

First Presbyterian Church  
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Hoopeston, IL 60942  
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First Presbyterian Church  
Hoopeston, Illinois



# The Bridgebuilder

April 2022

## Early in the Morning Prayer

Lord God,  
early in the morning,  
when the world was young,  
you made life in all its beauty;  
you gave birth to all that we know.  
**Hallowed be your name.**

Early in the morning,  
when the world least expected it,  
a newborn child crying in a manger  
announced that you had come among us,  
that you were one of us.  
**Hallowed be your name.**

Early in the morning,  
surrounded by respectable liars,  
religious leaders,  
anxious statesmen,  
and silent friends,  
you accepted the penalty for doing good,  
for being God:  
You shouldered and suffered the cross.  
**Hallowed be your name.**

Early in the morning,  
a voice in a guarded graveyard  
and footsteps in the dew  
proved that you had risen,  
that you had come back  
to those and for those  
who had forgotten, denied, and executed you.  
**Hallowed be your name.**

This morning,  
in the multicolored company  
of your church on earth and in heaven,  
we celebrate your creation, your life,  
your death and resurrection,  
your interest in us,  
and your redemption of all creation!  
**Hallowed be God's name, now and forever. Amen.**

## Inside this issue:

Pastor's Letter	2
Holy Week and Easter	3
Youth, Mail, Dates	4
Ukraine, Prayers	5
Finance, Mission, Session	6
Calendar	7



## First Presbyterian Church of Hoopeston

Head of the Church	Jesus Christ
Ministers of the Good News	All of Us
Session Elders	Gwen Bandy, Wayne Bandy, Sadie Hofer, Christy Lee, Waylon Lee, Jill Nelson, Missy Prorise, Julie Stump, Ray Stump
Deacons	Gina Morgan, Debby Dixon Linda Martin
Organist and Music Director	Rick Brackmann
Administrative Assistant	Pat Catron
Custodian	Gary Deck
Pastor	Wade Meranda
Youth Group Director	Kathy Watson



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We're on the web!

www.fpchoopeston.com

Find us on Facebook



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Worship Sourcebook, 2013, Faith Alive  
Christian Resources, page 636.

### Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

Please pray for those on our prayer list during Holy week and for the people of Ukraine as well. There are many dark weeks in our lives, many weeks of gloom and doom, so no wonder the people of the Bible pray for strength and pray often. We're just like them.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John dedicated a full one third of their gospels to the dark and difficult details of the last week of Jesus' life. Jesus knows all about dark days and weeks. No wonder he taught us to pray.



Easter morning arrives on April 17 this year. Don't forget to shift your prayer gears on Easter. Somehow, life has a way of resurrecting doom and gloom. Life has a way of rising and living again, in one way or another.

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John are thrilled to report that the tomb was found empty. "Why do you look for the living among the dead?," they ask, "He is not here, but has risen!" No wonder we love our Easter traditions. No wonder we worship in the morning. No wonder the people of the Bible prayed prayers of gratitude as well. We really are like them.

I occasionally think that it would do us good to keep a prayer list of gratitudes as well. One for concerns and one for thanksgivings. One for the dark and the other for the light.

The prayer on the cover page speaks about God working particularly well in the morning, so pray in the morning and listen in the morning. Arise in the morning and worship in the morning.

Blessings, Wade



### 150th Anniversary Worship

We will recognize our church's 150th anniversary during worship on Sunday, **May 15**, followed by a picnic luncheon outside. Bring a dish if you wish. A signup sheet will be posted. Our congregation was founded on May 3, 1872 with eighteen members.

Worship will include a slideshow of pictures from the past, so if you have some old pictures of the congregation you would like to share, please bring them to the office by May 1 or scan and send the file. We'll invite our past pastors. We'll worship with special music and hymns. Prayers of gratitude will be offered for our past, present, and future. This will be a time to relax and give thanks to God.



Thanks to our planning team: Gwen Bandy, Pat Catron, Kristy Kelnhofer, Vera Keller, and Shirley Wagoner.

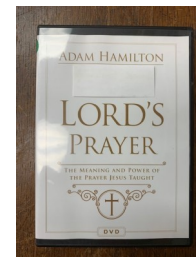
### Adult Study Ministry

Our Adult Study Group will begin a new video led program titled "The Lord's Prayer: The Meaning and Power of the Prayer Jesus Taught" on April 27. We meet at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.

The study explores the rich lines of the prayer we pray so often and their meaning in the Bible, illuminating what we ask of God and what we ask of ourselves. With the gift the Lord's Prayer, Jesus loves us enough to teach us the words for conversation with God.

- April 27 Our Father
- May 4 Whose Will Be Done?
- May 11 Our Daily Bread
- May 18 Forgive ... As We Forgive
- May 25 Not into Temptation
- June 1 Thine Is the Kingdom

This is a friendly time to share and pray and discover something new about God and God's people. We cover many topics over the course the year.



# April 2022

First Presbyterian Church  
915 East Orange Street, Hoopeson, Illinois 60942  
www.fpchoopeson.org 217-283-6229

Sabbath Day of Rest	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elder of Month: Sadie Hofer / Missy Prossie	Pray for Kristy Keller	Season of Lent The forty days before Easter excluding Sundays, began March 2	1 2			
3 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments (Youth Group) 11:30 Roadside Clean-up Youth Group, Parents, Congregation	4 Pray for Vera Keller	5 9:00 Adult Study Group 4:00 HAMA Meeting	6 7	8 Recycling	9	
10 10:00 WORSHIP Change for Change Offering 11:00 Refreshments	11 Pray for Marty Klooka	12 10:30 Meals on Wheels	13 9:00 Adult Study Group	14 7:00 p.m. Worship - Tenebrae Service of Darkness Maundy Thursday	15 10:30 Meals on Wheels Good Friday	16
17 9:00 EASTER BREAKFAST Easter Egg Hunt 10:00 EASTER WORSHIP Special Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing Handbells play in worship.	18 6:00 Session Pray for Dave and Debi Lanikford	19 10:00 150th Planning Group	20 No Adult Study Group	21	22 Recycling Earth Day: GO GREEN	23
24 8:45 Youth Group at 112 10:00 WORSHIP Guest Preacher, Ray Stump 11:00 Refreshments	25 Pray for Craig and Charity Lee, Waylon, Nolan, Caroline	26	27 9:00 Adult Study Group	28	29	30
May 1 10:00 WORSHIP 11:00 Refreshments	Pray for Dawn Lindley					



### General Fund Giving

	2022	2021	2020
Given as of March 31	\$26,595	\$25,643	\$27,741
Total Given for Year	tbd	\$95,085	\$100,396
Pledges for Year	\$92,000	\$108,458	\$102,345

### One Great Hour of Sharing

Presbyterians and Christians from many other denominations have been supporting the One Great Hour of Sharing since the end of WWII when it was used to help rebuild Europe. Today, the offering is used for disaster relief operations in our country and throughout the world. OGHs funds are being used to support Ukrainian refugee centers today. Presbyterians give about \$8 million annually. This special offering will be received on **East-er, April 17** as we celebrate the miracle of the resurrection and Christ's victory over the powers of disaster and death. Please give.



### Recycling

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



### Change for Change Mission

Our March 20 mission offering was \$263 and supported a fund that's helping a local family, the Alwardt family, recover from a recent house fire. Thanks to all who gave.

Our April 10 mission offering will support a program in the HA School District that will welcome newly hired teachers with an orientation basket of information about our community, including churches.

Our May 15 mission offering will support the Legion Women's Auxiliary sundry bag program for Vets at the VA in Danville.

### Session Highlights

From the March 28 stated meeting:

- 8 out of 10 present
- Shared good comments: return of the projector screen in worship, Golden Ticket ministry, Ash Wed service, sign painting project, movie night.
- Directed May CC offering to support Legion Women's Auxiliary Sundry Gift Bags for Vets at the VA. And June CC for the Keep Vermilion County Beautiful organization.
- Set Holy Week plans and April calendar.
- Received information about a bequest to be given to the church from estate of former member Vader Clements who died in 2020. Thanks be to God.
- Approved Finance Report for February. All is in good order.
- Approved support from McFarland City Fund: \$300 for teen's medical care from burns in house fire in Hoopeston, \$200 for Hoopeston Area Softball Team, \$5,000 for the City's fundraiser for new skate park facility planned for McFerren Park, \$4,000 for four DACC scholarships for area youth, \$100 per month for Golden Ticket ministry, \$200 for John Greer Read to Feed program.
- Heard report from 150th anniversary planning group, special worship and picnic luncheon on May 15.
- Set graduate recognition fo Sunday for May 8. Deacons will plan reception. Graduates: Nick, Trent, Cameron.
- Plans to begin special Fifth Sunday worship services this year on May 29, July 31, and Oct 30.

### Holy Week and Easter

#### Palm Sunday Worship, April 10

Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday. We remember the crowd celebrating the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem and the crowds laying down their coats and waving palm leaves to honor their king. They shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes!" We will hear the story, wave palms, and sing our own hosannas in worship.



#### Maundy Thursday Worship, April 14

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. We worship at 7:00 p.m. with a Tenebrae service of darkness. We remember the ever-darkening days of Holy Week that led to the death of our Lord on Good Friday. We abide with him in his dark days as he abides with us in ours.



#### Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, April 17

We gather for Easter breakfast at 9:00 a.m. Sing up to bring a dish if you can. Bring the family. Bring a friend. All are welcome. The youth group will provide an Easter Egg Hunt for younger children after breakfast. Eggs with goodies inside!



#### Easter Worship, April 17

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb. "His is not here, but has risen," the voice said. Resurrection. He is risen indeed! On Easter morning we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. We receive the greatest of all gifts: that suffering and death are not God's last word for us. We sing. We worship. We commune. We ring bells. Even Easter Lilies boldly shout out that he is risen indeed.



### We Arise because Christ Arose

Excerpts from the book *Coffee with Calvin: Daily Devotionals*, by Donald McKim, 2013. At the time of the Reformation, John Calvin was a pastor and writer who articulated much of the Reformed and Presbyterian approach to faith. Donald McKim is a Calvin scholar and works for our denomination's Westminster John Knox Press.

When we affirm the Apostles' Creed that we belived in the resurrection of the boy, we are making a stupendous claim. It is a claim that cannot be known by reason or logic. It is a claim known only by faith.

But in the Christian faith, to proclaim resurrection is not an empty and vacuous version of wishful thinking, some form of pie in the sky, by and by. Faith in our resurrection makes our resurrection possible.

This was the Apostle Paul's argument in 1 Corinthians 15, the great chapter on resurrection that is sometimes called the spinal column of the New Testament. God raised Jesus Christ from the dead, his resurrection being the "first fruits of those who have died." To put it in Calvin's language, "we arise because Christ arose."

Christ's resurrection is the pledge and prelude to our resurrection. Today, in our flesh, we "bear about the death of Christ himself."



Christ died for us, in our bodies, here and now. But in the future, we anticipate the resurrection of the body. Nothing is less likely, said Calvin, that that our bodies should be deprived of Christ's resurrection. Christ's death and resurrection are one act; and the benefits of both are for us, now and forever.

Our resurrection hope is grounded in the reality of Christ's resurrection life. Our hope is build on nothing else. Because he lives, we too shall live!

"We must hold to that fellowship which the apostle proclaims: that we arise because Christ arose. For nothing is less likely that that our flesh, in which we bear about the death of Christ himself, should be deprived of Christ's resurrection."  
- John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, 1550



## Youth Ministry

On April 3, the youth will provide refreshments after worship and will head out for a Roadside Trash Clean-up afterwards. Our church participates in the Illinois Dept of Transportation's roadside clean up program. We clean the roadsides of a two-mile stretch of Rt 9, from Rt 1 to the church. Parents and the congregation are invited to join them. We will also clean the trash off the church lot that blew in over the winter. Let's take care of our community.



On April 17, the youth will provide an Easter Egg Hunt for our younger children after the Easter Breakfast.

On April 24, the youth will meet at 8:45 a.m. at the 112 Coffee Shoppe for devotions and breakfast.

A summer mission trip to Lexington, Kentucky is planned for the week of June 18-24. We will participate in the Mission Immersion Project provided by the Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church located in the heart of the city. Contact Sadie Hofer for more details.



## Garden Plots

Spring is here and our garden plots will be ready to plant soon. Call the office to reserve a plot. We'll till the plots later in April. 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. You are welcome to plant vegetables or flowers.



## Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive for the community at our church on Thursday, **May 19**. For and appointment call 1-800-733-2767 or visit red-crossblood.org and type in 60942 in the "find a drive" box in the top right corner. Adults of all ages can provide the gift of life-saving blood for those in need.



## In the Mailbox

*For Change for Change offering:*

Thank you for supporting the Riley Cheer Guild, a hospital auxiliary serving patients and their families at Riley Children's Hospital. Your donation will provide toys and other supplies that help make our hospital a warm and welcoming place for those in need of our services. — Ann Hannan, Director (Our \$253 offering was in honor of Mason Steiner's 4 year kidney transplant anniversary and for the donor as well, Cheryl Steiner.)

*For McFarland Fund support:*

The staff and students of John Greer would like to extend a sincere thank you for your \$200 of financial support of our Read to Feed challenge. With your generous support, students accumulated 2,595 Accelerated Reader points and we were privileged to send \$650 to Heifer International. We are grateful to partner with faith-based organizations to support the education of our children. — Dan Walder, Principal

*For McFarland Golden Ticket support, March:*

Thank you for your generous donation of \$100 to support our Caring for Kids program. It is our hope that this program can help children who are food insecure. — Kathy Murphy, UMC Pastor

*For McFarland Golden Ticket support, February:*

Thank you for the \$100 gift provided to our classroom by Donna Boyer. We are using the funds for communication materials for our students. The gift is much appreciated. — Sara Troxel, Special Education, Maple

## April Birthdays

- 01 Karsen Root
- 07 Ray Stump
- 09 Cooper Watson
- 21 Hazel Cox
- 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

## How is Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Helping in Ukraine?

(From the Presbyterian News Service, March 23, 2022)

Since Russia invaded Ukraine late last month, Presbyterians Disaster Assistance (PDA) as committed rapid response solidarity grants to five ecumenical partners in Eastern and Central Europe addressing the humanitarian crisis created by the unprovoked attack.

Recipients include the Friends of Community of Sant'Egidio, who are still in Ukraine, and Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, which is essentially the PDA of the Hungarian Reformed Church, said Susan Krehbiel, PDA's Associate for Refugees.

"We are part of a church," Krehbiel said. "And so, we have church relationships, and that gives us a different way of entering into this work that is special. It means we're grounded in those relationships and people that have relationships in the community."

In situations such as Ukraine, Krehbiel says PDA's role is finding organizations on the ground, in the communities that need help, and helping to build their capacity to assist through the generosity of donors to PDA, including through the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. She cites the Hungarian Reformed Church as an example.

"They have relationships with individual congregations," Krehbiel said. "Then they have relationships with local governments, they have relationships with other ecumenical churches and organizations that do this work. And they get international support, not just from PDA, but also from other Reformed churches in the world.



"So, it's helpful for us to not only have the direct relationship with them, but also to know that they're in relationship with others, so we can see the whole picture, and we're able to work with the other national and international partners to see that resources get to them."

PDA is also providing support to Hungarian Interchurch Aid and Lutheran World Federation through its longtime international partner ACT Alliance, and the International Orthodox Christian Charities in Romania. Krehbiel said that all partners are saying they see Ukraine as a long-term response that will require continued support.

The Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus, director of PDA, said the outpouring of response from Presbyterians has been unprecedented, and that she is hearing the same from other denominations.

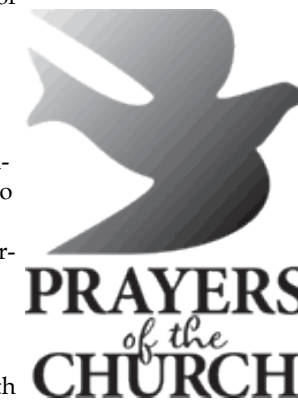
"It's a massive, massive refugee response that's still unfolding, and that could escalate into a much different sort of issue," Kraus said, noting it is the largest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II.

As of Monday, 3.6 million people have left Ukraine and 6.48 million have been displaced within the country. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has extensive experience responding to refugees in the United States and abroad.

## In Our Prayers

**Those who grieve for:** Roscoe Elmore (K. Watson's uncle), Michelle Cook (R. Carter's friend), Cliff Crabtree, Andy Newman (L. Martin's friend), Katie Konieczki (Bandy's friend), Charlie Dickerson (Rt 1 accident), Dale Fry (Bandy's friend), Becky Underwood (R. Carter's friend), Jerry and Linda Crippin (Rt 1 accident), Felix Morgan (M Morgan's grandfather), Janet Smith, Dorothy Prather (R. Carter's friend), Earl Prasse (C. Lee's friend), Jim Matta, and Larry Hofer (R. Hofer's father).

**Those with immediate concerns:** Karl Steiner, Emily Carter (M. Prosis's cousin), Linda Martin, Ashley Morgan, Sue Burton, Kathy Grobowski (L. Martin's friend), Sherry Clinton (K. Watson's family), Kyle Richards (R. Carter's friend), Emma Winslow (G. Morgan's friend), Alwardt Family (home fire), Sam Matthews (home fire), Larry and Jan German (L. Martin's friend),



Mark Spidle (J. Stump's friend), Bob Murphy (M. Betka's dad), Tanya Oberland (R. Carter's daughter), Christopher Graham (H. Steiner's nephew), Kendall Reid (Wagoner's friend), Donna Rich (D. Lankford's sister), John Schertz (G Jahn's nephew), Sam Terrell (R. Carter's friend), Mary Ann Hilleary (R. Carter's sister-in-law), Karla Von Huben (J. Stump's friend), Mike Johnson (R. Carter's friend), Betty Edwards (Wagoner's friend), Rhonda Miller (Watson's friend), Patty Martin (L. Martin's friend), Sadie and Karen Evans (R. Carter's friends), Paul Nash (K. Watson), Marie Seaman (D. Boyer's friend), Lindsay Boyden (C. Lee's friend), and Tina Skender (C. Flint's daughter).

**Those with long-term concerns:** Jane Steiner, John Roark (M. Prosis's friend), John Zollar (E. Donley's brother), Beth Farias (L. Martin's cousin), Roberto Martinez (R. Carter's friend), Crew Feltner (child with leukemia, K Kelnhofer's friend), Tina and John Hanson (Vi Hanson's children), Perry Mitchell (T. Hanson's fiancée), Leonard Goldstein (D. Boyer's brother), Ann Wise (L. Martin's friend), Patti Root (K. Root's mom), Joyce Cottingham (L. Martin's friend), Mary Kane (K. Root's aunt), Natalie Zollar (E. Donley's niece), Martha Barner, Carole Ronane (J. Stump's friend), Beth Meese (G. Morgan's friend), Sandy Glenn (J. Steiner's cousin), Mason Steiner, Cookie Galloway (B. Schellhardt's sister), Carol Schrepfer (J. Stump's friend), Ian Anderson (J. Stump's nephew), Vickie Anderson (J. Stump's sister), Karen Peterson (D. Dixon's sister), Sue Davia (D. Dixon's sister), Troy Flint, John Long (D. Dixon's brother), Brian Lemenager (M. Foster's grandson), Rob Burton Family (J. Stump's brother), John Masengale (S. Burton's dad), Lori Egnew Vaughan (G. Morgan's friend) and Sophia Voyda (E. Donley's niece).



**Those homebound in assisted living or nursing homes:** Marty Kloska, Mike Blankenship, Judy Benjamin, and Eileen Leemon.

**Those in church leadership:** Our Session and Deacons, Rev. Wade, Rev. Ann, Gregory J. Bentley and Elona Street-Stewart (General Assembly Co-Moderators), Rev. J. Herbert Nelson (G.A. Clerk), Rev. Heidi Weatherford (Presbytery Moderator), Rebecca Blair (Lead Presbyter).