

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

April 2020

## NEWSLETTER



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"Hands, touching hands  
Reaching out, touching me, touching you"

These words come from Neil Diamond's popular song  
"Sweet Caroline." Further into the song he writes:

"Look at the night and it don't seem so lonely  
We filled it up with only two  
And when I hurt  
Hurting runs off my shoulders  
How can I hurt when holding you"

Human touch is, as many psychologists will attest, a basic human need that is so important to our physical and mental well-being that without it, all sorts of maladies and illness can stem.

God created us to be social beings and beings who respond positively to physical touch by our fellow human beings. This is one of the many reasons I so look forward every week to our corporate worship. It's not only a time and place when we get to worship together, sing together, pray together, share the sacraments together, but it's also a time when we get to embrace one another, shake hands with one another, pat someone on the back who may be going through a tough time or just not feeling well. It's a time when we get to touch. As the song says, when we share the gift of physical touch, "how can I hurt when I'm holding you?"

There are so many ways this pandemic has affected the world and our ability to physically touch one another is clearly one of them.

In the season of Lent, we talk about sacrificing, doing without, prayerful meditation, and contemplation of what God has done for us in the person and event of Jesus Christ. We think about the darkness of loneliness and doubt Jesus experienced on His journey to the cross. We remember when his disciples deserted him or fell asleep when he needed them most which added to his loneliness and isolation.

But we know it doesn't end there does it? We know for all the Good Friday feelings we are feeling during this pandemic and time of social isolation, we will have our Easter! This is what faith does for us. We know God has never abandoned or forsaken us in our worst times, and He clearly is not about to start now.

While we are feeling the stresses and anxieties that come with the known and unknown, we know, just as with Easter, God will not only walk through this with us, but He will make the sun shine once again in our lives, and we will be back together, hopefully stronger and kinder, and ready to touch, hug, and care for one another just as Christ has commanded. We don't know what day this will be, but because of faith, we do know that this day **will be!** This is God's promise. Praise be to God.

I hope you all are able to navigate the internet and join us in virtual worship.

God's blessings and peace be with you all,

*Love, Kurt*



**SUNDAY SCHOOL –  
WILL MEET VIA ZOOM – Wednesdays at 9:00  
AM**

The Zion Class, taught by Susan Bryant is studying  
“*The Prodigal Prophet*” by Timothy Keller. To connect  
to Zoom – <https://zoom.us/j/398404954> Meeting ID: 398  
404 954.



## WORSHIP SERVICES

Public worship services have been cancelled at least through the end of April. In an effort to continue meeting together, **each Sunday at 10:00 a.m.**, we will “meet” using Facebook Live (*note the time change – we will be combining worship with Vandalia*). Whether or not you have a Facebook account, on your computer, smartphone or tablet you can go to

[www.facebook.com/greenvillefirstpresbyterian](http://www.facebook.com/greenvillefirstpresbyterian),

to see the service LIVE either DURING or AFTER the broadcast.



*A big thank you to everyone who helped with the Lenten Service and luncheon at First Presbyterian on Wednesday, March 11.*



**UPDATE**



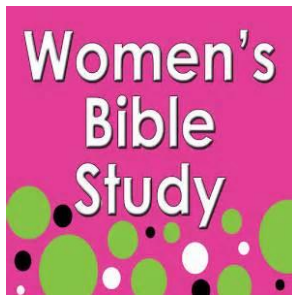
### Updated Church Directories Are Available

Updated 2020 Church Directories are available. You may request a hardcopy be mailed to you, by calling the church office at (618)664-0942 (Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – noon). It will also be emailed to everyone in PDF format and will be put on the church website in the password protected section.



Per Capita -  
For Love of  
Christ's Church

Each year, Presbyterian congregations are assessed an amount to be paid for the operation of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly of the church. This assessment is based on the number of members reported last January. First Presbyterian of Greenville is asked to contribute \$42.00 per member in 2020. If you are able, you are encouraged to make an extra contribution to help meet this obligation. **Thank you** if you have already made your per capita contribution!



There will be no Women's Bible Study Group meeting in April. It will be rescheduled soon.

### LUNCH TIME BIBLE STUDY WILL MEET VIA ZOOM



Lunch Time Bible Studies will be on Thursdays through April, 2020. Anyone can join via Zoom. Use this link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/448740623>. If you have the Zoom app on your phone or tablet, you can join this meeting using this Meeting ID: 448 740 623.



*Congratulations to Allan Schewe and Elizabeth Jansen on their engagement. Allan is the son of Bill and Barb Schewe. Best wishes for their upcoming marriage!*



## Maundy Thursday Service

Details to be announced soon. Be sure to check your copy of the Weekly Update &/or bulletin announcements.



In an effort to make online giving even easier, we have integrated it with our church database and now you can give via the web AND text!

To give online visit our website: [www.fpcgreenville.net](http://www.fpcgreenville.net), click on giving. The giving link is at the bottom of the page or just go to [bit.ly/givegfpc](http://bit.ly/givegfpc).

To give via text: Text givegfpc \$\_\_\_\_ (insert amount) to 73256 to give to Offering using your text messaging. Standard text message rates do apply.



The mailing address for the Presbytery office effective April 15, 2020 is:

Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois  
60 Hawthorn Hollow  
Carbondale, IL 62903

Any financial items (donations, etc.) may be mailed to the Treasurer, Wade Meranda at P.O. Box 278, Hoopeston, Illinois 60942.