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Pictured: Worshippers sing praises to God at Ipava Presbyterian Church on January 5, 2020.

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 24, 2020

Let Us Pray

In This Issue

[Let Us Pray](#)
[PCUSA News](#)
[Mark Your Calendar](#)
[Article Headline](#)



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. . .



Biggsville - United Presbyterian Church

101 W Adams St., Biggsville, IL 61418

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

[We are now a Matthew 25 Presbytery!](#)
[Leadership Team Highlights](#)
[Analyzing & Understanding Systemic Racism Workshop](#)
[Commissioning Service](#)
[Elder/Deacon Training](#)
[Pastoral Notice](#)
[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

Committee on Ministry

Tuesday, January 28

10 am - 2 pm

First Federated-LTC

FEBRUARY

Elder/Deacon Training

Saturday, February 8

8:30 am - Noon

Woodhull United

Elder/Deacon Training

Saturday, February 15

8:30 am - Noon

??

Presbytery Assembly

Tuesday, February 18

9:30 am - 3 pm

Peoria-First Federated LTC



Bloomington - Second Presbyterian Church

404 N. Prairie Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

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

Last week on our prayer calendar. . .



Athens - Indian Point United Presbyterian Church

24562 Indian Point Ave., Athens, IL 62613

CLP Sandra Woodard

Doris Manley, Clerk of Session

Richard Dennis, Treasurer

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

Elder/Deacon Training

Saturday, February 22

8:30 am - Noon

Normal-First

Committee on Ministry

Tuesday, February 25

10 am - 3 pm

Peoria-First Federated LTC

Elder/Deacon Training

Saturday, February 29

8:30 am - Noon

Springfield-Third

[Click here for the PGR Calendar](#)

Join Our List



POAMN

The Winter 2020 Issue 59 of the
POAMN newsletter is
available! [Click here for Newsletter](#)



Bartonville - Trinity Presbyterian Church

4400 S Airport Rd, Bartonville, IL 61607

Rev. Steve Barch

Shirley Dixon, Administrative Assistant

Connie Smith, Clerk of Session

Alan Knollenberg, Treasurer

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)

Announcement: "We Are Now A Matthew 25 Presbytery!"

At our January 22, 2020 Leadership Team meeting, we declared that **the Presbytery of Great Rivers is a Matthew 25 presbytery**, joining 27 other PC(USA) presbyteries, and the fourth of eight in our synod! We voted by virtue of the four and counting churches that have made similar commitments: you are our churches, and our churches are the presbytery---we are the presbytery!



As Rev. Chris Roseland from the Presbyterian Mission Agency introduced during our November presbytery assembly in Jacksonville, the Matthew 25 Initiative is the current missional focus of the PC(USA). It involves making a commitment of conviction to any or all of three specific areas, either as a celebration of present action and/or an expression of ongoing mission:

- Focus #1: **Building congregational vitality** by challenging people and congregations to deepen their faith and get actively and joyfully engaged with their community and the world. *What does this mean?* [Click HERE](#)
- Focus #2: **Dismantling structural racism** by advocating and acting to break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice and oppression of people of color. *What does this entail?* [Click HERE](#)
- Focus #3: **Eradicating systemic poverty** by working to change laws, policies, plans and structures in our society that perpetuate economic exploitation of people who are poor. *How do we do that?* [Click HERE](#)



We currently have three--no, FOUR--congregations that have made the commitment to be a Matthew 25 church. They join 23--~~SCRATCH THAT, THIRTY!!~~--other congregations in our synod that comprise of all the PC(USA) churches of Illinois and Indiana.

*Bartonville | Trinity Presbyterian Church ***NEWLY COMMITTED****

Macomb | First Presbyterian Church

Lewistown | First Presbyterian Church

Clinton | Clinton Presbyterian Church

We have received personal emails from the President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett thanking our churches for this commitment!

**WHO
WILL BECOME
OUR NEXT
MATTHEW 25 CHURCH?**



How do we become a Matthew 25 church? It's easy! Simply pledging to become a Matthew 25 church and letting us know is the first step. [Click HERE](#), where you can enter the name of your church and click which of the three you are committed to.

[Click HERE](#) for more resources.

The goal of the national church is to be a clearinghouse of resources, training materials, devotional and preaching aids, success stories, curricula and more - everything to help you strengthen relationships, transform your church, and bring alive your commitment to "serve the least of these" in your community and around the world.

[Leadership Team Highlights, January 2020](#)
[\(including new available grant updates\)](#)

The regular meeting of the Leadership Team met on January 22 from 10-2 pm at the Life Together Center in Peoria. The Leadership Team serves "for the purpose [of] coordinating the work of the presbytery committees to promote partnership among the presbytery," "plan Presbytery meetings," tend to "the governance structure of the Presbytery," "coordinat[e] disposition of received external grants," and "in conjunction with the Administration Team and Visioning Team, regular

review of the functional relationship between the Presbytery's structure and its mission" (Bylaws Article VII).

January Highlights:

- Declared the Presbytery of Great Rivers is effectively a "Matthew 25" presbytery (*see above article*)
- Received the report and recommendations of a subcommittee that explored making (re)designations for the remaining external grant funds given to us by the Synod of Lincoln Trails, largely from the 2014 sale of their synod office building.



- **Approved the following external grant designations:**

- **Grants of up to \$300 for PGR pastors and elders to attend capacity-building anti-racism trainings and conferences, up to \$600 per church, with priority given to those who have not received a grant (examples: *Crossroads Anti-racism Training workshops, White Privilege Conference (has 15% PCUSA discount) or regional White Privilege Symposiums, Colnspire (PCUSA), etc.*)**
- **Grants for up to a limit of six sessions of professional coaching for PGR pastors serving congregations (including elders serving commissions), through directory of The Presbyterian Coach Network, up to \$1,000.**
- **We will continue to cover the tuition and shared room expense for pastors & commissioned pastors wishing to obtain Week 1 and/or Week 2 of Transitional Pastor Training from PCUSA connected training sites (M.A.L.T. in St. Louis is closest).**
- Coordinated details on the upcoming "Discussion on Visioning for our Presbytery" that will be the keynote focus on our February 18th Presbytery Assembly in Peoria, led by our Lead Presbyter for Transformation.
- Invited Molly Casteel, Manager for Equity & Representation, from the Office of General Assembly to be a keynote speaker at our August 29, 2020 Presbytery Assembly. She will be assisting us in the creation of a committee on representation (or whatever that committee will be called in our presbytery).
- Tended to other housekeeping details to make sure the missional business of the presbytery is run smoothly and effectively.

Analyzing and Understanding Systemic Racism Workshop

The workshop provides an in-depth look at race and racism in the United States. Individuals and institutional leaders responsible for diversity and social justice will appreciate the exploration of the historical development of systemic racism and its continuing effects in our society. Participants will examine ongoing realities of racism including the identity-shaping power racism has on People of Color and White people; explore racism's individual, institutional and cultural manifestations; and consider the link between racism and other forms of oppression. A strategic methodology to dismantle racism will be introduced, focusing specifically on applying principles of organizing and social/cultural change.



SCoDR workshops are designed to reveal how systemic racism plays a role in often unseen ways, creating barriers to true multicultural diversity and racial justice. We'll help you struggle with the tough questions and begin to equip you with the skills to dismantle racism and transform your institution.

Registration includes workshop materials, snacks on Thursday evening and continental breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday.

When

Thursday, **February 6**, 2020 at 6:00 PM
To
Saturday, **February 8**, 2020 at 4:30 PM

Where

First Presbyterian Church
321 S. Seventh Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Registration

Early Bird prices are \$300.00 for individual registrants and \$280.00 for two or more registrants from the same institution. Early bird prices **end at midnight on January 31st**. Individual Registration: \$325.00. Two or more registrants from the same organization: \$305.00 [Click HERE to register](#)

Contact

Kelly Hurst
Springfield Coalition on Dismantling Racism
217-341-7483
kellyhurst@crossroadsantiracism.org

Commissioning Service!

This Sunday, we celebrate the commissioning of Dan Colvin to the position of Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned Lay Pastor at the Ipava Presbyterian Church and Scotland Trinity Presbyterian Church! The service will be at Scotland Trinity in Macomb this Sunday, 1/26/20 at 3:30PM. Let us celebrate!



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
309-337-2864

**PLEASE RSVP to Patti at 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 15

Macomb-First

First Presbyterian Church
400 E Carroll St
Macomb, IL 61455

February 22

Normal-First

First Presbyterian Church
2000 E College Ave
Normal, IL 61761

February 29

Springfield-Third

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

Pastoral Notice from Our Friends to the South

A message from our friends from Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois:

"The presbytery has received word that the Reverend Nancy Scott (Honorably Retired) who served at congregations in Rantoul, Pontiac, and Jacksonville, Illinois died on Monday, January 6.

There were two memorial services witnessing to the resurrection and celebrating Nancy's life. The first...at the McKinley Memorial Presbyterian Church in Champaign on Saturday (January 11th) at 2:00pm. The second...at Clark Lindsey in Champaign on Monday (January 13th) at 3:00pm.



Please continue to keep Nancy's family in your prayers as they celebrate her life.

May the peace of Christ be with you,

The Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois Leadership Team and Staff"

Let us keep the community of Jacksonville and the family of Rev. Scott in our prayers.

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

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