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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.

October 1, 2018

Let Us Pray



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

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



Springfield - Knox Presbyterian Church

1401 E Cottonwood St
Springfield, IL 62703
Rev. Paula Carmichael
Vicki Jones, Admin Assistant
Ms. Carole Copi, Clerk of Session
Ms. Barb Salm, Treasurer



Springfield - Korean United Presbyterian Church

2501 E Sangamon Ave
Springfield, IL 62702
Rev. Jaechul Kim
Junsoo Kim, Admin Assistant
Chong Hul Rucker, Clerk of Session
In Sun Mohler, Treasurer
[Korean United Website](#)
[Korean United Facebook Page](#)

Mark Your Calendar

OCTOBER

Visioning Team Meeting

Tuesday, October 16
10 am - 2 pm
Presbytery Office

Admin Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 17
1 pm - 4 pm
Presbytery Office

COM Meeting

Tuesday, October 23
10 am - 3 pm
Peoria-First Federated

Leadership Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 24
10 am - 2 pm
Presbytery Office

Nominating Committee

Conference Call
Saturday, October 27

Office Closed

October 5, 12, 19, 26

[Click here for the PGR Calendar](#)

2019 Assembly Dates

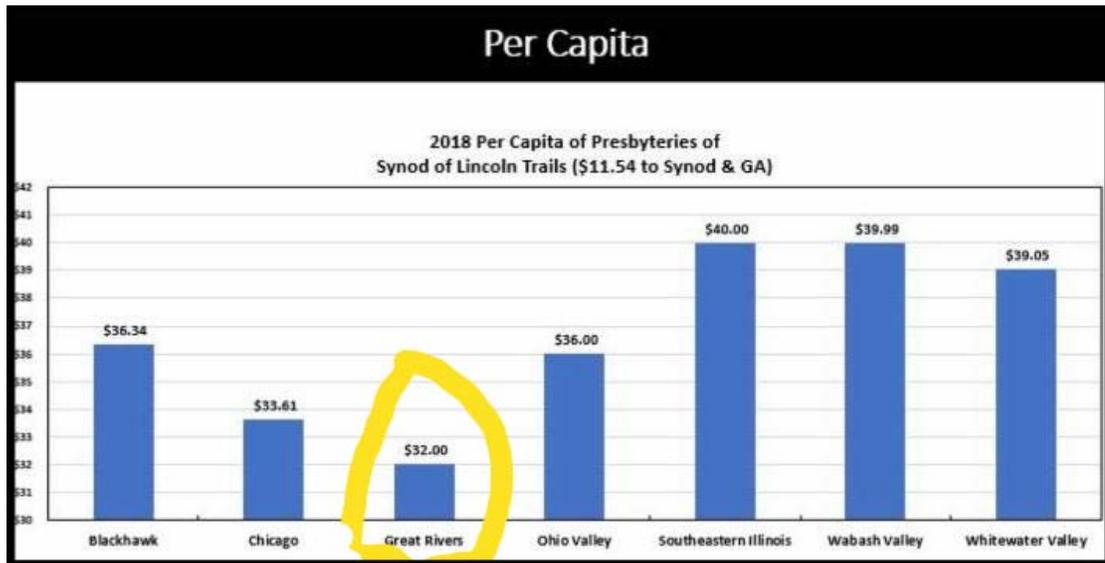
The 2019 Assembly dates have been scheduled as follows:

- Feb. 26 @ FivePoints in Washington
- June 8 @ First Pres in Macomb
- Sept. 17 @ First Federated in Peoria
- Nov. 9 @ IL College in Jacksonville

Presbytery Assembly Highlights:
Blackburn College, Carlinville, 9/22/18

Things You Should Know:

- **NEW PER CAPITA: \$34.22.** After a presentation by our new treasurer Bill Strawbridge, we took action on funding our ministry together as a presbytery. After a substitute motion to raise the overall per capita by \$3.22 failed, a \$2.22 increase was approved. By request, the graphic below is shared here with a comparison of our per capita with the other seven presbyteries in our synod. Our 2019 budget was also approved. We also approved a 3% increase for minimum [effective salaries for 2019](#), continuing the practice of meeting cost of living expenses. [The per capita graphic is available by clicking here.](#)



- **A "VIRTUAL MICROPHONE."** We experimented for the first time with a "virtual microphone" using Zoom technology, provided specifically for people who were physically unable to attend the meeting in Carlinville. With the assembly's approval, we had seven total commissioners join us remotely off site, including eight other observers. One commissioner even participated from an airplane! One larger group met at a remote satellite site. Says Leadership Team member Rev. Cheyanna Losey, "Meeting offsite allowed me to teach my elders what it means to be part of the presbytery and the way we work together." Online participants will have the opportunity to debrief their experience, and the Leadership Team will discuss the merits of providing such an option for future meetings.



- **KEYNOTE SPEAKER:** Bryce Wiebe from PCUSA Special offerings shared the impact we make as united Presbyterians working together and personally thanked churches by name for their giving. He specifically celebrated Trinity, Bartonville; First Presbyterian, Morton; Beulah, Orion; and Hope, Springfield as the top special offerings givers in our presbytery per member. (Photo credit: Gary Davis)



- **"HANDS AND FEET" MISSION TRIP.** There was a report on our presbytery mission trip through the Hands and Feet Initiative this summer.

We were among the first to join this national effort and had a trailblazing role in shaping what this might look like in future years! The full report by Rev. Carolyn Weber, with videos, [can be found here](#).

- **LEAD PRESBYTER REPORT.** Our Lead Presbyter for Transformation Rev. Ryan Landino gave his first report, naming the needs expressed at the town halls held around the presbytery last year for greater *communication*, *connection*, building *trust*, and a sense of *purpose*. He committed to focusing attention in these areas moving forward. [For full report, click here](#).
- **FOCUS ON MISSION:** We held a mission fair where we displayed the various creative initiatives churches have been doing with their grants, including a report from Rev. Jessica Hawkinson on Monmouth College's bee farm, and a presentation from Ron Little on Kemerrer Village.
- **QUOTABLE:** "*We are not the future of the church, we are the church now!*" ~Fiona McGrath Nagle, Youth Advisory Delegate to the 223rd General Assembly, during the commissioners' report.



SPOTLIGHT ON GREAT RIVERS PRESBYTERY: Clinton

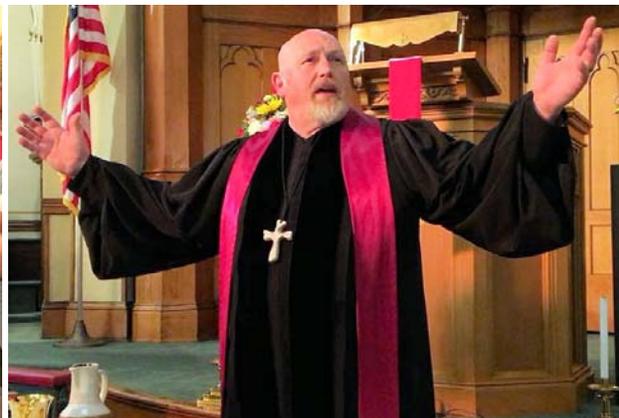
We are proud to welcome the newly and formally ordained **Rev. Paul Stroup** to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament at Clinton Presbyterian Church! May God bless him, his family, and the congregation for their ministry together. Be sure to send your blessings and congratulations to Rev. Stroup on the occasion of his ordination!

Clinton Presbyterian Church
402 N. Center Street
Clinton, IL 61727

"Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you."

- Philippians 4:8-9





An Evening with Carrie Newcomer

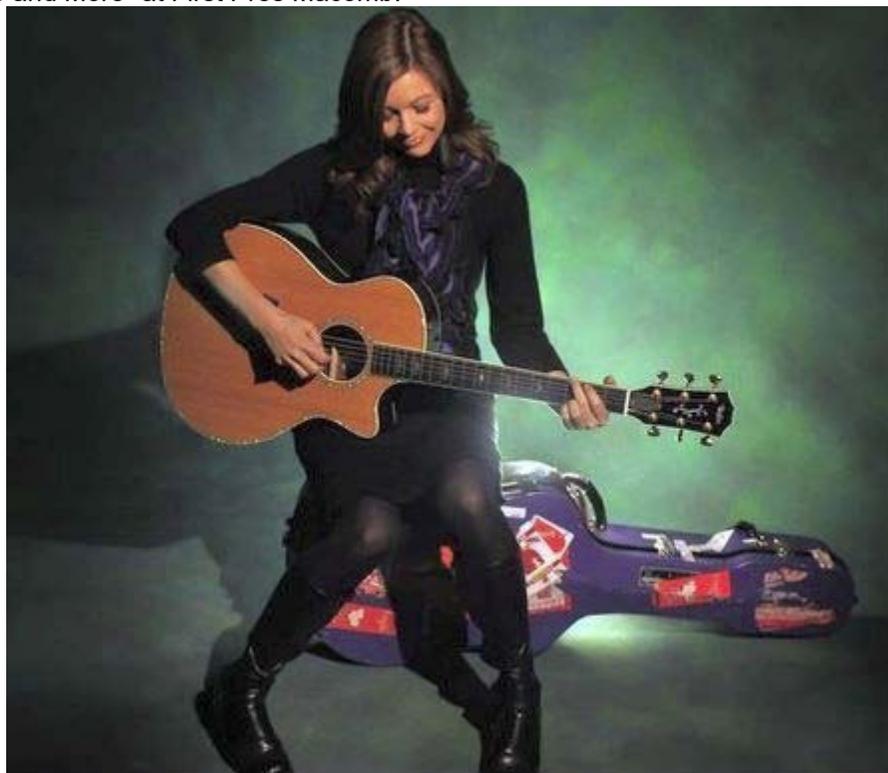
**Saturday, October 13, 2018 at 7 pm
Wesley United Methodist Church
1212 West Calhoun, Macomb, IL**

Carrie Newcomer is a Grammy winning songwriter, recording artist, performer and educator. Newcomer considers herself a spiritual progressive, and is a prominent voice for interfaith dialogue and social justice. Her thoughtful approach to spirituality has led to appearances on programs such as public radio's "On Being with Krista Tippett" and the PBS series "Religion and Ethics."

Early general admission tickets are \$10 (\$5 for students). After October 1, regular general admission tickets are \$15.

[Click here to purchase tickets!](#)

The concert will benefit Genesis Garden, an anti-poverty agency that manages the Summer Lunch program at First Pres Macomb and First Pres Bushnell; also they offer a free monthly community dinner called "Soup and More" at First Pres Macomb.



Illinois-Wisconsin-Iowa Youth Assembly

**ILWIA Youth Assembly 2018
Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center
1922 Illinois Route 2 N, Oregon, IL 61061
(815) 732-6111**

[Click here for Brochure](#)

"Three States for One God"

A meeting place for middle-school folks and leaders to enjoy God's great outdoors to be introduced or reintroduced to Jesus Christ to experience life in the body of Christ

Jacob and Brianne Christiansen, presenters for the weekend, bring a passion for telling the story of the gospel in words as well as drama. They lead the ministry to youth at First Presbyterian Church of Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Cost: \$120 for campers, \$60 for leaders. A limited number of \$20 scholarships available upon request. Register online at www.strongholdcenter.org.

Illinois-Wisconsin-Iowa Youth Assembly



"Three States for One God"

[Get Connected!](#)

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

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