

August 2023



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Welcoming America Week ... September 8-17

Welcome new immigrants to our community during "Welcoming America Week", September 8-17. Events in Champaign County are coordinated by the University YMCA. A full calendar of events will be available soon.

Events at First Pres that week include:

Sunday, September 10 *Gifts of New Immigrants Sunday*.

Our brunch will have an international flair as we welcome and honor first-generation immigrants.

Monday, September 11 *World-wide Game Night*

First Pres will welcome the community back to our campus for World wide Game Night. Please attend to play or to help us run this event.

Sunday, September 17 *Cuba emphasis Sunday*

Look forward to some lively worship music and a hospitality table featuring Cuban pastries and tropical juices. Enjoy a report from our most recent Cuba travelers at 10:10.

Want to learn more? Contact your Nurture Team leaders-**Tom Gilmore, Mary Jane Kelley, Bob Kirby, Gary and Linda Peterson, Jan Wittler.**



2nd SUNDAY BRUNCH

August 13th 10:10 AM

Come, enjoy brunch
Location TBD

We will have an array of brunch items. Enjoy the fellowship right after the 9 AM service.

Donations appreciated!

Volunteers are needed to help with the brunches. If interested, please contact Jan Wittler, Gary Peterson or the church office.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, August 20 immediately after worship

for the purpose of hearing and acting upon the report
of the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

They will introduce their nomination for our new Associate Pastor.

A reception will follow.

This Is None Other Than the House of God

Genesis 28:10-19a

BY MATT MATTHEWS

MATT@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

A tired Jacob goes to bed. His pillow is a rock. He has a dream about God, who tells him: I will gift to you and to your descendents a vast territory stretching in every direction. Your offspring will occupy it, God says, and they shall be like the dust of the earth. You will be rooted here. Your wandering people will find a home. To which Jacob proclaims, "Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!"

Isn't that often the case with us? God is with us always. Omniscient. Omnipresent. Here. Relevant. Dependably near at hand. And we miss it? The beauty of God's creation calls out, but we do not hear. The light of God's presence dawns, but we do not see. The hand of Jesus touches our shoulder, but absently we brush it away.

John Muir famously said, "I have heard the mountains calling and I must go." I don't know what Muir thought about God, but when I hear the mountains calling me—and I do—I don't hear the mountain at all; I hear the voice of God.

"Surely the LORD is in this place . . ." Jacob said.

Many of us draw the same conclusion when we see the high deserts and the canyons of the west—or the ocean, or the night sky. We see with clarity the

creator when we ponder the majesty and raw beauty of the creator's creation. "God of the sparrow, God of the whale, God of the swirling stars," we sing awestruck and full of praise.

I've told you about Gordon McLerran before, because I've told you all of my stories. He was a microbiologist for the Texas health department during the day. By night, he was an amateur astronomer. He was estranged from the church for much of his adult life, and sometimes mad at God. He was almost always mad at organized religion—mad at its hypocrisy, mad at its humorless arrogance, mad at its mean-spirited, self-righteous pronouncements. But every time he looked into that microscope or telescope (he, actually, preferred binoculars when looking at the night sky), delightedly he saw the face of God. Eventually, he ended up back in a pew, contributing mightily to the Church of Jesus Christ. But it was in the expanse of nature that he experienced the truest of communion with God.

For Gordon and for many like him: yes, yes, surely the LORD is in this place . . .

Our hymnal is filled with songs celebrating the presence of God:

Hymn #408: There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place/
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord

Hymn #177: I will come to you in the silence/
I will lift you from all your fear/
You will hear my voice/

I claim you as my choice/
Be still and know I am here.

Hymn #519: You are my strength when I am weak/
You are the treasure that I seek/
You are my all in all./
When I fall down, you pick me up/
When I am dry you fill my cup/
You are my all in all.

Hymn #22: God of the ages/
God near at hand/
God of the loving heart/
How do your children say joy/
How do your children say Home . . .

While God is with us always, we must admit that not only do we often times miss noticing God, sometimes, God prefers to stay just out of sight. This is sometimes God's prerogative.

Our hymns lift this aspect of God up, too.

Hymn #1: Holy, holy, holy!/
Though the darkness hide thee,
Though the eye of sinfulness/
Thy glory may not see...

Hymn #12: Immoral, invisible, God only wise/
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes/
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Hymn #515: The Spirit of the risen Christ/
Unseen, but ever near/
Is in such friendship better known/
Alive among us here.

* * *

Whether we see God or not, our understanding of the witness of scripture is that God is with us always. Whether God wants to be noticed or not, God is always present. Jesus puts a fine point on this. His name, first of all, is a giveaway to God's intention. His name is Emmanuel, which means God-with-us. Jesus promises I will not leave you orphaned. Jesus assures his disciples, "I am with you always, even to the close of the age."

Sometimes we see, detect, feel, and experience God's presence. Like Jacob did. Sometimes we don't. But God is with us.

Eli Wiesel tells this story in his book about the concentration camps called Night (a book the New York Times calls "A slim volume of terrifying power"). Three people—two adults and one child—were hung in the concentration camp while thousands of prisoners were made to watch. "Behind me, I heard the same man asking: 'For God's sake, where is God?' And from within me, I heard a voice answer: 'Where He is? This is where—hanging from this gallows ...'" (p. 65)

If we believe God is with us, we are right to believe God is with us all the time . . . both on the mountain top and in the valley.

When we notice God's presence, we are like Jacob after that long night of vivid dreams: we are relieved and happy and ready to worship. When we don't notice God's presence, we acknowledge God is here, anyway. And we wonder: Maybe we don't notice because we aren't looking, or we aren't looking in the right direction.

Maybe God chooses to step out of view. Regardless, the one who created and sustains us has not and never will abandon us. God is with us.

Looking around the wide world, our ancestor Jacob said, "How awesome is this place. This is none other than the house of God . . . Surely the LORD is in this place — and I did not know it!"

* * *

The writer of the poem "Footsteps in the Sand" is widely debated. We all have heard this before:

"One night I dreamed a dream. I was walking along the beach with my Lord. Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life. For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints in the sand, one belonging to me and one to my Lord.

When the last scene of my life shot before me, I looked back at the footprints in the sand. There was only one set of footprints. I realized that this was at the lowest and saddest times of my life. This always bothered me and I questioned the Lord about my dilemma.

"Lord, You told me when I decided to follow You, You would walk and talk with me all the way. But I'm aware that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I just don't understand why, when I need You most, You leave me."

He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and will never leave you, never, ever, during your trials and testings. When you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

If we don't steal away to Jesus, thank God, Jesus steals away to us.

This is good news.

AMEN.



**World-Wide
Game Night
6:30-8 PM**

**September 11
Centennial Hall**

Snacks provided

American Sign Language at First Pres

BY TOM ULEN
THOMAS.ULEN@GMAIL.COM

This summer a group of about 25 congregants and friends of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign met on five consecutive Thursday mornings for about an hour in Mae Chapin Parlor to learn American Sign Language (ASL). **Michael Hogue** and **Sallie Hutton** organized the course; Sallie's son-in-law, **Alan Thomas**, and daughter, **Kathy Hutton Thomas**, were the able, enthusiastic, patient, and skillful teachers. In the first session, we learned the ASL alphabet and how to say such useful phrases as "My name is ____"; "Good morning"; "Good afternoon"; and "Good night." In subsequent meetings, we learned "How are you?"; "Thank you"; "You're welcome"; "I'm trying to learn ASL"; the days of the week, how to count, how to sign "years," colors, and more. Our final class was entirely on religious expressions. We learned the signs for "church," "Christian," "pianist," "baptism," and the like. (I'll let you guess what the sign for piano is.)

There was a lot of material, and most of us had challenges remembering all that we had been taught from week to week. The emphasis was on simple but useful phrases and signs. Alan and Kathy began each class with a refresher of some of the things we had learned the previous week. And they frequently went around the room with simple exercises that tested what we had been taught. When, for example, we had learned the signs for colors, Alan went around the room and asked each of us, in ASL, to tell the group

our favorite color. And then he would ask us what Stacy's favorite color is, or Julia's favorite color, or how many people said that yellow was their favorite color.

Even though we were working hard to learn a new language, we had fun (there's a great sign for "funny").

Bruce Rainey, a proud son of the South, asked how to sign the expression "all y'all." Other students asked for help with expressions that were important to them

There were a few fascinating surprises in ASL. One is that frequently one drops a simple verb from communication. For instance, to sign to someone "My name is Tom," you drop "is" and sign "my" and "name" and then the letters T – O – M. Another is that there does not seem to be a right- or left-handedness to ASL. That is, one can make the sign for the letter A with either the right hand or the left hand, and your interlocutor can understand you perfectly either way. Still another very important point is that the facial expression one uses while signing can convey a lot of meaning (which, in spoken language, we convey with tone, volume, facial gestures, and waving of arms, among other things). Signing "good morning" with a blank expression, might be construed as this is a "terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day." But if you mean "good morning" to signify that this is a glorious day that the Lord has made and that you're glad to see me, have a big smile on your face.

Why did we take this class? I'll bet there were as many different reasons as there were people in the class.

Some had a relative or friend who is hard of hearing and wanted to be able to communicate with that person. Some just enjoyed the challenge of learning a new "language."

Yet another reason one might be thankful for knowing even a little ASL is that it might make you a new friend. If you've ever traveled to a foreign country and spoken in their language or ordered food in a foreign restaurant in this country using your knowledge of that restaurant's language, you know how grateful foreigners can be that you have made the effort to learn even a little bit of their language. The same thing is true of ASL. We have some deaf congregants who sit in the back benches on the south side of the sanctuary and have someone signing the service to them. I can now say "good morning" and "peace be with you" and "how are you?" to them. And they are thrilled. As am I.

Julia and I had a marvelous experience recently that further illustrates this point. We recently flew to Las Vegas to meet our younger son and his family to drive to and see the Grand Canyon for several days. (I had never been before and am so glad I got to see that miraculous place.) On the trip back, we flew from Las Vegas to Dallas and Dallas to Champaign. In Dallas we were up-graded to first class, but we were not in the same row. I was in a single seat, and Julia was in the window seat in a two-set row a couple of rows ahead of me. I asked the gate agent if it was possible to put us together, and he told me that first class was completely full and that our best bet was to ask someone to switch with us.

As we were walking down the Jetway, we noticed that most of those who were headed for first class were couples and, therefore, unlikely to want to split up to accommodate us. But Julia saw that the young man behind her was by himself. So, she turned and asked him if he would be willing to switch seats with us. He signaled to her that he was deaf. She said, "Oh! Please wait here." She came and got me and led me back to the young man, explaining that he was deaf but might be willing to switch seats with me. So, I signed to him "My seat [is] 3A, and her seat [is] 1F." I whirled my arms (this isn't ASL) to indicate that he and I might switch. He signed to me that "My seat [is] 1D," which, thanks to a merciful God, was the seat beside Julia. So, we switched – he took my 3A, and I took his 1D. How's that for useful learning?

After the flight and while we were waiting for our bags, the young man came over to ask me how and why I was learning ASL. I got the drift, but we had exhausted my learning with the seat exchange. So, he used his phone to type out questions, and I would answer by speaking into his phone, which translated my speech into words. He did teach me to sign "thank you" and "you're welcome." He was a delightful young man.

For those of us who want to keep improving, there are lots of helpful apps to put on one's Apple or Android phone and many YouTube videos that are instructive. We also look forward to watching the movie CODA, which stands for "Children of Deaf Adults" and won the Academy Award for Best Picture in March, 2022, and which is likely to mean a lot more to us now.

Walking Talking Lunch Invite

Our neighbors at First United Methodist would like to extend an invitation to join their Walking Group.

The **Walking Talking Lunch Bunch** program is evolving! We have about 12 people who are enjoying this opportunity! This is designed for anyone who wants to be more physically active and enjoys making new friends. There are people from other faiths and other denominations.

I walk with the group every week that I am available. It's a great group! I'd love to walk with any of you who find yourselves with a couple of free hours!

Participants can choose to walk indoors or outdoors. For those who choose to stay inside, we make laps around the sanctuary. For those who walk outside, it's usually a lap or two around West Side Park. People walk at their own pace and can sit and rest as needed. Our very strong walkers stretch their legs and go!

We are led by **Debbie Chew** who has many years of experience in directing physical rehabilitation programs. The schedule works approximately like this:

11:30-11:50 Gentle stretching led by Debbie
 11:50-12:20 Walk
 12:20-12:30 Then we walk downtown to a downtown restaurant!

For people who would enjoy the social aspect, but not the walking, it's possible to just come to the restaurant at 12:30 and join the group there!

The cost per session is \$10. Each person contributes \$10 toward lunch, then the church picks up the total tab and pays the tip. It's a great deal for the participants. We are grateful for a grant that has made it possible to cover the extra expenses of lunch and pay Debbie to lead us each week.

Here are the restaurants we'll be visiting through August. Such good food!

August 1: Café Kopi
 August 8: NO session
 August 15: Peking Garden
 August 22: Neil St. Blues
 August 29: Seven Saints

I hope to walk with you soon!



Gracious God, we are a people who often do the wrong thing, even when we want to do what is right. We have not cared for others as you have called us to, but we have been focused primarily on ourselves. We have been a people who are more divisive than uniting, more unkind than kind, and more rebellious than faithful. Forgive us, we pray and make us new to go forth and glorify you. Amen.

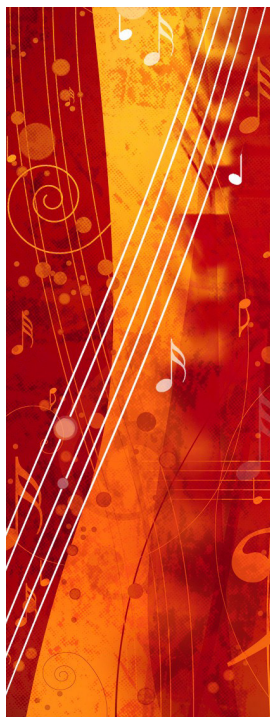
Make a Joyful Noise

BY JOE GRANT
JOEGRANT@ILLINOIS.EDU

August is here along with the start of the fall semester, which means the resumption of Chancel Choir! In the last couple of years we've lost a number of people in our group so I'm writing to encourage you to join us in making a joyful noise.

We will be rehearsing on Thursday evenings at 7 PM beginning September 7. We will sing in service the preceding Sunday, September 3. We'll do something familiar that day, so please jump in and help lead worship with us.

If you have questions, stop me at coffee hour or shoot me note at joegrant@illinois.edu.



Hospitality Table Team

Thanks to **Cathy Emanuel**, **Tom Gilmore**, **Kathy and Mark Schoeffmann** and **Blaise Zamena** for managing coffee, tea, lemonade and sharing smiles in July. Join the team by signing up [here](#). Just click on open slots when you want to serve. It's fun and it's easy.

Jays & Concerns

We extend our sympathy to the families of

- Charles "Gene" Lamkin who died July 14.
- Esther Fay who died July 17.
- Rick and Ann Wampler on the death of Rick's mother, Donna Wampler.

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.

The Heart of Mission

Those We Throw Away Are Diamonds

BY ANN STOUT, WORLD MISSIONS COMMITTEE
MRSAS2003@GMAIL.COM

"Those We Throw Away Are Diamonds"...Sound intriguing? This is the title of a book recommended by the Opportunity International Book Club. As you may recall, OI is one of our World Mission partners. The book is about and by Mondiant Dogon, a young man who grew up in refugee camps in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Rwanda. He began life in a small village in the DRC where his family owned some land, had vegetable gardens and animals, and his father was the chief of the village. At the age of 3 or 4 the mass slayings of the Tutsis began and Mondiant's family fled into the woods where they hid for about a year. Then they made their way to Rwanda where they settled into a refugee camp. Mondiant spent his childhood and teen years moving to and living in refugee camps where they occasionally had to flee to avoid genocidal massacres.

In spite of the terrifying and horrific hardships they endured, Mondiant was determined to do his best to become educated and he worked hard at his studies. Of course, this often happened without books, paper, pencils, chalkboard, etc. But they had dedicated, hard-working teachers and he persevered.

This is not an easy book to read but it is very enlightening, informative and inspiring. Unlike many refugees,

Mondiant, with help from some generous Americans, was able to come to the United States, go to college, and become a poet and a writer as well as an advocate for those millions still struggling in refugee camps worldwide. Mondiant Dogon is a gifted poet and writer and, in spite of his extremely difficult background, a compassionate and courageous human being. I highly recommend this book.

Do not keep them away, they need justice to live at least

Do not close your doors, they want to get a little rest

The land has many sinners, the realm needs many priests

To beg almighty God for refugees and migrant's peace

Those we throw away are diamonds
Mondiant Dogon

We Support CANACOM

CANACOM is the Caribbean And North American Council on Mission. We are represented by our mission co-workers in the Caribbean, **Vilmarie Cintrón Olivieri and José Manuel Capella-Pratts**. The council includes thirteen representatives from the reformed tradition- Scotland, Trinidad, & Tobago, Guyana, Dominica, Cuba, Canada, the U.S.A., Grenada, Curacao, Jamaica, Cayman Islands, and the Council for World Mission (formerly the London Missionary Society). Read more [here](#).

Styrofoam Angels Environmental Update

BY PAT PHILLIPS
P.PHILLIPS42@SBCGLOBAL.NET



Folks here at First Pres have saved so much styrofoam from the landfills, that bigger receptacles are needed. **Ginny and Jack Waaler**, who pick up and deliver collections have added green boxes for the recycling angels who have joined in this project of helping to care for God's creation. So, carry on, everyone, and continue making a big difference.

Please save the date of Sunday, August 6, for Adult Sunday School after church. Green Team Director, the **Rev. Cindy Shepherd** will talk about *The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022* which aims to reduce medication costs and invest in renewable energy. Did you know that homeowners can cash in on rebates and tax credits on home energy upgrades?

Cuba Study Limited Small Group

The Republic of Cuba, 90 miles from Key West, Florida, about the same distance from Champaign to Springfield or Peoria, is an outcast cousin in a continuing family feud. The troubled relationship between our countries began with the US occupation in 1898. The animus continues shaping the politics and economies of both countries and forcing Cuba to engage with US adversaries like China and Russia.

The Presbyterian churches in both countries are united as the body of Christ, working as sister congregations to be faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, sensitive to critical situations in both societies and exploring joint mission and encouraging each other in faith.

We will explore the history and culture of Cuba and our sister church relationship through a six-to-eight-week small group study beginning in September. Meeting times and places will be developed to accommodate up to eight participants.

Please contact **Bob Kirby** for more information or to enroll. Rwk3213@gmail.com or 217-621-5915.

English Language Learner

BY BONNIE WARD, DIRECTOR
BONNIE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

The ELL (English Language Learner) (formerly ESL) program has continued through the summer, thanks to the able leadership of **Linda Sims**.



Vacation Bible School closing ceremony at our sister church in Havana.

Students continued to gain confidence in their English abilities and to make new friends. We are grateful for our teachers who gave of their summers to help staff the program.

August 16 from 9-11 am we will host a teacher training, breakfast, and fellowship as we prepare to resume classes on August 21. We are able to offer classes three days a week this fall, thanks to our teachers, and the waning of COVID-19. We are sad to lose **Mary Ellen Dorer** as a teacher. She will be moving out of the area and we will miss her. We are so grateful for her teaching over the years. We wish her well.

If you know of friends who are wanting to improve their English with others from around the world, please share this link: <https://forms.gle/v4nLZmvY6cSTfQ2m8> so they can get more information about the program.

We are excited for another year of ELL and look forward to welcoming the world into our classrooms!

Cool Your Cubes... Raindrop Offering

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Raindrop Offering. The Community Mission Deacon campaign at First Presbyterian has ended. In July we raised \$2,545 to help Salt and Light purchase new coolers. We will turn in any additional money to Salt and Light that hasn't been turned in yet marked "Raindrop Offering." We are grateful to have helped them start their \$400,000 campaign to replace them.

Back-to-School Shoe Drive

DREAAM's 2nd Annual Shoe Giveaway will be happening on Saturday, August 12! We will be collecting donations to bless our DREAAM families with new footwear to start their school year. Visit www.dreaam.org and help youth walk into their academic adventures in comfort.



The poster is designed to look like a piece of lined paper with a blue border decorated with various icons: a yellow sun, a blue star, a black star, a black sneaker, a blue and orange sneaker, a red sneaker, and a white sneaker. The title "Back-to-School SHOE DRIVE" is written in large, colorful, hand-drawn letters. Below the title, the text "Help DREAAM reach our goal of blessing 500 children with new shoes to Kick off their school year!" is written. To the right of this text is a red speech bubble that says "Accepting donations from July 1st - August 5th". Below the main text, there is a green call to action "Sign up to donate at www.dreaam.org!" and a QR code. To the right of the QR code is a green arrow pointing left with the text "Or to donate shoes, scan here." Below these elements are three small photographs: a pair of sneakers, a person sorting through shoe boxes, and a large stack of shoe boxes. At the bottom, the contact information "For more info, please contact us : info@dreaam.org" is displayed.

 **Back- to -School
SHOE DRIVE**

Help DREAAM reach our goal of blessing **500 children** with new shoes to Kick off their school year!

Accepting donations from July 1st - August 5th

Sign up to donate at www.dreaam.org!

Or to donate shoes, scan here.



For more info, please contact us :
info@dreaam.org

Face to Face with Pat Tarr



What brought you to First Presbyterian Church?

First Pres is active in the community and that was important to me, not to mention it is five minutes from my home. I've always been Presbyterian so on moving to Champaign it was an easy choice.

What has been the highlight of your church experience?

I don't think I can list just one. The church has always been a big part of my life. I guess I can say my wedding, my women's circles. I served as a deacon and elder. I am gradually finding opportunities to serve in this congregation.

Tell me about your family? Your work?

I'm a widow with two daughters and a son living in Rockford, St. Louis and Indianapolis. My son has a six-year-old boy making me "grandma". My education was in international studies at Bradley and then a master's in community counseling at Eastern Illinois University. A large part of my working career was with Faith in Action which works with community

volunteers to provide support to seniors with the objective of keeping them independent.

What do you do in your free time?

I volunteered in "I Read" for kindergarten students in Urbana schools and taught Sunday School in the past. I am concerned about our political situation and felt I needed to do something. So, I serve as an election judge and for registration campaigns. I also like to travel internationally particularly with my children. I enjoy interacting with local people from other cultures and learning their stories.

Who are your favorite Bible characters?

Ruth and Moses.

What advice can give on how to be the church?

Well, I must say I have felt very welcome here so that is already good church. The challenge of the institutional church is to somehow rebrand itself to show that like the Coca-Cola promotions, we are "the real thing". Young people are turned off by the hateful, divisive preaching and political messaging they hear from the Christian far right and do not want to be mistaken as part of that movement.

Educate a Child and Reform the World and Mister Rogers

"As God's people we are called to love and support children." These are words of **Dr. Alonzo Johnson**, PC-USA leader for Self Development of People (SDOP) Ministry spoken at a Fred Roger's Conference in June.

[Learn more](#) about the Presbyterian Church covenant for children and suggestions for action. SDOP is one of the Compassion, Peace and Justice ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

Library News



Free Book Exchange

Check out the book cart in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some for yourself.

Finance

Financial Update

BY ANN WEBBINK, FINANCE TEAM
ANWEB2@YAHOO.COM

Contributions

Total June contributions: \$50.2K from plate and pledge plus \$9.3K from prepaid= \$59.5K This is \$3.6K more than last year and \$10.3 K under budget. Total contributions YTD, including prorated prepaid pledges: \$435.9K which is \$14.9K less than last year and \$17.1K over budget. At 50% of the year, we have 58.7% of the budgeted contributions, including all prepaid contributions.

Expenses

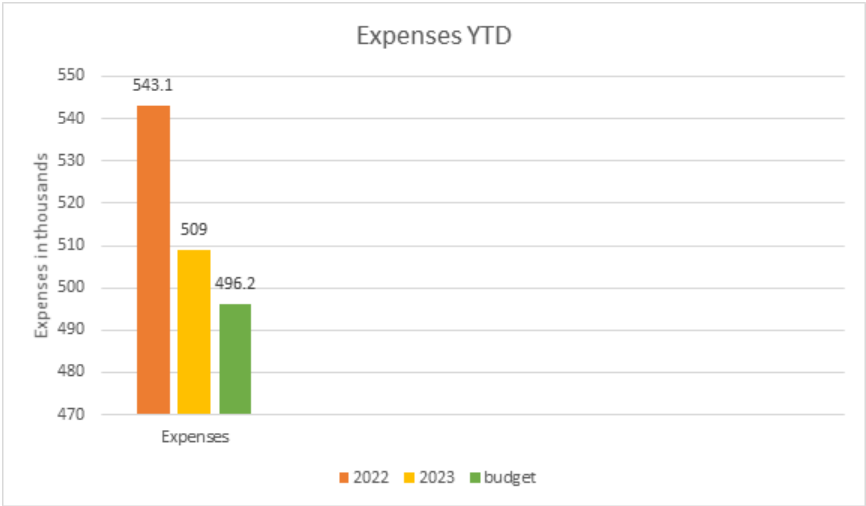
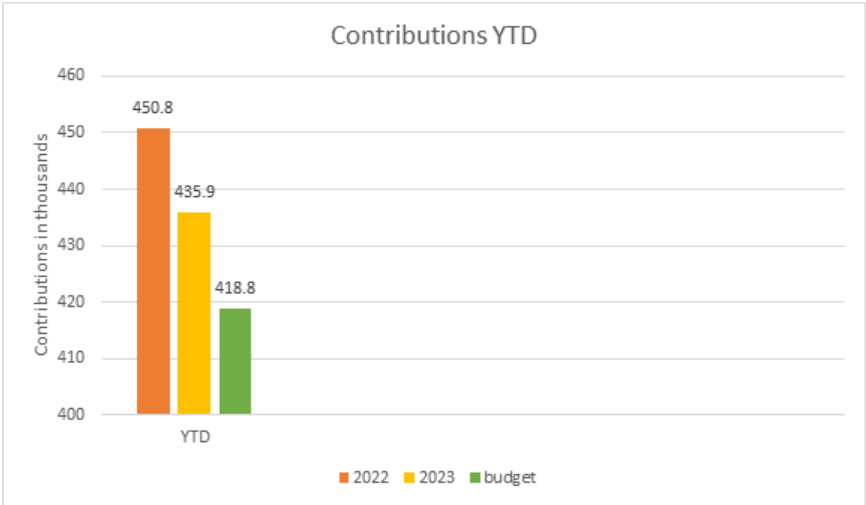
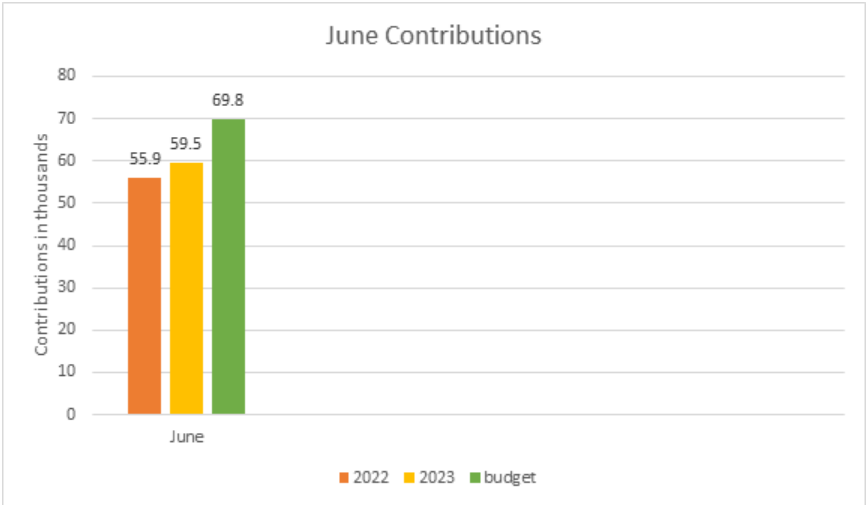
June expenses were \$94.9 K, which is \$11.8 K greater than last year and \$12.2K over budget. Expenses YTD were \$509K, which is \$34.1K less than last year and \$12.8K over budget. At 50% of the year, we have spent 51.3% of the budget.

Balance YTD

Revenue from all sources exceeds expenses by \$16.5K, which is \$5K more than last year.

Session Designated Funds

\$1,793,772 which is \$7260 less than last month.





**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 AM Coffee and Fellowship

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

Staff:

Martice Chapple..... Facility Assistant
Ritchie DrennenFacility Manager,
Patty Farthing..... Office Assistant
Robert FerrerAudio-visual Technician
Fred Foster Evening Custodian
Marcia Franks Office Administrator
Judi Geistlinger..... Commissioned Lay Pastor
Joe Grant..... Director of Music
Rachel MatthewsMission Coordinator/Parish Associate
Ann Petry..... Accounting
Sora Shepard Organist/Pianist
Libby Sternhagen..... Bell Choir Director
Bonnie Ward..... English Language Learner Director

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

The newsletter is published monthly.
Deadline is the third Monday of the month for the following month's edition.
Send submissions to marcia@firstpres.church.