

November 2022



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

## Faith in the Real World

BY PAT PHILLIPS

P.PHILLIPS42@SBCGLOBAL.NET



*Our future depends on how we  
act to limit climate change.*

**Dr. Don Wuebbles**, professor emeritus of atmospheric science at the University of Illinois, says that's his motto. Have you heard of CURES? That's the U of I Center for Urban Resilience & Environmental Sustainability which he founded. He's been the White House climate

science expert and a leader in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize!

Join us Sunday, October 30, at 10:15 AM as we hear from Dr. Wuebbles on current issues and reasons for hope.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY BRUNCH

November 14<sup>th</sup>

10:10 AM

*Come and enjoy brunch  
Centennial Hall*

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month

We will have an array of brunch items each month prepared in our new kitchen by volunteers led by trained cooks. Select from different hot dishes, meats, fruits, pastries and beverages each month. Enjoy the fellowship right after the 9 AM service.

Donations are appreciated to help cover the costs.

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

## Community Mission Deacon Angel Tree 2022

The response to the Angel Tree gifts to Kemmerer Village last year was so great that when the invitation came to help their 200 children have a better Christmas this year, the Community Mission Deacons unanimously agreed to set up the Angel Tree this year for Kemmerer Village. The Angel Tree will go up the weekend before Thanksgiving for you to choose an ornament with a child's wishes on it. We will need to send the gifts to Kemmerer Village by December 11.



## Welcomed and Affirmed Series in November

●**Welcome**- to greet the arrival of a person with pleasure or kindly courtesy

●**Affirm**- to support someone by giving approval, recognition, or encouragement

We strive to be a welcoming, affirming (nurturing) congregation. We work at it, and we do a good job. We are united in Christ and we are diverse. What do you know about the LGBTQIA+ community? Do you understand what each of those letters mean? Are you comfortable in affirming your siblings in Christ whose gender identity you do not understand?

Join us online for a safe Christian space to better understand how to communicate sensitively and to welcome and affirm. "Affirmed" is a curriculum with the tools we need. The program was developed by **Rev Katina Sharp**, pastor of Powell Presbyterian Church near Knoxville, TN and **Bee and Whitney Caruthers**. Congregants from Powell will lead us. This training uses lecture, discussion, and role play.

Here are some objectives.

- Describe the difference between gender identity, sexual orientation, and sex assigned at birth.
- Say the words for "LGBTQIA+". Explain what they mean.
- Use gender pronouns correctly.
- State how you will be an affirming sibling in Christ.

Dates: Wednesdays 6:30 to 7:30 PM on November 2, 9, 16, and 30.

To register and obtain a Zoom link: [info@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church) or 217-356-7328.

## REMINDER...

First Pres will host its annual Trunk or Treat event on Sunday, October 30, from 5 to 6 PM in the church parking lot.

We are looking for volunteers to provide decorated trunks--we can help with decorating.

We also need volunteers to help with games for small children and to provide candy. If you can pitch in, please contact **Nicole Miller** at [reservationfor5@gmail.com](mailto:reservationfor5@gmail.com).

## Snippets from Your Pastor

BY MATT MATTHEWS  
MATT@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

Dear Friends,

As we move to Christ the King Sunday (November 20<sup>th</sup>), and the seasons of Advent and Christmas, I share this lyric (Christina Rossetti, 1872) to frame these upcoming days.

*What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him--give my heart.*

## Worship News

### All Saints

We will be remembering our church members who passed away last year at the last Sunday in October.

### Advent Is Coming Up!

Advent starts November 27. We are planning a month of thoughtful preparation during our 9 AM worship service around the theme of *Generation to Generation*, including Advent candle lighting, special music (including Music Sunday on December 11), and an all-church telling of the Christmas story on December 18.

The stories, scriptures, and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds.

Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone. Our Advent theme is also a call to action: what are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on for you to continue? Considering the many ways we embody, remember, and tell the story of Christ's birth, which rituals hold the most meaning for you? What about this season will you pass on to the next generation?

From *Generation to Generation...* reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—

in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won't let you go.

### Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars now for the special events before Christmas. **Springfield Bells** playing a concert on Saturday evening, December 3 at 8 PM.

**Christmas Music Sunday** is December 11.

December 21 is the **Winter Solstice** and we will be holding a Longest Night special service just after sunset, to hold space for grief of all we have lost and hold our brothers and sisters in prayer. This lovely service will be filled with music, poetry, prayer and light as we move towards longer days and the nativity of our Lord. Plan to join our brothers and sisters for whom this season can be hard, in this uplifting worship service.

**Pointsetta plants are lovely for December. Consider making a donation of \$15 for a plant. We will be ordering them December 1<sup>st</sup>. Please send donations marked poinsettia to FPC before November 28.**

### Worship Committee Needs You!

If you have an interest in making worship time meaningful, the Worship Committee could use your help. The worship committee helps with many details including, scheduling liturgists and French scripture readers, ushers, tech help for slides, camera work and sound during worship, liturgy planning, decorating the sanctuary with banners/paraments, communion preparation and servers. As my mother used to say, many hands make light work.

Please share your gifts and bring worship to life. Contact **Carol Miles** to get connected.

### Men's Prayer Group

The men of the church meet Fridays at 8:30 AM on Zoom. We pray in turn in our own ways and finish by saying *The Lord's Prayer* together.

We pray for our world, nation, community, and congregation including prayer concerns submitted by individuals. Contact **Bob Kirby** at 217-621-5915 for the zoom link or more information.



## Face to Face with Leslie Thomas



Leslie serves as moderator of our Community Mission Deacons.

### What brought you to First Presbyterian Church?

My family. My grandparents, Bob and Wanda Tuchel, joined the church in 1947.

### What has been the highlight of your church experience?

Confirmation in eighth grade was huge for me, inspiring. Then I must add, a go and serve youth trip. We helped put a new roof on a church in a small town in the mountains near Winter Park, Colorado. It was the youth trip for the Summer of 2000.

### Tell me about your family? Your work?

My grandparents' descendants who live locally are at First Pres. That would now be my mom, Trenna and my sister, Megan with her family- Nathan, Jack and Emery. You've seen us around.

My day job is in public schools grades K-12 as a substitute teacher. I usually teach math or language arts. I love it. Education is the ladder to a fuller life.

### What do you do in your free time?

I have played the piano my whole life; even being held at the keyboard when I was young. My passion is the piano and my greatest love within that is international competition. My free time is with the piano- practice, scoring analysis and reading about music.

### What are your favorite Bible characters?

John the Baptist. I like the baptismal story and what that means. Identifying with Christ through baptism is a powerful commitment to faith.

### What advice can give on how to be the church? Or how can the church best be the church?

Cling to the cross and to each other. See Jesus in the face and voices of others.

## Men's Bible Study

*Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple* is our study for November. We meet 8-9 AM each Tuesday on Zoom. Contact Bill Marble at 217-621-7882 for your zoom link.

## Flowers For Sunday Worship Service

- You can sign up on the flower chart in Westminster Hall near the Welcome Center to bring flowers in memory of a loved one, for a celebration, or just because.
- Consider buying plants for Sundays instead of flower arrangements. **Remember no lilies!**
- Let the flower committee know if you would be willing to have your garden flowers, greens or fall harvest used in worship bouquets.
- You can donate money for the flowers too, make checks out to First Pres, specify that it is for flowers.

The flower committee is **Lola Ruthmansdorfer, Grace Ashenfelter, Nancy Dankle, Judy Nicolette, and Carol Arnould.**

**Donate to the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Annual DREAM**

**Winter Coat Drive**

**Children's coats  
will be distributed on  
November 19<sup>th</sup> during a  
Thanksgiving Giveaway.**

**Sign up at  
[www.dream.org](http://www.dream.org)  
by November 18<sup>th</sup>  
to donate a new coat.**

## The Heart of Mission

### For our Hermanamientos in Luyanó, Cuba -

We will be sending a delegation to Cuba to celebrate Iglesia Luyanó's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in November. We are collecting items to pack in our suitcases to take with us to further their ministry to the community in Havana. We will be there with the Covenant Presbyterian Church in Austin, also a sister church, who are also bringing items. These are the items we are asked to bring:

- Candles (liturgical purposes)
- Different materials for our knitting group (yarn, fabric, and so)
- Baby clothes and other baby items (can be used ones donated from people in the congregation)
- Rechargeable lamps (they still have some blackouts)
- Over the counter medicines such as aspirin, acetaminophen, anti-diarrheals and antacid and also vitamins, toothpaste and brushes, deodorant, soap, shampoo and feminine hygiene products

Please bring these items to the church office or leave them on the mission table next to the kiosk in Westminster Hall on Sunday labeled "FOR CUBA."

As you know Cuba was affected by the recent hurricane. **Rev. Daniel Izquierdo** has communicated with us that they are mostly fine in Havana, despite the scarcities. Pinar del Río is the province most affected by the hurricane and the rebuilding efforts there will take months.



We will continue to keep them in our prayers. And, we will pray that the Cuban government and the U.S. government will allow disaster relief to assist in their rebuilding.

### Cuba Remembrances

This is the 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary for our sister church in Havana Cuba. Our first visit to Cuba was in October of 2010. Since then, 60 have visited and we have hosted seven different Cubans at First Pres.

In celebration of our partnership, twenty previous Cuba travelers have written remembrances of their experience. We will be giving these to our Cuban friends when our delegation visits Cuba on November 17. We will share some of these remembrances with you in this and future newsletters.

### Quiet Things

*It's with great pleasure that I look back on the warmth and friendship of our*

*Cuban brothers and sisters. I remember eating, laughing, and exploring the area sights with them. I also remember the quiet things like watching neighborhood residents filling their jugs with water from the tap in front of the church, walking down the street and being greeted with "Bueno!" by everyone, and the sight of bunches of palms being delivered to churches the day before Palm Sunday. Most of all I remember the dancing, when the church members tried to teach us Anglos how to shake it. I'm afraid that was a difficult task for them.*

A visitor in 2015

### Giving All You Have

"Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" Thessalonians 5:1

*Relationships stand out as a strong, lasting memory - the coordinator, the cook, the cook's daughter, the bus driver, the lady who made the crosses and her daughter, the family who*



*greeted us in their home with a meal. The smiles, the loving, helping hands, the delicious meals created by loving people, the crusty gentleman with the cigar hanging from his lips and telling us he was still trying to figure out "is there a God?". Our Cuban friends gave us all they had.*

A visitor in 2011

### Life Altering

*I had the privilege of participating in a trip in the winter of 2019. The entire trip to Cuba for me was life-altering as it deepened my affection for my fellow traveling companions and awakened my love for my beautiful hosts, the people of Cuba, and especially our hosts, Pastor Daniel and the congregation at Luyanó. I will always remember their love and hospitality, especially in face of many hardships.*

A visitor in 2019



The Habitat ReStore is now open in its new location at 1914 Glenn Park Drive in Champaign.

### Environmental News

BY PAT PHILLIPS

P.PHILLIPS42@SBCGLOBAL.NET

On Saturday November 5, please join with church friends to Adopt-a-Highway, meeting at the church at 8:30, picking up bright vests and

bags and setting out in pairs for conversation and clean-up.

The next day, Sunday November 6, there will be a seminar at First Presbyterian church in Urbana at 10:45 with information about actual plastics recycling in C-U and Illinois, presented by **Susan Monte**, Executive Director of the Champaign County Environmental Stewards. Carpools?

### Matthew 25 Dismantling Structural Racism

*But what can I do?*

#### Pray

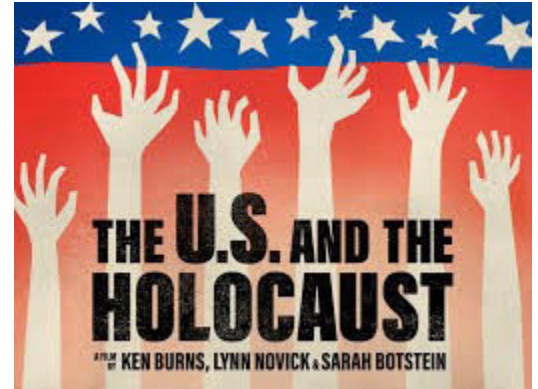
Grant us, Lord God, a vision of your world as your love would have it: a world where the weak are protected, and none go hungry or poor; a world where the riches of creation are shared, and everyone can enjoy them; a world where different races and cultures live in harmony and mutual respect; a world where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love.

Give us the inspiration and courage to build it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Author Unknown

#### Learn

Watch "The U.S. and the Holocaust"  
- a documentary in three episodes.  
Stream here: <https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/us-and-the-holocaust>



#### Act

Check out a business owned by people of color. **Ricardo Carrillo Lopes** is a native of Oaxaca, Mexico. He migrated to California where he picked strawberries, washed dishes then worked his way up to the prep cook and then the bakery. Since 2012 he has managed his own bakery in downtown Urbana with the help of his wife and three children. The Carrillos are no strangers to First Pres having joined us in our ESL program, Cuba Salsa events and SholemFest. Stop by Rick's Bakery. Tamales, burritos, breads, cookies, cake and hot coffee are waiting. <http://ricksbakeryurbana.com/>

Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry Team (CPJMT)

## English Language Learners News

BY VAL SMITH, DIRECTOR  
VAL@FIRSTPRES.CHURCH

In the fall of 2011, the ESL program was begun by **Dr. Bob Kirby** to serve newcomers from the Congo. By June of 2012, there were seventeen volunteers and twelve to twenty students. **Jan Sabey** became the first director in August, 2013, and she partnered with Project Read to offer structured lessons primarily for beginners, a health professions study, and several ESL Bible studies for French and Spanish students.

**Linda Sims** took the reins from 2015-2016 and created thematic units, gathered materials, and devised a record keeping systems for lesson plans. After volunteering in the program, **Debra Miller** fine-tuned procedures and registration and collaborated with the New Americans Center at the YMCA which resulted in greater awareness of the program in 2017. **Jeanette Pyne** followed from 2017-2021 digitizing materials, establishing program goals and assessment, and standardizing program processes. Each director build on the director before creating a strong outreach to immigrants and international students.

Our hearts were saddened to hear of the death of **Debra Miller** who gave so much of herself to the ELL students, program, and later on the advisory council. Even though I only knew Debra for a short time, I appreciated her insights and contributions to the advisory council meetings. The resources she provided while working with the program have been invaluable to me as I assumed leadership of the program in November 2021.

In 1 Corinthians 3:9-11, the Apostle Paul reminds us to be diligent in the way we build on the work of others. Debra left us an example of how to build with excellence and integrity. At her direction, Debra's family has generously asked people to donate their memorial gifts to the ELL program at First Presbyterian Church of Champaign. We thank you and several of the students for all the gifts given to this ministry.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, the special event for the month of October was a trip to Curtis Orchard. Thanks to **Bob Kirby** who drove the church van. Everyone enjoyed the festive atmosphere, the animals, and, of course, seeing the abundance of apples and pumpkins. **Vern Snoeyink** treated everyone to cider and donuts. Next month, all of you are invited to share in the Thanksgiving dinner on Wednesday, November 9, from 11 AM--1 PM in Centennial Hall.

### Fun time at Curtis Orchard with our ELL students







*Friday, November 18, 2022*

**Support Salt & Light and enjoy a night of praise and worship at the Virginia Theater**  
led by area worship leaders from several different churches.

## SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### *The Full Band*

**\$5,000**

- Thanked from stage at event
- Large logo in prominent placement on marketing materials\*
- Individual slide featuring your logo at the event
- Mentioned as event sponsor on Radio Ad
- Individual social media post 10x
- 10 VIP tickets

### *Trio*

**\$2,500**

- Thanked from stage at event
- Medium logo in prominent placement on marketing materials\*
- Individual slide featuring your logo at event
- Mentioned as event sponsor on Radio Ad
- Individual social media post 5x
- 5 VIP Tickets

### *Duo*

**\$1,000**

- Small logo on marketing materials\*
- Logo on slide with all sponsors at the event
- Mentioned as event sponsor on Radio Ad
- Group social media post with all event sponsors

### *Solo*

**\$500**

- Small logo on marketing materials\*
- Logo on slide with all sponsors at the event
- Group social media post with all event sponsors

*\*Marketing materials includes event t-shirt, landing page, slideshow and posters*







**“On Christ the Solid Rock, I Stand. All Other Rock is Sinking Sand.”**

**Matthew 16:18 NIV** And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.

**Matthew 7:24,25 NIV** Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.

**Psalms 78:35 NIV** They remembered God was their rock, the Most High God their redeemer.

**Psalms 18:2 NIV** The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge...

**“My Hope is Built on Nothing Less Than Jesus Christ My Righteousness”.**

## Surviving the Holidays

Continue living without your loved one.



You are setting the table for the holiday dinner, and without even realizing it, you set a place for your loved one. The emotions pour in like a flood.

Enduring the holiday celebrations can be tough. Let's plan together.

- Wednesday, November 16 at 5 PM Video Presentation and discussion
- Wednesday, December 21 at 5 PM Discussion – How are we doing? And attend The Longest Night Service together
- Wednesday, January 4 at 5 PM Discussion – New beginnings and how did we do?

“Lord, You are always with me: you hold me by your right hand...My Flesh and my heart may fail, but you are the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

If you are interested, contact **Sherry Marble** (phone or text) 217.649.8501, **Sallie Hutton** 217.356.5765 or call the church 217.356.7238.

## *Joys & Concerns*

*We extend our sympathy to...*

- the family and friends of **Debra Miller** who died October 9, 2022.
- the family and friends of **Edie Stotler** who died October 3, 2022.
- the family and friends of **Sam Weldon** who died October 20, 2022. A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, October 29, at 12 noon at Owen's Funeral Home in Champaign. Visitation will be 1 hour before the service.

**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.**

# Finance

## Financial Update

BY ANN WEBBINK, FINANCE TEAM

ANWEB2@YAHOO.COM

### Contributions

Total September contributions: \$57.8K from plate and pledge plus \$10.2K from prepaid= \$68.0K  
This is \$3.7K more than last year and \$4.3K under budget

Total contributions YTD: \$654.5K which is \$39K more than last year and \$3.8K over budget.

At 75% of the year, we have 78.9% of the budgeted contributions.

### Expenses

September expenses were \$72.6 K which is \$18.7K less than last year and \$12.6K under budget.

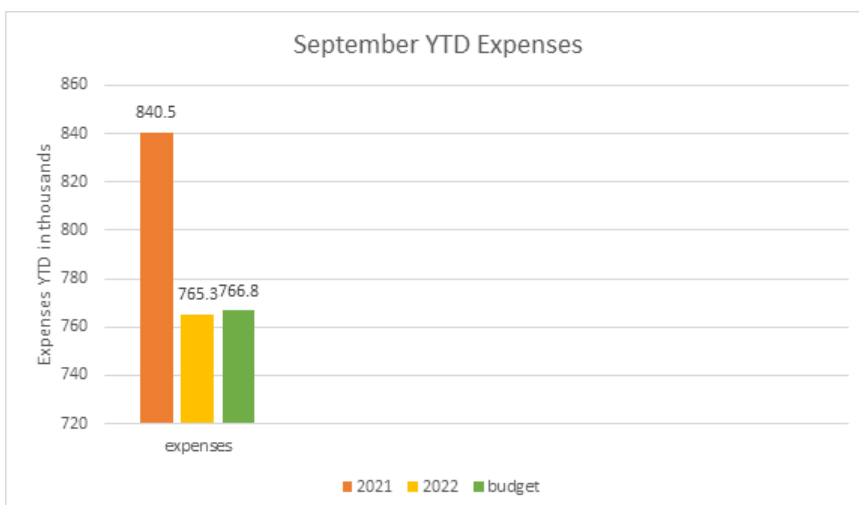
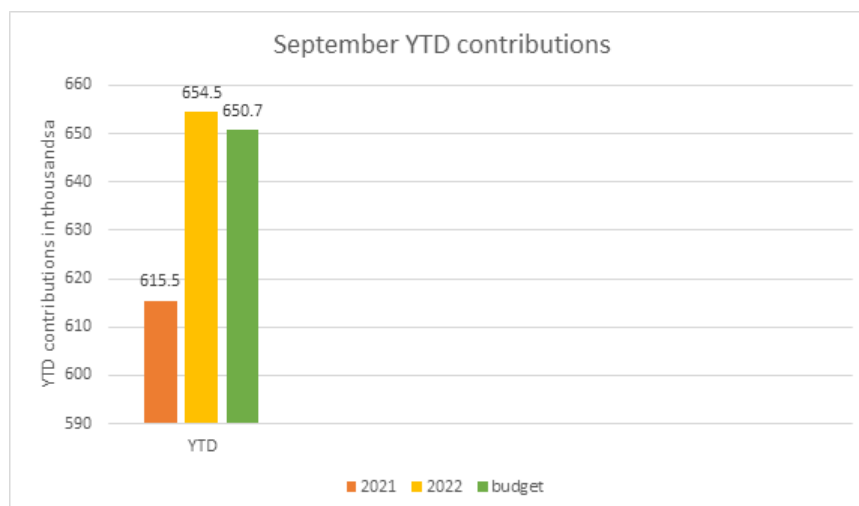
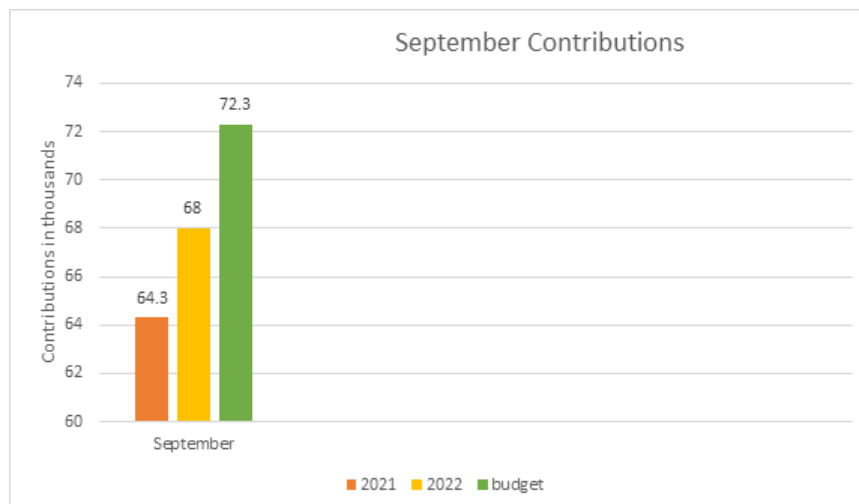
Expenses YTD were \$765.3K which is \$75.2K less than last year and \$1.5K under budget.

At 75% of the year, we have spent 74.9% of the budget.

### Balance YTD

Expenses exceed revenue by \$5.9K which is \$19.8K less than last year.

Summary of Restricted Accounts: \$39048.42 was donated to various funds in September. \$20,300 was donated to the General Memorial Fund and \$17K was transferred from S Campus funds to capital improvements.







**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street  
Champaign, IL 61820

Change Service Requested



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH** OF CHAMPAIGN

302 West Church Street  
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**P:** 217.356.7238

**F:** 217.356.7242

**E:** [info@firstpres.church](mailto:info@firstpres.church)

[www.firstpres.church](http://www.firstpres.church)

**Sunday:**

9 AM Worship/Sanctuary

10 AM Sunday School for Children & Youth

10:15 AM Adult Sunday School

Online Worship is also available at 9 AM on Sunday mornings thru  
YouTube, Facebook, and our church website. Go to [FirstPres.Live](http://FirstPres.Live).

Contact the church office for more information.

**Pastor:**

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

**Staff:**

Ritchie Drennen .....Facility Manager, Ext. 237

Patty Farthing.....Office Assistant, Ext. 211

Robert Ferrer .....Audio-visual Technician

Fred Foster .....Evening Custodian

Marcia Franks .....Office Administrator, Ext. 210

Judi Geistlinger.....Commissioned Lay Pastor

Joe Grant.....Director of Music

Rachel Matthews Mission Coordinator/Parish Associate, Ext. 219

Ann Petry.....Accounting, Ext. 224

Shane Redmon .....Facility Assistant

Sora Shepherd.....Organist/Pianist

Val Smith .....English Language Learner Director, Ext. 235

Libby Sternhagen.....Bell Choir Director

Kelsey Stremplewski.....Director Contemporary Worship Band

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