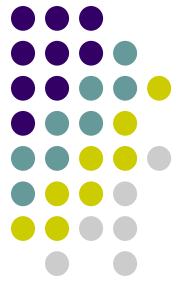


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First Presbyterian Church  
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# The Bridgebuilder

May 2022

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**150th Birthday Celebration!**

Sunday, May 15 at 10:00 a.m.

**Worship – Displays – Picnic – Fellowship**

**Our church was founded on May 3, 1872.**

Through the congregation, God's people carry out the ministries of proclamation, sharing the Sacraments, and living in covenant life with God and each other. In the life of the congregation, individual believers are equipped for the ministry of witness to the love and grace of God in and for the world. The congregation reaches out to people, communities, and the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ, to gather for worship, to offer care and nurture to God's children, to speak for social justice and righteousness, to bear witness to the truth and to the reign of God that is coming into the world. (PCUSA Constitution)

## 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 Prosise, 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](http://www.fpchoopeston.com)



### Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

We will recognize our church's 150th anniversary during worship on May 15 and relax with a picnic afterwards. Times have changed many times over the past fifteen decades, but somehow God has enabled us to bear witness in every age. That's pretty remarkable.

I want to thank our team who has been planning the displays, the picnic, and our worship: Pat Catron, Gwen Bandy, Shirley Wagoner, Vera Keller, and Kristy Kelnhofer. Worship will include special music by Rick, beautiful hymns, prayers of gratitude, and a brief message from each of the four living pastors – Bernie Nord, Jeff Borgerson, Ann, and me. Jeff and his wife Joyce will be here in person. Ann will join us at the picnic. Christy Lee will take a group picture of the congregation right after service.

Members, past or present, who would like a short message included in a bulletin insert should send it to me by May 12. We will have displays of pictures from the past set up for several weeks.

It's an honor to be part of such a deeply rooted congregation. The story of God's love is needed in every time and place. Our gratitude goes to God and to members past and present.

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!  
My soul longs, indeed it faints  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.  
Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.  
Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise. (Psalm 84)



Blessings, Wade

### Red Cross Blood Drive

The American Red Cross will host a blood drive for the community at our church on Thursday, **May 19** from 12–4 p.m. For an appointment call 1-800- 733-2767 or visit [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) and type in 60942 in the "find a drive" box in the top right corner.

### Congratulations, Graduates!

We will recognize our graduates during worship on **May 8**. After many years of study and persistence, they have earned diplomas and degrees and we send them on with God's blessings. Godspeed to all!

**Trent Betka** will graduate from Hoopeston Area High School this month. He plans to attend Parkland College and pursue a degree in Agribusiness with a focus in Precision Ag Technology. The congregation is invited to a graduation party on Sunday, **June 5**, at 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Betka farm. Congratulations, Trent.

**Nick Hofer** will graduate from Hoopeston Area High School this month. He plans to pursue a business degree at Illinois State University. High School accolades: Illinois State Scholar, All Sectional Academics Team for Soccer, McDonald's Student of the Month and Athlete of the Month. The congregation is invited to a graduation party on Saturday, **May 14** at 5:00 at the Hofer's home. Congratulations, Nick.



**Cameron Watson** will graduate from Bismarck-Henning High School this month. He plans to attend Parkland College and has been accepted into the CASE/New Holland Diesel Mechanics Program and the Birkey's apprenticeship program. High school accolades: football team captain, All-Conf Special Mention player, Scout Team Player of the Year, and JV Wrestler of the Year. The congregation is invited to a graduation party on Sunday, **May 29**, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m. at the Watson's home. Congratulations, Cameron.

**Laura Meranda** received her Masters of Science Degree in Marketing Analysis from DePaul University. Laura works in the Marketing Department at the Home Chef Corporation in Chicago. Congratulations, Laura.

**Christy Lee** received her Masters Degree in Secondary Education from Grand Canyon University. Christy teaches in the HA School District. Congratulations, Christy.



# May 2022

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

Sabbath Day of Rest	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Elder of Month: Ray Stump						
1 10:00 WORSHIP Handbells play in worship 11:30 Refreshments 11:00 Youth Group Year End Event Lunch and Ganga Ball	2 Pray for Dawn Landrey	3	4 9:00 Bible Study 3:30–8:00 HAHS Teacher Appreciation Dinner	5 9:30-12:00 HAHS Senior Breakfast	6 Recycling	7
8 10:00 WORSHIP Recognition of High School and College Graduates in Worship 11:00 Reception	9 Pray for Kristy Kelnhofer	10	11 9:00 Bible Study	12 9:30-12:00 HAHS Senior Breakfast	13	14 10:00 Presbytery Meeting
15 10:00 WORSHIP 150th Anniversary Recognition Change for Change Offering 11:00 150th Pkrsac Luncheon	16 6:00 Session Pray for Craig and Gail Lithgow	17	18 9:00 Bible Study	19 12:00–4:00 Red Cross Blood Drive COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE	20 Recycling	21
22 10:00 WORSHIP Handbells play in worship 11:00 Refreshments 3:45 Nursing Home Devotions	23 Pray for Linda Martin	24 10:45 Meals on Wheels	25 9:00 Bible Study	26 ASCENSION Day Jesus ascended to heaven forty days after his Resurrec- tion.	27 10:45 Meals on Wheels	28
29 10:00 5th SUNDAY WORSHIP Hymn Sing Theme: Love of God and Country 11:00 Refreshments	30 Office Closed Memorial Day Pray for Laura Meranda	31	Ju 1 9:00 Bible Study	Ju 2	Ju 3 Recycling	Ju 4

### General Fund Giving

	2022	2021	2020
Given as of April 30	\$34,639	\$33,302	\$37,146
Total for Year	tbd	\$95,085	\$100,396
Pledges for Year	\$92,000	\$108,458	\$102,345

Jesus told them, "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth . . . but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven . . . For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Matthew 6:19

### Change for Change

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

Our **April 10** mission offering was \$242 and supported a program at the HA School District that will welcome newly hired teachers with an orientation basked of information about our community, including churches.

### PCUSA Special Offerings

**One Great Hour of Sharing:** A total of \$570 was given for our denomination's OGHs offering on Easter Sunday. The offering supports disaster relief operations around the world, including refugee housing for the people of Ukraine.

**Pentecost Offering:** Presbyterian congregations will give to the Pentecost Offering on June 5. The offering nurtures young people as they grow in faith and provides opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders – all in the name of Jesus.

### Register for Camp Carew

Camp Carew is near Carbondale and is built on sixty wooded acres on the shores of Little Grassy Lake. Youth of all ages are invited to attend. Register online at [www.campcarew.org](http://www.campcarew.org). Most of the week-long camps are in June and July. Our church can provide a scholarship. Camp is an good place to meet new people and experience faith outdoors. The camp has kayaks, canoes, trails, campfires, and good food. The camp is owned and operated by Kemmerer Village, a Presbyterian affiliated non-profit organization in Assumption.

### In the Mailbox

*For McFarland Fund support:*

On behalf of the Sam Matthews family, we thank you for your generous donation. Please continue to pray for Sam and his family. – Saint Vincent DePaul Society, Danville Holy Family Church

*For McFarland Fund support:*

Thank you very much for the gift card to help me support the caretaking of Karl's boys. It is very much appreciated. – Jane Steiner



*For McFarland Fund support:*

Thank you on behalf of the skate park group and the Hoopeston community. You generous donation (\$5,000) to the skate park made a significant impact on our ability to move forward on our project. Thank you so much. – April Jones, Skate Park Organizer, City of Hoopeston

*For McFarland Fund support:*

The DACC Foundation and staff gratefully acknowledge your \$4,000 gift to provide four scholarships. It is our mission to link those with resources to students with promise. Working together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of DACC students. – Tonna Hill, Exec Director, DACC Foundation

### Session Highlights

From the April 18 stated meeting:

- 7 of 10 present
- Approved engaging with Jackson Quality Construction to work with our insurance claim and replace shingles on the roof.
- Approved the need to have a childcare provider available during worship.
- 150th planning for May 15 is underway.
- Plans for Fifth Sunday worship set for May 29.
- Received bequest from the estate of Vader Clements of \$70,721 with gratitude, no restrictions.
- Approved Finance Report for April.
- Approved the 2021 annual audit report conducted by D. Dixon and D. Lankford. "Audit included a detailed look at all transactions on bank statements; all deposits and checks reviewed; everything found in good order; the 2021 Annual Report was reviewed and found to be accurate."

### In Our Prayers

**Those who grieve for:** Dorothy Willard (R. Stump's friend), Winnie Thomas (R. Stump's friend), Judy Clinger (Wade's aunt), Paul Nash (K. Watson's step-father), Joyce Stock (V. Keller's friend), 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)

**Those with immediate concerns:** Karl Steiner, Linda Martin, Vickie Anderson (J. Stump's sister), Ann Wise (L. Martin's friend), John White, Landon Potter (S. Burton's cousin), August Bandy (Bandy's grandson), Julie Stump, Emily Carter (M. Prosis's cousin), Ashley Morgan, Kathy Grobowski (L. Martin's friend), Sherry Clinton (K. Watson's family), Emma Winslow (G. Morgan's friend), Alwardt Family (home fire), Sam Matthews (home fire), Mark Spidle (J. Stump's friend), Bob Murphy (M. Betka's dad), Tanya Obenland (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), 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), Marie Seaman (D. Boyer's friend), Lindsay Boyden (C. Lee's friend), Tina Skender (C. Flint's daughter).



**Those with long-term concerns:** Larry and Jan German (L. Martin's friend), Jane Steiner, John Roark (M. Prosis's friend), John Zollar (E. Donley's brother), Beth Farias (L. Martin's cousin), Sue Burton, 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), 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), 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, Eileen Leemon, and Sam Terrell

**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).

### Easter Lilies

Lilies are a sign of spring, new life, and resurrection. We thank all who provided lilies for our worship on Easter Sunday.

Given by	In Memory or Celebration of
Vera Keller	Ralph Keller
Marge Foster	Glen Foster
Missy Prosis	Bob Clem
Rita Carter	Michelle Cook
Debby Dixon	Dave Dixon
Pat Catron	Chet Catron
Larry and Carol Betka	Keith and Lillian Betka, John and Betty Cowan, Our Grandparents
Joe, Cheryl, Ethan, and Abby Steiner	Paul Steiner
Jane Steiner	Our Family and Friends
Skip, Melissa, Trent Betka, Wade and Ann	Keith Meranda, Tom and Pat Schwartz
Kristy Kelnhofer	Joy Kelnhofer Smith and Art Kelnhofer; Ellis, Cain, Roark Kelnhofer; Dean family members
Ray and Julie Stump	Gene and Ruth Burton
Elizabeth Donley	Robert and Janiece Stump
Connie, Janet, Rita, and John and Family	Snide Etherton, Newburn Girls, Mary Ellen Wonderlin, Mark Donley, Donley Family, Zollar Family, Delbert and Ferol White
Elizabeth Donley	Michael Donley
Wayne and Gwen Bandy	People of Ukraine



### May Birthdays and Anniversaries

02	Tanner Burton
10	Jill Nelson
14	Sadie Hofer
19	Dawn Lindley
22	Debby Dixon, Aidan Berg, Abby Steiner
23	Waylon Lee
24	Parker Robinson
26	Joe Steiner
27	Ella Nelson, Missy Prosis



05/07/2011	Karl and Holly Steiner
05/10/1997	Dave and Jill Nelson
05/28/1977	Dave and Debi Lankford
05/28/1994	Scott and Kathy Watson



## Celebrating 150 Years of Faithfulness

Founded on May 3, 1872

Our congregation today is the recipient of a long legacy of faithful Presbyterians in Hoopeston who, with trust in God, have been faithful custodians of the church during the years it was entrusted to their care. As so many members before us did, we continue to be a faithful witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ in our time and place. On Sunday, **May 15**, we will take time to remember our long and resilient history and give thanks to God for providing the spirit of grace and generosity that has made this wonderful story possible.



### 1871-1877: Hoopeston, from Town to City

In 1871, during the Civil War reconstruction period, the town of Hoopeston, Illinois, was founded at the crossing of the newly completed Chicago & Eastern Illinois and Lake Erie & Western railroads, on land owned by Thomas Hoopes and Joseph M. Satterthwait. In 1874, the Village of Hoopeston was organized. In 1877, the City of Hoopeston was incorporated.

### 1872-1880: A Homeless Beginning

In 1872, six families who had located here for business purposes and who were of the Presbyterian faith, after consulting together, decided to petition the Presbytery for a church organization in Hoopeston. First Presbyterian Church was organized on **May 3, 1872**, with eighteen members. Initially the congregation met in rented halls, first in the Hibbard House, a public tavern or hotel, on the corner of Second Avenue and West Penn Street. In 1873, the congregation met at Snell & Taylor's Hall, on the corner opposite the Hibbard House. Later the congregation worshipped at the Gid Davis Carpenter

Shop, south of the tracks on the east side of Market Street, Knox and Given's Hall, and in 1877, at Clark's Hall when W.R. Clark fixed up the upper part of his hardware store as a hall (corner of Main and Market Streets). The congregation was essentially homeless for its first eight years. The eighteen charter members were: Charles R. Strauss, Effa Strauss, Charles E. Strauss, Anna M. Strauss, Alvira E. Strauss, Mary J. Strauss, Louis M. Strauss (the first seven came from letter of transfer from the Paxton church), William Maxwell, Mrs. Keziah Maxwell, Mary Maxwell, Dr. M. L. Anderson, Mrs. M.L. Anderson, John Palmer, Mrs. John Palmer, J.M. Miller, Mrs. Mary Miller, J.N. Danner, and Mrs. J.N. Danner.

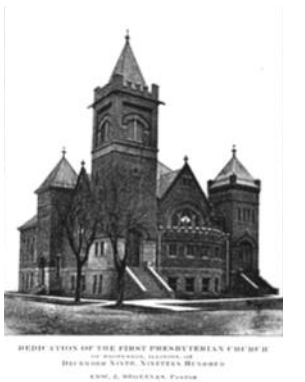
### 1880-1900: A Wooden Church

In 1880, our congregation's first church building was constructed, a wooden frame facility at the corner of Penn and Market Streets, at a cost of \$2,600. The congregation worshipped there for twenty years. Outside, the church was simply a plain, wooden, box-like structure with a modest steeple. Some years later, after much effort, a bell was hung. Inside the church was a vestibule and one large room, heated by two immense soft coal stoves and lighted by kerosene lamps. The church roof persisted in leaking around the east chimney, about which, a 1912 church historian wrote: "Church roof repairs and repairs to the old parsonage were the bottomless wells into which all our spare earnings constantly disappeared." By 1900, the congregation had outgrown the facility and plans were made to build a larger structure on the same site. The old church was sold to John Mann for \$260 and was immediately torn down so the new church could be erected. At the request of the congregation, Mr. Mann carefully stored the eight beautiful stained glass windows. However, soon afterwards the building in which they were stored burned, and the windows were lost forever.



### 1900-1978: A Brick and Stone Church

The new brick and stone church, one of the most beautiful in the city of Hoopeston, was erected at a cost of \$21,000 and dedicated on December 9, 1900. By the dedication date, the 180 members had fully paid for the facility. Many of our current members have fond memories of the "old" building. In the mid 1970's, a generous bequest from the estate of Maude Evans was received. At the same time, our congregation was facing the need for costly repairs of the building's infrastructure, difficult upgrades to make it handicapped accessible, and a desire for air conditioning in a facility not built for it. So, looking forward, our congregation chose to invest a portion of the Evan's bequest into the construction of a brand new facility located on five acres of land east of the hospital on Route 9.



### 1978-Present: A Modern Church

Our current church building was dedicated on December 17, 1978. The placard mounted at the entrance reads: "Dedicated to the Glory of God, in memory of Maude Evans whose generosity made construction of this building possible." It cost approximately \$600,000 to construct. Several items from the old brick and stone church were saved and reside in our church today, including two stained glass windows (in office area), the font, pulpit, and communion table (in narthex), the church-tower bell (at our entranceway), and the cornerstone dated 1900 (below the bell). Our current facility is beautifully designed for a congregation our size and with a single-floor and paved parking lot, it is completely handicapped accessible. With a flexible seating design, the entire sanctuary can be rearranged for a new look at no cost. This will serve the needs of the future well as tastes change over time. With a state-of-the-art zoned heating and air conditioning system, we have a very "green" facility.



First Presbyterian Church

### History of Pastors

Wade Meranda	2012 - present
Ann M. Schwartz & Wade Meranda	1999 - 2012
John (Jack) N. Porter	1991 - 1998
Jeffery R. Borgerson	1982 - 1989
Bernard W. Nord	1971 - 1981
Paul Bingham	1965 - 1969
Frederick W. Ingle	1959 - 1964
Herman Dam	1952 - 1958
George K. Tjaden	1948 - 1952
E. L. Castrodale	1939 - 1948
S. Howard Smith	1919 - 1938
Loyal W. Madden	1911 - 1918
W. A. Bodell	1907 - 1910
David S. McCaslin	1902 - 1907
Edward J. Regennas	1892 - 1902
John B. Logan	1890 - 1892
George W. Baxter	1885 - 1889
Alexander L. Knox	1878 - 1884
Francis Lynn	1874 - 1876
William N. Steele	1872 - 1874

### Context of ministry

Covid-19 Pandemic, atmospheric CO2 tops 410 ppm, Cubs win World Series, social media, streaming  
Prius Hybrid, 9/11, Iraq/Afganistan War, Great Recession, iPhone, iPad, Bush/Gore, flat screen TV, gay/lesbian ordination restriction lifted in PCUSA, Obama, Facebook, Twitter  
Internet, cell phone, digital camera, Roundup Ready, Amazon.com  
Space Shuttles, PCs, MTV, Challenger, veggie burger  
Disco, EPA, Bi-centennial, calculators, SNL, CNN  
Vietnam, Medicare, Medicaid, Apollo 11 human on moon, heart transplant, '69 Mets, Big Mac, 60 Minutes  
Civil Rights Act, Jiffy Pop, birth control pill, Kmart  
Polio vaccine, interstate highways, Disneyland, Elvis, women pastor restriction lifted in PCUSA, Whopper  
Korean Conflict, Cold War, I Love Lucy  
WWII, nuclear bomb, Jackie Robinson, Penicillin, M&Ms  
Great Depression, Prohibition, Social Security, television, Women's right to vote, rotary phone, Hoover Dam  
WWI, Titanic, income tax, Panama Canal, Oreos  
Model T, Cubs win World Series  
Wright Brothers airplane, gas tractor, NYC subway  
Silent films begin, Sears, Pepsi, "separate but equal" law  
Basketball, mustache, Ellis Island, Mormons renounce polygamy  
Washington Monument, Statue of Liberty, Coca Cola  
Light bulb, skyscrapers, Red Cross  
Baseball National League, bicycle, Tom Sawyer  
Civil War reconstruction, Yellowstone Park, atmospheric CO2 at 280 ppm, westward migration begins, cable cars