

She asks that we stop polluting, and remove the pollution from our seas, land, air, bodies and hearts.

Creation longs for us.

To lament over the devastation of war; the lives lost; Earth, the destruction of her land, and the assault on her climate. To be like the mustard tree seed that grows into a glorious tree in which a myriad of creatures, including human beings, find shelter, food, and protection.

Creation is waiting for us but will not wait forever.

In all these things and more, creation waits for us to remember our connection to it, before technology and self-sufficiency distanced us, before our creaturely instincts became dull behind concrete walls.

Oh God we ask for radical courage.

To remember that we are creation within creation. For truly nature sustains us. Moreover, nature is God's face too - mottled with chlorophyll, adorned in foliage, dusted with feathers, and dewy in morning light.

May we be moved.

To assume our roles as creation's servants and protect it. To know that we are a human and nonhuman family, inhabiting the same home. Amen, Amen.

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

Offertory *Idylle*

Gary Winder, clarinet

E. Bozza

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

Prayer of Dedication & Thanksgiving

Prayers of the People & 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

Minute for Mission – Earth Day

Ginny Waaler

✦ **Hymn for Commitment #69** *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky*

✦ **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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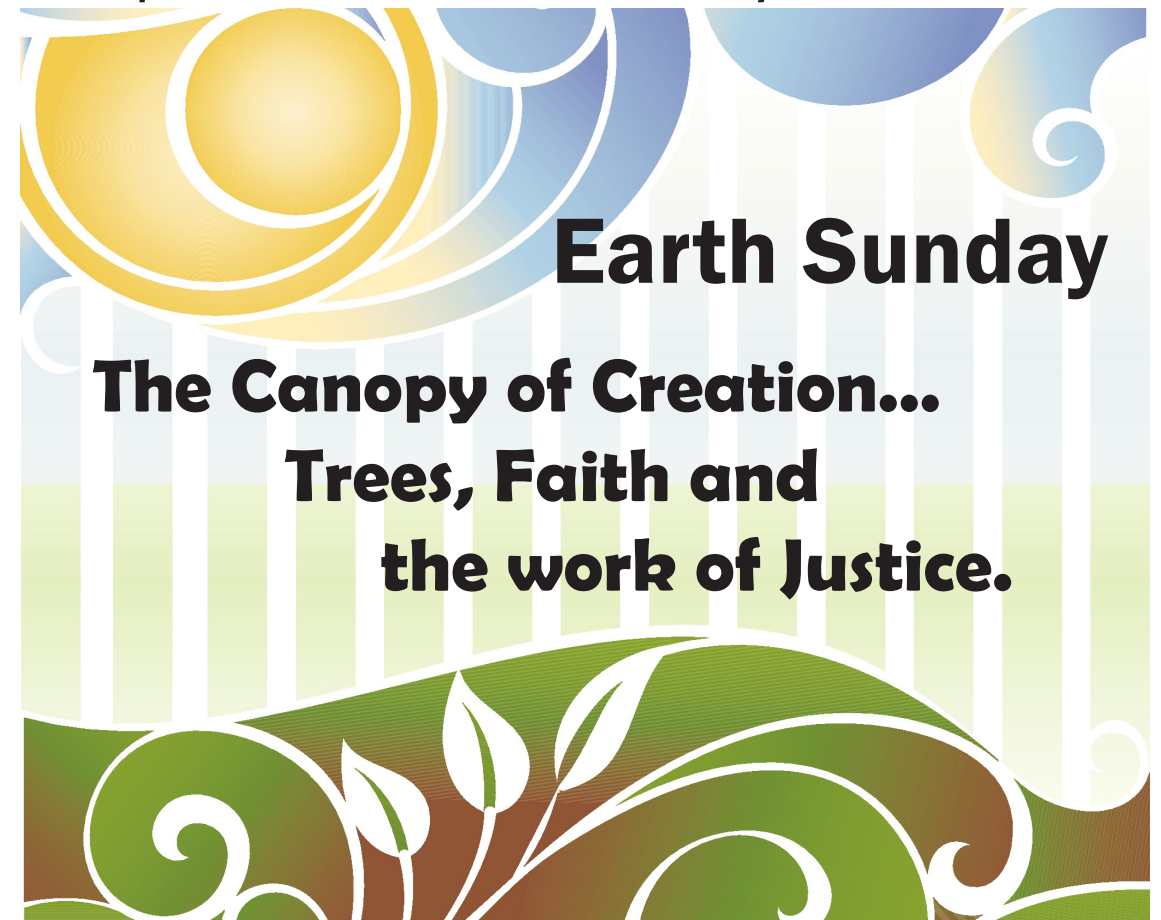
www.firstpres.church ♦ Facebook: fb.com/firstpreschampaign



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN**

April 26, 2026

4th 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

Praise the Lord.

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

Praise the Lord, sun and moon, and all you shining stars! I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Praise the Lord from the earth. Praise the Lord you sea monsters and all deeps, fire and hail, snow and frost, and stormy wind – wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Let heaven celebrate! Let the earth rejoice! Let the sea and everything in it roar! Let the countryside and everything in it celebrate! Then all the trees of the forest too will shout out joyfully before the Lord because the Lord is coming! The Lord is coming to establish justice on the earth!

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

✠**Hymn of Praise #22** *God of the Sparrow* (✠Please stand as you are able in body or spirit.)

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

Prayer of Confession

Precious God, we humbly come before you this day. We acknowledge that all creation comes from and reflects you. Lush trees created to provide food, shelter, and protection for creatures as you intended. Their roots break down hard rock to form soil and filter pollutants from runoff, while maintaining the air balance through photosynthesis. They stretch their branches out to you in worship and adoration.

By your creative will and design, all life forms took shape out of your holy breath - each for its particular purpose and yet all interdependent. May we remember that before we became different races, ethnicities, and genders, we were cocooned in your holy creative intent alongside the possibility of all creation that was to come - all of us fearfully and wonderfully made, our very design and purpose glorifying you.

Our hearts are heavy with grief at the harm we cause our human and nonhuman kin.

We ask your forgiveness. We pray for ourselves and all people to repent and change our consumeristic ways. Beloved creator-God, through your power that is as gentle as a lamb and as capable as to call worlds into being, we ask that you speak to all hearts to change our ways. In Jesus' name, Amen *Silence is kept.*

Kyrie #578 *O Lord, Have Mercy*

Assurance of Pardon

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 *Psalms 84*

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

Anthem *Allegro* from *Four Church Sonatas*

W.A. Mozart

Gary Winder, clarinet

Scripture in English *Ezekiel 47:1-12*

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

Message

Rev. Beth Wagner

Hymn for Reflection #402 *How Lovely, Lord*

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.

A Prayer of Lament (*Congregation may be seated.*)

Creation calls to us.

To open our eyes to the devastation we have and are causing our earthly home. The harm being done to trees, soils, oceans, air, and so much more.

Creation reminds us.

To recognize our oneness with all beings, human and non-human.

Creation calls to us.

To value the community of creation above human greed.

Creation is waiting for us.

To move from doing what is easy to doing what is necessary and right.

Creation is waiting for us.

To prioritize the needs of community over the convenience of self, for loving each other is a seed of hope.

Creation hurts and aches, and is lashing out!

This Week

Sunday, April 26

- 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

Monday, April 27

- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 1:00 PM GROW/Chapel
- 1:00 PM Knifty Knitters/Parlor & Zoom
- 3:30 PM Environmental Team/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall

Tuesday, April 28

- 8:30 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 9:15 AM ELL Classes/CE Building & Café
- 10:30 AM Church Staff/Parlor & Zoom
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/Parlor & Zoom
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 3:00 PM Organist Search Team/Parlor
- 4:30 PM World Mission/Parlor & Zoom
- 5:30 PM DREAAM Family Dinner/Centennial Hall

Wednesday, April 29

- 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 30

- 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
- 10:00 AM Food Pantry Team/Library
- 11:00 AM Christ Community Church Korean Choir/Chapel
- 11:15 AM Easy English Christian Fellowship/Room 204
- 1:00 PM DREAAM After School Academy/CE Building
- 6:00 PM DREAAM Cheer Practice/Centennial Hall

Friday, May 1 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, May 2

- 9:30 AM DREAAM Illini Mentoring/Centennial Hall
- 3:00 PM Piano & Classical Guitar Recital/Sanctuary
- 6:00 PM Francophone Bethesda Fellowship/Chapel

Announcements

•**Laura Aull Johnston** is our liturgist this morning. If you would like to serve as liturgist on a Sunday morning, contact **Carol Miles**.

•The **new Parlor chairs** are a gift from the proceeds of the Zilly Endowment Fund for Parlor maintenance.

•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. The cost for your first nametag is provided by the church. If you lose your nametag, you will be responsible for the \$10 replacement cost.

•**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**, *Protecting God's Earth*, Part 1. **Cindy Shepard** leads a discussion of the negative ecological impact of giant AI data centers. She will be joined by **Stuart Levy** from the U of I Center for Supercomputer Applications.

•**The Church Office will be open 9-11 AM Monday, April 26.**

•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.

•Help fill our **Food Pantry**. Food will be distributed to those in our church community in the near future. List of items needed can be found in Westminster Hall. Monetary donations always welcome!

•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.

•If you or a loved one is **in the hospital or in need of a pastoral visit**, contact the church office.

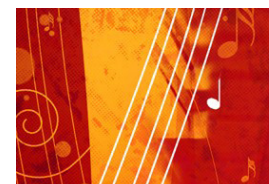
•Check out the **book cart** in Westminster Hall. Donate a book for others to enjoy and take some.

•The **April newsletter** is available in the kiosks or at firstpres.church/newsletter.

•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. 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 Concert

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

Concert is FREE; open to the public

Church Sanctuary

Every Day is Earth Day

Environmental Stewardship is Everyone's Concern

The First Presbyterian Church of Champaign has been a designated Earth Care Congregation for 15 years, taking an "Earth Care Pledge" and completing activities and projects in worship, education, facilities and outreach.

- There is a Mission Closet where you may leave medicine bottles, with labels removed, and batteries, with ends scotch taped. Members of the Environmental Stewardship Committee will recycle these materials.
- Check out the Environmental Bulletin Board, across from the kitchen adjacent to Westminster Hall. It's meant to increase awareness.
- Containers for recycling have been placed in nearly every room in both buildings.
- Water coolers/bottle fillers, with filtered water have been installed to reduce the need for plastic water bottles or cups.
- Litter has been picked up along streets by the church and will now be gathered on church grounds and Westside Park.
- Our facilities have been updated with LED lights, solar panels have been installed on the roof, and the air conditioning system is energy efficient.
- We've encouraged using re-usable bags and avoiding plastic, whenever possible, including carryout containers and straws (take your own)
- A letter of appreciation was sent to restaurants who do not use Styrofoam.
- Children's books on the environment were placed in the book rack in the Children's Corner in Westminster Hall.

Please join us in Taking Action, by reducing, re-using and re-cycling. You're welcome to join the team or share ideas. Contact **Nancy Brombaugh** at n.brombaugh@gmail.com

Let's Care for God's Wonderful Creation!

Take Action for the Earth

Sunday, April 26th, **Adult Discussion** immediately following worship in the Parlor: "Watt's Up with Data Centers - Protecting our Water, Energy and Ratepayers." Presenters: **Cindy Shepherd**, Faith in Place and **Stuart Levy, Sr.** Research Programmer at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at UIUC.

May 30th, **Lobby Day at the Capitol** in Springfield, 8-4. Get on the bus to advocate for strong guard rails around future big Data Centers! Free ride, lunch, t-shirt, experience! Read more and REGISTER here: <https://ilenviro.org/iec-lobby-days/>.

Bill McKibben will be the keynote speaker at Faith in Place's Virtual Spirituality and Environmental Summit. www.aes-summit.org

The next **Residential Electronics Collection event in Champaign County** is scheduled for Saturday, May 16, 2026 at Parkland College. This bi-annual event, typically held in May and October, is the only option for residents to dispose of old tube-style televisions, free of charge.

Time: 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Parkland College, using the Duncan Road entrance

Required Registration: Residents of Champaign County and participating municipalities must register online (ecycle.simplybook.me) in advance to reserve a 15-minute time slot.

Accepted Items

Televisions: All types, sizes and models, including old CRT "tube" TVs

Tech: Laptops, tablets (iPads, Kindles), monitors, printers, scanner, keyboard, mice, and small-scale servers

Home Electronics: Microwaves, holiday string lights, DVD/VCR players, video game consoles and digital converter boxes

Mobile Devices: Cell phones and phone accessories

Prohibited Devices

Wooden stereo speakers or cabinets, CDs, DVDs, air conditioning units, dehumidifiers and refrigerators are not accepted.