



The Carbondale Presbyterian

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THANKS TO THE DEACONS



Phyllis Beck
Diane Cash
Marta Davis
Jill Hertzling
Pam Holt
Carolyn Hooker
Dori Jefferson
Brenda Myers
Mark O'Donoghue

CARING for OUR FLOCK

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

Thanksgiving Comes at the Perfect Time

When the going gets tough, the tough celebrate Thanksgiving. It doesn't have the same ring to it, I know. But I think Thanksgiving is coming at exactly the right time this year.

We have had so much on our plates (so to speak) already with the Covid-19 pandemic and social upheaval and just a general sense of insecurity, that it's almost imperative that we all take a little time for reflection on all that we still have to be thankful for.

I have a long list of things for which I'm grateful, and I hope you have as well. Sometimes it's a challenge to pull that list out and re-read it. There's a new normalcy about living with the anxiety and isolation, so to break out of that mindset can take real effort. That's why I'm glad that the holiday season is upon us at last.

Thanksgiving is a time where we are *intentional* about acknowledging all the good aspects of our lives. Now, often, of course, the holidays become so busy with preparations and travel and such that the thankfulness can get crowded out by the hecticness. But perhaps one of the blessings of the pandemic is that we are forced to limit ourselves. Perhaps we will have a little more time to dust off that gratitude list and thoughtfully consider its contents.

My wish and prayer for all of us this Thanksgiving is that we are restored in spirit and hope. That through the practice of offering thanks we will again discover that life is good and that we are well-blessed. And that we have the resources of time, talent, and treasure to minister to those who don't.

In a very practical sense, I am thankful to all of you who have continued to contribute to the missions and ministries of First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale during this last year, especially since March when the world went topsy-turvy. Through your generous giving, we have continued to make a positive difference in our community and beyond. I may be jumping the gun on our Stewardship campaign a bit, but that's okay. Thank you very much for all you give.

Soon we will be able to tell you what worship is going to look like for Advent and Christmastide. As soon as the details and logistics are hammered out, we will let you know. I think the Zoom style worship has been a God-send, but I also know that worship in person is better because we are a living, breathing community of faith. As we have been saying all along, the health and safety of our members, our neighbors, and staff is the most important consideration of all. But I'm sure that all of us long to be worshipping and fellowship together in person again.

When that time happens (and I'm confident it will eventually), we can add it to our long lists of things to be thankful for. In the meantime, have a happy thanksgiving, y'all, and a very blessed holiday season!

Peace,

Kerry

A total of seventy people were present at our World Communion Sunday service in October. Thirty-seven attended in-person on the church lawn, and another thirty-three attended via Zoom. The Worship Ministry extends a huge THANK YOU to the many volunteers who made this service happen.

This year Advent begins November 29, and plans are underway for Vespers services during the week and for Christmas Eve worship. There will likely be some combination of both virtual and in-person services. As soon as plans are final, the Worship Ministry will send everyone the details, so stay tuned!

One tradition we'll continue this year is lighting candles on an Advent wreath.

This custom involves a circular evergreen wreath signifying eternity, and candles representing hope, peace, joy and love that are lit successively until Christmas Eve, when the Christ candle in the center is lit.

In many reformed churches, three of the candles are violet, which is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

One candle (usually lit on the third Sunday) is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The Christ candle is white, representing purity.

We encourage everyone to either make or purchase their own Advent wreath and participate by lighting candles during each Advent Sunday's Zoom service.

If you'd like to make your own Advent wreath, there are plenty of ideas available online. To access them, type "make your own Advent wreath" or "DIY Advent wreath" in your search engine.

There are also ready-made Advent wreath and candle kits available online. Amazon is good source for these - just type in "Advent Wreaths" or "Advent Wreaths for Kids" and a number of options will appear.

If you have questions about finding or making Advent wreaths or about using Zoom, please contact any member of the Worship Ministry.

Worship

Thanks to these special people who enabled our outdoor worship to be a success.



Ro Quick, for organizing the set up on the lawn



Saem Lee, for her beautiful keyboard music

John Holt, for setting up the sound system





First Presbyterian is again participating in the Spirit of Christmas, the community wide effort to insure that everyone in Carbondale has a gift at Christmas. Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, the method has changed. Instead of picking names and shopping for individuals, we are asking that you send a check, made out to First Presbyterian and with Spirit of Christmas on the memo line. The suggested amount is \$25. What ever amount you donate will be appreciated. Please have those checks into the church office by November 10. Our contributions will be pooled with donations from 13 other faith communities and distributed to the participating agencies. Those agencies will either get gift cards or purchase gifts for their clients. This is going to be a very difficult holiday season for many. Let's do what we can to make it a little easier. If you have any questions, please contact Jill Hertzog or Phyllis Beck

Socks and mittens and hats, oh my!

It's that time of year again when we collect mittens, undies for the kids in the local schools (ages pre-K through middle school). Like every-thing else during the coronavirus pandemic, we are changing the way we conduct this collection. Instead of bringing the items to church Sunday morning to hang on the Socks and Mittens Tree, please drop them off during our First Saturday pickup/drop off November 7 and December 5. Let's keep the kiddos warm again this year.



hats, scarves, socks, and
middle school). Like every-
way we conduct this collection.

In other mission news, we are not able to send anyone to Africa as part of the Marion Medical Mission this year due to the pandemic. However, the work of MMM continues. In lieu of sending a missionary, we have agreed to donate \$900 to MMM to purchase two wells.

The needs of our community continue to grow during the pandemic, especially with the weather turning colder. In recognition of these needs, the Mission Ministry also agreed to donate \$500 each to:

The Warming Center

The Women's Center

Good Samaritan Ministries

Bethel AME's Feed My Sheep Community Kitchen



Thank you for your continuing support of the vital mission ministry of the church. God is good.

**REMINDER OF FAITH DIALOGUES
IN NOVEMBER:**

God
and
The
Pandemic



Beginning **November 1**, we will host a series of discussions based on the book *God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and its Aftermath*, written by N. T. Wright. We will provide books free of charge, or if you prefer a Kindle version, you may purchase

your own from Amazon (\$6.99). Contact faith@firstprescdale.org to reserve a hard copy of the book. Discussions will begin after worship via Zoom (following a brief fellowship time).



Photo by Rolanda Quick

Bill Schwegman has taken on the project to see what we can do to get the organ back up and working. So far he has Gail White, the architect in Carbondale who is familiar with the organ and has actually played it in the past at funerals etc. and Bruce Harris of Baldwin Piano & Organ working on the project for free for the time being. The project as currently planned is to find a company that will give us two cost estimates. The first would be the estimated cost of just getting it to work and the second would be the cost of a full restoration. A third part would be to find an organization that might give us a grant for restoring the organ. There are such grants available for "Historic Organs" which we think ours would qualify for, having been built and installed in 1904.



In August 2020 during "Church Week," 10% of Rural King purchases made on behalf of First Presbyterian Church were donated to the church, yielding a \$100 contribution. Stewardship extends a "Thank you" to everyone who entered their receipt information online. Thanks also to Rural King for their community support, and to David King for bringing this fundraiser to Stewardship's attention.

Photo supplied by Rolanda Quick

**FAIR TRADE ITEMS MAKE GREAT
CHRISTMAS GIFTS!**

We will continue to offer Fair Trade items for curbside pick up at church (in the porte cochere), during our monthly "First Saturday" event. Place your order by November 21 to pick up December 5. Contact Jane (webmaster@firstprescdale.org) for more information.



**ORDER TO
PICK UP ON DECEMBER'S
"FIRST SATURDAY"**



Thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped out during the September 26, 2020 workday. The east and south sides of the church look great!



A group of sixteen FPC hikers met at the Post Oak Trail in Giant City Park Wednesday, October 21. The weather was perfect for a walk along the trail, where we were greeted by Carolina wrens, cedar waxwings, a few blue jays and a turtle who sat patiently on a log in the pond while we snapped photos.

Deb Troester led the group in prayer thanking God for bringing us together in such a beautiful place. Following the hike, some folks gathered at the Visitor Center picnic area to eat lunch and chat.



From L to R: Carol and David King, Dori and Rick Jefferson, Sharon Wittke, Phyllis Beck, Elizabeth Hamilton, Jill Hertzling, Beth Malmquist, Kerry Bean, Bill Schwegman, Deb and Joe Troester. Not shown in photo: Ron Malmquist, Phil Wittke, and Bob Luebbers.



Photos taken by Bob Luebbers

Yarning to make a difference

November 1 on Zoom

The Yarning to Make a Difference group will meet Sunday, November 1, 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. We're currently working on items for the annual Socks and Mitten tree. Contact Jane Swanson (jlsphd@gmail.com) for more information.



NOVEMBER

November Birthdays:

- 1 - Steve Dawson
- 2 - Cindy Buys
- 9 - Judy Dawson
- 13 - Judy Mittendorf
- 14 - Nick Dellinger
- 14 - Denise Brown
- 16 - Aaron Brooks
- 17 - Linus Zimmermann
- 18 - Jim Calloway
- 23 - John Baker
- 26 - Larry Mittendorf
- 28 - Mary Schmid
- 29 - Jane Swanson

November Anniversaries:

- 6 - Randall and Kathryn Heins
- 8 - Clinton and Michele Crews
- 15 - Forrest and Barbara Stewart
- 25 - Bill Martens and Jane Swanson
- 28 - Rob and Mellissa Jensen



October 10 Jonathon and Dede filled nine big Student Spirit Sacks for our First Presbyterian young adult student members.

They will be in the students' homes by Thanksgiving. Many thanks to those who offered to provide treats and did so abundantly.



Fall brings such beautiful sights and smells. We have been enjoying watching the leaves change color and dance around in the wind. The children love to find multi colored ones and crunch around in the ones that have fallen.

The children have enjoyed doing sensory activities with pumpkins and squash. So much squishy and smelly fun to be had. They carved their class pumpkin and named it "Mr. Jack" ...O. Lantern- that is -- such clever kiddos. We are looking forward to the month ahead and pray for continued protection, health, and safety, as we continue to provide care to our amazing children through this troubling time.

We would like to extend gratitude for the donations received from the first Saturday drive through. They are much appreciated and we have been getting good use of them. We would also like to wish everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving and a peaceful month ahead.



Preschool News



We would like to share a very special thank you to Ms. Rolanda for helping us install new faucet handles on our bathroom sinks. Thank you so much for your time and help. We would also like to thank all the church members who donated cleaning supplies last month, that is such a huge help. A special thank you to everyone who contributed to our mum plant sale. We sold 85 mums and we made a profit of \$440. The mums were so big and beautiful; we are so fortunate to partner with and support this local farm.

The children have enjoyed the fall weather and learning about the tree leaves changing colors and falling to the ground. We are extra thankful our first two months of preschool have worked out smoothly and that we have all remained safe and healthy. For the month of November, we will be learning more about fall, geography, the United States and Thanksgiving.

Lastly, just in time for Thanksgiving and the Christmas season we have partnered with Show Me Dough Fundraising and their delicious pastries, cookies and pizza. The original Butter Braid® pastries come in 7 delectable flavors, perfect for family events, celebrations, or a special treat. The Wooden Spoon cookie dough is pre-portioned for your convenience, no thawing, no scooping, and no mess. Each pizza order comes with two full sized locally manufactured pizzas - enough for the whole family. We will be taking orders now through Tuesday, 11/10/20 and the delivery/pickup date will be Wednesday, 11/18/20 at 12:00 p.m. You may call or email Kimberly to place an order and we also have a new online ordering option from this website address: <https://store.myfundraisingplace.com/98c55aea-b384-433e-934e-894a074a5ca0>

We appreciate your support for our preschool. Have a blessed November.



October 2020 Session Meeting Synopsis

We had good attendance at our Session Meeting for October 13, 2020. A couple of folks overcame ongoing technology challenges and joined us once again.

After the opening prayer, I read a short passage from Russ Crabtree's *Owl Sight* about how to gain clarity during a congregation's spiritual discernment.

Then we began with a good, meaty conversation about the change in my terms of call from Interim Pastor to Covenant Pastor starting January 1, 2021. The session considered all the comments from the congregation that were gathered by the Personnel Committee in late September and early October regarding this possible change. I was not "virtually" present for some of this conversation, but when I rejoined the meeting, I was informed that the session had voted unanimously to offer the call as Covenant Pastor. (Note: The presbytery's Commission on Ministry also has subsequently approved the call. Now the Presbytery as a whole will vote on it at its November meeting.)

We then engaged in another good and meaty conversation about the possibility of separating the "Building and Grounds" responsibilities from Stewardship Ministries, in essences creating a Building and Grounds Ministry Team and a Finances Ministry Team. No decision was made at this time, but it was good to get the idea on people's radar since we will be downsizing the session from 16 members to 12 members by 2022. Rob Jensen and Rick Jefferson agreed to head up the Stewardship Campaign for the fall.

All of the financial reports were approved as were the reports from the various ministry teams. You can read about upcoming events and program ideas here in the newsletter. We adjourned and prayed as the meeting concluded.

-Kerry



2 a.m. Sunday, November 1

Financial Report September 2020

75% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 184,173.52	\$ 220,000.00	84%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 10,577.92	\$ 12,000.00	88%
Per Capita	\$ 2,973.16	\$ 1,500.00	198%
Trans. From Investments		\$ 23,004.62	
Miscellaneous	\$ 11,687.52	\$ 20,290.00	58%
Totals	\$ 209,412.12	\$ 276,794.62	76%
Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 6,012.23	\$ 13,520.00	44%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 56,946.22	\$ 82,730.07	69%
Staff	\$ 57,125.73	\$ 82,469.55	69%
Christian Ed.	\$ 346.02	\$ 4,900.00	7%
Worship & Music	\$ 923.69	\$ 3,525.00	26%
Comm/Administration	\$ 17,052.91	\$ 22,250.00	77%
Property/Capital	\$ 46,914.28	\$ 65,300.00	72%
Christian Nurture	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,100.00	5%
Total	\$ 185,421.08	\$ 276,794.62	67%
Revenues over expenses	\$ 23,991.04		



We are holding a canned foot drive.

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



First Presbyterian Church
Carbondale, Illinois

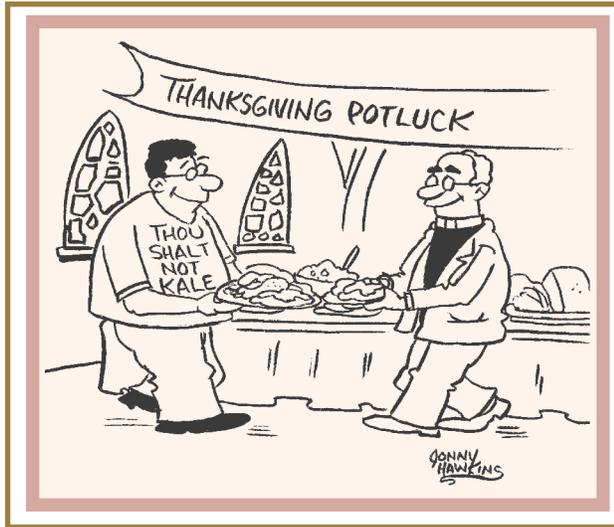
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Web Address: <http://www.firstprescdale.org>

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



NOVEMBER

1983: Receives *the Best Towns in America* award.

1990: Carbondale receives *Best Small Town in Illinois* in 1990.

1992: Growth and development at SIU results in peak enrollment of around 24,766.