

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 297
915 E. Orange St
Hoopeston, IL 60942
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First Presbyterian Church
Hoopeston, Illinois

The Bridgebuilder

April 2019



Holy Week and Easter

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday when we remember the crowd celebrating the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem. The week also includes many sorrows as well. On Maundy Thursday we recall the "last supper" Jesus shared with his disciples, a Passover meal where he instituted the sharing of bread and wine as a holy enactment of his presence. On Good Friday we grieve the capital punishment he unjustly received. Then the sorrows cease, and on Easter morning we celebrate the Good News that suffering and death are not the last words from God. He Is Risen. He Is Risen Indeed! During Holy Week we see that in both life and death we belong to God.



April 14	Palm Sunday	Youth Program, Palms at worship, 10:00 a.m.
April 18	Maundy Thursday	Potluck Dinner, 6:00 p.m. Tenebrae Service of Darkness, 7:00 p.m.
April 19	Good Friday	We host the HAMA Community Service, 12:00 noon
April 21	Easter Breakfast Easter Egg Hunt Easter Worship	Great food for everyone, 9:00 a.m. Kids find eggs, 9:30 a.m. Service of Resurrection, 10:00 a.m.



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First Presbyterian Church of Hoopeston

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Phone: 217-283-6229
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Head of the Church
Ministers of the Good News

Jesus Christ
All of Us

Session Elders

Wayne Bandy, Melissa Betka,
Donna Boyer, Rita Carter,
Elizabeth Donley, Julie Stump,
Janet Smith, Cheryl Steiner,
Shirley Wagoner

Deacons

Gwen Bandy, Debi Lankford

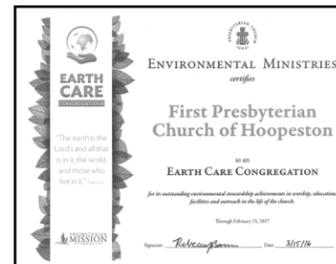
Preschool Assistant Teacher
Organist and Music Director
Administrative Assistant
Custodian
Pastor
Preschool Director
Youth Group Director

Mechelle Berlin
Rick Brackmann
Pat Catron
Gary Deck
Wade Meranda
Sarah Tribbey
Kathy Watson



Earth Care Congregation and Earth Day

Our church has been re-certified as a PCUSA Earth Care Congregation for the ninth year in a row. We are among 180 Presbyterian churches in the country (out of 10,000) that are recognized for the earth care ministries they do. With our energy efficient facility, community garden, recycling, outdoor worship, and other ministries, we are actively engaged in sustainable ways to care for God's creation. Earth Day is April 22. The PCUSA Earth Care pledge:



- Our **worship** will celebrate God's grace and glory in creation and declare that God calls us to cherish, protect, and restore the earth.
- Our **education** will seek to understand the threats to God's creation and damage already inflicted.
- Our **facilities** will be managed in a manner that respects creation. We will use energy efficiently and conserve resources and share what we have.
- Our **outreach** will encourage public policy that protects and restores the vulnerable earth as well as neglected people. We will be mindful that our personal and collective actions can positively or negatively affect our neighborhood, region, and world.



We're on the web!
www.fpchoopeston.com
Find us on Facebook

Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

The local Christian musical group Behold! will sing a special Lenten cantata during worship on April 7. Invite family and friends. Our Youth will provide a special Palm Sunday program during worship on April 14. Invite family and friends. A Tenebrae Service of Darkness will be held on Maundy Thursday, the night before his arrest. During the Holy Hour of noon on Good Friday, HAMA will provide a community worship at our church. Invite family and friends.

And then Easter. Early in the morning on the first day of the week the tomb was empty and the angel said, "Do not be alarmed. He is not here. He has been raised. Go and tell the others. Go to Galilee and there you will see him." So,

Death is not God's last word.

Christians worship on Sunday morning.

God loves life and won't let it end.

Jesus loves me, this I know.

It's God's world; miracles happen.

Stones and obstructions can be moved.

Go home; Jesus is there.

Chocolate Easter bunnies should be hollow (empty!)

Forgiven and saved from sin; rejoice and be glad.

Why churches? To go and tell the others.

Don't be afraid of the future, Jesus is already there.

Every Sunday morning is a "little" Easter.

Pain and sorrow won't last forever.

There is good news every morning; get out and look.

In life and in death, you belong to God.

Easter Blessings,

Wade



Job Opening: Preschool Director

The Session is accepting applications for the Preschool Director position through April 10.

Candidates must be Preschool Director qualified by DCFS standards, which can include sixty credit hours of college with at least eighteen hours in courses related directly to child development from birth to age six.

The Preschool Director serves as the lead teacher in the preschool and is responsible for all lesson plans, scheduling, calendars, newsletters, communications, programs, field trips, parent-teacher conferences and providing direction for the assistant teacher. Our preschool hours are M-F from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. and additional planning time is needed as well. It's a part time position. The school year begins after Labor Day and then follows the public school schedule until the end of the school year in May.



If you know someone qualified and wanting to lead a quality and caring program, encourage them to send a resume by April 10 to: First Presbyterian Church, Preschool Director Position, P.O. Box 297, Hoopston, IL 60942.

Our current director, Sarah Tribbey, is resigning at the end of May and is looking for more full time work. She has done terrific work here and we will miss her much.

Memorial Service

A Memorial Service for friends and family of Dale Smith will be held at the church on Saturday, April 13 at 12:00 noon. We pray for Janet and their children Matthew and Marshall (Katie), and for their grandchildren: Hannah, Riley, Landyn, Nolan, and Addaley. Dale died on January 29 and we miss him much.

A visitation will be held at the church before the service and the family invites all to stay for a luncheon after the service. Deacon Gwen Bandy will be coordinating the luncheon.

We will praise God for Dale's life and for the goodness he shared with all of us. The family asks that memorial gifts be given to the church.



It's a Girl!

Congratulations to Scot and Jennifer Danner on the birth of their daughter, **Ella Paige Danner**, on March 24. And congratulations to Ella's grandmother, Linda Martin, as well. May God's blessing be upon Ella and the new life she brings to the world. Eight pounds and 21 inches of hope has come and we are grateful for God for that.



We've Got Mail

For Kid's Sunday School offering:

We appreciate your support of the Multi Agency. You are such kind and generous children! We will use your gifts for our back-to-school drive this fall. — Beth Bray Knecht, Director, Hoopston Multi Agency

For McFarland Fund support:

We appreciate our community faith-based partners. Our students read a total of 3,300 accelerated reader points. This translated into \$825 that we are sending to Heifer International missions. Thanks to First Presbyterian Church for your \$100 donation. — Dan Walder, John Greer School

For Pastor Installation gift:

Your support and generosity for 20 years never ceases to amaze me. Thank you for the beautiful stole and picture which is now hanging in my office. And thanks too for those of you who were able to come to my installation service. Having you there made it extra special. What an honor and a privilege it is to know you and to be cared for by you - and to have served with you. With love, Rev. Ann

For prayers for surgery and recovery:

My heart is bursting with joy as I think about and read again all your good wishes and prayers for my recovery. The prayers are working. Because Jesus loves me, because your prayers lift me up, because of dedicated doctors and nurses, more sunrises are in my future. I thank each and every one of you. — Sue Meranda

In Our Prayers

Those who grieve for: Sonna Terry (Stan Wagoner's cousin), Mindy Terrell (R. Carter's friend), Louise Donley (E. Donley's grandmother and M. Foster's aunt), Harold Smock (R. Carter's uncle), Marsha Robbins (K. Watson's friend), Dale Smith, Evelyn Martin, Bill Couch (C. Lee's Dad), Betty Boehme (R. Carter's friend).

Those with immediate concerns: Matt Smith (J. Smith's son), Linda Martin, McKenzie Baughn (M. Prosis's daughter), Sue Davia (D. Dixon's sister), Shawn Lane (S Wagoner's cousin), Eileen Leemon, Josh and Kristin Eighner (Steiner's friend), Beau Edrington (S. Betka's cousin), Karen Peterson (D. Dixon's sister), Charles France (J. Smith's brother), Troy Flint, Angela DeVore (T. Flint's friend), Judy Stevens (E Donley's cousin), Marla Haas, Jill Hass Burkowski (R. Carter's cousin), Shirley Wagoner, Patty Goldstein (D. Boyer's sister-in-law), Gary Fritz (H. Steiner's dad), Kevin Moore (Burton's friend), Joyce Cottingham (L. Martin's friend), Charles Leemon, Linda Fritz (H. Steiner's mom), Paul Roberts, Brenda Pelman (K. Cox's mom), Nathan Allis (C. Newman's nephew), Blake Kinnett (BHHS student), Mary Kane (K. Root's aunt), Natalie Zollar (E. Donley's niece), Ian Anderson (J. Stump's nephew), Vickie Anderson (J. Stump's sister), Ann Coffman, Martha Barner, John and Carole Ronane (J. Stump's friends), Beth Meese (G. Morgan's friend).



Those with long-term concerns: Marge Carlson, Jane Steiner, Jeremy Hirschland (B. Huffman's grandson), Kelley Clem, (P. Clem's son), Sue Meranda, John Long (D. Dixon's brother), Tina and John Hanson (Vi Hanson's children), Brian Lemenager (M Foster's grandson), Felix and Louise Morgan (M Morgan's grandparents), Mason Steiner, Cheryl Steiner, Katie Siler (Wade's niece), Patti Root (K. Root's mom), Paula Sims, Ruth Highfill, Marty Kloska, Steve Johnson (S. Wagoner's friend), Rob Burton Family (J. Stump's brother), John Lindley, Gary and Jeanette Deck, Dennis Carter (R. Carter's brother-in-law), John Masengale (S. Burton's dad), Mason Whitaker (G. Deck's grandson), Sue Burton, Charlie Pajor, Linda Briscoe (L. Huffman's niece), Lori Egnew Vaughan (G. Morgan's friend) and Sophia Voyda (E. Donley's niece), Drew and Kelsey Sheppard and baby Leena (D. Dixon's friends).

Those homebound in assisted living or nursing homes: Vader Clements, Mike Blankenship, Pat Vacketta, Lois Lankford, Jeanette Couch (C. Lee's grandmother).

Those in church leadership: Our Session and Deacon Board, Rev. Wade, Vilmaria Cintron-Oliviere and Cindy Kohlmann (General Assembly co-moderators), J. Herbert Nelson (G.A. clerk), Roger Allen (Presbytery moderator), Bill McLean (Pres. PCC), Cindy Bean (Pres. clerk).

Reported by Matthew

After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, "He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him." This is my message for you.' So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, 'Greetings!' And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshipped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.' - Matthew 28:1-10

Reported by Mark

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, 'Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?' When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.' So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. . . Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. - Mark 16:1-11

Reported by Luke

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.' Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. - Luke 24:1-12

Reported by John

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.' Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went towards the tomb. The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. Then the disciples returned to their homes. - John 20:1-10



National Day of Prayer

The Hoopeston Area Ministerial Association is inviting the community to gather in the parking lot at City Hall at 12:00 noon on May 2 for a forty-minute time of prayer in recognition of the National Day of Prayer.

Representatives from several areas of our community will offer a short prayer for the needs of our citizens in Hoopeston. The areas include: school system, city government, farming and agriculture needs, social service agencies, healthcare services, food cupboard, emergency services, senior care facilities, and others.



We will pray for the well being of all area of our community and for all residents. It takes a village.

Earth Day Celebration

Earth Day is April 22 every year and during worship on April 28 will celebrate God's Creation and our God-given role to be the caretakers of God's good earth. Please wear GREEN to church!

The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970 and events are now held worldwide to promote environmental protection and sustainable living. Earth Day is coordinated by the Earth Day Network and is celebrated by more than a billion people in 192 countries every year. The first earth day brought 20 million Americans out into the spring sunshine for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform, as black billowing smoke steamed out of unregulated factories. This day is considered the birth of the modern environmental movement and fostered the birth of the Environmental Protection Agency, created by Congress in Dec. 1970.



Through our denomination, our church is certified as a Earth Care Congregation in recognition of our intentional efforts to care for the environment.

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Vegetable Garden Plots

Spring is coming and our vegetable garden will be ready to plant soon. Please sign up for one of our 24 vegetable plots. We will be tilling the plots later in April and then gardeners can plant. Our gardeners provide their own plants and seeds and are responsible for weeding and caring for their plot during the summer. We ask gardeners to contribute \$15 per plot for ongoing maintenance. Please consider contributing some of your harvest to the Grant Township Food Cupboard as our friends in town like fresh produce too.



We already have five plots planted in Vacketta family garlic which came directly from the "old country" in Italy. The garlic is planted in the fall and is already growing!

Tilling a garden can also connect us to the foundational stories of Genesis 2. "The Lord took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it."

Easter Lily Gift
\$15.00 per plant



Given by: _____
 In Memory of: _____
 In Honor of: _____
 In Celebration of: _____
 Total plants ordered: _____
 Total amount due: _____

Please return this form with your payment to the church office by **April 5**. Lilies may be taken home after Easter service. Those remaining will be given to nursing home residents.

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General Fund Giving

	2019	2018	2017
Given as of Mar 31	\$22,150	\$21,380	\$23,868
Total Given for Year	tbd	\$105,385	\$100,396
Pledges for Year	\$101,710	\$102,925	\$101,880

Prayer of Generosity

Lord, teach me to be generous.
 Teach me to serve you as you deserve;
 to give and not to count the cost,
 to fight and not to heed the wounds,
 to toil and not to seek for rest,
 to labor and not to ask for reward,
 save that of knowing that I do your will.

by St. Ignatius of Loyola

One Great Hour of Sharing

Since 1949 Presbyterians and Christians from many other denominations have witnessed to Christ's love with their support of the One Great Hour of Sharing. The offering is used for disaster relief operations in our state, country, and world. Presbyterians give about \$8 million annually. This special offering will be

received on **Easter, April 21**, when we celebrate the miracle of the resurrection and Christ's victory over the powers of disaster and death. Help us give hope and life to our brothers and sisters around the world.



Change for Change

You are invited to give on **April 28** to support the Keep Vermilion County Beautiful organization which organizes clean-up efforts throughout the county.



Our monthly mission offering in **March** was \$285 and will support the Church World Service's Blanket Sunday program that provides warmth and hope to people around the world.

Recycling

Help us be good stewards of God's creation. We are a recycling center for several hazardous items.

- **Recycling paper, glass, and plastic.** If you are not able to participate in Hoopeston's curbside program, bring your recycling to church. Pickup is every other Friday. Recycle bins are outside by the trash bins.
- **Recycling batteries and light bulbs.** Both batteries and CFL bulbs contain toxic heavy metals. Bins for these smaller items are on the counter in fellowship hall.
- **Recycling cell phones.** Your donations of old phones provides phone cards for U.S. military personnel serving away from home.
- **Recycling ink jet cartridges.** The ink in printer cartridges is very toxic.
- **Recycling pop tabs.** Tabs are collected for recycling to support the Ronald McDonald House at Riley's Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.



Session Highlights

From the March 18 stated meeting:

- 8 out of 10 present
- Heard good news about family bowling, pulpit supply, and Lenten packets.
- Directed the April CC offering to support the Keep Vermilion County Beautiful organization.
- Approved an Earth Care theme for April 28.
- Renewed our participation in the Illinois Adopt a Highway roadside clean-up program.
- Reviewed Holy Week plans.
- Received the resignation of Sarah Tribbey, Pre-school Director, effective May 31. Authorized search for a new director.
- Heard about HAMA's Community Prayer event outside City Hall on May 2, National Day of Prayer
- Discussed making childcare available during worship when needed with volunteer caretakers.
- Authorized replacement of hallway water fountain.
- Approved Finance Report for February. All records are in good order. Continued planning of the 2019 McFarland Fund distribution.

Youth Ministry at Work

April 7: All youth meet at 5:30 to prepare for the Palm Sunday service and Easter Egg Hunt.

April 14: The youth will provide a special Palm Sunday worship program on April 14. We are grateful for their telling of the passion week story.



April 14: Youth will do some spring cleaning by cleaning trash from our two-mile stretch of Route 9. We participate in the Illinois Roadside Clean up program. The trash pickup begins at 11:45 a.m. It's good exercise too!

April 14: The youth's Danville Garden's flower basket fundraiser begins. Orders will be taken through April 28 and delivery is on May 9, before Mother's Day. Help their fund the mission trip.



April 21: Youth will provide an Easter egg hunt for the children after the Easter breakfast.

April 28: All youth will meet at the church at 5:30 p.m. for an end-of-year party.

June 2-7: Mission Trip to the Ferncliff Central Arkansas Mission Project.

April Birthdays

- 01 Karsen Root
- 04 Dave Dixon
- 07 Ray Stump
- 09 Cooper Watson
- 26 Stan Wagoner
- 26 Cameron Watson
- 27 Sue Burton



April Anniversaries

- 04/05/2003 Craig and Christy Lee
- 04/24/2010 Lee and Katrina Cox
- 04/25/1992 Randall and Tonna Hofer

Spring at Small Wonders

Happy Spring! It's exciting for the children to see the changes that are happening outside as this season is beginning. We are also excited to be able to get outside and use our playground again! We are looking forward to Grandparents Day (April 4 and 5) and for the field trip later this month.

In April, we will be learning all about DINOSAURS! We will learn about different types of dinosaurs, what dinosaurs ate, what they looked like, and what happened to them. We are learning all of this in April because we will be taking a field trip to the Indianapolis Children's Museum on April 26. The Dinosphere is one of the exhibits the children will tour.

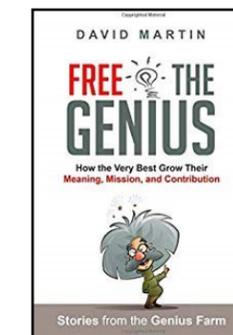


We also will be learning about the Easter holiday this month. Children will have a classroom party and will participate in an Egg Hunt!

Thank you to those who placed orders from our Show Me Dough fundraiser. Items will be delivered Friday, April 12. The proceeds will help fund the field trip bus and the matching t-shirts that we will wear on the outing. - Sarah Tribbey, Director

Book by David Martin

Congratulations to our friend, David Martin, whose first book – *Free the Genius* – was recently published. David is Dick and Ev Martin's son, lives in Cincinnati, and visits our congregation often. He's a business coach, consultant, and a very good storyteller. From the book jacket: "The book speaks directly to bright and aspiring people who are committed to changing their corner of the world for the better.



Are you aware of your potential but not always sure how to cultivate or express it?" David shares stories of family members and of the Midwest wisdom that formed and informed him from his childhood roots in Hoopstons. The book is available on Amazon for \$15.