



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

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*O' Come Let Us Adore Him*



**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

## The time has come... to talk of many things

At this time of year there is *always* a lot to discuss, and in 2020 that is more the case than ever. It will be my Advent gift to you that I will do my best to keep this article short and sweet as possible.

Covenant Pastor

At their meeting on Thursday 11/19, the Presbytery (*almost* unanimously) passed the recommendation from the Commission on Ministry that my pastoral status with First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale change from Interim to Covenant. And so, just like that, I shall become your Covenant Pastor beginning January 1, 2021.

I am very excited, and I know that many of you are as well (Not everybody, though and that is okay). There are many dynamics to the relationship between a pastor and the people of a congregation, including personalities, expectations, histories, and contexts. What I know for sure is that I have thoroughly enjoyed our first year and a half together in ministry. And I am very much looking forward to our next (and last) five years. We have just enough time together to do some amazing things. So, as Arsenio Hall used to say, "Let's get busy!"

Advent

I read somewhere that this is going to be the "adventiest" Advent ever. Meaning, of course, that Advent is about expectant waiting- and that we have collectively spent almost all of 2020 expectantly waiting (for our lives to return to normal).

There is a lot of truth to that, don't you think? The season of Advent reminds us that God indeed works in strange and wonderful ways. In the birth of Jesus Christ, we believe, God became Incarnate. God burst into this world and did what we could not do for ourselves: set our relationship with God aright.

But it took a long time. Some of the prophets of the Old Testament who understood that God was preparing to do something strange and wonderful lived *centuries* before Jesus was born. Take, Isaiah son of Amoz, for instance. Isaiah prophesied that someday a virgin would conceive and bear a son to be named Emmanuel. Isaiah lived, according to the Oxford Study Bible, in the latter half of the *Eighth* Century BCE. Waiting for that promise to come true took the patience of generations of saints.

The sacrifices that many of us are making during this Advent in the midst of pandemic are real and deep and exhausting. And while there are, certainly, many smart things that we can do to help (like continuing to worship via Zoom and supporting the missions of the church), in many respects we must *wait* for something wonderful to happen. For a Covid-19 vaccine, perhaps, or for other mitigation plans to work.

This Advent will especially teach us, I think, that faith is best measured not by degree but by time. Let us continue to find ways to journey in faith together even while we're physically apart. Here's one way...

Stewardship

We are just now beginning our Stewardship Campaign for the year. You are going to hear a lot in the next few weeks about what an awesome church we are. That's the easy part to share. Because it's true.

What may be more challenging is to find the *energy* to be church in these pandemic times. Sure, it takes a lot of money to support the ministries of our congregation. Sharing food and supplies to people in need takes money. The Laundry Project (when it resumes) will take money. Insurance and office supplies and electricity and tuning the piano all takes money. Retaining quality staff folks like ours requires money because we have homes and families of our own to support. But you know all that. You've been generous in your giving this year and we're asking you to keep it up, please.

But where does the *energy* we need to be church come from?

One really good answer to that question, of course, is *God*. When we say that the Holy Spirit inspires us, we're not just referring to the joy, joy, joy, joy down in our hearts. Inspiration is motivation and inspiration leads to action. And a church in action is doing ministry. Which is what we are called to do in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have asked all the session members to come to our December meeting with 3-5 ideas in hand to help us imagine what might be next for First Presbyterian Church in the weeks and months to come. I've encouraged them to ask you for your ideas as well. Your ideas don't have to be fully formed and planned in detail. They don't have to be grand or elegant. They just need to have a spark of imagination. Call us, text us, stuff your ideas in a Christmas card. We want to hear from you.

Kerry



## WORSHIP WITH US THIS CHRISTMAS

Our hopeful plans for some type of in-person worship during Advent and Christmas were tabled a few weeks ago as coronavirus cases rose and gatherings were limited to ten. So here are the adapted plans for Advent and Christmas Eve services this year - all are via Zoom.

Advent begins November 29 and our Sunday services will continue the tradition of lighting candles on an Advent wreath while listening to a liturgical reading. We encourage everyone to either make or purchase their own wreath and participate by lighting candles at home during each Advent Sunday's Zoom service.

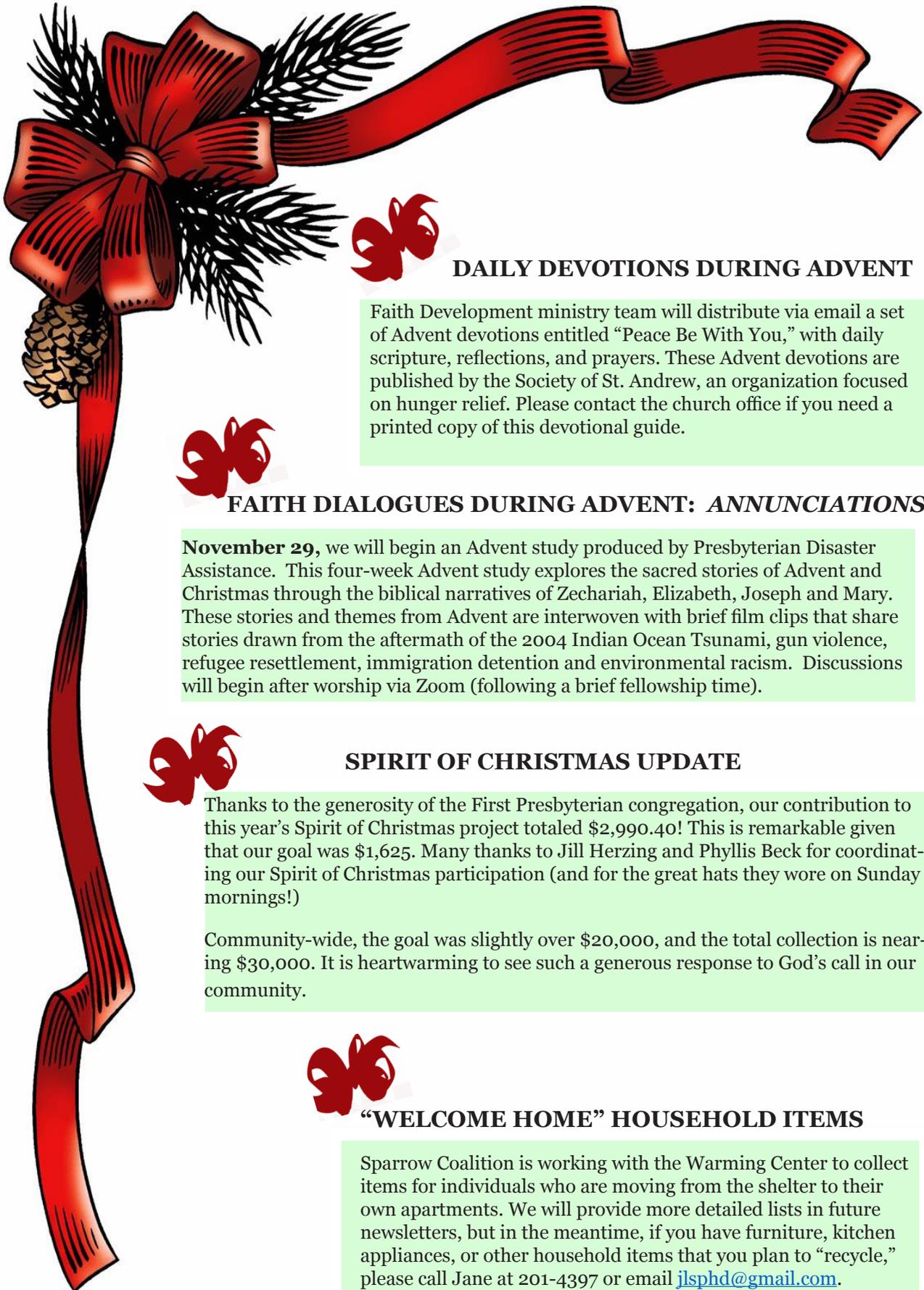
Throughout Advent, Vespers services will be held each Thursday evening (December 3, 10, and 17) at 7 p.m. These services are short - about 25 - 30 minutes - and will include instrumental music, prayer, meditation and contemplation.

Our Christmas Eve service will be Thursday, December 24 at 7 p.m. It will be as similar as possible to our in-person services of years past. We'll celebrate Communion during this service, so please have your wine or juice and bread handy.

We plan to set up a Christmas tree in the church, and would love for everyone to donate an ornament (either handmade or purchased and non-returnable, so no family heirlooms, please!) to December's First Saturday mission supplies dropoff (December 5 from 11 a.m. to noon in the porte cochere). Our decorated tree will be featured during the Christmas Eve service.

All of the above services will be recorded and made available on our church website and Facebook page.





## DAILY DEVOTIONS DURING ADVENT

Faith Development ministry team will distribute via email a set of Advent devotions entitled "Peace Be With You," with daily scripture, reflections, and prayers. These Advent devotions are published by the Society of St. Andrew, an organization focused on hunger relief. Please contact the church office if you need a printed copy of this devotional guide.

## FAITH DIALOGUES DURING ADVENT: ANNUNCIATIONS

**November 29**, we will begin an Advent study produced by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This four-week Advent study explores the sacred stories of Advent and Christmas through the biblical narratives of Zechariah, Elizabeth, Joseph and Mary. These stories and themes from Advent are interwoven with brief film clips that share stories drawn from the aftermath of the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami, gun violence, refugee resettlement, immigration detention and environmental racism. Discussions will begin after worship via Zoom (following a brief fellowship time).

## SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of the First Presbyterian congregation, our contribution to this year's Spirit of Christmas project totaled \$2,990.40! This is remarkable given that our goal was \$1,625. Many thanks to Jill Herzing and Phyllis Beck for coordinating our Spirit of Christmas participation (and for the great hats they wore on Sunday mornings!)

Community-wide, the goal was slightly over \$20,000, and the total collection is nearing \$30,000. It is heartwarming to see such a generous response to God's call in our community.

## "WELCOME HOME" HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Sparrow Coalition is working with the Warming Center to collect items for individuals who are moving from the shelter to their own apartments. We will provide more detailed lists in future newsletters, but in the meantime, if you have furniture, kitchen appliances, or other household items that you plan to "recycle," please call Jane at 201-4397 or email [jlsphd@gmail.com](mailto:jlsphd@gmail.com).

**FAIR**

## TRADE ITEMS

Pre-ordered Fair Trade items will be available for pick up at the December 5 First Saturday event. Wish you'd ordered more coffee, tea, and chocolate for Christmas? Then get ready for January! Order by December 19 to pick up at the First Saturday event on January 3. Contact Jane ([webmaster@firstprescdale.org](mailto:webmaster@firstprescdale.org)) for more information.

## **1**ST SATURDAY DRIVE-THROUGH ON DECEMBER 5, 11 a.m. to noon

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

## THIS IS WHAT IS HAPPENING

## Winter "Pop Up" Walks in the Woods

Small Groups Ministry plans to organize several spontaneous socially-distanced walks throughout the late fall and winter.

A church alerts notification will be sent with the meeting place and time, and as before, please bring your own mask, water/drink, snack and hand sanitizer.

IDPH guidance currently allows no more than 10 people to gather either inside or outside, so if more than 10 people participate, we will divide into two distinct groups and maintain a wide separation.

We will plan the hikes for days with warmer temperatures, clear skies and little wind, but because our winter weather can be fickle, notifications will have a short lead time - about two or three days.

In case of inclement weather, a church alerts cancellation notice will be sent out that morning.

We invite everyone to join a hike and enjoy the incredible natural beauty of southernmost Illinois, as well as having a treasured opportunity to visit with each other in person.

No reservations will be required for any of the hikes, but if you have questions, please call Sharon Wittke at (618) 893-1869 or send an email to [sharonwittke@gmail.com](mailto:sharonwittke@gmail.com).



## YARNING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: December 6 on Zoom

Yarning to Make a Difference will meet Sunday, December 6 at noon, at 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, and we work on shawls, baby blankets, and other mission-related projects. Don't forget to bring any completed items for the annual Sock and Mitten tree to the December 5 First Saturday event. Contact Jane Swanson ([jlsphd@gmail.com](mailto:jlsphd@gmail.com)) for more information.

## Snider Hill Cemetery Veteran's Day Observance

Our **Small Groups Ministry** Snider Hill Interest Group identified and placed flags at the graves of veterans in the cemetery on Wednesday, November 4. The Carbondale Lions Club, facilitated by Gary Merideth, donated flags. Our church members, along with other family members, participated. The City of Carbondale Public Relations Officer, Roni Leforge, joined us to prepare video and still shots for the City's Virtual Veterans Day program, broadcast on WSIL, Channel 3 on Veterans Day, November 11.

Participants included: Harry Davis, John Holt, Phyllis Beck, Jill Hertzog, Rolanda Quick, Sharon and Phil Wittke, Beth and Ron Malmquist, and Pastor Kerry. Bob and Pat Burton, who are "keepers" of the flags, joined us as well as Charlie Howe, whose father was one of our former pastors.

Our summer maintenance activity will resume next May in advance of Memorial Day. We'll again place flags for the Memorial Day holiday at the conclusion of our workday.



THIS IS WHAT  
HAPPENED



Photo by Robert Burton



Photos by Beth Malmquist

## SSS Update

Jonathon Brooks and Dede Ittner thank the five members who each provided enough of one item for the two of us to prepare and give away all the Student Spirit Sacks needed. They were larger bags and we had them picked-up or delivered before Thanksgiving. Look forward to whichever method we must use in 2021.



# DECEMBER

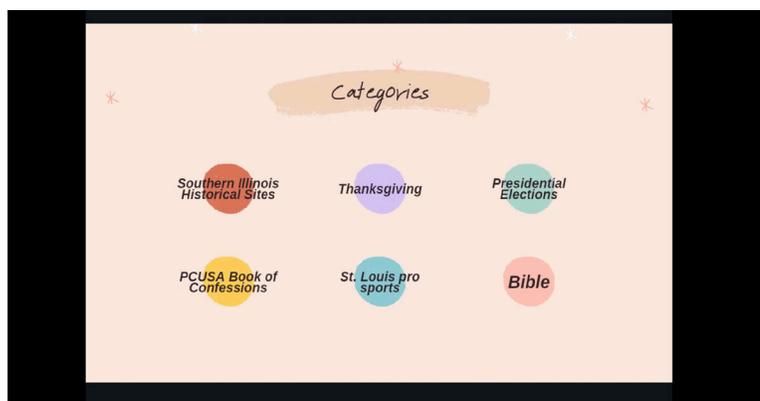
## December birthdays:

- 2 - James Prest
- 7 - Carolyn Hooker
- 9 - Barbara Bennett
- 9 - Neal Foland
- 11 - Elena Luebbers
- 14 - Elaine Miskell
- 16 - Harrison Zimmermann
- 19 - Acadia Zimmermann
- 21 - Jill Rendleman
- 24 - Patrick Blessing
- 25 - Lance Forsberg
- 28 - Lauren Bonner
- 31 - Thomas Jefferson

## AND THIS HAPPENED



Thursday, November 19, 2020, about two dozen folks gathered virtually via Zoom, for an online Trivia Night hosted by Fellowship Ministry. Four rounds of questions covered categories including Southern Illinois Historical Sites, Thanksgiving, the PCUSA Book of Confessions and the Bible, St. Louis pro sports, and historical Presidential losers. Fellowship Elder David Peters served as a lively emcee, sharing educational tidbits after each question. Many thanks to David and his family for coordinating an impressive and fun interactive experience. Congratulations to “Grumpy John” and Dorothy Baker for their first place award of a John Calvin “Reformed Heritage” mug and Fair Trade Coffee gift certificate.



Screenshots by Lisa Hollabaugh



## Nominating COMMITTEE

This year's nominating committee, whose members include Dorothy Beyler, Pat Manfredi, Mark O'Donghue, Phil Wittke, Rob Jensen, and Sharon Wittke, with Pastor Kerry attending in an advisory role, met early in November, and the committee is happy to report that it's well on the way toward finalizing a slate of Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2024.

In the middle of our discussion, we paused to reflect on how much support our congregation gives to the church's leaders. The work that is done "behind-the-scenes" is nothing short of amazing. We have people who fix plumbing and electrical problems, offer helping hands to infirm church members, paint walls, deep clean the kitchen, deliver supplies to the Food Bank, pull weeds, organize activities, make phone calls, lead worship services, balance budgets, and pray daily for those experiencing sorrow and grief..

Cont. on page 11

## PRESCHOOL



We are all looking forward to the Christmas season. The first half of the school year is zooming by, and we are having such a fun-filled time of learning and growing. This month we will be talking about the Christmas season and doing lots of activities revolved around this favorite time of the year. A Pajama day is certainly in order and enjoyed by everyone. Our students will be busy working on special Christmas gifts to give to their parents. All month our preschool is collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. It's so important for the children to learn how we can help those in need. With the return of stricter mitigations our Christmas Sing will look different this year. We are planning to record the children singing their Christmas songs via Facebook Live on our Preschool Facebook page. Everyone is welcome to join online and hear the kids sing songs they've been working hard on mastering. Stay tuned on our page for more information about that.

We would like to give a big thank you to all our family and friends who supported our Show Me Dough fundraiser in November. Despite low enrollment our preschool family and friends continue to shower us with support and we had great success earning \$1,146.

Keep an eye out for a flyer about our next restaurant fundraiser. We are hoping to be able to partner with Papa John's Pizza again during our Christmas break. It will be a super easy and convenient lunch or dinner option for that busy time of the year to order pizza for takeout or delivery and proceeds will go to our preschool. More details are coming soon. We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas.

Photos supplied by Preschool

# DAYCARE



We hope everyone has been enjoying the beautiful weather and the gorgeous scenery that surrounds us as the trees prepare for their winter slumber. The children have enjoyed exploring the leaves by studying the beautiful colors, parts, shapes, as well as collecting them, crunching them, and jumping in them. This is such a fun and educational season.

In November, the children and teachers discussed the importance of Thanksgiving and talked about the things they were thankful for. They also enjoyed making Thanksgiving cards for members of the community and a local nursing home. We are so thankful

to be able to continue to serve the community, have our health, have food/shelter, and to have each other. We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving.

We also would like to mention our fundraiser that will be going on through Monday, November 30, 2020. We are doing a fundraiser with a company on the East Coast that includes local items from New England. They have a large variety of items and the sale will be exclusively online and through electronic communications to help minimize any handling and/or potential exposure risks. Orders will be shipped straight to your home on the date you place your order. There is a link below that you can follow to place an order for PCDC Daycare (MF1001062).



<https://shop.meadowfarms.com/index.asp?PID=3022242>

Donations in lieu of purchases are also welcomed and greatly appreciated. We would like to be able to give our hard working staff some Christmas bonuses to show our appreciation of all the hard work and dedication they have shown throughout this difficult time.

We are looking forward to the month ahead. We will be having a spirit week to celebrate the upcoming holidays. The children and staff will be dressing up in different holiday themed attire to be festive and celebrate the season. We will also be working on other fun and engaging holiday activities all month long. We are so happy and fortunate to be able to be together during this special season.

PCDC Daycare wishes you and yours a very Merry Christmas and an abundantly Happy New Year.



Photos supplied by Daycare

## Synopsis for Session Meeting: 11/10/20

After our opening prayer at 7 p.m. I read a devotional poem by Ann Weems entitled "This Year" from her collection *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.

We began our opening discussion with a proposal from **Worship Ministries** that during Advent this year we offer "Advent Vespers" both on Zoom and in person (following strict Covid-19 protocols, including a limited number of attendees) on Thursday afternoons in the Fellowship Hall. The proposal also described how we might have Zoom/in-person Christmas Eve Services in the Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. and in the sanctuary at 11 p.m.

After lengthy and considered conversation, we decided that the wisest course was to forego any in person worship until the most recent spike in Covid infections has passed. We recognize that numerous folks are not attending our current Zoom worship, preferring to wait until we gather in person. But our region has just returned to Tier 2 mitigations (with the possibility of Tier 3 on the horizon) and the session feels that the health and safety of our members- and the community- is our greatest concern.

[Note: You can read elsewhere in the newsletter that we will be having the Advent Vespers on Thursdays (12/3, 12/10, and 12/17) at 7 p.m. via Zoom. The Christmas Eve service will also take place on Zoom at 7 p.m. All services can be watched later on the church's website and Facebook page.]

The **Nominating Committee** is finishing up their work of contacting potential candidates for the offices of Deacon and Ruling Elder. The list of candidates will be looked at by the session in December and then put before the congregation at our Annual Meeting early in 2021.

### Other items:

- ☐ I reported that the Presbytery as a whole will be voting on my change in pastoral status from Interim to Covenant at the stated meeting on Thursday 11/19. (Note: It passed- and I begin my Covenant pastorate on 1/1/21)
- ☐ Minutes and Financial Reports were approved.
- ☐ Per a motion from **Mission Ministries**, the Christmas Joy Offering is be received on Sunday 12/20.
- ☐ We thanked Rolanda Quick for her ongoing hard work with **Stewardship Ministries**. We have also retained a new church janitor.
- ☐ **Fellowship Ministries** is hosting an online Trivia Night on Thursday 11/19. [Note: It was quite fun and a great success even though I didn't win!]
- ☐ **The Stewardship Campaign for 2020** is starting up. Session members Rick Jefferson and Rob Jensen are heading up the campaign. There are plans for 3 letters, 4 Minutes for Stewardship, and 2 Stewardship Sermons during the weeks of 11/22 to 12/13. **Stewardship Sunday** will be held on Sunday 12/13.

The meeting closed in prayer at 8:09 p.m. and the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 12/8 at 7 p.m.

-Pastor Kerry



Cont. from page 8

As Pastor Kerry remarked, "Many hands make light work." That is truly the case in our church. The people who make up our congregation have many diverse skills, and are exceptionally generous when it comes to sharing them with others. If anyone would like to serve as an "at large" member on one of our eight Ministry Teams - Faith Development, Worship, Mission, Membership, Small Groups, Fellowship, Stewardship, or Personnel - please contact the appropriate Elder. Your gift of time and talent is always welcome and appreciated.

Financial Report October 2020

84% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 196,942.52	\$ 220,000.00	90%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 11,777.85	\$ 12,000.00	98%
Per Capita	\$ 3,057.16	\$ 1,500.00	204%
Trans. From Investments		\$ 23,004.62	
Miscellaneous	\$ 14,872.25	\$ 20,290.00	73%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$ 226,649.78</b>	<b>\$ 276,794.62</b>	<b>82%</b>

Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 6,012.23	\$ 13,520.00	44%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 62,913.73	\$ 82,730.07	76%
Staff	\$ 63,194.91	\$ 82,469.55	77%
Christian Ed.	\$ 1,209.91	\$ 4,900.00	25%
Worship & Music	\$ 1,209.91	\$ 3,525.00	34%
Comm/Administration	\$ 18,306.05	\$ 22,250.00	82%
Property/Capital	\$ 49,747.81	\$ 65,300.00	76%
Christian Nurture	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,100.00	5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 202,694.55</b>	<b>\$ 276,794.62</b>	<b>73%</b>

Revenues over expenses \$ 23,955.23



"The Holy and the Ivy"

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](mailto:pastorkerry@firstprescdale.org)



**2000:** Estimated town population is 26,000.

**2002:** Carbondale celebrates its Sesquicentennial with youth and adults involved.

**2006:** Estimated town population 25,000.