



Southeastern Illinois Connection

Connect, Equip, and Inspire Presbyterians as we walk with Jesus

Presbytery Website Takes on a Fresh New Look

Submitted by Marsha Mower

Our Presbytery website has a fresh new look! If you haven't checked it out yet, please dive in and take a look around. While the former web address (www.psei.net) will automatically get you to the new site, the new web address is www.pseillinois.org. On the left side of our home page, you will find buttons that will get you to the various pages and information within the site. You'll notice more pictures and graphics that complement the work of PSEI. If there are other or different things you would like to see, please let us know. Many thanks to Rev. Stu Smith for his tireless work to make this happen!



FUTURE EVENTS CLERKS OF SESSION Record Reviews

September 16 – Cobden
September 23 – Decatur, Westminster
September 30 – New Haven
October 21 – Charleston
October 28 – Paxton
November 4 – Butler

All Sundays
from 3:00pm to 5:00pm

6,036
Presbytery's
2017 Membership

CAMP CAREW ANNOUNCES ITS 2018 SUMMER CAMP FEES

Entering Kindergarten through 2nd Grade Day Camp 1	\$ 145
Entering 3rd and 4th Grade Mini Camp 1	\$ 150
Entering 5 th , thru 8th Grade – all camps except Horseback.....	\$ 245
Horseback Camp	\$ 365
CIT/LIT Training.....	\$ 150
Mission Work Camp.....	\$ 165
High Adventure Camp	\$ 245
Family Camp limit per family	\$ 155
*Additional fee if horseback riding.....	\$ 45

For information on renting Calvin Hall, cabins, hogans, tents, etc. visit campcarew.org



2018 Presbytery Meetings:

Thursday, May 17 – Decatur, First

Thursday, August 23 – Sparta, Westminster

Thursday, November 15 – Champaign, First

REMINDER TO CHURCHES

Please remember to notify the Presbytery office if anything changes from the church annual report you submit early each year. We need to keep our records up-to-date regarding addresses, telephone numbers, and email addresses, website information, Ministers, Clerks of Session, Ruling Elder Commissioners and any other staff. Thanks for your help!



Sonshine Puppets

Submitted by Carol Collier

The United Presbyterian Church of Neoga invites all to see the Sonshine Puppets performance at 4pm on Saturday, April 28th, in the church sanctuary (7th and Locust).

These larger than life Muppet-type puppets present a lively, entertaining and inspiring musical that is enjoyable for all ages. The puppeteers from The Presbyterian Church in Paris, IL range in age from grade school to senior adults. While based in Paris, this puppet group has delighted audiences throughout the Midwest. After the performance you may meet the puppets and the puppeteers and enjoy cookies and beverage provided by the church. No admission charged. A free will offering basket will be available if you choose to support the mission of this group.

When you pray, make sure your will is in neutral so God can shift it.

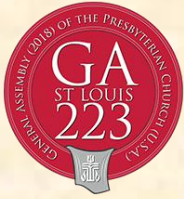
Daily Walk Bible

\$125 Grants

If you have NOT done so already, the Presbytery would like to hear how you used the \$125 grant to be the hands and feet of Christ. The Presbytery has already heard from a few congregations. We are hoping to hear from all 81 congregations and share the various ways the money was used in hopes that your creative ideas inspire another congregation.



The Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering will be held on Saturday, April 14 at Effingham, First. Featuring Katrina Pekich-Bundy of Hanover, IN, on Sabbath in today's life; mission project providing donations for Effingham Child Development Center; election and installation of officers, and more. Lunch \$7.00; register in advance at the Effingham, First office. See the Spring 2018 PW Newsletter for details or contact Jane Hopkins at jhopkins4616@sbcglobal.net.



223rd (2018) GENERAL ASSEMBLY

St. Louis, Missouri; June 16-23, 2018

Kindom Building for the 21st Century

“But strive first for the kingdom of God and His righteousness.” Matthew 6:33

The assembly will convene with worship at 11am on Saturday, June 16, and adjourn no later than noon on Saturday June 23.

Commissioners and advisory delegates from all 170 PC(USA) presbyteries, and other delegates and observers from around the world, will converge on the America's Convention Center in Downtown St. Louis for celebrations, deliberations, and inspirations in support of the denomination's biennial gathering. Giddings-Lovejoy will serve as host.

Click on the following link to view the proposed docket.

[http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/ga223/expanded_ga223_schedule_+ d raft_docket_2-21-18.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/oga/pdf/ga223/expanded_ga223_schedule_+_draft_docket_2-21-18.pdf)

General Assemblies review the work of synods, resolves controversies in the church, is responsible for matters of common concern for the whole church, and serves as a symbol of unity for the church.

The 224th General Assembly (2020) – June 20-27, 2020 will be held in Baltimore, MD
The 225th General Assembly (2022) – June 25-July 2, 2022 will be held in Columbus, OH

Synod of Lincoln Trails YMCP Cohort



The Synod of Lincoln Trails and The Youth Cartel are excited to sponsor a Youth Ministry Coaching Program cohort for youth workers within the synod. The cohort will begin in August or September of 2018 and will meet for two days at a time every other month, a total of six times. The Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago (126 E Chestnut) will host all gatherings.

Questions about the cohort and registration should be directed to
Rocky Supinger at rsupinger@fourthchurch.org

Find out more about the Youth Ministry Coaching Program at
<https://theyouthcartel.com/coaching/>

Click here for the [Application](#)

How can you keep your church safe?

Platt County Church Safety Seminar

Thursday, April 12
6:30—8:00 p.m. plus Q&A
at Crossroads Church
1602 N 1125 E. Road, Monticello, IL

Sponsored by: Ministerial Alliance
 Piatt Co. Sheriff's Dept.

With a representative of the safety team from
 Vale Church, Bloomington, IL presenting

For more information visit the Facebook event: Piatt County Church Safety Seminar at Crossroads Church



**The National Association of
 Presbyterian Clergywomen
 invites all Clergywomen to Triennial 2018**

"Dragons, Frogs, & Other Fairy Tales of Women in Ministry"

April 23-26, 2018 at the Montreat Conference Center

**Keynote Preacher is the Rev. Floretta Barbee-Watkins.
 Worship Preacher is the Rev. Dr. Tracy Keenan. Exciting
 workshops lead by dynamic Clergy**

Scholarships are available...Childcare will be available

More information

<https://presclergywomen.com/triennial-conference/> Questions

JoAnne Sharp revnapc@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL

Financial Ministry Task Force

April 10th ~ 10am-11:30am ~ Effingham, First

Presbytery Planning Team

April 10th ~ 11:30am-12:30pm ~ Conference Call

Personnel - April 10th ~ 1pm ~ Effingham, First

Mt. Vernon Session ~ April 10th ~ 6:30pm

Commission on Ministry

April 12th ~ 10am - 3pm ~ Effingham, First

Confirmation Camp ~ April 13-15th ~ Camp Carew

Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering

April 14th ~ 9:30am-1pm ~ Effingham, First

Response Team

April 19 ~ 10am-3pm ~ Effingham, First

Interim/Covenant Support

April 25th ~ 9:30am-12:00pm ~ Effingham, First

General Council

April 26th ~ 10am-3pm ~ Effingham, First

May Stated Meeting Packet Materials Due

March 30th

MAY

Camps & Conferences and PPP Meeting

May 4 ~ 1pm ~ Camp Carew

Camps & Conferences

May 4th ~ 6pm-6:30pm ~ Camp Carew

Camp Work Day & Training

May 5th ~ Camp Carew

May Stated Meeting Packet Posting – May 7th

BOP Render unto Caesar – May 8th 8:30am

BOP Growing into Tomorrow – May 9th -May 10th

Stated Meeting – May 17 – 10am – Decatur, First

Interim/Covenant Support

May 23rd – 9:30am – Effingham, First

JUNE

General Assembly – June 16-23 – St. Louis, MO

Interim/Covenant Support

June 27th 9:30am ~ Effingham, First

Friedens United Church of Christ and Rev. Stacy Tate

would like to invite you to the dedication
 of our 2018 renovation and addition

Saturday, April 7, 2018 ~ ~ 7 p.m.

Special Guests include:

Bronze Expressions Bell Ensemble

Rev. Shana Johnson,

UCC IL South Conference Minister

Gera Simms, Irvington Mayor

Friedens United Church of Christ, 307 S. Third Street, Irvington, IL

**Wine, NA punch, and cheese reception and tours immediately
 following in Gathering Area and Spiritual Formation Wing*

*Pray for a faith that will not shrink when washed in the
 waters of affliction.*

Daily Walk Bible

I Was Grateful to Attend the #MeToo Gathering

by Rev. Laurie Williams, Co-Pastor, The Presbyterian Church, Paris IL

When I heard that our Synod of Lincoln Trails was going to offer a #MeToo Gathering for those who worked in local congregations or in other forms of ministry, I jumped at the opportunity. Most of us were members of the PC(USA) but a few were from other Christian denominations/traditions. Our Synod Executive, Sara Dingman, and the Executive Presbyterian for the Presbytery of Chicago, Sue Krummel, created this event while keeping in mind the need for an open and safe space in which women could speak freely without worry of derision, rejection or ridicule. I'm happy to report that they achieved that goal very nicely.

We started out with a Sunday evening get-together including wonderful healthy and not-as-healthy snacks and beverages. This was an important time for us to start becoming comfortable with one another and we also were able to talk with Sara and Sue, and meet our Gathering's leaders, two members of the LeaderWise staff, Caroline (Carrie) Burke, PhD, LP and Krista Redlinger-Grosse, PhD, ScM. They were both so friendly, helpful, wonderful and insightful facilitators, and quite wise in the ways of the issues that surround #MeToo concerns for women church workers.

The purpose was one of empowerment and restoration for those who have dealt with sexual harassment and/or abuse of any kind in the church. As we began our discussion Monday morning and continued through Tuesday morning, that discussion broaden somewhat to include more female gender issues besides those of sexual harassment or abuse, for those in ministry. We started with a mindfulness-meditation practice to focus on our breathing, relax, be mindful, and present from "Minding the Bedside" by Jerome Stone.

We moved on to one word for how we felt coming to the Gathering and got responses from anxious and depleted, to grateful, appreciative and excited, to nervous, cautious, and vulnerable. The meditation and sharing our feelings was important to the process of both being present by letting go of all the things that crowd our lives and by taking that risk to be vulnerable and share with one another. We had both large and small group discussions. We ate delicious meals together. We sometimes shared laughter and other times we shared tears, sorrow and distress.

While I certainly have experience with female gender issues in the church, both local congregations and in mid-councils, and including a "clergy killer" in a church I previously served as solo pastor, I have not struggled nearly as much as some of those women who were present especially with sexual harassment/abuse. I became teary-eyed and distressed when hearing some of their stories, several times. So very sad that we do these things to one another, while we are to live as Jesus Christ has taught us.

There was no male-bashing, as some like to make fun of concerning #MeToo gatherings. There was support, love, learning, insight, beautiful allies, delicious meals, wonderful times of worship in a beautiful sanctuary, and encouragement to take this back to our presbyteries, our churches and, importantly, our communities as we are able. These concerns and issues do need discussed and cared about; not swept under the rug, as they far too often have been.

We have decided to keep in touch with one another as we are able. To encourage, support, give insight into, share resources, and be in freely offered solidarity with one another as we are with God in Jesus Christ. I encourage you in your churches and communities to find helpful and well-informed leadership to lead you in #MeToo discussions. I also am hoping that our Presbytery will offer some opportunities for such gathers and discussions, perhaps a time only for women but also together as women and men of faith.

I gratefully thank the Lord for this opportunity to attend and my experience at this Gathering. I appreciate the Session of the congregation I serve with my husband and Co-Pastor, Rev. Rodger Allen, for granting my request to go to this continuing education event. It was well beyond worth it! I encourage your prayers around the #MeToo issues and concerns both within the Church and outside of it.



Creation Lab

Church needs creative outlet to fail and learn

Click on the following link to learn more about the presenters from Creation Lab who will be at the May Presbytery Meeting.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/pt-0418-exploring/>

Render unto Caesar

A terms of call and clergy tax issues seminar



Terms of call and clergy taxes can be complicated. This one-day seminar is for PC(USA) church treasurers, administrators, and active pastors. Topics covered include:

- Board resources overview,
- Benefits Plan summary,
- clergy taxes and housing allowance,
- reimbursements versus allowances,
- terms of call structure, and
- retirement savings with the 403(b)(9) Retirement Savings Plan of the PC(USA)

About Board University Education Seminars

Do you have questions about retirement, taxes, financial planning, or terms of call? Board University can help.

Attend our financial and retirement planning seminars led by Board of Pensions experts, and leave with answers, better questions, and trusted resources.

Note: Board University programs educate and inform attendees. Participants are encouraged to seek professional advice and counsel for specific tax and legal questions.

Key Seminar Details:

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Illinois
Urbana, IL

8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., CT

Sponsored by Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

- **Seating limit:** 30 registrants
- **Board's registration fee:** None
- **Meal fee:** \$15.00 per person for lunch and refreshments
- **Lodging:** See registration site for options
- **Confirmations** include pre-seminar work and meal fee payment instructions.

Registration Information:

Registration open through April 20

Secure Board of Pensions registration site:

<http://www.cvent.com/d/ttab0d>

Have questions about the seminar?

Contact the Board of Pensions at 800-PRESPLAN.

Growing into Tomorrow ... Today

A retirement planning seminar



Planning for retirement can be challenging.

This two-day seminar is for plan members retiring within the next 15 years. Look beyond finances to be informed, educated, and inspired for a journey toward wholeness in retirement.

- Identify key questions for discernment.
- Assess your financial readiness.
- Discuss healthcare and housing options.
- Create next steps in identity, relationship, housing, health, and finances.

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Note: Board University programs educate and inform attendees. Participants are encouraged to seek professional advice and counsel for specific tax and legal questions.

Key Seminar Details:

Wednesday & Thursday, May 9-10, 2018
First Presbyterian Church of Urbana, Illinois
Urbana, IL
8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., CT, both days

Sponsored by Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

- **Seating limit:** 30 registrants
- **Board's registration fee:** None
- **Meal fee:** \$30.00 per person for both days' lunch and refreshments
- **Lodging:** See registration site for options
- Confirmations include pre-seminar work and meal fee payment instructions.

Registration Information:

Registration open through April 20

Secure Board of Pensions registration site:

<http://www.cvent.com/d/wtqbpw>

Have questions about the seminar?

Contact the Board of Pensions at 800-PRESPLAN.



Learning through the stages of your life.
BOARD UNIVERSITY



The Southeastern Illinois Connections will be published during the month of January, April, July, and October. Send articles to office@psei.net. All articles will be approved by Bill McLean and Cindy Bean before being published.



GENERAL COUNCIL
(pages 45-75) -Rev. Laurie Fields

SERMON
REV. DAVID OLIVER-HOLDER

