



Image: Keynote Speaker Rev. Molly Casteel from the Office of General Assembly leads our virtual 8/29 Presbytery Assembly in a discussion of the value for spaces addressing accessibility, representation, and equity in our presbytery.

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.*

September 4, 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](#).) See the home page of the [presbytery webpage](#) for links to previously shared statements and resources on Covid-19. 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.



May we keep in prayer the following churches on our rotating prayer list: [Click here](#) for the 2020 Church List



Rock Island, Good Shepherd

Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church
2312 18th Ave, Rock Island, IL 61201

Rev. James Benson

Cathy Schrupp, Admin Assistant

Kathy S. Davis, Clerk of Session

Stewart Adams, Treasurer

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

Rock Island, South Park

South Park Presbyterian Church
1501 30th St, Rock Island, IL 61201

Rev. Blake Severson

Donna Reedy, Admin Assistant

Virginia McKee, Treasurer

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

Message from the Office:

"As many of you know, I had a total hip replacement on July 20. I'm doing great but still on part medical leave. Have another 2 weeks of working 4 hours a day 8 am - noon with a few restrictions. Hoping to be back full time in the presbytery office by September 21!"

Patti Parrish, Executive Administrative Assistant



YOUR VOICE MOVES US FORWARD

SAVE THE DATE: VIRTUAL TOWN HALLS DISCUSSIONS

Let us shape the future of the presbytery together! As promised, here are town hall opportunities to continue our Visioning Discussions that will forge what our presbytery will look like in the coming years. We will name together what we have learned from the pandemic, as well as document our aspirational values of who we want to be and where we want to go. Your contributions are necessary to these discussions!

You are Invited to join in a

Town Hall Discussion (Pick one)

To continue the conversation
on being the Presbytery of Great Rivers!

#1: Wednesday, September 16th

5:30 p.m. ~ 6:45 p.m.

[Please register here](#)

#2: Thursday, September 17th

9:30 a.m. ~ 10:45 a.m.

[Please register here](#)

#3: Saturday, September 19th

10:00 a.m. ~ 11:15 a.m.

[Please register here](#)

Please register in advance to get the link. The link will take you a registration form which will provide you a Zoom link by email. All members of Great Rivers Presbytery are invited to participate!



GRIEVING COVID-RELATED DEATH OF AN ELDER IN OUR PRESBYTERY

(Left image: Roger Stancliff plays bagpipes for Geneseo, First worship on November 5, 2017)

We are saddened by the death of ruling elder Roger Stancliff, First Presbyterian Church of Geneseo, due to complications from COVID-19. Roger was actively serving on session at First

*Presbyterian Church of Geneseo, and was part of the discernment body working to keep others safe by suspending worship gathering through this pandemic. Roger was also active in the community as a beloved first responder/firefighter. He had been having heart complications since winter that made him vulnerable to the disease. An outdoor, limited seating, socially distanced memorial service will be held **tomorrow 10:00 a.m. Saturday, September 5th at Lake Park in Andover, IL.** Our entire Presbytery of Great Rivers grieves with the Andover/Geneseo community. Fortunately his wife Karen, another elder at First Presbyterian Geneseo, is recovering from her confirmed case of the coronavirus.*

At this time, there are no other suspected or confirmed cases at the First Presbyterian Church of Geneseo. May we all lift up the Stancliff household and their loved ones in prayer. With permission, shared here are the impassioned words of Roger and Karen's daughter Mary Essman [expressed by social media on August 27](#), as a call to treat this pandemic seriously to keep people like Roger safe:

"Over the last few days I've been trying to think of the right words to say this without getting on my soapbox, but at this point I just keep coming back to the same message.

Last Friday my parents were diagnosed with Covid. On Monday my daughter was as well. And today I sit and wait for my results as well as my son's as I watch my temperature climb on the thermometer. If you think Covid isn't real or you think it's just the flu or a cold and that people are making it out to be more than it is, it's not. It's a terrible, horrible thing that no one should ever have to endure. I understand that some people may have mild cases. I understand that not everyone will die. But what I can tell you is I spent the last few days on a zoom call trying to help my dad rally and finally saying my goodbyes because I couldn't be there with him. I couldn't hold his hand, kiss his cheek or give him one last hug. He died in a room full of strangers and I was on a zoom call with him. I zoom for work. I zoom with friends for meetings. I do not want to ever have to zoom to say my goodbyes to my father, but I did. And neither should you. He didn't die from a cold or the flu. He died from covid.

He literally was sitting on the couch one minute with a mild cough and no fever and was being airlifted to Iowa City the next in critical condition as he couldn't breathe.

My dad was a teacher and he was always looking for the lesson in things. I know he'd agree with me when I say the following.

Stop being selfish. You may not care if you get the virus. You may think you can beat it. You probably assume it's not too bad. I've heard these things a lot from people. Fine. But think about all of the people you may come into contact with. Can they beat it? Will their case be as bad as yours? Will their family possibly have to say goodbye to them over a zoom call? This isn't about you. It's about everyone else you meet every day, and even the people you don't know who contact something you may have touched earlier. The people who have more stories to make. Don't make your decision be a decision for them that they wouldn't have chosen. My dad wore his mask and sanitized his hands because he cared. But he was protecting you more than himself.

So please, please, please! Wear your mask. Wear it over your nose. I know it sucks. But if you don't like the one you have try another or stay home. It's like wearing a seatbelt. We all do it. We don't love them. But they help us save lives.

Wash your hands. Seriously. Wash them. Sanitize them. Keep them clean!!

And finally, stay six feet apart. Not two feet. Not three feet. Six feet people, six feet.

I am not saying this all to be political and I will not debate with people - this has now become very personal to me. And it sucks. Coronavirus sucks. So go forward, be careful, and be safe. I love my dad and will always miss him. 😞💔😞"

May we all keep the Stancliff family, household, loved ones, and the church of First Presbyterian Geneseo in our love and prayers! Click [HERE](#) for obituary.



SPOTLIGHT ON DISCIPLESHIP: SERVING ON COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

[CLICK HERE](#) for a video testimonial from the chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Rev. Matt Wilcox, on the impact of the serving on our presbytery through this committee, which was shared at the last presbytery assembly.

If you are interested in serving in some way, please contact Gary Terpstra at g.terpstra@comcast.net for which committee service opportunities are available now!

See this page for other testimonials from across other leaders within our presbytery: <http://www.greatriverspby.org/pgr-committees.html>



Part of the Stewardship Navigator

Planned Giving Program

A simple online tool

Visit StewardshipNavigator.org to get started!



FROM THE PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION: Introducing the Planned Giving Program!

A tool to help grow or begin your planned giving program

The Presbyterian Foundation is pleased to announce a new feature added to the Stewardship Navigator - **the Planned Giving Program**. A planned giving program provides members of your congregation the opportunity to create a lasting legacy and make an impact in ways they may have never thought possible.

With this newly added tool, you will now be able to create a Legacy Giving Program for your congregation that encourages giving through charitable bequests, permanent endowment funds, and other estate planning tools, enabling your members to share God's material gifts with the church and help fund mission for generations to come. This planned giving solution requires little time, no expertise, and is offered at no cost to your church.

The Planned Giving Program features:

- Tools and resources to build your program
- The Planned Giving Guidebook
- A built-in Planned Giving Website builder
- Create your own planned giving brochure
- and much more

[Download PDF Information Sheet](#)

[Get started now! Stewardship Navigator](#)

From Lombard Mennonite Peace Center: Clergy Clinic and Advanced Clergy Clinic

Upcoming sessions for 2020-2021

The tuition discount deadline is less than two weeks away (September 14), so we would like to reach as many people as possible in time for them to take advantage of the savings (tuition increases by \$200 on Sep. 15).

For those of you eligible to register for Advanced Clergy Clinic — that is, you have already taken our Clergy Clinic, which is a prerequisite — we invite you to look over our [ACC 2020-2021 brochure](#). Once again, we have an outstanding trio of special presenters: Rev. Tim Schrag, Dr. Kathleen Smith, and Dr. Daniel Papero.

For those of you who know someone who you believe might benefit from taking our Clergy Clinic, we invite you to share with them this [CC 2020-2021 brochure](#).

Grace and peace,
Sarah Howell
LMPC Assistant Director

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Lombard, IL 60148
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www.LMPeaceCenter.org

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](#) 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, virtual worship at 10:30 on Sundays, and also evening prayer M-F at 7:00 p.m. Both on our [facebook](#) page, [First Presbyterian Church Geneseo](#).
- 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, 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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