



The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Lisa C. Hollabaugh (firstpresnews@gmail.com) / www.firstprescdale.org

First Presbyterian Church / 310 S. University Ave. / Carbondale, IL 62901 / (618) 549-2148

Find us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL & YouTube @firstprescdale

We are a More Light Presbyterians LGBTQIA+-affirming faith community — www.mlp.org

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

Followed by **Coffee Fellowship**

Bible Study with Bill & J.P.

Wednesdays 10:00 am Lounge

Choir Rehearsal Wednesdays 6 pm

First Sunday collection January 4

Communion January 11

More Light Monday Zoom Webinar *Breaking the Binary in Liturgy*

January 12 6:00 pm

Preregister at mlp.org=>Programming

Session Meeting January 13 7:00 pm

Free Laundry Day January 14 10:00 am-2:00 pm Laundry World

Dinner Group January 15 5:30 pm

Church Office closed January 19

Presbyterian Women

January 20 1:00 pm

Presbyterian Men January 22 Noon

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



Like and subscribe!





AN UPDATE FROM THE Pastor Nominating Committee

After the MTT approves the call, the PNC will ask the session to call a congregational meeting. The morning of this meeting, the candidate will preach the sermon, before the congregation votes on the call.

While we still have some steps ahead of us, the PNC is prayerfully hopeful that we will soon have a pastor in place. In the meantime and until any call is approved by the MTT, the identity of the candidate must remain confidential, as per Presbytery guidelines.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the committee's work. Don't hesitate to approach a PNC member if you have questions regarding the process. We hope to have good news for you soon!

The Pastor Nominating Committee

Wendi Zea, Cindy Buys, Harry Davis, Pat Manfredi & Lily Vucinic

The Worship Ministry has scheduled pulpit supply to fill the brief period until a new pastor is in place; an exciting lineup of speakers is below. We hope you'll continue to join us for worship (in person or via Zoom) and fellowship on Sunday mornings, as we anticipate a new chapter in the congregation's life.

Jan. 4 & 11 – Rev. Judy Beyler
Jan. 18 – Dr. Rob Jensen
Jan. 25 – Rev. Sam Sterrett
Feb. 1 – Dr. Deborah Burris

Feb. 8 – Rev. Vallerie King
Feb. 15 – Rev. Judy Beyler
Feb. 22 – Rev. Vallerie King
March 1 – Dr. Rob Jensen

In sure and certain hope...

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

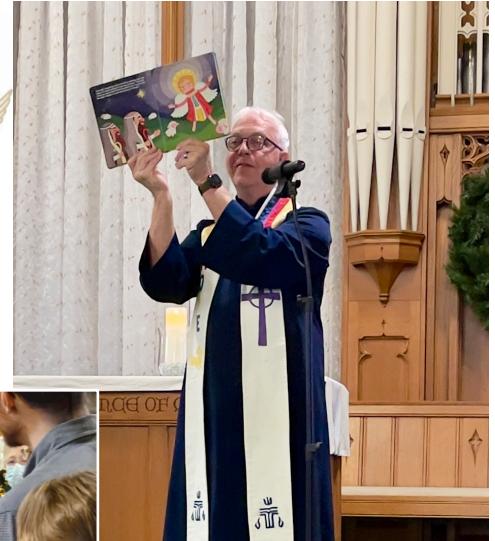
***The church family extends sympathy to the family and friends of
Merit Goddard Martens Sullivan
August 22, 1983 – November 27, 2025***

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



Thank you Pastor Kerry

December 28, 2025 was Rev. Kerry L. Bean's final day leading worship as Covenant Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale. The choir performed the surprise anthem *For Good* (fitting considering its message of appreciation and ties to Broadway) before sending Kerry off with a moving choral blessing. (Photos: Joshua Whitehurst)



COVENANT OF CLOSURE Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

1. I, the Rev. Kerry L. Bean agrees:

- a. not to become involved in any leadership or advisory role (public, private or through social media) in the First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale congregation and
- b. not to intervene, support, or give advice to anyone involved in a congregational disagreement or dispute;
- c. not to officiate in any special events in the lives of former parishioners or of the congregation, including weddings, funerals, baptisms, worship leadership, church anniversary activities, etc. unless expressly invited by the Moderator of the Session;
- d. to refuse requests for pastoral services made by members of the congregation;
- e. to consult with the Moderator of Session and the Presbytery (Presbyter for Congregational Care and/or COM) prior to visiting the congregation, attending worship or attending a special event;
- f. to refrain from giving opinions or directions regarding church business;
- g. to explain and affirm the above principles to the congregation in writing (by letter or newsletter) and/or the pulpit before departing.
- h. It is understood that this policy does not affect or require termination of friendships with individuals in the First Presbyterian Church congregation.

Kerry Bean
Covenant Pastor

MISSION



Up dates



Two of our local missions were promoted at the **20th Annual Alternative Gift Fair** at the Carbondale Civic Center. The Diaper Bank of Southern Illinois raised \$1280 in donations. The Carbondale Laundry Project sold \$135 in laundry strips and raised an additional \$80.25 in cash donations. Community awareness of these programs is strong, with many attendees expressing their support for and appreciation of these important services.

You can support the Carbondale Laundry Project by purchasing **Tru-Earth laundry eco-strips** at church or online at <https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject>

Lisa Hollabaugh & Rolanda Quick (left) are pictured at the Alternative Gift Fair December 7, 2025.



The Mission committee distributed end-of-year Local Mission funds to the Feed My Sheep program at Bethel AME Church, the Carbondale Laundry Project, the food pantries operated by Good Samaritan Ministries and Leave it to Chef (supported by Rotary Club of Jackson Williamson Counties Sunset), and the Survivor Empowerment Center. Pictured below are some of these appreciative recipients.



Amanda & Patty from Good Samaritan Ministries (above).



Vic & Yaya from the Leave It to Chef food pantry (below).



Gracie & Barbara from the Survivor Empowerment Center (above).

Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh, Carol King



CHILDREN'S CHURCH SCHOOL Teaching Team



Pictured above are our **Children's Church School teachers** who will lead art activities, games, videos and computer programs about various Bible stories. Dan Schuh, Lizzy Olmsted, Brenda Gilbert, Violet Ottwell and Morgan Quick make up the new energized team. This month they will teach children how Jesus calls all of us to be disciples and explore the story of the healing of ten lepers. If you have a neighbor or friend with children, why not invite them to join us! (Photos: Judy Beyler)



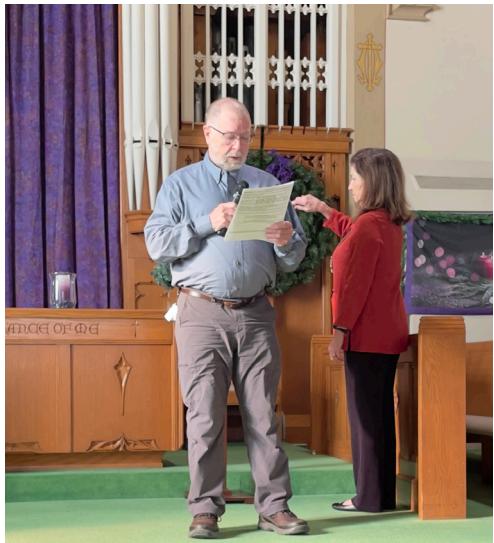
December 7, 2025, one year-old Charlotte was presented for baptism by parents Dan Schuh and Lizzy Olmsted (pictured with Pastor Kerry and Elder Wendi Zea). Welcome to the church family, Charlotte!

Baptism IN THE CHURCH FAMILY



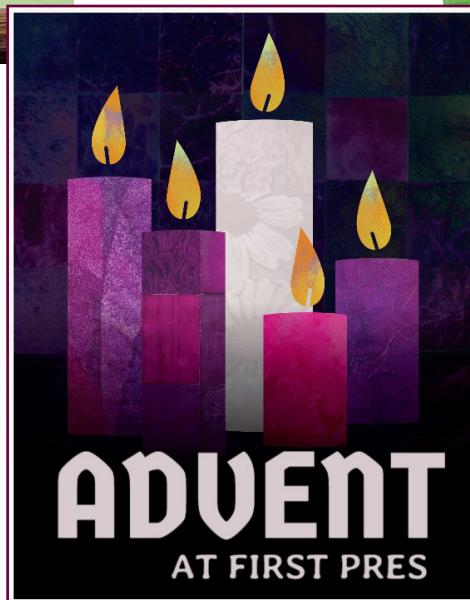
Following the baptism, children (left) presented the family with a blanket they had crafted during Church School. (Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh)





The Worship Committee coordinated church decoration and planned meaningful worship services during the 2025 Advent season

Thank you to Advent candlelighters and readers who represented new or returning church members and family.



Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh, Pat Manfredi



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols





Guest musicians on strings, brass and percussion joined the church choir and guest soloist Olivia Norrington (above) December 21, 2025.



Afterward, Rolanda Quick and Beth Corker (right) led ASL signing of *Silent Night* during Fellowship, where Jiyeon Lee and Anthony Gray (left) accompanied festive carol singing. (Photos: Joshua Whitehurst).



January Anniversaries

1/10 Ann & David Warner
1/26 Lisa Hollabaugh & Rolanda Quick

January Birthdays

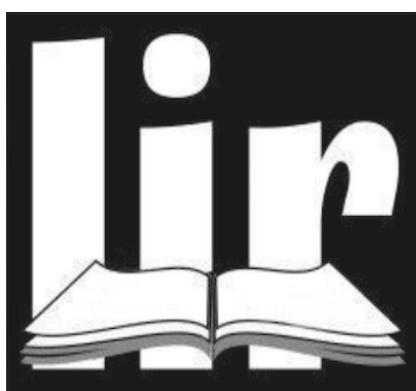
1/05 John Beyler
1/12 Carol Good
1/16 Carol King
1/17 Reona Daly
1/17 Jenny Prest
1/19 Jim Milford
1/20 Phyllis Beck
1/21 Brenda Gilbert
1/27 Carly Calloway-Tesch
1/27 Martha Peters
1/30 Siena Sullivan

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

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



- 1** - Make a Green New Year's Resolution Day
- 3** - Drinking Straw Day & Perihelion Day
- 5** - National Migratory Bird Day
- 6** - Apple Tree Day **7** - Old Rock Day
- 10** - National Cut Your Energy Day
- 19** - Tenderness toward Existence Day
- 20** - Take a Walk Outdoors Day & Penguin Awareness Day
- 25** - International Environmental Education Day
- 28** - International Reducing CO₂ Emission Day
- 31** - International Zebra Day



S.I. Learning in Retirement

SIUC Associate Professor of Political Science Ben Bricker (right) will speak at the January 21, 2025 meeting of Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement (SILIR). Dr. Bricker will discuss cases accepted by the U.S. Supreme Court which could fundamentally reshape our constitutional system.

This free presentation is open to the public and starts at 10:30 am at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 1501 W. Chautauqua in Carbondale, following a coffee hour beginning at 9:30 am. (Photo provided)



Call for Singers!

no audition required



Wednesdays @ 7:15-9pm

**Rehearsals begin January 14
All day retreat on January 17
Concert May 2-3**

Welcoming queer & queer-friendly folks
ages 12 and up (*participants under 16
must be accompanied by an adult*)

**To learn more, visit
tinyurl.com/tesseraechorus
and sign up today!**

For more information, email info@tesseraechorus.org.



@tesseraechorus

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

We're excited to announce our new Director of Students and Families, Mrs. Kristi Sierzega, who will be taking over for Mrs. Kimberly Tyra. Please join us in thanking Mrs. Kimberly for guiding the Presbyterian Preschool with thoughtfulness and care over the past eight years.

Our students will return from winter break excited to learn and share time with friends. This month the Polliwog class (2-3 year-olds) will learn about snow, arctic animals, fairy tales, and our five senses. The Frog class (3-5 year-olds) will study winter, arctic animals, our body, and nutrition.



Learning to work together is a foundational goal at the Presbyterian Preschool (photos provided).

As we look ahead to 2026, we encourage congregation members to consider joining the Preschool Board. We hope to gain Board members who are passionate about the future generation, have a love for learning, and are available for a monthly board meeting. Email director@presbyterianpreschool.net to learn more about this opportunity.



A group of Polliwogs enjoyed making their own versions of Vincent Van Gogh's "Starry Night" at the sensory table.



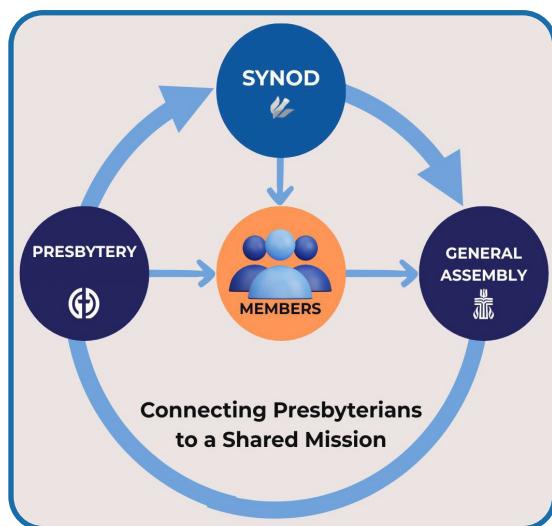
We're grateful for basement recess time on cold winter days!





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 firstprescdale.org or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Financial Report November 2025		92% of the year completed		
Income Line	Income YTD	Annual Budget		
Pledges	\$ 182,995.74	\$ 203,400.00		90%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 14,574.88	\$ 13,600.00		107%
Per Capita	\$ 1,260.00	\$ 1,800.00		70%
Transfer From Investments	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 55,961.68		36%
Other	\$ 45,513.11	\$ 19,700.00		231%
Total Income	\$ 264,343.73	\$ 294,461.68		90%
Expenditure Line	Expenditures YTD	Annual Budget		
Mission	\$ 5,740.00	\$ 11,570.00		50%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 80,495.03	\$ 90,531.26		89%
Staff	\$ 77,018.70	\$ 80,960.75		95%
Faith Development	\$ 1,262.30	\$ 2,200.00		57%
Worship & Music	\$ 1,352.34	\$ 2,325.00		58%
Communication/Administration	\$ 16,347.34	\$ 16,800.00		97%
Facilities/Capital	\$ 75,091.00	\$ 87,335.00		86%
Christian Nurture	\$ 1,075.31	\$ 1,900.00		57%
Total Expenditures	\$ 258,382.02	\$ 293,622.01		88%
Income over Expenditures	\$ 5,961.71			



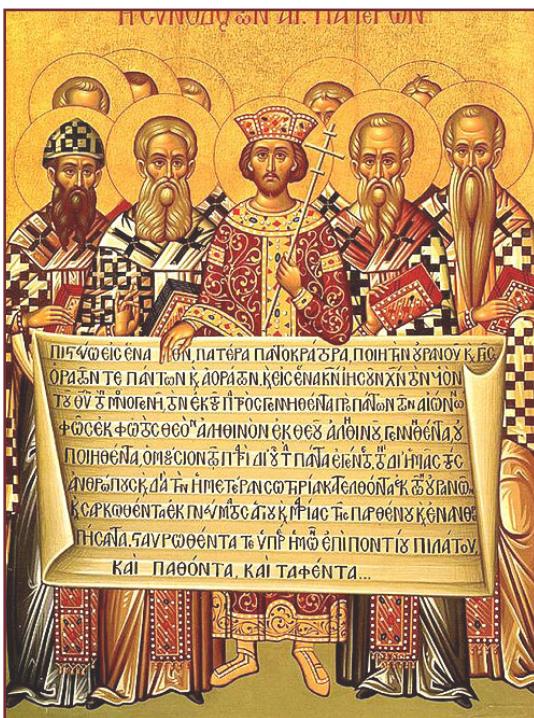
The 2026 Per Capita assessment is \$42.00 per church member.
 \$26.93 of this goes to the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois (PSEI), \$3.81 goes to the Synod of Lincoln Trails, and \$11.26 goes to the General Assembly.

As you are comfortably able, please pitch in by paying Per Capita for all household church members (write "Per Capita" in the check memo line). Thank you!



First Presbyterian Church Carbondale, Illinois

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2025-2026 marks the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea, convened in A.D. 325 amid a widening church rift and where “[a] creed reflecting the position of Alexander and Athanasius was written and signed by a majority of the bishops. Nevertheless, the two parties continued to battle each other. In 381, a second council met in Constantinople [and] adopted a revised and expanded form of the A.D. 325 creed, now known as the Nicene Creed” (from the PC(USA) Book of Confessions). The above image depicts Constantine the Great and bishops holding the Niceno-Constantinopolitan Creed in the original Greek.