

## **We Respond to God's Word**

*As God invites us to be disciples of his Son, we prayerfully respond to God with affirmations of faith and acts of self-giving, commitment, and thanksgiving.*

### **Affirmation of Faith** *The Confession of 1967*

God the Holy Spirit fulfills the work of reconciliation in human life. The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which people are reconciled to God and to one another. The Spirit enables people to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, the Spirit gives people power to become representatives of Jesus Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all. The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

### **Invitation to the Offering** *(We are invited to return God's tithes and give our offering.)*

### **Offertory**

### **Response of Gratitude #240** *Alleluia, Alleluia! Give Thanks (refrain only 2x)*

### **Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving**

### **The Lord's Prayer** (pg. 35; *in the language or wording most familiar to you.*)

## **We Go Out In God's Name**

*Having gathered together in God's name and been fed by God's Holy Word, we go out in God's name bearing the peace of Christ to the world.*

### **Connecting with our Community**

#### ✦ **Hymn for Commitment #358** *Steal Away* (Spiritual)

#### ✦ **Charge and Benediction**

#### ✦ **Congregational Sung Benediction** *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

**The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.**

#### ✦ **Postlude**

✦ Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.

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# **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

April 19, 2026

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Easter



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church  
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign  
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Si vous souhaitez que le service soit traduit en français,  
procurez-vous un récepteur et des écouteurs à l'arrière du sanctuaire.

## **Welcome to worship!**

When you enter the worship space, please be mindful of the silent prayers of those around you. Mingle with other friends and guests and learn more about this congregation's ministry. **Welcome home!**

## **We Gather Together In God's Holy Name**

God calls us together as "children." How wonderful it is to be so loved! Our natural response is worship.

### **Prelude**

**Chiming of the Hour on Tower Bell**

**Greetings & Welcome/Act of Friendship & Prayer Concerns**

*Please pass the Friendship Pad, noting with whom you are sitting, and list prayer concerns on the prayer request cards in the pews.*

### **Threshold Moment**

**Call to Worship** (based on *Luke 24:13-32*)

They were on the road to Emmaus...

**We travel so many roads, so many journeys in this life, sometimes traveling towards, sometimes away from, a life of freedom.**

Jesus came and fell into step with them, but they did not recognize him...

**We are sometimes so overwhelmed with the struggles of this world that we can't see the Companion that walks alongside us.**

Jesus asked them what they were talking about...

**We have recited our stories of pain so often that we can't imagine there are other ways to interpret events, to get past the regret.**

They explained the horror of the recent past, about their friend who was crucified and their disappointment at dreams of liberation dashed...

**We so often think we've hit the end of the road, the finale of the story, with nothing left to say.**

Then Jesus began to tell the story as a bigger picture...

**We sometimes perceive only the parts that feel insurmountable without zooming out to notice the larger narrative of hope.**

They invited Jesus to dinner after such a long walk...

**We actually know how to reach for help, even when we don't realize we need it.**

Jesus took the bread, blessed, broke and gave it to them...

**We are capable of having our eyes opened to the presence of Love in our midst.**

Jesus vanished from the room as quickly as he had appeared on the road but they were left with the awe and wonder of having their hearts transformed...

**We open to the possibility that nothing is closed, that our hearts can be opened anytime, anywhere, and resurrection from death-dealing forces is possible.**

This is a Word of Hope for the people who long for it.

**Thanks be to the Living Word.**

‡**Hymn of Praise #263** *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name* (‡Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

**Call to Confession** (*Congregation may be seated.*)

**Prayer of Confession**

Holy God, we confess that we do not always love our neighbor. We confess that we have despised others, even to the point of hatred. We confess that we have been hurt by others. We confess that forgiveness and reconciliation at times are just impossible for us. We know that nothing is impossible in You.

We come to You, seeking healing and wholeness for us. Help us, whenever possible, to live in peace with others, to seek reconciliation and healing and forgiveness. For Your Son came and lived among us, was betrayed and denied, abused and put to death.

He rose again, and came with the message of peace to those who had denied him and abandoned him. **May we walk in his ways. Amen.** *Silence is kept.*

**Kyrie #578** *O Lord, Have Mercy*

**Assurance of Pardon**

For nothing is impossible with God. There is no place you can go, no end of the earth you can run, where God cannot find you. There is nothing on earth or beyond death that can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**We are forgiven. We are loved. We are reconciled to God. Let us go and live with the love of God. Amen.**

**Passing of the Peace**

## **We Gather Around God's Holy Word**

*At the center of Christian life and worship is God's Word incarnate in Christ and God's Word as recorded in scripture. We hear the story of God's love in scripture and sacrament and we say, "Thanks be to God!"*

**Word with Children #591** *Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!* (*refrain only*)

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture in French** *Romans 8:12-25*

Ceci est la Parole du Seigneur./**Gloire à Dieu** (pronounced "glow-ah ah dew")

**Anthem** *Coronation Anthem*

Chancel Choir; Rocio Martinez Acevedo, French horn

**Scripture in English** *Acts 16:16-34*

This is the Word of the Lord./**Thanks be to God.**

**Message** *The Key To God's Reign*

Rev. Beth Wagner

**Hymn for Reflection** *Once a Girl Was Telling Fortunes* (*see screens*)

# This Week

## Sunday, April 19

- 9:30 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 10:30 AM Easy English Fellowship/Rms. 204 & 207
- 10:30 AM Youth Sunday School/CE Building
- 10:30 AM Adult Discussion/Parlor
- 3:00 PM Clarinet Recital/Sanctuary

## Monday, April 20

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 1:00 PM GROW/Chapel
- 1:30 PM Bible Study/Church Library
- 3:30 PM Pastor Nominating Committee/Church Library
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

## Tuesday, April 21

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 9:30 AM PW Coordinating Team/Zoom
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 3:30 PM Community Mission Deacons/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Family Dinner/Centennial Hall

## Wednesday, April 22

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 11:00 AM Francophone Ministry/Library
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal/Sanctuary
- 7:30 PM Wednesdays We Gather/Zoom

## Thursday, April 23

- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:00 AM Coffee with Beth/Hopscotch Bakery
- 10:30 AM Circle of Joy/Parlor & Zoom
- 11:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel
- 11:15 AM Easy English Christian Fellowship/Room 204
- 12:30 PM Windsor of Savoy Bible Study/Windsor of Savoy
- 1:00 PM Circle of Faith/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer Practice/Centennial Hall
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Parlor & Zoom

## Friday, April 24 Church Office closes 12 noon

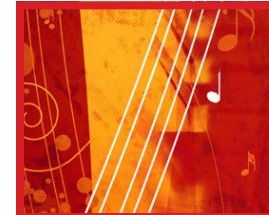
- 8:15 AM Men's Prayer/Zoom
- 12:00 PM New Americans/Chapel
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 7:00 PM French Prayer/Zoom

## Saturday, April 25

- 8:00 AM DREAAM Girls Empowerment Summit/Centennial Hall & CE Building
- 9:30 AM DREAAM Illini Mentoring/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

# Announcements

- **Linda Peterson** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, contact **Carol Miles**.
- **Large print bulletins** available for use on Sunday mornings. Ask an usher if you cannot find one.
- We have access to our hearing assistant loop during worship. This technology allows people with hearing aids equipped with **T-Coil technology** to hear the service through their hearing aids. If you know you have T-coil technology, plan to turn on the T-coil via your phone each Sunday morning.
- **We are glad you're here!** Questions about First Pres, see **either pastor** after the service or contact the church office (info@firstpres.church).
- **We have NEW nametags!** If you cannot find your nametag, please contact the church office (info@firstpres.church or 217.356.7238.) The cost for your first nametag is provided by the church. If you should lose your nametag, you will be responsible for the cost of \$10 to replace it.
- **Please be reminded our service time is now 9:30 AM each Sunday morning.**
- Join us immediately following worship in the Parlor for our **Adult Discussion**. This morning **Marty Carlson** and **Ann Webbink** tell us about our new food pantry initiative. To help stock the food pantry, please see this morning's insert. You can bring one or many of the items listed. Monetary donations are always welcome! Help us feed those in need in our church community!
- Anyone interested in **donating flowers for use on Sunday mornings during worship**, please contact **Nancy Dankle** @217.778-4088 or nkdankle@icloud.com.
- We are collecting royalties each time we hear a **Spiritual** in our service. Royalties were never paid for this music. Money we collect will go to the DREAAM Choir. Donation box is on the Welcome Center.
- Join **Pastor Beth** for **coffee in April** Thursdays from 10-12 noon at Hopscotch Bakery in Champaign.
- **Graduates will be recognized and celebrated Sunday, June 14.** If you have a high school, college, master's graduate, etc., please email name; relationship; where graduating from; degree; and future plans to **Brandi Lowe** at brandiscrapbook@yahoo.com by June 3.
- **Copies of the 2025 Annual Report** can be found in the kiosks or on the church website.
- If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.
- Check out the **book cart** in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some.
- The **April newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at [firstpres.church/newsletter](http://firstpres.church/newsletter).
- Please **do not park** in the spaces marked Reserved 24/7 behind Meyer/Capel Law office on Sundays.
- **If unable to attend church**, watch the service live each Sunday at [firstpres.church/live](http://firstpres.church/live). The **Sunday service video** is available on-line this week; audio sermon available the following Sunday at 10:30 AM on WDWS 1400AM.
- **Scam/Email Spoof Alert ...** Your pastors will **never** send a text, email or voicemail asking you to purchase gift cards. If in doubt, contact the church office.



## Spring Concerts

**April 19** 3 PM Clarinet Concert featuring **Gary Winder**

**May 2** 3 PM Piano/Classical Guitar Concert featuring **Yuxi Chen & Yuan Cao**

**Concerts are FREE; open to the public**

**Church Sanctuary**

## FPC Food Pantry Shopping List



### Dry goods

- beans (bag)
- rice
- oatmeal
- pasta
- lentils

### Main course/protein

- chili with beans
- Kraft Mac & Cheese with squeeze cheese packet (no substitutions)
- peanut butter
- tuna (chunk light or white)
- canned chicken breast

### Vegetables

- canned peas
- canned green beans
- canned mixed vegetables
- canned corn
- canned carrots

### Miscellaneous

- beans (canned)
- spaghetti sauce
- powdered milk
- tomato soup
- chicken noodle soup
- canned fruit

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