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The Door

Volume 73, Number 5, May, 2024

A Note from the Pastor

As we move through the season of Easter toward the season of Pentecost, we are naturally reminded of the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the new and unpredictable ways the Spirit moves. Presbyterians are not particularly comfortable with unpredictability. Personally, I make my necessary accommodations to unpredictability by regularly scheduling time for “irregular” events, and budgeting for “miscellaneous” expenses that cannot be known in advance. It’s not unusual for our session (governing board) to face a new challenge or become aware of a new opportunity for such a “miscellaneous” expense, which brings me to the point of sharing a story.

Recently, we were contacted by the curators of the art of the late Russell Kraus, primary designer of FPCE’s 1983 art-glass windows. The church was given opportunity to acquire a watercolor design for a window that was considered, but ultimately passed over, by the window committee of the early 1980s. The theme of the watercolor is “New Jerusalem,” based on Revelation 21:1-5, and pictures the holy city revealed to John coming down out of heaven. The approximate dimensions are 25 x 13 inches.

The session has approved the purchase of the watercolor, upon receipt of special gifts to cover the cost. We have been offered the watercolor at the reasonable price of \$225, to which we expect added cost in framing, and accompanying descriptive plaque in order to prepare the watercolor for display somewhere in the building.

We are seeking many small donations – no more than \$25 – in order to spread this giving opportunity among many people. If you would like to donate, then you may use the giving tool on the website, or a write a check to FPCE, noting “Watercolor” in the memo line. Any donations received above the amount needed will be reserved for future interior art purchases and maintenance.

In Christ’s Service,

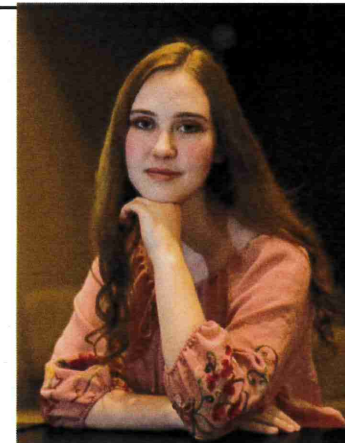
John Hembruch, Pastor



Thank you for all of your donations to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. We collected \$1,124.38 in donations to help to improve the lives of people in challenging situations. 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. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Caitlin Towell has been awarded in a tie a 3rd place award in the 2024 Southern Illinois Young Artist Organization (SIYAO) Vocal competition which was held Saturday, April 20, 2024.

Congratulations Caitlin - you sang beautifully!



During the school year, the Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. The Handbell Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings 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 willing to commit to ring through the entire fall and/or spring seasons. During the summer, a small group may form if there is enough interest; rehearsal days and times will be agreed upon once a group has formed. For more information, contact the director, Dr. Annis Hopkins.

Way to go Earth Care Members!

We recently recycled **22lbs** of batteries which makes our total **640lbs!** 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*



Who doesn't love a tree! Did you know....

The European Tree of the Year award - bringing together trees with interesting stories from around Europe while promoting the importance of our connection with nature - goes to a 200-year-old beech. In a world full of division, anger and heartbreak, it's cathartic to have something uncontroversial that we can all sit back and admire.

That's what the European Tree of the Year award gives us with its annual selection of the most unique and beautiful trees from across the continent - and 2024's winner is a 200-year-old Polish beech nicknamed 'Heart of the Garden'.

This majestic tree, with an unusually thick trunk, is located in the heart of the botanical garden of the University of Wroclaw, in the Niemcza region of Poland. It took home 39,158 votes and is the third Polish tree in a row to win the annual contest.

How trees can bring us together "I haven't met a person who has told me they don't like **trees**," says Adam Holub, project manager at Nadace Partnerstvi, a Czech environmental organization that organizes the competition, which began in 2011.

"There's two symbols that you can use very effectively to carry an important message with an environmental twist - trees and bees." Holub says the main aim of the competition is to promote the relationship between the communities local to the trees and the environment.

This year 15 countries participated in the competition, putting forward trees with rich histories, from an ancient olive to one that needs a little help to stay standing.

Check out this site for 2nd and 3rd places – Truly tree-beautiful!

<https://www.euronews.com/green/2024/03/21/a-4000-year-old-olive-and-a-weeping-beech-the-2024-finalists-for-european-tree-of-the->

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN LUNCHEON – MAY 15th

Do you enjoy good food? Would you like to fellowship with our pastors and other members of the congregation? If you answered "yes" to one or both of these questions, then **PLEASE** join the small but dedicated group that meets once a month for a potluck luncheon, quick devotion, and good eats. Bring a dish to share or a financial contribution and join us.

Our next gathering will be **Wednesday, May 15th, at noon at the church.** The potluck lunch is sponsored by Presbyterian Women, but **ALL** are encouraged to attend. Hope to see you on May 15th!!

2024 OPERATING FUND

ACTUAL VS. BUDGET

THROUGH MARCH 31, 2024

	ACTUAL	BUDGET
Pledges	\$ 81,035.40	\$ 82,999.98
Other Income	<u>11,052.99</u>	<u>3,776.40</u>
Total Income	\$ 92,088.39	\$ 86,776.38
Total Expenses	<u>100,128.83</u>	<u>106,589.37</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,040.44)	(\$19,812.99)

(1) Shortfall/Deficit has been covered by a reduction in the Operating bank account savings in the amount of (\$8,040.44).

MEMBER SURVEY - *feedback requested from those that are receiving hard copies of the newsletter in the mail.*

NEWSLETTERS - Bulk Mail Delivery

The Post Office has implemented a new process to drop off Bulk Mail; the newsletters have been delayed since they have implemented this change along with changes at the St Louis facility.

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.

We are considering transitioning to sending the newsletters first class instead of bulk mail. ***We are wanting your feedback:***

Would you like to continue receiving a hard copy of the newsletter? If so, we'll start sending first class vs bulk mail if we transition. Please return this survey in the offering box or call the office with your name and address.

Would you like to receive your newsletter electronically (via email) instead? If so, what is your preferred email address?

Thank you for your input!

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



ATTENTION HOSPITALITY COFFEE HOUR

The Evangelism and Church Promotion committee are seeking volunteers for set-up and clean-up for May and September.

Please note that there will be no Hospitality Coffee for June, July, and August

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/8050E4DAFAFA23AAFA7-49136577-fpcsunday>





Graduate Recognition

Hello church! If you or your child are graduating this year, please share that information with us! Email Kalyn (kds@fpcdw.org) or Beth (office@fpcdw.org) with the following details: Name of graduate, where they're graduating from, what they're planning on doing next, a photo of the graduate, and any other information (like awards, for example) that you'd like to share with us. Graduate recognition will occur on June 9th.

2024 PENTECOST OFFERING



Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the *church of the past*, continuing to inspire the *church of today*, and pointing us to the *church of the future*.

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share in their faith in Christ.

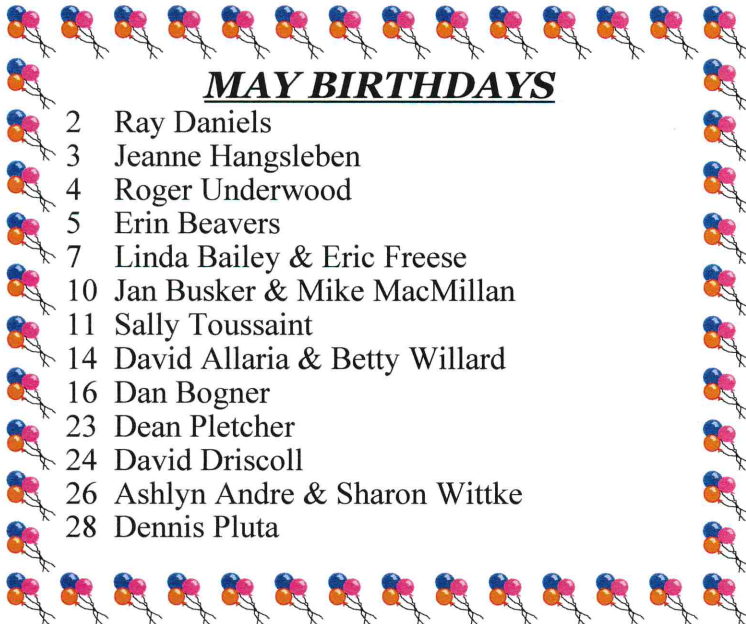
Join with the worldwide church in building our future. **40% of the offering remains with our FPCE congregation, 25% supports Young Adult Volunteers, 25% supports ministries with Youth, and 10% is devoted to children at risk.**

The Pentecost Offering will be dedicated on **May 19, 2024, Pentecost Sunday**. Checks should be payable to the church, with "Pentecost" on the memo line. If giving online, please note Pentecost Offering.

Won't you join us?

PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY...

FOR IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Ray Daniels
- 3 Jeanne Hangsleben
- 4 Roger Underwood
- 5 Erin Beavers
- 7 Linda Bailey & Eric Freese
- 10 Jan Busker & Mike MacMillan
- 11 Sally Toussaint
- 14 David Allaria & Betty Willard
- 16 Dan Bogner
- 23 Dean Pletcher
- 24 David Driscoll
- 26 Ashlyn Andre & Sharon Wittke
- 28 Dennis Pluta

May 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	2 6:00 pm Strategic Planning Committee meeting 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	3 3:30 pm Jennifer Harkey piano recital	4 1:00 pm Sharon Voss piano recital
5 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 Amy Prince recital	6	7	8 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 6:00 Worship, Music & Arts committee meeting 7:00 pm Mission Outreach Ministry meeting (zoom only) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	9 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal 7:00 pm EHS Spring Choral Recital (Grace, Julia)	10 9:00 am Building & Property Committee meeting	11
12 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	13	14	15 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 12:00 pm PW Luncheon 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	16 2:00 pm Eden Worship Service 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	17	18
19 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	20	21 6:30 pm Confirmands Dinner with Session 7:00 pm Session Meeting	22 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	23 7:00 pm Handbell Choir rehearsal	24 5:00 pm Caroline Foppe piano recital	25
26 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	27	28	29 10:30 am Spiritual Growth Study (HYBRID) 7:00 pm Adult Choir rehearsal	30	31	

Bee a Part of Friends of the Earth's Bee Action Campaign



Aster



Black-Eyed Susan



Blazing Star



Caltrop



Creosote Bush



Currant



Elder Flower



Goldenrod



Huckleberry



Joe Pye Weed



Lupine



Oregon Grape



Penstemon



Purple Coneflower



Rabbitbush



Rhododendron



Scorpion Weed



Snowberry



Stonecrop



Sunflower



Wild Buckwheat



Wild Lilac



Willow



Woodland Sage

**Support Friends of the Earth...
For the Bees, For Ourselves!**

5 WAYS YOU CAN HELP SAVE THE BEES:



BEE SAFE!

Plant any of the flowers on the left in your garden using organic starts or untreated seeds to provide good food and a safe haven for bees.



BEE AWARE!

Use alternative pest control methods, like landscaping to attract beneficial insects, and eco-friendly pest-control products.



BEE VIGILANT!

Read labels and steer clear of products containing neonicotinoids. (See reverse for a list of common brands containing neonics.)



BEE VOCAL!

Tell your friends and family about the importance of bees and how they can help.



BEE AN ACTIVIST!

Sign and return your Petition, and visit beeaction.org to find more ways to help.



BeeAction.org

Monarch Watch Milkweed Market <support@milkweedmarket.org>

4/8/2024 1:13 PM

Monarch Watch | Free Milkweeds for Schools and Non-profits

To kds@fpcedw.org

Dear The Rev Kalyn:

Monarch Watch is pleased to award First Presbyterian Church of Edwardsville one flat of milkweed plants to be planted in your monarch/pollinator garden as you described in your Free Milkweed application.

A reply is required to accept this award. Please double-check your shipping address below and reply with corrections if necessary.

You will receive another email when shipping is eminent (early to mid-spring for your region).

Milkweed orders will be shipped via UPS Ground early in the week to arrive before the weekend. They will be shipped directly from the nursery through UPS Ground. You will receive a tracking email when your plants ship. Shipping will continue while weather permits. Your plants will be triple-inspected for quality prior to shipment. Monarch Watch is not responsible for damage to milkweed plants during transit.

Please note: Plants may arrive trimmed of foliage and, because they are not treated with pesticides, may have pests. The nursery takes care to send healthy plants with viable root systems.

What to do when your milkweeds arrive, planting and care instructions, and resources for your project. Please save and read carefully!

Shipping Address

Name: The Rev Kalyn Stevwing
 Company: First Presbyterian Church of Edwardsville
 Address Line 1: 3601 Ridge View Road
 City/State/Postal Code: Edwardsville, Illinois 62025
 Country: United States
 Phone Number: 6186564550

Order 162003 Details

Item	SKU	Details	Quantity	Item Price	Item Total
Asclepias incarnata [Taylor Creek Nursery WI]	incarnata222 - 32-SCH [32 plugs per flat]		1	\$119.00	\$119.00

Free Milkweeds for Schools and Non-profits, 100% discount: Amount Due: \$0.00

Shipping Method: UPS Ground

Congratulations and Happy Gardening!

Dena Podrebarac

Milkweed Coordinator

Monarch Watch

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: |

YOU'RE INVITED

TRIVIA NIGHT



With

Uni-Pres Kindercottage

Location: St. Paul United Church of Christ
115 W. B St, Belleville, IL 62220

"Table Decorating Contest: Win Big
with Your Creative Table Design!"

Water and soda provided

Mulligans: \$3 or 2/\$5

50/50

Silent auction

Bring your own snacks

For table reservations call
(618)874-6505

\$20 per ticket or table of 8 for \$160

MAY 18th

6PM - 10PM

**DOORS OPEN AT 6:00
TRIVIA STARTS AT 7:00
NON-ALCOHOLIC EVENT**

Payments can be made by checks to Uni-Pres Kindercottage
564 Veronica Ave, East St.Louis, IL 62205 or cashapp: \$UnipresKindercottage



Faith



FORMATION

01

GHOST RANCH



Retreat

June 10-14

Details

High School aged and Adults in the congregation are invited to join us on a retreat to Albiqiu, New Mexico . We would leave on the 10th, return on the 14th.

High School students - cost fully covered. Adults - pay $\frac{1}{3}$ of cost (details to come).

If you are interested, please contact Kalyn.

Monarch Waystation

We are working to establish our Monarch Waystation here at the church! Be on the lookout for a list of needs that you can sponsor or provide in the coming weeks! Or contact Kalyn if you just can't wait!

02



03

Mound Ridge

<https://bit.ly/3J26BWP>

Stronghold

<https://bit.ly/3xnaxyI>

Camp Carew

campcarew.org

Middle School

If you are a middle school aged student who would like to attend a summer camp this summer, the Faith Formation committee would like to sponsor you! There are many Christian camps in our region that we would love for you to choose from! Check out the list to the left, or, if there's another you have in mind, let us know!

May Mission - Sleep in Heavenly Peace

All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Too many boys and girls go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health.

That’s where Sleep in Heavenly Peace comes in. They’re a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. Their organization has grown steadily over time, opening more chapters in different states to serve more people. We are fortunate to have 2 chapters in our area that serve parts of Madison County, one in Alton and one in Fairview Heights.

This May is our second year that we will be collecting bedding for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Throughout the month you may drop off any of items on the list. If you can’t make it church to drop off an item, a monetary donation may be made on-line or by check with Sleep in Heavenly Peace in the memo line.

Items needed:



Twin sheets and pillow cases
Twin solid color comforters
Twin mattress pads
Pillows

For any of you who may be interested in building bunk beds, we will be announcing a date in May or June when you can attend with other FPCE members. Experience is not required, training is provided and there are even jobs for those of us who must sit and work in place! Stay Tuned!