

June 2021



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Eric Corbin Is Saying Goodbye

June 6, 2021

Just over eight years ago, three Corbins entered the doors of First Presbyterian Church of Champaign for the first time. We were new to the area and looking for a community of faith in which to worship, serve, and fellowship. We found many opportunities for each of those in this congregation, and found this a great place for our family to follow God's call. A few months later, two more Corbins joined the family, and you welcomed them with loving arms, too. All five Corbins became part of the life of this congregation, and over time, two of us joined the staff. Kristi was first, becoming Mission Coordinator in January 2015. A few months later, Eric was invited to join the staff as Covenant Associate Pastor.

In those six years that I have been on the staff, we have continued to worship, serve, and fellowship together. We've celebrated together and grieved together. We've grown together through study of God's word, as we've embraced new ideas and new ways of being the body of Christ together. We've stood together at the sides of graves and at the sides of the baptismal font. We've gathered for worship in the sanctuary, Westminster Hall, Centennial Hall, and the Chapel. We've learned together in Sunday School, Confirmation Class, VBS, and Adult Education. We've met at swimming pools, parks, picnic tables (turquoise and otherwise), area ministries, and Habitat for Humanity homes. We've traveled to presbytery meetings from Sparta to Danville. I've been in your homes minutes after the death of a loved one, for sharing Holy Communion, for meetings, and for lovely Christmas gatherings. We've discussed big issues of how to follow Jesus and how to reach out to our interfaith neighbors. I've sat in meetings throughout the buildings and now in my basement via Zoom. I am grateful for all that we've shared, and the ways that you have invited me into your lives. I treasure the moments of deep connection, of tears, and of cheers.

When I became your Covenant Associate Pastor, the church was in a time of transition. Rick Snyder had retired, and Chuck Carlson had become your Interim Senior Pastor as the Pastor Nominating Committee began their diligent work. As a "Covenant" Associate Pastor, I was hired by the session, rather than called by the congregation. My ministry here was originally conceived as a two-year position, while the PNC sought your next Senior Pastor. As time went on and the PNC continued their work, my position was extended for another two years.

A few months after Matt Matthews arrived as your Senior Pastor, he and I, along with the Session, began discussions about my tenure here. Per Presbytery rules, my position as Covenant Associate Pastor could not be extended again. As we all felt God leading us to continue our relationship at that time, the Session called a meeting for the congregation to vote on calling me as your Associate Pastor, dropping the "Covenant" portion of my title. My position has gone through changes and adjustments over the years.

From the beginning, however, my ministry here was defined as temporary and so part of me has always had an eye to the future. Now, the congregation is on a solid footing, ready for ministry for the future as in-person worship and meetings emerge from a long season of pandemic life.

In God's timing, the people of First Presbyterian Church of Woodstock, Illinois, have called me to be their next Pastor.

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The congregation has a similar long history in its community, having been founded in 1846. Like you, they are committed to worship, service, and fellowship, and I am honored to join them in that ministry. My ministry there is tentatively set to begin on August 1st, so I will be here, ministering alongside you until mid-July. I look forward to finding ways to say our farewells as we reflect on how God has led us together in ministry.

I am and will always remain grateful to God and to you for the ministry that we have shared together during the eight years my family and I have been part of this congregation. You have entrusted me with important moments in your lives and in the life of this community, and I will always carry with me your love and support. My favorite mug says "Ministry is serving God by serving others." It has been an honor to serve God with you.

With my thanks and praise to God for you,

Eric

Snippets from Pastor Matt Matthews Preaching at the Windsor of Savoy and Other News

BY MATT MATTHEWS
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In April 2021, the activity director at the Windsor of Savoy asked me if First Pres Champaign could bring a weekly Sunday preaching service to them. I said I hoped we could. The Session and HR and Worship Committees talked about this, crafted a proposal for Session, and at their May meeting, the Session approved this motion:

- That we extend the hours of **Dr. Rachel Matthews** from 20 to 24 hours per week so she can coordinate a weekly Sunday preaching service at Windsor of Savoy Retirement Living; that Rachel's job title be changed to "Mission Coordinator and Parish Associate Pastor," as required by the Presbytery's COM for minister-members taking on greater pastoral roles.

Beginning on June 6th, First Pres will offer weekly preaching services at Windsor of Savoy from 10:15-10:45 AM. Rachel will coordinate the work of our inaugural team of preachers, including Amateur Preachers **John Muirhead**, **Gary Peterson**, and **Dave Whitford**, Certified Lay Pastor **Judi Geistlinger**, and **Rachel Matthews**, **Eric Corbin**, and **Matt Matthews**.

One of Rachel's goals, with John Muirhead, our coordinator of Amateur Preachers, is to grow the Amateur Preacher program. Originally, nearly 50-years ago, Amateur Preachers (the word "amateur" simply meant unpaid) from First Pres were available to area Presbyterian Churches to call upon to preach on Sundays when their pastors went on a needed vacation. Rachel and John will hopefully add to the members of this volunteer preaching team over the months.

Please pray for this new ministry and support with prayer those who are bringing God's word on Sunday mornings to our neighbors at the Windsor of Savoy.

* * *



From the June 9th "Heart of Missions"

The Amateur Preachers share the Good News to our friends at Windsor Savoy as well as throughout the Presbytery. **John Muirhead** (pictured above) reminded us in his sermon last Sunday of how we, like the Woman at the Well, like Simon Peter, have a story to tell. World Mission Committee will be hearing a few of you soon tell your story to their committee. I hope in the coming days when you get a call asking if you would be interested in telling your story encountering the Christ and that you would consider sharing it in whatever small group that you are a part of. Stay tuned for a seminar on how to strengthen your telling of such good news.

In other news, the Session has concluded an informal time of visioning begun in February 2021. The document of notes we produced—a work in progress—is included in this newsletter. What I took away from our time of visioning together was that we seem to be on the right path, and that we have no easy answers to the societal shifts in worship habits reflected in Western Christendom.

One of the things the Session is really pushing now is how to most fully use our kitchen to serve both our flock and the community. The “KUAC” (Kitchen Utilization Action Committee. Pronounced “quack.”) will meet and dream this summer, cooking up a plan the Session can stew over. Expect great things.

I join my hope with theirs that the God who makes all things new is doing a new thing in our midst—to God’s glory.

* * *

Finally, the session’s Covid-19 Response Team is working on guiding us through an intentional reopening post-pandemic. Anything I say here will be outdated by the time this is published; suffice it to say that **Dr. Ruth Craddock** is carefully parsing the guidance of the CDC. It’s been a long journey, hasn’t it?

I’m hoping your summer will be filled with light, not only the light of the sun, but God’s light that you will share with others.

PEACE to you all.

Matt Matthews

A Vision 2021 Winter into Spring

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Champaign Talks about “Being Church”

Beginning in February 2021, our Session began a brief period of visioning. This most recent process of dreaming put us in the long succession of church members who have dreamed about our future and taken stock of the present.

First Presbyterian Church was founded in 1850. Our current sanctuary building was dedicated on the third Sunday of November, 1869. After a fire on March 8, 1909, damaged the sanctuary, renovations were launched, the sanctuary was reappointed, and a wing was added on the southwestern end that included what we now call the Mae Chapin Parlor. In 1924, the church enrolled 743 members. During the Depression, with Rev. Adolph Bohn as “guiding director” and with Works Project Administration muscle, a basement was dug for large group meetings. By 1950 church membership hit 1,000 and in the late 1950’s, “under the dynamic leadership” of Rev. Mal Nygren the Education Building was constructed. In 1991, membership had reached 1,363.[1] In 2014, our Session articulated a desire to be “a growing multi-generational, multi-cultural, servant-missional church at the heart of the city.” The Session had launched the Forward 150 team (commemorating the 150th anniversary of the ground-breaking of our sanctuary in 1867) to work on a total campus renovation plan. Church membership by that time had leveled to 750.[2] In January of 2021, we reported a membership of 631.

In 1994 Paul Van Arsdell wrote a history—just newly bound and available in our library with a digital copy available in the church office—in which he said the history of this church “is a continuing revelation in Christian determination,” a determination compelled not only by “self-will” but by God’s.

Our Session seeks to discern its own will and God’s. Here is some of what our Session discussed in this informal period of introspection.

- We have leaned into the advice of Abraham Lincoln, who, when explaining his course on Reconstruction to Senator James G. Blaine of Maine, said, “The pilots on our Western rivers steer from point to point as they call it – setting the course of the boat no farther than they can see; and that is all I propose to myself in this great problem.”[3] We agreed that we as leaders can only steer as far as to the next river bend. While we steer for the next bend, we’ll prepare ourselves as best as possible for what we reasonably might expect to lie beyond. God has given us brains, which we will use, but we recognized only God transcends time and can see beyond the bends. Our history confirms, The Lord is my shepherd . . . He leadeth me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake . . .

- When we look to the future, demographics and trends suggest a church that may be smaller and less endowed with as large a budget as we currently enjoy. To this end, we have encouraged our Endowment Committee to heighten efforts to invite our flock to give beyond our lifetimes with wills and bequests. (In ten years, \$632,933 of our current donations will come from people aged 79 or older.) We have gained fewer new members than we have lost to death and moving. Our current lack of numerical growth

is consistent with the decline in church membership in western Christendom.

- We agreed that if we insist on looking back on our 'glory days' we are unable to see the glorious possibilities of this present moment. One cannot see the present when looking backwards.

- We have past successes and strengths from which to draw as we face the future.

- We expressed gratitude that our "second campus" became Copper Creek in September, 2012. But we admitted that that birth felt, to many, like a church split. Some pain lingers, and we have still not fully found our footing since the departure of friends and family to Southwest Champaign.

- We admitted that many of us miss certain things from our past: We miss the Mothers' Morning Out program; we miss our friends from Copper Creek; we miss our burgeoning Wednesday Night Youth Program.

- We see a church that has a proud history. This is where we married and raised our families. Our children were baptized here, married here, and, in some cases, buried here. Most of our children do not continue to worship here as many have moved out of town.

- While the scripture compels us to affirm a "theology of abundance" (My cup runneth over, Psalm 23), we admit that the prospect of a dwindling budget and declining membership over the next generation(s) diminishes us. We aren't what we used to be. We admit feeling sad about that.

- The Session talked and wondered about high-level things – our purpose, what we do well, how we got where we are, et cetera. We realized there were many 'operational' discussions

we did not have, such as, "How do we envision using the new kitchen?" and the like. We did not (so far) in these discussions brainstorm about ways to do evangelism and "grow" the congregation. We know there is more to talk about. [See concluding notes below.]

- We affirmed that "being the church of Jesus Christ" means learning about what Jesus wants us to do and then trying to do it, and to be and live as a friend of Jesus in the world.

- We want the church to remain a place where our friends are. We want to meet new friends here. We want to support one another. We want to grow in faith. We want to nurture space for celebration. We want to nurture space for meaningful relationships. We want to nurture space for spiritual growth.

- We want to support the ministry of the church in the world through mission. We want to partner authentically ["hands-on"] with local ministries.

- We want to seed all we do with a spirit of joy, prayer, patience, wonder, awe, joy, trust—believing that God walks with us and guides our steps.

- Our architecture is beautiful, even inspiring, but we are aware of boundaries and barriers currently posed by brick and mortar. A person in a wheel chair, for example, would be unable to sing from our choir loft, speak from our pulpit, visit her child's Sunday school class, or enjoy a meal in Centennial Hall. We will continue working towards full inclusion in our church. [Our Building and Grounds Team, with an active subcommittee, is currently installing a lift to Centennial Hall.]

- Small groups are a big success at First Pres. We have about 30 small groups comprised of about 325 person on their roster that reach about 115 people (many people are in more than one group). Small groups, in some

ways, are our best kept secret. We do not mean to keep these caring groups under a bushel, but, in effect, many of them might seem secret ("Oh, I didn't know that group existed") or closed ("Oh, they've been meeting for a decade. Surely, I'll feel out place.") Growing small groups is a growing edge for us. [Our Spiritual Formation Team has an energized subcommittee, the Small Group Ministry Team, dreaming about our small group ministry.]

- Worship is vital and meaningful at First Pres. We look forward to returning to in-person worship, to finding new, meaningful ways to worship [including a hybrid model that more actively includes those joining us online], and to include more of our own congregation and our community in our worship services.

- We welcome and nurture children and youth. Our children and their families in our church come from Indonesia, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Korea, Scotland, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as well as the United States. They all speak English, and many speak French and other languages. Families celebrate rich cultural traditions. We are thrilled to welcome, nurture, teach, and learn from these children and their families. We have worked hard to create a vital, growing, and inclusive reformed Christian community of all ages, races, and cultures, dedicated to God through learning and service in the heart of the city.

- We agreed we do these things well: What is a strong congregation? Strong congregations are places where people (1) are growing spiritually, (2) engage in meaningful worship (where notions of "joy" and "awe" are not alien themes), (3) are active in the work of the congregation, (4) have a sense of belonging ("Relationship, Relationship Relationship"), (5) care for children

and youth, (6) focus on the community ("Mission, Mission, Mission"), (7) share their faith, (8) welcome new people, (9) are challenged to use their gifts in ministry ("empowering leadership"), and (10) look to the future. (Cynthia Woolever & Deborah Bruce, *Beyond the Ordinary: Ten Strengths of U.S. Congregations.*)

- We affirmed that clarity takes time. Our human vision isn't complete. We rejoice that God's vision is perfect. The journey matters, and we spend most of our time "getting there." We agreed to keep an open mind and spirit moving forward. We will pause for other seasons (and methods) of visioning as the Spirit moves. We'll faithfully navigate to the next bend in the river.
- We are hopeful.

The thoughts of this document are a snapshot at a macro level. These suggestions affirm who we are and how we trust God for journey.

But there are crucial details that cry out for exploration. How should we operationalize these thoughts in our day-to-day, month-to-month, and year-to-year efforts? (Much of this is done monthly in committee; what might be falling between the cracks?) How will we deal with the issues we all see facing us in the near future (an aging flock, a diminished pool of volunteers, the likelihood of budget cuts, et cetera, for example)? How do we cultivate and maintain flexibility and resolve so that when we round the next bend in our church's journey, we are able to address the problems that we could not see from today but are pressing when we get to that bend?

In one sense, we must simply let go and let God. But in another and profound sense, God would have us use the divine gifts with which God has given us to be acutely attentive to

those things God would have us to do.

To this end, we propose that we spend our last visioning meeting (May) discussing our next steps to discern what to do between now and when we get to the next bend. We hope that those steps will be concrete, thoughtful, and realistic.

Possible next steps may include:

1. Volunteerism in our congregation.
 - a. Are we now doing more than we can sustain?
2. How to use our kitchen for congregational growth and community engagement.
3. Budget realities of 2022.
4. Conduct a staffing audit/New staffing models for our next chapter.
5. Conduct a building use audit.
 - a. Are we using our facility to its full potential? Is there room to invite community groups in?
6. Paying for ministry 25-years from now.
 - a. Use of current endowment/designated funds, and generation of new funds.
7. How to invest the land we own in South Champaign.
8. Exploring outside-of-the-box ministry, funding, 'investment'.
 - a. Should we buy properties in the neighborhood for housing programs, office space, growing a YAV program [PCUSA Young Adult Volunteer]?)
9. Evangelism/sharing 'Good News'/ church growth strategies.
 - a. How does each Sessional committee 'own' this work?
10. "Making" disciples.
11. We want to do a "building audit" to determine what needs repair and when, depreciation of campus mechanical, etc.

1994.

[2] A Strategic Plan for First Presbyterian Church of Champaign, August 2014

[3] David Herbert Donald's *Lincoln* (1995), p. 11. Lincoln's "great problem," which he did not live to see, was Reconstruction.

Music at First Pres

BY JOE GRANT

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Just a quick note to thank the entire congregation, staff, **Robert Ferrer** and the tech team and clergy for the tremendous support you've demonstrated to our efforts in the music area during the pandemic. You have been unfailingly complimentary and helpful through all of our efforts and we sincerely appreciate it.

In looking to the future, the Chancel Choir met June 2 for the first time since mid-March of 2020. We had a spirit-filled sing along of several of our favorite anthems and plenty of warm personal interaction. We don't have the go-ahead for congregational singing yet, but perhaps it won't be too long before we can lift our voices together again. As a quick but sincere aside, if you would like to join us in singing please let me know and I will keep you informed of our next "rehearsal."

Finally, my personal thanks also go to **Brendan Barker**, our organist, and the members of the quartet for their hard work and musical dedication through this very challenging time. It is absolutely no fun singing while masked, and they did it week after week without complaint. So bravo to **Max Jefferson**, **Miranda Rowland**, **Austin Cody**, **Connor Stout** and **Dennis Sims**! We couldn't have done

[1] Addendum to Christian Determination: A Continuing Revelation, a history of First Presbyterian Church, Champaign, by Paul Van Arsdell,

Finance

Financial Update

BY MARK SCHOEFFMANN, CHAIR FINANCE

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Contributions

Contributions in May to the Operating Fund were \$32.7K less than in 2020 and \$18.8K below the budget at \$52.3K. The Year to Date total is below last year by \$33.7K and below the budgeted amount by \$2.5K. These figures include prepaid pledges (those paid in the year prior to the budget year) that are prorated over the year with 1/12 added to each month's contributions. Including all revenue sources at 41.7% through the year we have received 54.4% of the expected year's revenue.

Expenses

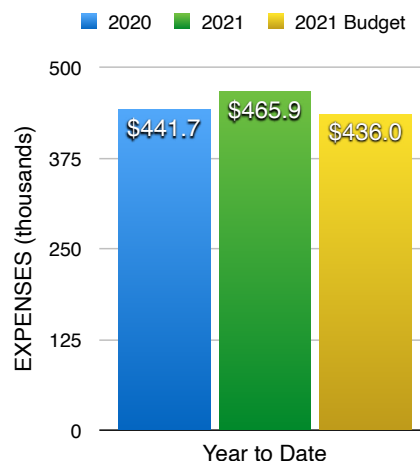
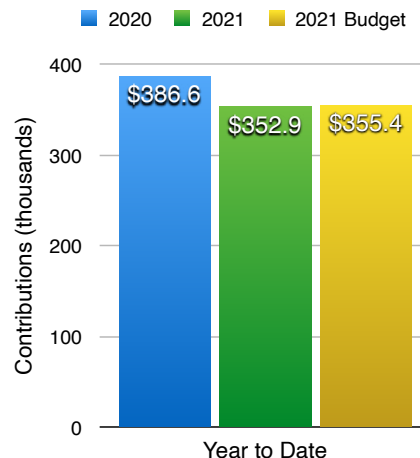
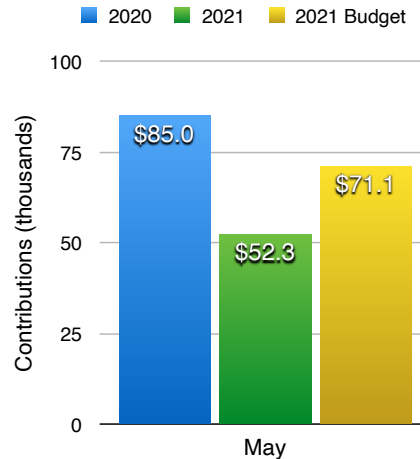
Year to Date expenses are \$29.9K above the budget at \$465.9K and more than in 2020 by \$24.2K. At 41.7% through the year we have experienced 44.5% of the expected year's expenses.

Balance

Considering all sources, revenue exceeds expenses by \$127.0K which is \$82.1K less than at the end of May in 2020.

Restricted Funds

In addition to contributions to the operating fund there was \$2,034 donated last month to special offerings and funds restricted to specific purposes such as missions supported by our church.



Session Motions From May...

COVID-19 TEAM

- Out of abundant concern for others, particularly the unvaccinated, such as children and the medically compromised, that we continue to wear masks in indoor worship at this time.

FINANCE

- Finance recommends the following motion be adopted by Session: That the Church engage the Presbyterian Foundation for assistance with an Endowment/ Planned Giving awareness program at the annual cost of \$455.85 to be reviewed annually.
- Finance recommends the following motion be adopted by Session: That the cash value in the Karyl Wackerlin insurance policy be deposited in a new General Mission Endowment Fund.

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- That the session form the KUAC committee to discuss long ranged planning uses of the kitchen and **Greg Cozad** will serve as chair. Other committee members: **Ritchie Drennen, Rachel Matthews, Tom Ulen, Jessie Clarette, Gary Peterson.**

HUMAN RELATIONS

- That we extend the hours of **Dr. Rachel Matthews** from 20 to 24 hours per week so she can coordinate a weekly Sunday preaching service at Windsor of Savoy Retirement Living; that Rachel's job title be changed to "Mission Coordinator and Parish Associate Pastor," as required by the Presbytery's COM for minister members taking on greater pastoral roles.

Children, Youth & Family

Children, Youth, Family

BY MINDY WATTS-ELLIS, DIRECTOR
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Congratulations to our graduates!

Emilio Kabakele – Urbana High School

Emilio is a church member. He is the son of **Bibiche Kabakele**. Emilio was a member of the varsity football team. Emilio will attend Parkland College in the fall seeking a degree in industrial technology. He plans to transfer to Southern Illinois University to complete a bachelor's degree.

Rick Loma – Parkland College

Rick is a church member. He completed his Associates in Arts degree with a major in communication. He graduated with Honors.

Tendresse Mutombo – Centennial High School

Tendresse is an attender of our church. She is the daughter of **Lupaka Mutombo and Valerie Mboma**. Tendresse plans to attend Parkland College.

Kam Peterson – Centennial High School

Kam is the grandson of **Gary and Linda Peterson**. Kam was awarded the PTSA Art Purchase Award in which the school purchases an artwork from the student for permanent display at the school. Kam will attend Parkland College in the Parkland Pathways program. He will transfer to the University of Illinois and pursue a degree in art education.

Isaac Ellis – Urbana High School

Isaac is the son of **Mindy Watts-Ellis** (Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries). Isaac was active in marching band, wind symphony and jazz band. Isaac also earned the Eagle Scout award in August of 2020. Isaac will attend Parkland College in the fall seeking a degree in kinesiology.

Autumn Ellis – Parkland College

Autumn is the daughter of **Mindy Watts-Ellis** (Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries). Autumn completed her Associates degree in the fine arts and will attend Columbia College in Chicago this fall seeking a degree in traditional animation. She also intends to pursue theatrical performance.

Carissa Hwu – Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity

Carissa is the daughter of **Sabrina and Wen-Mei Hwu**. She graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in Public Health from the Herbert Wertheim School of Public Health and Human Longevity Science at the University of California, San Diego. Since classes were remote, Carissa's dog Chloe attended all the classes with Carissa but slept through most of them.

John Mark Matthews – University of South Carolina

John Mark is the son of **Rachel and Matt Matthews**. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He plans to serve with Teach for America this fall.

Connor Stout – University of Illinois

Connor has served as our Children's Choir Director since 2019. Connor has completed a Masters Degree in Vocal Performance.

Summer programming!

Summer programming will begin Sundays July 11- August 1 at Hessel Park in the east shelters from 11:30 AM-1:30 PM. We will have an intergenerational program based on the parable of the sower. There will be box lunches, the Bible story, songs, and activities.

Make it a picnic outing for the whole family! Stay for ice cream at Jarlings or for splash play in the water features. Register online at firstpres.church/seedsregistration [Sowing Spiritual Seeds Registration!](https://firstpres.church/seedsregistration)

Sunday School Update

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

We started with a unit on peer pressure in the junior high and high school class and the story of Zacchaeus with the elementary school students. We then explored all kinds of subjects and stories like prayer, mental health, being a good neighbor, and Mary discovering an empty tomb. We not only talked about care for creation, we gathered in person to paint flower pots, plant new life, and advocate for the earth. We celebrated a good, even if unusual, year of Sunday School and the gift of the Holy Spirit with music and activities in the park.

We learned a lot together throughout these past five months!

I am so grateful to our students for their insights, curiosities, and excitement in my first semester as the Sunday School coordinator here at First Presbyterian and can't wait to keep learning and growing as disciples when our new year of Sunday School begins!

What can we do while we wait for another fun year of Sunday School to start? Here are a few ideas:

- **Pray:** Pray for the students, teachers, staff, generous givers, and other volunteers who make our Sunday School program possible. We give thanks for their contributions and pray that they get good rest this summer.
- **Plan:** Plan on attending our summer programming at Hessel Park! This is an intergenerational program meaning the whole family is invited to learn and grow together. We begin on July 11 at 11:30 AM.
- **Discern:** Discern how God is calling you to serve. Our program depends on volunteers to teach classes and keep things running behind the scenes. Please reach out if you're feeling called to serve in our Sunday School program!

May your summer be a time of rest and renewal. May we connect and reconnect as a church family. May you know how grateful I am to serve alongside you. Peace be with you!

DREAAM Summer Program

BY TRACY DACY, DIRECTOR

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DREAAM Believers summer program (5th-high school) started Wednesday, June 9, in the Education Building at First Pres! The goal was 50 and resources were stretched to enroll 75.

Morning kickoff was a Kwanzaa Ceremony (pictured below) held in the Sanctuary at the First United Methodist Church.



Here's a quote from the staff at FUMC...

It was a great morning! The DREAAM staff was fantastic! First United Methodist are so pleased to be part of your BIG DREAAM and loved hosting the Kwanzaa kickoff today! First time we've danced to Beyonce in that sanctuary! So good!

DREAAM's heart is BIG. Keep us in your prayers and appreciate the encouragement to dream and step out on faith.



Psalm 46:4,5

There is a river—its streams delight the city of God, the holy dwelling place of the Most High. God is within her; she will not be toppled. God will help her when the morning dawns.

From A W Tozer:

"The church—individuals who gather together form a spiritual city with living river flowing through the middle on both shores, trees growing with fruit that will heal the hurt and sorrows of the nations. This city is always open—a living breathing community. God will help her with His personal presence."

Jays & Concerns

A **Prayer List** is sent out weekly on Tuesdays. If you know of someone who would like to be included in that week's prayers, please contact the church office. If you would like to receive the weekly email of prayer concerns, please email marcia@firstpres.church.

Men's Prayer Group

The men of the church pray Mondays at 8 AM. For a zoom link contact our church office.

Su Voz

Su Voz (His Voice) is a short daily devotion written by the people of the Presbyterian Reformed Church of Cuba. To receive this daily by email contact Marcia marcia@firstpres.church.

Congratulations...

- **Jean Smith** celebrated her 90th birthday at a picnic in Hessel Park on Thursday, June 3rd, with all of her children, two of her grandchildren and some friends of many, many years.
- **Gary and Linda Peterson** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, May 22, with family and friends.

Bereavement...

- A graveside service will be held for **Mary Wood** at 1 PM on Friday, July 9, at Grandview Memorial Cemetery, Champaign. Mary died during COVID shutdown on July 6, 2020.

Mission Updates

The Heart of Missions Newsletter has been revived during this COVID-19 crisis. Our local and global mission agencies have made changes due to COVID restrictions, as well as food and medical supply shortages. The newsletter helps summarize some of what has been in the mission news for our mission workers and agencies during the past week in case you missed it. You can access The Heart of Missions on the church website under the SERVE tab at firstpres.church/heartofmissions

From the "Green Team"

BY PAT PHILLIPS

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At the risk of being described as nagging, may we remind everyone to save that Styrofoam with the #6 recycling symbol or the slabs used in some packaging. The next collection date will be Saturday, July 10, after celebrations on the 4th. We'll be in Doxology Lane (the alley between the church buildings) from 9 to 11 AM to take whatever you've gathered off your hands and deliver it to DART in Urbana.

On the same day, July 10, we'll meet at 8 AM to set out with bags, gloves, luminescent vests, and "picker-uppers" for Adopt-A-Highway, picking up garbage and recyclables, north and south on State Street. With enough volunteers, we can also clean around the church, north on State Street to Bradley, east to downtown parking lots, and around Westside Park. **Liz Miley** will email a pdf of the waiver required by the city to anyone who hasn't signed one. Please contact her at ebmiley@aol.com.

Thanks to a generous donation from Presbyterian Women, a water cooler/

bottle filler will be installed on the 2nd floor of the education building, to reduce the need for individual cups or plastic water bottles. And, speaking of waste reduction, empty prescription bottles and batteries can be brought to the church for recycling; remember to tape both ends of each battery with clear tape.



Take a stroll around the church and education building to appreciate native pollinators which have been planted, including the peace garden of sunflowers and zinnias, planted by youth (with some skilled help).

The City of Urbana is offering a credit on the stormwater utility fee as an incentive to do environmentally positive things such as using a rain barrel, planting drought-tolerant plants, composting, and more. Check out the city website, Better Lawns and Gutters. These are good ideas for Champaign and Savoy residents, too.

ESL Program

BY JEANETTE PYNE, ESL DIRECTOR

JEANETTE@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Spring Semester Wrap-Up

We finished the spring semester on May 20. With 11 tutors and the ESL Director, we were able to instruct more than 60 students throughout the semester. For online classes, these are

great numbers. We had classes in the morning, afternoon and evening. Our students come from all over the world like China, Korea, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Panama, Guatemala, and Mexico, to name just a few countries.

Here is a shout out to the tutors who have tutored with us on Zoom the past semester! They are vital to the health and sustainability of the program. So, a BIG thank you to the following amazing people:

- Vern Snoeyink
- Mike Havey
- Mark and Kathy Schoeffmann
- Eugenia Fitzgerald
- Xinlei (Dee) Chen
- Alice Houston
- Harry Bremer
- Christie Roszkowski
- Michele Niell
- Linda Hemminger

More Tutors Needed

Our summer session starts June 14. We are excited to begin again and that you would consider joining us as a volunteer. If you're interested in making an impact in an immigrant's life from the comfort of your own home, email Jeanette at jeanette@firstpres.church. You will be supported and trained. All classes are on Zoom. You don't have to start on June 14; it's never too late to become a tutor with us.

We have already added one great volunteer, **Tessa Dalton**, who will be joining us as a new tutor this summer. Welcome, Tessa!



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

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Change Service Requested



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Sunday:

9 AM Worship*

10:15 AM In-Person Worship

10:15 AM Sunday School and Adult Education**

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

**All Sunday School and Adult Education opportunities are through Zoom.

Contact the church office for more information.

Pastors:

Matt Matthews..... Senior Pastor/Head of Staff, Ext. 213
Eric Corbin..... Associate Pastor, Ext. 214

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
Joe Grant..... Director of Music
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
Jeanette Pyne..... ESL Director, Ext. 235
Mindy Watts-Ellis..... Director Children, Youth & Family, Ext. 212

All staff email addresses are the person's first name followed by [@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church). For example, eric@firstpres.church.

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