



Image: Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield sustains damage to their sanctuary from a vehicle accident just before Christmas (see article below)

GOOD NEWS

from the

Presbytery of Great Rivers

We are called to share Christ's love by partnering in service,
uniting in worship, and risking in ministry.

January 3, 2020

Let Us Pray

In This Issue

Let Us Pray
PCUSA News



Every week during 2020, we offer up different church names so that we can pray for our entire Presbyterian community.

You are welcome to follow this calendar as you will! The full list can be found on our website under the Churches tab or by clicking [here](#).

This week on our prayer calendar. . .



Adair - West Prairie Presbyterian Church
West Prairie Presbyterian Church
4005 E 2000th St, Adair, IL 61411
[Facebook](#)

[Mark Your Calendar](#)
[Annual Stats](#)
[180 Days of Prayer](#)
[Get Connected](#)

Forward to a Friend



(This will send this week's newsletter as an email to a friend!)

For Headline News
Happening Around
the PC(USA),
[click here](#)



Mark Your Calendar

JANUARY

Administration Team Meeting

Tuesday, January 14
11 am - 4 pm
First Federated-LTC

Visioning Team Meeting

Thursday, January 16
10 am - 2 pm
First Federated-LTC

Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, January 22
10 am - 2 pm
First Federated-LTC

Office Closed

Martin Luther King JR Day
Monday, January 20

Committee on Ministry

Tuesday, January 28
10 am - 2 pm
First Federated-LTC

[Click here for the PGR Calendar](#)

Join Our List





Aledo - College Avenue Presbyterian Church

College Avenue Presbyterian Church
501 S. College Avenue, Aledo, IL 61231

[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)

Call for Prayer and Support, Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield

Friends in Christ,

Please see this message from Rev. Jaechul Kim, pastor of the Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield:

"Last Friday, on December 20, 2019, at approximately 2:05 PM, an elderly man was driving his vehicle when he experienced a medical emergency and suddenly crashed into our church chapel. Our church sustained heavy damage as the car broke through the church brick wall, destroying more than half of our chapel. We have closed off our chapel and we will temporarily be using our fellowship room for worship until the damages are repaired. We are grateful that no one got hurt and that our church is insured, but the repairs are expected to take several months and we are experiencing some difficulty...We ask for prayer for our church and comfort from the Lord for our congregation as we move forward."





We share relief and joy that no one was physically harmed in this incident! At this time, the insurance company is calculating how much they will be able to cover. But in the meantime, the church is in uncharted territory about what immediate expenses will arise and are unsure of what channels of aid are available to them. Follow-up contact with our national church partners has revealed that this exact kind of situation falls outside of the mandates of both Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Board of Pensions.

We are asking at this time if your local congregations would consider chipping in for immediate emergency relief in the form of a free will offering to help abate any immediate expenses and give the church more peace of mind to weather the unexpected challenges ahead of them. This would be a fantastic expression of our community and solidarity together as Presbyterians called to share in Christ's love by partnering in service.

The church's address is:

**Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield
2501 E. Sangamon Avenue
Springfield, IL 62702**

(It would be advisable to direct funds specifically to the church rather than the pastor so it is not counted as taxable income, subject line: emergency relief).

Let us keep Rev. Jaechul Kim and the congregation of the Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield in our prayers!

Annual Stats

It's Annual Statistics time and your packet is on the way!

Access to enter stats begins Friday, December 6, 2019 and ends February 20, 2020

FORMS

- Forms you can download and type in the information can be found on our website under the *Resources* tab. (www.greatriverspby.org/resources) They are the same ones as included in your packet.

COMMON ERRORS

- When logging in to enter stats, the most common errors when there is a problem are:
- Not putting the leading zero in the user name. The system is looking for a 5-digit user name.
- Leaving off the '!' at the end of the password. About 90% of the church passwords have a '!' at the end.
- Mixing up the capital letter I with the number 1. They look very similar in the online password report.
- Using an old password.

ENTERING DATA

- You can enter the data from the link on our website Home page, or type in the following:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/stats>

OR you can complete the enclosed 2019 annual report_SOC form and mail it to the presbytery office to be enter. Forms need to be in the office no later than February 18, 2020.

Stated Clerk invites Presbyterians to 180 days of prayer, leading up to the 224th General Assembly (2020)

LOUISVILLE

Beginning 12/29/19, and culminating on the opening day of the 224th General Assembly (2020) in Baltimore, current and former leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are joining in 180 Days of Prayer. The Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly of the PC(USA), says that the current Co-Moderators and Co-Moderators/Moderators of past General Assemblies, as well as other leaders within the denomination, are offering prayers.

In making this announcement, the Stated Clerk emphasizes that "daily prayer leading up to our denomination's biennial assembly is a reminder that General Assembly belongs to God, and not to us."

This cycle of prayer "reminds commissioners who are being called by their presbyteries that they will be making significant decisions about the future of our denomination. It also reminds us that members of congregations, as well as our ecumenical and interfaith partners attending the assembly, will be praying with and for us as we meet." In this call to prayer, all members of the church, from children through senior adults, are invited to consider our church's past, evaluate its present, and plot a prayerful course into God's future.



Nelson adds that "this cycle of prayer will invite the Holy Spirit's continued reign over our church, providing strength to make sometimes difficult decisions that are necessary at this particular time - calling the church to do 21st century ministry."

"The 224th General Assembly (2020) will gather in Baltimore, a city that has witnessed turmoil not unlike what we see in major metropolitan areas of our country. Around our country, people continue to be killed in our streets, individuals who go to school every day are unable to earn a high school diploma. Children born in poverty grow up impoverished and then must raise their own children in that same poverty. Immigrants at our borders see the glimmering lights of cities across the U.S. but are unable to escape violence in their own countries. Instead, they are demonized for their desire to find freedom and safety."

The Stated Clerk believes that the 224th General Assembly (2020) will be one to watch as a denomination. He urges those attending - commissioners and visitors alike - to "look out from themselves and see the need of every church on every corner." He encourages commissioners not to come just to cast votes, but to make a difference in the city of Baltimore.

Nelson invites all Presbyterians, whether commissioners to General Assembly or not, to join in this intentional cycle of prayer. "As we discuss the big issues that face us as a church, may our conversation be undergirded with prayer. I pray that we will do more than just vote, but that we will come with open hearts, open to God's spirit possibly changing our minds about the issues we consider."

Nelson concludes, "I hope that this General Assembly will be a time when we can come together not with a mindset of winning or losing, but with a realization that our decisions should be our discernment of what God wants us to do. I pray that every commissioner leaving the assembly believes that every decision may not have been what 'I' want, but that every decision will be what God wants."

The 180 Days of Prayer begins today and will conclude Saturday, June 20, 2020, the opening day of the 224th General Assembly (2020).

To learn more about the 180 Days of Prayer, [click here](#).

[Get Connected!](#)

Be sure to encourage your congregations, sessions, and even your church newsletter editorial staff and volunteers to be sure to sign up for our presbytery newsletter and follow our Facebook page so you don't miss out on what is going on in our community of churches!

Have you liked our "Presbytery of Great Rivers" Facebook page?



Have you signed up for our "Good News from Great Rivers" email newsletter?



Presbytery of Great Rivers, 3601 N Sheridan Rd, Peoria, IL 61604

[SafeUnsubscribe™ pparrish@greatriverspby.org](#)

[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by office@greatriverspby.org in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!