

# GOOD NEWS FROM GREAT RIVERS

November 30, 2009



## [PRESBYTERY OF GREAT RIVERS](#)

1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614

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## Mark Your Calendar

### Assembly Planning Committee

Wednesday, December 2  
11:00 Five Points,  
Washington  
11:30 - 1:30  
Washington Presbyterian  
Church

### Clergy Group

Thursday, December 3  
10:00 - 11:30  
PGR

### Interim Pastors Meet

Thurs., December 3  
11:30  
Washington Pres.,  
Washington

### Leadership Summit

Tuesday, December 29  
10:00 - 2:00  
PGR

### OFFICE HOURS

Shortened Due to  
Staff Vacations

Monday, December 29  
thru  
Wed., December 31

### OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday, December 31  
thru  
Friday, January 1

### OFFICE RE-OPENS

Monday, January 4

### Elder Training

Saturday, January 9

## General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

Here's how I spent my Sunday morning worship time this week. My three grandchildren (and one of their moms) were with me. The youngest and his mom made it through about 15 minutes. Then he fell asleep and she went to put him down for a nap. They made it back in time for the benediction. That left me with the two year old and three and a half year old through two "minutes for mission", the regular elements of worship, as well as communion. Now, these are children who go to church all the time and sit in worship. I also have been taught some of the tricks of the trade by their mom. For instance, the first bag of fruit snacks comes out fairly early. The juice cup comes out about half way through. Then, the "emergency" fruit snacks are for going into overtime--like we did this week. They both did very well, making only very small noises (in a sanctuary where there really are no other children after the children's message makes even those noises sound pretty loud, though!) Luckily, we were in a pew with enough room that my grandson could stretch out full-length. I thought he was about to go to sleep, but then I realized that he was looking at the stained glass windows and kind of telling himself a story.

I was reminded as I was watching him that this is the reason for "pictures" in the windows of churches. They were a way to communicate the stories of the faith with people who were not literate. Instead of asking people who cannot read to merely listen to the stories both of the Bible and of the history of the faith, stained glass windows were created not only for beauty but so that people could see Jesus holding the lamb, or the cross surrounded by lilies or windows full of pomegranates (a symbol of the fullness of life in Christ.)

Have you looked at the windows in the sanctuary where you usually worship lately? Have you ever tried to figure out exactly what some of the symbolism means? Do you know where to find the Biblical stories that are portrayed?

As you work on figuring out the answers to those questions, you might also ponder this one. If the people who designed and decided on and paid for such windows were deciding about a worship space today, what decisions might they make? If they were trying to teach the story of the faith to people for whom it is inaccessible in the usual ways, what ways might they adopt? The people who first used pictures in windows did not limit access to the faith only to those who could read, or who could understand Latin, or who could think only with the analytical parts of their brains. They decided to reach beyond those limitations. Does your

8:30 - 3:00  
First, Lewistown

Visioning Council

Thursday, January 14  
9:30 - 2:30  
PGR

Elder Training

Saturday, January 16  
8:30 - 3:00  
United, Woodhull

OFFICE CLOSED

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Birthday  
Monday, January 18

Administrative Council

Wednesday, January 20  
9:30 - 2:30  
PGR

Elder Training

Saturday, January 23  
8:30 - 3:00  
United, Peoria

Nominating Committee

Tuesday, January 26  
10:00 - 2:00  
PGR

COM

Tuesday, January 26  
10:00 - 3:00  
Northminster, Peoria

worship space or style make the faith accessible only to people with particular talents or characteristics? Are there ways that it could be more accessible?

As we enter the Advent season, you may see people in worship who have either never been there before or who have not been there for a long time. Are you making the experience one that will invite them into a celebration of the salvation that we have come to know for sure through Jesus Christ?

### We Prayed For You This Week

During our staff meetings each week, the presbytery staff prays for four of our churches. We are sharing those churches with you, so that you too can pray for them. How strong we all are through the power of prayer.

Adair, West Prairie Presbyterian Church  
Aledo, [College Avenue Presbyterian Church](#)  
Aledo, [Sunbeam United Presbyterian Church](#)  
Alexis, Norwood United Presbyterian Church

### Elder Training

Each training event will be held on a Saturdays from 8:30am - 3:00pm with lunch served at noon. **Registration is required** for the purpose of preparing the meal and providing training manuals. Registration is accomplished by contacting [Julie](#) at the presbytery office. Let Julie know how many will be attending and which event they prefer. If there are not at least ten registrations per event, cancellation is possible. We want to be good stewards of time and resources.

Please RSVP by the dates listed below.

January 9	RSVP before January 4	@ First Pres., Lewistown
January 16	RSVP before January 7	@ United, Woodhull
January 23	RSVP before January 14	@ United Pres., Peoria

### Pray For Our Farmers

Mud

Rain and soil love each other make the world go round.

Sometimes, just sometimes, our cup runs over and creates a problem.

Stuck! We say Stuck in the mud! Not a happy time...

A giant machine some 15 tons, 25 by 30 by 12, on giant wheels, six feet tall purring along so smoothly.

Slowing, slowing, finally stopping sinking deeper, deeper, deeper. Hit reverse! Back it out! Hope!

Ah! Won't go backward either! Think! Ponder! Do something quickly! Sitting is not an option!

Forward again! Give her the gun! Just get a little farther to solid ground.

Back and forth, back and forth, maybe sinking deeper.... Mud is flying from the wheels. Argh!

Thinking bout chains, long ones or a cable, a hundred feet, what to hook it on to help. Oh the ruts!  
Poor poor soil! To be so ripped asunder....

Harvester rescued back at the shop plastered with nice black muck. Power washer, going full blast  
now piles of mud lying about. Like clothes from a teenager piled higher and deeper another mess to  
deal with.

The corn's still there waiting for me waiting for a day of harvest when...a giant machine some 15  
tons, 25 by 30 by 12, on giant wheels six feet tall will purr along smoothly.

"By the sweat of your brow, you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you  
were taken'...

### Do You WANT Your Church to Grow?

SAVE THESE DATES.

April 23 & 24, 2010

[Click here](#) for more information and [Brochure](#)



### Montreat Conference Center

Montreat Conference Center has been hearing from congregations that would like to send youth to conferences at Montreat yet are challenged by the lack of an adult volunteer who is able to organize a trip and accompany youth. In response they will be pleased to offer the option of individual registration for two sessions of their 2010 youth conferences. Please share this information with your congregations.

Montreat Conference Center will provide adult leaders for each group of individually-registered youth (two adults per twelve youth.) Accommodations and meals will be in the Assembly Inn. A comprehensive registration fee will cover conference costs as well as room and board. Space has been reserved for groups of individually-registered conferees during our [first session \(June 6-12, 2010\)](#) and our [final session \(August 1-7, 2010.\)](#) From this link scroll down the page for the "2010 Youth Conference Registration Packet for INDIVIDUALS."

### Presbytery Night at the Ballpark

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Friday, June 11, 2010

If your choir would like to sing the National Anthem before the game, please contact [Julie](#).

### United Media Resource Center

*Have you signed up to receive the United Media Resource Center e-newsletters?*

If not, you really should!

Find out what new resources have been added to the collection.

There's no rental fee to borrow items; just the cost to mail items back to the center.

[Click here](#) to see previous e-newsletter issues and to sign up to receive upcoming issues.

### Don't let limited funds limit your ministry!

If you have problems signing up or have questions contact [Jill Stone](#) United Media Resource Center

director or call 217-529-2744.

## Community Carol Sing - 1850's Style

Christmas Melodies and Messages: A Community Carol Sing - 1850's Style  
Saturday, December 5, 2009, 6:00 p.m. | Prelude music begins at 5:45 p.m.  
- to be held at First Presbyterian Church, 321 South Seventh Street, Springfield

This Christmas season, travel back to the 1850s and join the Lincoln family for Christmas Melodies and Messages, a worship service and community carol sing at First Presbyterian Church. On Saturday, December 5 at 6:00 p.m., listen to the Prairie Aires, The Trombone Section, the Capital Chamber Singers, organist Rudolf Zuiderveld, and the First Presbyterian Church Sanctuary Choir, directed by Bernard Wiseman - as we lift the rafters with Christmas music from the past. The assembled community will also sing five seasonal hymns together. Rev. Dr. Clifford J. Hayes will portray the Rev. Dr. James Smith, who was the pastor of First Presbyterian Church during the 1850s. The Lincolns, portrayed by Fritz Klein and Linda Schneider, will greet visitors - and everyone is invited to attend in period costumes along with our musical guests. Special prelude music, provided by the Prairie Aires, will begin at 5:45 p.m. **There is no charge for the event, and all offerings collected will be given directly to the Salvation Army Tree of Lights campaign to benefit the poor of Sangamon County.** Following the service, join us for Mary Todd's White Cake, coffee and punch in the Commons.

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