Bennett family (left) gathered with Barb (sixth from right) and Al (far right) last year in Florida. (Photo provided)



The Hooker family (right) celebrated with Carolyn and John (center) during June 21, 2026 fellowship and provided special music during that morning's service. (Photo: Josh Whitehurst)



The Green Guardians encourage us to be aware of these environmental recognition and support dates in July.

**Month-long focus during July:**

National Hemp Month, Plastic Free Month, & Smart Irrigation Month

**Environmental awareness weeks:**

1-7 - National Clean Beaches Week / 18-26 - National Moth Week / 20-26 - Coral Reef Awareness Week

**Environmental awareness days:**

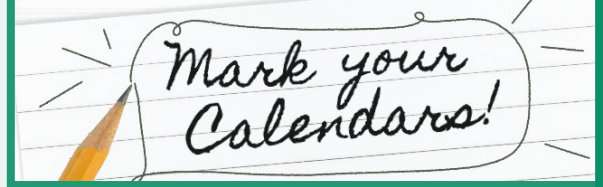
3 - International Plastic Bag Free Day / 4 - Hop-a-Park Day / 7 - International Soil Conservation Day  
10 - Don't Step on a Bee Day & Global Energy Independence Day / 11 - World Population Day  
12 - Global Paper Bag Day, International Day of Combating Sand and Dust Storms, & National Simplicity Day (Thoreau Day)  
13 - National Rock Day / 14 - International Day of Alternatives to Incinerators  
15 - Day of Recognition for Climate Crisis Victims / 20 - World Jump Day for Global Warming Awareness  
26 - International Day for Awareness of Mangrove Ecosystems & World Bog Day  
28 - World Nature Conservation Day / 29 - Rain Day

**Animal species given special recognition during July:**

Chimpanzees, Orcas, Sharks, Snakes, & Tigers

**\*\* Try to choose one or two days above for your special attention in July \*\***

# Green Guardians



LOVED YOU THEN,  
LOVE YOU STILL.  
ALWAYS HAVE, ALWAYS WILL.

David and Martha

Peters

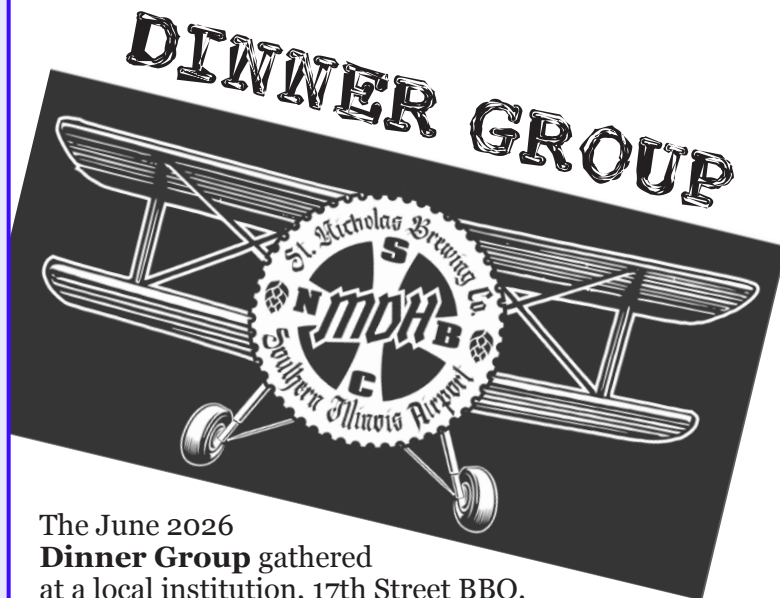
ARE CELEBRATING  
50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH  
DOORS OPEN AT 12PM  
LUNCH AT 12:30

OPEN HOUSE FROM 1:30 TO 4PM  
AT

ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN OF BREMEN  
10431 PARADISE RD, CHESTER, IL

To RSVP: Email [Ef.Perrin@gmail.com](mailto:Ef.Perrin@gmail.com) or  
Text 618-318-1678 (Casual dress, No gifts please)



The June 2026

**Dinner Group** gathered at a local institution, 17th Street BBQ. It was a joyful time of fellowship for thirteen participants who enjoyed excellent food and attentive service. We even had a private room! We will definitely return.

**Our July 16, 2026 dinner will be at St. Nicholas Brewing Company MDH at the Southern Illinois Airport at 5:30 pm.** Email [jillhertzing@aol.com](mailto:jillhertzing@aol.com) if you plan to attend.

# PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Summer Session is in full swing at the Presbyterian Preschool! Students have enjoyed activities themed around camping, summer, the ocean, and ice cream. The 2026-2027 school year begins August 24, 2026, and we still have a couple of spots open in our 2-3-year-old (Polliwog) room. Please encourage any interested family or friends to call the preschool (618-529-1264) for a tour.



Top: "I scream; you scream.  
We all scream for ice cream!"  
Left: Sandbox fun (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, by mail, or by clicking the "Give Now" button at [www.firstprescdale.org](http://www.firstprescdale.org). Or, scan this QR code with your smartphone camera. Consider automating your giving by setting up a recurring bank or retirement fund transfer (call church office for information).

| Financial Report May 2026           |                      | 42% of the year completed |               |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Income Line                         | Income YTD           | Annual Budget             |               |
| Pledges                             | \$ 105,518.00        | \$ 196,372.00             | 53.73%        |
| Nonpledge & Cash Offerings          | \$ 5,376.30          | \$ 12,500.00              | 43.01%        |
| Per Capita                          | \$ 1,742.00          | \$ 1,750.00               | 99.54%        |
| Transfer From Investments           | \$ 15,000.00         | \$ 59,310.47              | 25.29%        |
| Other (e.g., Interest, Endowments)  | \$ 8,346.21          | \$ 18,950.00              | 44.04%        |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b>\$ 135,982.51</b> | <b>\$ 288,882.47</b>      | <b>47.07%</b> |
| Expenditure Line                    | Expenditures YTD     | Annual Budget             |               |
| Mission                             | \$ 1,747.00          | \$ 10,098.00              | 17.30%        |
| Pastoral Ministry                   | \$ 12,451.70         | \$ 79,463.41              | 15.67%        |
| Staff                               | \$ 39,858.36         | \$ 95,203.43              | 41.87%        |
| Faith Development                   | \$ 739.43            | \$ 1,400.00               | 52.82%        |
| Worship & Music                     | \$ 2,045.67          | \$ 3,728.00               | 54.87%        |
| Communication/Administration        | \$ 8,597.11          | \$ 17,496.00              | 49.14%        |
| Facilities/Capital                  | \$ 49,006.00         | \$ 89,800.00              | 54.57%        |
| Christian Nurture                   | \$ 973.24            | \$ 1,500.00               | 64.88%        |
| New Pastor Moving Expense           | \$ -                 | \$ 2,000.00               | 0.00%         |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>           | <b>\$ 115,418.51</b> | <b>\$ 300,688.84</b>      | <b>38.38%</b> |
| <b>YTD Income over Expenditures</b> | <b>\$ 20,564.00</b>  |                           |               |
| <b>Annual Budget Deficit</b>        |                      | <b>\$ (11,806.37)</b>     |               |

**JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

4 Bryan Weatherman      8 Sean Boyle & Mary Louise Cashel  
 5 Conner Daly  
 5 Kathy Manfredi  
 7 Duke Dellinger  
 13 Dan Schuh  
 22 Nick Owen  
 28 Bobbie Ogletree

*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

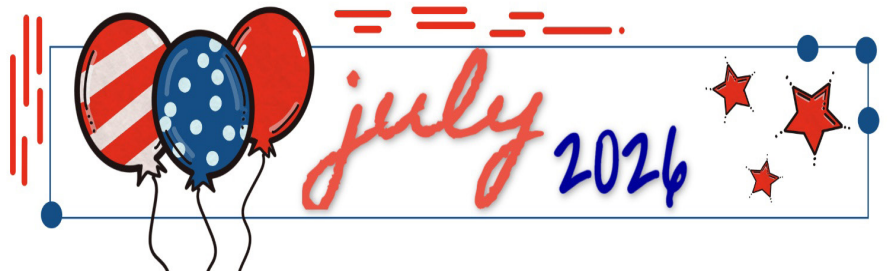
310 S. University Avenue Carbondale, IL 62901  
Rev. MargaretAnne Overstreet [pastormeg@firstprescdale.org](mailto:pastormeg@firstprescdale.org)  
Dr. Deborah Burris [musicdirector@firstprescdale.org](mailto:musicdirector@firstprescdale.org)  
Barbara Stewart, Admin. Asst. [office@firstprescdale.org](mailto:office@firstprescdale.org)



#GA227

**PC(USA) GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTES  
TO HOLD ITS NEXT ASSEMBLY IN  
PUERTO RICO**

The 227th General Assembly approved plans to hold the denomination's first assembly outside the continental United States, adding cultural competency training ahead of the 2028 gathering in Puerto Rico.



In 1971, Ruling Elder Lois Stair was the first woman elected Moderator of the UPCUSA (United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America) General Assembly. Women had become eligible to serve as General Assembly moderators in 1930.

Stair developed leadership skills serving as a ruling elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Waukesha, Wisconsin, and as a moderator of Milwaukee Presbytery and the Synod of Wisconsin, before being elected as Moderator of the 183rd General Assembly. As moderator, Stair “wanted to lead congregations away from their ‘cozy comfortableness’ and toward diversity.” She modeled the bravery and confidence to listen, reflect and speak forthrightly about Presbyterians following Christ during challenging times. (From Presbyterian Historical Society Blog)