



Image: On August 3rd, the community of Lincoln dedicates its new "Hate is Not Welcome Here" billboard for Logan County, in response to rising organized hate activity in the area. Courtesy of Rev. Adam Quine. [Click Here](#) to see fundraiser that supports the sign.

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.*

August 7, 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. Please note that

all presbytery committees and assemblies will be virtual for the rest of 2020. 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.

[PCUSA News](#)

[Synod of Lincoln Trails](#)

[Board of Pensions](#)

[PGR Calendar](#)

[Presbytery of Great Rivers](#)

Prayer Request 



With Heartfelt Sympathy



Etta Mae Park, 76, of Tremont, passed away at 6:15 pm Monday, March 3, 2020 at her home. Etta was an accountant at Great Rivers Presbyterian Church in Peoria for 25 years.

Cremation has been accorded. A private family graveside service will be at Prairie Rest Cemetery in Delavan. A celebration of life will be at a later date. There will be no visitation. Davis-Oswald Funeral Home in Tremont is handling the arrangements

Memorials may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

To express condolences online, visit:
www.davisoswaldfh.com



Perry, Perry
Perry Presbyterian Church
107 W North, Perry, IL 62362
Mr. John Nelson



Petersburg, Central
Central Presbyterian Church
210 W Douglas Ave, Petersburg, IL 62675
CLP Stephanie McCullough
Lesa Bergeron, Admin Assistant

Elmer Bradbury, Admin Assistant, Clerk of
Session
Joan Drage, Treasurer

Marilyn Montgomery, Clerk of Session
Brian Satorius, Treasurer
[Website](#)
[Facebook](#)



BLACK LIVES MATTER

PCUSA Hosts Presbyterian Week of Action, 8/24-8/30:

The Presbyterian Mission Agency is hosting a Presbyterian Week of Action for August 24-30, 2020. This endeavor is structured to provide a public witness that facilitates education, visibility, and action that reinforces our PC(USA) statements and policy around the support of eradicating racism and acknowledging that God loves all Black lives. By joining together as national staff and the greater church, we hope to provide faithful leadership in the area of justice, love, and equality within our denomination and communities. Please receive this letter from our partners in the Office of General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

Communities of faith and people across the nation are joining the movement to confront the sins of racism and white supremacy. They are coming together to demand that Black lives of every age, gender, gender identity and sexuality are no longer ignored, dismissed or pushed to the margins of our society. They are protesting the unlawful and unjust killings of innocent Black individuals.

The [Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#) affirms that all Black Lives Matter.

The [Presbyterian Week of Action, Aug. 24–30](#), is an endeavor to provide a public witness that facilitates education, visibility and action that reinforces our PC(USA) statements and policy that support eradicating racism and acknowledge that God loves all Black lives.

In "[Responding to the Sin of Racism and a Call to Action](#)," the 224th General Assembly (2020) declared, "*Our country's most important institutions have been built to sustain white privilege, to protect white lives and white property at the expense of our siblings of color. The church through ignorance, denial, and in some cases deliberate action, has participated in this injustice. We have been slow to face the reality of systemic racism. We have been slow to acknowledge the pain of our fellow Presbyterians, of our fellow Christians, of our fellow citizens, and of those who have come to America for a better life, whose value has been judged by the color of their skin.*" The Assembly called the Church to "*actively confront and dismantle systemic racism in our church*

and in society at large, and to work for a more just, merciful, and peaceful country that allows all of God's children to flourish.”

Join with us, the national office and PC(USA) churches across the nation, the week of Aug. 24–30. Events will include a town hall, film screening, a rally and a day of service to our communities. Act now by planning to participate in the [daily schedule of events and share the news with our digital toolkit](#).

While we recognize and honor the good work toward justice that has been ongoing in our denomination, we also realize that in this time it is not enough. Though the Presbyterian Week of Action hopes to meet the immediacy of our current context, it will not be the culmination of our work as a denomination, for we have a long way to go to eradicate systemic racism and white supremacy. Nonetheless, this week will empower us, challenge us and enliven the faith we follow.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information.

[CLICK HERE](#) for news article explaining more.

Week of Action Overview:

■ **Monday 8/24: Global Day of Solidarity**

This event will focus on how we uplift the solidarity expressed through our global partners.

■ **Tuesday 8/25: Town Hall**

In this event, moderator(s) will engage guests in and outside the church around critical issues of the movement for social justice.

■ **Wednesday 8/26: Liberation Bible Study and Twitterstorm**

The Liberation Bible Study will lay a Biblical foundation for justice work and more specifically why Black lives matter. It will also discuss how our denomination supports this and how we can improve. The Twitterstorm will be our first event completely on social media. The goal of a twitterstorm is to engage a variety of people around how the church can be a presence within the movement.

■ **Thursday 8/27: BLACKOUT Day and COVID-19 Memorial**

In joining with Presbyterian Women, who already wear black on Thursdays to honor the murdered and missing Black and Indigenous women, we encourage the entire denomination to wear black in solidarity with the struggle for Black lives and encourage the support of Black-owned business, which is in line with our policy. The COVID-19 Memorial will be a uniquely sacred moment to pause and remember those we have lost during the pandemic.

■ **Friday 8/28: Film Screening and Young Adult Roundtable**

The Film Screening is an opportunity to watch and engage with a film that highlights the racial disparity in our nation. The Young Adult Roundtable is an opportunity to have a conversation with and see how young people are engaging and processing faith in the midst of racial and health pandemics.

■ **Saturday 8/29: Rally/ Public Action**

Engage the entire denomination in a multi-city rally that calls attention and action to the racial injustice happening in our country. This will include various speakers, music, poets, etc.

■ **Sunday 8/30: Day of Service**

This day encourages congregations and mid-councils to forgo worship service or in addition to it, engage in some type of service outside the walls.



Antiracism Training Opportunity: Antiracism Practices for Faithful Leadership

Please receive this announcement from NEXT Church, in partnership with Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training

[CLICK HERE](#) for registration info!

Antiracist Practices for Faithful Leadership

- The goal of this cohort is to equip participants with an awareness of our own complicity with white supremacy, and expand our tools to embody antiracist leadership.
- Whether your leadership has been centered in racial justice for decades or you are just yearning to take steps to embody antiracist values in your ministry, this cohort will offer a space to learn, explore, and practice bringing racial justice to the core of your leadership.
- Participants will learn alongside a cohort of peers, receive both group and individual coaching from a multi-racial bench of trained coaches, and receive antiracist capacity building from Jessica Vazquez Torres, National Program Director at Crossroads Antiracism Organizing & Training.
- Each monthly session will include a 30 minute didactic led by Jessica Vazquez Torres followed by 60 minutes in small groups facilitated by a coaching team. Additionally, every participant will receive 5 individual coaching sessions to further deepen their antiracist leadership practices.

Coaches: MaryAnn McKibben Dana, Lakesha Bradshaw
Easter, LeAnn Hodges, Yena Hwang, Shani McIlwain, Alex McNeill

Teacher: Jessica Vazquez Torres

Date: 2nd Thursdays, beginning September 10th

First Class: 6:15-7:45 pm Eastern (September 10th only)

Time: 2:00-3:30 pm Eastern (starting in October)

* Each monthly session (6 total) will include a 30 minute didactic led by Jessica Vazquez Torres followed by 60 minutes in small groups facilitated by a coaching team. Additionally, every participant will receive 5 individual coaching sessions to further deepen their anti-racist leadership practices.

Cost: \$550 per person

**Grant Opportunity: The Presbytery of Great Rivers offers grants for programs specifically addressing anti-racism capacity-building. We will offer individuals \$300, and up to \$600 per church, for pastors and elders, with priority given to those who have not received this particular grant before.*

On Baptism and Ordination in a Time of Pandemic

Since it doesn't seem that it will be safe to go back to in-person worship in most places anytime soon, OGA and the PMA's Office of Theology and Worship have worked together to provide thoughts on baptism and ordination/installation for this unusual season.



[CLICK HERE](#) for July 2020 resource paper.

Image: Example of how to do contactless laying of the hands. Elders and ministers from around the presbytery were invited to trace their own hands on paper. Using those patterns, fabric hands were cut and attached to the cape, and ordinands received a card with the names of those who contributed their "hands."



The Matthew 25 Curriculum for the PC(USA): Accessible theological education and training for the people of God

Johnson C. Smith Theological Seminary and Stony Point Center have been invited by the Presbyterian Mission Agency to work together to develop an online and in-person curriculum to support the Matthew 25 Vision. Courses will center on the three focuses of the vision:

- nurturing vital congregations and communities of faith,
- dismantling structural racism, and
- working to end systemic poverty.

The first course is “Awakening to Structural Racism” and will be offered on **Monday evenings from August 10 through 31, 2020**. [Learn more about these classes and the Matthew 25 Vision.](#)

"Rethinking Evangelism"—A Virtual Conference

The department of Theology, Formation, and Evangelism is inviting you and your churches to the Rethinking Evangelism Conference, **October 12–14, 2020**. This virtual event will feature Ralph Watkins (Columbia Theological Seminary), Mark Ramsey (Macedonia Ministries), and others for an event you won't want to miss. Come as a church group or as an individual to explore what it means to practice evangelism in these transformative times.

[CLICK HERE](#) for Conference Details.

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, to previous sermons, <https://www.youtube.com/c/secondpres/videos> And this is the link to the sermon podcasts <https://open.spotify.com/show/5uetJTPbJqjRNn6bxu51Da>
- Bloomington-St Luke Union Church, Rev. Andy Gifford, 10:30 am on [Facebook](#) live.
- Buffalo Hart-Buffalo Hart Presbyterian Church, 9:30 am, via www.buffalohartpc.com

- Carlinville-Federated Church, [Carlinville Federated](http://www.federatedchurch.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, virtual worship at 10:30 on Sundays, and also evening prayer M-F at 7:00 p.m. Both on our [facebook](https://www.facebook.com) page, [First Presbyterian Church Geneseo](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchGeneseo).
- 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, returned to the Sanctuary for our normal Sunday morning Worship Service at 10:15am. We are continuing through at least the end of the year with our radio broadcast on Sundays from 9-9:30am. This is broadcast on Sportsradio1450 (1450 AM or 92.3 FM).
- 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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