



The Carbondale Presbyterian

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contact us at: firstpresnews@gmail.com

All Church Activities
are cancelled until
further notice except for
those conducted online.
See our website or our
Facebook page for in-
formation about Sunday
Services and Wednesday
Bible Study.

Church Office Hours
Office will be closed until
further notice.

Phone Extensions:
Rev. Bean 101
Barb 100
Carlyn: 106
SI Diaper Bank 110



NOTES FROM KERRY

Some Words for When Words Aren't Enough

So as I'm writing this it's Monday 3/23. Many of you were able to watch our Zoom-style worship yesterday. Most watched it live and others in the recorded version. It has warmed my heart to know that our worship service is so important to so many of you.

There were a couple of times when it was a little, let's say, "clunky". I know that I read very quickly at times. I know that I didn't make nearly enough "eye contact". And I know that I often mysteriously blended into the background- which was weird for all of us! We're also going to try and improve the sound as best we can. (But please know there are challenges when it comes to different folks' internet service. You gotta work with what ya got!)

But overall, it was wonderful to be present with you, at least virtually. I felt a little like Alexander Graham Bell when he said, "*Mr. Watson, come here!*" into the first working telephone. Of course, I didn't invent the internet. Al Gore did that.



We will keep tweaking the Zoom style worship on Sundays until it gets smoother and feels a little more familiar to all of us. But, of course, it will never replace actually congregating as a congregation.

The news about the COVID-19 outbreak only gets worse it seems. And it's going to for a while. Not forever. But for the foreseeable future. Coming to grips with that as soon as we can will lessen our frustrations and anxieties, I think. This pandemic is one of those things that is '*way*' out of our personal control. We can do what we can do- like following the shelter in place and hygienic protocols. And of course we can pray.

Otherwise, we are waiting for others to address the crisis. And they are. Maybe not perfectly. But they are. And as I've said before, this is how our world works. Weeks or months from now, Nature will have reset the system. I'm not sure the virus will be eradicated but our immune defenses will be more adept at resisting it. Perhaps medical research will result in a vaccination or medication that will help as well.

But we are in this for the long, long haul. The best way for us to navigate this ongoing passage will be to stay in contact with one another and help one another however we can. Communication is the key. Here is how you can provide help and/or ask for help:

1. Visit www.firstprescdale.org, which is the church's website. We keep all the up to date church news on there. Plus we've recently added places for you to tell me your joys, concerns, and prayer requests. Also there is a new spot for you to share ideas, thoughts, quotes, humor and more with everyone. It is a great tool for building community. You can even go on the "members" page to look up folks in the directory or find out who your Deacon is.
2. Visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/firstprescdale/>. It is also kept remarkably up to date and tells the world what we're up to at First PC (Well, not *everything...*)
3. Send me a note at pastorkerry@firstprescdale.org. I read them all and I will get back to you as soon as I can.
4. Call your Deacon! They are amazing at getting important pastoral concerns to me in a timely fashion.

As I mentioned on Sunday, many of us are used to calling the church office to get information or leave messages. That's because Barb does such an amazing job of handling communications for us. But she has to shelter in place, too. She is not hanging out in her office mornings and afternoons. So we cannot guarantee if and when a phone message you leave will be heard. That's why you should try one of the methods above. Stay in

touch with us! We don't anyone to feel forgotten or alone. (Unless you're like Marlene Dietrich and you *want* to be alone!)

Final thing: we have just sent out a Zoom invite for the Wednesday Afternoon Bible Study. (It's in the Alerts email, on the website and Facebook page, too.) It will start, as usual, at 3:30pm on Wednesday 3/25. It doesn't matter what version of the Bible you use. We've been studying Genesis, but I may change that up. We'll see. It should be informative and fun and a great way to get together. Zoom, once you start, is pretty easy to figure out.

Okay, that's it! You'll keep hearing from me a lot in the days and weeks to come. And I promise you we will figure out how to meaningfully commemorate and celebrate the Holy Week together. It'll just be different. But that's okay, because God works in different, too. God will make it work and make it work for good.

Peace and wellness!

Kerry

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

Bette Baggett

July 1, 1923 – March 14, 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



MEALS ON WHEELS

Meals on Wheels is still running in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bill Schwegman John Holt, and Linda Brandon are seen preparing to deliver meals from the Carbondale Senior Citizens Center in March. First Presbyterian joins United Methodist, First Christian and St. Francis to deliver meals each month throughout Carbondale.

Charlene Scott, has been our church MOW Coordinator since 1986 and is proud of our volunteers for their dedication. She knows that during these times it may become necessary to ask for a substitute and she asks that you first attempt to find one from the MOW Volunteer List. If that is not possible, please call the Center at 618-457-4151 and they will assign one of their staff members to help.

Meanwhile, the Senior Citizens Center has posted the following notice:

"Congregate meals are only available for pickup at this time and you must have reservations. Pickup time is between 11:30 and 12:30. You can call the Center at 457-4151 for meals information."



Bill Schwegman, John Holt, and Linda Brandon get ready to go with meals to deliver. John's partner, Bob Luebbers, is taking the photo.

MEN'S GROUP



Tiffany A. Player, Asst. Prof. of History at S.I.U., is surrounded by members of the Presbyterian Men's Group meeting in February. Player completed her doctorate in History at Washington University in St. Louis. Her dissertation, "African American Women and the Politics of Slavery from the Antebellum Era through the Great Depression," was the basis of her presentation.

The great migration of African Americans from the south to the north formed three waves: 1865 – 1896; 1900 – 1940; and 1940 – 1970.

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Photo by Bob Luerbbers

"It's important to remember that American Blacks did not enter the US via Rikers Island as European migrants," explained Player. Mobility arose from civil strife. More than four million Blacks lived in the US in the 1800's prior to the Civil War. Desperate to escape the south, Blacks were "pushed" to follow the northern migration by landless emancipation, share cropping, lynching, difficulty to sustain labor activism, convict lease system, disenfranchisement, and Jim Crow Laws.

Migration occurred along three main routes to the north with a branch route veering to the west coast. Men usually went ahead of the women and settled primarily in Newark, N.J.; Detroit; Chicago; and L.A. The pull factors were higher wages and war time military opportunities. Yet Blacks were confronted with arcane lists of "Don'ts for Newcomers" and had to resort to "The Negro Motorist Green-Book" for traveling the country. The second migration wave produced Civil Rights activists such as Malcolm X; Angela Davis; Huey Newton, and Bobby Seale.

The 21st century witnessed a trend-reverse migration diaspora. Blacks started to migrate to the south because of lower cost of living and better race relations. Voter Rights have empowered Blacks, and has started a "Southern Renaissance".

Prof. Player fielded questions and spoke with firsthand knowledge of what we can do as a church to improve race relations in Carbondale. "I know Carbondale well and my son graduated from the First Presbyterian Daycare Center," said Player. "Isolation can breed contempt. For example, we may drive to the north east part of town to pick up our kids from school, but we don't stay or engage." Churches mean well but they want to "fix" things and that isn't always enough to break down the cultural barriers."

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, future Men's Group meetings have been suspended.

SNIDER HILL CEMETERY

The **Snider Hill Interest Group of Small Groups Ministry** will be coordinating cemetery maintenance workdays again in 2020 to coincide with the major summer holidays. We followed this format last year and it worked well to have dates planned out.

Our first workday of the season will be Saturday, May 16, to be ready for Memorial Day. Plan to arrive at the cemetery around 9 a.m.. We will work two to three hours. Plan to wear long pants, shoes/boots appropriate for tall grass and uneven terrain. Bring gloves, water, and any tools you might use around your house for cleanup work such as hand saws, loppers and pruners.

The cemetery is located off Park Avenue just east of Lewis Lane. For directions or questions, contact Phyllis Beck, Harry Davis, Bob Luebers or Beth Malmquist.

Help us spruce up the cemetery for the major summer holidays. Our remaining work dates will be Saturday, June 27 and Saturday, August 29.



We reach out to everyone during this difficult time and send love, light, and healthy wishes to you and yours.

At this time, PCDC Daycare is working hard to stay open as a service to our families and community. It is by no means easy. We are working extra hard doing additional cleaning, disinfecting/sanitizing, searching multiple stores for supplies and groceries, dealing with many communal fears, etc. All this is happening while trying to maintain a sense of normalcy, stability, consistency, and routine. We ask for your prayers for our amazing staff, children, and families.

During these times of uncertainty we are asking for donations of all types. Monetary donations, paper towels, trash bags, toilet paper, disinfectant spray, dish soap, bleach, cups, spoons/forks, milk (Vitamin D and 1%), whole grain food items (bread, bagels, crackers, cereal, snacks, etc.), frozen vegetables, frozen/canned fruit, cooked meat products, and other various items. Before everything else happened, we had just started our Spring fundraiser for Yankee

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Candle. We welcome you to be a part of this through online ordering. We should receive 35% of all orders. Please share on social media or with friends. They offer straight ship to home options. To participate in the fundraiser please visit www.yankee烛光筹款.com and enter the group # 999998080. We would appreciate any support during this difficult time.



Photos furnished by Daycare

We also ask you to please give us a call at (618)529-1551, send us an email (pcdcdaycare@firstprescdale.org), or letter (PCDC Daycare, 310 S. University Ave, Carbondale, IL, 62901) with any prayers, support, or words of encouragement. We need them now more than ever. We continue to serve God and our people. We hope everyone stays well and has a nice Easter. God bless.

Special Note from Sara Squires, Director PCDC:

The daycare was mandated to close effective March 21, 2020. This presents a terrible hardship for the employees, families, and the center. We are asking for any kindnesses that can be extended through support-either through prayers or financial donations.

We may be exploring the possibility of an emergency license to help provide childcare for the essential workers. There are many additional restrictions, regulations, and requirements, which may not even make it feasible at this time. However, we are in the process of gathering information from the staff, parents, and community, for consideration. If any members of the church have any thoughts, opinions, or concerns about this please let us know by contacting us. We would appreciate it.

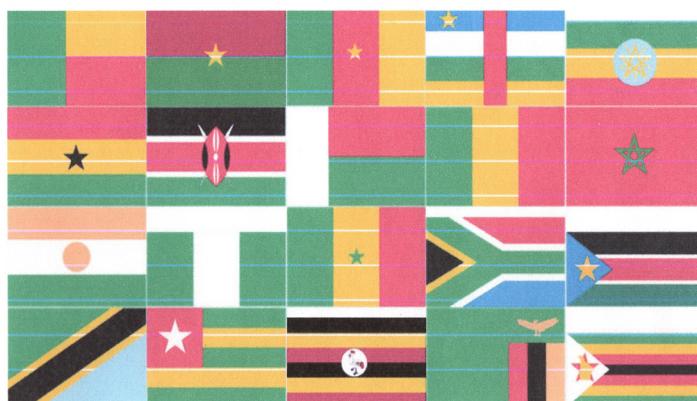
Troesters

Rev. Deborah and Joe Troester have sent this message from Zambia: "After much prayerful consideration, we feel that the time has come for us to retire from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America-Global Mission after fourteen years of service in Africa. Both of us will celebrate our 65th birthdays this year and it is time to head home."

The plan at present for them is to leave Zambia March 23 and arrive in Carbondale March 25 where they will be staying in quarantine for the next 14 days.

They ask "for your prayers and support as we return and try to reintegrate ourselves into 21st century America".

They have not lived in the continental United States since 1982 when they went to Puerto Rico.



The graphic illustrates the 20 countries the Troesters have visited in the past 14 years: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Note from the Newsletter Editor:
Since First Presbyterian Church is closed until further notice, there will be no calendar this month.

Please check out our website or Facebook page for links to Sunday Church Services and Wednesday Bible Study: www.firstprescdale.org or www.facebook.com/firstprescdale/

Financial Report February 2020

			16% of the year completed
Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 93,378.32	\$ 220,000.00	42%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 2,560.00	\$ 12,000.00	21%
Per Capita	\$ 2,320.00	\$ 1,500.00	155%
Trans. From Investments		\$ 23,004.62	
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,511.46	\$ 20,290.00	22%
Totals	\$ 102,769.78	\$ 276,794.62	37%
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Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 854.19	\$ 13,520.00	6%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 11,910.22	\$ 82,730.07	14%
Staff	\$ 13,704.33	\$ 82,469.55	17%
Christian Ed.	\$ 105.65	\$ 4,900.00	2%
Worship & Music	\$ 184.69	\$ 3,525.00	5%
Comm/Administration	\$ 10,345.91	\$ 22,250.00	46%
Property/Capital	\$ 13,799.22	\$ 65,300.00	21%
Christian Nurture	\$ -	\$ 2,100.00	0%
Total	\$ 50,904.21	\$ 276,794.62	18%
Revenues over expenses	\$ 51,865.57		
Bank acct.	\$ 27,341.33		

OOPS!

"The Church of God Cannot be Found"

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



First Presbyterian Church Carbondale, Illinois

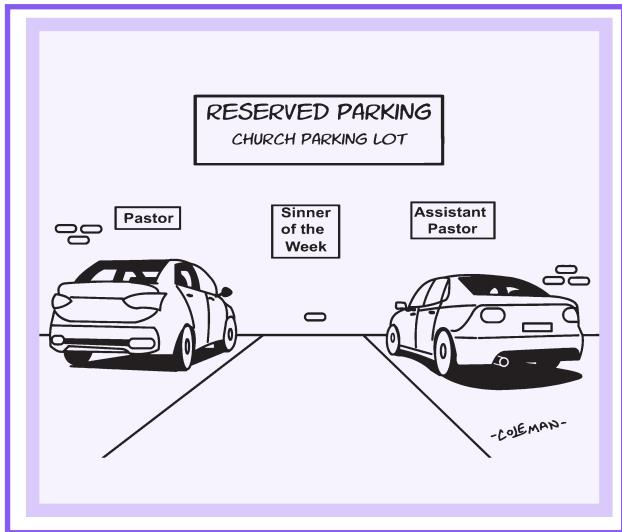
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Email: office@firstprescdale.org (church office)

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

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



1883: The first “Main Building” on college campus burned and was replaced by 1887.

1890: One of the 3 town founders, Daniel Brush is killed in a freak “tree-felling” accident.

1885-91: City growth slows but population tops 2000 for first time.