The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Lisa C. Hollabaugh (firstpresnews@gmail.com) / www.firstprescdale.org
First Presbyterian Church / 310 S. University Ave. / Carbondale, Illinois 62901 / 618-549-2148
Facebook - First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL / YouTube - @firstprescdale
More Light Presbyterians LGBTQIA+-affirming www.mlp.org
Certified Hunger Action Congregation www.pcusa.org/hac
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 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@firstprescdale.org
Followed by **Coffee Fellowship**

Teachings of the Spirit
with J.P. Russell & Bill Martens
Wednesdays 10:00 am Lounge
(No meeting November 11 or 25)

Choir Rehearsal
Wednesdays 6:00 pm
(Thanksgiving week: November 24)

Stewardship Pledge Sunday & Harvest Potluck Lunch
November 1

All Saints' Sunday, First Sunday Collection & Daylight Savings Time ends November 1

Place flags on graves at Snider Hill Cemetery November 7 9:00 am

Paint & Sip Hunger Fundraiser
November 7 1:00–4:00 pm

Choir Performs November 8 & 22

Spirit of Christmas donations due
November 8

SIU Wesley Foundation Supper
November 8 6:15 pm

Free Laundry Day November 11
10:00 am–2:00 pm Laundry World

Carbondale In Thanksgiving
November 11 6:00–8:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

Stated Session Meeting
November 12

Presbyterian Women
November 17 1:00 pm

Presbyterian Men
November 19 Noon

Dinner Group
Red Lobster November 19 5:30 pm

Communion November 22

Office closed November 26

Hanging of the Greens
November 28

The Carbondale Interfaith Council invites you to
Give Thanks & Celebrate Our Diverse Faith Traditions

Carbondale In Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 11, 2026
6-8pm at
First Presbyterian Church
310 S. University Ave., Carbondale, IL 62901

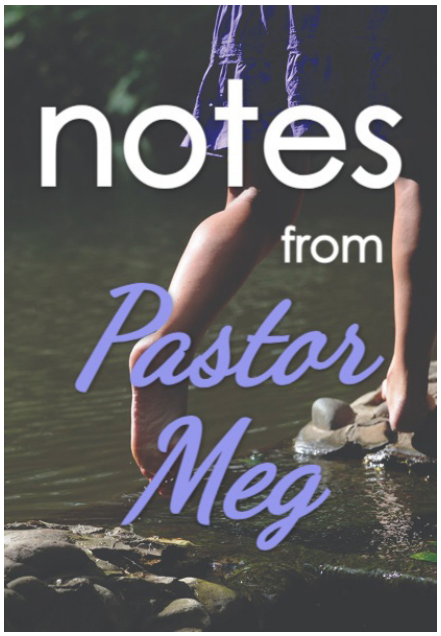
Faith Traditions Sharing Prayers,
Music & Reflections of Peace and Harmony with Refreshments

"Making our Creator's Love Visible through Service "
with Special Gratitude for Veterans

Please bring canned goods.
Monetary donations will be accepted to assist those in need in our community.

Questions: carbondaleinterfaithcouncil@gmail.com

CARBONDALE INTERFAITH COUNCIL



The Living, the Dead, and Those Yet to Come

Every autumn, the trees do something extraordinary: they let go. All summer long, their leaves have gathered sunlight, fed the roots, and helped sustain the life of the tree. Then, as the days shorten and the air cools, the trees release them. The leaves fall…darken… and break apart. Slowly, almost invisibly, what was once held high in the branches becomes nourishment for the roots.

I've been thinking about that as we approach All Saints' Day—the day the church remembers those who have died and the legacy of the ancestors.

We often speak of remembrance as though it were simply a matter of looking backward. We recall names and faces, tell stories, and give thanks for lives that touched our own. These are not merely people who came before us. They are the people we have loved: parents and grandparents, spouses and partners, siblings, children, and dear friends. We remember not only what they gave us, but the particular ache of their absence.

Remembrance is complicated. The people who came before us are not simply figures in the past. Their lives are woven into the conditions of our own. We live in houses we didn't build, speak words we didn't invent, and carry stories we didn't begin. We have been shaped by people whose names we know and countless others whose names have disappeared.

Some of what we inherited is beautiful. Some of it is painful. Some of it we are still trying to understand. And all of it asks something of us.

The Christian tradition speaks of the communion of saints: a belonging that death itself cannot entirely undo. We are part of a story larger than the years between our birth and death. The church is not simply the people gathered in a sanctuary on a Sunday morning. It is also the people who gathered before us, who prayed and struggled and hoped and failed and tried again.

Some of them left us extraordinary gifts. Others left wounds that still need tending. We honor them best not by pretending they were perfect, but by receiving their lives truthfully and deciding what we will carry forward.

There is something deeply humbling about realizing that we are ancestors in the making. Someday, someone will inhabit a world shaped in part by the choices we're making now. They may never know our names. But they will live with what we protected and what we neglected…with the relationships we cultivated, the injustices we challenged or ignored, the possibilities we opened, and the doors we left closed.

And perhaps that is one of the deepest questions All Saints' Day places before us. **Not simply,** "***Whom do we remember?"*** **But,** ***"What will we leave behind?"***

As November begins, our congregation stands at a threshold of its own. We have spent weeks considering what matters enough to receive our attention, imagination, love, and resources. We have remembered what has been entrusted to us and begun imagining what might yet be possible.

We do not know exactly what the future will ask of us. Neither did the generations before us. They lived their lives in the middle of unfinished stories, just as we do. **Now, it is our turn.**

The leaves are falling. The earth is receiving them. Beneath the cooling ground, the work of another season has already begun. May we remember well. May we carry forward what gives life. May we have the courage to let the rest break down and nourish a new season.

And may those who come after us find that we left them something worth growing. *—Pastor Meg*

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

James Christoe Milford

January 19, 1930 – September 24, 2026

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





FAREWELL & GODSPEED PHYLLIS BECK







We bid a sad farewell to Phyllis Beck who moved to live near family in Colorado. Phyllis has served as a deacon and elder and lent her talents to the church choir. Pastor Meg presented Phyllis with a prayer shawl and Music Director Deb Burris unveiled a personalized choir sweatshirt. (Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh, Kathy Manfredi)



Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 9:00 am, we'll gather to place flags on Veterans' graves at Snider Hill Cemetery (off Park Avenue east of Lewis Lane in Carbondale).



Cookie Sunday Returns

The deacons invite you to bring one or two dozen cookies, homemade or store bought, to church Sunday, December 6, 2026. Deliver them to the fellowship hall, where the deacons will plate them to be delivered to those who are unable to get to church. We'll enjoy the remaining cookies during fellowship time. Thank you.

First Pres is again joining other local faith communities to help more than 700 individuals and families served by fourteen agencies have a more joyous holiday season with the SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS fundraiser. Write your check to First Presbyterian Church with *Spirit of Christmas* in the memo line, and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office by November 8, 2026. We'll forward donations to the Carbondale Interfaith Council which will distribute them to grateful families. This year has been particularly hard on many in our community; thank you in advance for your generosity.

The Mission Ministry is excited to announce that **First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale is now certified as a Hunger Action Congregation!** 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. We pledge: "*As disciples of a loving God who inspires us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God, we commit to faithful action to end hunger and poverty and to address their root causes.*" Learn more at www.pcusa.org/hac.



The October 2026 Free Laundry Day was a bit slower, serving about forty guests and spending approximately $400. **WSIU Radio interviewed Jane Swanson for a great story about the Carbondale Laundry Project**; listen at https://www.wsiu.org/wsiu-local-news/2026-10-15/carbondale-laundry-project-free-laundry-services-help-low-income-residents.

To volunteer at the November 11, 2026 Free Laundry Day or to learn more about potentially leading this mission, reach out to Jane, or Bill Martens at carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com.

Through December 31, 2026, the Carbondale Laundry Project is a wooden nickel recipient at the Neighborhood Co-Op Grocery in Murdale Shopping Center. Bring your reusable shopping bag to receive a wooden nickel. Drop it in the box as you exit and the Co-op will donate 5¢ to Free Laundry Day, matching up to $250. You can also support this mission by buying **Tru-Earth Laundry Eco-Strips** at church or online at https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject.



PAINT & SIP
November 7, 2026

At the Mission Ministry's ***Paint and Sip event* Saturday, November 7, 2026 from 1:00-4:00 pm** featuring guest artist Mary Ann Wildwood, participants will paint a decorative tile. The suggested $50 onsite donation will benefit hunger action. Enjoy light refreshments and consider bringing a smock to cover your clothing. Participants will choose one of two color palettes: Autumn or Christmas. All are welcome, but reservations are required. **RSVP to Dori Jefferson at 618-203-6696 by November 1, 2026 and let her know your color choice.**

Get your woolies out! Mission's **Socks and Mittens Tree** will go up in the narthex November 28, 2026. Hang socks, mittens, scarves, hats and underwear sized for elementary school-aged children.

Last month launched First Pres's participation in the **SIU Wesley Foundation's Sunday student suppers**. Lisa Hollabaugh, Meg and Mollie Overstreet, and Rolanda Quick provided and shared a hearty meal with students and student leaders, followed by a period of thoughtful discussion.



Pastor Meg is pictured at left with Wesley Foundation Student President Christopher Lantman.

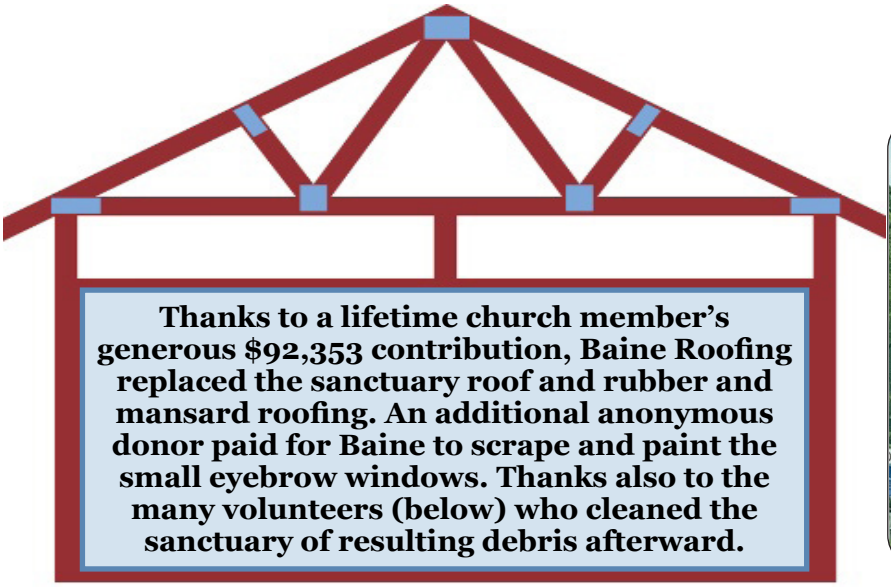


To accommodate common dietary preferences, **we're providing a primarily meat-free meal the second Sunday of the month** (Wesley provides beverages, tableware and utensils). One of our church's goals is to connect with the local university community. See Pastor Meg to get involved in this ecumenical outreach opportunity.

The November 19, 2026 Dinner Group will meet at Red Lobster in Marion. Email jillhertzing@aol.com to RSVP, and consider inviting a friend!







Thanks to a lifetime church member's generous $92,353 contribution, Baine Roofing replaced the sanctuary roof and rubber and mansard roofing. An additional anonymous donor paid for Baine to scrape and paint the small eyebrow windows. Thanks also to the many volunteers (below) who cleaned the sanctuary of resulting debris afterward.



Before (above) & after (below)!



Wendi Zea, Adam Eberbach, David King, Dave Warner, Marta Davis (left to right).





Photos pages 4 & 5: Facebook, Lisa Hollabaugh, Joshua Whitehurst





Tasha Morwell, Alicia Mallernee, Rev. Meg Overstreet, Rev. Bob Morwell and Rev. Dr. Elle Dowd (clockwise from upper left) were among the leaders of last month's queer-affirming, ecumenical ***Pride & Purpose ~ Service of Belonging, Vocation, and Purpose*** at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Carbonale. It was followed by a fellowship meal and Q&A event; participants called the experience "powerful." Watch at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93x1WHKYjgs and learn more at https://ElleDowd.com.









We enjoyed seeing Elena and Bob Luebbers, with Vlad and Viviana Doroscan (left).

Angelo Gabriel Silva Tavares (right with Jiyoen Lee) played viola during worship October 11, 2026.





Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh





October 27, 2026 in the sanctuary, Kathy Manfredi, A.J. Bernal and Dottie Eddis (left to right) presented an intimate and entertaining display of musical talent during ***An Evening at Home: Music Shared Among Friends and Family***, followed by a reception in fellowship hall. Thank you for sharing your tremendous talent!





Brass and percussion accompanied the **church choir** on the soulful "I Must Tell Jesus" (© 2018 Lorenz Publishing Company) arranged by Mark Hayes and dedicated to accompanist Kathy Manfredi (a framed signed copy of the score is in the office suite).


2

for Kathleen Manfredi, Accompanist at First Presbyterian Church, Carbondale, IL, celebrating her many years of faithful service

I Must Tell Jesus

SATB with opt. Instrumental Ensemble

Words by **Elisha A. Hoffman** (1839–1929)

Mark Hayes

Tune: ORWIGSBURG by **Elisha A. Hoffman** (1839–1929)

1/7 **Slow, steady gospel shuffle** ♩. = ca. 42

D

Choir, rear: Sandy Starnaman, Emily Mach, Beth Davis, Kyle Loring, Lisa Hollabaugh, Mollie Overstreet, Rick Jefferson, Olivia Norrington, Kitty Trescott, Jason McClure, Riley Stephens, Dave Warner, Orlan Brown, Brandon James, Pat Manfredi and Roberto Bell. ***Welcome, Riley and Brandon, to the choir!***
Instrumentalists, front: Kathy Manfredi, Elyse Nguyen, Andrew Ortolano, Wally Hooker, Jim Wall, Al Bennett, Chris Rigdon, Ken Trimble, Ainsley Pierce, Taylor Page, Rachel Norton, Adam Arbetello and Todd Norrington.
Far right: Music Director Dr. Deborah Burris. (Photo: Joshua Whitehurst)

CHOIR HONORED WITH ANOTHER DONATION






In Memory of Patricia '*Pat*' Covington, a donation was made consisting of percussion auxiliary and equipment in September.

The donation included educational/professional quality instruments including a tambourine, woodblock, cowbell, 35 pitch wind chimes, glockenspiel with stand and case, mallets, and a trap table.

Pat was known to many through their association with the University, the community, and her position on the Board of Directors for the Shagbark Council of Girl Scouts of America. Pat was a professor in art education and a visual artist specializing in papermaking for much of her career in the Art Department at SIUC. During her tenure she was appointed to the position of Associate Director of Admissions and Records for many years prior to her retirement. In addition to her years as an art educator, Pat was also a musician – singer and violist. Her religious foundation was as a Presbyterian. Pat passed away in July of 2023.







Transgender Awareness Week (November 13-19) is an annual celebration of the contributions of transgender people, and an opportunity to address barriers to the safety, equality and acceptance for all transgender people, including youth and families.

Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is observed November 20. First recognized in 1999, it has since evolved into an international movement aiming to recognize and honor all the trans lives which have come before us (from gsrc.illinois.edu).



Learn more and show your support at these events at RainbowHQ (900 E. Walnut Street, Suite 6) and Attucks Park in Carbondale November 20, 2026.



1 But I thought that God doesn't make mistakes.

A lot of people might think that God makes mistakes when people come out as trans, but what we need to know is that God does not make mistakes and gender is socially constructed. We need not question the sovereignty of God when someone identifies as transgender; what we need to consider is how we can support the least of these and how to engender community amid the violence against the underside of history. *1 Timothy 4*

2 Aren't there only two genders?

The two-gender system was created as a way to categorize humans. It is socially constructed and not biologically informed. We have used the two-gender system as a binary system that informs decision making, theological doctrines and dogma and our practices. The binary system is manufactured to mimic sameness and therefore destroy and deny difference. *Matthew 19*

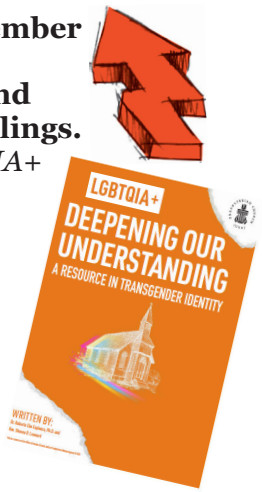
3 Does Scripture support Transgender identity?

Transgender identity is not a new thing, but we also don't see this language in the Bible or throughout Scripture. What we do see are examples of gender bending and early histories of transgender roles and identities. Every culture has a third gender, but the dominant system does not often recognize them. The same thing is true in Scripture. People have made choices about what to make mention of and what to point out. Most of the translation of the Christian Scriptures is informed by a cisgender white heterosexual interpretation and this interpretation gets read into what we have in the Bible today. *Matthew 19 and Psalm 139*

4 How can someone who is trans still be created in the image of God?

If God doesn't make any mistakes, then all creatures are created in the image of God. Like Meister Eckhart said, "Every creature is a word of God." In the same way, every person who disidentifies with their assigned sex at birth is still created in the image of God. *Matthew 19 and Psalm 139:13–14*

As a More Light Presbyterians member congregation, First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale supports and advocates for our transgender siblings. This Q&A is from the PCUSA's *LGBTQIA+ Deepening our Understanding: A Resource in Transgender Identity* by Dr. Roberto Che Espinoza Ph.D. and Rev. Shanea D. Leonard (© 2022 Office of Gender and Racial Justice, Presbyterian Mission Agency). Read more at https://pcusa.org/resource/lgbtqia-deepening-our-understanding-resource-transgender-identity.





The Green Guardians believe we are stewards of God's magnificent Creation, charged to take good care of the environment and its inhabitants. These November provide opportunity for awareness and action.

1 - World Bison Day & World Ecology Day / 3 - Basking Shark Day & World Jellyfish Day
5 - World Tsunami Awareness Day / 6 - Passive House Day
6 - International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
8-14 - Human-Animal Relationship Awareness Week
14 - Use Less Stuff Day / 15 - National Recycling Day / 16-20 - Geography Awareness Week
21 - World Fisheries Day / 26 - Thanksgiving Day & World Sustainable Transport Day
27 - Day after Thanksgiving Buy Nothing Day / 29 - International Jaguar Day
30 - Remembrance Day for Lost Species

An Environmental Thanksgiving — *Give thanks for the blessings of God's wonderful creation, linking our faith to the care of the Earth.*

"Oh give thanks to Yahweh; call upon God's name; make known God's deeds among the peoples. Sing to God, sing praises to God; tell all of their wondrous works."
Psalm 105:1-2 (from the Inclusive Language Psalter: A New Gender-Inclusive Adaption of the Book of Psalms, Based on the 1979 Book of Common Prayer Text)

Suggestion: Go to the Bible, a hymnal or an internet site to find choices that focus your awareness and thankfulness, and guide stewardship of the Earth. Try to commit to at least one environmental stewardship practice (you might give special attention to one or more days in each month's Green Calendar).

Thanks be to God!



PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Well, the month of October sure flew by! Last month, the Carbondale Fire Department visited the Presbyterian Preschool to teach about fire safety, while the kids happily explored the fire truck. We also enjoyed a fun-filled field trip to The Patch, where we learned about the importance of bees. This month, we'll learn about farms, nutrition and Thanksgiving.

Our current *Show Me Dough* fundraiser runs from October 26–November 6, 2026, with orders to be delivered November 16, 2026. Look on the table at the narthex church entrance for order forms, and plan to fill up your freezers in time for Thanksgiving—all while supporting the preschool.







Exploring the Carbondale Fire Department truck.



Beautiful friendships are made at Preschool.

Photos provided/Facebook.



Hayride at The Patch in Marion.

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 September 2026			**75% of the year completed**		
Income Line	**Income YTD**		**Annual Budget**		
Pledges	$	162,875.00	$	196,372.00	82.94%
Nonpledge & Cash Offerings	$	9,872.12	$	12,500.00	78.98%
Per Capita Contributions	$	1,952.00	$	2,400.00	81.33%
Transfer From Investments	$	59,310.47	$	59,310.47	100.00%
Other (e.g., Interest, Endowments)	$	12,185.19	$	18,950.00	64.30%
Total Income	$	246,194.78	$	289,532.47	85.03%
Expenditure Line	**Expenditures YTD**		**Annual Budget**		
Mission	$	3,034.00	$	10,098.00	30.05%
Pastoral Ministry	$	49,445.89	$	79,463.41	62.22%
Support Staff	$	66,578.20	$	95,203.43	69.93%
Faith Development	$	123.99	$	1,400.00	8.86%
Worship & Music	$	2,887.77	$	3,728.00	77.46%
Communication/Administration	$	12,324.40	$	17,496.00	70.44%
Facilities/Capital	$	79,702.74	$	89,800.00	88.76%
Christian Nurture	$	1,109.53	$	1,500.00	73.97%
New Pastor Moving Expense	$	-	$	2,000.00	0.00%
Total Expenditures	$	215,206.52	$	300,688.84	71.57%
YTD Income over Expenditures	$	30,988.26			
Annual Budget Deficit			$	(11,156.37)	

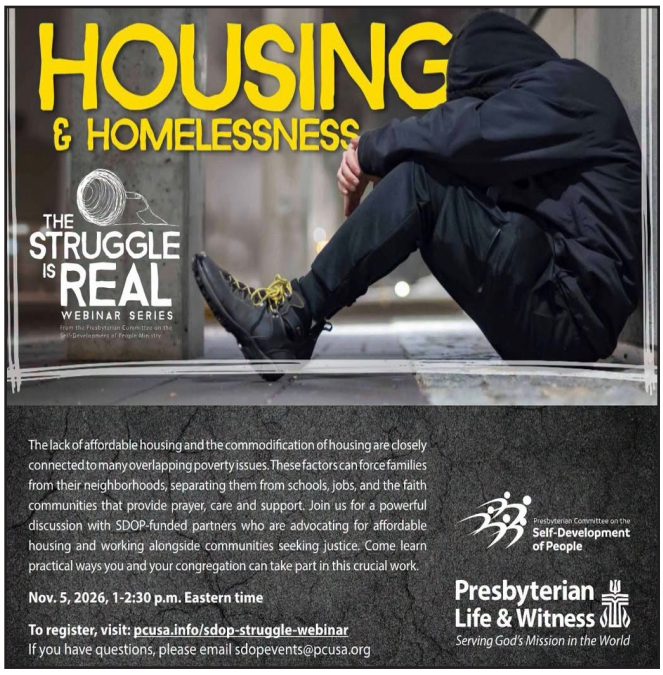
S.I. Learning in Retirement

At the November 18, 2026 meeting of **Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement**, Betsy Brown's "John A. Logan: A Transformed Heart" will highlight Logan's journey from supporting Illinois's Black Codes to becoming an abolitionist and civil rights champion. Brown retired in 2017 after teaching 27 years at Carbondale Elementary District 95, where she sent CMS students to state and national History Fair competitions for more than 20 years. She's a recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution's *Women in American History* Award, a member of the Carbondale Historic Preservation Commission, and President of the Board of the General John A. Logan Museum. The 10:30 am free presentation follows a 9:30 am coffee hour at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 1501 W. Chautauqua in Carbondale (photo provided).



First Presbyterian Church
Carbondale, Illinois

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







On November 13, 1981, Black Presbyterians United (BPU) celebrated their 13th annual fellowship dinner in Detroit. As early as 1856, African American Presbyterian ministers had gathered together in caucuses; the creation of the BPU was a turning point in the history of black Presbyterianism. In St. Louis in 1968, leaders were elected to the newly-established BPU—a group borne of the responsibility they felt to change the majority-white denomination. Following the unification of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. (PCUS) and United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. (UPCUSA) in 1983, BPU became the National Black Presbyterian Caucus (NBPC) which celebrated its 48th Biennial Conference in 2025. (Exerpted from pcusa.org's *This Month in Presbyterian History*)