



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.

December 11, 2018

Let Us Pray

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

Our Minister Members at Large

Rev. Troy Agema
Rev. Carl Anderson
Rev. David Barton
Rev. Julie Blythe
Rev. Mark Merrill
Rev. Jennifer E. Sakata
Rev. Sarah Tunall
Rev. Beth Wagner
Rev. Siobhan Warren

Our Honorably Retired Minister Members

Rev. William Abernethy
Rev. Steve Allen
Rev. David A. Anderson
Rev. Andrea Weyhrich Andrews
Rev. Linda Baldwin
Rev. David G. Bauer
Rev. William Beattie
Rev. Gene E. Bilotti
Rev. Dale R Bolton
Rev. Gerald W. Boutelle
Rev. William E. Brown
Rev. George Joseph Cottay
Rev. Charles B. Cunningham
Rev. Alice Davenport
Rev. Laurence Timothy Doty
Rev. David Esche
Rev. John L. Florell
Rev. Donna Harris
Rev. Henry G. Hein
Rev. Joanne Hinds
Rev. John Irwin
Rev. Richard L. Johnson
Rev. Gordon Jones
Rev. Martha Anne Jones
Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner Lasala
Rev. Harold W. Losey
Rev. Cheryl Lunday
Rev. Brooks O. McDaniel
Rev. Michael D. McGaughan
Rev. Mark Merrill
Rev. Gregory J. Meyer

[Calling All High School Youth](#)
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Forward to a Friend



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

For Headline News
Happening Around
the PC(USA),
[click here](#)



Mark Your Calendar

DECEMBER

Office Closed
December 19 - January 2

JANUARY

COM Meeting
Tuesday, January 22
10 am - 3 pm
Peoria-First Federated

Visioning Team Meeting
January 29
10 am - 2 pm
Presbytery Office

CPM Meeting
January 31
10 am - 3 pm
Presbytery office

[Click here for the PGR Calendar](#)

Rev. Brent Mitchell
Rev. Kenneth A. Mortonson
Rev. Norman E. Myer
Rev. Gordon Page
Rev. Randall N. Paine
Rev. Dan Patterson
Rev. Henry Pilgram
Rev. John R. Porter Jr
Rev. James W. Pruyne
Rev. Dr. Randall L. Saxon
Rev. William G. Schlobohm
Rev. Ken Shedenhelm
Rev. Donald M Sinclair
Rev. Dr. Paul S. Spalding
Rev. Carl R. Stoldt
Rev. Rick D. Tindall
Rev. James P. Uttley
Rev. Peggy Vogelsinger
Rev. Richard Watts
Rev. Dr. Carolyn B. Weber

**Full 2018 Yearly Presbytery Prayer
Calendar can be found [here](#).**

Mission Trip January 2019



WANT TO MAKE THE BEST NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION EVER?

How about spending an amazing week (or part of one) in a warmer part of our country?

COME JOIN US as we travel south!!!

Members of Great Rivers Presbytery are invited to join our church on **January 2 to 10, 2019** (or part of that time) as ambassadors of God's love to our neighbors in the Florida Panhandle who have been left with overwhelming **devastation from Hurricane Michael's path of destruction**.

Our church feels called to this great opportunity to be of service to God's children who are suffering from losses. We hope you will consider joining us at the beginning of this New Year on an intergenerational work/mission trip to help our friends in need.

We will be travel by van and stay at Camp Dogwood Acres, a Presbyterian Church Camp. Hurricane cleanup needs are: chain saw work, carpentry, housekeeping/cleaning, painting, power-washing, yardwork, debris cleaning, flooring, cooking, hospitality, prayer team, playground/ropes course repairs, and medical tent.

We hope this call to serve touches your heart and sparks your interest in coming along in this ministry and mission!

In Christ's Service,
Second Presbyterian Church
Bloomington, Illinois

For further information contact:
Trip Leader Jim VanCauwenberge
309-530-1850 (cell)
vancauv@frontiernet.net

Rev. Dr. Kathy Stoner-Lasala
609-319-4030 (cell)
Kathy.Stoner-Lasala@secondpres.com

A Message from the Southeastern Illinois Presbytery on the Tornado Damage in Taylorville:

"It was wonderful to worship [last Sunday] with the caring people of the First Presbyterian Church of Taylorville, Illinois. Two members of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) National Response Team and myself were graciously welcomed as the congregation and community continue to respond to the three tornadoes that touched down in Christian County on December 1, including an EF3 tornado which touched down in Taylorville. Many congregations and members of the presbytery have asked how they can assist with the ongoing recovery in Taylorville. During the initial response and early stages of the long term recovery, monetary donations allow the recovery effort to quickly acquire any materials needed. In the coming weeks and months there will also be numerous opportunities for work teams and individuals to volunteer with the recovery work. If you would like to make a contribution to the overall recovery effort, please designate it for tornado recovery and send it to "Missions for Taylorville" who is the official monetary donations site. It's maintained through US Bank. The address for donations is:



Missions for Taylorville
c/o City Hall
115 North Main Street
Taylorville, IL 62568

Or you can go online to the Missions for Taylorville Facebook page [click here](#) and donate electronically through the blue Donate Button on that page. Please join us in continuing to keep all those impacted by the tornadoes in our prayers. As more information about potential volunteer opportunities become known the presbytery will share that information.

Grace and peace,

Rev. William "Bill" McLean, II
Presbyter for Congregational Care
Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois"

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS:

The monthly meeting of the Committee on Ministry met on December 4th from 10-2pm at the Life Together Center in Peoria. The C.O.M. is responsible for "*enhancing and strengthening pastor/congregation relations, enhancing and strengthening skills for the professional ministry, and the performances of all duties required by the PCUSA Constitution (G-3.0307)*" (Article X, Section 2a of Manual of Operations).

Highlights from the December meeting include:

- Affirmed with compassion our commitment of sustained care to the congregations of Rock Creek Presbyterian Church of Tallula and First Federated Church of Clayton upon the tragic car accident involving Revs. David and Kay Daniel.
- Approved new contracts and reviewed ministry partner reports from across our presbytery, with special attention on churches in transition.
- Continued planning our yearly ethics and boundary training that will occur at the February Presbytery Assembly.
- Expressed our need for a more clearly delineated process for empowering elders to provide communion in place of a called and installed pastor. **If churches need someone soon to provide communion**, a process churches can follow is: 1) session approves a ruling elder who can provide communion, 2) your C.O.M. Ministry Partner secures communion training, and 3) the C.O.M. approves new elders who can lead communion for that year. (This reflects the obligation for the presbytery to "*provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received*" (G.30301b)).
- Committed to continue exploring possible policies that can serve to protect our churches and its members.
- Named things we have personally seen across our churches that make us thankful, including lifting up thanksgiving for Kent Wurmnest's six years of service as Moderator of the Committee on Ministry.

"CALLING ALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH!": Lux Summer Theological Institute for Youth

Place at the Table: Thinking Theologically about Hunger and Poverty Sunday, June 16-Sunday, June 30, 2019

Why are some people hungry while others have more than enough food?
Are Christians called to respond to the needs of the poor?
Is it possible to have a world without poverty and hunger?

Theologically curious high school students are invited to **apply before January 1, 2019** for the 2019 Lux Summer Theological Institute at Presbyterian-related Monmouth College (Monmouth, IL).

Funded by the Lilly Endowment, the Lux Institute is an opportunity for students to engage with a topic of global importance and participate in a living-learning community through study, worship, service, recreation, and vocational exploration.

It's FREE! All expenses for the two-week program are covered, with the exception of travel. A free shuttle to/from Chicago airports is provided. Please forward to your High School Youth and Leaders!



Eureka Presbyterian Church - Celebrating 150 years!

For more information: 309.467.3342
Email: epc@mtco.com
Snow Date: Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Concert of Christmas Carols



Ellen Huntington, flute
& Lillian Lau, harp
of Chicago

Lyrebird 
Ensemble

For more information: 309.467.3342
Email: epc@mtco.com
Snow Date: Thursday, January 3, 2019 at 7 p.m.

**Celebrating the
150th
Anniversary
of
Eureka
Presbyterian
Church**

7 p.m. Monday
December 17, 2018

Free Admission
101 N. Major St.
Eureka, IL
Reception Following

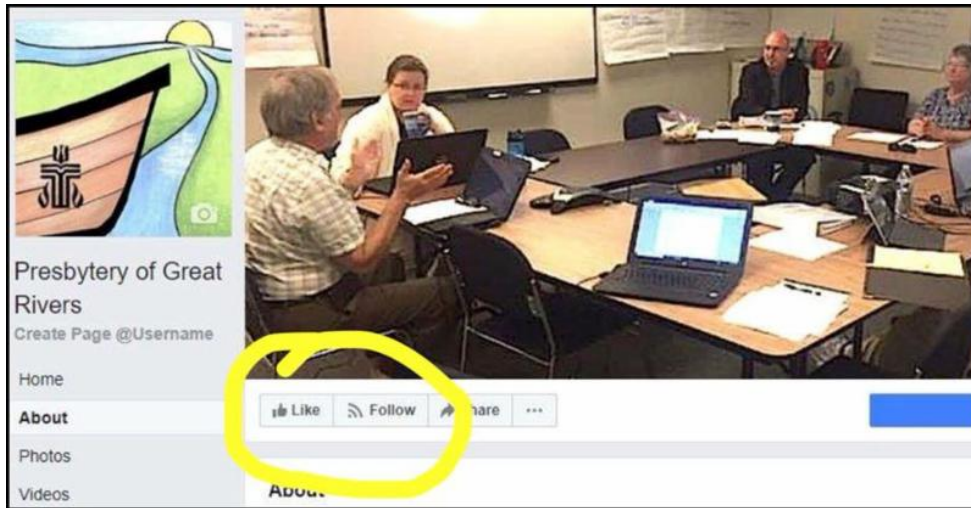
Questions for the Presbytery:

"Does any church have Nativity costumes for kids you can lend to us at Good Shepherd Rock Island? (Preschool to high school)." If so, please contact: Rev. Dawn Swartz 309-716-1839!

Have questions for the rest of the presbytery? Email the office at office@greatriverspby.org.

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?



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

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