



The Carbondale Presbyterian

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The Hope of Easter

Church Office Hours

Monday through
Thursday 9:00-11:30 a.m.
and 12:30-4:00 p.m.

Phone Extensions:

Rev. Kerry Bean 101
Barb 100
Carlyn 106
SI Diaper Bank 110

Notes from Kerry



Behold, You Are A New Creation!

I am writing this article on the second full day of spring. It's less than two weeks until Easter- and I'm excited!

I'm also excited that the light at the end of the Covid-19 pandemic seems to be growing brighter all the time. I'm excited about working outdoors again and feeling the warmth of the sun as I walk and bike and yes, even mow. It has been a year of too much indoors and isolation. And I'm a card-carrying introvert!

But I need some people time. Zoom has helped a lot, but it's not the same. The promise of things returning to normal (at least in most ways) is wonderful and energizing, and I can't wait. I am so looking forward to us gathering here at the church and worshipping together. And it feels like that possibility is not that far away. All of the old normal things now glisten with newness.

Easter, of course, is all about new life. God resurrects Christ from the tomb on Easter morning. The hold that death once had on us is broken forever and life after life is graciously given to us. Soon the powerful work of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost occurs- and the disciples become inspired to boldly proclaim the gospel for the rest of their lives. There is so much goodly, Godly *energy* abounding!

Now, believe me, I do not feel like I'm brimming with energy every minute, no matter what time of year it is. I'm older now than I've ever been- and I'm guessing you are as well. I am t-i-r-e-d at the end of the day. But *this* spring, this Easter season is different. The Apostle Paul's amazing teaching that we are new creations in Christ resonates even more, like a church bell pealing with joy.

Many of us have lost loved ones during this past year. And we miss them, and we grieve them. But the promise of resurrection and new life and eternal life and being new creations is as real and true as the lengthening days and the awakening of nature around us. God loves us and has done these wonderous things for us!

So, please take the time this month to go outdoors and experience the re-birth of spring. Join us for Easter worship on the greenspace and via Zoom. Get back to the wonderful work of living life with purpose and passion. It's like the Pointer Sisters say: "I'm so excited! And I just can't hide it!"

Easter blessings,

-Kerry

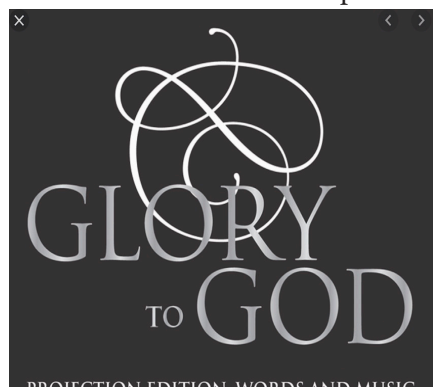
April Worship Activities

Our Maundy Thursday service will be held via Zoom Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 7 p.m. We invite everyone to observe the Last Supper of Jesus and his Apostles by eating a simple meal of soup and bread that evening prior to the service, when Communion will be served.

This year, "First Pres" will celebrate Easter with two services--a brief Sunrise Service held in person on our outdoor green space, followed by regular online worship via Zoom.



Easter Sunrise Service will begin Sunday, April 4, 2021 at 7 a.m. and last about 30 minutes. Pastor Kerry describes this event as a simple reverential service with a campfire ambience; casual (and warm!) dress is encouraged. Bring your own lawn chair(s) or picnic blanket; familiar hymns will be sung a capella. Masking and social distancing will be observed. There will even be a "to go" treat of freshly baked hot cross buns.



In case of questionable Easter morning weather conditions, an alerts message will be sent and (if applicable) a cancellation notice will be posted on Facebook and the church website. You're encouraged to check your email or Facebook before leaving home that morning. The Sunrise Service will not be "Zoomed."

Online Easter Sunday morning worship will convene at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Holy Communion will be served, and everyone is invited to join a break-out room after the service, for some fellowship time.

You may have noticed that hymn lyrics no longer appear on the screen during online worship. Carlyn Zimmermann is now pre-recording hymns, greatly improving sound quality. Because Zoom doesn't allow two screens to be shared at the same time, hymn lyrics are now shown on the Zoom "Chat" function. If you prefer to borrow a "Glory to God" hymnal from the church to better read lyrics, please contact Kathy Manfredi.

Planning is underway for an outdoor in-person service Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021 on the church's green space. Look for more information to follow.

The Worship Ministry is seeking folks who'd like to serve as Worship Assistant for Sunday morning Zoom services during the summer. Contact Sharon Wittke if you are interested.

If you or someone you know needs assistance with Zoom, please contact any member of the Worship Ministry. If you are unable to attend via Zoom, services are also available to view on the church website.





Camp Carew

It's time to make reservations for Camp Carew; camp schedule and application materials are available at campcarew.org. We have some scholarship funds available for young people connected to our congregation.

Graduates

Each Spring, we traditionally recognize members of our church family who are graduating from an educational institution. We let this pass last year, in the vain hope we could do it during in-person worship. We aren't going to leave anyone out this time.



For Camp Carew scholarship information, or to advise of someone graduating this year (or someone we didn't recognize last year), contact faith@firstprescdale.org, jhbaker36@gmail.com or reonadaly117@gmail.com.

Thank you to everyone for your cards and well wishes on our wedding anniversary. We were married March 15, 2008 at First Presbyterian Church surrounded by music, love and friendship. Reverend Janice West officiated. Joe Cash was Best Man and Lily Vucinic was Maid of Honor. To celebrate 13 years of marriage, Elena baked a low-sugar chocolate cake and Bob built a Peterson Bluebird house.



Elena & Bob Luebbers



With winter behind us, **Small Groups Ministry** is looking forward to organizing several Walks in the Woods this spring and summer. Our first hike will be at Chautauqua Bottoms in Carbondale, with the date to be determined. Stay tuned for more information; we hope you'll join us for fresh air and fellowship.



Class of 2024 Church Officer Installation

Sunday, March 7, 2021, Brenda Gilbert was ordained as a Deacon during the Class of 2024 Church Officer Installation Ceremony. As a substitute for the laying on of hands, Brenda wore a shawl of paper hands traced and signed by church members and friends. Special thanks to the Worship Ministry, Pastor Kerry and Wendi Zea for their creative vision in finding ways to enhance congregational connections during this time of continued social distancing.

Brenda joins Phyllis Beck, Brenda Myers and Carolyn Hooker as incoming Deacons. Incoming Elders re-joining Session are John Baker who will serve as a Faith Development Ministry Ruling Elder, and Kathy Manfredi who will be a Worship Ministry Ruling Elder.

All Hands on Deck

The church workday is Saturday, March 27.

We have lots of weed pulling and hedge trimming just waiting to happen. If that's not your thing then perhaps you would like to partake in a little scraping & painting (handrails on Elm St and sign frames on University). All work will be done outside where we will be masked and practice social distancing. We will spread mulch sometime in April, date to be determined later. If your schedule doesn't per-

mit you to join in this Saturday, no worries, I'll look you up for the mulch spreading event.

Thanks to the many folks who have cared for our Church grounds in the past.....and to those able & willing to pitch in now. We appreciate your efforts.

What is



Per Capita is a fundamental way in which all of the nearly 10,000 congregations and mid councils of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. connect, participate and share in the work of the wider church. Per capita is the primary source of funding for the Office of the General Assembly and is how Presbyterians mutually and equitably share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future.

Our Per Capita amount for 2021 is \$42.00 per church member. Per capita is not included in recurring pledge giving. As you are able, please designate your "Per Capita" contribution by mailing a check to the church office, or via our online giving portal at www.firstpresdale.org.

First Saturdays at "First Pres"

The First Saturday of each month, First Presbyterian Church hosts its drive-through "First Saturday" event under the porte cochere. Folks drop off donations for the Carbondale Laundry Project, Diaper Bank, Food Pantry, and our own Daycare and Preschool, and pick up pre-ordered Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate items. It's a welcome opportunity to greet one other in person while maintaining safe social distancing.. We had a great turnout Saturday, March 6, 2021, when the Worship Ministry fashioned the shawl of paper hands worn by Deacon Brenda Gilbert during her ordination.



Wendi Zea



Bo & Siena Sullivan



Lance Forsberg



Sarah Merideth & Sophie with Bill Martens



John Baker



Phyllis Beck & Bill Martens



Mary Jane Brooks & Jane Swanson



Bob



Dori & Rick Jefferson

April Birthdays

3 - Kitty Trescott
4 - Bo Sullivan
7 - Toni Becker
10 - Jeff Franklin
12 - Jonathon Brooks
12 - Marta Davis
15 - Maddie Moore
18 - Craig Heins
20 - Don Leigeber
21 - Melissa Jensen
23 - Orlan Brown

*If we missed
your birthday or
anniversary, please
accept our apologies
and notify the office;
this helps us keep
church records
up-to-date.*



Thank you to Lisa Hol-
labaugh for putting together the
newsletter in March. Lisa's will-
ingness to take over the task was
much appreciated and her creativ-
ity made it a special addition.

DAYCARE

This month we are conducting a tree study with investigation questions such as: What are the characteristics of the trees in our community? Who lives in trees? What food comes from trees? Who takes care of trees? How do trees change? What can we do with parts of trees? How do trees help? The children will enjoy exploring and learning all about our amazing friends...the trees. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt for the kiddos to enjoy and celebrate this important holiday.

We would also like to let everyone know we are having our Spring fundraiser which includes an Art in Nature brochure full of beautiful bulbs, seed mats, plants, and seeds. All items are guaranteed to grow and bloom. Our school garden included some beautiful gladiolus and sunflowers donated from this fundraiser a couple of years ago. Orders are due on Wednesday, March 31, 2021. We are also selling Little Caesar coupon books for \$5 which includes \$30 worth of free food. The coupons never expire and you may use as many as you wish at one time. We will be selling these now through the month of April. As always, donations in lieu of purchases are welcomed and appreciated as well. We thank you in advance for your support.

We wish everyone a
Happy Easter and a super
fabulous month ahead!



Preschool

Happy Spring! We are so excited for the sunshine and spring weather. We asked our preschoolers and teachers what they love about spring and hope you enjoy what they have to say:

Opening my pool when it gets warm

Opening my pool and jumping off the diving board

I like to play with my friends and pick apples from the apple tree

Seeing the Easter bunny

Easter, I like to find the eggs

Easter, I like the candy inside the eggs

The raccoons eat the garbage

Dogs

Fish, we like to eat them

Going to my grandma's lake house

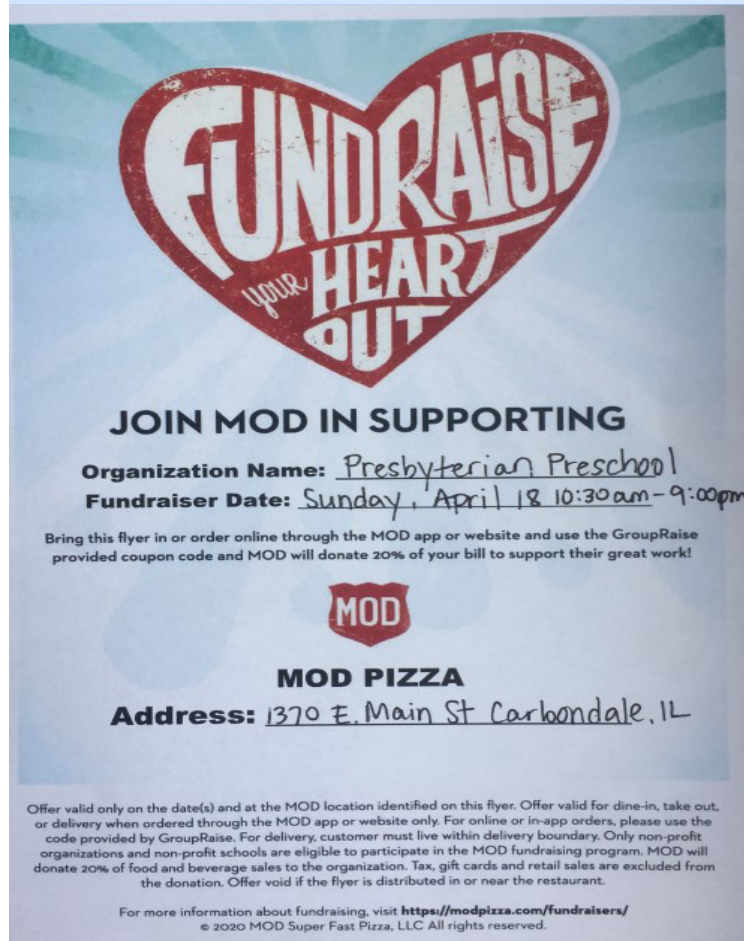
Skateboarding

The flowers

Crocuses blooming



Mark your calendars for another restaurant fundraiser to support our preschool. We are partnering with MOD pizza this month on Sunday, April 18 from 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. You can dine in or order out and we will receive 20% of the proceeds. If you order online make sure to use the **Promo Code: GR184883P** Check out our GroupRaise page for all the details and to RSVP at <https://www.groupraise.com/events/184883>



FUNDRAISE
your **HEART**
OUT

JOIN MOD IN SUPPORTING

Organization Name: Presbyterian Preschool
Fundraiser Date: Sunday, April 18 10:30 am - 9:00 pm

Bring this flyer in or order online through the MOD app or website and use the GroupRaise provided coupon code and MOD will donate 20% of your bill to support their great work!

MOD

MOD PIZZA

Address: 1370 E. Main St Carbondale, IL

Offer valid only on the date(s) and at the MOD location identified on this flyer. Offer valid for dine-in, take out, or delivery when ordered through the MOD app or website only. For online or in-app orders, please use the code provided by GroupRaise. For delivery, customer must live within delivery boundary. Only non-profit organizations and non-profit schools are eligible to participate in the MOD fundraising program. MOD will donate 20% of food and beverage sales to the organization. Tax, gift cards and retail sales are excluded from the donation. Offer void if the flyer is distributed in or near the restaurant.

For more information about fundraising, visit <https://modpizza.com/fundraisers/>
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Session Notes

Synopsis for March 2021

The session gathered via Zoom Tuesday, March 9 at 7 p.m. I began the meeting with prayer and a short reading from a cool volume called *Celtic Spirituality*.

Our first discussion was a continuation of a previous- month's discussion: what new ideas for programs, missions, or practices would we like to try for 2021? Without going into great detail in this space, let me tell you to start looking forward to:

- ☐ a letter writing program and/or a "Round Robin" letter writing program. The idea is to make sure that folks who aren't connected via the internet still feel included and cared for.
- ☐ "Where Have I Seen God This Week" is already back at the beginning of Sunday worship
- ☐ a Presbyterian Book Club (although the *books* don't have to be Presbyterian...)

Our discussion then moved to the topic of if the church should continue to have an online worship experience after we resume in person worship. There will be additional demands on folks who provide technical support for the Zoom meetings and perhaps more equipment needed, etc. You will probably be asked soon about your opinion on the desirability for continuing online worship in some form.

Important note: there has been no decision about when indoor in-person worship will resume, but with vaccinations now available and the rates of infection going down, things are looking better than they have for quite some time!

We will be having **outdoor** in-person worship at least once a month for the next 3 months (April-May-June). The first of these will be an Easter "Sunrise" service (4/4 at 7 a.m.) on the green space here at the church.

As the conversation continued, I asked that we again put the potential of restoring the sanctuary organ back to the top of our priority list. This possibility has many, many implications for the future of worship, the sanctuary space, staffing, the choir, etc. which we need to thoroughly examine and decide upon as we move forward. It is my hope that worship becomes an increasingly meaningful, inspiring, and unifying experience for all of us.

We moved to the usual business part of the meeting, approving minutes, ministry reports, and financial reports. The minutes were in good order and the financial support from you all in congregation is keeping the church in good financial health- thank you!

The session has decided to ask the Nominating Committee to fill a space on the session left by the resignation of Jim Calloway. The March session minutes will go into more depth about this. Jim remains a member in good standing here at the church and still retains his ordination as a Ruling Elder in the PCUSA.

Finally, it was voted that the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering be taken on Easter Sunday, 4/4.

We closed with prayer. Our next meeting is on Tuesday, April 13 at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

-Kerry

Pride Activities in 2021

If pandemic control continues to go well, Southern Illinois Pride Weekend will be September 24-26, 2021. The Washington Street Venue will be the site of Saturday, September 25's Southern IL Pride Fest celebration of the LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual & Other) community.

This June (traditionally Pride Month) we will welcome the second Pride Drive-By Caravan through Carbondale. Last year this passed by the front of the church, where a variety of Pride flags flew in the breeze as church members and friends waved hands and signs.

It's for good reason that "First Pres" is known as a queer-welcoming faith community. Plan to show your support at one or both of these events; watch for updates in the newsletter or bulletin, on Facebook or at www.firstpresdale.org.



Financial Report February 2021

16% of the year completed

Line	Income	Budget	
Pledges	\$ 70,457.88	\$ 225,981.00	31%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 2,021.92	\$ 11,806.31	17%
Per Capita	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	0%
Trans. From Investments	\$ -	\$ 23,004.62	
Miscellaneous	\$ 4,340.34	\$ 8,035.38	54%
Totals	\$ 76,820.14	\$ 271,327.31	28%

Line	Expenditures	Budget	
Mission	\$ 1,570.00	\$ 13,520.00	12%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 17,268.43	\$ 75,798.76	23%
Staff	\$ 10,710.44	\$ 82,469.55	13%
Christian Ed.	\$ 26.00	\$ 4,900.00	1%
Worship & Music	\$ -	\$ 3,575.00	0%
Comm/Administration	\$ 6,404.92	\$ 25,064.00	26%
Property/Capital	\$ 6,882.07	\$ 64,100.00	11%
Christian Nurture	\$ -	\$ 1,900.00	0%
Total	\$ 42,861.86	\$ 271,327.31	16%

Bank acct. \$ 42,151.80





First Presbyterian Church
Carbondale, Illinois

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



March 15, 2020 marked our last indoor Sunday service before worship and church meetings moved online via "Zoom," due to the emerging COVID-19 Pandemic.