



# The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Linda Brandon web address: <http://www.firstprescdale.org>  
The First Presbyterian Church, 310 S. University Ave., Carbondale IL 62901  
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Sunday Worship - 9:30 a.m.  
Faith Dialogues - 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study - 3:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Vespers - 6:00 p.m.  
Christmas Eve Service - 6:00 p.m.

Carbondale's Welcoming  
Response to Afghan Refugees  
Nov. 30

First Sunday - Dec. 5

Alternative Gift Fair - Dec. 5

Order Poinsettias by - Dec. 6

Sock & Mitten Tree Donations  
by - Dec. 10

Pizza & Movie - Dec. 13

Session - Dec. 14

Christmas Joy Offereing -  
Dec. 19

## 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

## Lessons and Blessin's

The season of Advent has begun. Christmastide will soon be upon us! This is a wonderful time of the year to reflect upon the lessons we've learned lately and the blessings which God keeps bestowing upon us. This year it's especially easy for me, so here goes.

Throughout the past couple of weeks- including my tumble down the stairs (imagine it with grace and rugged athleticism, I pray), my trip to the ER, my surgery, and home convalescence- I have learned what I already knew: that I am part of an amazing family and church. I have been cared for with love, compassion, patience, and of course, good humor. (Most of the time.)

Now, please don't get me wrong. I wish I had not fallen. This accident has added all kinds of levels of complications to many people's lives (especially Cindy's!). I'm still in pain often and I am not looking forward to the weeks and months of challenges it's going to take for me to get fully healthy again. I feel so limited about what I'm able to do and contribute right now.

But, of course, I *did* fall. So now I get to go through this process of relying on many of you to a greater degree than ever before. Hopefully I will surprise myself with my strength and resilience. Believe me, my sense of empathy for folks who feel physically limited has grown considerably as well.

In the bigger picture, let us remember that God is the source of all our blessings. God has given us Jesus the Messiah so that we may know life to its fullest and experience eternal life in communion with God. That's what Christmas is all about, Charlie Brown. So, please, in between all of the worship services, holiday meals, Christmas cards, Christmas specials on TV, visits with friends and family, decorating and cleaning homes, and (in my case) visits to the doctors, let's take the time to quietly and thankfully reflect upon the many ways that God has blessed us. It is a good thing to do and is a blessing in itself.

By the way, if you aren't feeling all that blessed, you can talk to God about that, too. It's one of the great things about our faith. We don't have to leave a message or a complaint on a voicemail. We can talk the One in Charge of the Whole Operation anytime we want. We will get through. We will be heard.

Remember that we are called to be in real relationship with God, which means we get to share and experience all the good things and all the bad things of this life together. Emmanuel means our God is with us. That is as true and as real as the swelling in my knee and the Christmas carol in my heart.

The peace of Christ be with you,

Kerry

# WORSHIP with us

Happy Advent! For much of December, the Sanctuary is adorned in vibrant purple—the liturgical color associated with periods of preparation and waiting. Greenery and the Advent wreath add to the sense of festivity as we anticipate Jesus's birth. Congregants participating in Zoom worship are encouraged to fashion their own Advent wreaths at home, to share in the ritual of lighting the Advent candles Sunday mornings and on Christmas Eve.

This year's hybrid Christmas Eve service will be at 6:00 p.m. (in-person and online via Zoom), when we will also celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Sunday, December 26, Deb Corker will speak from the pulpit with a lesson on "The Messiah is born; How Jesus was raised a good Jew."



With our return to in-person worship, we've begun having visitors on Sunday mornings. Not a lot, but a few, and we need to be as welcoming as possible to each of them. As we may all be a little rusty on the membership front, watch for a series of newsletter articles that describes easy ways for everyone in the congregation to help visitors feel welcome.

First lesson: wear your name tag. Wearing your name tag relieves visitors of the burden of trying to remember names of the multiple people they meet on Sunday morning, and it eliminates any embarrassment that might be caused if they forget a name.

If you need a new name tag, please notify Sarah Merideth (smmerideth@gmail.com) or Barb Stewart in the church office.

This year, live poinsettias are available for purchase at \$30.00 each. Poinsettias will adorn the Sanctuary December 19-24. You may dedicate your bloom in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one and are asked to take it home following the Christmas Eve service.



Contact Barb Stewart in the church office before the December 6 deadline to place an order.

As many of you know, Covenant Pastor Kerry Bean recently suffered a fall necessitating orthopedic surgery. Kerry has already presided over Worship and Communion from home via Zoom, and we are grateful for the small but dedicated team of Worship production volunteers who make hybrid morning worship happen every week. The Worship Ministry and Session are currently exploring upgrades to our Sanctuary A/V sound system...as it becomes more streamlined and user-friendly, we hope new volunteers will join our midst.

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## Faith Dialogues



1. In order to resolve scheduling conflicts, FD will move to 10:45 a.m. on Sundays in the sanctuary with participation by Zoom for those who remain at home.
2. Pastor Kerry will lead the Advent series on four prayers via Zoom.
3. There will be no FD December 26 and January 2.
4. The second session of *What It Means To Be an Online Community* originally scheduled for November 21 will take place January 9.

Advent devotionals are available at [pts.edu/devotional\\_1](https://pts.edu/devotional_1). They may be viewed individually or downloaded in PDF format.



# MISSION

## LAUNDRY PROJECT CONTINUES TO PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE

The free Laundry Day was held the second Wednesday of the month, November 10, and will be held again Wednesday, December 8. Contact Jane Swanson or Bill Martens (carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com) if you are interested in volunteering.

## "FIRST SUNDAY" IN DECEMBER

For the First Sunday in December, our church will concentrate on a collection of items for children in our community who need warm socks, mittens, hats and scarves for our Socks and Mittens Tree. If you miss the First Sunday collection please be sure to bring your items by the end of the first week of December. Other needed items can be found on the church website.

## CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Sunday, Dec. 19, the First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale will once again participate in the Christmas Joy Offering, one of the four annual special offerings of the Presbyterian Church USA: "By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God's gift of Jesus Christ by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing future leaders at our Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color."

## SPECIAL MISSION DAYS IN DECEMBER

Dec 1 – World AIDS Day

Dec 10 – Human Rights Day

Dec 19 – Christmas Joy Offering

## CARBONDALE AREA INTERFAITH REFUGEE SUPPORT (CAIRS) PROGRAM

You are invited to join the Carbondale Interfaith Council and CAIRS for a virtual program, "Carbondale's Welcoming Response to Afghan Refugees", Tuesday, November 30 from 6:30-8 p.m. The program is being hosted by the Carbondale Public Library and registration is available on the library website. Panelists include U.S. military personnel who served in Afghanistan, a graduate student from Afghanistan, a refugee from Iraq, and our own Presbyterians, Cindy Buys and Gary Williams.



## How Do I Upload My Photo in Zoom?

One challenge associated with hybrid worship involves helping congregants feel connected to others, including those who choose to turn off their Zoom video camera. We recently asked you to upload a personal or family photo to Zoom, which allows others to see who is participating and to "put names to faces" as we welcome new (and returning) worshipers to our faith community.

Uploading your photo is most easily done from Zoom's website (not the Zoom app) at [www.zoom.us](https://www.zoom.us). If you haven't already, first create a Zoom account by clicking on "Sign up, It's Free" in the upper right corner. Sign in to your account, then click "Profile" on the left side of the screen. Next to your name you will see a square with your initial(s) or a blank profile picture. Click on the square, then click "Change" to upload a photo image from your computer files. You can move the square to make sure your photo is centered, before clicking "Save".

Before you join hybrid worship or a Zoom meeting, first make sure you are signed into your Zoom account. When you turn off your video, your photo should be visible in your Zoom "square." For troubleshooting help, don't hesitate to reach out to Worship Elder Lisa Hollabaugh.



## COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Thanks to your generous donations, our church made the following contributions to community organizations over the last month:

\$1,025 to Marion Medical Mission

\$800 to Good Samaritan Ministries

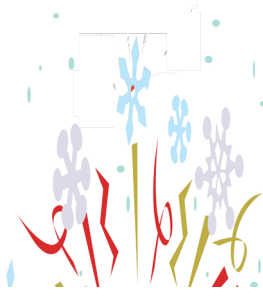
\$750 to Warming Center

\$621.25 to Pastors for Peace (Peace and Global Witness Offering)

\$350 to Feed My Sheep

\$250 to Women's Center

In addition, our church exceeded its goal of giving for **SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS** by more than 50%.

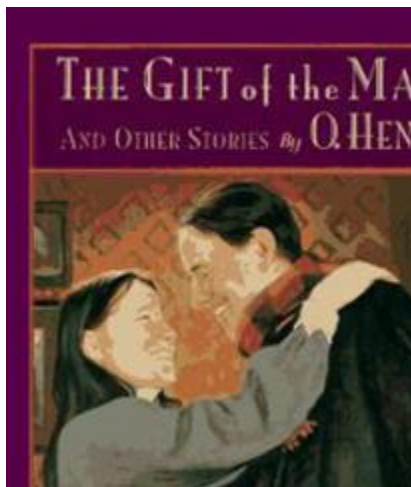


## Spirit of Christmas Update

We have surpassed our goal of \$1625 and collected a total of \$3095. Thank you so much for your generosity and caring spirit. Our contributions will be pooled with others to give members of our community a more joyous holiday. Jill Hertzing and Phyllis Beck, Spirit of Christmas Coordinators.



**The Dinner Group plans to convene in January if the Covid-19 metrics for the region are at acceptable levels. Please stay tuned for more information.**



December's Pizza & Movie Night will be Monday, December 13. This month's movie will feature O'Henry's short story, THE GIFT OF THE MAGI. Perhaps you read it in school long ago, but did you ever see the film version? It was filmed about 50 years ago, still so precious. Before we watch the video, we will eat pizza, salad, fruit, and cookies, and have a choice of beverages. We gather in the Youth Lounge at 6:00 p.m. to begin our evening together. Friends and family are welcome. No cost. Just let Kitty Trescott know you will be there, via phone or text: 618-203-1807, email: trescott@midwest.net





Flages were placed at Snider Hill Cemetsry in observance of Veteran's Day.



Photos by Bob Luebbers and Beth Malmquist

Recently while Pastor Kerry was on vacation, we enjoyed some unique and enriching worship experiences led by lay personnel. Sunday, October 31, Christiel Bartles (sister of Music Director Carlyn Zimmermann) and Kathy Manfredi led us in "Worship and Celebration of God Through Movement and Meditation." Stretching, simple breathing exercises and the rich tones of a ringing gong added a sense of peace and wonder to the service. Thanks to Christiel and Kathy for their inspiration, time and talent.



Sunday, November 14, Kathy moderated a discussion, with Reona Daly, Beth Forsberg, Peter Hertzling and John Hooker on "How COVID and the Pandemic Have Affected My Faith." These long-time members shared how the ongoing pandemic has both challenged—and strengthened—their faith and connections with others. We are grateful to have such involved church members, Elders, and Deacons who are willing to contribute to creative and meaningful worship experiences; thank you, all.



Photo by :Lisa Hollabaugh



Do you enjoy singing and miss being part of a vocal ensemble? Three of our choir members are now participating in Derek Hamblin's virtual choir at First Christian Church. Vocalists record their parts (individually or in small groups) in Derek's office; then all voices are combined with accompaniment in lovely harmony. First Christian Church has generously shared these audio files with our church, to broadcast periodically during Sunday services. If you'd like to join this effort or have questions, reach out to Carlyn Zimmermann, Kathy Manfredi or Lisa Hollabaugh for more information.



## Virtual Choir



Season's Greetings! We are excited that the holiday season is upon us. Our little elves are ready to learn and celebrate the month ahead.

Last month, our children enjoyed playing in the fall leaves, throwing them up in the air, crunching them, studying them, and gathering them for projects. We also enjoyed doing Thanksgiving activities including making hand turkeys, collages, feather fun, and having discussions about what we are grateful for. We also had a mini Thanksgiving feast in the classroom where each student brought a food item to share. We gave thanks to one another and expressed how grateful we were.

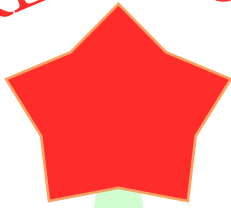
This month we will be celebrating the holiday season, working on our studies, and making presents for our loved ones. Thank you to Ann Warner for

donating grapevine for us to turn into holiday wreaths. It will be much fun for the little ones to decorate them and for us to continue to incorporate the natural world in the classroom.

Throughout this year, our teachers have continued to work hard keeping the children safe and healthy during this ongoing time of struggle with the pandemic. This year we will again be collecting a gift for them. If anyone is interested in contributing to this fund we would greatly appreciate your support. For our school, we are asking Santa for some tablets or electronic learning devices...such as Leapfrog Leap Pads, Vtech learning desks, writing devices, and glow/light boards. We also love sensory fun with kinetic sand, slime, playdough, and fidget toys. Any kindness would be appreciated.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year from the PCDC Daycare family. Peace be with us all now and always.

PRESCHOOL



#### Birthdays

2 James Prest  
7 Carolyn Hooker  
9 Barbara Bennett  
9 Neal Foland  
11 Elena Luebbers  
14 Elaine Miskell  
21 Jill Rendleman  
25 Lance Forsberg  
28 Lauren Bonner



Happy December! We are all looking forward to the Christmas season. This month we will be learning about kindness and the season and doing lots of activities revolving around this favorite time of the year. A Pajama day is certainly in order and enjoyed by everyone including the teachers. Our students will be busy working on special Christmas gifts to give to their parents. Our teachers surprise the kiddos with special keepsake gifts to remember from preschool. This month we are also collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items for the Good Samaritan Food Pantry. It's a great opportunity for the children to learn how we can help those in need.

For Christmas, we normally provide our beloved teachers with a holiday bonus to show our love and appreciation for the many hours they spend with each student at Presbyterian Preschool, as well as the

additional hours of planning and improving curriculum. Special circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic have also created a need for the teachers to work additional time cleaning and sanitizing the classrooms and toys to ensure safe surroundings for all of the students and families. The funds for this holiday bonus normally come from the Presbyterian Preschool checking account and the amount is dependent upon the availability of surplus funds. The preschool's budget relies mostly on enrollment and given the current reduced enrollment and income for our school, the surplus is not as abundant in 2021.

Our preschool board members are asking for extra support. Please consider donating a cash gift to be disbursed evenly among the four teachers at Presbyterian Preschool to allow for a bonus that reflects our appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the school and each student. In lieu of gifts to each teacher in the form of candy, beauty items, gift cards, and other baubles, we ask that you consider a donation made payable to Presbyterian Preschool.

We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and joyous New Year!





## Advent Adornment

Photos by Lisa Hollabaugh



### ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Be sure to attend this year's Alternative Gift Fair Sunday, December 5 from 2-5 pm at the Carbondale Civic Center. There are over 30 organizations participating this year including the Diaper Bank and the Laundry Project.

*You're Invited to the 16th\* Annual*

## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

Find Gifts That Matter  
and  
Support Your Community

**SUNDAY, DEC. 5, 2021 • 2-5 PM  
CARBONDALE CIVIC CENTER**

\*LAST YEAR DIDN'T COUNT, OBVIOUSLY

**Find your non-profit faves at the Fair!**

Rainbow Cafe\*Humane Society of SI\*The Diaper Bank of SI\*Carbondale Laundry Project\*Carbondale Warming Center\*SI AIDS Coalition\*Green Earth\*Shawnee Chapter Sierra Club\*Marion Medical Mission\*Peace Coalition of SI\*Keep Carbondale Beautiful\*Habitat for Humanity of Union and Jackson Counties\*Friends of the Shawnee\*A Gift of Love Charity\*The Women's Center\*Gaia House\*Libre Unschool\*Y'all Rock Carbondale\*Boys and Girls Club of SI\*CUF Social Action committee\*Good Samaritan Ministries\*Friends of Carbondale Dog Parks\*Friends of Giant City State Park\*Friends of the Cache\*Girl Scouts of SI-Jackson County\*CAIRS\*Southern Illinois Wellness\*Carbondale Main Street



# Session Synopsis

Synopsis of the Session  
Meeting November 9, 2021

This month, I am going to do a couple of unusual things with this synopsis. One is that I'm going to focus almost entirely on a single item that we discussed. The other is that I'm going to use many of the notes that our Clerk Sharon Wittke took during the meeting. (These notes have not been officially approved as Minutes of the Session yet).

First of all, we did have a complete meeting. The financial health of the church seems very strong thanks to your generous giving. As you will find out at the Annual Meeting in January, pledging for 2022 is strong as well. We also heard reports from the ministry teams and from me as the Covenant Pastor. This newsletter will relay to you directly some of those reports.

The big item for discussion at the meeting was the sanctuary organ. We have been discussing the future of the organ ever since I began as your Interim Pastor two and a half years ago. Finally, we were able to contract with a local company of good reputation to come and give the organ (and the space in which it lives) a thorough examination. That company is Wicks Organ Company of Highland, Illinois. Via Zoom, we were given a PowerPoint presentation that included the results of Wick's examination of the organ earlier this year and a proposed course of action. And here I post the notes that Sharon took:

Wicks Organ Company: Scott Wick and Cory Wright from Wicks Organ Company shared a slide presentation that outlined the removal, restoration, and reinstallation of our church organ (Aolian-Skinner Opus 1199). The proposed amount was \$330,499.00. This amount did not include blower repairs, which Mr. Wick said could be done for less locally, although his company would do the work if we wanted that. If the organ were to be completely replaced, the estimated amount would be between \$800,000 and \$900,000.

A discussion followed the presentation. Highlights of the discussion include the following:

- ☐ Mr. Wick's estimate is about double from what was expected
- ☐ Repairs must be made to the walls that surround the organ and to the roof due to leaks and water damage
- ☐ There is no longer an organ program at SIU, and it would be difficult to hire an organist
- ☐ The cost of moving/donating the organ to another entity is prohibitive (one example cited \$55,000 to move an organ to another church only a short distance away)
- ☐ If the organ were repaired, Session must also consider ongoing maintenance costs
- ☐ What are the ramifications of leaving the organ in place, and making roof and wall repairs around it – space is very limited, and the organ nearly touches the wall
- ☐ A digital organ can be purchased for approximately \$35,000 if the congregation wants to hear organ music – however, finding an organist could be difficult
- ☐ Money might be better spent on other priorities
- ☐ The proposal from Wicks Organ Company didn't offer alternatives with a menu of options and different levels of expenses
- ☐ Possibly someone in the future may donate the amount needed to repair the organ if it is left in place
- ☐ The pipes that are visible are ornamental, so if the organ were removed, they would remain in place
- ☐ The need to resolve the leaks and water resulting from porous stonework is paramount

A consensus was reached to create a task force led by the Facilities Ministry for the purpose of exploring options to repair the Sanctuary roof and walls.

Motion: The motion was made to thank Wicks Organ Company for their time and dedication in preparing the proposal, but at this time our church cannot accept it as it stands. Ask Mr. Wick for several possible alternatives to the complete renovation outlined in the proposal. Passed.



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

Within a couple of days, I contacted Scott Wicks and told him that the session very much appreciated his company's work but that we are unable to commit to a complete restoration of the organ at this time. I told him that we would also like to hear ideas about how to perhaps do such a restoration in phases over a longer period of time, if possible.

One thing that seems obvious is that we must address any continuing issues of leaking and water damages first. But we do not know yet what the scale of such leakage really is. But that will be our starting point.

It is my hope to bring all of this to you for discussion at the Annual Meeting. We may have additional pertinent information we can share with you by then. Your voice and opinion is important as we continue our discernment process.

But I wanted to make sure you understood where things stand and the decisions we have made so far. If you have any questions, please let me know. -Kerry

### Financial Report October 2021

83% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 201,487.88	\$ 225,981.00	89%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 14,860.38	\$ 11,806.31	126%
Per Capita	\$ 2,043.48	\$ 2,500.00	82%
Trans. From Investments	\$ -	\$ 23,004.62	
Miscellaneous	\$ 14,997.77	\$ 8,035.38	187%
Totals	\$ 233,389.51	\$ 271,327.31	86%

Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 10,136.22	\$ 13,520.00	75%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 60,168.44	\$ 75,798.76	79%
Staff	\$ 55,275.91	\$ 82,469.55	67%
Christian Ed.	\$ 1,466.67	\$ 4,900.00	30%
Worship & Music	\$ 1,021.33	\$ 3,575.00	29%
Comm/Administration	\$ 18,642.03	\$ 25,064.00	74%
Property/Capital	\$ 51,960.77	\$ 64,100.00	81%
Christian Nurture	\$ 309.30	\$ 1,900.00	16%
Total	\$ 198,980.67	\$ 271,327.31	73%

Revenues over Expenses \$ 34,408.84

**Oops**

We Three Kings of Orient Art

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



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**Carbondale, Illinois**

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



December  
2021



As we look forward in December 2021, it is our fervent prayer that we can all once again celebrate the December holiday of 2022 in our lovely Sanctuary