



And may the good Lord bless you and keep you and make God's face to shine upon you and

Image: Still frame from Easter Worship offered by the national leadership of the PC(USA). Link to the worship can still be found by clicking [HERE](#).

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.*

April 16, 2020

Consistent with federal guidelines, Illinois state authorities have issued shelter-in-place orders until May. All presbyters are urged to exercise all available protective measures to protect against contracting or transmitting the disease by staying at home as much as possible. If you or your congregation are experiencing any hardship, please let us know how we might be able to help. Resource links and updates can be found on our [website](#) and on the presbytery's [Facebook page](#).

Please continue to check
<https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>
for new resource updates!

[Let Us Pray](#)

In This Issue

[Let Us Pray](#)
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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. . .



Farmington - First
 First Presbyterian Church
 83 N Cone St, Farmington, IL 61531
 Rev. Andrew Sonneborn
 Ciara Ulm, Admin Assistant
 Pat Welker, Clerk of Session
 Cindy Daniels, Treasurer
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)



Galesburg - First
 First Presbyterian Church
 101 N Prairie St, Galesburg, IL 61401
 Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle
 Lois Billingsley, Admin Assistant
 Colleen Culbertson, Clerk of Session
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)

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(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

APRIL

Committee on Ministry

Tuesday, April 28
 10 am - 3 pm
 Peoria-First Federated LTC

Administrative Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 29
 11 am - 4 pm
 Peoria-First Federated LTC

Leadership Team Meeting

Thursday, April 30
 10 am - 2 pm
 Peoria-First Federated LTC
 Springfield-Third

[Click here for the PGR Calendar](#)



[A Message of Appreciation for Pastors](#)

Here is a 75 second personal video message from Rev. Sara Dingman, Synod Executive of the Lincoln Trails (all PC(USA) churches in Illinois and Indiana), specifically for pastors.

Click [HERE](#) for video.



[New Resources on End-of-Life Pastoral Care during a Pandemic](#)

The PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship has developed resources for prayer at the time of death in situations where patients are quarantined, pastors or loved ones are not permitted to be present, and medical personnel may be seeking to offer spiritual care.



Two documents are provided, each in two versions: *Prayer at the Time of Death* ([booklet](#), [larger print](#)) and *Comforting the Bereaved* ([booklet](#), [larger print](#)).

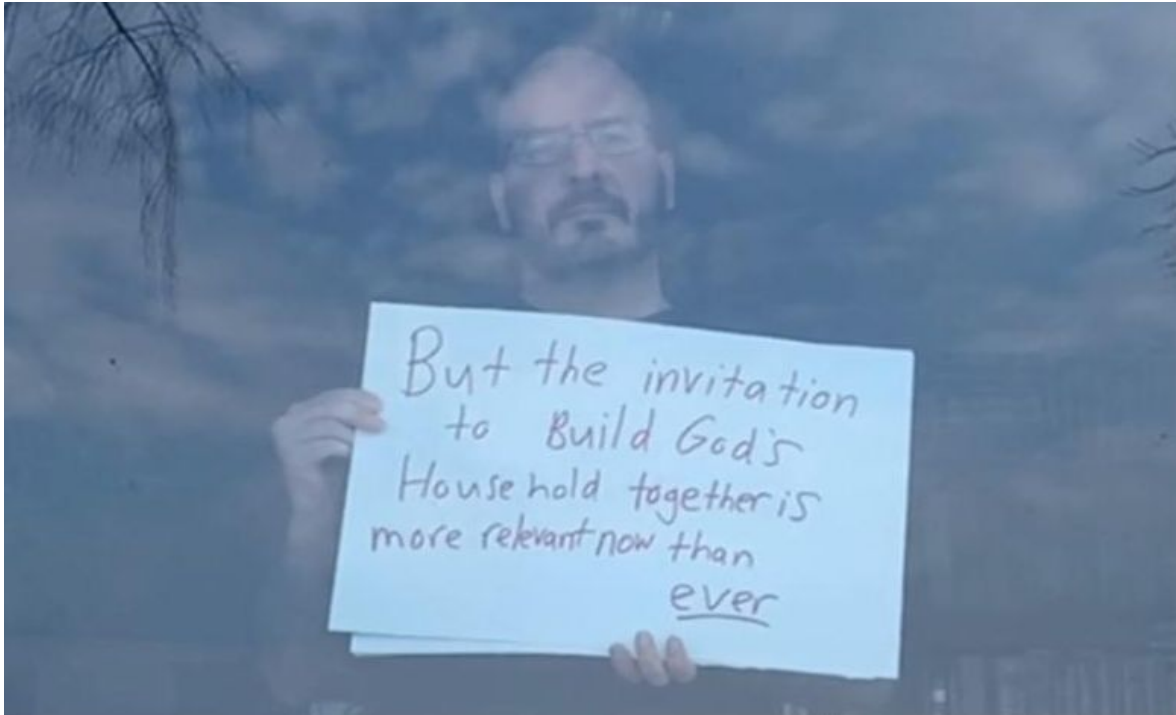
These materials are based on the Book of Common Worship © 2018. Adapted with permission of Westminster John Knox Press. All rights reserved. - April 13, 2020

[One Great Hour of Sharing Sixty Second Sermon \(Updated\)](#)

Back in January, members of Great Rivers Presbytery assisted Ryan Landino in creating a "Sixty Second Sermon" style video for the PC(USA) Office of Special Offerings for the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering, which supports vulnerable communities especially in time of hardship and disaster. In light of the pandemic, Ryan was asked to create a new intro and outro for the video!

Click [HERE](#) for video.

Click [HERE](#) for information on the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering.



Festival of Homiletics 2020 Offered for Free by Livestream

In case you have not heard, the Festival of Homiletics this year is live streaming for free for anyone who wants to be a part of it in May (there is a \$75 fee to have it available on demand). This is an incredibly valuable continuing ed opportunity for free. Click here for details:

<https://www.festivalofhomiletics.com/>

**The Festival is now LIVE
ONLINE...and FREE!**

Join us May 18-22, 2020

RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Weekly Check-In for Those Leading Shelter-in-Place Ministry



It's been (checks watch) GOING ON SIX Sundays since we began sheltering-in-place. How are you doing? What challenges are emerging? How we can be in prayer together? This will be in informal space to check in for our weekly care and share.

"Check-in on Shelter-in-Place Ministry" Thursday, April 23, 1:00 pm

Click on this link to be taken to the meeting (smartphone users will need to download application first, desktop computers just follow the link and give permission to run)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95505823415>

ZOOM Teleconferencing Grants (NEW) and Coaching Grants

On April 1, 2020, the Leadership Team approved grants for churches for a one year subscription to ZOOM for teleconferencing. You may be reimbursed monthly for as long you need it up to a year, or be reimbursed for a single year.

Reimbursement Process:

1. For those purchasing a 1 year subscription:

- a. Pay the cost of the subscription
- b. Print off the invoice that shows it has been paid
- c. Black out any credit card number that might have been used and scan the invoice.
- d. Email the invoice and who the check should be issued to:

Bill Strawbridge, Treasurer at: bnc.sbridge@gmail.com

***include a mailing address for where the check should be sent.**

- e. A check will be written to the individual or church as indicated.
- f. Copies of all documentation will be stored in the locked bookkeeper's office pending her return.

2. For those purchasing it by the month, checks will be issued quarterly following the same process as above. Retain monthly invoices, scan three of them at a time, and email them per the above instructions.

Questions: call Bill Strawbridge at 309 258-4015

Also, a friendly reminder that on January 22, 2020, the Leadership Team approved grants of up to a limit of six sessions of professional coaching for Great Rivers Presbytery pastors serving congregations (including elders serving commissions, through the directory of the Presbyterian Coach Network, up to \$1,000. Information on coaching and a directory of coaches can be found by clicking [HERE](#). The process for reimbursement will be the same as above.

Both of these are resources are available to help you navigate ministry during this pandemic crisis.

Looking for Alternative, Online Worship?

Here are several possibilities for connecting to different worship spaces around the presbytery. This is a listing of the last Sunday's offerings of different churches providing worship. Please check the presbytery's Facebook page (click [HERE](#)) for most up-to-date listing with direct links.

- Second Pres Bloomington, Rev. Trey Haddon, Rev. Elissa Bailey, 10am, streaming "drive-in-worship service" online, secondpres.com.
- St Luke Union Church, Bloomington, Rev. Andy Gifford, 10:30am on [Facebook](#) live.
- Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church, Rev. Sarah Iliff-McGill, 9:30am, via www.buffalohartpc.com
- Chatham Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jim Reitz, by newsletter and email, to access, email jareitz@chathampresbyterian.com.
- First Presbyterian Church, Coal Valley and Beulah, Rev. Tim Snart, worship posted on Youtube https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCiqgUcXCqN_ftlk5EP8Odeg
- First Presbyterian Church of Delavan, Rev. Jean Sparks, found on their webpage firstpresdelavan.org or directly at <http://firstpresdelavan.org/virtual-worship>.
- First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood, Rev. Marla Bauler, worship led by Zoom (link can be obtained by pastor), then posted afterwards to [Facebook](#).
- First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, Rev. Andy Sonneborn, 10:30am by [Facebook](#) live.
- First Presbyterian Church Galesburg, Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle, 10am by [Facebook](#) live
- First Presbyterian Church Geneseo Rev. Tim Doty, 10:30 a.m. streaming brief worship service of Scripture, meditation and prayer to [Facebook](#) live.
- First Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, IL, Rev. Jonathan Warren, 10am by [Facebook](#) live.
- First United Presbyterian Church of Leroy, Rev. Annie McMillan, recorded Youtube videos of their services posted later on their [Facebook](#) page.
- First Presbyterian Church of Lincoln, Illinois, Rev. Adam Quine, 10:00am by [Facebook](#) live (older recorded sermons also on church website)
- Sugar Tree Grove United Presbyterian Church, Faith United Presbyterian Church, Monmouth, and Monmouth College collaborating on joint 10:30am Sunday worship service, posted to Youtube: <https://m.youtube.com/user/monmouthcollege>
- New Windsor Presbyterian Church, Rev. Mark Bedford, worship videos and links shared by [Facebook](#)
- First Presbyterian Church of Normal IL, Rev. Matt Wilcox, 8:30am and 11am by livestream and saved upon ending: <https://livestream.com/firstpresnormal>

- The Norwood Presbyterian Church, Commissioned Pastor Gary Denise Pullen, 10:30am on [Facebook](#) live, on his personal page.
- United Presbyterian Church of Peoria, Rev. Debra Avery, 10 a.m.
 - their [Facebook](#) page
 - YouTube from any smartphone, computer, or tablet: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAf9XQ9MUHNGaXdQQRSk6yQ>
- First Federated Church of Peoria, Rev. Frosty Krummel, look for streaming and video on their [Facebook](#)
- Westminster Presbyterian Church - Peoria Rev. Denise Clark-Jones, 10am, streaming online <https://westminsterpeoria.org/>
- Central Presbyterian Church, Petersburg, Commissioned Pastor Stephanie McCullough, worship posted on website <https://www.central-pres.org/worship>
- Gloria Dei Presbyterian Church RI, in Rock Island, Rev. Drew Nagle, 10:30am, by [Facebook](#) live, and posted afterwards.
- Good Shepherd, Rock Island, Rev. James Benson, sermons posted on website on Sundays, www.goodshepherdpres.org
- South Park Presbyterian Church, Rev. Blake Severson, worship shared by YouTube, https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCWRIYrkt6ZkaejzWVAj_yDQ
- First Presbyterian Church of Springfield, Illinois, Rev. Susan Phillips, 10:30 via Zoom, click this link: <https://zoom.us/j/395770581>
- Hope Presbyterian Church, Springfield, Rev. Chuck Goodman, 9:30am by [Facebook](#) live
- [Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield](#) Rev. Jaechul Kim, streaming by Youtube live (Korean language) [Facebook](#) page.
- Third-Presbyterian Church of Springfield, worship recorded and posted later on Sunday to [Facebook](#).
- Westminster Presbyterian Church of Springfield, IL, Rev. Blythe Kieffer, Rev. Trajan McGill, Rev. Christian Choi, 10am worship streamed online, www.wpcspi.org
- United Church of Woodhull, Rev. Cheyanna Losey, recorded Youtube videos of their services posted on [Facebook](#) page.

Here is a link to the lectionary readings for today:

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/.../revised-co.../2020/3/15/>

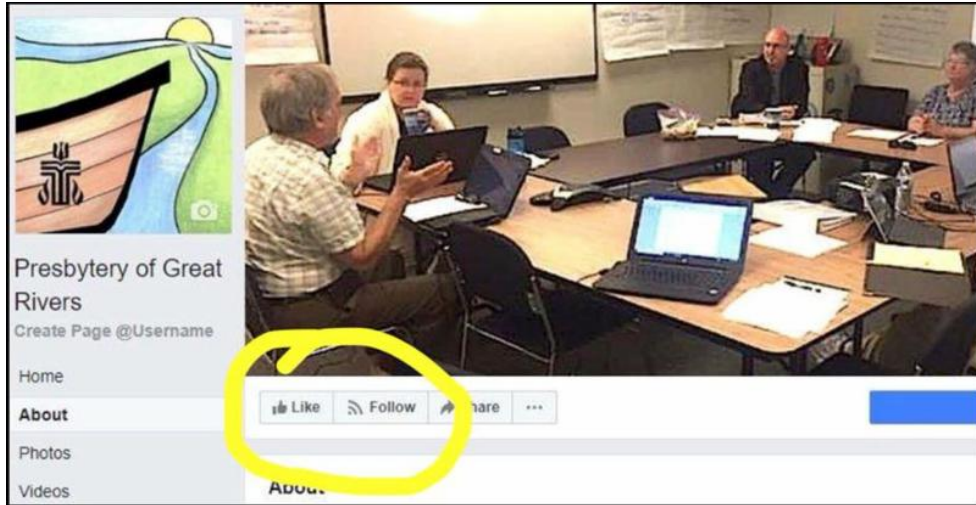
FRIENDLY REMINDER TO NOT FORGET TO MAKE SPACE FOR THE SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF GIVING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS!

Get Connected!

There are three primary ways we as a presbytery are able to keep in touch with new resources and information during the pandemic: our weekly newsletter which goes out Thursday or Friday, our Facebook page, and our website. Please make sure you are 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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