



**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**

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

**Choir Rehearsal** Wednesdays 6 pm

**Annual Congregational Meeting &**  
**First Sunday collection** February 1

**Called Session Meeting**  
February 2 7:00pm

**Souper Bowl of Caring** February 8

**Stated Session Meeting**  
February 10 7:00 pm

**Free Laundry Day** February 11  
10:00 am-2:00 pm Laundry World

**Communion** February 15

**Church Office closed** February 16

**Presbyterian Women**  
February 17 1:00 pm

**Ash Wednesday Service**  
February 18 7:00 pm  
at First Christian Church  
306 W. Monroe Street, Carbondale

**Dinner Group** February 19 5:30 pm  
Pagliai's Pizza & Pasta, Carbondale

**Presbyterian Men** February 26 Noon

**Coldest Night of the Year** February 28  
5:00 pm (Check in starts at 4:00 pm)  
Carbondale Community High School

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



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Lisa C. Hollabaugh ([firstpresnews@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresnews@gmail.com)) / [www.firstprescdale.org](http://www.firstprescdale.org)  
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Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL / YouTube: @firstprescdale  
More Light Presbyterians LGBTQIA+-affirming faith community – [www.mlp.org](http://www.mlp.org)  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation – [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)



**Souper Bowl of Caring**  
**February 8, 2026**  
Collecting money on  
Super Bowl Sunday for  
local food pantries



**Coldest Night of the Year**  
**February 28, 2026**

- Walking teams compete to  
raise funds to support those  
facing homelessness, hunger  
and other hardships locally  
- Funds support Take Action  
Today and the Carbondale  
Warming Center

**it's cold out there**



The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has a candidate to whom we have extended a call, which has been accepted pending the negotiation of terms. Once they are agreed upon, the terms of call will be sent to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois (PSEI) for approval.

Following presbytery approval, we'll plan a weekend for the congregation to meet the candidate, starting with a Saturday reception. On Sunday, the candidate will lead morning worship; a congregational meeting will be held immediately following the service to approve the terms of call. Two weeks' notice will be given before that weekend as is required for any congregational meeting; afterward, the PNC will send out a letter introducing and sharing some information about the candidate.

The PNC is excited about this candidate and looks forward to you meeting and learning more about them. Please be patient a bit longer...hopefully we will soon be welcoming our new pastor!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers throughout this process.

The Pastor Nominating Committee: Wendi Zea, Cindy Buys, Harry Davis, Pat Manfredi & Lily Vucinic

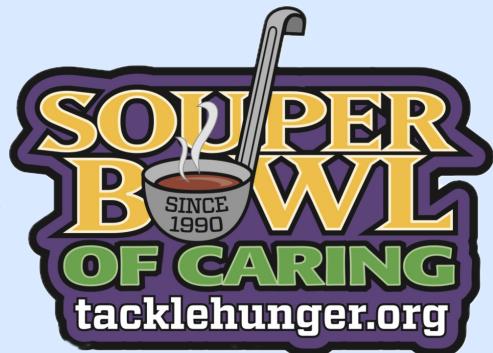


# ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Due to recent inclement weather, the Annual Congregational Meeting was rescheduled for Sunday, February 1, 2026 immediately following worship. The Annual Report to the Congregation was previously emailed and will be attached to the digital "alerts" worship invitation. A limited number of printed copies will be available at the meeting.

The **Souper Bowl of Caring** got its start in 1990 at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, South Carolina. On Super Bowl Sunday, then-seminary intern Pastor Brad Smith prayed, "Lord, us be mindful of those without a bowl of soup to eat." The high school youth group invited twenty-two area churches to collect one dollar from each congregant and raised \$5,700 in total. This effort expanded nationally in 1993. In 1997, youth groups and congregations across the country crossed a milestone by generating \$1.1 million dollars in donations to help feed their communities.



After worship and during Fellowship on Super Bowl Sunday, February 8, 2026, look for the large soup pot in which you can place your donation (cash or a check made out to First Presbyterian Church with "Souper Bowl" in the memo line). All funds collected will support local food pantries.

***Let's fight hunger together!***

Again this year, the **Presbyteamians** are walking in the **Coldest Night of the Year**. We're raising funds to support Carbondale's *Take Action Today Center* (which offers education, healthcare, and social service programs) and the *Carbondale Warming Center*. These agencies are joining forces to help return the Warming Center to 24/7 operation.

Cindy Buys, Elizabeth Hamilton, Lisa Hollabaugh, Sarah Merideth and Jane Swanson will join other local teams to walk a 5 km route in solidarity with those experiencing hardship and homelessness in the winter cold.



You're invited to cheer the team on Saturday, February 28, 2026 at Carbondale Community High School when they step off at 5:00 pm. Stay for a light supper and socializing afterward!

Visit [www.cnov.com/location/carbondale](http://www.cnov.com/location/carbondale) to donate to a walker (or the team) or to register to volunteer at the event.

Orlan Brown and Lisa Hollabaugh (left) are pictured at the Carbondale Coldest Night of the Year Launch Party January 7, 2026. (Photo: Jim Dooley)

# MISSION

## updates



### First Sunday February 1, 2026 will focus on Feed My Sheep

The First Pres cooking team at Bethel AME's Feed My Sheep program continues to feed community members twice a month. To assist this effort, the Mission Ministry requests frequently-used food pantry items. We also welcome financial contributions (write "FMS—Second Tuesday" in the check memo line); these funds allow us to supplement menus with fresh produce and other ingredients.

#### Requested items include:

Canned tomato sauce, tomato paste, diced tomatoes  
Black beans, salsa  
Vegetables and fruits  
Bottled ranch dressing  
Elbow macaroni or other small pasta  
Cake mixes, canned frosting  
Sharp knives



The Mission Ministry team delivered five bags of socks, mittens, hats, scarves and underwear to local elementary schools from the **Socks and Mittens Tree**. Thank you for your donations!

**The Presbyterian Preschool seeks an at-large Board member** from our congregation. See Orlan Brown for more information.



January's **Free Laundry Day** served 55 guests and spent \$535 in quarters, bringing the total amount spent to over \$21,000 since this program began.

After six years of faithful service, Jane Swanson and Bill Martens would like to step back and have someone else take over as the new coordinator of the Carbondale Laundry Project. To discuss this opportunity and/or to volunteer at the February 11, 2026 Free Laundry Day, contact Jane and Bill at [carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com](mailto:carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com).

Support the Carbondale Laundry Project by purchasing **Tru-Earth laundry eco-strips** at church or online at <https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject>. All proceeds will be used to pay for using the washers and dryers at Laundry World in Carbondale.

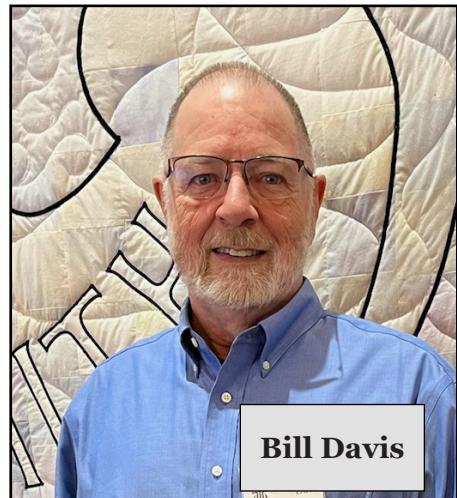


The **Carbondale Laundry Project** (\$418.33) and the **Diaper Bank of Southern Illinois** (\$195.22) received contributions through the Southern Illinois Community Foundation's *Give SI 30 Hour Day of Giving*.



### CHRISTMAS JOY

The **Christmas Joy Special Offering** resulted in \$1,480 for the Board of Pensions' Assistance Program serving current and retired church workers and Presbyterian-related schools and colleges that equip leaders for communities of color.



# Welcome

We warmly welcome the latest new (and returning) members of First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale! If you're interested in learning more about church membership, please reach out to Elder Jan Danley. (Photos: Jan Danley, Rolanda Quick)



The **Dinner Group** gathered at El Paisano Grill & Bar for our first outing of the year. Eleven of us enjoyed good food, conversation, and a margarita or two.

We'll meet at Pagliai's Pizza & Pasta February 19, 2026 at 5:30 pm.

There are lots of choices besides pizza on the menu. Email [jillhertzing@aol.com](mailto:jillhertzing@aol.com) to RSVP; all are welcome!



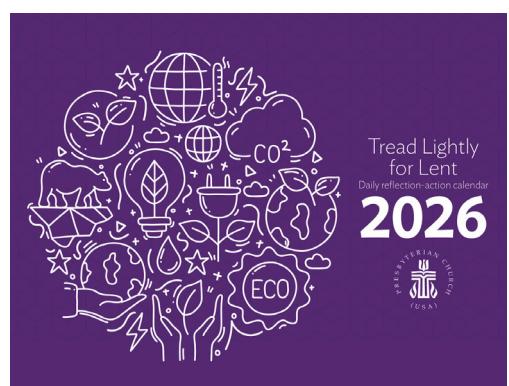
We do more than eat and talk; each month we pass an envelope collecting money for the Good Samaritan food pantry. Last year, we collected over \$1,100 to help feed the disadvantaged in our community.

**Two PC(USA) Lenten reflection calendars are available for free download.** One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)'s ***Sharing Calendar for Lent*** provides a thought or activity for each week in Lent (excluding Saturdays) for families to use at home. It contains discussion questions with prompts to place a coin or bill in your OGHS fish bank each day. You can find this resource on page 6, or download it at <https://pcusa.org/resource/one-great-hour-sharing-calendar-oghs2026>.



ONE GREAT  
HOUR OF SHARING

The Presbyterian Hunger Program's sustainability-focused ***Tread Lightly for Lent*** acknowledges collective choices which have led to a changing global climate with warmer temperatures, rising sea levels and severe storms. We're urged to tread lightly on God's Earth, as Lent provides the opportunity to examine how we live out our Christian faith in the world. Download the calendar in PDF or Word format at <https://pcusa.org/resource/tread-lightly-lent-lent-calendar>.



# A Sharing Calendar for Lent 2026

Each day at or after a meal time, gather around this map activity. Consider the reflection and questions, place a coin or a bill ("gift") in your fish coin bank or a jar.

**Ash Wednesday:** Read Micah 6:8. What does God require of us? How can we "do justice" in our day today?

**Sunday:** After a natural disaster, it may be hard to find places to cook or buy meals. Say a prayer of thanksgiving and give a gift for each meal you ate today.

**Tuesday:** Electricity is usually the first utility that is lost in a storm. Give a gift for each electrical outlet in the room you are currently in.

**Wednesday:** Is water necessary for good health? Using the map, find Zambia and read what the PC(USA) is doing there. After learning more, give a gift for each drink you had today.

**Thursday:** Our fish coin boxes will hold many gifts of money this season, but what other kinds of gifts can we give? What gifts can you give or share?

**Sunday:** Most people around the world don't have access to the many varieties of fruit and vegetables we have. Give one gift for each type of fruit in your house.

**Tuesday:** When families move, building a new community of friends and neighbors can be hard. Make a card or gift for someone new in your church or neighborhood.

**Wednesday:** Without the right nutrition in the first two years of life, a child's physical and mental development is compromised. Give a gift for each toddler you know.

**Thursday:** On the online OGHS map, look at the U.S. states where the PC(USA) is working. Pray for each by name and give a gift for each state you've visited.

**Sunday:** Where does your water come from? Many people carry buckets of water long distances to their homes every day. Give a gift for every faucet in your house.

**Tuesday:** Social barriers are like locked doors that hold people back and keep them from thriving. Give a gift for every door that can lock in your home.

**Wednesday:** If you could start a business of your own, what would it be? Give a gift for every good business idea you hear from those you are with.

**Thursday:** When roads are closed and electricity is off, going to see a doctor can be hard. Give a gift if you've been able to see a doctor in the past year.

**Sunday:** In some places, people walk for hours to go to church, where they find support and encouragement from friends and family. Give a gift for every time you went to church this month.

**Tuesday:** Some people can't find jobs and care for themselves because they don't have access to a car or the right bus route. Give one gift for every wheel in your garage that helps you get places.

**Wednesday:** Poverty can make people feel like they are always falling two steps back with surprise expenses or problems. Give a gift for every set of steps in your home.

**Thursday:** Rainwater is rare in some places, so special collection systems are built to catch the water. Give one gift for every day it rained (or snowed) in the past week.

**Sunday:** In South Sudan, women have found hope as they learn to farm so they can grow food for their families. Give a gift per plant in your house.

**Tuesday:** Immunizations give us hope for when certain diseases will no longer cause sickness and pain. Give a gift for each immunization you have received.

**Wednesday:** In Haiti, hope is seen in the leaves of the moringa tree, a superfood that can help many hungry people! Give one gift for every tree at home.

**Thursday:** Give a gift for every year you have been in school and find three books you can donate so another person can read and learn.

**Sunday:** In a natural disaster, communication can be incredibly difficult after a disaster. Give a gift for every computer in your home, and call, email or text a loved one.

**Tuesday:** Find a location on the OGHS map you have not learned about yet. Spend some extended time learning about and praying for the ministry and people there.

**Wednesday:** In Haiti, hope is seen in the leaves of the moringa tree, a superfood that can help many hungry people! Give one gift for every tree at home.

**Thursday:** God's love is shown in so many ways. Find three things you can do today or tomorrow to share God's love.

**Sunday - Resurrection/Easter/One Great Hour of Sharing:** Present the gifts in your coin box to your congregation. Say a prayer for all those who will receive help from your generosity.

Download at <https://pcusa.org/resource/one-great-hour-sharing-calendar-oghs2026>

ONE GREAT  
HOUR OF SHARING



PRE-ESCALAR CHURCH  
(USA)



For more locations and ministries, go to <pcusa.org/oghsmap> or scan this code.

# Green Guardians

Mark your  
Calendars!

**The Green Guardians encourage you to reflect on how you can observe and celebrate these environmental and species awareness days in February 2026.**

**2** - Groundhog Day, World Marmot Day, World Ostrich Day & World Wetlands Day,

**6** - Tu Bishvat Day      **8** - World Lizard Day

**9-15** - Homes for Birds Week

**12** - Charles Darwin Day (1804-1852)

**14** - World Bonobo Day

**15** - World Hippopotamus Day, World Penguin Day & World Whale Day

**16** - Anniversary of the Kyoto Protocol (1997/2005)\*      **18** - National Battery Day

**19** - World Marine Mammal Protection Day

**20** - Ansel Adams Day (1902-1984)      **21** - World Pangolin Day

**23** - Woody Guthrie Day (known for writing "This Land is Your Land" in 1940)

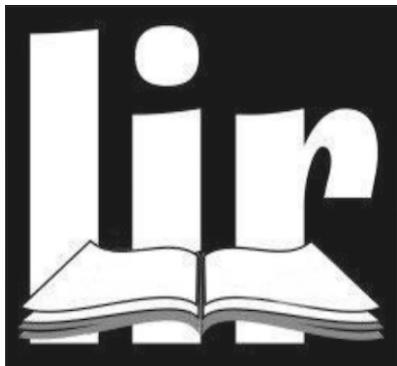
**23-27** - National Invasive Species Awareness Week

**27** - National Skip the Straw Day & International Polar Bear Day

\***The Kyoto Protocol** was an international treaty extending the United Nations (UN) Climate Convention, committing industrialized nations to binding targets for reducing six greenhouse gases...but [it] faced criticism for not requiring developing nations to cut emissions, leading to its eventual replacement by the Paris Agreement.



Kim Curlee (right) will portray Abraham Lincoln at the **February 18, 2026 meeting of Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement (SILIR)**. *Lincoln and Shakespeare* was created for the Varsity Theater and turns the irony of Lincoln's death at the hands of a Shakespearean actor into a Shakespearean exploration of key events in Lincoln's life.



**S.I. Learning  
in Retirement**

Curlee is well-known to local theater goers following numerous McLeod Theater productions. He has performed with the St. Louis Shakespeare group and has toured the Midwest with the Stone Soup Shakespearean Company.

The presentation is free and open to the public and begins at 10:30 am at Epiphany Lutheran Church, 1501 W. Chataqua Road in Carbondale. A coffee hour begins at 9:30 am. (Photo: Facebook)

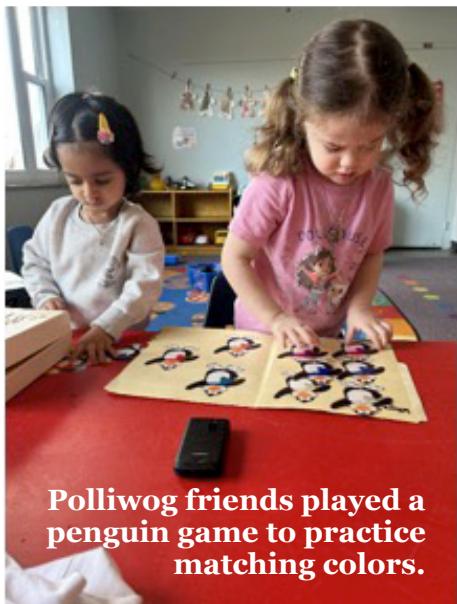


# PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL



The Presbyterian Preschool sends lots of love this February. Students were happy to return after winter break; seeing their faces light up at the sight of a friend was priceless. We've added a couple new students and a new teacher—Mrs. Tammy, who will lead the Polliwog class (2-3 year olds). We've opened a couple more spots, so if you know someone looking for a nurturing 2-5-year-old preschool environment, please send them our way.

Students have been learning about snow, arctic animals, nutrition, the five senses and the human body. This month we'll learn about kindness, friendship and Valentine's Day. The frog class will spend a week learning about Chinese New Year and celebrate with a parade. (Photos provided)



**Polliwog friends played a penguin game to practice matching colors.**



**Frog friends experimented with the light box.**



**January was warm enough to hold recess outside.**



**Sanctuary Sounds**  
A Concert of  
Sacred Songs and  
Spirituals  
**SUN, FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026**  
**2 PM**  
First United Methodist Church  
214 West Main St, Carbondale, IL

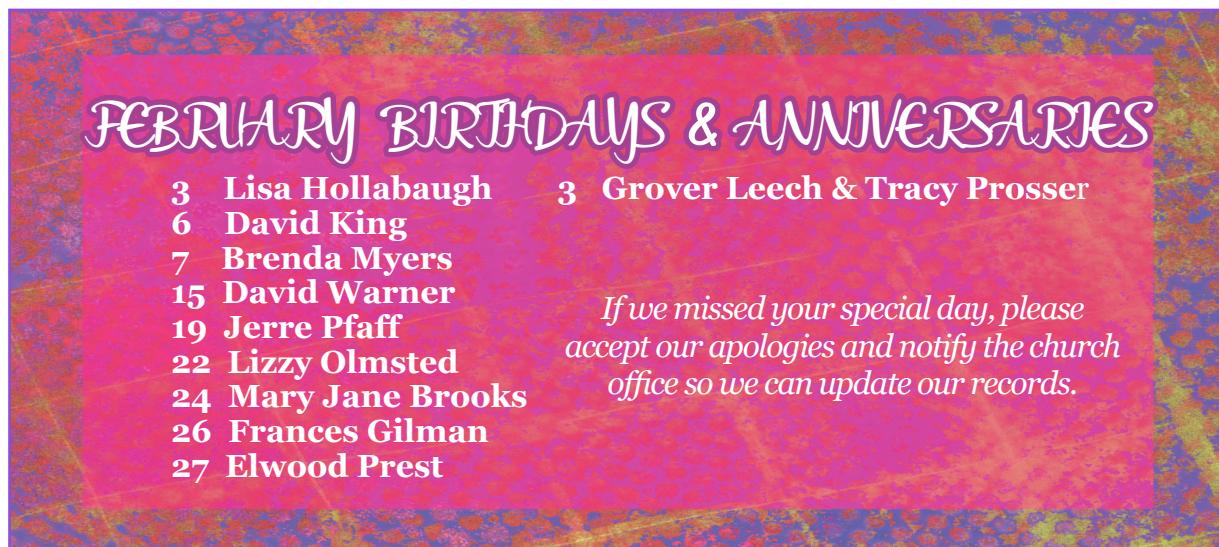
   
Roderick George Tenor   Phillip Todd Westgate Organist

**FREE & Open To The General Public**



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

Financial Report December 2025		100% of the year completed		
Income Line	Income YTD	Annual Budget		
Pledges	\$ 194,187.74	\$ 203,400.00		95%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 15,621.42	\$ 13,600.00		115%
Per Capita	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,800.00		70%
Transfer From Investments	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 55,961.68		36%
Other	\$ 51,495.01	\$ 19,700.00		261%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 282,564.17</b>	<b>\$ 294,461.68</b>		<b>96%</b>
Expenditure Line		Expenditures YTD	Annual Budget	
Mission	\$ 11,070.00	\$ 11,570.00		96%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 87,493.12	\$ 90,531.26		97%
Staff	\$ 84,974.31	\$ 80,960.75		105%
Faith Development	\$ 1,262.30	\$ 2,200.00		57%
Worship & Music	\$ 1,352.34	\$ 2,325.00		58%
Communication/Administration	\$ 17,137.45	\$ 16,800.00		102%
Facilities/Capital	\$ 77,603.04	\$ 87,335.00		89%
Christian Nurture	\$ 1,075.31	\$ 1,900.00		57%
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 281,967.87</b>	<b>\$ 293,622.01</b>		<b>96%</b>
<b>Income over Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 596.30</b>			





## First Presbyterian Church Carbondale, Illinois

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Phone: (618) 549-2148 / Fax: (618) 549-6423  
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Register on Zoom at  
<https://shorturl.at/l5koc>

### Evicting the American Dream

A Churchwide  
Film Study

Mondays  
Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23  
7:30-8:45 p.m. ET



The season of Lent is a time of prayer, fasting and self-examination in preparation for the celebration of the resurrection of the Lord at Easter. It is a period of 40 days—like the flood of Genesis, Moses's sojourn at Mount Sinai, Elijah's journey to Mount Horeb, Jonah's call to Ninevah to repent, and Jesus's time of testing in the wilderness. Sundays are not counted in the 40 days of Lent, as every Lord's Day is considered a celebration of Christ's resurrection. This is why we refer to the “Sundays in Lent,” not the “Sundays of Lent.”

See pages 5 & 6 for information about PC(USA) Lenten reflections available for free download.