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## 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 10, 2018

### Let Us Pray

### In This Issue

[Let Us Pray](#)  
[Mark Your Calendar](#)  
[Sixty Second Sermon](#)  
[Board of Pensions](#)  
[Clerk of Session Training](#)  
[Small Bites](#)  
[Article Headline](#)  
[Assembly Meeting](#)  
[Your Per Capita/Shared Mission](#)



[Mission Fair!](#)  
[Get Connected](#)

Forward to a Friend



(This will send this week's newsletter as an email to a friend!)

This week, we invite you to pray for . . .



**Rock Island - South Park Presbyterian Church**

Rev. Blake Severson  
1501 30th St  
Rock Island, IL 61201  
Donna Reedy, Admin Assistant  
Sherrill Mixer, Clerk of Session  
Judy Yates, Treasurer

[Rock Island-South Park Facebook Page](#)

[Rock Island-South Park Website](#)



**Rushville - First Presbyterian Church**

301 W Washington St  
Rushville, IL 62681  
Carrie Johnson, Admin Assistant  
Sundy Moore, Clerk of Session

[Rushville-First Facebook Page](#)

**Mark Your Calendar**

**SEPTEMBER**

**Interfaith Group**

Wednesday, September 12  
11 am - 1 pm  
Presbytery office

**Nominating Committee**

Saturday September 15  
9 am - Noon  
Delavan-First

**Ordination & Installation**

Sunday, September 16 @ 4 PM  
CPM Candidate Paul Stroup  
Clinton-Clinton Presbyterian Church

**Assembly Meeting**

Saturday, September 22  
10 am - 3 pm  
Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL

**COM Meeting**

Tuesday, September 25  
10 am - 3 pm  
Peoria-First Federated LTC

**CPM Meeting**

Thursday, September 27  
10 am  
Presbytery Office

**Office Closed**

September 14 & 28

[Click here for the PGR Calendar](#)

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## **A "Sixty Second Sermon" from Your Lead Presbyter:**

One of the life-giving aspects of my preaching ministry has been the development of Sixty Second Sermon videos. Not only has it given me a way to explicate Scripture in creative, accessible, and often humorous ways, but social media provides access to an instant audience for the larger community to engage, comment, share, and connect with Scripture-based content.

The September 2nd lectionary passage from Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23, was a challenge from the scribes and the Pharisees against Jesus concerning the kinds of things that make us clean or dirty. Jesus uses lowbrow humor to point out that it's not what goes INTO the body but what goes OUT of the body that makes one unclean, and then lifts up how the purity of our lives is based on the cleanliness (or filth) of our hearts. Do our hearts make space for welcome, or are we considering others dirty so we can reject them from our community? This video is a condensed version of the message I preached at the Washington Presbyterian Church on 9/2/18, and shared on Facebook and YouTube social media platforms. I present it here for your inspiration and delight.

~Rev. Ryan Landino, Lead Presbyter for Transformation of Great Rivers Presbytery

[Click here to view youtube video!](#)

Follow or like "Pastor Ryan's Sixty Second Sermons" on [Facebook!](#)



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## **Employers: Submit Your Agreement for 2018 Today!**



Employers, why wait until October 13 to submit your Employer Agreement for 2018?

As you gear up for fall - and all of the activities that the new season brings - why not check one item off your list and submit your Employer Agreement through Benefits Connect?

Every employer must log on to Benefits Connect by the deadline to review, update, and submit the Employer Agreement for 2018. But, why wait until October 13, when you can submit your Agreement today? We have added some features to make selecting benefits easier:

- You can select different employer contribution amounts for PPO and EPO medical options in menu options.
- Employer contributions are displayed with two decimal places to align more easily with budgeted dollar amounts.
- We have added a reminder message that returns you to any part of the Agreement where you may have forgotten to select benefits for a benefit group.

The benefits selections employers submit in their Agreements will determine the coverage employees will see, and be able to elect, on Benefits Connect during annual enrollment October 30-November 17, 2017. Employers who have questions about the benefits available to employees or the benefits selection process may find more information in this [90-second video](#), in the [expanded pensions.org section](#), or by contacting the Board at 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN).

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## **2018 Clerk of Session Training**

**RSVP** to Patti at [pparrish@greatriverspby.org](mailto:pparrish@greatriverspby.org) or call 309-683-6980 by Wednesday, Sept 12 to attend the Macomb Clerk of Session Training on a Saturday from 9:00am to 12:00pm.



**SEPT 15**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**400 E Carroll St**  
**Macomb, IL 61455-2354**  
**309-833-3333**

**OCT 13**  
Third Presbyterian Church  
1030 N 7th St  
Springfield, IL 62702-3907  
217-528-0457

**SEPT 29**  
First Presbyterian Church  
2000 E College Ave  
Normal, IL 61761-2294  
309-452-4459

**OCT 20**  
United Church of Woodhull  
150 West Third Avenue  
Woodhull, IL 61490  
309-334-2533

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## **Small Bites with Bryce**

# SMALL BITES WITH BRYCE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2018  
1 P.M.  
UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
2400 W NORTHMOOR RD,  
PEORIA, IL 61614

Enjoy appetizers and desserts while mingling with guests from across Great Rivers Presbytery for a "bite sized" look at mission work from a biblical perspective lead by Bryce Wiebe, Manager of Special Offerings for the Presbyterian Mission Agency in Louisville, KY.

Please RSVP by Monday, September 16 to [upc@unitedpc.org](mailto:upc@unitedpc.org) or 309-693-2002.



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## 2018 Women in Ministry Conference

**October 15-16**

**WOMEN AT THE CROSSROADS: FINDING RESILIENCE IN MINISTRY THROUGH COACHING AND CONNECTION**

How do women stay creative and resilient within the challenges of church leadership? Through reflection, discussion, and small-group coaching, our Chicago Women in Ministry (WIM) Conference at Fourth Presbyterian Church will focus on opportunities for change and growth in the daily work of ministry.

Our keynote speaker, The Rev. Dr. Sonia Waters, will frame our time together with scripture inspiration and pastoral theological reflection on women in leadership. We will then work in coaching groups to explore best practices of ministry at the crossroads of challenge and change.

Experienced coaches Jen DeJong, Elinor Kirkland Hite, Aqueelah Ligonde, and Jen Van Zandt will work with us to explore the places in our ministries in need of change, renewal, and transformation.

Coaching topics include:

- Redeeming mistakes
- Transforming congregations in an era of church decline
- Supervising staff with grace
- Generational ministry in the local church
- Other topics may be added if registration exceeds 35 participants.



[Schedule](#) and [Registration](#)

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## Presbytery Assembly Meeting

# Presbytery Assembly Meeting

**Blackburn College, Carlinville, IL**

**Woodson Business Center**

**[Click here for Campus Map](#)**

**September 22, 2018**

**10 am - 3:30 pm**

**Registration starts at 9:00 am**

9:30 am optional fellowship time

10:00 am official meeting start

Highlights:

- Visiting Blackburn College, one of three Presbyterian colleges in Great Rivers Presbytery
- Keynote Speaker: Bryce Wiebe, Director of Special Offerings for the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA)
- 2019 Budget Approval
- Mission Celebration and Grant Recipient Presentations
- Presentation of "Hands and Feet" Presbytery Mission Trip
- Report from 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly commissioners and delegates
- Presentation of Kemmerer Village

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## **Your Per Capita/Shared Mission Dollars at Work**

When the Washington Presbyterian Church received their \$200 talent grant from the Visioning Team and the presbytery (a kind of gift of seed money for each church that came with the trust that it could empower ministry), their Mission Committee got to work on a plan to reach out to the local schools to see how they could connect. After speaking with the principal of the middle school, who spoke to his supervisor and secured approval with the school board, Washington received the green light for volunteers to come into the school to offer 30 to 45 minutes a week of academic tutoring for those in need. Their grant money will go towards providing school supplies where they are lacking and eventually to support quality time excursions such as bowling alleys or minigolf activities with the students. Washington Presbyterian Church is in the process of recruiting volunteer tutors now; we pray that this outreach may serve to build a foundation of love, connection, and relationship within the community!



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## **PGR MISSION FAIR**

**AT SEPTEMBER 22 ASSEMBLY**

The Visioning Team is coordinating a Mission Fair for the September 22 PGR Assembly Meeting at Blackburn College in Carlinville, IL. Show us how you used your MIFA, Bucks for Blessing, Worship Initiative and Talent Grants! We'll have a special room and table set up so we can let each other know about the great mission and ministry happening through our churches. Displays do not have to be elaborate - a display board with photos and brief description will do. If you bring it on a laptop, please bring your own power strip and extension cord. The meeting starts at 10 AM, so come early to get set up! If you have questions, contact Joe Eby at 217-528-0457 or [drjheby@sbcglobal.net](mailto:drjheby@sbcglobal.net).

## Get Connected!

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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Presbytery of Great Rivers, 1230 W Candletree Dr, Suite D, Peoria, IL 61614

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