



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.

September 5
1st Sunday Mission
Collection

September 7 - Green Team

September 8
Free Laundry Day

September 13
Pizza and a Movie

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

LET THERE BE LIGHT



See the rest of the story on page 6

Photos by Rolanda Quick
Carbondale Presbyterian September 2021

Notes from Kerry:

When Grass Was Green and Grain Was Yellow...

The Fantasticks is one of the most successful musicals in theatre history. Now, I've seen it three times and none of the productions really impressed me. Maybe there is a video out there somewhere of the original Broadway production with Jerry Orbach.

Anyway, the most memorable song from *The Fantasticks*, is, somewhat ironically, *Try to Remember*. Even if you don't know any of the other lyrics, you know how it opens:

Try to remember that kind of September

When life was slow and oh so mellow...

That song, both lyrics and music, is so evocative of a time past that we wish we all had. Or maybe you've *really* had Septembers like that. Days that seem perfect in your memories. You picture them with golden light and soft breezes or warm starlit evenings. My best memories are almost always outdoors, but that's just me.

You won't be surprised to read that I've been thinking a lot about my sister Jackie lately. It's been three weeks since her funeral. I have many memories of us laughing together. That is what we did best: we told stories and we made each other laugh. She was one of my favorite persons in the whole wide world.

Memories are so important. They shape us and influence us throughout our lives. I've also been going through a lot of documents and minutes of our congregation's history lately. I see many of your names in those papers- as well as names of folks who have recently passed. So, it's a bittersweet process.

If they ever write *Forrest Gump the Musical*, you can bet there will be a song called *Life is Like a Box of Chocolates* and it's true. We never know what life is going to bring us next. For me, this recent time has been pretty intense, not nearly as "mellow" as I'd like it to be.

But I am learning as I get more and more Septembers under my belt that I am not just a passenger on the journey of life. I get to do some map-reading and some steering, too. I want to remember that I'm responsible for many of my memories both good and bad. Actually, almost all of my memories are mixtures of the two. That's okay with me because I'm human and I live a very human life.

God guides us and works in our lives to bring us good people and things and situations. An important part of our spiritual life is learning how to listen for that guidance; to know or to sense where God wants us to head next. But even life with God is like a box of chocolates. You don't always know what you're going to get. That's okay, too.

I'm not sure I really have a great lesson to leave you with this month. But I do want to say how much I appreciate you all being with me on my journey of life and faith right now. Many of you are like Jackie in the sense that you make me laugh. *Usually*, it is for all the right reasons.

I hope and pray that you have a blessed September. May it be mellow. Years from now may you look back at it in a golden light with soft breezes blowing.

Kerry



WORSHIP MINISTRY

Many of us are happy to be back worshipping IRL (in real life) in the sanctuary. Others of us have been "Zooming" into worship Sunday mornings, viewing a video image of the sanctuary on our computer, tablet or smartphone screen.

Worship Team is experimenting with audio-visual setups intended to bring the Zoom worship experience into the sanctuary, better integrating the experience by helping in-person and at-home congregants feel more connected. Clearly, we're still working out the glitches. We appreciate everyone's patience and seek additional volunteers to serve as Sound/Videographer on Sunday mornings. Training is available; please contact Kathy Manfredi or Lisa Hollabaugh if you're interested.

Sunday mornings, we're following our familiar order of worship and have resumed singing at a low volume—for those who wish to—while remaining masked. We ask that you stand, as you are comfortably able, during the points in the worship bulletin marked with an asterisk (*). Please bring your own Communion elements or use the prepackaged ones provided in the pews. Our upcoming Communion dates are September 19, October 3 (World Communion Sunday), November 21, and December 24, 2021.



Sunday, September 5, we will collect items for a variety of mission projects, including school supplies, Good Samaritan Food Pantry, the Warming Center, Bethel AME, PCDC, the Diaper Bank, and the Laundry Project. Bring your donations with you to worship and drop them off in the narthex. If you need help unloading, drive through the porte cochere.

A list of requested items is available on the church website.

Sunday morning childcare is on hiatus until at least September 19, 2021; kid-sized furniture is set up in the back of the sanctuary with activities to be used during the service. Pianist Chanmi Jeong recently returned from South Korea, and we welcome her back warmly. Rising Covid rates prompted cancellation of Southern IL Pride Fest weekend activities planned for late September. First Presbyterian Church looks forward to hosting the 2022 Community Pride worship service sometime next year.

We appreciate everyone continuing to abide by church policy that face masks be worn at all times inside the church building and during worship. We welcome your feedback at worship@firstprescdale.org, as we strive to make worship an accessible, inclusive and meaning-



Faith Dialogues (meeting virtually)

September 19: "How Can We Be an On-line Community?"

September 26 - November 14: Book Discussion of Reading While Black by Esau McCaulley

The book is available through Amazon.com, but we will have copies available at a discounted price of \$10. If you wish to take advantage of the discount, contact Reona Daly or John Baker before September 15.

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Although five people have expressed interest in resuming this activity, increased Covid activity has led Faith Development to put it on hold until it is safer to meet in person.

MISSION

SPECIAL MISSION DAYS IN SEPTEMBER

- 1 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation
- 5 Season of Peace begins
- 8 International Literacy Day
- 19 Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence begins
- 21 International Day of Peace
- 22 Native Americans Day
- 26 Gift of New Immigrants

LAUNDRY PROJECT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE

We sponsored another Free Laundry Day in August, providing supplies and quarters to 20 individuals, young and old. In September, we are moving to the second **Wednesday** of the month instead of Tuesday, so it will occur on September 8 from 10 am to 2 pm at Laundry World. Contact Jane Swanson or Bill Martens (carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com) if you're interested in volunteering

BROTHER'S KEEPER

Members of the Mission Ministry bought food and toiletry supplies and packed two dozen gallon size bags for Barb Stewart to distribute to persons who arrive at the church in need. Thank you for your continued support of this valuable ministry.

THANK YOU to donors for the successful Toiletry Collection for Shawnee Farmworker Health Program

The Southern Illinois Immigrant Rights Project (SIIRP) wrote the following:

We wish to extend a huge thank you to the Carbondale Public Library and the Neighborhood Co-op for serving as collection points. Also, we'd like to thank the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority for their outstanding efforts collecting \$600 of donated toiletries and 300 travel size items. The Rotary Club of Carbondale and First Presbyterian also generously collected supplies.

Due to the participation and generosity of these organizations and volunteers and the community, a truckload of toiletry products was collected. The director of the program expressed gratitude and confirmed the program should have sufficient products to distribute to their clients throughout the growing and harvesting season.

Thank you for your support of the community!



Photo by Rolanda Quick

THANKS FROM FEED MY SHEEP

Late July, Pastor Ronald R. Chambers of Bethel A.M.E. Church presented Mission Elder Rick Jefferson with a medal recognizing First Presbyterian Church's support of Feed My Sheep Community Soup Kitchen Outreach. A Zoom service was also held recognizing Feed My Sheep volunteers and donors.



Monday, September 13 at 6 p.m.
in the Youth Room.

Pizza will be baked and ready to be eaten, hopefully from Cristaudo's. Tossed salad with choices of dressing and other toppings will be available. Fruit of some kind, and a cookie or something similar will top off the meal. The movie selected for the evening is, INHERIT THE WIND, an oldie from 1960. Spencer Tracy, Fredric March and Gene Kelly are the three main actors, but there are many others in this dramatic flick. Please let Kitty know you plan to attend, so that enough supper is planned. Call 618-203-1807 or text on send email: trescott@midwest.net. Friends are welcome, too.

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE – THANK YOU!

Our congregation donated **435 packages** of school-related supplies, plus \$150 to purchase additional supplies:

For the classroom:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 25 boxes of Kleenex | 34 three-ring binders |
| 24 rolls of paper towels | 11 composition books |
| 21 bottles of hand sanitizer | 11 packages of notebook paper |
| 9 boxes of quart/gallon plastic bags | 66 folders |
| 8 packages of sanitizing wipes | 17 scissors |
| 4 bottles of sanitizing cleanser | 3 bottles of glue |
| 3 reams of colored paper | 42 glue sticks |
| | 2 backpacks |
| | 2 lunch bags |

For students:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------|
| 48 boxes of crayons (1304 crayons) | 5 pencil boxes |
| 12 boxes of colored pencils | |
| 10 packages of markers | |
| 5 packages of dry-erase markers | |
| 5 packages of highlighters | |
| 19 boxes of pencils (518 pencils!) | |
| 10 packages of pens | |
| 16 rulers | |
| 3 pencil sharpeners | |
| 5 packages of erasers | |
| 42 spiral notebooks | |



Photos by Jane Swanson



A rose by any other name.....?



The recently organized Green Team met in August and was encouraged by the focus and interests of the congregation. The natural world is a way many of us see God. We search for ways to connect our social concerns and spiritual traditions with that of the natural world. But the Green Team is seeking a new name – something with a little more impact and pizzazz!

During the month of September, we are holding a contest for a new name and are asking for your suggestions. You may submit more than one entry (multiple prizes will be awarded) and there is no age limit for individuals who wish to participate. You can submit your entries electronically by sending them to kathleenmanfredi@gmail.com or forms will be available on the Green Team Bulletin Board in the Narthex. An advisory panel will choose the winner and our new title will be announced in October.

Here are some words and ideas to get those creative juices flowing: advocate, conservation, Earth, eco-friendly, educate, energy, food, future, global, inter-connectedness, land usage, re-think, refuse, reduce, re-purpose, re-use, recycle, stewardship, sustainability, water.

We are a group of people working together to build a healthier and more sustainable community. We keep consciousness about Earth care and justice for our neighbors at the forefront in our worship. If you would like to be a part of this new group, please contact Kathy Manfredi kathleenmanfredi@gmail.com so you can receive the Zoom link information.

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 7, 4:30 p.m.

"When we see the world as a gift from God, we will do our best to take care of it and use it wisely, instead of poisoning or destroying it." - Billy Graham



Plans are underway for the Student Spirit Sack project.

We need to have the College Students' NAMES and ADDRESSES by October 1 (Please submit to Dede Ittner ASAP).

Members will be contributing the needed snack items.

Contributions for mailing boxes to student members away at college are always appreciated.

Going Green with Lighting

Our church participated in the Ameren Incentive Program, upgrading facility lighting to be more energy efficient. Last month, four electricians worked four-and-a-half days replacing 40 ceiling-mounted lights, and retrofitting 369 fixtures to accept more than 500 LED bulbs.

Wattage differences of 44,661 kWh (kilowatt hours) are expected to yield monthly utility savings for the church, with an anticipated return on our investment to be realized within approximately two years. This project is consistent with our church's "Green Team" goals: LED bulbs consume less power per unit (lumen) of light emitted, and one LED bulb minimizes greenhouse gas emissions by almost half a ton.

Of the \$16,987.47 total cost for supplies and labor, the Ameren Incentive Program covered \$6,436.00, or 38%. Upgrades were made facility-wide, except for the Sanctuary, including the basement and main floor educational (Daycare, Preschool) wings. Thanks to Facilities Elder Rolanda Quick and Pat Manfredi for their help in coordinating this important project.



Birthdays

- 7 John Hooker
- 8 Anne Barrett
- 9 Rich Zimmermann
- 12 Carolyn Hollabaugh
- 17 Kathleen Welshimer
- 21 John Holt
- 24 Mikell Miskell
- 25 Rob Jensen
- 25 Sue Bailey
- 28 Grant Hertzling

Anniversaries

- 2 Peter and Kara Hertzling
- 3 Gerry and Cindy Buys

PRESCHOOL



Hello Church Family,

Despite the continued concerns and ups and downs of the ongoing pandemic, our teachers at Presbyterian Preschool look forward to the start of a new school year. We are so grateful that we can remain open while maintaining all our safety measures. We are still experiencing low enrollment and have rearranged our program once again to meet our current preschool families' needs. We are so happy to meet new faces and for the return of our Polliwog Class for kiddos two-years-old. Please spread the word of our previous, successful, and safe school year amidst this COVID crisis and please share that we still have several openings. Like and follow our Facebook page for all our preschool happenings, events and fundraising. We appreciate everyone's support.

We would like to share parent testimonials from our previous school year:

My husband attended Presbyterian Preschool nearly forty years ago, and all three of our daughters have been fortunate enough to spend their first years here as well. The environment at Presbyterian is unique, as it has a way of not only bringing children together but their families as well. It provides a half day preschool option that instills a love for school at an early age. The school also has a way of attracting some of the best and most talented teachers a parent could ask for. They show up every day with a smile, prepared to give the children their lessons as well as the attention and compassion that these young learners need. We feel truly blessed to be a part of Presbyterian Preschool and will be forever grateful for the strong foundation it has given our daughters.

-Beck and Heather Simonds

Cont. on page 8

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

My twin boys started attending Presbyterian Preschool shortly after their second birthday and attended until after they turned five. The wonderful and patient teachers helped them grow and learn in so many ways, both socially and academically, throughout their time at Presbyterian. The love and care the boys were shown during play time and educational programs will benefit them for the rest of their lives. Presbyterian Preschool is a fantastic community of parents and teachers in a clean and well-organized atmosphere. I would recommend the preschool to any family!

-Nellie Baril

Lastly, we would like to express a huge thank you to Rolanda Quick for her wonderful support with much needed updates of fresh paint and new trim in our preschool halls. The preschool wing is looking fantastic along with the new LED lighting. A special thanks to the church and ministries that made all this possible, we truly appreciate all the support.

DAYCARE

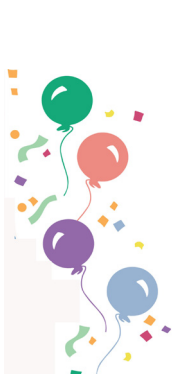
The daycare has been very busy this past month. Our garden has been exploding with delicious cucumbers and tomatoes. The kiddos have been so proud of bringing the wonderful and tasty food to the table. We have also been enjoying the beautiful sunflower blossoms and petunias.

All of our kiddos are getting so big. We even had some graduate to kindergarten to continue their educational journey. We will miss them very much and wish them all the best in their future endeavors. Our ongoing theme this month is back to school. We will be learning all about one another, the school rules, and studying our alphabet, shapes, words, and numbers. We will also be having fun, fun, fun, in the sun, sun, sun!

We have been continuing to work hard keeping the children and staff healthy and safe as this pandemic continues. We wish everyone a safe and healthy month.



Photos furnished by Daycare



We celebrated birthdays for Allan Bennett (90) and Merit Sullivan (38) August 22, 2021, when the handbell choir played a rendition of "Happy Birthday" before worship.

Photo by Rolanda Quick

July 2021

Dear Conversion Therapy Dropout Network—

Members of First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale, Illinois recently attended a viewing of "Clare Killman's Story" and panel discussion benefiting the Conversion Therapy Dropout Network. This was an eye-opening experience revealing the deep and lasting damage done to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals in the name of organized religion. Our church is honored to make the enclosed donation in support of CTDN's ongoing efforts.

"First Pres-Carbondale" is a More Light Presbyterians (MLP) member congregation; MLP is a national Presbyterian Church (USA) organization working toward the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in our denomination, and in society. We are imperfect and are continually learning, and are committed to the vision that that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, nonbinary and other queer individuals are created in God's image and are deserving of God's loving abundance.

Certainly, finding *genuinely* affirming churches and faith organizations can be challenging. To that end, you are encouraged to check out the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) "Stances of Faith" website (<https://www.hrc.org/resources/stances-of-faiths-on-lgbt-issues-presbyterian-church-usa>) describing PC(USA) views on issues of sexual orientation, gender identity, marriage equality, non-discrimination and ordination. Hopefully this resource may be of benefit to those seeking spiritual connection, as they seek out faith communities where they will feel truly and fully welcomed.

Thank you for your valuable work, and we wish your organization continued success.

Lisa Hollabaugh (she/her)
Worship Ministry Elder
First Presbyterian Church Carbondale, Illinois



Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for the kind letter and donation! It means a lot to us that a church attended our event and completely support us. As you know, Conversion Therapy and church are greatly linked. You stand as a monument for what Christianity is supposed to be.

Thank you for donating to help CT survivors.

Fearlessly,
Curtis Galloway, President



Session Synopsis

Synopsis for Session Meeting: August 10, 2021

We had a very full and productive meeting in August. Here are some of the highlights:

We met (again) our liaison from the presbytery's Commission on Ministry, Susie Selock. Susie does a good job of staying in touch with us. She is an important point of connection between First PC-Cdale and PSEI. Among other things, she gave us some updated information about the ongoing search for a new Presbyterian/Stated Clerk.

We had a long and detailed discussion about whether to continue our in-person worship services in the sanctuary or to revert to our Zoom-only format. In true Presbyterian fashion, we decided on a third way: to continue in-person worship with everyone masked (per CDC and State of Illinois guidelines) and to more fully integrate Zoom into the in-person worship.

[As I write this on 8/23, we began that fuller integration process on Sunday 8/22. It was mostly successful, but we've still got some bugs to work out.]

We have had a series of email votes on items throughout the summer. All of those items were officially included in the minutes for the August meeting.

Facilities Ministry gave a report about some ceiling and roof related issues in fellowship hall. Some loose ceiling panels will be looked at and hopefully repaired. The roof may require replacement as it is 20 years old- and there are continued issues of moisture leakage and condensation developing in the hall. You all will be hearing more about this in the near future, I promise.

We have given the Daycare program permission to use the kitchen's three-compartment sink and the dishwasher in order for them to move to reusable plates, glasses, and utensils and away from paper products. This permission includes a three-month trial basis.

A report about the status of the sanctuary organ was moved to a later session meeting. The organ has, in the meantime, developed a couple more air leaks. We have had the Wicks Organ Repair come look at the instrument and they are preparing that report- which will include some repair/restoration choices and of course, cost estimates.

Due to the uptick in Covid-19 infections in the area, the session decided that indefinitely postponing this fall's murder mystery was a prudent course of action.

Our newly formed Green Team (which discusses issues of ecological concern and presents better-use practices of resources) has been housed under Small Groups Ministries.

There was more as well. But now you have the gist. As always, if you have any questions about our session meetings, please don't hesitate to contact me or a session member at your convenience.

Kerry

Financial Report July 2021

58% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 156,666.36	\$ 225,981.00	69%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 9,312.50	\$ 11,806.31	79%
Per Capita	\$ 1,675.48	\$ 2,500.00	67%
Trans. From Investments	\$ -	\$ 23,004.62	
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,144.70	\$ 8,035.38	14%
Totals	\$ 168,799.04	\$ 271,327.31	62%

Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 5,447.44	\$ 13,520.00	40%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 44,878.82	\$ 75,798.76	59%
Staff	\$ 39,948.28	\$ 82,469.55	48%
Christian Ed.	\$ 1,144.56	\$ 4,900.00	23%
Worship & Music	\$ 689.59	\$ 3,575.00	19%
Comm/Administration	\$ 16,041.34	\$ 25,064.00	64%
Property/Capital	\$ 34,943.50	\$ 64,100.00	55%
Christian Nurture	\$ -	\$ 1,900.00	0%
Total	\$ 143,093.53	\$ 271,327.31	53%

Revenues over Expenses \$ 22,250.14

OOPS!

"Surly the Presence of the Lord is in this place"

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



First Presbyterian Church
Carbondale, Illinois

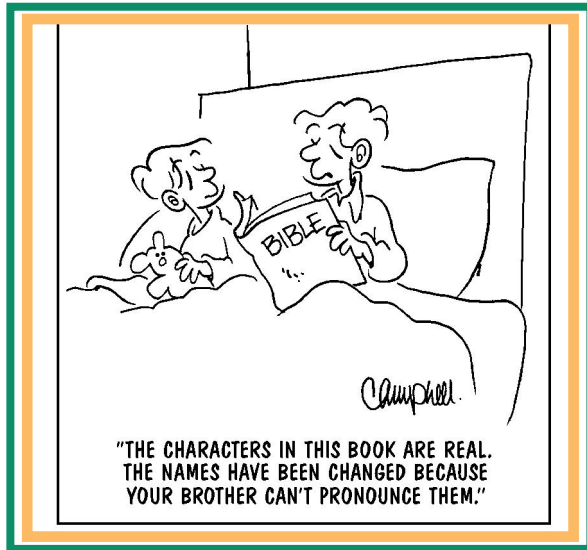
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Web Address: <http://www.firstprescdale.org>

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



SEPTEMBER
2021



In September of 2020 children and young adults found that their education needed to be continued “virtually (on-line) due to the persistent COVID Pandemic