



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Lisa C. Hollabaugh ([firstpresnews@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresnews@gmail.com)) / [www.firstpresdale.org](http://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](http://www.mlp.org)

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)

**Sunday Worship** 10:00 am in person/Zoom  
w/Childcare & Children's Church School  
Worship via Zoom: 824 8455 3329  
Joys & concerns: [pray@firstpresdale.org](mailto:pray@firstpresdale.org)  
Followed by **Coffee Fellowship**

**Adult Education: Sermon Discussion with Pastor Meg**  
Sundays 11:30 am-12 noon Parlor

**Teachings of the Spirit with J.P. Russell & Bill Martens**  
Wednesdays 10:00 am Lounge  
(No meeting September 9)

**Choir Rehearsal**  
Wednesdays 6:00 pm

**First Sunday Collection & Communion** September 6

**Office closed** September 7

**Free Laundry Day** September 9  
10:00 am-2:00 pm Laundry World

**Stated Session Meeting**  
September 10 6:00 pm

**Presbyterian Preschool Mum Fundraiser Sale**  
Preorders through September 11  
Mums available September 13-14

**Presbyterian Women**  
September 15 1:00 pm

**Dinner Group**  
September 17 5:30 pm Hunan

**Choir Performs** September 20 & 27

**Presbyterian Men**  
September 24 Noon

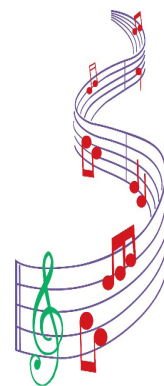
*Sunday worship services are livestreamed via Zoom and are later posted on our YouTube channel @firstpresdale*



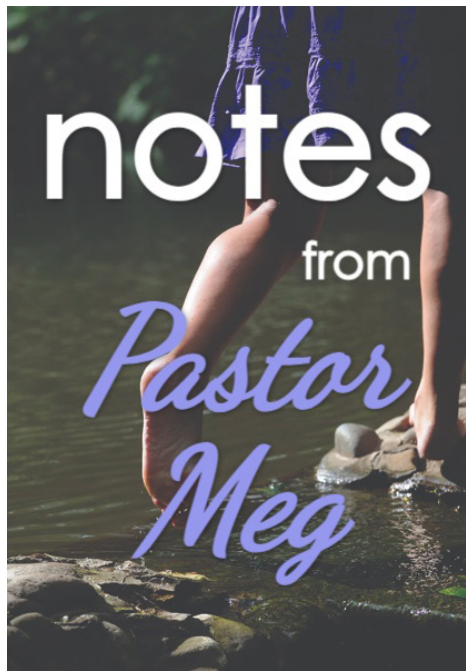
*Like and subscribe!*



**AT FIRST PRES**



**Welcoming the choir's return with percussion—with a backstory! (page 3)**



Dear First Pres Family of Faith,

Every once in a while, living in the house where I grew up does something strange to time.

On Friday nights in the fall, I can hear the high school football game from my backyard: the announcer over the loudspeaker, the band, the crowd cheering. I heard those same sounds from this same backyard when I was a child. Except now the house belongs to me, and the child who lives here is mine.

There are a surprising number of places in my life right now that I have occupied before. My daughter is beginning another school year in the school district where I once went to school. I pastor in the town where I came to college, in the presbytery where I was first ordained. And after more than a decade of living some distance away, I live near my parents again.

If you plotted my life on a map, it might look as though I have circled back. And in some ways, I have. I am discovering that you can go home again...you just can't go back.

The house where I was once the child is now the house where I am raising one. But my daughter is not repeating my childhood; she is having her own. My parents are still my parents, but we are meeting one another at different ages now, and what it means to love and care for one another is changing. The town where I once arrived wondering who I might become is now a place I have been called to serve.

The geography is familiar. My place within it isn't. And I wonder if that is true of more of our lives than we realize.

We tend to notice change when the scenery changes: a move, a new job, a birth, a graduation, a retirement. But some of the most important changes happen while the scenery stays almost exactly the same.

Families remain families, but we need different things from one another. Communities retain their names, while the people and needs within them change. The church is still the church, but we are not the same people we were ten years ago...neither is our community; neither are our neighbors. Familiarity can fool us into believing we already know what a place, a person, or a calling requires of us.

Maybe that is why one of the most important questions of discipleship is not simply, *Where is God calling me?* **Sometimes God calls us somewhere new; but sometimes God calls us to inhabit somewhere familiar differently. Then the question becomes: Who is God calling me to be where I already am?**

Perhaps faithfulness requires learning to encounter even the most familiar parts of our lives with fresh attention.

This person I have loved for years: *Who are they now?*

This community I think I know: *What is happening here now?*

This tradition I have practiced for years: *What does it mean now?*

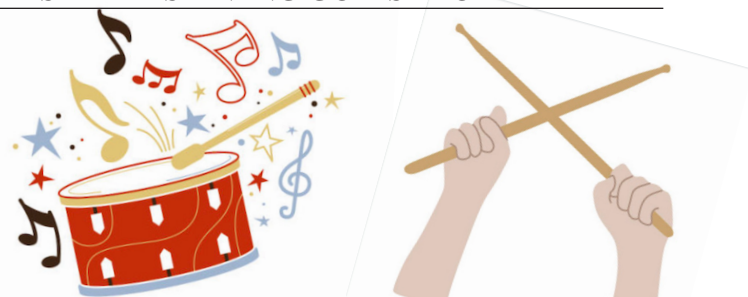
This calling I once understood clearly: *What is it asking of me now?*

This God I have followed all my life: *What if God still has something to show me?*

Familiarity is not the same thing as knowing. Of all that is familiar around me, none of it is the same. Neither am I. Neither are you.

So as another school year begins and another fall gathers around us, I hope we will pay attention: to one another, to this community, to the lives we are actually living now, and to the God who is still capable of surprising us in places we thought we already knew.

Sometimes, grace invites us to meet the familiar in new ways. I'm grateful to be meeting it with you. See you soon! —Pastor Meg



This summer a couple of generous donors contributed some wonderful percussion instruments to the First Presbyterian Church music program, led by Music Director Dr. Deborah Burris.

A **custom-made Ludwig red cortex drum set** donated by Paul Intravaia (a former Carbondale Community High School student of Deb's) and his wife Cheryl dates back to 1979. It has a compelling backstory: "Mike Bonveni, a St. Louis native, performed with Cats on a Smooth Surface, the house band at The Stone Pony in Asbury Park, New Jersey during the 1980s. On Sundays, Bruce Springsteen (above) would perform with them, and on rare occasions, Jon Bon Jovi would sit in. Other famous drummers who have played these drums include Tico Torres and Max Weinberg." Of these storied instruments, the Intravaias wrote, "We hope they continue to bring joy to the listeners and performers."

Another former CCHS student of Deb's purchased and donated **timpani** which were picked up from Nashville, Tennessee. Rick Jefferson rented a trailer, drove his truck and paid for gas as he and Orlan Brown (below) carefully transported the instruments. **Thank you to our generous donors and to Rick, Orlan & Deb!**



Under Deb's leadership, skilled instrumental accompaniment has enhanced the choir's performances. These gifts mean that guest musicians will have to transport less equipment back and forth to church and will create opportunities for lively collaboration.

**There's never been a more exciting time to join the church choir!  
Join us for rehearsal Wednesdays at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary.**



Photos this page and cover: Paul & Cheryl Intravaia, Denise Brown

Late July, Meg and Mollie Overstreet (right) attended **Synod School** held at Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa. Sponsored by the PCUSA Synod of Lakes & Prairies, Synod School is “a learning and personal enrichment experience...designed for laity, clergy, individuals and families with classes and activities for adults, youth, and children. People come from all over the country with their friends and families to share in this week of worship, study, play, and life together....to learn something new, to continue conversations begun by key speakers with others over meals or a board game, to share talents of creativity and music, to worship without being in charge, to be energized for service, and to enjoy not having to cook for a week” (from the Synod School program at [www.lakesandprairies.org](http://www.lakesandprairies.org)).

Pastor Meg taught a class titled “*Why Won't My Church Change?*” She also helped Ferncliff's Emily Hooker (below right) load Hygiene and Kid's Kits and Period Packs (including 55 Period Packs assembled by First Pres) into “BoxAnne” (below left) for delivery to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). (Photos: MargaretAnne Overstreet, Facebook)



August 9, 2026 we honored those who have assisted with Children's Church School and Sunday morning child supervision. These include Jill Hertz, Pam Holt, Phyllis Beck, Judy Beyer, Rolanda Quick, Violet Ottwell, Lizzy Olmsted, Dan Schuh, Morgan Quick, Marta Davis and Brenda Myers with Pastor Meg (above), who also blessed school supplies (left) collected for the Presbyterian Preschool and Carbondale District 95 schools. (Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh)

For **First Sunday** September 6, 2026 we will focus on food insecurity. Please bring nonperishable food items that can be distributed to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, the Carbondale Warming Center, Feed My Sheep and similar programs. According to <https://illinoisfoodpantry.org>, some of the best items to donate are:

**Pantry Staples (Whole Grains & Legumes)**

Brown rice, quinoa, whole wheat pasta, oatmeal, whole grain breads  
Canned beans, lentils & peas (low-sodium preferred)

**Canned & Processed Proteins**

Tuna, chicken & other canned proteins  
Low-sodium canned vegetables & fruits  
Peanut butter (natural, no added sugar)

**Breakfast Foods**

Low-sugar cereals  
Oatmeal & whole grain muesli  
Nut butters & dried fruit for energy snacks

**Snacks & Healthy Treats**

Nuts, seeds & dried fruit (unsalted)  
Whole grain crackers, popcorn & fruit snacks



# First Sunday Collection



The Mission Ministry is considering pursuing certification as a **Hunger Action Congregation**. According to the PCUSA website, "The Hunger Action Congregation network celebrates the faithful work of Presbyterians around the country who are responding to the biblical call to help alleviate hunger and end its causes." A church can be a covenanting Hunger Action Congregation if it is active in at least one of the below six areas. Congregations acting in all six areas can be Certified Hunger Action Congregations.

**Six Areas of Action:**

- Hunger Alleviation
- Development Assistance
- Hunger Education
- Lifestyle Integrity
- Corporate & Public Policy Witness
- Worship

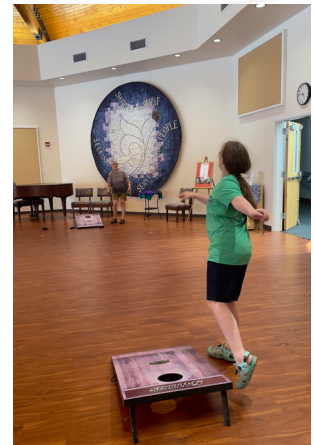
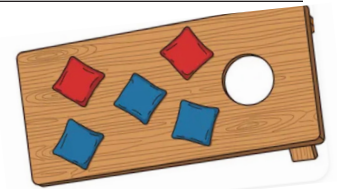
The Mission Ministry is conducting an assessment to determine whether we have sufficient activity in each of these areas or what additional actions should be taken. You can learn more at <https://pcusa.org/about-pcusa/agencies-entities/interim-unified-agency/ministry-areas/hunger-program/national-hunger-poverty/hunger-action-congregations> or by speaking to a member of the Mission Ministry.

The August 2026 **Free Laundry Day** served 45 guests, including seven first-timers, at an expense of approximately \$500. A special thank you goes out to all the volunteers while Jane Swanson and Bill Martens took a much-deserved break. We are still seeking a new coordinator for the Carbondale Laundry Project; if you feel called or have questions about volunteering, contact Jane or Bill at [carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com](mailto:carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com).

You can purchase **Tru-Earth Laundry Eco-Strips** at church or online at <https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject>. Proceeds pay for washers and dryers at Laundry World.



The kids are starting back to school, and mom continues to enjoy her job at Branch Cafe & Market in Carbondale. Be sure to say hello if you stop in for food and drink. Mom is still interested in doing sewing work, including tailoring and alternations, on a part-time basis. For contact information, see Cindy Buys or Pat Manfredi.



*We kicked off summer in the cool of fellowship hall with ice cream and games...*



*...then we greeted old and new friends at a potluck picnic at Giant City State Park. Thank you to the Fellowship Ministry!*





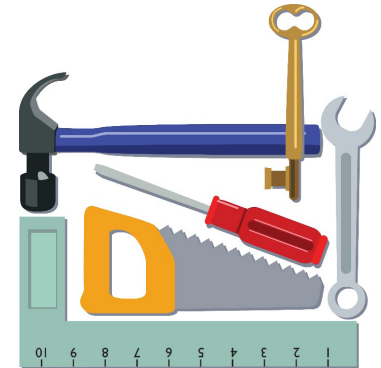
Supporting the efforts of church volunteers, Jeff Baine, Rolanda Quick, Bob Burton & Charlie Howe (below) mowed and weedeated Snider Hill Cemetery.



James Prest (right) inspected fire alarm wiring in the attic.



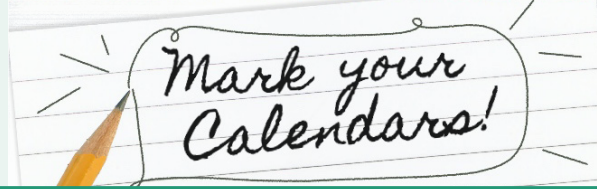
Jim Calloway (above) repaired wooden framing attaching a protective cover atop stained glass.



Jim & Rolanda (above) investigated basement flooding after July's heavy rainfall.

Photos above and left: Lisa Hollabaugh, Bob Luebbers, Rolanda Quick, Josh Whitehurst

## Green Guardians



**Awareness =>**

**Research => Discernment**

**=> Action**

### **September environmental awareness days/weeks:**

- |                                                                 |                                 |                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - World Beach Day                                             | 4 - National Wildlife Day       | 5 - Amazon Rainforest Day |
| 7 - International Day of Clean Air for Blue Skies               | 7-11 - Zero Waste Week          |                           |
| 9 - World Electric Vehicle Day                                  | 11 - National Cleanup Day       | 15 - Greenpeace Day       |
| 16 - World Ozone Day                                            | 18 - World Water Monitoring Day | 21 - Zero Emissions Day   |
| 22 - National Temperature Control Day & World Car-free Day      |                                 |                           |
| 26 - National Public Lands Day & World Environmental Health Day |                                 |                           |
| 27 - National Crush (a Can) Day & World Rivers Day              |                                 |                           |
| 29 - International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste      |                                 |                           |

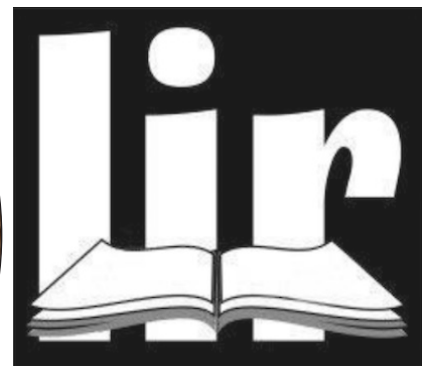
### **September species awareness days:**

- |                             |                |                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| 5 - Hummingbirds & Vultures | 12 - Dolphins  | 19 - Red Pandas  |
| 22 - Elephants & Rhinos     | 24 - Bluebirds | 26 - Cassowaries |

If you love bluebirds or hummingbirds, or have praise for elephants, there is a September day for you.



Illinois's first Sales Tax and Revenue (STAR) bond project is transforming Marion's former Illinois Center Mall and surrounding area into a regional retail, sports and entertainment destination known as Oasis. At **the September 26, 2026 meeting of Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement**, Herby Voss, Oasis Marketing and Communications Director for the STAR project (below) will share updates on the transformative projects occurring on Marion's west side.



**S.I. Learning  
in Retirement**

Voss's presentation *Thrillville and the S.T.A.R. Bond District: From Renderings to Reality* is free and open to the public starting at 10:30 am at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 1501 W. Chautauqua in Carbondale. Come early for a coffee hour preceding the presentation beginning at 9:30 am. (Photo provided; map: visitsi.com)



# CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

## CWU in Illinois

# SOUTH AREA FALL INSTITUTE

## September 12th, 2026



Epiphany Lutheran Church  
1501 W. Chautauqua St  
Carbondale IL 62901

## "QUALITY & EQUITY IN PUBLIC EDUCATION"



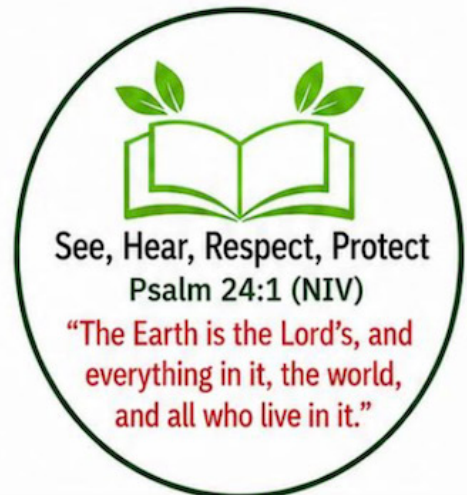
**8am-8:45 am**  
Registration & Breakfast



**9:00am-2:30 pm**  
The Institute



Registration  
**\$10.00**



For more info...  
Contact Ginger Rye Sanders  
South Area Coordinator  
6182039617  
[ilginger64@yahoo.com](mailto:ilginger64@yahoo.com)





It's back-to-school time at the Presbyterian Preschool! We're excited to share another fun-filled year with our students. School began August 24, 2026 and we will continue enrollment throughout the year. Please encourage interested family or friends to inquire about an opening and/or schedule a tour by calling (618) 529-1264. We hope you'll consider supporting the Preschool during our annual Fall Mum Fundraising Sale (see details below). We wish all our friends a safe and happy autumn season.





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](http://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 July 2026****58% of the year completed**

| <b>Income Line</b>                  | <b>Income YTD</b>       | <b>Annual Budget</b>  |               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| Pledges                             | \$ 138,879.00           | \$ 196,372.00         | 70.72%        |
| Nonpledge & Cash Offerings          | \$ 8,235.30             | \$ 12,500.00          | 65.88%        |
| Per Capita Contributions            | \$ 1,826.00             | \$ 1,750.00           | 104.34%       |
| Transfer From Investments           | \$ 59,310.47            | \$ 59,310.47          | 100.00%       |
| Other (e.g., Interest, Endowments)  | \$ 12,047.70            | \$ 18,950.00          | 63.58%        |
| <b>Total Income</b>                 | <b>\$ 220,298.47</b>    | <b>\$ 288,882.47</b>  | <b>76.26%</b> |
| <b>Expenditure Line</b>             | <b>Expenditures YTD</b> | <b>Annual Budget</b>  |               |
| Mission                             | \$ 1,747.00             | \$ 10,098.00          | 17.30%        |
| Pastoral Ministry                   | \$ 33,947.05            | \$ 79,463.41          | 42.72%        |
| Support Staff                       | \$ 53,736.72            | \$ 95,203.43          | 56.44%        |
| Faith Development                   | \$ 123.99               | \$ 1,400.00           | 8.86%         |
| Worship & Music                     | \$ 2,354.37             | \$ 3,728.00           | 63.15%        |
| Communication/Administration        | \$ 10,599.80            | \$ 17,496.00          | 60.58%        |
| Facilities/Capital                  | \$ 69,549.37            | \$ 89,800.00          | 77.45%        |
| Christian Nurture                   | \$ 1,109.53             | \$ 1,500.00           | 73.97%        |
| New Pastor Moving Expense           | \$ -                    | \$ 2,000.00           | 0.00%         |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>           | <b>\$ 173,167.83</b>    | <b>\$ 300,688.84</b>  | <b>57.59%</b> |
| <b>YTD Income over Expenditures</b> | <b>\$ 47,130.64</b>     |                       |               |
| <b>Annual Budget Deficit</b>        |                         | <b>\$ (11,806.37)</b> |               |

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

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

9/7 John Hooker

9/2 Kara &amp; Peter Hertzling

9/8 Anne Barrett

9/3 Cindy &amp; Gerry Buys

9/12 Carolyn Hollabaugh

9/17 MargaretAnne Overstreet

9/25 Sue Bailey

9/25 Rob Jensen

9/28 Grant Hertzling



## 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)

### SAVE THE DATE

#### "The Struggle is Real"

A webinar series hosted by the  
Presbyterian Committee on the  
Self-Development of People

Search "PCUSA SDOP  
Struggle is Real" for  
Zoom webinar  
registration info



**HEALTHCARE**  
OCT. 1  
1-2:30 PM (ET)



**HOUSING/  
HOMELESSNESS**  
NOV. 5  
1-2:30 PM (ET)



# September

2026



In 1999, Freda Gardner—the first permanent woman faculty member of Princeton Theological Seminary and moderator of the 211th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)—penned a letter to her friend, Fred Rogers. On September 27, she received Rogers' reply: "I was happy to receive your thoughtful letter...I'd like to be of help." Fred Rogers, an ordained Presbyterian minister of "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood" television fame, taught generations of children the universal Christian message: "*Love yourself, love others.*" Although it is uncertain if Rogers was able to give the speech that Freda invited him to, it's lovely to know that the two were in touch. (Excerpted from pcusa.org's *This Month in Presbyterian History*)