



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Linda Brandon web address: <http://www.firstprescdale.org>  
The First Presbyterian Church, 310 S. University Ave., Carbondale IL 62901  
contact us at: [firstpresnews@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresnews@gmail.com)

Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Faith Dialogues 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study 3:30 p.m.

First Sunday - Jan. 2

Pizza & Movie Night - Jan. 10

Session - Jan. 11

Faith Dialogues - Jan. 16

*New*  
YEAR,  
*New*  
OPPORTUNITIES

**Church Office Hours**

Monday through Thurs-  
day 9:00-11:30 a.m. and  
12:30-4:00 p.m.

**Phone Extensions:**

Rev. Bean 101  
Barb 100  
Carlyn: 106  
SI Diaper Bank 110

Notes from Kerry

## What, Me Worry?

As I write this, we are on the cusp of the year 2022. If the younger version of myself, growing up in the 1960s and 70s, ever thought of 2022, I'm sure it seemed far off and truly futuristic. I think it's the "22" that does it, don't you? In its own strange way, the 22 makes me think of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Century and that makes me think of *Star Trek*- and zoom! - I'm off deep, deep into the future, going where humankind has never gone before.

I must say that I am learning to temper my hopes for this coming new year, though. 2020 and 2021 have not been exactly the best years ever. According to the *New York Times*, over 808,000 Americans have now died from Covid or Covid-related illnesses. This is a staggering amount of people, many of whom we have known and loved. We live in a socially and politically polarized world. We continue to do perhaps irreparable damage to the environment. Though we have learned and adapted through the pandemic, we have lost a vital element of fellowship here at the church. Will 2022 be better? We can hope and pray that it is.

We have a lot of work to do together in the coming year. I am going to ask all of us to continue the process of discerning what our missions and ministries as a congregation will be as we move forward into the future. Of course, we are going to keep trying to let the community and region know about who we are and what we do at First Presbyterian of Carbondale. A robust online presence is a big part of that effort. Did you know that you can connect with our church online through:

- our webpage
- our Facebook page
- our YouTube channel
- and via Zoom
- the social media posts of our members and friends

As social media evolve, no doubt we will find even more ways to use them as communication tools and evangelistic tools as well.

But when it comes to discernment, identifying what our top ministry priorities are now (and what they will be in the months and years to come) is very important. It's important to spend our precious resources of time and energy and finances as wisely as we can. It's important that we are making a positive difference in the lives of our sisters and brothers locally, nationally, and even internationally. I want our worship time together to be inspirational and nurturing. I want our relationships with God and one another to grow deeper.

Let's not forget about the church building itself. We will need to replace the roof on the Fellowship Hall late this winter or early this spring. Remember the Fellowship Hall? It seems like a long time indeed since shared time together in there. Also, it could not be clearer that we need to finally figure out what is going on with the roof and walls in the front of the sanctuary. It makes little sense to think about addressing the challenges of fixing (or fully restoring) the sanctuary organ until the space where it lives is completely dry and clean. Further, we want to explore the addition of solar panels to further lower our electricity costs and lessen our carbon footprint.

Looking to 2022 and beyond, we are getting closer to making significant upgrades of the equipment for our hybrid style of worship. Worship Ministries has been hard at work gathering the resources we need to integrate the folks in the sanctuary and the folks at home into one worshipping congregation. There are lots of steps involved in this process, but I assure we are getting closer. Soon, the video and audio qualities will be greater and the whole worship experience will feel more natural and intuitive.

Energy is also being put into making sure that the relationships between the church, the preschool, and the daycare programs are healthy and strong. The Green Guardians have already raised our awareness of

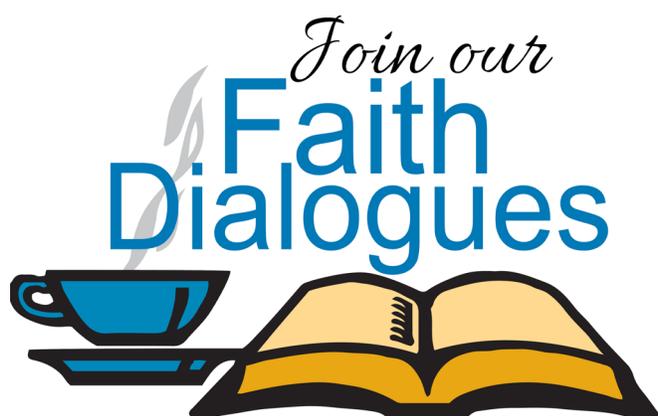
environmental issues and how we can address them. The Deacons provide faithful care for their flock. The session spends *every* meeting discussing and deciding important matters. Mission Ministries keeps a multitude of missions at the heart of our work.

There's much more and it is *a lot*.

Therefore we want to be wise and faithful to where God leads us. I have exactly four years left with you as your Covenant Pastor. My job is to make the most of our time together. And, just as importantly, to set you all up for vital and spiritually vibrant ministry for the next five years beyond.

So let us together step into 2022. Let us be confident and hopeful. Let us not worry and be happy. Happy as in Happy New Year, y'all!

*Kerry*



Everyone is talking about climate change, but did you ever wonder what the Bible tells us about our relationship with the environment? Join us beginning January 16 for a discussion of [Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible, and the Ecological Crisis](#) by Patricia K. Tull, an ordained Presbyterian minister, biblical scholar, and lecturer on faith and ecology.

This is the second article in a series with helpful (I hope) reminders about how to welcome visitors on Sunday mornings.

For those who are less comfortable speaking with strangers, here are some ice breakers:

- the weather – southern Illinois always provides fodder for weather-related conversation
- ask whether this is their first visit or if they've been with us before
- if they've attended before, tell them you're glad they've returned
- ask if they have children or grandchildren
- ask about their occupation/former occupation
- offer to answer any questions they may have about the congregation

If you find you cannot maintain a conversation with a visitor, introduce them to someone nearby, i.e., pass them along for continued welcoming. Our goal is to ensure a visitor never leaves the sanctuary without having a meaningful conversation with *at least* one person or family.

Thanks to the efforts of Elder Pat Manfredi, First Presbyterian Church now has a YouTube page on which you may view recordings of recent hybrid worship services. Search for "First Presbyterian Church, Carbondale Illinois" on YouTube and click "Subscribe" so you can easily locate this page in the future.



# WORSHIP with us

Happy New Year! We begin 2022 with our hybrid worship system in full swing, with occasional—and seemingly, inevitable—technical difficulties. A Worship sub-committee consisting of Lisa Hollabaugh, John Holt, Pat Manfredi and Wendi Zea, was recently formed to develop recommendations for upgrading audio/video (A/V) equipment in the Sanctuary.

Session has approved the initial purchase of a computer system to replace the older model iMac computer which was recently donated to the church. In early 2022, it is anticipated that a PTZ (Pan-Tilt-Zoom) videocamera and large Smart TV will complete a more sophisticated, streamlined and user-friendly audio/video setup. Total expenditures for new equipment and software are expected to run upwards of \$6,000-7,000 depending on features and any available discounts. Following purchase and installation of the new

system, training will be provided to current technicians and those interested in joining the pool of volunteers who take turns running the system.

In addition to allocating budgeted funds, several church members have made donations for audio/visual equipment, and others have expressed interest in doing the same. You can contribute by noting “A/V equipment” in the memo line of a check made out to First Presbyterian Church. Or, scan this QR code with your smartphone camera and designate your contribution to “Other” in the online giving portal, then enter “A/V equipment” in the “Notes” section at the bottom of the second screen. Thank you.



## Zoom Live Transcription/Closed Captioning

Participants during hybrid worship have seen in action Zoom’s “Live Transcription” feature, which produces real-time closed captioning of the Zoom meeting. When internet bandwidth is low or unstable, you may notice this feature is delayed (or it may not appear at all—for example, during hymn singing). Closed captioning is an impressive and welcome addition, making our worship services and online meetings even more accessible.

Live transcription is activated by clicking on the “CC” icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen. If

closed captioning has not already been enabled, any participant may click here to send the Zoom host a request to activate this feature. Click on the up arrow next to “CC” to “Show Subtitle” or “Hide Subtitle,” according to your preference. You can also adjust the size of the captioning font displayed on your screen by using the slider bar under “Subtitle Settings.”

You’re encouraged to check out this feature and tinker with adjustments during your next Zoom meeting, and to reach out to Worship Elders Lisa Hollabaugh or Kathy Manfredi with any questions or feedback.

## Seeking Zoom Hosts

The Worship Ministry is seeking additional volunteers willing to serve as Zoom hosts during Sunday morning worship. This task is easy to learn and requires only that you have a computer and a relatively stable internet connection. Zoom hosting can be done from the comfort of your home or while traveling—in the event you cannot attend in-person worship, or feel uncomfortable doing so. Training is available, as is the opportunity to “shadow” current hosts to learn more about what’s involved. Please reach out to Worship Elders Kathy Manfredi or Lisa Hollabaugh for more information.

### Grateful acknowledgements

These are just two examples of the thank yous that we received on your behalf throughout the year.

*From the Carbondale Warming Center*

Since the pandemic began, we've housed over 300 guests, with over 10,000 nights stayed. With the help of several civic groups and faith organizations, including Bethel AME's 'Feed My Sheep' our guests have been served three meals a day. Over 50,000 meals have been served since opening at our new location. Your gift came at a particularly vulnerable time for the Warming Center. It was indispensable for our continued operations, and very much appreciated.

*From Mphatso Nguluwe-Chikhwaza, Synod Health Director, CCAP Synod of Livingstonia, Mzuzu, Malawi*

This (donation) will be very helpful to our work of saving lives. Please convey our heartfelt gratitude to all the church members. We are all sailing in harsh waters and to be able to share with us we feel it is a great sacrifice. May God bless you and keep up the good work.

### Carbondale Laundry Project Celebrates Its Two-Year Anniversary!



With the help of wonderful, dedicated volunteers and many contributions from other churches, community groups and individuals, the Carbondale Laundry Project celebrates two years of service to the community. During that time, we have held 11 Free Laundry Days, served nearly 200 people, and used about \$1,800 in quarters. With your continued support, we will continue to provide this service in 2022.



Sunday, January 2, we will be collecting items for a variety of mission projects, including donations for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, the Carbondale Warming Center, Feed My Sheep at Bethel AME, Presbyterian Daycare and Preschool, the Diaper Bank, and the Laundry Project. Bring your donations with you to worship Sunday morning and drop them off in the narthex. Or just drive through the porte cochere and we'll help you unload. A list of requested items is available on the church website.

## DINNER GROUP



Due to the rising number of Covid cases and the likelihood of a post-holiday surge, the

Dinner Group will not meet in January.

# Advent 2021



Elizabeth Hamilton and Joseph Prest



Beth and Chase Corker  
(Susan and Deb Corker not pictured)



Lauren Bonner, Gary and Mimi Williams



Bo, Merit, and Siena Sullivan

Photos Lisa Hollabaugh  
During Advent church members and families participated in the tradition of reading and lighting the Sanctuary Advent Wreath candles, including the Christ Candle on Christmas Eve. We appreciate the church family contributing to worship in such a memorable and meaningful manner.



Carlyn Zimmerman, Christiel Bartles, and Emily Timpe

## Socks & Mittens Tree

Once again this year, our church congregation was very generous in donating socks, mittens, scarves, hats and other items to local school-children. Members of the Mission team delivered the items to four schools in the Carbondale Elementary School District during the last week of school before the winter break. Thank you!



Photo by Cindy Buys



## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Pastor Kerry



Narthex signage courtesy of Rob and Melissa Jensen

Photos Lisa Hollabaugh

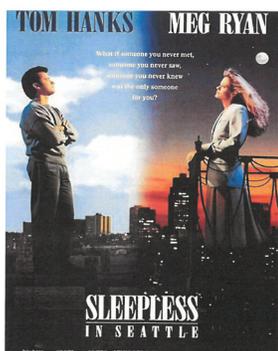


### Birthdays

- 5 - Dee Glover
- 9 - Jean Pulliam
- 12 - Carol Good
- 16 - Carol King
- 17 - Reona Daly
- 17 - Jenny Prest
- 19 - Jim Milford
- 20 - Phyllis Beck
- 21 - Brenda Gilbert
- 27 - Martha Peters
- 27 - Carly Calloway-Tesch

### Anniversaries

- 26 - Lisa Hollabaugh and Ro Quick
- 27 - John and Pam Holt



January's Pizza & Movie Night will be Monday, December 10. This month's movie will be SLEEPLESS IN SEATTLE. Before we watch the video, we will eat pizza, salad, fruit, and cookies, and have a choice of beverages. We gather in the Youth Lounge at 6:00 p.m. to begin our evening together. Friends and family are welcome. No cost. Just let Kitty Trescott know you will be there, via phone or text: 618-203-1807, email: trescott@midwest.net

## GREEN GUARDIANS

In most monthly newsletters, the **Green Guardians** will provide an article designed to help all of us to be conscious of our environment and ways to be thoughtful in our use of resources. Some topics and tips we will write about include: use of water resources; recycling basics; helping to address food insecurity in our area; awareness of single use plastics; gardening to incorporate environmental awareness; household cleaning that is kind to the environment; shopping and kitchen tips; and other topics as we delve into internet research.

This month, we are focusing on water usage. You've all read and heard about the extensive drought situation in the western U.S. But, the difficulties with drought in Colorado or California affect every one of us. Pollution or tainting of municipal water supplies has been reported extensively in Michigan, as well as reports of industrial pollution of drinking water in every state. It's a good time to be thinking of how "I" can be a good steward of this most important resource. The epa.gov website also has fun water-wise activities for kids ...and parents too! Help your children and grandchildren understand the importance of wise use of water.



### Ways we can help save water:

In the bathroom - over half of all home use of water occurs in the bathroom.

## SEEKING THE FAITH - SHARING THE SPIRIT - SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

- look for WaterSense products if you want to replace a shower head, or are doing a renovation.
- showers use less water than baths, as long as you are paying attention and not singing your favorite tune. Even more saving: turn water off to lather up or wash hair, then back on.
- turn off the water when you are brushing teeth...fill a cup and rinse with that.
- when heating water at the tap, let it run slowly. Running for 5 minutes at full blast takes as much energy as letting a 60-watt light bulb run for 14 hours.

In the kitchen -

- use a basin in the sink if hand washing. Wash several dishes and rinse all at once. It doesn't need to be a flood; use a lower volume setting. It's not true that using a dishwasher saves water if you like to hand wash and are thoughtful about it. Only use a dishwasher when it is full.
- add food waste to a compost pile rather than running it down the sink.
- keep a pitcher of drinking water in the refrigerator rather than running water at the sink.
- if you thaw food under running water...think ahead and thaw in the refrigerator overnight.

Outside -

- plant native plants which won't need much additional water once established.
- water by hand rather than using sprinklers or timed irrigation systems. Plants do much better if watered deeply and less frequently. If you have an irrigation system, make sure it is on a reasonable timer mechanism.
- don't water grass. It will die back in drought conditions, but will return.
- sweep your walk or steps rather than hosing them off. Good exercise too!

It also takes water to provide electricity...an entirely different topic. Keep energy use in mind too! **Green Guardians** wants to help **you** conserve our God-given resources.



Our December meeting was another packed one. But the session members were locked in and focused, so our work proceeded apace.

I found this quote to use as our opening devotional: "Some people are always grumbling because roses have thorns; I am thankful that thorns have roses." – Alphonse Karr

We revisited a couple of discussion questions:

- What things do you feel that we are locked into as a church, and would it be worth it to "unlock" them?
- Another way to think about it: If we were to start our church again from scratch, what would you include, what would you discard, what would you modify?

## SEEKING THE FAITH - SHARING THE SPIRIT - SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

---

Points made include the following:

- Our church would need to retain corporate worship and, also to retain a method to meet the stated goals of service, support and contributing to the growth of faith in others. Changes can be made if our church remains faithful to core values.
- Copper Creek Church in Champaign began as a satellite campus of First Presbyterian Church in Champaign. It has grown steadily since its inception and now has two Sunday services, two pastors and a Thursday evening dinner and worship service. The congregation worships both in person and via livestream. The church presents itself as a “home for those who have given up on church.” A possible factor in its rapid growth is that it’s located in a growing residential neighborhood.

We moved on to discuss and vote on the church’s 2022 Budget: This year’s Stewardship Campaign was a resounding success. There was a nine percent increase in pledge amounts. The 2022 budget provides for \$228,824.00 in pledges and there is already \$231,524.00 pledged.

The 2022 budget is larger than the 2021 budget by \$8,338.00. This is mostly due to an increase in my major medical and pension funds and an increase in the amount allocated for building maintenance. After discussion, the budget was unanimously approved.

As we were on a roll, we heard from the Nominating Committee. They presented their slate of Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2025. In addition, they presented five Elders instead of six, so the committee recommended that Session discuss reducing the number of Elders from 13 to 12 one year earlier than originally planned. Finally, to have four Elders in each class going forward, it was suggested that one of the five nominees serve a two-year term, effectively placing him/her in the Class of 2024. David Peters volunteered to serve a two-year term.

A consensus was reached to present the reduction of Elders to the congregation for a vote at the Annual meeting in January. (I borrowed heavily from Clerk Sharon Wittke’s tentative minutes for this portion of the synopsis.)

There was an items that revolved around the preschool and daycare programs. One is the replacement of the present security system (installed in the double doors by the church’s entryway) with a simpler and more reliable system. The programs are willing to pay for the system and its installation. The session appreciated that both programs are working together on this and asked the session for its input.

Of course, we also took care of our monthly business. November Meeting Minutes and financial reports were approved. It is anticipated that the church will have a surplus of around \$10,000.00 this year due to the extraordinary generosity of its members.

Worship Ministry presented a particularly pertinent report. It focused on upgrading the hardware and software needed to better support our hybrid style of worship. To improve the quality of the virtual streaming of the service -and to make as user friendly friendly and reliable as possible, we will need to take several big steps. The first of these steps was the purchase of a 2021 24-inch iMac with Apple M1 chip (\$1,899 before tax) and powered USB hub, cords and and/or other peripherals.

Equally important was a motion from Mission Ministry: a request for congregational participation in the ‘Sponsor Circle Program’ which is a resettlement initiative that allows a group of individuals to take on the responsibility of welcoming and directly supporting an Afghan newcomer to our community. Much more about this will be shared with you all in the weeks to come.

There were a few other items, a couple of which were tabled because the agenda was so full- as you can tell by the length of this synopsis.

**Kerry**

SEEKING THE FAITH - SHARING THE SPIRIT - SERVING GOD'S PEOPLE

---

Financial Report November

92% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 213,376.88	\$ 225,981.00	94%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 16,976.38	\$ 12,000.00	141%
Per Capita	\$ 2,043.48	\$ 2,500.00	82%
Trans. From Investments		\$ 11,806.31	
Miscellaneous	\$ 15,230.48	\$ 19,040.00	80%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 247,627.22</b>	<b>\$ 271,327.31</b>	<b>91%</b>

Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 12,065.09	\$ 13,520.00	89%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 65,301.50	\$ 75,798.76	86%
Staff	\$ 60,481.13	\$ 82,469.55	73%
Christian Ed.	\$ 1,466.67	\$ 4,900.00	30%
Worship & Music	\$ 1,021.33	\$ 3,575.00	29%
Comm/Administration	\$ 19,621.64	\$ 25,064.00	78%
Property/Capital	\$ 65,485.28	\$ 64,100.00	102%
Christian Nurture	\$ 309.30	\$ 1,900.00	16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 225,751.94</b>	<b>\$ 271,327.31</b>	<b>83%</b>

Revenues over Expenses \$ 21,875.28

Bank acct. 25947.81

**Oops**

The meeting was likely cancelled, he conjured

This appeared in some other church publication, not one of ours.



**First Presbyterian Church**  
Carbondale, Illinois

310 South University Ave., Carbondale, IL 62901

**Phone:** 618-549-2148    **Fax:** 618-549-6423

**Email:** office@firstprescdale.org (church office)

**Web Address:** <http://www.firstprescdale.org>

**Pastor:** Rev. Kerry Bean, Email: [pastorkerry@firstprescdale.org](mailto:pastorkerry@firstprescdale.org)



January  
2022



JANUARY 1852: The town of Carbondale laid out their plat along the Illinois Central Railroad. Four sites were set aside for the original four churches, including First Presbyterian.