



Image: A shot from a short film Ryan Landino is making on Spiritual Practices, from his virtual class for the Covenant Gathering next week.

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.*

July 10, 2020

The governor has 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.

[Let Us Pray](#)



Normal, First

First Presbyterian Church
2000 E College Ave, Normal, IL 61761
Rev. Matt Wilcox
Anne Lunt, Admin Assistant
Zachary Kirkton, Admin Assistant
Lynn Litwiller, Clerk of Session
Sandy Theile, Financial Secretary
Shelia Melzer, Treasurer
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)

Normal, New Covenant

New Covenant Community Church
210 W Mulberry St, Normal, IL 61761
Rev. Robert Ryder
Rev. Susan Ryder
Sandy Stewart, Admin Assistant
Caroline Fox-Anvick, Clerk of Session
Scott Flack, Treasurer
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)

Another Great Rivers Congregation Joins Matthew 25 Movement!

We have just received word from the Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, President & Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency that Westminster Presbyterian Church of Springfield has declared that they are now a "Matthew 25 congregation!"

Congratulations Westminster Springfield, and we look forward to hearing stories how you are living into this vision!



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 six---no, *SEVEN*---congregations that have made the commitment to be a Matthew 25 church in our presbytery. Our Presbytery of Great Rivers is also one of 4 of the 8 presbyteries in our synod to declare that we are a Matthew 25 mid-council.

(NEWLY COMMITTED!) Springfield | Westminster Presbyterian Church

Peoria | First Federated Church

Springfield | Hope Presbyterian Church

Bartonville | Trinity Presbyterian Church

Clinton | Clinton Presbyterian Church

Lewistown | First Presbyterian Church

Macomb | First Presbyterian Church

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

(I see you thinking about it over there...)

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.

Illinois Presbyterian Home Looking for Executive Director

The Illinois Presbyterian Home in Springfield is seeking candidates for the position of Executive Director. If you or someone you know might have interest and meet the qualification shown below, please contact Michael Orr at 217-546-6274 or mikeorr1@comcast.net.



Qualifications

- In addition to knowledge and skills in healthcare, the sheltered care home executive director should also have business experience and should be knowledgeable on planning, budgeting and finance and personnel management.

- **Must be a licensed nursing home administrator.**
- Required to possess good verbal and written skills in communication so as to easily direct activities along with a good leadership skill.
- Bachelor's degree is essential. Advanced degree preferred.
- Several years' work experience in health management and sheltered care administration preferred.

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

In the spirit of encouraging rest and teamwork 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 July 26, 2020, from our next door neighbor the Synod of Mid-America. Please contact Landon Whitsitt at landon@synodma.org for more information.

Title: "The Kingdom of God is like..."

Scripture: *Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52*

Preacher: The Rev. Landon Whitsitt, Synod Executive, Synod of Mid-America

Themes: *God's reign, evangelism*

Direct Video Download:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YhO28OT7NzJQxZVH6ho3nbgUOYPcQF0d/view?usp=sharing>

Direct Audio Download:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iXmqMHEkn1U1eDWvz7DitzXcvy_8cjOc/view?usp=sharing

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

Transcript: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UPD9fouQ-xwIAaL30tFb1DHXIKn7Dm5b/view?usp=sharing>

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](#) live.
- Buffalo Hart-Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church, Rev. Sarah Iliff-McGill, 9:30 am, via www.buffalohartpc.com
- Carlinville-Federated Church, [Carlinville Federated](#) 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](#).
- Farmington-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Andy Sonneborn, 10:30 am by [Facebook](#) live.
- Galesburg-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Ann Elyse Van Winkle, 10 am by [Facebook](#) live

- Geneseo-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Tim Doty, 10:30 a.m. streaming brief worship service of Scripture, meditation and prayer to [Facebook](#) live
- Jacksonville-First Presbyterian Church, Rev. Jonathan Warren, 10 am by [Facebook](#) live.
- Leroy-First United Presbyterian Church, Rev. Annie McMillan, recorded YouTube videos of their services posted later on their [Facebook](#) page.
- Lincoln-First Presbyterian Church of Lincoln, Rev. Adam Quine, 10:00 am by [Facebook](#) 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](#)
- 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](#)
- Peoria-United Presbyterian Church, Rev. Debra Avery, 10 a.m.
 - their [Facebook](#) 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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