

April 2022



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN



We continue our Lenten journey through Palm Sunday in Jerusalem, to the cross, and ultimately to the glory of Easter morning.

Palm Sunday, April 10, will include the waving of palms and a bit of a parade around the sanctuary and chapel, as we recall Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, on the back of a donkey.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, will be a service of communion in the Sanctuary at 7 PM while we remember the Last Supper during Jesus' final hours. Special music will be provided by our quartet.

Good Friday, April 15, we will join our Methodist siblings across State Street at First United Methodist church for our combined 7 PM worship service, remembering the dark hours that followed Jesus' death on the cross. Special music will be a combined choir of both churches.

Easter morning, joyous worship will be at 9 AM in the Sanctuary and 11:15 AM in the Chapel.

Bach Concerts

presented by
UI Choral Dept

Wednesdays

March 30
April 6 and 20

12 noon - 12:30 PM

Sanctuary
First Presbyterian Church
Champaign, IL

**Join us at noon each of
these Wednesdays as we
enjoy singers and
instrumentalists from the
U of I Choral Department
present selections
from Bach.**

**Concerts are free and
open to the public.**

Snippets from your Pastor

BY MATT MATTHEWS

MATT@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Ginny Barksdale, an old colleague, mentor, friend, (hero, healer, teacher, paver-of-my-way, saint) told me once in her old age that, “Ministry is relationship, relationship, relationship.” I believe those words are near the heart of the Gospel.

I’ve been nurtured by many sustaining friendships. My parents and wider family, my pastor and the ‘old’ people in my Presbyterian church growing up, a few memorable teachers (and many more who go unremembered), peers, and scads of others.

Chester Brown, the pastor at my hometown Hampton Baptist Church, was one of those people.

When I was fifteen, Bret Godfrey was one of my closest friends. When his parents were killed in a helicopter crash when we were in tenth grade, an older girl in our neighborhood came to my house and announced to my mother that I needed to come to the Godfrey home. I was needed, she said. I was also terrified. What good could I possibly do? I was fifteen-years-old. I was too young to matter.

I didn’t know Bret’s dad well. Bill Godfrey was Lt. Commander of the USS San Francisco as it was being built in the nearby Newport News Shipyard. He was a friendly guy, but the kind of man that teenagers called sir. I certainly did, anyway. Virginia Godfrey had a ready smile. She made the pizza dough for our teenage Friday night gatherings. I have a picture of one of our custom pizzas; we were happy kids, and that was one of many

happy Friday nights. Bret’s parents were cool in that they were ‘there for us’ but generally stayed out of our way, which made them cooler. We were swaggering know-it-all teens out to have a good time and in little need of adult supervision, though we often needed a ride, cash, and parental signatures for school field trips.

My memories blur of those grief-filled June days. Days before the funeral, I asked Bret’s pastor, Chester Brown, who was a family friend of my folks, what should I do? How could I help Bret?

Chester was standing in Bret’s front yard with a few other men from the church. He had practically lived at the house during those long hours as family from around the world gathered, and as boat-loads of Navy shipmates came to offer condolences; these were often young men, and some sobbed wordlessly, stayed awhile, then slumped away. We all looked wrecked, not the least of all Chester.

Both Chester’s presence during those days and his answer to my question became part of my call to become a pastor. “Just be his friend,” Chester said.

The best way I could help Bret was to just be his friend.

Neighbors and family descended on the Godfrey home on O’Canoe Place in Hampton, Virginia. The love they bore to them—that family now made suddenly incomplete without parents—was plain and practical. They brought food, flowers, stories and remembrances, tears, helping hands, advice, and a steady, solid presence. They ran errands. They took care of things. They wove our community together, wrapping tightly to the center

of their circle Bret and his brother and sisters. It was a time freighted with sadness and a kind of awesome beauty. Sadness and beauty, I would later learn, often go together. *Mysterium tremendum.*

* * *

Thirty-six-years after that stormy summer, we gathered at Chester and Mary Etta Brown’s house out in the country on Sarah’s Creek, across the York River from Yorktown, for a small reunion. It was Bret, his wife, his sister, a motorcycle-riding friend from Illinois, and me. Chester and Mary Etta fed us fresh seafood at lingering suppers around their ample table. Their dogs begged for attention and we gladly lavished it. During those days we’d wander out in twos and threes on the pier—during the day to soak up the sun, at night to gaze at stars. We pondered deep things over the shallow waters of that wide creek. We ate, washed dishes, cat napped, caught up, were mesmerized by the rising and falling tides. We talked a little about that long-ago summer when Mr. and Mrs. Godfrey were killed. Each of us took our fragment of that story and held it up by its brittle edges to the light.

Past melded with present. People who were long-gone crowded with us around that table. Ancestors, old neighbors, Bill and Virginia. They leaned in, reached for the cornbread, spoke with food in their mouths. The words transcendence and glory come to mind, as do awe and gratitude. I don’t know how to describe it. Words fail.

I remember shrimp, oysters, maybe scallops, possibly Virginia ham, and garden vegetables. I remember snorting laughter and poignant,

unrushed silences, sipping a little white wine from large glasses. I remember bright light flashing off Sarah's Creek, solstice summer warmth, the pungence of greening-growing-things and of sucking mud at low tide. Dogs clamored for attention. Chester regaled us with stories of his ancient relatives being born and dying in the very rooms of that rambling, welcoming house. I remember like yesterday. I hear the timbre of those voices and feel the heat from the touch of their generous hands.

One could see eternity from Chester's lawn overlooking Sarah's Creek. At his table, one could hear the rustle of angel wing.

Relationship, relationship, relationship.

Friends, we are building such memories here at First Pres, making space for generations of pilgrims hungry, hungry for the relationship Jesus offers, to take his extended hand, to heed his invitation to follow. Whatever else we offer, we offer the possibility of friendship and the hope of home-sweet-home to a fractious, hurting world.

What a high, holy calling. Thank you. Thanks be to God for you.

PEACE

Matt Matthews

Coffee Is Back Sunday Mornings

If you enjoy the coffee now being served on Sunday mornings, please consider signing up for coffee cleanup.

A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center each Sunday morning.

Nurture/Outreach

BY GARY PETERSON

AMER_SWEDE@YAHOO.COM

The Membership team is in need of folks who would be willing to take care of the friendship pads at the conclusion of the 9 AM service. It is an easy process and can be easily learned. If interested in doing this on a rotation basis please contact **Linda Peterson** @ 217-398-8504.

Outreach

Plans are underway for gatherings in the parks (spring), Sholem Fest (summer) and International Dinner (fall). We hope you will come and also, we hope that you will help out in some small way to make these events become successful and fun!

Kitchen Update

Exciting news!! The C-UPHD (Health Dept.) has approved our new kitchen and we now have a permit to not only use the kitchen for the congregation but also allowing us to serve outside guests and allowing outsiders to use the kitchen for preparing food for the benefit of the community. It gives us endless opportunities!! If you have ideas for the use of the kitchen, please let **Gary Peterson** know @ 217-398-8504. We look forward to starting some Sunday Brunches soon after some initial training is done.

Happy Spring!

Spring flowers will decorate the Sanctuary on Easter morning. Plants are \$25 each and may be given in honor or memory of someone. If you would like to donate, please drop your check in the offering plate or mail to the church office marked "Easter flowers" along with a note who the contribution is in honor or memory of.

Music

BY JOE GRANT, DIRECTOR

JOEGRANT@ILLINOIS.EDU

The musical news for April is to reinforce that we are "back to normal" (almost) with special music on both Palm Sunday and Easter. After having somewhat unconventional presentations during Covid, we will have a brass quartet to enhance the sound of our choir and organ for the Easter service.

Also during Holy Week we will have an anthem by the quartet on Maundy Thursday and the full choir will join with the Methodist musicians in singing *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross* for the joint Good Friday service.

Please put our Spring Music Sunday on your calendar as Sunday, May 1, during the 9:00 AM service. We will be worshipping through the presentation of Haydn's *Missa Brevis*, nicknamed the *Little Organ Mass*.

Please be reminded that the popular Bach's Lunch concerts will occur in April on the 6th and 20th at noon.

Good News! I am pleased to announce that **Brendan Barker**, our organist, will be completing his doctoral degree this spring! In addition to completing his degree he will cap it off by conducting a concert with orchestra and choir here at First Pres on Saturday, May 7, at 7 PM.

Bad News! We need a new organist. If you know of someone in the area with these skills please let me know. A search committee is under way and we'll need support from all of you.

The Heart of Mission

All In the Family DREAAM Thrives

BY BOB KIRBY
RWK3213@GMAIL.COM

DREAAM has a new initiative, and it's called *Hope for the Future*. *Hope for the Future* is an immense effort to increase proactive violence prevention and to provide trauma healing solutions to more than 500 children and parents.

The vision of *Hope for the Future* (H4F) is to prevent violence and build hope for a lifetime. This initiative will address inequalities, child well-being, and mental health among Black and Brown children and their parents living in Champaign County. Building on DREAAM's impactful programming and existing partnerships, DREAAM will implement, scale, and sustain H4F programs and services that are trauma-informed, community-based, culturally responsive, and people-centered. Specifically, H4F will implement early childhood multicultural education, preventive services, health programming, and personal development opportunities.

DREAAM Beginners Preschool Program is starting on April 2! The program will run in 6-week sessions on Saturdays from 9 AM to 2 PM. The program will support 20 African American children, ages 4 to 5 and their caregivers by increasing kindergarten readiness in math and literacy, encouraging positive African American identity, equipping family members with tools to empower child's academic success, and providing lessons on social and emotional skills that support positive behaviors.

Also starting on April 2 is DREAAM Indoor Soccer Camp for boys & girls, Kindergarten through 5th grade. The camp will take place on Saturdays through May 7th and will be held at three sites: Garden Hills School in Champaign, Brookens Gym in Urbana, and Broadmeadow School in Rantoul. Soccer games, skills and drills, and fun activities will be provided free of cost and caregivers are encouraged to join the fun. Each week, fruit will be given out to each family! The goal is to partner with families to be healthier in mind, body, and spirit. This is preventive work at the core!

We are still in need of a couple more volunteers to help with soccer registration, and many are needed for the soccer tournament, which will be held on May 7th. If you would like to help, please contact Anita Plank at anita@dreameam.org.

We invite you to continue to lift up DREAAM through your prayers, and we thank you for being a part of the extended DREAAM family.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

One Great Hour of Sharing is the special offering First Presbyterian Church takes up on Easter Sunday. Please write OGHS in the memo line either online or on your check. We have been collecting OGHS offering in the fish banks over the season of Lent. Bring your fish banks on Easter Sunday.

What if these were the days when Jesus was living with us? What if this were the moment God chose to connect?

Where would we find Jesus? Here, in our congregation? Look around. Or in our neighborhoods? Perhaps Jesus would be among people classified as "essential," who might struggle to feed their own families, while ensuring food makes it to others' tables.

Perhaps Jesus would be working in a neighborhood, mostly ignored by governments and industry, except when there are resources to be exploited or removed.

Perhaps Jesus lives in any of the places, so impoverished in a world of plenty, that help and hope seem like illusions.

Or perhaps locked away, drowned out or disregarded so far from us that we never even know our Savior's name. What if this is the time? What if this is the place?

Our faith proclaims that God connects in each of those places, and in each person bearing God's image. Our faith proclaims that God is among us, and that Jesus can be found among those most precious to God, those neighbors experiencing hunger, oppression or lack, even now, even among us.

One Great Hour of Sharing connects us with people coming together to respond to the needs in their neighborhoods. It is the largest way Presbyterians connect with one another and unite with congregations

in every corner of the Church and with partners all over the world. We connect in order to grow, together, while offering support that addresses shared needs in a particular context. With God and with one another, we connect the story of Jesus who lived, healed and preached among those who had least during his earthly ministry, through ministries that seek healing and wholeness in our world today. One Great Hour of Sharing connects us to proclaim that Christ is here! God is with us! Jesus is among those who have least, those who hunger and thirst, those who are sick or alone; with those seeking justice and righteousness with their neighbors and all who are in need.

Christ is here, and not here, alone. When we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

Let us pray:

Connect us with our need. Connect us with our offerings. Connect us through the gift of your love, and your love for all you have created. Amen.

PHOTOS (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT): CISCOPE MATANOROS RESOURCE CENTER, MULTICULTURAL ALLIANCE FOR A SAFE ENVIRONMENT, CISCOPE

One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for **JUSTICE, RESILIENCE, and SUSTAINABILITY.**

 **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

03.02.22-04.17.22

Good food is sweeter when shared with friends! Dinners for One Lunch and Dinner

In an effort to get the monthly newsletter out at the beginning of each month, the deadline needs to be pushed to the 3rd Monday of the preceeding month.

The deadline for the May 2022 issue is Monday, April 18.

Lunch -Wednesday, April 6, at 12:30 (change of time due to Bach concert)

Westminster Hall with \$12 box lunches ordered from Michael's Catering. Go to michaelscateringevents.com; choose from the menu and call the church office (217-356-7238) the day before to place reservation and to give order.

Dinner - Wednesday, April 13, 5:30

**Rainbow Garden, 1402 South Neil Street, Champaign
Call the church office to make a reservation.**

English as Second Language News

BY VAL SMITH, DIRECTOR
VAL@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

"The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." *Matthew 9:37*

The Lord has answered this prayer recently with new volunteer, **Patricia Ferrer** (pictured below), wife of **Robert Ferrer**, the AV Tech staff person here at First Pres. Patricia will be supporting our Portuguese students from Brazil. We are grateful to have her join our other volunteers.



We have students who work during the day and need late afternoon, evening, or weekend zoom classes for whom we still need volunteer tutors. If you are free to work with these students, please email Val Smith at val@firstpres.church. Training will be provided.

On March 29, we will reopen our 'in-person' classes at the church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30-11:00. While we have been tutoring these students online this year, we

are looking forward to meeting and welcoming them back 'in-person'! Our classrooms and revamped supply cabinets are ready again for students. We invite you to check out our ESL bulletin board with pictures of our volunteer staff and many of the students.



Matthew 25: Dismantling Structural Racism

Dismantling structural racism is one of the three pillars of our Matthew 25 congregation. An often-heard question is, "But, what can we do?"

Here are some practical suggestions from our Compassion, Peace and Justice Ministry Team.

Learn:

Learn how our criminal justice system has become the new Jim Crow.

Watch the documentary, *13th*.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krfcq5pF8u8>

Want more:

The House I Live In.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0atL1HSwi8>

Serving Life.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DzPzmeieXPE>

Read *The New Jim Crow* by Michelle Alexander

Read our PC(USA) *The Confession of 1967* and *The Belhar Confession*

Act:

Personally divest your investments in private prisons and detention centers and ask organizations you support to do the same.

Support businesses owned by people of color.

For example, La Mixteca, <https://lamixtecarestaurant.net/> at 510 N. Cunningham is owned by Mauricio Contreras who also owns the nearby El Oasis Mexican ice cream shop. Try a variety of authentic dishes for lunch or dinner. Large seating area and south of the border servers will welcome you. This is a favorite spot of our Latino community, so you know it is good.

Don't be silent about a racist comment. Silence is support.

If you plan to hire businesses who use immigrant workers, first ask if they are paying social security and the minimum wage.

The Republic of Cuba

Fulgencio Batista 1901-1973

BY BOB KIRBY, CUBA PARTNERS

RWK3213@GMAIL.COM

Fulgencio Batista was born into a poor immigrant family in 1901 and grew up cutting cane. He left home at the age of 14 and did a series of odd jobs until he enlisted in Cuba's growing military at the age of twenty. His name was first imprinted in history when he led a successful revolt of enlisted officers (mostly black) against superior officers (mostly white) in 1933. Claiming bloodlines which were Spanish, Chinese, African and Indigenous he was able to develop a coalition of unlikely political factions including the Communist Party. He was elected president of Cuba and served from 1940-1944 enacting social and economic reforms. He then moved to Florida a wealthy man.

Mid-century Cuba was in economic and political crisis. Cuba's military had grown in power and was heavily engaged in politics, political corruption, and organized crime. Income disparities grew.

Contemplating a second presidency Batista returned to Cuba in 1952. Then, fearful he might not be elected he led a military coup and suspended the constitution. Batista lived a lavish lifestyle gaining access to Havana's most exclusive social clubs. He invested heavily in Cuban infrastructure. Military power was used to enforce compliance and to repel growing dissent. The United States supported the Batista dictatorship until its very end when Batista retired to Spain. The dictator could not defeat the growing revolutionary 26th of July Movement (movimiento 26 Julio or M-26-7) led by a young lawyer, Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz.

Next Month: Fidel Castro

Sister Congregation Celebrates Centennial

The Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba at Luyanó celebrates its centennial year on April 24. A small celebration then will be followed by a larger celebration on November 20. We will be represented in Havana with a delegation of **Judi Geistlinger, Carol Miles, Matt and Rachel Matthews**.

We will recognize our sister church Centennial with our worship on Sunday, May 1 followed at 10:00 with a Cuban style gathering. See you there.

Environmental News

BY PAT PHILLIPS

P.PHILLIPS42@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Why are people wearing orange vests to church? They're Environmental Stewards, members of the GREEN TEAM. On April 9, at 8 AM, they'll set out, with vests and bags, to pick up litter on State Street, from Bradley south to Healey. This is the Adopt-A-Highway Project, and YOU are invited to join them on a beautiful Spring Walk for the good of our community. Look for orange-vested greeters and folks behind a table where you can sign up. Questions? Contact **Liz** at ebmiley@aol.com or **Clemmie** at coletta.ackermann@gmail.com.

There are a number of ways to become involved in environmental sustainability, thanks to Faith In Place, which now is partnering with Indiana and Wisconsin! Here's a lineup of events during April, which is Earth Month! <https://www.faithinplace.org/upcoming-events>

On April 7 at 5 PM there will be a Youth Program Recruitment Info Session, a webinar for the 2022 Summer Eco-Ambassador Program. Can we identify any teens in the church who are interested in climate change and environmental Justice?

And, here in person, Saturday, April 23, is Earth Day for everyone—a Springtime stroll through Meadowbrook Park in Urbana from 1 to 4, with information, demonstrations, live music, hiking, and more by local community groups. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1066361287483679>

No need to register or to pay—just Come!

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, April 9

8 AM - 3 PM

State Farm Center
SE Quad Parking Lot

Residents MUST pre-register for this event: hwevent.simplybook.me

This collection event is open to ALL Illinois residents.

It is sponsored by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) and co-sponsored by Champaign County, City of Champaign, City of Urbana, and Village of Savoy.

For a list of accepted (and NOT accepted) items: see [Faith in Place](#) event calendar link.)

**Interstate Batteries will be on site during the collection to separately accept your lead-acid batteries.

Children, Youth & Family

Children, Youth, Family

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR

MINDY@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH



Staring Contest Fundraiser

It's not what you might be thinking. Did you know that a group of owls is sometimes called a "stare?" Well now you know! A "stare" of owls might just show up in your yard unexpectedly. If they do, you are being challenged in the staring contest. This is all in good fun to raise money for the youth to attend the [Montreat Youth Conference](#) in North Carolina June 11-18, 2022. A portion of the money raised will also go to the Matthew 25 initiative chosen by our Community Mission Deacons. They have chosen to donate to DREAM for the [Hope for the Future](#) program.

A donation of \$25 will get the owls removed from your yard. A donation of \$50 will get the owls removed from your yard, and allow you to name the next recipient of the owls. A donation of \$100 will get the owls removed from your yard, lets you name the next recipient, and makes you immune to any more owl "stare downs." A donation of \$150 will ensure that no one can name you as a recipient and the owls never show up in your yard at all. Donations can be made online on the church website by including 'staring contest' in the notes, send a check to the church

office with 'staring contest' in the memo, or call **Mindy Watts-Ellis** and have her come to your home for the cash or check and take the owls away while she is there! Call **Mindy Watts-Ellis** at 217 714-0155 or the church office at 217 356-7238.

We will kick off the fundraiser on April 1st (no fooling)! You can follow our staring contest and see 'who' has the owls in their yard on our church public group facebook page. As part of the challenge we want to know, " 'Who' do you see in need in our community?"

Family Fellowship

For family fellowship this month, park in the church parking lot and walk over to West Side Park for a fun Easter egg hunt Saturday, April 16. Hayrack rides are for all and the egg hunt is for children 10 years of age and under. Where: West Side Park, Champaign Date: 04/16/2022, Time: 10 AM-12 PM No registration required. This event is weather-permitting. Questions: [zoe.southlynn@champaignparks.org](#) or 217-819-3931

Sunday School Update

BY SAMANTHA NICHOLS, SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR
SAMANTHA@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Sunday School Update

Upcoming Lessons

Thanks to a wonderful group of volunteers and students, our Sunday School program continues to offer time and space for the faith formation of children and youth. This month, our students will be exploring a variety of topics:

- Preschool students will be invited to explore Holy Week beginning with the story of Palm Sunday and concluding

with the celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Students in this class hear a story, complete an activity, and have lots of time to play.

- Elementary school students will also reflect on the stories of Holy Week. Students will be invited to wonder about the sacrament of Holy Communion, the crucifixion, and, of course, the resurrection.
- Middle and high school students are invited to explore the intersection between sexuality and faith. This sensitive subject requires that we have at least four students present and an appropriate age range. If we don't have enough students to explore this topic, we will focus on the connection between faith and current events.

All three classes will also learn about faith and the environment during the last week of April. Sunday School families can expect to learn more details about Earth Sunday activities in the first couple weeks of this month!

Adult Volunteers Needed

In order to sustain our Sunday School program, more adult volunteers are needed to teach and help. Volunteering in the Sunday School program is a great way to connect and learn with our Sunday School families. Our students bring wonderful questions and enthusiasm to class each week!

Please consider your gifts, your schedules, and where God might be calling you to serve in our church community. Offering even a week of your time will make a difference! All volunteers receive a brief training before volunteering. Additionally, all volunteer teachers/helpers must be vaccinated against Covid-19.

Contact samantha@firstpres.church if you're interested in volunteering!

Finance

Financial Update

BY ANN WEBBINK, FINANCE TEAM
ANWEB2@YAHOO.COM

Contributions

Contributions in February to the Operating Fund were \$65.8K which is \$32.3K less than February 2021 and \$6.5K below the budgeted amount. Total contributions YTD of \$172.8K are \$6.7K less than last year and \$28.2 more than the budget at the end of February. These figures include prepaid pledges which are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions. At 16.7% of the year, we have received 31.66% of the budgeted amount for the year.

Expenses

February expenses of \$105.8K were \$20.7K over the budgeted amount per month. YTD total expenses of \$175.5K were \$1.4K more than last year at this time. At 16.7% of the year, we have spent 17.2% of the budget.

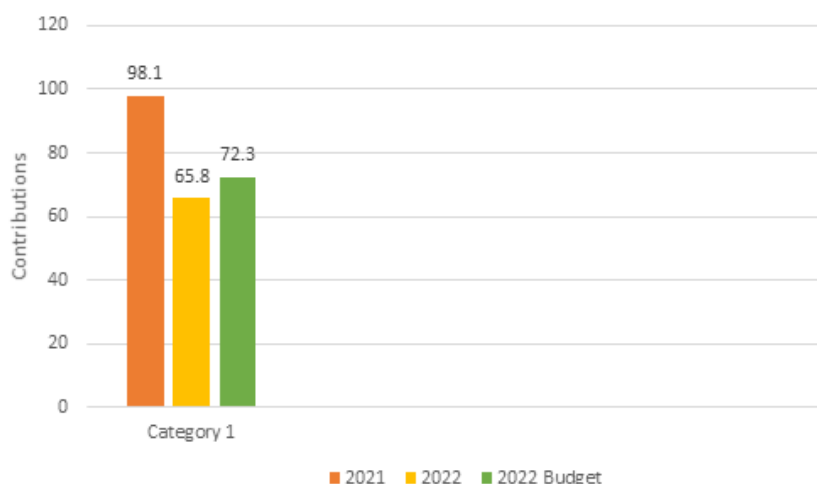
Balance

Contributions YTD exceed expenses by \$104.3K which is \$140.3K less than last year. This is mainly due to the grant from the government that the church received last year. This figure includes all prepaid pledges

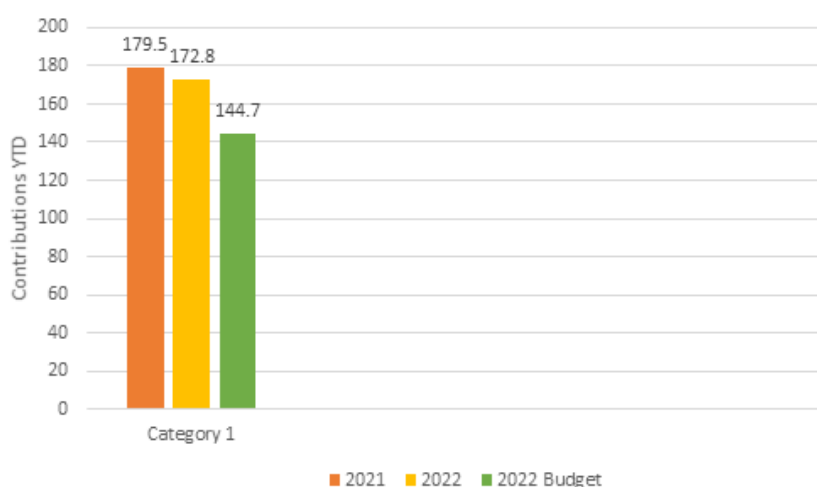
Restricted Funds

\$15041 was donated to various funds in February. This included \$3251.25 for the McCutcheon concert.

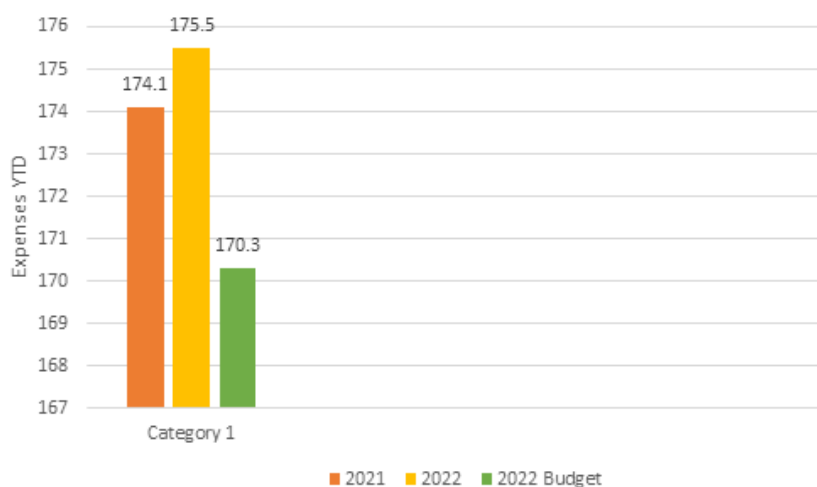
February Contributions



February Contributions Year to Date



February Year to Date Expenses





There Jesus was nailed to the cross, and on each side of Him a man was also nailed to a cross. John 19:18

...But this man has done nothing wrong. Then he said, "Jesus remember me when You come into your Kingdom". Luke 22:41-42

Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need. Hebrews 4:16

This is love: not that we loved God, but He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sin. 1 John 4:10

Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift. 1 Corinthians 9:15

Lifting Up Ukraine

FPCC is partnering with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the ministry in our denomination that addresses crises around the world. PDA partners with churches in the affected areas by providing funds and support for the tasks of providing shelter, medical care and meals. In this case, this will be the countries surrounding Ukraine that are welcoming the masses of refugees driven from their homes by war.

Please help us in supporting this effort. Donations may be sent to the church or dropped in the offering plates on Sundays. Please designate "Ukraine" on your contribution.

More information is available at <https://pda.pcusa.org/situation/ukraine/>.

Jays & Concerns

We extend our sympathy to...

- **Fred Foster**, our night custodian, whose brother died in March.

We rejoice with ...

- **Junior Kalombo**, who was sworn in as a US Citizen on March 15 in a ceremony in St. Louis. Congrats, Junior.

If you or a loved one is in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit, please let the church office know.

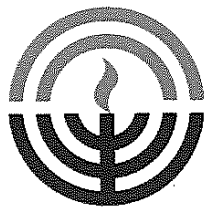
Our pastor, staff, and hospital visitors keep this information confidential.

Your church wants to be in touch.

Bless be the tie that binds.

Men's Prayer Group

The men of the church gather for prayer each Friday at 8:30 AM on Zoom. Contact church office for Zoom link.



Champaign-Urbana[®]
JEWISH FEDERATION

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THE **POWER** OF COMMUNITY.

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March 14, 2022

Matt Matthews and
The Congregation of
First Presbyterian Church of Champaign
302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Dear Matt and the wonderful people of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign,

First of all, I'm sorry for the long delay in responding. I was out of town, then had a death in the family, so I'm just now getting caught up.

However – Thank you so much for the letter sharing your grief with our Jewish community regarding the hostage situation at the Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas.

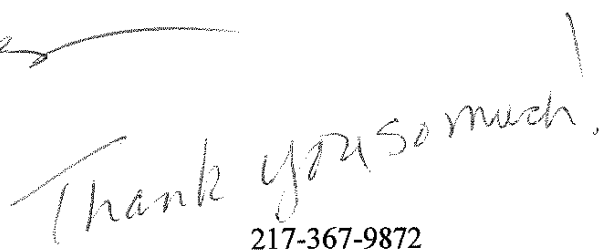
And now we grieve even more for the citizens (many of whom are Jewish) of the Ukraine, whose county is being destroyed.

As you said in your letter, we must have love, and we must have peace. And it can start with two organizations like ours looking out for and supporting one another when bad things happen.

Wishing you and your congregation love and peace,


Linda Bauer

Executive Director
Champaign-Urbana Jewish Federation
503 E. John St.
Champaign, IL 61820


217-367-9872



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street
Champaign, IL 61820

P: 217.356.7238

F: 217.356.7242

E: info@firstpres.church

www.firstpres.church

Sunday:

9 AM Worship/Sanctuary

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:15 AM The Gathering/Chapel

Online Worship is also available at 9 AM on Sunday mornings thru
YouTube, Facebook, and our church website. Go to FirstPres.Live.

Contact the church office for more information.

Pastor:

Matt Matthews..... Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext. 213

Staff:

George Almasi Facility Assistant
Brendan Barker..... Organist
Ritchie Drennen Facility Manager, Ext. 237
Patty Farthing..... Receptionist, Ext. 211
Robert Ferrer Audio-visual Technician
Marcia Franks Administrative Assistant, Ext. 210
Judi Geistlinger..... Commissioned Lay Pastor
Jason Gordon..... Technology Support
Joe Grant..... Director of Music
Sam Haupt Director Contemporary Worship Band
Rachel Matthews Mission Coordinator/Parish Associate, Ext. 219
Samantha Nichols..... Sunday School Coordinator, Ext. 216
Blaise Pascal..... CYF Connections Assistant, Ext. 216
Ann Petry..... Accounting, Ext. 224
Val Smith ESL Director, Ext. 235
Libby Sternhagen..... Bell Choir Director
Mindy Watts-Ellis..... Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

Most of the staff email addresses are the person's first name
followed by @firstpres.church. For example, matt@firstpres.church.

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Send submissions to marcia@firstpres.church.