



Image above: Rev. Cindy Kolhmann, Co-Moderator of the 223th General Assembly, visits our June 2nd assembly to share remarks and assist in the commission of our delegates to the 224th General Assembly

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.*

June 26, 2020

As of today, the governor declared that we have moved into Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (read more by clicking [HERE](#).) It continues to be the recommendation of the presbytery that you be safe and wise as you fulfill your mission during this pandemic. For an official statement on guidance from the presbytery, please see the [5/19 Statement on COVID-19](#) from the Leadership Team. For the most up-to-date resources on worship during this pandemic, please see <https://www.pcusa.org/covid19/>. If you or your congregation are experiencing any hardship as we endure this pandemic, please let us know how we might be able to help.

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Great Rivers](#)

Let Us Pray



Mt. Sterling, Church of Christ

Mt. Sterling Presbyterian Church of Christ
101 E North St, Mt Sterling, IL 62353
CLP Richard Young
Dale Kill, Clerk of Session
Heather Miller, Treasurer
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)



Nauvoo, First

First Presbyterian Church
190 North Page Street, Nauvoo, IL 62354
CLP Mark Anderson
Barbara Schafer, Clerk of Session
Don Schafer, Treasurer
[Webpage](#)
[Facebook](#)

First Virtual Presbytery Assembly, June 2nd Highlights

We had our first successful virtual assembly earlier this month, and we wish to thank you who contributed to empower the ministry of our community of churches! No fewer than twelve volunteers made up a team of people ensured that this great experiment could run as smoothly as possible! Thank you to all who participated!



Here are the highlights:

- We had over a hundred commissioners present in this space, the first time we ever met completely virtually, which also made this one of our best attended presbytery assembly in quite some time.
- Because of your cooperation with our intake process, our space was safely protected against outside intruders and Zoom-bombers.
- We were able to hear the wonderful remarks and Q&A from our special surprise guest Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly! See a Facebook video post of her recorded presentation by [CLICKING HERE!](#)
- Sermon by Rev. Ryan Landino, Lead Presbyter for Transformation, "Following An Off-Road God": Mid-Pandemic Reflections, which included a blessing for "off-road ministry" done during the pandemic. [CLICK HERE](#) for Facebook page link, and [CLICK HERE](#) for Youtube link. **YOU HAVE PERMISSION TO USE THIS SERMON IN WORSHIP. A FLASHDRIVE CAN BE SENT TO GREAT RIVERS PASTORS UPON REQUEST.**

- Commissioning of delegates to the 224th General Assembly: *Penny Frame, Chuck Goodman, Diane Luddington, and Maura McGrath Nagle*. Ryan Landino presented a gift of silly puddy to be mailed to them later, as reminder to stay flexible, even you feel stretched while events reshape beyond our expectations.
- Provided a time of discipleship, where commissioners divided into breakout rooms to share, *Where you are experiencing God during this pandemic?*
- An Administrative Commission was approved for the United Church of Greenview to help them manage conflict and the direction of their ministry.
- Committees strengthened by new nominations to Admin Team and Committee on Ministry. The Administrative Commission to help complete the ministry of the Nauvoo church was also strengthened by the approval of an additional member.
- Specific term limits for elders approved to be extended for Sunbeam and Ipava churches.
- Sarah Dobson, member at First Presbyterian Church of Jacksonville and teacher at the Illinois School for the Deaf provided a video tutorial on how to lead the Passing of the Peace from safe physical distancing in American Sign Language. Facebook video can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#). You can find the Youtube link by [CLICKING HERE](#).



VIRTUAL 224th GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAPPENING NOW

Watch the livestream on the 224th GA website by [CLICKING HERE](#)
or on the Facebook Spirit of GA page by [CLICKING HERE](#).

How will this work?

Committee members have a couple of days—with intentional community-building as well as official proceedings—to get to know one another in the process of looking carefully at their business and making

recommendations to the full assembly. The process includes the opportunity to refine proposals and consider the merits of various proposals on the same topic. The full assembly subsequently votes on committee recommendations, rather than on the overtures, reports, and commissioners' resolutions as submitted.

Because of the limits of the online setting, business is not being referred to committees in this assembly; all items will be considered directly by the whole General Assembly without the benefit of committee discussion and discernment. This format necessarily restricts the amount of business that can be processed faithfully. If any two commissioners, simply by being recognized to make and second a motion, could propose a new item of business that the assembly would then be required to debate and act upon, the amount of time required could be significant, with little initial discernment of which items merit attention by the body. Every piece of General Assembly business is important! But not all important items need General Assembly action in order to have their goals accomplished.

If you are viewing the livestream, English speakers may be wondering why the Moderator sometimes seems to proceed so slowly. Spanish and Korean speakers are listening for simultaneous interpretation in order to understand what's going on, and while our interpreters are fast, instantaneous is obviously impossible. Some delay is required in order for our whole community to participate fully.

Let us please keep our commissioners, Maura McGrath Nagle, Diane Luddington, Penny Frame, and Chuck Goodman in your prayers!

A Statement from the Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation

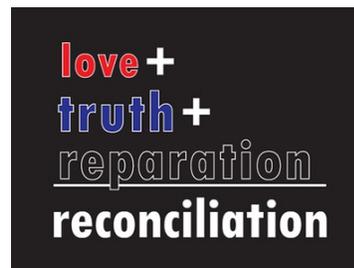
Excerpt: "...The PC(USA) Special Committee on Racism Truth and Reconciliation calls for justice for those who have been and continue to be impacted and injured by the unjust structures of racism and oppression.

We call for our denomination and society to commit to engaging in the work and practice of eliminating racism.

We call the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to a season of repentance for its complicity in the horrific history and unjust treatment of people of color, which continues to this day.

We call for white people to recognize their privilege in society and engage in the work of eliminating racism and racist acts against people of color..."

READ ENTIRE STATEMENT BY [CLICKING HERE](#)



Guest Preaching Links from our Neighbors from the Synod of Mid-America

In the spirit of encouraging rest and team work as we lead God's people through this pandemic, here is a way to get an available guest preaching link for the Scriptures assigned to June 28, from the Synod of Mid-America. Please contact Landon Whitsett at landon@synodma.org for more information.

Scripture: *Genesis 22:1-4; Romans 6:12-14*

Title: "Brought Back From Death to Life"

Themes: *Sacrifice, our bodies as living sacrifice, work for justice and peace, God transforming the world toward goodness, overcoming the power of sin*

Direct Video Download:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1gJoZaU7himMRYLXyYA3sm3l03VjfUR99/view?usp=sharing>

Direct Audio Download:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ndpd_plsykkhQiiEQbd4YC1ZAKnOV3Uo/view?usp=sharing

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/NCfsHC1tDT0>

Transcript: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Xa6fj2gwU9Fh4xFiout-XRt2U5C0xUSW/view?usp=sharing>

Preacher: Rev. Brian Ellison, Stated Clerk, Synod of Mid-America

You can sign up for the sermon links at: <http://synodma.org/join-our-mailing-list>

UPDATES ON CONTINUING EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

Stewardship Kaleidoscope 2020:

Due to the ongoing impacts on health and limitations affecting travel the Stewardship Kaleidoscope planning committee has made the difficult decision to postpone this year's conference. While we are very disappointed that we will not be able to be together in person in September, we are planning to share important stewardship resources, fellowship, and support virtually. Details about our online offering will be coming soon, but in the meantime mark your calendar for three Tuesdays in the fall, September 22nd, 29th, and October 6th. We will be virtually together from 11:30 - 1:30 eastern on each of those days, and can't wait to share more soon. If you have already paid for registration please contact Robert Hay at info@stewardshipkaleidoscope.org and indicate if you would like a refund, to transfer your registration to 2021, or apply a portion to this year's virtual gathering. We pray that you are in good health and strong spirit, and look forward to being together again soon.

Lombard Mennonite Peace Center Offerings

The Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's offering for *Mediation Skills Training Institute*, *Clergy Clinic for Church Leaders*, and single-day events (*Conflict Transformation Skills*, *Healthy Congregations*, and *Leadership and Anxiety in the Church*) will be offered ONLINE on your preferred electronic device in the comfort of your home or office. We will offer four sessions of *Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders* this year between August and November on the following weeks: August 3-7, August 31-September 4, October 5-9, and November 16-20, 2020. Early-birds registrants can receive a **\$200 discount**. To learn more, please consult this [MSTI brochure](#). To register online for any of our events, go to: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/producer/720852>. With questions or concerns, please contact our office at 630-627-0507 or Admin@LMPeaceCenter.org.

Covenant Gathering 2020

Covenant Gathering will be online this year, in the form of "A Taste of Covenant Gathering". Click on the webpage for details and registration by [CLICKING HERE](#). Rev. Jimmie Hawkins from the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness will be a special keynote speaker, and Rev. Ryan Landino will leading a class on Spiritual Practices.

Looking for Alternative, Online Worship? (PLEASE LET US KNOW IF ANYTHING HAS CHANGED!)

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 let us know if there have been any changes so we can keep our list updated!

- Alexis-Norwood Presbyterian Church, Commissioned Pastor Gary Denise Pullen, 10:30 am on [Facebook](#) live, on his personal page.

- Bloomington-Second Presbyterian Church, Rev. Trey Haddon, Rev. Elissa Bailey, 10 am, streaming "drive-in-worship service" online, secondpres.com.
- Bloomington-St Luke Union Church, Rev. Andy Gifford, 10:30 am on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/) live.
- Buffalo Hart-Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church, Rev. Sarah Iliff-McGill, 9:30 am, via www.buffalohartpc.com
- Carlinville-Federated Church, [Carlinville Federated](http://www.carlinvillefederated.com) offers video worship available at www.federatedchurch.com. The service is posted late Saturday afternoon and available throughout the following week.
- Chatham-Chatham Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jim Reitz, by newsletter and email, to access, email jareitz@chathampresbyterian.com
- Coal Valley-First Presbyterian Church, Coal Valley and Beulah, Rev. Tim Snart, worship posted on YouTube https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCiqgUcXCqN_ftlk5EP8Odeg
- Delavan-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jean Sparks, found on their webpage firstpresdelavan.org or directly at <http://firstpresdelavan.org/virtual-worship>.
- East Moline- Presbyterian Church is posting pre-recorded services on YouTube and can be found here www.youtube.com/channel/UCo0q4ViGTm1-qHYv02Ubbqw
- Elmwood-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Marla Bauler, worship led by Zoom (link can be obtained by pastor), then posted afterwards to [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/).
- Farmington-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Andy Sonneborn, 10:30 am by [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/) live.
- Galesburg-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle, 10 am by [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/) live
- Geneseo-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Tim Doty, 10:30 a.m. streaming brief worship service of Scripture, meditation and prayer to [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/) live
- Jacksonville-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jonathan Warren, 10 am by [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/) live.
- Leroy-First United Presbyterian Church, Rev. Annie McMillan, recorded YouTube videos of their services posted later on their [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/) page.
- Lincoln-First Presbyterian Church of Lincoln, Rev. Adam Quine, 10:00 am by [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/) live (older recorded sermons also on church website)
- Monmouth-Sugar Tree Grove United Presbyterian Church, Faith United Presbyterian Church, Monmouth, and Monmouth College collaborating on joint 10:30 am Sunday worship service, posted to Youtube: <https://m.youtube.com/user/monmouthcollege>
- Macomb-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Erin Marth, 10 am, Zooming online worship services (upcoming services posted weekly at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/firstpresmacomb/>).
- New Windsor-New Windsor Presbyterian Church, Rev. Mark Bedford, worship videos and links shared by [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/)
- Normal-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Matt Wilcox, 10:00 am by livestream and saved upon ending: <https://livestream.com/firstpresnormal>
- Peoria-First Federated Church, Rev. Frosty Krummel, look for streaming and video on their [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/)
- Peoria-United Presbyterian Church, Rev. Debra Avery, 10 a.m.
 - their [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/) page

- YouTube from any smartphone, computer, or tablet: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAf9XQ9MUHNGaXdQQRSk6yQ>
- Peoria-Westminster Presbyterian - Peoria Rev. Denise Clark-Jones, 10 am, streaming online <https://westminsterpeoria.org/>
- Petersburg-Central Presbyterian Church, Commissioned Pastor Stephanie McCullough, worship posted on website <https://www.central-pres.org/worship>
- Reynolds-Hamlet Perryton is posting pre-recorded services since Easter weekend. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJY95CjdOLr4Vs1bzK0SX3g>
- Rio-Rio Presbyterian Church, Rio (and Sunbeam Presbyterian Church of Aledo), Rev. Maura McGrath-Nagle, 9:00 am by [Facebook](#) live.
- Rock Island-Gloria Dei Presbyterian Church, Rev. Drew Nagle, 10:30 am, by [Facebook](#) live, and posted afterwards.
- Rock Island-Good Shepherd, Rev. James Benson, sermons posted on website on Sundays, www.goodshepherdpres.org
- Rock Island-South Park Presbyterian Church, Rev. Blake Severson, worship shared by YouTube, https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCWRIYrkt6ZkaejzWVAj_yDQ
- Springfield-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Susan Phillips, www.LincolnsChurch.org has links for Sunday 10:30 live worship and Wednesday 5:30 service.
- Springfield-Hope Presbyterian Church, Rev. Chuck Goodman, 9:30 am by [Facebook](#) live
- Springfield-Korean United Presbyterian Church of Springfield Rev. Jaechul Kim, streaming by YouTube live (Korean language) [Facebook](#) page.
- Springfield-Third-Presbyterian Church, worship recorded and posted later on Sunday to [Facebook](#).
- Springfield-Westminster Presbyterian Church, Rev. Blythe Kieffer, Rev. Trajan McGill, Rev. Christian Choi, 10 am worship streamed online, www.wpcspi.org
- Woodhull-United Church, Rev. Cheyanna Losey, is still posting services on YouTube and will continue them for sure into August. YouTube videos of their services posted on [Facebook](#) page.

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

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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