



3601 Ridge View Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025
Telephone: 618-656-4550 Email: office@fpcedw.org
Website: www.fpcedw.org

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #40
Edwardsville, IL 62025

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



The Door

Volume 71, Number 3, March, 2024

A Note from the Pastor

As we cross the threshold of March, Christians everywhere will ask, “It’s almost Easter: Why so soon?!” These days, a Google search will lead you to many ways of answering that question. Easter is a moveable feast, the reasons rooted in religious history more complex than we have time for in a newsletter article. A relatively simple way to say it: Easter is the first full Sunday, after the first full moon, after March 21.

As we move through March, consider participation in the Lenten Study, more information elsewhere in this newsletter. Then, as we arrive at Holy Week, we invite you participate in special worship events.

- **March 24, Palm Sunday**, Lenten Choral Cantata will be featured at both worship services, 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
- **March 28, Maundy Thursday** Worship takes place at 7:30 p.m., again featuring communion and an anthem by the chancel choir.
- **March 31, Easter Sunday**, worship services take place at the normal times of 8:30 & 10:45 AM.

We look forward to seeing many of you in person! If you’re traveling, or not feeling well, remember that our church offers the option to join us virtually via the livestream e-worship links on our home page <https://fpcedw.org>

In Christ’s Service,

John Hembruch, Pastor



Care Packages for College Kids

Our Youth Group will once again be sending care packages to our college students to remind them that we are thinking of them even when they are far away. We are asking for 2 things:

1. Addresses of your students in college. (If they are living at home and going to school, we still want their address so we can send them something!) Please text or call Gayle Driscoll with the addresses. Gayle (618) 806-9523.

2. Donations. Gift cards are easy to send. Other things that students enjoy are individually wrapped snacks and candy, coffee, hot cocoa, soup packets, noodles, etc. We can also take cash donations and apply them to the purchase of gift cards or goodies. If you are more inclined to write a note of support, that is also welcomed! We will put a collection box in the gathering space for donations.

If you are donating cash or gift cards, please put that in the offering plate in an envelope marked, "college care packages" or leave it with someone in the office.

Donations are due by **March 10th**. Thank you for your support! I know the kids enjoy the fun surprise and this year, maybe more than ever, need to feel connected.



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.



Oasis Women's Center

On behalf of the Oasis Women's Center, we want to thank you for your thoughtful contribution to our Friends Campaign. Oasis is fortunate to have community people like you who provide continuing support. You enable us to deliver quality services to the many women and children and men in our area who are the victims of violence in their own homes.

Souper Bowl

Thank you to everyone that donated for the Souper Bowl Sunday! We received many donations of soup, food and money for the Glen-Ed Pantry! Below are the final totals:

Total items: 54
Total pounds of food: 70
Total \$ donations: \$172



Daylight Saving Time will **begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday, March 10, 2024**

Earth Care members,



U.S. health costs increased to \$250 billion in 2018 due to chemicals in plastics that can cause cancer, diabetes, reproductive disorders, and more.¹ The amount of plastic produced globally each year increased by over 30 million tons from 2018 to 2022, meaning costs — and likely health risks — are skyrocketing.²

Earth Day 2024's Planet vs. Plastics theme recognizes the dire threats of plastics to human and planetary health. Last September, world leaders formulated a first draft of The Global Plastics Treaty — the “zero draft” — to be finalized by the end of 2024. Although it's a good starting point with references to reducing plastic and associated harmful chemical production, there must be additional accountability and specificity.³ EARTHDAY.ORG's Global Plastics Treaty petition calls for a 60% reduction in plastic production by 2040. **Earth Day has the power to mobilize millions, and we're harnessing your voice to move world leaders to action now.**

For all of us, Kathleen Rogers, President

Footnotes: 1. Endocrine Society: <https://www.endocrine.org/news-and-advocacy/news-room/2024/us-health-costs-related-to-chemicals-in-plastics-reached-250-billion-in-2018>
2. Plastics Europe: <https://plasticseurope.org/knowledge-hub/plastics-the-fast-facts-2023/>
3. Grist: <https://grist.org/international/after-a-year-and-a-half-negotiators-finally-have-a-draft-of-the-global-plastics-treaty/>

Get involved! Check out [EARTHDAY.ORG](https://earthday.org)

Way to go Earth Care Members!

We recently recycled **20lbs** of batteries which makes our total **618lbs!** of 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.*

15 MASCARA WANDS WERE RECENTLY SENT TO A WILDLIFE SANCTUARY IN N.C. WHERE THEY ARE USED TO HELP CLEAN ANIMALS AND BIRDS WHOSE FUR AND FEATHERS HAVE BEEN COATED FROM OIL SPILLS.

KEEP UP THE GOOD RECYCLING!

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, MARCH 20TH AT NOON.**



Church members!

We are having a church clean-up day (interior) on Saturday, March 16th any time from 9-11a.m. We're looking for volunteers to help with deep cleaning certain areas of the church such as the nursery, pre-school rooms and closets of the church. Thank you for your service!

2024 OPERATING FUND

ACTUAL VS. BUDGET

THROUGH JANUARY 31, 2024

| | ACTUAL | BUDGET |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Pledges | \$ 21,350.04 | \$ 27,666.66 |
| Other Income | <u>1,585.28</u> | <u>1,258.80</u> |
| Total Income | \$ 22,935.32 | \$ 28,925.46 |
| Total Expenses | <u>46,022.01</u> | <u>35,529.79</u> |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$23,086.69) | (\$6,604.33) |

(1) Shortfall/Deficit has been covered by a reduction in the Operating bank account savings in the amount of (\$23,086.69).



Easter Flower Sales March 1-17

Honor a loved one.

Beautify the Church.

Donate to a VIP.

A preselected number has been ordered and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis for \$15 per plant:

Easter lilies, kalanchoes, tulips, hyacinths, & daisy mums.

Plants may be delivered to a VIP or taken home on Easter.

All proceeds benefit our Youth summer trips.

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!



75
YEARS



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

**You Shall Be Called
Repairers of the Breach**

— ISAIAH 58

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) -- **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**, the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**, and **Self-Development of People** – all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. Their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters, provides support for refugees, and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

THE PRESBYTERIAN HUNGER PROGRAM takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation, and the systematic causes of poverty so that all may be fed.

SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE invests in communities by responding to their experiences of oppression, injustice, and economic inequality.

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected throughout the month of March and dedicated on Palm Sunday, March 24th.

To donate to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, make your checks payable to the church and write “OGHS Offering” on the memo line.

Thank You from the Family of Craig Rogers

Coleen Rogers, Dick & Lynn Rogers, Gail Miller, and Lorna & Dave Reisner would like to thank John Hembruch for his comforting presence and expert guidance at Craig's memorial. We'd like to thank members of the church for their prayers on behalf of our family for the past year and a half. A special thanks to Lee Bernard and her committee for a wonderful luncheon and relaxing place to gather after the memorial service. Everyone's efforts truly helped relieve the stress of the day.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Thomas Sullivan & Lynette Watson
- 2 Ethan Bogner, Melinda Pauk
- 6 Debbie Higgins
- 8 Terry Trueb
- 9 Jodie Couch
- 10 Karla Hohlt
- 12 Richard Neil
- 14 Dawn MacMillan
- 16 Jessica Loyet & Kate Page
- 18 Jonathan Musch, Christian Rhoten & Carole VonHoven
- 24 Brian Hohlt
- 26 Michael Niebruegge
- 27 Joyce Toussaint
- 31 Shirley Strasburg & Mike Suwe

First 2024 Week of Service for Restore Decor

March 18 - 23 we will have our week of service at Restore Decor. We need painters, bakers and workers for the shop on Saturday. You do not need painting skills! Someone will be happy to teach/coach you through the process. The following times are available:

Tuesday Mar 19

10AM - noon - Painting

6:30PM - 8:30PM - Painting

Thursday Mar 21

Noon - 2pm - Painting

6:30PM - 8:30PM - Painting

Saturday Mar 23

10AM - 1PM - Work in the sales shop

Bake 2 dozen cookies - drop them off at church by Friday Mar 22 noon

If you would like to volunteer please send an email to Nancy Klein, naklein54@gmail.com or call (618)406-0904 and leave a message. We'd love to have as many as possible!

March 2024

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-----|-------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 Trivia Night Doors Open at 6:00 pm; Trivia begins at 7:00 pm |
| 3 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 | 4 | 5 | 6 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 6:00 pm Lenten Study Series 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal | 7 6:30 pm Nominating Committee meeting 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal | 8 9:00 am Building & Property Committee meeting | 9 |
| 10 Time Change 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 Recital Series: Keith Wehmeier | 11 | 12 | 13 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 6:00 pm Lenten Study Series 6:00 pm 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 | 14 9:00 am Financial Audit 6:00 pm E&CP committee meeting 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal | 15 | 16 9:00 am Spring Cleaning (interior); see article |
| 17 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 | 18 | 19 7:00 pm Session Meeting | 20 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 12:00 pm PW Luncheon 6:00 pm Lenten Study series 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal | 21 2:00 pm Eden Worship Service 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal | 22 | 23 |
| 24 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 am Worship Service 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 | 25 | 26 | 27 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal | 28 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday worship service 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal | 29 | 30 |
| 31 HAPPY EASTER 8:30 am Worship Service 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 | | | | | | |



Easter Flower Sales March 1-17

Honor a loved one.

Beautify the Church.

Donate to a VIP.

A preselected number of each plant has been ordered and is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Complete order form & drop in offering plate or office. Please make checks payable to FPCE with "Youth" in memo line. *Thank you!*

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

IN HONOR OF: _____

IN MEMORY OF: _____

Easter Lilies \$15 _____

Kalanchoes \$15 _____

Tulips \$15 _____

Hyacinths \$15 _____

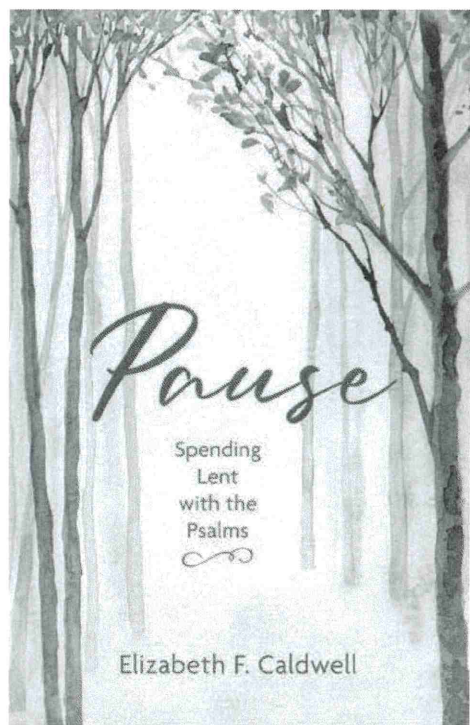
Daisy Mums \$15 _____

Total Enclosed _____

_____ Please deliver to a VIP.

_____ I'll take mine home on Easter.

All proceeds benefit our Youth summer trips.



First Presbyterian Church

Lenten Study

Feeling rushed? Busy? Tired? Join us during Lent as we take time on Wednesday evenings to pause, seeking relaxation, refreshment, and relationship with God through the wisdom of the Psalms.

Based on the book: "Pause" by Elizabeth Caldwell

Wednesdays:

Feb. 28 - Psalm 25: Paths -

Mar. 6 - Psalm 27: Faces -

Mar. 13 - Psalm 63: Blessing -

Mar. 20 - Psalm 23: Tables -

Led by:

Kalyn Stevwing

Felix Rivera Merced

John Hembruch

Kalyn Stevwing

At 6pm, Hybrid

Needed: at least four fine folks (or families!) to donate desserts for approximately 20 people each week of the study. Please use the Sign Up Genius Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050E4DAFAF23AAFA7-48142734-lenten> or QR code:



Contact Kalyn at kds@fpcdw.org or call 618-656-4550 for more information