



The Carbondale Presbyterian

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2021

Embracing
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

Happy New Year!

Doesn't it feel good to say that? I don't remember a year in my lifetime quite as challenging as 2020 has been. Do any of you?

I am so ready to move on the promise of 2021: hopefully back to at least *some* of the normalcy of life as it was pre-pandemic. And hopefully to learn and grow into tomorrow.

Not that a simple turn of the calendar will erase all the problems we face. They will still be with us and need our attention. But a new year does seem to instill renewed optimism and hope, so I'm going with it- and I encourage you to come along for the ride!

At our December meeting, I asked the members of the session to present ideas for programs or events or activities or whatever else that we as a congregation might do for 2021 that could epitomize new creativity and new energy. And they did! (You can check out my Session Synopsis article to get all the details.) The point is that we as a church aren't just *waiting* for things to get better. We are adapting to challenging circumstances while continuing to live out our missions and ministries in our community for the sake of Jesus Christ.

I also wanted to take a moment to thank all of you who participated in the Stewardship Campaign as we wrapped up 2020. Thanks to those who served on the actual Campaign Committee, of course, but also thanks to all of you who pledged to continue your generous support of First Presbyterian Church. Your gifts of your time, talents, and treasure go far beyond what we can print on a financial report. You are investing in a bright future for our congregation!

I am sure that 2021 will bring challenges and obstacles of its own. (Just this morning, there are reports coming out of England about a *new* strain of the coronavirus, for instance.) But I am also sure that with God's help we can face this coming year with faith and hope- and even joy. We will not stand alone. We will have one another. We will have the presence of God, the love of Christ, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. And we are joined with those of the faith all over the world.

So, let us jump into the new year with abandon and courage. Let us live our faith and sing our faith. Let us seize the new day- day by day by day.

Kerry



Thanks for the beautiful music you provided for our services this Christmas season.

Thanks to these hard working folks who toiled behind the scenes keeping us all connected during the Christmas season services (and throughout this Covid crisis) with their internet magic.



ADVENT SERVICES



During online Thursday evening Advent Vespers services, Pastor Kerry delivered a brief message from the decorative hearth in his new Carbondale home. Kathy Manfredi's stirring music accompanied meditative music videos. Participants joined in lighting candles on the Advent wreath, before contemplating two minutes of silence and Pastor Kerry's parting "Small Advent Gift." Many thanks to Pastor Kerry and the worship production team for bringing us this unique and beautiful worship experience this season.



Photos furnished by Lisa Hollabaugh

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

Betty Arnold

October 16, 1927– December 11, 2020

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



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

Randall Heins

January 26, 1935 – December 21, 2020

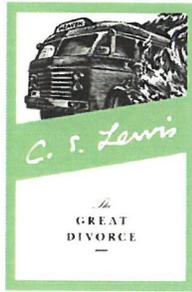
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

*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



FAITH DIALOGUES IN 2021



January 10, we will begin a discussion of *The Great Divorce* by C. S. Lewis that will continue until Lent. This book is a "classic Christian allegorical tale about a bus ride from hell to heaven...an extraordinary meditation upon good and evil, grace and judgment." Contact Jane Swanson to reserve your free copy of the book, and pick it up at the First Saturday drive-through on January 2. Discussions will begin after worship via Zoom (following a brief fellowship time).

FIRST SATURDAYS

We received many donations on December's First Saturday, including baking pans for Bethel AME Church whose Feed My Sheep program is now providing two meals a day, four days a week to the Warming Center, lots of canned and packaged goods for the food pantry, and dozens and dozens of socks, hats, and mittens. Monetary donations were also received as well as items for the Diaper Bank and the Presbyterian Day Care center. The generosity of church members is especially evident on these First Saturdays.

SOCKS AND MITTENS TREE

Thank you to everyone who donated socks, mittens, hats, scarves and underwear to our tree this year! The Mission Ministry delivered the items to the local schools where they were happily received.

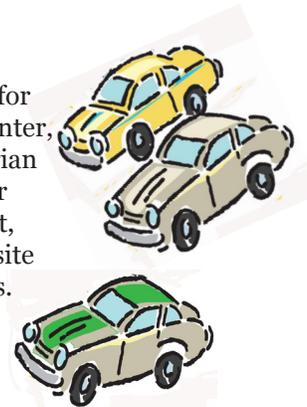


Photo by Cindy Buys

FIRST SATURDAY DRIVE-THROUGH

JANUARY 2, 11 a.m. to noon

Our next First Saturday event will continue to collect donated items for our usual recipients (Warming Center, Good Sam Food Pantry, Presbyterian Child Development Center, Diaper Bank, Carbondale Laundry Project, Bethel AME). See the church website for current lists of requested items.



YARNING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: January 3 on Zoom

The Yarning to Make a Difference group will meet Sunday, January 3 at noon, using the Zoom link sent via email to the regular attendees. This small group is open to anyone who enjoys knitting or crocheting, or who wants to learn to knit or crochet. We work on shawls, baby blankets, and other mission-related projects. Contact Jane Swanson (jlsphd@gmail.com) for more information.

THANK YOU!

The Mission Ministry received thank you letters from several of the recipients of the church's generosity.

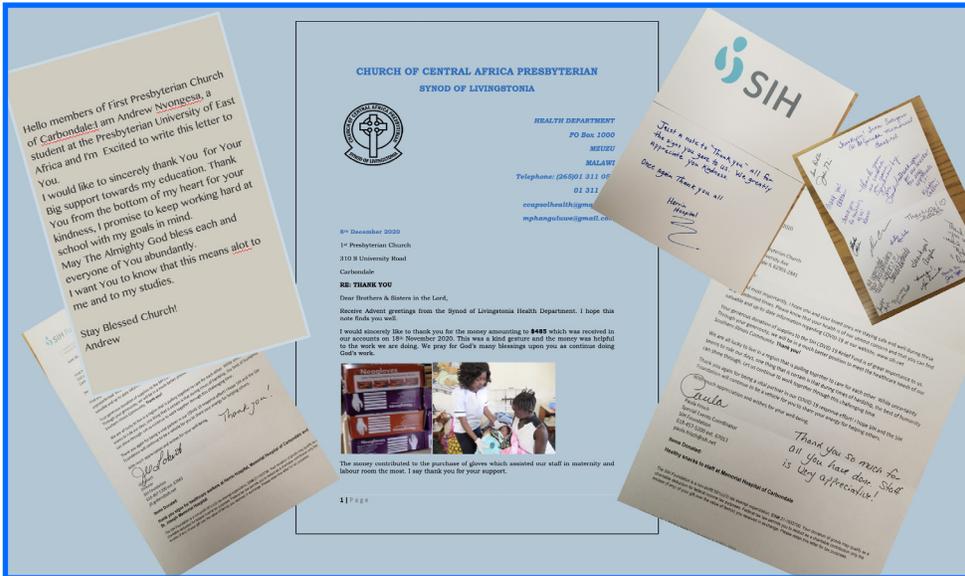


Photo by Cindy Buys

I received many cards honoring my ninetieth birthday from Church members, and I extend my thanks to the entire Church for the kind thoughts. I would try to write to thank each member but I might miss some, which would be worse than thanking everyone.

Donald Darling



January Birthdays:

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| 5 - Dee Glover | 19 - Jim Milford |
| 9 - Jean Pulliam | 20 - Phyllis Beck |
| 12 - Carol Good | 21 - Brenda Gilbert |
| 16 - Carol King | 26 - Randall Heins |
| 17 - Reona Daly | 27 - Martha Peters |
| 17 - Jenny Prest | 30 - Siena Sullivan |

January Anniversaries:

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



DAYCARE



The PCDC Daycare wishes everyone a New Year full of happiness and hope. We are very thankful for everyone who helped support us throughout last year. We are looking forward to a better year ahead.



Last month, the children enjoyed celebrating the holidays and making crafts and gifts for their families. Christmas songs and joy were shared as we decorated our center and celebrated with our school family. We extend a big thank you to the faith development ministry for providing new books as gifts for the children.



This month we will enjoy doing winter activities and continuing to work on our studies. The little's are learning all about their letters, numbers, shapes, animals, and the wonderful world of potty training. They are also enjoying music, art, and learning how to manage the big emotions of being toddler's and two's. The big's have continued to work on their studies, experiments, academics, and have begun recognizing sight words. We have begun labeling everything as they are on their way to reading. Hooray!



We are proud of the PCDC Daycare's teachers and staff for the tremendous amount of hard work they have done and continue to do for the children, building, and community.



PRESCHOOL



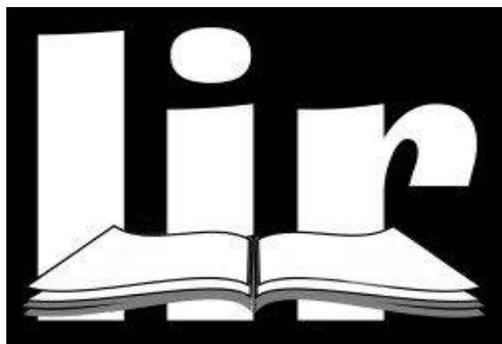
Our first semester of preschool flew by. During our last week in December the Frog class enjoyed a festive fun-filled Winter Wonder Land Week. Each day we had a different theme; elf day, Arctic animal day, favorite Christmas character day, favorite Christmas book day and of course our favorite Polar Express and Pajama day.

We are so thankful for the start of a new year and the opportunity to continue to serve the children and families of our local communities. This month we will begin learning about other countries around the world. The children are truly fascinated to explore and learn more about other people and their cultures. We hope everyone has a wonderful January.



Photos furnished by Preschool





S.I. Learning in Retirement

Life Long Learning Opportunities

Southern Illinois Learning in Retirement (SILIR) is offering online monthly meetings and classes to members 50+ years and older. In March 2020 the organization transitioned from in-person events to ZOOM meetings and classes. Classes and lectures are presented by members (usually retired university faculty or community members who are experts in their fields). Topics are related to the arts, science, law, and history.

Membership in SILIR is \$25 per year. Included is access to a monthly speaker and the Golden Opportunities newsletter. At the present time, courses are being offered free to members. A monthly book discussion group also meets via ZOOM. January 20, Dr. Justin Schoof will discuss Climate Change: Global and Local. Spring semester classes will begin on February 1.

Once in-person contacts resume SILIR will again offer day trips, a wider range of classes and special interest groups such as movie groups and lunch discussion groups. For more information or to register, contact Jackie Welch at SIU Conference and Scheduling Services via email (silir@siu.edu) or 536-7751.

The church received this card from Clark Ashby and family and we thought you might enjoy it.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

CLARK ASHBY AND DAUGHTERS RHODA, JANET, CAROL



New Year with grandson Sutton, Janet and Rhoda



Awarded the Quilt of Valor in appreciation of World War II service.

December 2020 Session Meeting Synopsis

The session met via Zoom Tuesday, December 8. We began with prayer and a devotional reading from *The New Union Prayer Book*.

We had wide some wide-ranging conversations this month, but I'm going to focus on one especially important item in this report. For this item, I am going to directly quote some of the notes that Rob Jensen took that evening:

At the November 10 meeting of the Session the Rev. Bean charged members of the Session to come to this meeting with ideas as to how to help members of the congregation reconnect and reenergize during 2021 as well as to identify new ways of making our worship experience more vital and compelling. Members of the Session did not disappoint:

- Hold a drive-through distribution of ashes for Ash Wednesday.

Cont. on the next page

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

- Distribute a year-long book of devotions to those who do not Zoom.
- Use QR code technology to help people access services and devotions.
- Institute a series of Round Robin letters that are sent from person to person.
- Recognize special birthdays and other occasions with multi-car drive throughs.
- Provide Care Packages of devotional materials for shut ins.
- Have each member of the Session (or congregation) send 5 Christmas cards to others affiliated with the church. Make sure that everyone gets a card.
- Have a small “congregation” of ten socially distanced people attend each Zoomed service to provide voices for responsive readings and hymns.
- Do over the phone devotionals with a conference call technology featuring about five participants.
- Establish (as part of our landscaping) several memorial gardens (1) commemorating those that perished from COVID and (2) health-care workers who sacrifice so much. Perhaps collaborate with other churches or organizations on this.
- Develop an on-line expanded church directory featuring pictures of members of the congregation as well as short one or two sentence biographies. The directory would be password protected.
- Establish a group to provide food to members as a gesture of friendship and fellowship and not necessarily need.
- Establish a quarterly book club.
- Establish telephone circles so that everyone who participates makes a call and receives a call.
- Hold Fellowship Suppers via Zoom once a month. These could feature guest speakers, members of the congregation telling of travels and the like, a talent show, or possibly story telling.
- As part of the Zoom worship service we might want to reintroduce the opportunity for members of the congregation to talk about “Where I saw God this week.”

So these are all ideas for what we might do in 2021 and going forward. Are there any of these ideas that inspire you and/or spark your imagination? If so, please let me know at pastorkerry@firstprescdale.org. The good folks of the session would love to work with you to make some (all?) of these ideas become reality.

In the remainder of the meeting, we also discussed the possibility of reconfiguring the session committee structure a bit, the slate of officer candidates presented by the Nominating Committee, the ongoing relationships of the church, preschool, and daycare programs, communion dates for 2021, and the Stewardship Campaign's progress.

(Note: I will be able to give you some details on some of these latter conversations at the Annual Meeting coming up Sunday, January 31.)

And we also covered all the usual business items: receiving reports from the Ministry Teams, including financial reports. And then being the good Presbyterians we are, we adjourned the meeting with prayer.

Kerry



Thanks to Dede Ittner for the historical information on the back page of this newsletter. She has been dedicated through the years to providing historical context regarding First Presbyterian Church and Carbondale for our congregation. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

Financial Report November 2020

92% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 208,091.52	\$ 220,000.00	95%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 12,918.85	\$ 12,000.00	108%
Per Capita	\$ 3,141.16	\$ 1,500.00	209%
Trans. From Investments		\$ 23,004.62	
Miscellaneous	\$ 14,904.43	\$ 20,290.00	73%
Totals	\$ 239,055.96	\$ 276,794.62	86%

Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 9,937.23	\$ 13,520.00	74%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 68,881.24	\$ 82,730.07	83%
Staff	\$ 68,352.22	\$ 82,469.55	83%
Christian Ed.	\$ 778.23	\$ 4,900.00	16%
Worship & Music	\$ 1,359.91	\$ 3,525.00	39%
Comm/Administration	\$ 18,904.39	\$ 22,250.00	85%
Property/Capital	\$ 56,158.74	\$ 65,300.00	86%
Christian Nurture	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,100.00	5%
Total	\$ 224,471.96	\$ 276,794.62	81%

Revenues over expenses \$ 14,584.00

Bank acct. \$ 19,137.21

OOPS!

Learn how to talk off a few extra pounds.

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



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



January
2021



As First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale begins a new decade, we also celebrate the one hundred and sixty-seventh year of local Church history.