



The Carbondale Presbyterian

Editor: Lisa C. Hollabaugh (firstpresnews@gmail.com) / www.firstpresdale.org
First Presbyterian Church / 310 S. University Avenue / Carbondale, Illinois 62901
(618) 549-2148 / Find us on Facebook - First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale IL

Sunday Worship 10 am
w/Children's Church School & Childcare
Worship Zoom ID 824 8455 3329
Followed by **Coffee Fellowship**

Wednesday Bible Study Classes
10 am w/Bill & J.P. (Lounge)
3:30 pm w/Pastor Kerry (Zoom)
6:30 pm w/Rev. Beyler (Conf. Rm.)

Congregational Meeting
December 1 after Worship

**Christmas Around the World
Fellowship & Potluck** December 1

Alternative Gift Fair December 8
2-5 pm at Carbondale Civic Center

Session Meeting December 10

Free Laundry Day December 11
10 am - 2 pm at Laundry World

Men's Fellowship Meeting
December 12 at 12 noon

Deacons Cookie Sunday
December 15 after Worship

Presbyterian Women Meeting
December 17 at 1 pm

Christmas Joy Offering
December 22

**Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service** December 24 at 7 pm

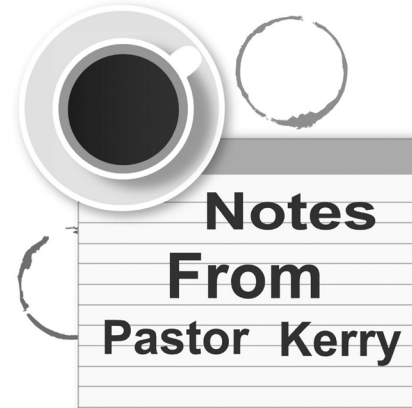
Church Office Hours
Monday through Thursday
9:00-11:30 a.m. and
12:30-4:00 p.m.



***Bring cookies (including sugar-free options) to church
December 15, 2024 to enjoy during Fellowship, when plates
will be prepared to deliver to those who are unable to attend
worship regularly. Contact Pam Holt for details.***

We Need a Little Christmas

I don't know about you, but I am entering this Advent season with more anxiety than usual. It's not a mystery why. When I add up the personal, societal, and professional things I'm currently carrying, it's quite a load. I'm guessing that many of you all feel the same way.



In many ways the holiday season just makes things worse. Traveling, decorating, meal planning and preparation, and gift buying are all enjoyable in their own ways, but they also add to the load of responsibilities and expectations. How will we get it all done—and what happens if we don't?

Now, of course, we impose a lot of this anxiousness upon ourselves—at least I do. If we learned nothing from *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, it's that Christmas comes whether we're ready for it or not. Life continues at its own pace and in its own time.

One definition of stress is resisting those things over which we have no control. There often is a lot that we can let go of, if we're willing to. It's okay to string a fewer lights or fix a simpler meal. For that matter, it's okay to have someone else cook, or to go out. It's not just about expending less energy; it's about making sure we have the energy to attend to the most important things in our lives.

When Jesus was born, the world was a stressful place as well—maybe not with the same sheer number of things to do, but life was really hard for nearly everyone. Jesus was born in a country under military occupation, and the food supply was unpredictable. The average life expectancy was less than 45 years. You get the idea. It would have been very easy to feel very hopeless about the future.

However, God changed the trajectory of things. God gave the world hope when hope was in short supply. God reminded us that life's challenges, disappointments, and hardships are not the whole story. Life is also filled with blessings, beauty, and joy.

The Spirit of Christmas, I believe, is a call for us to remember what a great, wonderful, and holy thing God did for us in sending the Son Jesus Christ. There truly is Light that forever shines. There is Life that never ends. There is Joy like a fountain.

So, my friends, stop and listen. Hear the Spirit's call to let the Advent and Christmas seasons be times of remembering and celebrating the great Good Thing that God has done for us. Let us slow down a few steps from our hectic pace, look to the East for a guiding star, and bask in its glow.

Blessings,

Kerry

Tuesday, November 12 & 26, 2024 our cooking team for **Feed My Sheep at Bethel AME** fed community members and delivered lunch and evening meals to guests at the Carbondale Warming Center. Pictured below are Jill Hertzling, Marta Davis, Jane Swanson, Jan Danley & Lily Vucinic.



More Light Presbyterians (MLP) is celebrating its 25th anniversary with its **25 for \$25 Campaign**. Will twenty-five people at First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale give \$25 each to celebrate 25 years of More Light? Each donation matters, as MLP continues its work to center and celebrate the lives, gifts and leadership of LGBTQIA+ people in the church and beyond. Visit the MLP giving page at <https://morelightpresbyterians-bloom.kindful.com/?campaign=1283680> or write a check to First Presbyterian Church with "More Light" in the memo line.

The **Mission Ministry** approved the following distribution of budget funds:

- Carbondale Laundry Project** — \$500
- SI Diaper Bank** — \$250
- Feed My Sheep** (to purchase food for second Tuesday team) — \$250
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance/Montreat Recovery** — \$1250



Poor little kittens have lost their mittens... but you can help!

On **First Sunday** December 1, 2024, we'll focus on items for the **Socks and Mittens Tree** in the narthex. Donations of socks, mittens, hats, scarves, and underwear for children and youth in local schools will be appreciated.

We'll also focus on our local missions including the Good Samaritan Food Pantry, the Carbondale Warming Center, Feed My Sheep at Bethel AME, the Presbyterian Preschool, the Carbondale Laundry Project, the Survivor Empowerment Center, and the SI Diaper Bank.

Our SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS collection yielded \$2204.20 which was forwarded to the Carbondale Interfaith Council for distribution. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The **Christmas Joy Offering** will be received December 22, 2024. God has blessed First Presbyterian Church with great leadership over the years, and these leaders need support from their communities as well. The Christmas Joy Offering promotes leadership development in communities of color and supports Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

November **Free Laundry Day** volunteers served sixty regular and first-time guests who were very patient despite the crowd. To volunteer at the Wednesday, December 11, 2024 Free Laundry Day, contact Jane Swanson or Bill Martens (carbondalelaundryproject@gmail.com). You can support this mission by continuing to buy Tru Earth Laundry strips online through our link: <https://tru-earth.sjv.io/CarbondaleLaundryProject>, or at church.

The Laundry Project and SI Diaper Bank will be at the Alternative Gift Fair December 8, 2024 from 2-5 pm at the Carbondale Civic Center (details on page 6). Stop by to say hello as you shop to support local nonprofit organizations.

GIANT CITY PARK FUN & FELLOWSHIP

November 3, 2024, church members and friends gathered for a picnic and an afternoon of conversation, jumprope and cornhole at Giant City State Park. Thank you Judy and Keith Beyler for organizing the fun.

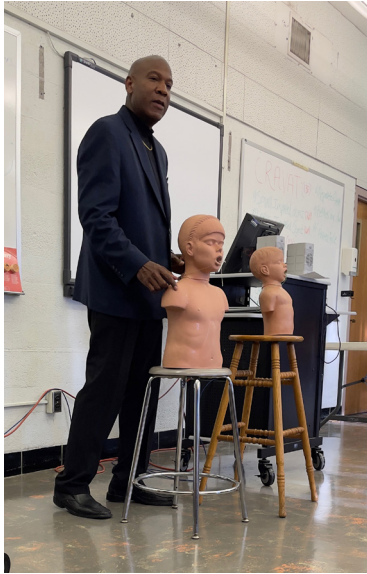


VETERANS day AT SNIDER HILL CEMETERY

Ron Malmquist, Charlie Howe, Bob Luebbers and Bob Burton (right) placed flags upon graves at **Snider Hill Cemetery** for Veterans Day weekend. Watch for information from the Small Groups Ministry about cemetery workdays next year.



CPR/AED TRAINING



November 1, 2024, fourteen participants completed **CPR/AED training** with Jeffery Evans (top left) of SIU's Public Health Department. Jeffery received positive reviews for his engaging instruction and SIU students kept the two-hour class moving at a brisk pace as they monitored skill performance. Thank you to Rolanda Quick for coordinating the training and to Phyllis Beck for recommending the instructor.

A few slots (\$20 per person) are available for the December 5 1 pm class; contact Barb in the church office to register.

Nick and Jessica Barker (right) have hosted Fellowship several times with Jessica's tasty home-baked treats. Jessica also baked the bread for November communion—thank you!

Sign-up sheets to host winter/spring 2025 Fellowship dates are posted in the narthex. Reach out to Fellowship Elder Dori Jefferson with questions.





19TH ANNUAL SOUTHERN ILLINOIS ALTERNATIVE GIFT FAIR

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2024
2-5 PM

Carbondale Civic Center

**FIND GIFTS THAT MATTER FROM THESE PARTICIPATING
NON-PROFITS:**

SHAWNEE CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB*CARBONDALE
WARMING CENTER*SOIL SISTERS*CARBONDALE
UNITED*GAIA HOUSE*CARBONDALE LAUNDRY
PROJECT*SI DIAPER BANK*FRIENDS OF THE
SHAWNEE*THE LITTLE RESOURCE
CENTER*SURVIVOR EMPOWERMENT CENTER*SI
COLLABORATIVE KITCHEN*JACKSON COUNTY
GIRL SCOUTS*GOOD SAMARITAN
MINISTRIES*PEACE COALITION*KEEP
CARBONDALE BEAUTIFUL*FRIENDS OF THE
CRAB ORCHARD REFUGE*HABITAT FOR
HUMANITY OF UNION AND JACKSON
COUNTIES*FRIENDS OF GIANT CITY STATE
PARK* CATS OF CARBONDALE*RAINBOW CAFE*
FRIENDS OF CARBONDALE DOG PARKS*FRIENDS
OF CARBONDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY*Y'ALL ROCK
CARBONDALE*WOMEN FOR CHANGE*FREE
AGAIN*CHURCH WOMEN UNITED*CENTER FOR
EMPOWERMENT AND JUSTICE*GREEN EARTH*SI
IRISH FESTIVAL*EQUAL EXCHANGE/CUF SOCIAL
ACTION

Sponsored by the SOCIAL ACTION
COMMITTEE OF CARBONDALE
UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP

FREE ADMISSION
LIVE MUSIC
REFRESHMENTS

PRESBYTERIAN PRESCHOOL



This month our **Presbyterian Preschool** classes will learn about the gingerbread man, winter, arctic animals and classic Christmas stories. Our creative students will be working on special Christmas gifts for parents. It's a school tradition that teachers surprise the kiddos with special keepsake gifts to remember from preschool... something to hang on their tree each year with fond memories.



Join us Friday, December 20, 2024 at 11 am when our students will sing songs and share a potluck meal with family and friends.



If you're not already, please follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/PresbyterianPreschool/> and on Instagram at 1presbyprek. Our school board, teachers, students and families wish you a delightful Christmas and a joyous New Year!



Thank you to Beth Corker and Rolanda Quick (above) who recently stained and painted the playground fort structure.



Session Synopsis

- We opened the November 2024 meeting with prayer and short devotional reading.
- We met with WDBX-FM station manager Janice Paull who discussed rates and details of underwriting WDBX programming. After discussion, it was decided we will underwrite programs for \$150 per month for fourteen 30-second time slots per week. In addition to supporting local public media, we hope these messages will inform the community about our support of LGBTQIA+ folks, our passion for mission, and our progressive social voice.
- We discussed the 2025 budget and pledges received from the recent stewardship campaign. While giving remains generous and a few pledges are still pending, there is shortfall between expected giving and the initial expense budget. A small group including the church treasurer, Finance and Mission Elders, and myself agreed to meet to revise the budget before the December session meeting.
- The rest of the meeting was standard fare as we heard reports from ministry teams. We approved 2025 communion dates and set a congregational meeting for December 1, 2024 to vote on the slate of nominees for a Pastor Nominating Committee. —Kerry



The **Green Guardians** encourage you to search the internet to learn more about how you can celebrate the environment in December 2024.

December 4: International Cheetah Day
December 4: World Wildlife Conservation Day
December 5: World Soil Day
December 11: International Mountain Day
December 14: Monkey Day

BIRTHDAYS

12/1 Zoey Beyler
12/2 James Prest
12/7 Carolyn Hooker
12/9 Barbara Bennett
12/9 Neal Foland
12/11 Elena Luebbers
12/21 Jill Rendleman
12/25 Lance Davis Jr.
(FKA Lance Forsberg)
12/28 Lauren Bonner

ANNIVERSARY

12/24 Rick & Dori Jefferson

If we missed your special day, please accept our apologies and notify the church office so we can update our records.





Contributions to First Presbyterian Church of Carbondale are tax deductible under 501(c)(3) guidelines (consult your tax professional). Donate on Sunday mornings, by direct deposit or mail, by clicking the "Give Now" button at firstprescdale.org or by scanning this QR code with your smartphone camera.

Financial Report October 2024

83% of the year completed

Line	Income YTD	Budgeted	
Pledges	\$ 186,870.00	\$ 220,000.00	85%
Nonpledge Offerings	\$ 8,322.48	\$ 12,000.00	69%
Per Capita	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 1,500.00	124%
Transfer From Investments	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 41,371.01	60%
Miscellaneous	\$ 17,152.28	\$ 19,225.00	89%
Total Income	\$ 239,204.76	\$ 294,096.01	81%

Line	Expenditures YTD	Budgeted	
Mission	\$ 5,026.63	\$ 13,770.00	37%
Pastoral Ministry	\$ 69,883.03	\$ 88,573.99	79%
Staff	\$ 68,980.08	\$ 88,577.02	78%
Faith Development	\$ 1,755.25	\$ 3,050.00	58%
Worship & Music	\$ 440.00	\$ 3,475.00	13%
Comm/Administration	\$ 11,835.20	\$ 18,150.00	65%
Property/Capital	\$ 72,674.56	\$ 76,100.00	95%
Christian Nurture	\$ 1,064.96	\$ 2,400.00	44%
Total Expenditures	\$ 231,659.71	\$ 294,096.01	79%

Revenues over Expenses \$ 7,545.05



Glory of God to all and peas to his people on earth.

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



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Carbondale, Illinois

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During the early 1900s, Isaac Rapp's two sons were architects who had studied in Europe. They had been impressed with a church they had seen in Scotland and used it as a model for their plan. The stone was donated by Hugh Lauder who owned a quarry in Boskeydell. The stone was dressed at the quarry and hauled to the site and, under the supervision of John Hayden and J. J. Arnold, was put in place without the sound of a hammer.