



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

Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.
Faith Dialogues - 11:00 a.m.

Ash Wednesday - Mar. 2

Session - Mar. 8

Pizza & Movie - Mar. 14

Dinner Group - Mar. 17

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

A Lent Well Spent

A quick mental calculation tells me that I have spent 24 of my 31 years in ministry serving a congregation as pastor. That means many things, of course. One of those things is that I've written a newsletter article about the meaning of Lent 24 times now. Fortunately, my memory really isn't all that good. So, I pretty well forget what I've written in previous years. I assume you've pretty much forgotten what I've written about Lent over the past two years as well. It's like we're all starting on a blank slate.

Lent is a season on the church calendar that helps prepare us for the celebration of Easter and the resurrection of Jesus Christ. This year Lent runs from March 2 (Ash Wednesday) to April 14 (Maundy Thursday). Traditionally, Lent is associated with fasting and the practice of giving something up as a way of remembering the sacrifices that Christ made for us. Some folks take the practice of sacrifice for Lent very seriously, others not at all ("I'm giving up stewed prunes for Lent," for instance), and others yet have good intentions, but their convictions lose steam as they realize that 40 days is a *long* time. The real intention of Lent, I believe, is for us to remember what God has done- and continues to do. The gospel of John famously tells us that God sent Christ as an act of love for the whole world- and so that those who believe will receive eternal life. It is an act of grace. Lent firmly reminds us that this grace is not something that we've earned but is in fact a *gift* given to us because God always wants what is best for us.

It was the 18th Century Congregational minister Jonathan Edwards who compared human beings to a spider that God dangles over a fire and who ought to cast us in because of our sinfulness. Now I'm not going to go quite that far (since I'm in a good mood today) but the point is that we rely totally on God and God's grace for everything- including the promise of our own resurrections and eternal communion with God.

So, no, you do not have to break out the ashes and sackcloth this Lenten season. You do not even have to give up chocolate or coffee or Wordle. It will be enough, I think, to take a little time each day to stop and reflect upon just how profoundly deep God's love for us is, that the sacrifices Christ made included us, and that the promises of the Eastertide to come are for us as well.

Yes, it's probably true that I've had thoughts like these dozens of times already in my life and ministry. But that's okay; some things definitely bear repeating.

The blessings of Christ be with you!

Kerry



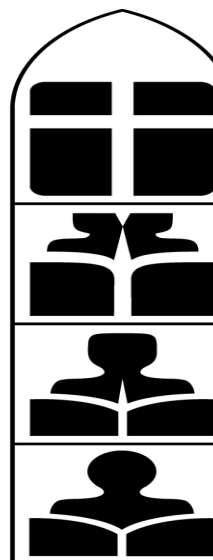
The Session is seeking folks to become at-large members in any of our ministries. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with short-term activities. For example, the Finance Ministry asks for additional help in the fall during the annual Stewardship campaign. Other ministries have similar short-term or needs as well. Please check with anyone on Session if you can volunteer for a specific project or activity, or would like to become an at-large member of a ministry.

Hymnals, Bibles and Hybrid Worship

It's hard to believe it's been two years since our church closed its doors during the initial months of the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, and following our return to the Sanctuary last summer, we have evolved to our current hybrid (in-person and online) style of worship. Folks can participate from the comfort of their home or while traveling; they can also view recorded worship services they may have missed on the church YouTube channel.

To help everyone feel involved in worship, congregants who regularly participate in worship via Zoom are invited to take home with them a purple "Glory to God" hymnal and/or a pew Bible. (If have one of both of these lying around your house, now is a good time to dig 'em out.) Pastor Kerry wants everyone to experience the tactile experience of thumbing through these books, while relying less on screen sharing of bulletin contents and hymn lyrics on the Zoom screen. If you'd like your own copies, please contact a member of the Worship Committee or the church office.

A TIME TO GROW



Faith Dialogues and daily devotions will both be centered on the book [A Time to Grow: Lenten Lessons From the Garden to the Table](#) by Kara Eidson. The book contains both daily meditations and weekly readings for discussion. Discounted copies are available for \$10 in the church office.

A link to the daily Lenten Devotions from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary will be posted on the church website.



According to the Presbyterian Mission website, Ash Wednesday "is a day of solemn assembly...a fast day, a day of mourning for our sin and the sin of all humanity before God, a recognition of our mortality save for the grace of God and a request that the Lord remember our creation and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more."

This year's Ash Wednesday Service will be March 2, 2022 at 6 p.m. in the rear of the Sanctuary. Imposition of ashes, communion, and interactive activities will encourage reflection, as—together—we enter the season of Lent. This will be an in-person (not hybrid) gathering, so please try to join us as we are reminded that "though we are dust, we are *baptized dust*, and that makes all the difference."

First Presbyterian Sponsor Circle for Afghan Newcomers Update

Five individuals, John Baker, Cindy Buys, Kathy and Pat Manfredi, and Ann Warner, formed a Sponsor Circle for Afghan newcomers and filed their application Friday, January 28. The application was approved the first week of February and we are now waiting to be matched with our Afghan family. In the meantime, we've been busy preparing a

house owned by Church of Good Shepherd. We are incredibly grateful for all of the financial contributions, donations of furniture and other items, and sweat equity, cleaning, moving furniture, and all the other activity that is occurring in preparation for our family. Stay tuned.



Carbondale Laundry Project Hits Record High

Fifty people took advantage of the Free Laundry Day February 9, including a family with a baby that slept on top of a washer through the entire morning! We were pleased to welcome Pastor Chambers from Bethel AME and Pastor

Kerry from FPC who joined us. Providing laundry services for this large group cost \$300 in quarters, so we are very grateful for the continuing financial support for this ongoing ministry. The next Laundry Day is the second Wednesday of the month, March 9. Volunteers and donations are always welcome.



Supporting our Brothers and Sisters in Mozambique and Malawi

Recently, the church heard from Mphatso Nguluwe, who visited our congregation as an International Peacemaker from Malawi in 2017. She asked for our prayers for the people of Mozambique and Malawi after Cyclone Anna, which hit Mozambique and the southern part of Malawi earlier this year. Many roads, 900,000 homes, and some other infrastructure were destroyed.

Malawi's electricity generation plant also was destroyed which has led to persistent blackouts in the whole country. According to Mphatso, this has put a strain on the hospitals and they are spending approximately \$100 per day to generate electricity in the hospitals where she works. In light of this news, the Mission Ministry agreed to send \$400 to the Synod of Livingstonia in Malawi.



Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Helping in Kentucky

The PDA National Response Team has been in western Kentucky assessing damage from the recent tornadoes and assisting with rebuilding efforts. PDA focuses on assisting with the financial needs of victims of natural disasters through grants, connecting people to services, and planning for long-term recovery. To learn more about PDA's work, visit <https://pda.pcusa.org/>. To help, remember to Give. Act. Pray.

Valentine's Day at the Warming Center

Many people showed their Christian love by bringing in Valentine's Day cards, some handmade. Mission received 38 cards and after adding a sweet treat, delivered all to the Warming Center just in time for Valentine's Day. Thank you for continuing to support the Warming Center.



Soup Fundraiser Results

Thank you for the wonderful response to the soup fundraiser in support of our Sponsor Circle's work to resettle an Afghan refugee family. Your contributions were over \$2,000. This will be incredibly helpful as the Sponsor Circle continues to work toward welcoming our new family.



The Dinner Group will meet at Hunan Restaurant Thursday, March 17 at 5:30 p.m. If you plan to attend, please contact Sharon Wittke at sharon-wittke@gmail.com or (618) 893-1869.

A poster for "Pizza & A Movie" featuring a colorful illustration of a pizza, a movie camera, and a fork and knife. The text "Pizza & A Movie" is written in a large, stylized font.
A poster for the movie "Singing in the Rain" featuring Gene Kelly, Donald O'Connor, and Debbie Reynolds. The text "SINGING IN THE RAIN" is written in a large, bold font.

Pizza & Movie Night Monday, March 14 at 6 p.m. will feature another very old (but wonderful) film, **SINGING IN THE RAIN**. Supper will be the usual pizza from Quatros, plus salad, fruit, cookies, something to drink and more. As we finish our meal the video will be started. Come join us. Contact Kitty Trescott to let her know you plan to be there: 618-203-1807, Trescott@midwest.net or just tell her when you see her. No charge. Bring a friend.



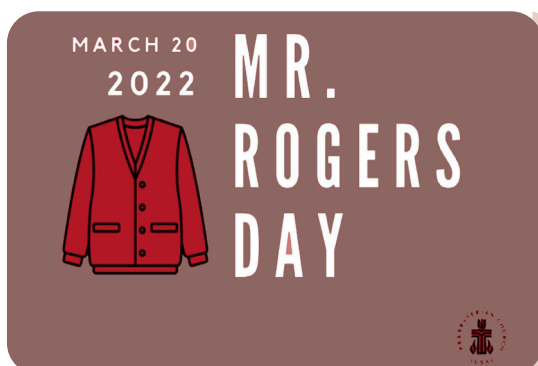
A Confirmation Camp for young people will be held April 1 through 3 at Camp Carew. The cost will be \$50 per attendee. Interested parties may obtain more information at CampCarew.org. This camp will not replace the regular Confirmation Class at First Presbyterian Church that is presently planned for Fall 2022

Thank you, Rural King

During the spring, Rural King sponsors their "Church Week" fundraiser, during which 10% of designated purchases are donated back to First Presbyterian Church (or the Christian-affiliated organization of your choice). The Carbondale Rural King recently made a \$100.00 donation to "First Pres," which was received by Facilities Elder Rolanda Quick. Please watch your email "alerts" messages and the church Facebook page for notice of the next "Church Week" fundraising event.



Poto by Lisa Hollabaugh

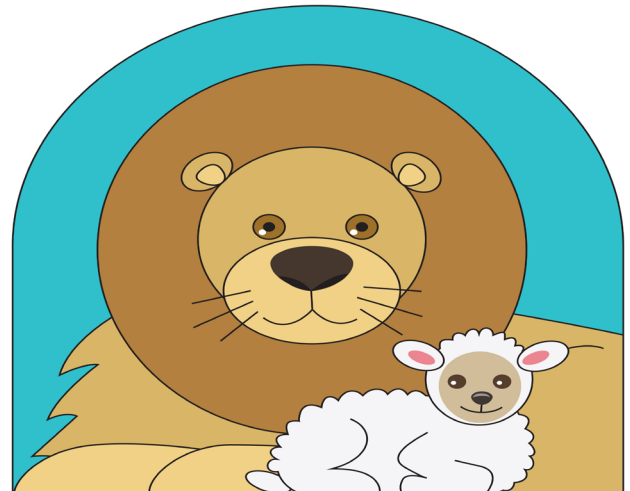


Did you know that Fred Rogers—fondly known as “Mr. Rogers”—was an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament for the Presbyterian Church (USA)? He was a pioneer in the world of Christian education and child development. His work around peace and reconciliation are worth remembering. On his birthday, March 20, the PC(USA) highlights all we can learn from Mr. Rogers. More information and resources may be found at www.pcusa.org/mrogers.

How fortunate we are in the Northern Hemisphere to be able to observe Lent during spring. It's a perfect time for reflection, new ideas, and personal growth. As we observe the greening of the earth itself, the Green Guardians group has a proposal. Let's consider using the Lenten season, however else we might observe it, to heighten our awareness of the natural world and our responsibility to it. We invite you to think of an environmental cause you are concerned about and take a personal action to help correct the problem. This is truly a situation where if you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem. Decide on a specific action and try to practice that faithfully throughout Lent. Later you can reflect on what that experience meant and how some new and better habits might have emerged from it.

Here are some ideas:

- ☐ Think about the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle concept (the first of those being the most important). Think of ways to reduce items in the waste stream by avoiding the purchase of new items or ones excessively packaged or ones that traveled a long distance to get to you. See if you can repurpose items or recycle more conscientiously.
- ☐ Research your carbon footprint and determine ways you might reduce it, including eating less red meat and dairy products and driving less or more efficiently.
- ☐ Consider an energy audit of your home and find ways to reduce electricity use.
- ☐ Reduce your water bill by using water more efficiently.
- ☐ Be aware of current corporate and legislative developments that impact the environment, and make your concerns known.
- ☐ Consider setting aside funds to support environmental organizations or socially responsible investments.
- ☐ Plan how to convert some of your lawn into a garden of native flowering plants.
- ☐ Think about planting a small, raised bed garden or bush tomatoes in planters.
- ☐ Share other creative ideas that will shine a *green light* on the religious practice of Lent.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4 - Peter Hertzing | 2 - Lance & Beth Forsberg |
| 5 - Gary Merideth | 15 - Bob & Elena Balaita Luebbers |
| 6 - Pat Manfredi | 23 - Ron & Beth Malmquist |
| 12 - Pam Holt | 24 - Jay & Mary Jane Brooks |
| 12 - Bill Baumann | |
| 13 - Tracy Prosser | |
| 24 - Dorothy Baker | |
| 28 - Beth Malmquist | |
| 30 - Susan Davenport | |

So after those Shrove Tuesday pancakes or the Mardi Gras treats, be prepared for a little Lenten change of behavior. What better time than Lent to think about God's green earth and its bounty for all of us?



As a More Light Presbyterians member congregation, we proudly support the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual & Others) community. March 31—International Transgender Day of Visibility—is a day to celebrate transgender people, raise awareness of discrimination they face worldwide, and celebrate their contri-

butions to society. This year, the Rainbow Cafe LGBTQ Center is sponsoring a rally and march along the Carbondale Strip to raise awareness of anti-trans discrimination and cheer on the trans communities and their loved ones. Gather at the Carbondale Pavilion Thursday, March 31, 2022 at 6 p.m. to show your support!

DAYCARE

Last month, our children enjoyed discussing the wonders of winter, celebrating Chinese New Year, and celebrating Valentine's Day. We had fun making special hats, having fun with Chinese fans, discussing the Chinese culture, and learning how to say "hello" and "goodbye" in Chinese. We also had a Valentine's Day celebration with many fun activities and a valentine exchange. We made our annual "I love" list with the children and we would like to share a few.

"I love...animals, Mommy, and Daddy."- Mimi

"I love...remote control monster trucks."- Pax

"I love...my Mom and Dad, my cat Mimi, and my sister."- Miri

"I love...my teacher."- Gilliahna

"I love...my Mommy, Daddy, and brother."- Emerson

"I love...my red car."- Nixon

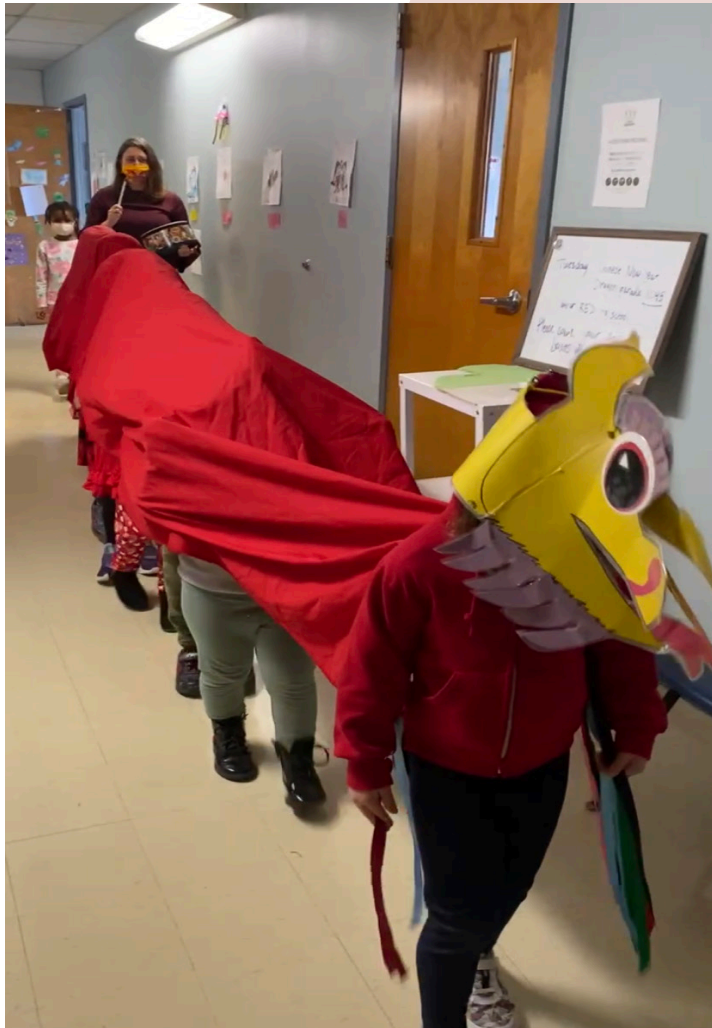
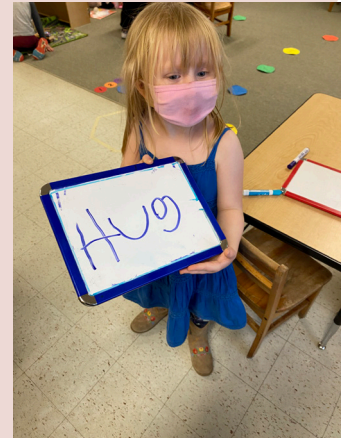
"I love...my Mama, Dada, brother, and grandparents."-Everly

This month we look forward to the warmer weather and the upcoming season of Spring. We will begin discussions about Spring, celebrate St. Patrick's Day, and have a Spring Spirit Week- including Sparkle Day, Rainbow Day, Flower/Spring attire Day, Sports Team Day, and PJ Day. The kiddos and staff love to participate and have such fun dressing up according to the themes. We wish everyone a super de duper month ahead.

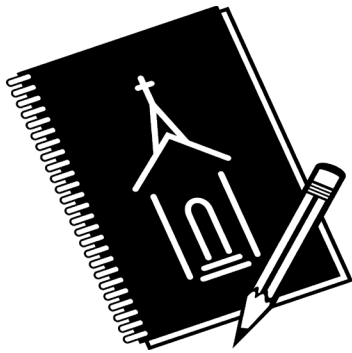


preschool

The school year is flying by and we can't believe there are only 3 more months left. We had a wonderful February celebrating love, friendship, and Chinese New Year. This month, the Frog class will continue their cultural studies unit and learning about dental health. The Frog and Polliwog classes will both be learning about the upcoming season of spring and the life cycles of plants, frogs and butterflies. Enjoy these photos of the children performing our annual Dragon Parade and eating ramen with chopsticks.



Photos furnished by Preschool



Synopsis of Session Meeting February 8, 2022

We began the meeting with prayer and brief devotional from The Daily Feast. I once again posed the discussion question "What things do we feel 'locked' into as a church, and is it worth trying to 'unlock' them?" Over the months we've created a pretty long list of items to explore in greater depth. This list is helping me discern what we will be working on during the remainder of my covenant pastorate.

We then moved to a discussion about how to reconfigure the session for 2022, recognizing that we will be down to 12 Ruling Elders to provide leadership for our various ministries. Again, this was a lively and fruitful discussion. We ended up asking Nominating Committee to create a template for the new configuration. We will look at their suggestions (and perhaps tweak them) during the March meeting.

There was an approval of a brief pro forma statement (for the satisfaction of the IRS requirements) that my compensation package as Covenant Pastor does in fact include a housing allowance.

We set Sunday, March 6 as the date for the installation of new Elders and Deacons.

We then proceeded with hearing the reports of the clerk, the treasurer, the ministries, and the Covenant Pastor. All were approved. Here are a few highlights:

- ☐ Per Capita has been paid to the Presbytery but we need to remind folks to contribute to per capita giving for this year.
- ☐ Giving towards the annual budget is off to a great start.
- ☐ Green Guardians is planning a trashless picnic for April 24 on the greenspace (where else?)
- ☐ Mission Ministry reported continuing progress in its support of the CAIRS program and its work with the Church of the Good Shepherd UCC in providing housing for an Afghan refugee family.
- ☐ Approval of an upgrade in internet infrastructure for the sanctuary and office areas

We concluded with prayer.

It was another good, full meeting in which we did important work. The session continues to thank the congregation for their support. As always, if you have questions or comments about this synopsis, let me or another one of the session members know.

Kerry

Thank you for your support of First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale and its efforts to seek the faith, share the spirit and serve God's people. Charitable contributions may be directed to specific church projects or ministries and are tax-deductible under 501(c)(3) guidelines (consult your tax professional). In addition to the Sunday morning offering, you may donate via direct deposit (form available from the church office), by sending checks in the mail, by clicking the "Give Now" button at www.firstpresdale.org, or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.



Financial Report J January 2022

8% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 51,875.00	\$ 228,824.00	23%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 1,370.96	\$ 16,000.00	9%
Per Capita	\$ 244.00	\$ 2,500.00	10%
Trans. From Investments	\$ -	\$ 15,111.41	0%
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,167.62	\$ 17,230.00	24%
Totals	\$ 57,657.58	\$ 279,665.41	21%

Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 104.62	\$ 13,520.00	1%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 6,368.92	\$ 83,936.86	8%
Staff	\$ 5,220.08	\$ 82,969.55	6%
Christian Ed.	\$ 8.97	\$ 3,800.00	0%
Worship & Music	\$ -	\$ 3,875.00	0%
Comm/Administration	\$ 5,613.32	\$ 20,564.00	27%
Property/Capital	\$ 7,533.34	\$ 69,100.00	11%
Christian Nurture	\$ -	\$ 1,900.00	0%
Total	\$ 24,849.25	\$ 279,665.41	9%



Thanks to Sue for overlooking this ministry for 8 years!

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



March 1872: John Harris Barton became owner of the local newspaper named "The New Era". He continued supervision until appointed Postmaster in September.

March 1883: The Session voted to have both Deacons and Deaconesses for the first time.