



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Linda Brandon / [firstpresnews@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresnews@gmail.com) / [www.firstprescdale.org](http://www.firstprescdale.org)  
First Presbyterian Church 310 S. University Avenue Carbondale IL 62901  
Find us on Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL

Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship - 10:30 a.m.  
Faith Dialogues - 10:45 a.m. in Lounge

Bible Study with Bill & JP in Lounge  
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.

Bible Study with Kerry via Zoom  
Wednesdays 3:30 p.m.

"First Sunday" March 3

Session Meeting March 12

Free Laundry Day March 13

Dinner Group March 21

Palm Sunday Worship March 24 ,

Maundy Thursday March 28  
Meal & Worship in Fellowship Hall

Transgender Day of Visibility  
Trans Resource Fair March 30  
Rainbow Cafe LGBTQ Center

Easter Morning Worship March 31

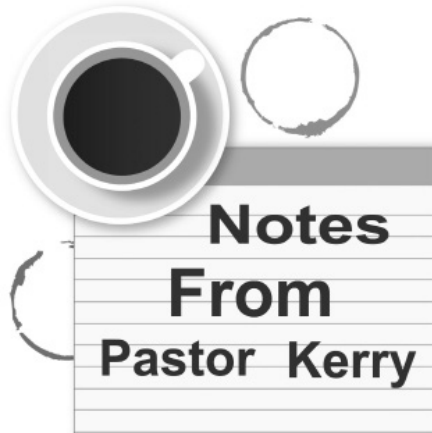
## **Church Office Hours**

Monday through Thursday  
9:00-11:30 a.m.  
& 12:30-4:00 p.m.

## **Phone Extensions**

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

*Christ is  
Risen!  
Christ is  
Risen Indeed!  
Alleluia!*



## Why Easter Matters

The earliness of Lent and Easter this year may not be unnerving per se, but it is unusual. I'm nearly always writing about Easter for the *April* newsletter. It's almost like the Groundhog not seeing his shadow has brought about an early spring *and* an early Eastertide.

But that's not to say that we haven't been thinking about the centrality of Easter to our faith. I borrow this small paragraph from the Catholic.com magazine:

Every Sunday—even in Lent—is a “little Easter.” We gather on Sundays because it is the Lord's day of resurrection. Sundays are never days of penance. They are always days of celebration of Christ's victory over sin and death.

Easter and its promise of resurrection to new life is almost as foundational to the Christian faith as our belief in the existence of God and God's triune nature of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. (Or if you prefer, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.) In other words, you can't have Christianity without Jesus Christ. Christ was crucified and died on Good Friday and yet was raised again to new life by God on Easter Sunday. It is upon this act that we teach that resurrection is for us all. And with it comes the promise of eternal communion with God.

If everything I've written so far seems extremely basic, then you already know why Easter matters. Easter is God changing the very nature of life and death for us. The door has been opened. The drawbridge lowered. The obstacles (even our sins) have been removed and the way made straight. God's gracious will will always be done.

So, of course, all of this is the best good news there is. But Jesus also warned his disciples not to look past the here and now while imagining what heaven will be like. Following Christ means living out our faith in ways that sometimes call for real courage and a willingness to get seriously uncomfortable. Jesus spoke out against injustice and called for change. He associated with people of little or no status. His mission was to bring the kingdom of God more and more fully into the world. It was his way of putting Easter into action.

Easter Day is almost here, my friends, ready or not. Dye the eggs and buy the chocolate bunnies. But let us also celebrate each and every little Easter joyously. Let us do the Christlike work of making Easter an action verb- in our community and in the world around us.

Peace and Blessings,

*Kerry*



## So, What DOES “Maundy Thursday” Mean?

Recorded around 1250–1300, the word maundy comes from the Old French *mande*, in turn from the Latin *mandātum*, which means “mandate or command.” The mandate or command at hand refers to the words Jesus is believed to have spoken after washing the feet of his disciples during the Last Supper: “*A new commandment I give you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.*”

In the ancient world, a host offered water for guests to wash their feet (sandals being the footwear of the day) as a sign of hospitality, welcoming and care. It was also an act of humility, since servants often washed the feet of their masters. Christians interpret Jesus’s washing of his disciples’ feet as an illustration of a humble mission of service, or a cleansing of sin. During their final meal, Jesus’s new commandment urged his disciples to humble themselves and show forgiveness to all.

**Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**, we won’t engage in the washing of feet; rather, we will commemorate the Last Supper by partaking in a simple meal of bread and soup, followed by a brief service and Communion. Some cultures believe lentil or bean soup is appropriate for a Maundy Thursday dinner, while others believe any kind of light soup signifies humility and service. **If you can contribute soup or bread for this service, please contact Kathy Manfredi or Wendi Zea.**

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Our Lenten **Faith Dialogues** discussion will focus on ***Forgiveness*** by Richard L. Killmer. Copies of the material will be available on the table at the rear of the sanctuary; the readings are brief, and you need not necessarily prepare ahead of time. Join us in the Lounge (formerly known as the Youth Room) Sunday mornings at 10:45 a.m. (those who arrive later will be forgiven).

Pictured at right are **Children’s Sunday School** participants who enjoyed the story of the Prodigal Son, who—after leaving his father’s home—went to our basement fun space where they paid for all activities and food until their money ran out. Pictured also are some pigs they fed when they were as desperate as the youngest (prodigal) son. Adults Keith Beyler and Bill Martens played the parts of the prodigal’s dad and older brother when they (as the prodigal) returned home.

This month we look forward to creating Holy Week banners for Fellowship Hall, and to the arrival of eggs that will become caterpillars, then butterflies, as Lent proceeds to Easter. Photo: Judy Beyler.





# MISSION Updates

## CARBONDALE LAUNDRY PROJECT

Volunteers at the February Free Laundry Day introduced the Tru Earth laundry strips, which were a huge success. Volunteers were able to pocket 20+ strips at a time and found them easy to use; recipients were generally amazed as the cleaning results. The team used 205 strips this time; this means that the recent donation we received from the Tru Earth company will result in about four years' worth of free laundry loads.

We continue to sell Tru Earth products on Sunday during Fellowship, and online at [tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject](https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject). Please keep bringing quarters. All proceeds are used to cover the costs of using washers and dryers on Free Laundry Day.

## SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Woohoo! We raised \$2673.00 in the fight against hunger through the 2024 Souper Bowl of Caring collection. Donations will be sent to the Good Samaritan Food Pantry.

## "FIRST SUNDAY" MARCH 3, 2024

For the March First Sunday collection, we will continue to focus on our local missions including the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, the Carbondale Warming Center, Feed My Sheep at Bethel AME, Presbyterian Child Development Center Daycare and Preschool, the Carbondale Laundry Project, and the Diaper Bank of Southern Illinois.

## COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

The Presbyterians (Cindy Buys, Elizabeth Hamilton, Peter Hertzog, Lisa Hollabaugh, Sarah Merideth, Jane Swanson and Ann Warner) raised over \$10,000.00 for the Carbondale Warming Center through the "Coldest Night of the Year" fundraiser. As of February 20, 2024 our team was in third place nationally for the highest amount raised. Thank you to everyone for your generosity!





The Green Guardians of First Presbyterian Church celebrates the City of Carbondale's Forestry Management function (part of the Parks department) as it seeks to enhance Carbondale with tree-friendly conservation. We thought you might want to know about some of this good work being done in our community. Arbor Day is April 26 this year.

Here are some accomplishments over the past few years to celebrate City Council goals:

- Named Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- Received multiple prestigious Tree City USA Growth Awards from the National Arbor Day Foundation.
- As a member of the SIU Tree Board Committee, assisted the university in receiving National Awards as a Tree Campus USA.
- Planted fifty replacement trees throughout the community.
- Continued with an aggressive pruning program to clear residential sidewalks, street lighting, and City streets of obstructing limbs and other vegetation.
- Removed forty-five ash trees infected with EAB (Emerald Ash Borer).
- Removed a total of nine trees that were either dead, dying, or diseased from Turley and Tatum Heights Parks and spaded twelve trees.

Further actions the department has pursued include:

- Improve the aesthetics of the welcoming corridors into Carbondale.
- Enhance curb appeal, including in areas adjacent to SIU campus.
- Assess and plant a diverse variety of native trees and plants throughout the community and in parks.
- Promote Tree City USA honors and strive to obtain Tree Growth Award honors.
- Improve and enhance the overall appearance of the community by incorporating best management practices for pruning, planting, spraying, landscaping, and beautification mowing.
- Continue to serve as the Illinois APWA Chapter representative on the State of Illinois Urban and Community Forestry Committee.
- Continue to serve on SIU's Tree Board and Arboretum Advisory Committee.
- Resume Tree Walks with the City Arborist.
- Continue to utilize Ameren's "Right Tree, Right Place" tree grant program where appropriate.

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Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement (SILIR) classes beginning mid-March include "Hinduism Revisited," "More Munro" (Alice Munro short stories), "A Brief History of Revolutionary America" and "Restoring American Statesmanship." For more information or to register, visit the SILIR web page at [conferenceservices.siu.edu/silir](http://conferenceservices.siu.edu/silir) or call (618) 536-7751.

March 6, 2024, SIU Professor of International Law Cindy Buys will discuss "Ukraine: Report from the Scene," sharing her impressions of the Ukraine situation following her second visit to this area over the recent holidays. This event is from 10:30-11:15 a.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church at 1501 W. Chautauqua Road in Carbondale.

Carbondale City Manager Gary Williams will speak at the March 20, 2024 SILIR meeting and will provide information about city improvements, including updates on the Transportation Center and outdoor venue. This free presentation, open to the public, is 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Epiphany Lutheran Church; a social hour begins at 9:30 a.m.





## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



February 14, 2024, Pastor Kerry led an intimate Ash Wednesday service for about 20 participants. Communion was served and the imposition of ashes was observed, with congregants receiving ashes on either their forehead (Keith Beyler, left) or back of the hand (David Warner, right). Special thanks to Worship Ministry for coordinating this service and to Kathy Manfredi for her piano accompaniment. Photos: Lisa Hollabaugh



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## DINNER GROUP

Our post-Valentine's Day dinner was held at Flame Bar & Grill. We had fifteen attendees, including some dear friends who have not been able to join us for some time. It was a delightful evening of shared stories and good food.

Our March 21 gathering will be at St. Nicholas Brewing Company at the Southern Illinois Airport. Email [jillhertzing@aol.com](mailto:jillhertzing@aol.com) if you plan to attend.



Photo: Lisa Hollabaugh



## Camp Carew

Camp Carew information for the 2024 summer program has been distributed. Children and youth, kindergarten through high school, are sure to find a good week to attend. Register online at [campcarew.org](http://campcarew.org); a small deposit is required to secure your reservation. This year, scholarships will again be available for one week at Camp Carew through First Presbyterian of Carbondale. Contact Kitty Trescott for a scholarship application and more information.



## Session Synopsis

The session met Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00 p m in the conference room. We began, as we often do, with discussion items. This month our discussions included:

- ☐ The structure of the session moving forward. We talked about shifting more energy and attention to membership ministries and allowing faith development to become a small group ministry. Even after the hard work of the Nominating Committee, we still have one vacancy on session.
- ☐ We further discussed the future of the daycare program.
- ☐ We agreed to donate \$200 to the Kingdom Builders, a work group from Cornerstone Church who helped repair the playground equipment.
- ☐ We agreed to have a booth at the Rainbow Café's Transgender Resource Fair on March 30.
- ☐ We selected April 7 as the day for the Installation of new officers.
- ☐ We discussed the status of the search process for a new pastor. We are hoping to set up a meeting with a representative of the presbytery's Committee on Ministry soon.

In regular business, the minutes and financial reports were approved. The various Ministries also reported:

- ☐ From Mission: Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense will be hosting a meeting on June 1 (which is National Gun Violence Day).
- ☐ From Facilities: the kitchen refrigerator caught fire earlier in the month. We are replacing it with a standard size fridge/freezer with an ice maker. In addition, work will start later this spring to repair the tuckpointing and copper flashing on the bell tower. There are monies in savings to cover these expenses.

Our next scheduled meeting is March 12.

*Kerry*





## PCDC PLAYGROUND TRANSFORMATION



The Kingdom Builders from Cornerstone Church recently made repairs and upgrades to the PCDC (Presbyterian Child Development Center) playground structure. First Presbyterian Church purchased and contributed a new slide, four swings and hanging hardware. Pictured is the playground before (top), during (middle) and after (right) project completion. Photos: Rolanda Quick & Kimberly Tyra.





# PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL

Happy March! Spring is just around the corner and only three months are left in the school year. We have seen some beautiful flowers come out of hibernation and are looking forward to warmer weather.

We had a wonderful February celebrating love, friendship, and family. This month, the Frog class will be learning about St. Patrick's Day, Teeth Dentist, Spring, and Earth Day. The Polliwog and Tadpole classes will learn about Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss, and opposites.

We give a BIG special thanks to Kingdoms Builders and First Presbyterian Church Mission Ministry for repairing and upgrading our playground structure (see photos on page 8) and making it a fun and safe place for us to play.

## DAYCARE

We are looking forward to the month ahead...beautiful sights and sounds to come as spring is on it's way.

Last month, the children enjoyed celebrating black history month, Valentine's Day, President's Day/US presidents, and community helpers. The children enjoyed exchanging valentines, having a party, and talking about things they love. Some of the things they love are... bread (Daniel), grown up dogs and cats (Gilliahna), milk (Scarlett), shaking rattles (William), drinking 5 ounce bottles(Jonathon and Theo), and cars (Kiro), to name a few.

This month we will be discussing the weather, St. Patrick's Day, spring, and Easter. It is always fun and amazing to learn about the season of spring and also talk about the wacky weather it can bring. We will also look forward to discussing Easter and having a fun and eggciting egg hunt! We will work hard to see the Easter bunny and then try to find the eggs that he/she/it leaves behind.

We wish everyone a bright and beautiful month ahead. Happy Easter!



## MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

4 - Peter Hertzing  
5 - Gary Merideth  
6 - Pat Manfredi  
12 - Pam Holt  
12 - Bill Baumann  
13 - Tracy Prosser  
18 - Joshua Whitehurst  
24 - Dorothy Baker  
28 --Beth Malmquist  
30 - Susan Davenport

2 - Lance and Beth Forsberg  
15 - Bob and Elena Luebbers  
23 - Ronald and Beth Malmquist  
24 - Jay and Mary Jane Brooks



Saturday, March 30, 2024 in downtown Carbondale, we'll celebrate International Transgender Day of Visibility and honor the full spectrum of gender expressions and identities on display among God's children.

Recognizing the fear, hatred and misuse of scripture wielded by some in power, the 2018 PC(USA) General Assembly noted that "the image of God expansively and specifically includes people of all gender identities including transgender, cis-gender, gender non-binary people, and people of all gender expressions."

We celebrate this truth and rejoice in the lives, accomplishments and dignity of trans people

in the Church and in the world. We call on all people to commit to protecting the rights, dignity and quality of life of all our siblings.

## NOTE NEW DATE!

A colorful poster for Southern IL Pride. The background is black with a rainbow-colored torn paper effect on the left. Text includes 'Save The Date!', 'June 14th, 15th, &amp; 16th 2024', 'Washington Square &amp; Town Square Pavillion', 'Events all Weekend Main Festival on the 15th', 'Email: soilpridecollective@gmail.com', and 'Watch event page for more information!'. On the right, it says 'Southern IL Pride' with a rainbow outline of Illinois, 'Hosted by:', 'rainbow cafe' with a rainbow magnifying glass logo, and 'SOUTHERN ILLINOIS PRIDE COLLECTIVE' with a rainbow flag logo.





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](http://www.firstprescdale.org) or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Financial Report January 2024

8% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 61,299.00	\$ 220,000.00	28%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 546.70	\$ 12,000.00	5%
Per Capita	\$ 900.00	\$ 1,500.00	60%
Trans. From Investments	\$ -	\$ 41,371.01	0%
Miscellaneous	\$ 3,435.15	\$ 19,225.00	18%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 66,180.85</b>	<b>\$ 294,096.01</b>	

Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ -	\$ 13,770.00	0%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 6,677.37	\$ 88,573.99	8%
Staff	\$ 6,660.90	\$ 88,577.02	8%
Faith Development	\$ -	\$ 3,050.00	0%
Worship & Music	\$ -	\$ 3,475.00	0%
Comm/Administration	\$ 1,145.60	\$ 18,150.00	6%
Property/Capital	\$ 13,736.57	\$ 76,100.00	18%
Christian Nurture	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	0%

<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 28,220.44</b>	<b>\$ 294,096.01</b>	<b>10%</b>
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Revenues over Expenses	\$ 37,960.41	\$ 37,960.41
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Judas said, "Rabbit!" and kissed him.

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



**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Carbondale, Illinois**

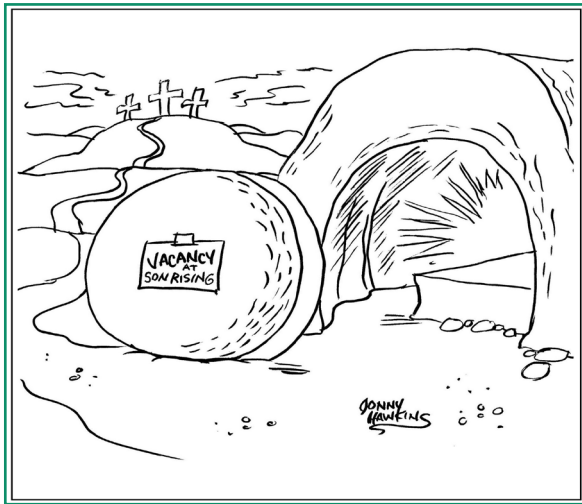
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**Email:** office@firstprescdale.org (Church Office)

**Web Address:** www.firstprescdale.org

**Pastor:** Rev. Kerry Bean, Email: pastorkerry@firstprescdale.org



Stone for our church was donated by Hugh Lauder who owned a quarry in Boskeydell. The stone was dressed at the quarry and hauled to the site under the supervision of John Hayden and J. J. Arnold. It was put in place without the sound of a hammer. From: *One Hundred Years "About the Lord's Work"*