October 2026

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

Happy Fall First Pres!

We will be holding our annual Trunk or Treat Sunday, October 25, 4 to 5:30 PM.

This is a nice outreach event because many families from the neighborhood attend. We give the children candy, a free book, and many smiles. We play games with them, and even invite them to a soup supper.

If you would like to enjoy this event by bringing a trunk (of your car) and passing out candy to the children, please email **Nicole MIller** at reservationfor5@gmail.com.

If you cannot attend but would like to donate treats, please drop them off at the church office.

2nd Sunday Brunch October 11th

Centennial Hall following worship

This month we will have special entertainment as we celebrate our partnership with the Luyanó church in Cuba.

Donations appreciated!

Volunteers are needed to help with the brunches.

If interested, please contact Carol Ann Green, (cadgreen@comcast.net), Gary Peterson (amer_swede@yahoo.com) or the church office.

Festival & Parade

CU Pride festival and parade are Saturday, October 17. The parade is at 1 PM and the festival is 1-5 PM.

We need marchers for the parade and people to sit in the booth for a shift. If interested in participating, please contact **Brandi Lowe** 217-369-5844 or brandiscrapbook@yahoo.com

Upcoming Adult Discussions

Grab a cup of coffee and join us Sundays immediately following worship in the Parlor for Adult Discussions.

October 18 - The Book of Esther, conclusion, chapters 8 - 10, led by **Ken Chapman** using the lesson plan by Joe Lundy
October 25 - Guest Speaker: **Ric Weibl** from Healthy Champaign County

November 1 - The 2nd Book of Peter, chapter 1, led by **George Johnston**
November 15 - The 2nd Book of Peter, chapter 2, led by **Joe Lundy**
November 22 - The 2nd Book of Peter, chapter 3, led by **Ken Chapman**

The Season of Advent
November 29 - Hope, led by **Ken Chapman**
December 6 - Peace, led by **Carol Penka**
December 20 - Joy and Love, led by **George Johnston** and **Joe Lundy**

Game Night a Delight

Cries of joy, bursts of laughter, meaningful conversations and tasty food were among the many delights of **Game Night** on the evening of September 15. We are blessed to be a part of Welcoming America Week and to share our lives with committed people from around the world.

We hosted The League of Women Voters, New American Welcome Center (U-YMCA), Immigrant Services of Champaign-Urbana, Parkland College Project Read, Hessel Park Church and The Champaign County Congolese Association. We met many young families from around the world and community leaders dedicated to the welcome.

A big thank to those at First Pres who participated.

Check out this video from Welcoming Week held September 9-19...

https://www.facebook.com/reel/1431111652299681

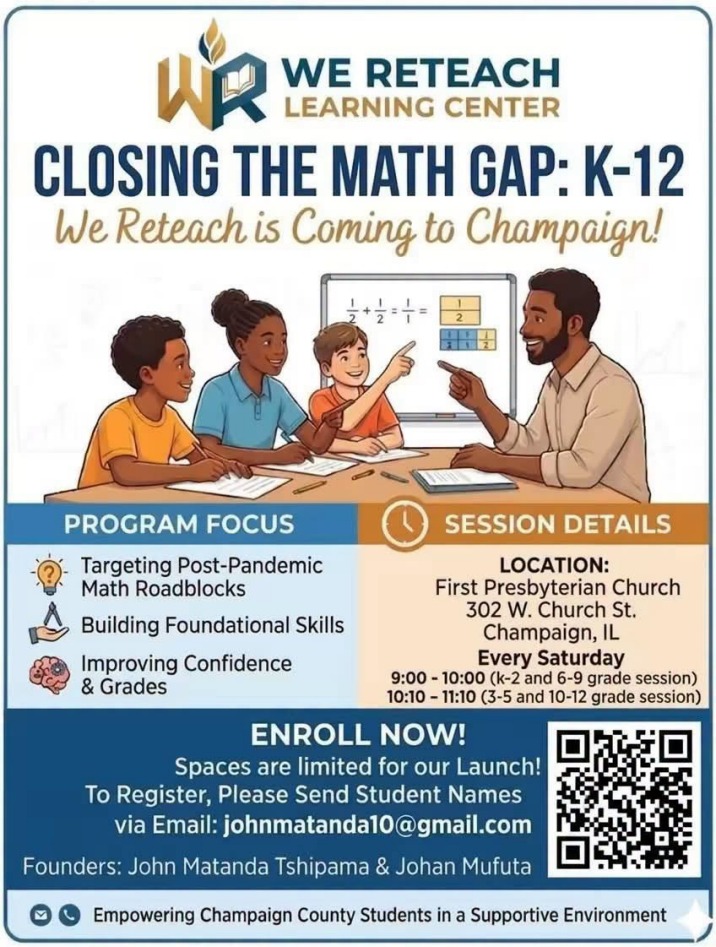
The Heart of Mission

Cuba Emphasis Sunday October 11

Our covenant with The Presbyterian Reformed Church in Cuba at Luyanó was initiated after our first visit to Havana in 2010. Since then, our two Sessions have updated and renewed our covenant every three years. We are committed to mutuality.

Join us on October 11 for worship followed by a Cuba themed brunch and some Spanish music by **Los Guapos Illini**.

If your heart so leads, we will appreciate donations to support this ministry. You may donate at: https://firstpres.church/Give/ Other giving Account 10679 or drop some green marked “Cuba” in the basket at brunch. Even a small donation is a big one for our friends in Cuba.



We Reteach Learning Center

Our congregation opened its heart and space to promote math education for children of French speaking families on September 19.

Each Saturday morning children K-12 will receive free supplementary math education in our Christian Education Building. Led by **John Matanda** and **Johan Mufuta** the hope is to serve an enrollment of up to 20 students.

Let’s keep this new ministry in our prayers.

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts: Winter Items Drive

As winter approaches, our team has noticed that many arriving and returning immigrant clients are struggling to access essential cold-weather items—often due to transportation barriers or missing required documentation. We want to bridge that gap!

We are currently accepting NEW winter items, including:

- Adult winter coats
- Warm blankets
- Gloves, mittens and hats
- Hand warmers
- Space heaters with built-in tip-over protection

Drop-Off Info:

Where: ISCU Office

When: Monday – Friday | 11 AM – 2 PM- Email us at iscu@isc-u.org to confirm a drop off time.

All items go directly to local community members completely free of charge.
Thank you for helping us keep our neighbors warm this winter!

FROM THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY. ISCU

Last fall we collected winter wear for Immigration Services of Champaign-Urbana. We are invited again to help new neighbors. Bring new winter wear to Westminster Hall and we will deliver them **for you.**

Food Pantry Update

Our October Food Pantry distribution was the largest to date! We served more than 70 people! We've adjusted our shifts in SignUpGenius to accommodate the ELL learners attending classes at the Education Building. Please volunteer! We need your helping hands for three jobs: to unload the truck, to pack bags, and to distribute food. All dates and shifts are listed online for your selection.

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FPC Food Pantry Volunteer Sign Up
signupgenius.com

We also greatly need your donations of food and/or cash. We are feeding the hungry. Our neighbors tell us that they deeply appreciate this support.

Prayerfully grateful for this opportunity to work with you all,

Marty, Ann, and Annie

Feeding Our Neighbors
Gathering Partners to Share and Learn
First Presbyterian Church
CHAMPAIGN, ILLINOIS

Verse of the Day

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity! - Psalm 133:1

Voice of the Day

Unity in this sense is a threshold requirement for people to live in freedom and together in a free society. It is the solid rock, as Jesus said, in this case upon which to build a nation. It is not conformity. It is not victory. It is not polite weariness or passive passivity born of exhaustion. - Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde

Prayer of the Day

God who finds joy in our harmony, guide us toward the repentance and repair that must precede unity. - Sojourners

Sharing Our Lives Together

Let's keep **Solomon Abache** in our prayers. His older brother died. Burial was October 2. Solomon is relocating to Carbondale to care for his two teenage nieces left with out parents. We will miss the many ways he served our congregation.

A Prayer from the Presbyterian of Southeastern IL

God in Whom we live and move and have our being, You make us a community. You gather us and knit us together with grace and mercy. In your presence, there is fullness of love, joy, hope, and peace. Thank you for being among us this day and with us in every moment of our being.

Help us live every day seeking your way and moving on your path. Help us commit to extravagant love, and resolve to extend the abundant grace and mercy we receive from you to our neighbors. Make us new.

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. Blest be the tie that binds.

Joys & Concerns

We express sympathy to...

- to the family and friends of **Tom Ulen** who died September 13, 2026. A Memorial Service will be held at the church on Friday, October 30, at 11 AM.

Finance

Financial Update

BY ANN WEBBINK, FINANCE TEAM
ANWEB2@YAHOO.COM

Contributions
Total August contributions: $42.3K from plate and pledge plus $8.2K from prepaid= $50.5K This is $15.7K less than last year and $12.2 K under budget. Total contributions YTD, including prorated prepaid pledges are $466.4K. This is $52.1K less than last year and $ 35.2K under budget
At 66.7% of the year, we have 66.4% of the budgeted contributions, including all prepaid contributions.

Expenses
August expenses were $41.9 K, which is $12.3K less than last year and $36 K under budget. Expenses YTD are $562.7K, which is $72.5k less than last year and $60.5 K under budget. At 66.7% of the year, we have spent 60.2% of the budget.

Balance YTD
Revenue from all sources exceeded expenses by $9.9K.

Session Designated Funds
$1,832,044 compared to last month at $1,816,892.

Summary of Restricted Accounts
$1900 was donated to the Raindrop fund , $500 to the Christmas and Advent funds, $1866 to the food pantry and $2300 to the general memorial fund.

Thursday,October 8 thru Thursday, October 15 Church Office hours will be 9-11 AM

Stay Connected

BY CAMILLE JAMES
CANILLEJAMES11@GMAIL.COM

We've updated our church website! It will help members stay connected with the life of the church and help visitors find what they need quickly and easily.

You'll find worship service links, the church calendar, sermons, bulletins, newsletters, and an easy way to tithe. We hope it becomes your first stop when you're looking for information!

The site is easy to use—but if you'd like someone to show you around, see **Melinda Miller** or **Camille James** after worship.

Visit firstpres.church—and stop by often!

Looking for Free Books?

Browse our collection of donated books at our Little Book Exchange located between our Sunday hospitality table and library.

You may return a book, pass it on to another or add to your home collection. Both secular and faith informed books are welcome.

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
E: info@firstpres.church
www.firstpres.church

Sunday:

9:30 AM Worship
10:30 AM Coffee and Fellowship
10:40 AM Sunday School/Adult Discussions

Online Worship is also available at 9:30 AM on Sunday mornings thru YouTube, Facebook, and our church website.
Go to FirstPres.Live

Contact the church office for more information.

Pastors:

Joseph Lundy ..... Associate Pastor/Acting Head of Staff

Staff:

Ritchie Drennen ..... Facility Manager
Patty Farthing ..... Office Assistant
Robert Ferrer ..... Audio-visual Technician
Fred Foster ..... Evening Custodian
Marcia Franks ..... Office Administrator
Samuel Stephenson ..... Director of Music
Jill Stewart ..... Accounting
Bonnie Ward ..... English Language Learner Director

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

Church Office hours:

Mon-Thurs 8:30 AM - 2 PM
Friday 8:30 AM - noon

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.