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The Door

Volume 72, Number 4, April, 2024

A Note from the Pastor

In our journey through the letters of Paul, we finished up with a brief look at letters of instruction to emerging leaders: *1 & 2 Timothy and Titus*. Since the time when Paul instructed Timothy and Titus, the Church has expended much energy to pass on the faith to new generations. In our time, this concern seems heightened.

Back in the nineteenth century, Horace Bushnell wrote a book called *Christian Nurture*. Bushnell wrote in reaction to the religious awakenings that were sweeping the country. He argued that moments of emotional conversion are almost always preceded by years of careful Christian nurture. Bushnell's work influenced the Presbyterian emphasis on education, our strong support of public schools, our heritage of founding universities and supporting theological education. Looking at the larger Church through the lens of Bushnell's writing, Presbyterians would say that the success of events like crusades and revivals, even the conversions that occur during youth mission trips, would not be possible without years of preparation by parents, grandparents, and Sunday school teachers working diligently and patiently week after week, year after year.

Michael Lindvall, in his fictional *Good News from North Haven*, offers a related lesson by telling about a busy father and his energetic seven-year-old son who participated in a weeklong treasure hunt. The local Jaycees sponsored the event, each day hiding a \$50 gift certificate somewhere in the community. Each morning, a clue was pulled from a sealed envelope and read by an announcer on the local radio station. The person in charge of the clues thought it would be clever to make all the clues relate to the Bible. For example, one day's clue was Psalm 78:46: "He gave their crops to the caterpillar, and the fruit of their labor to the locust." The day's treasure was eventually discovered under the seat of a big yellow Caterpillar bulldozer prominently parked on the edge of town. The young son was good at the hunting, but not so good at the reading, or the looking up of scripture verses. Dad would point out the verse, son would read along, and together they would repeat it as they drove the streets and walked the parks of their community. They got close once, but never did come home with a gift certificate. The last day, they even got lost. Cont'd on next page

Lindvall closes the tale with the observation, “So often, the treasures that life hides from us are to be found not at the end of the search, but in the searching itself, especially when you look together.” His story is a parable: We discover spiritual treasure by taking a journey with those who know enough to guide us along the path. Faith is transmitted to a new generation of children and youth by parents and mentors and teachers who travel with them, remembering the faith of our parents and grandparents, holding to the standard of sound teaching we’ve received, guarding the good treasure entrusted to us, making time to pass it on.

In Christ’s Service,

John Hembruch, Pastor



The Chancel Choir meets each Wednesday evening 7:00-8:30 p.m., and the Handbell Choir meets each Thursday evening 7:00-8:30 p.m. New singers and ringers are always welcome and needed! The only requirements for the Handbell Choir are that you be tall enough to see the music and be willing to commit to ringing regularly through the end of the school year. For more information, contact Dr. Annis Hopkins.



From Presbyterian Church (USA)

Grace and peace to you and yours through Jesus Christ, who makes us one.

On Sunday, February 11th, we celebrated the Transfiguration of the Lord. In Matthew’s gospel, we read, “And [Jesus] was transfigured before them....”

As you engage with Presbyterian ministry and mission, you too get a glimpse of God—a vision of what God is doing around the world. And so, on behalf of your Presbyterian Ministry Engagement and Support, please allow me to express our appreciation to you, your pastor, session, and congregation for your generosity and faithfulness. Your church’s support changes people’s lives and helps others receive a glimpse God around the world.

From Uni-Pres Kindercottage

Your contribution is making a significant impact, and we can’t wait for you to see the positive changes and progress we are achieving with the support of caring individuals like you and your family.

Way to go Earth Care Members!

We recently recycled 25lbs of batteries which makes our total batteries. Yippee Skippee!!



Remember what the Psalmist wrote: *Oh come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation! Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! For the LORD is a great God. In his hand are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are his also.*

Please join us in worship on April, 14 - as we celebrate **Earth Day!**



Did you know?

MEDICATION COLLECTION BINS NOW LOCATED AT POLICE DEPARTMENTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY

For decades, when it came time to dispose of prescription and over-the-counter drugs, the preferred method for most people was to either throw them away or flush them down the toilet.

Since 2015, Madison County has developed an innovative program to help residents dispose of prescription drugs. Working in partnership with the law enforcement community, the county has placed secured medication collection bins in the lobbies of the police departments in Alton, Bethalto, Collinsville, Edwardsville, Highland, Roxana and Troy, in addition to the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

The medication collection bins are provided by Republic Waste and the American Water Company. Periodically, Madison County Deputy Sheriffs will transport the collected drugs to approved U.S. Environmental Protection Agency locations where they will be incinerated.

Because of the location of the medication collection bins in police department lobbies, the public can dispose of prescription medications every day of the year.

Among the medications which can be deposited at the bins are antibiotics, hormones, blood pressure regulators, painkillers, steroids, any over-the-counter medications, anti-depressants, sedatives, cough syrups and other controlled substances.

Medications which should not be disposed of at the bins include sharps/needles, mercury thermometers, IV solutions, hearing aids, oxygen tanks, x-rays or other household waste items.

For specific questions, residents should contact their local police department.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON

Presbyterian Women now meet on the **Third Wednesday** of each month at noon for a potluck lunch. We invite and encourage **ALL** members of the congregation to join us for a time of fellowship, fun and good food. Bring a dish to share (or a financial donation) and join us for our next luncheon on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17TH AT NOON.**

2024 OPERATING FUND

ACTUAL VS. BUDGET

THROUGH FEBRUARY 29, 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 54,526.38	\$ 55,333.32
Other Income	<u>5,702.02</u>	<u>2,517.60</u>
Total Income	\$ 60,228.40	\$ 57,850.92
Total Expenses	<u>75,741.71</u>	<u>71,059.58</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$15,513.31)	(\$13,208.66)

(1) Shortfall/Deficit has been covered by a reduction in the Operating bank account savings in the amount of (\$15,513.31).

NEWSLETTERS - Bulk Mail Delivery

The Post Office has implemented a new process to drop off Bulk Mail; the newsletters have been delayed after this change to the new process.

Bulk mail used to take 4-5 days to deliver; however, it's been taking 3-4 weeks to deliver the newsletters the last couple of months.

If you would like to be added to the electronic distribution, please send an email to Beth Patrick, office@fpcdw.org. The newsletter is sent to the electronic distribution list via email earlier so that the information is not outdated.

Thank you!



ATTENTION HOSPITALITY COFFEE HOUR

The Evangelism and Church Promotion committee are seeking volunteers for set-up and clean-up. If you feel led to volunteer, please contact Peggy Hagin at email: phaginplh@gmail.com or phone (618) 541-1174. You may also sign-up using the Sign-Up Genius link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4DAFAF23AAFA7-48192520-fpcsunday>

Thank you so much!



MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING BOUQUET



Help us celebrate the special women in our lives with a blessing bouquet on May 12th!

Each carnation is on sale for \$3.

Those being honored & by whom will be included in the Bulletin on Mother's Day.

See the Bulletin on how to place your order!

Thank you for your help in creating our Blessing Bouquet!

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MAY 5TH!

See Flyer for additional information

Trivia Night

Thank you to everyone who donated, volunteered, & participated in our annual Trivia Night & Silent Auction. We couldn't have done it without you!

WE RAISED

\$4,145

THANK YOU!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Gail Miller
- 5 Jackson Musch
- 6 Jessica Cornell, Elise Griffin & Jay Rizzoli
- 7 Dick Ford
- 8 Gayle Driscoll
- 9 Mallory Abert & Mary Lou Sullivan
- 10 Paul Niebruegge
- 11 Anastasia Aarons
- 16 Nancy Klein
- 21 Brady Beavers
- 22 Kasey Hohlt
- 24 Janice Miller
- 25 Elana Musch
- 26 Barbara Dulle & Doug Vanderwaal
- 28 Mary Anna Davis
- 30 Bob Hormell & Tristan Voss

First Presbyterian Church
Faith Formation
Committee

TRIVIA
NIGHT

&
Silent
Auction

Thank you to all of our
donors & volunteers!

Mike & Jill Allaria
Ashlyn Andre
John & Judy Baisch
Bank of Madison County
Tom & Erin Beavers
Kaiser Bohnenstiehl
BP Edwardsville
Abby & Joann Cotter
Mike & Donna Crider
Gayle Driscoll
Edison's Entertainment
Edwardsville Auto
FPCE Golf Team
Bob & Anne Gregor
Jay & Jane Griffin
Scott & Peggy Hagin
Reyes Hangsleben
Steve & Alice Heidbrink
Therese Hembruch
Susie Henderson
John & Debbie Higgins
Addison Hohlt
Brian & Karla Hohlt
Holiday World
Clyde Holtmann
Hormell Family
Kendra Scott
Grace & Sarah Kirkpatrick
Tracy Lance
Curt Linton
Nancy Marti

Massage Luxe
Meramec Caverns
Gail Miller
Mojo's Music
Musch Family
Joy Myers
Kelly & Robin Paproth
Pasta House Co.
Beth Patrick
Peel Wood Fired Pizza
Dennis Pluta
Raging Rivers
Bob Raymond
Kathy Rhoten
Felix Rivera-Merced
Lynn Rogers
Claire Roseman
Kalyn Stewing
Mary Lou Sullivan
Phoebe Sullivan
Theresa Sweezey
Ted's Motorcycle World
Julia & Stacey Towell
Carlyn Underwood
Carole Underwood
Eric & Sharon Voss
Raegan Webb
Ray & Lucia Weber
Colette & Corinna Winkler
Sharon Wittke
YMCA-Edwardsville

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	4 6:30 pm Strategic Planning meeting 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	5 9:00 am Building & Property Committee meeting	6
7 8:30 am Worship Service 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (HYBRID) 10:25 am Children's Choir rehearsal (classroom across from office) 10:45 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School 3:00 pm Concert Recital Series - Gale Force Woodwind Ensemble	8	9	10 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 6:00 Worship, Music & Arts committee meeting 6:00 pm Fiscal Mgmt Committee meeting 7:00 pm Mission Outreach Ministry meeting (zoom only) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	11 6:00 pm Nominating Committee meeting 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	12	13 9:00 am Presbytery Gathering
14 8:30 am Worship Service 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (HYBRID) 10:25 am Children's Choir rehearsal (classroom across from office) 10:45 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School	15	16 7:00 pm Session Meeting	17 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 12:00 pm PW Luncheon 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	18 2:00 pm Eden Worship Service 6:00 pm E&CP committee meeting 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	19	20
21 8:30 am Worship Service 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (HYBRID) 10:25 am Children's Choir rehearsal (classroom across from office) 10:45 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School 1:30 pm Rachel Dickey recital	22	23	24 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	25 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	26	27 10:00 am Personnel Committee meeting
28 8:30 am Worship Service 9:15 am Confirmation Class 9:30 am Adult Sunday School (HYBRID) 10:25 am Children's Choir rehearsal (classroom across from office) 10:45 am Worship Service 10:45 am Sunday School 1:30 pm SIUE Graduate Student recital - Jill Griffin/Bob Raymond	29	26	30 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal			

I Support The Girls

Directly from their website <https://isupportthegirls.org> :

"Women and folx living on the street, in poverty, or in crisis are forced to make choices many of us can't imagine. No one should have to pick between buying a hot meal or paying for a box of menstrual hygiene products. And replacing old bras should not be a luxury."

"ISTG is a 501c3 within its parent organization, For the Girls, Inc., a national clearinghouse that provides guidelines, resources, and support to individuals and organizations to assist in collecting bras and menstrual hygiene products to donate to homeless shelters for women in need."

Can I get a receipt for my donation? "Yes, you can. Please email info@isupportthegirls.org to request a tax receipt for a product donation. You will automatically receive one for a monetary donation."

I Support the Girls accepts the following as donations: A.S.H. Kits: "Aid, Safety, Hygiene Kits are customizable care packages that individuals can request directly from ISTG." Socks, Panties, Bras, Menstrual hygiene products and/or cash or checks. Please make the checks out to "I Support the Girls."

Because everyone deserves a pathway to hope.

That's why our programs are designed to be nimble and quick to meet a wide variety of people and needs that so often go unmet and unseen, including:

- Domestic violence survivors
- Breast cancer survivors
- School-aged youth
- Native Americans
- Transgender folx
- Refugees
- Veterans
- Youth in foster care or aging out

Read what the director of the local (one of two sites in Illinois) has to say about the program:

"I'm proud to be a part of I Support the Girls because I feel like I am giving back to my community in important ways. Thanks to our donors we are able to help folx maintain dignity, stay healthy, and feel beautiful."

Dr. Alicia Alexander

ISTG Affiliate Director Edwardsville, IL

MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING BOUQUET Order Form



DID YOU KNOW that the carnation is the official flower for Mother's Day? Unlike other flowers that lose their petals when they die, the carnation draws the petals into its own heart.

Help us celebrate on May 12th with flowers honoring & remembering the special women in our lives!

Each carnation is on sale for \$3.

Select a white, pink, or red carnation to honor or remember the special motherly figures in your life.

--- WHITE

--- PINK

--- RED

----- Total number of Carnations Ordered

----- Total amount of donation (number x \$3.00)

Make checks payable to First Pres with carnations in memo line.
If paying online, please designate "Youth Group Fund".

Thank you for your help in creating our Blessing Bouquet!

DEADLINE FOR ORDERS IS MAY 5TH!

Please include the names to whom your carnations are dedicated PRINTED below as clearly as possible:

Carnations honoring & remembering a Motherly Figure in your life:

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1. | By: |
| 2. | By: |
| 3. | By: |
| 4. | By: |
| 5. | By: |
| 6. | By: |
| 7. | By: |
| 8. | By: |
| 9. | By: |
| 10. | By: |



**EARTH
CARE**
CONGREGATIONS

“The earth is the
Lord’s and all that
is in it, the world,
and those who
live in it.” Psalm 24:1



Presbyterian Mission
**Compassion,
Peace & Justice**



PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM
certifies

First Presbyterian Church

as an

EARTH CARE CONGREGATION

on this

10th+ year of certification

*for its outstanding environmental stewardship achievements in worship, education,
facilities and outreach in the life of the church.*

Through February, 2025

Signature

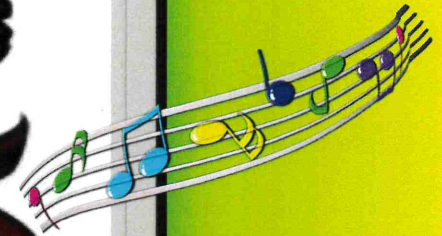
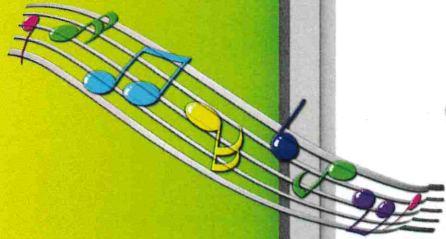
Jessica Mandolin

Date: 3/8/2024

Associate for Sustainable Living and Earth Care Concerns

First Presbyterian Church

Children's Chorus 2023-24



Welcome back!!!

Time: 10:25-10:40 rehearsal each week, just a little bit before church begins, singing in church-TBA

Where: High School Room, across from the church office

Who: Age 3– 5th grade*, and, always accepting new singers anytime of the year!

*Older students are most certainly invited to be helpers for our younger ones!

We are really looking forward to this year!!!

Ms. Lynn Rogers & Ms. Mary Lou Sullivan

Our goals:

-to enhance the Christian walk
of our children through song

-share the children's joyfulness during worship throughout the year

