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Image:

Rev. Andy Gifford and Doug Ferrier of St. Luke Union Church in Bloomington share their puppet ministry with "Reginald," a regular part of the worship life at the St. Luke Union Church.

## 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 9, 2020

[Let Us Pray](#)

In This Issue

[Let Us Pray](#)



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



**Aledo - Sunbeam United Presbyterian Church**

Sunbeam United Presbyterian Church  
1865 40th Ave, Aledo, IL 61231  
Rev. Maura McGrath-Nagle  
Pat Armstrong, Admin Assistant  
William Harfst, Clerk of Session  
Norma Bemis, Treasurer  
[Facebook](#)

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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](#)



### **Alexis - Norwood United Presbyterian Church**

Norwood United Presbyterian Church  
2396 15th Avenue, Alexis, IL 61412  
CLP Gary Pullen  
Julie Olson, Clerk of Session  
[Facebook](#)

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*We welcome prayers for our Stated Clerk, Rev. Elissa Bailey, who suffered a slipping accident on the ice on Sunday that fractured the tibial plateau bone in her left knee (a similar accident to what occurs in professional football injuries). She is having surgery today (Wednesday), and will require a long recovery process, including six weeks of crutches and a wheelchair in which she will be unable to drive. Please keep her in prayer for a successful surgery, pain management, and minimal disruption!*



### **Annual Stats**

It's Annual Statistics time and everything you need is on our website. Just click [here!](#)

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

### **UPDATED SOC FORM!** **Click HERE.**

#### **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 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.

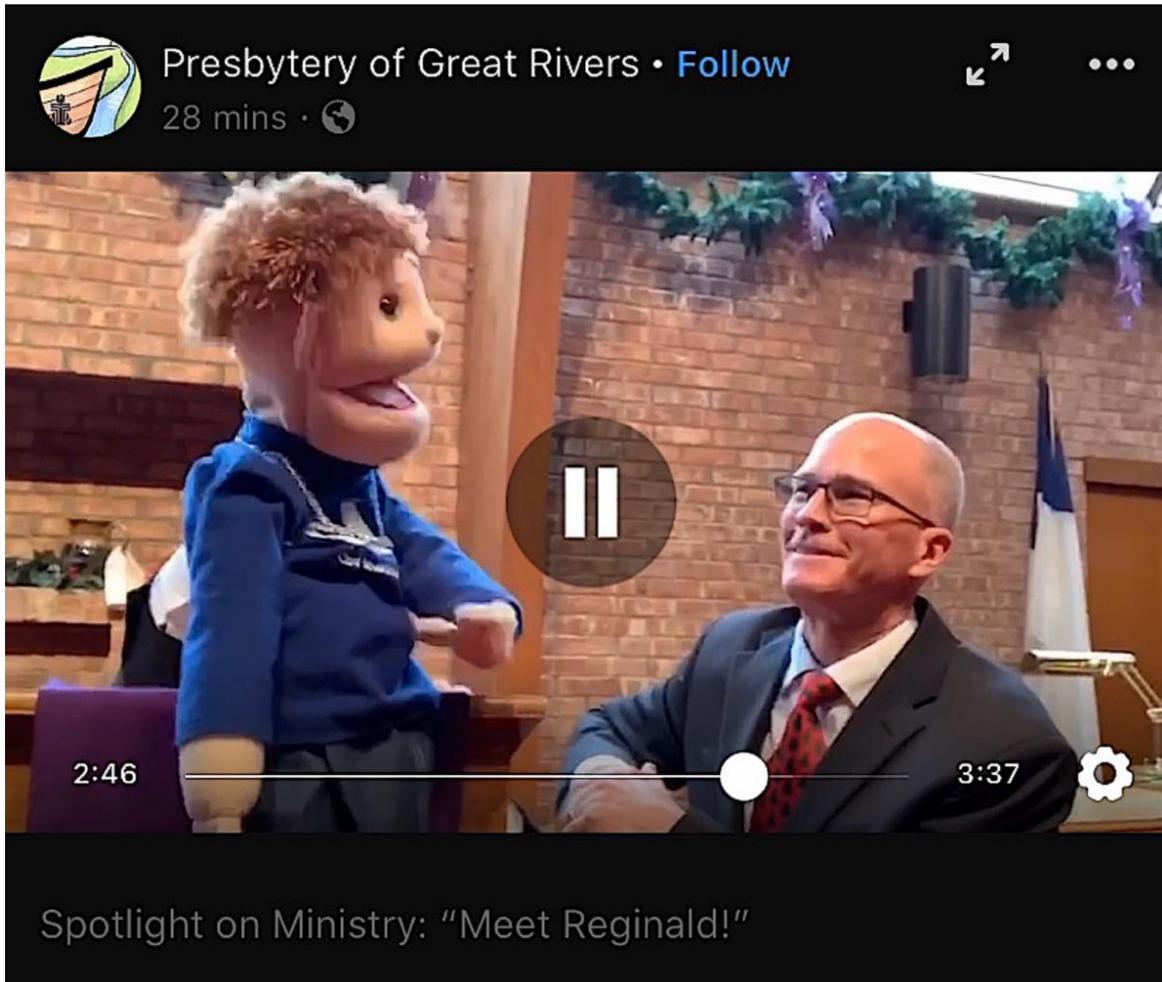
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### **Spotlight on Ministry: "Meet Reginald!"**

This short video is about the puppet ministry that has become a regular expression of proclaimed Word at the St. Luke Union Church in Bloomington, IL. Each Sunday, "Reginald" assists Pastor Andy Gifford and Doug Ferrier with discussing the lesson with the congregation. (Reginald may or may not have been declared an honorary member of Great Rivers Presbytery by the end of the video!)

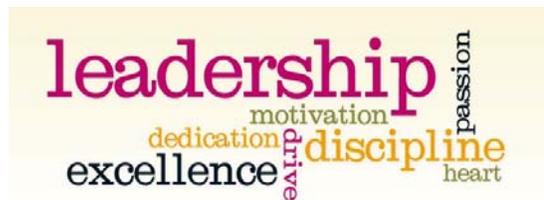
*Spotlight on Ministry videos are intended to highlight creative expressions of mission and ministry across the presbytery. What stories can be told of the unique forms of ministry your congregation is doing?*

[Click here for Youtube video link](#)  
[Click here for Facebook video link](#)



## 2020 Elder/Deacon Training

Congratulations for saying "yes" and accepting the Elder or Deacon position in your church. You heard the call to you from the Holy Spirit and you trusted Him to help you lead the way. Whether you have been an Elder or Deacon before or this is your first time, these are new times and God has a new vision for you as a leader in and for a congregation that is being challenged to find ways to speak the truth in love, promote peace, work for justice, and more.



Part of preparing to be ordained and installed is being trained in what is involved in serving a congregation as an Elder or Deacon in the PC(USA). The Presbytery of Great Rivers will be offering four Elder/Deacon Trainings, each held on a Saturday from 8:30 am-12:00 pm.

There will be plenty of opportunity for small group conversation along with games, laughter, serious reflection, and prayer.

The training will be taught by Rev. Richard Johnson, Honorably Retired Pastor of the Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Rev. Richard Johnson  
[rjohnson46@frontier.com](mailto:rjohnson46@frontier.com)  
309-337-2864

**PLEASE RSVP to Patti at [pparrish@greatriverspby.org](mailto:pparrish@greatriverspby.org) or 309-683-6890. Include name, email, cell, and church city/name.**

**February 8**

**Woodhull-United**

United Church of Woodhull  
150 West Third Avenue  
Woodhull, IL 61490

**February 22**

**Normal-First**

First Presbyterian Church  
2000 E College Ave  
Normal, IL 61761

**February 15**

**Macomb-First**

First Presbyterian Church  
400 E Carroll St  
Macomb, IL 61455

**February 29**

**Springfield-Third**

Third Presbyterian Church  
1030 N 7th St  
Springfield, IL 62702-3907

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**LUX Summer Theological Institute for Youth**

**Deadline for applications EXTENDED TO FEBRUARY 1, 2020**

**Lux Summer Theological Institute for Youth**  
**A New Earth: Thinking Theologically about Environmental Justice**  
**June 14-28, 2020**



**THE LUX SUMMER THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE FOR YOUTH is a two-week opportunity for high school students to engage pertinent topics in theological inquiry, learn new modes of worship and spiritual practice, participate in service, experience interfaith activities, and explore their vocation.**

**[APPLY](#)**  
**[MORE INFORMATION](#)**  
**[CONTACT](#)**



**LUX Summer Theological  
Institute for Youth**

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## **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!*

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## **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?



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

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