



The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Lisa C. Hollabaugh (firstpresnews@gmail.com) / www.firstpresdale.org
First Presbyterian Church / 310 S. University Ave. / Carbondale, IL 62901 / (618) 549-2148
Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL / YouTube: @firstpresdale
More Light Presbyterians LGBTQIA+-affirming faith community — www.mlp.org
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregation — www.pcusa.org

Sunday Worship 10:00 am
w/Childcare & Children's Church School
Zoom Link 824 8455 3329
Email Zoom prayer joys & concerns to
sanctuaryimac@firstpresdale.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 7:00 pm

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
[@firstpresdale](https://www.youtube.com/@firstpresdale)*



**Souper Bowl of Caring
February 8, 2026**

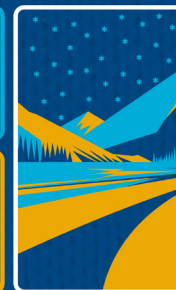
**Collecting money on
Super Bowl Sunday for
local food pantries**



**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 **Presbyterians** 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.cnoy.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 **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*.



\$409 was collected in the **Christmas Eve offering** for the Neighbor's Keeper (formerly Brother's Keeper) fund.

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.



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.



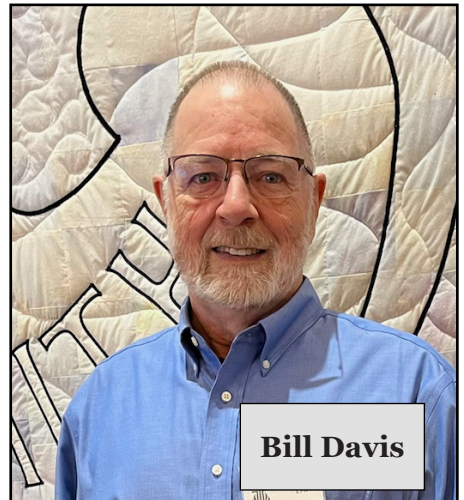
January's **Free Laundry Day** served 55 guests and spent \$535 in quarters, bringing the total amount spent to over \$21,000 since this program began.

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.

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.



**Beth
Corker**



Bill Davis

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)



**Charles "Bryan"
Weatherman**

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>.

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 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.



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 (a "gift") in your fish coin bank or a jar.

Feb. 22-28

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.

Monday: Over 18 million Americans live in a food desert, far from a store where they can buy groceries. Give a gift for each grocery store nearby.

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: 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.

Friday: If you can read, you are more likely to be healthier. Learn a new word today and give a gift for every letter in your name.

March 1-7

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.

Monday: Climate change is forcing farmers worldwide to either adjust their farming methods or move away. Give a gift for each type of animal you saw today.

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: 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.

Friday: It is estimated that 1 in 5 kids in the U.S. will experience hunger this year. Give at least one gift if you have not experienced hunger this year.

March 8-14

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 home.

Monday: In Panama, the PC(USA) partnered in the construction of a 25,000-liter tank, helping families with clean water for drinking and cooking. Give a gift for each drink of water you had today.

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: 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.

Friday: Changing weather patterns mean old ways of farming don't work in some areas anymore, so farmers need to be taught new techniques. Give a gift for every farm you've visited.

March 15-21

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.

Monday: Hunger-related causes kill thousands of people every day around the world. Give a gift for meals you've had today.

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: The most vulnerable are often the most impacted in emergency situations. Say a prayer for children impacted by disasters, and give a gift for every flashlight in your home.

Friday: Sometimes people need help advocating for their rights — like lawyers fighting for those impacted by unfair employment practices. Say a prayer for those who advocate for the poor.

March 22-28

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.

Monday: In Ohio, refugee women are able to market their sweet and savory treats at the farmers market, helping to take care of their families. Give one gift for every sweet treat you had today.

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.

Friday: Learning new languages can be hard! Give five gifts for every language your family members speak.

March 29-April 4

Passion/Palm Sunday: Blankets are used internationally to comfort those impacted by disasters. Give a gift for each blanket in your home, or find some blankets you can donate.

Monday: Teaching healthy food choices and food safety can change the health of an entire community! Find some healthier foods you can donate to a food pantry or soup kitchen.

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.

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

Friday: Clean water is a precious resource all over the world. Find some ways you can conserve or use less water every day and commit to doing at least 1 for a month or more.

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.



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



ONE GREAT
HOUR OF SHARING

Green Guardians



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 B'Shvat 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.

Curlee is well-known to local theatergoers 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. Chatauqua Road in Carbondale. A coffee hour begins at 9:30 am. (Photo: Facebook)



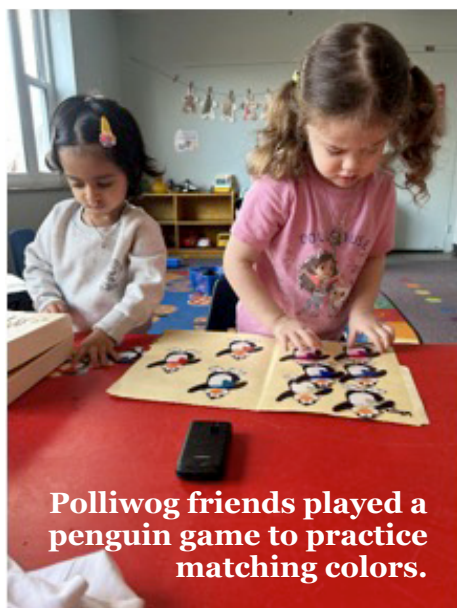
**S.I. Learning
in Retirement**

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.firstprescdale.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%
Total Income	\$ 282,564.17	\$ 294,461.68	96%
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%
Total Expenditures	\$ 281,967.87	\$ 293,622.01	96%
Income over Expenditures	\$ 596.30		

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

3 Lisa Hollabaugh
6 David King
7 Brenda Myers
15 David Warner
19 Jerre Pfaff
22 Lizzy Olmsted
24 Mary Jane Brooks
26 Frances Gilman
27 Elwood Prest

3 Grover Leech & Tracy Prosser

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
Phone: (618) 549-2148 / Fax: (618) 549-6423
office@firstpresdale.org / www.firstpresdale.org

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.