

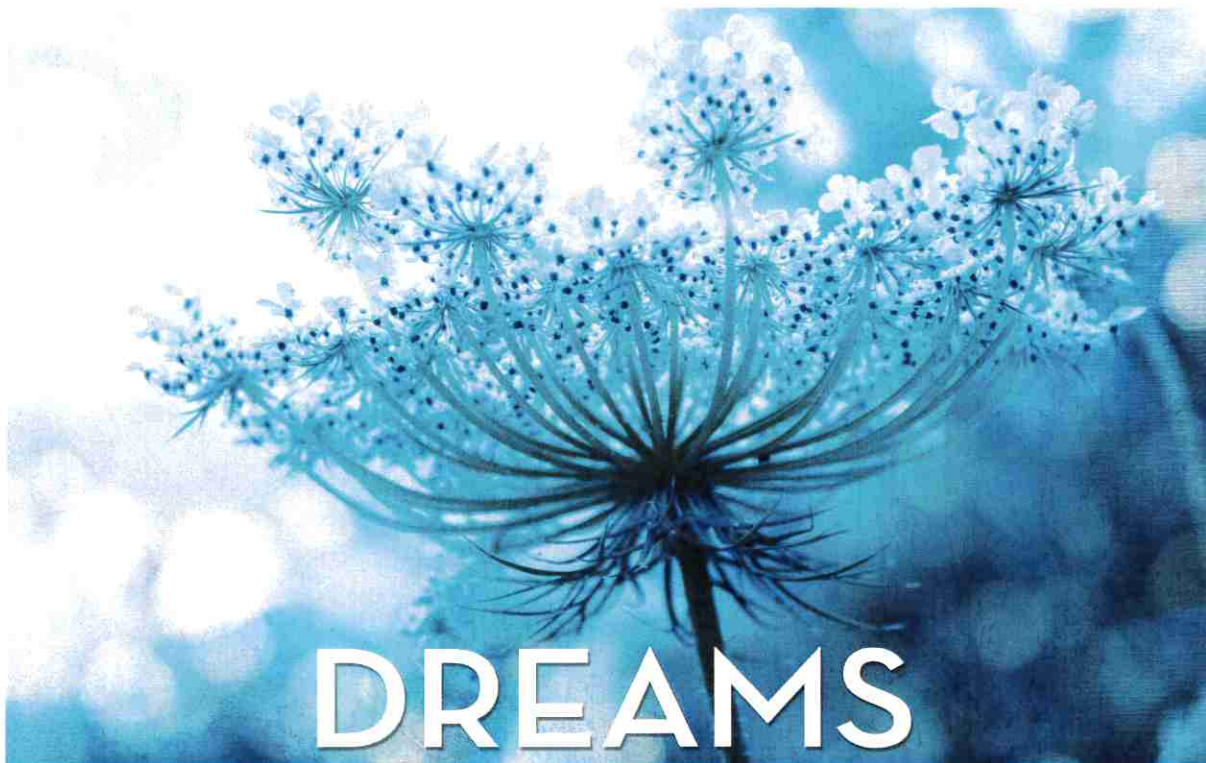
First United Presbyterian Church
201 W. Evergreen St.
PO Box 259
Elmwood, IL 61529

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rev.marla.elmwood.pc@gmail.com
www.firstpresbyterianofelmwood.org

Lanplighter



April 2024



**"He speaks in dreams, in visions of the night, when
deep sleep falls on people as they lie in their beds."**

Job 33:15

*God gives us all dreams to follow and
the help to accomplish them!*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CALENDAR



April 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM	4 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Cub Scouts 6:30 PM	5	6
7 Communion 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	8 EBW 6:00 PM	9	10	11 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Session Meeting 6:30 PM	12	13
14 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM Kids Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Deacons Meeting following Worship 2PM PGR Small Church Gathering @ Faith PC, Yates City	15	16	17 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM	18 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM Prayer Group 9:00 AM	19 Quilt Club 8AM-4PM	20 10AM PGR Assembly at 1st Pres. Milan (hybrid)
21 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	22 PEO 6:00 PM	23	24	25 Prayer Group 9:00 AM Marla out of the office thru May 5th	26	27
28 9:00 AM Adult Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service Coffee Hour following Worship Worship Cmmtt Mtg. following Worship Terry Taylor from the Sugar Plum Project will be speaking	29	30 PEO 6:00 PM				

Elder to be Liturgist & Assist Treasurer

- April 7th Ron Cox / Mike Shissler
- April 14th Calie Stalter
- April 21st Marty Tarter
- April 28th Brandy Stevens



- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| 1st: Zach Carter | 16th: Mitchell Webster |
| 2nd: Caleb Stevens | 18th: Pat Althiser |
| 5th: Elizabeth Shoop | 22nd: Chad Jordan |
| 6th: Steven Cox | 23rd: Kevin Lueschow
Richard Schrimp |
| 9th: Dylan Pash | 25th: Cathy Meyers |
| 10th: Roger Kepple | 27th: Cathe Carter |
| 12th: Matthew Jordan
Pat Gomes | |



- 25th: Hap & Nancy Howard
- 27th: Wayne & Anita Asbell



Thursday morning Bible Study & Prayer Group
Thursday's @ 9am in the Fellowship Hall.



Adult Sunday School

Adult Sunday School meets
Sunday Mornings @ 9:00am

Everyone is Welcome!



Children's Sunday School

Children's Sunday School
for ages 5 and up meets on the
2nd Sunday of each month
@ 9:30am

Deacons
Meeting

April 14th following worship



April 11th @ 6:30pm

OUT OF
office

Pastor Marla will be
out of the office
April 25th thru May 5th.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Cory Alcaraz
on being named to the
Milwaukee School of Engineering
Dean's List for the 2023 Fall semester.



Terry Taylor from
the Sugar Plum Project
will be sharing updates on
her ministry during worship
on Sunday, April 28th.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Kate Meyers
on being named to the
Illinois Wesleyan University
Dean's List for the Fall 2023 semester.

*To thank you for
your kindness and sympathy
at a time when it was
deeply appreciated*

To All at The Elmwood Presbyterian Church,

Words cannot explain the many thanks for
your support given to Mom & our family
during this time. You are all awesome!

Sincerely,
The Cosby Family

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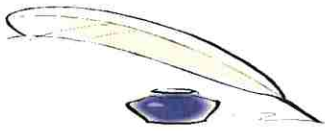
First Presbyterian Church Family,

Thank you for the plaque in honor of my
mom. It is beautiful. Also, thank you for all
your time in helping with mom's service.
We truly appreciate it.

With Love,
The Cosby Family

Books of the Bible
Word Scramble

1. UTRH _____
2. TWAMHET _____
3. BOPERRSV _____
4. SUBNEMR _____
5. WRESHBE _____
6. USAJHO _____
7. MORASN _____
8. GEJDSU _____
9. STREEH _____
10. HMOLIPEN _____
11. LINEDA _____
12. SEESING _____
13. SHEEPISAN _____
14. CLAIMHA _____
15. HARMEEJI _____
16. AGHAIG _____
17. SNAGILATA _____



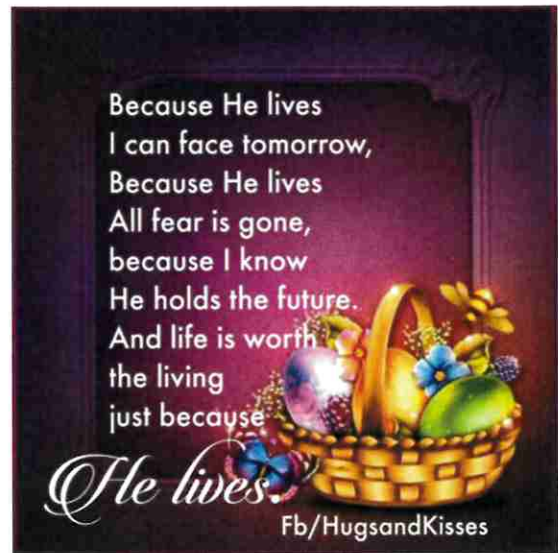
FROM THE PASTOR

FROM THE PASTOR

April 2024

My Dear Church Family,

We have just celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord from the grip of death and the grave! We rejoice when we pause to think about the great sacrifice that our Heavenly Father went through to have his only Son come to suffer for our sakes. It is a bit humbling to realize that it was for us—sinful, pitiful, disappointing people—that all this was done. But REJOICE! For now we know the depths of Christ's love for us.



And the month of April is like a promise to us: the promise and hope for more pleasant weather, for the budding of the trees and shrubs, and the flowers beginning to push up from the earth. Also, for more outdoor activities. But don't be fooled! I remember sitting outside in the spring watching our kids in High School running track and having the cold wind blow so that I thought it was the middle of winter again!

Our Lord is like that: gives us a promise but still gives us a cold wind. Maybe there's a challenge there: to hold onto hope because we know that the promises of God are solid and true. It doesn't mean that our lives will always have smooth sailing, but it does mean that God will be with us, walking alongside us in this journey of life.

So, if you're going through a difficult time, an uncertain time, a challenging time or a sad time: just remember the promises of God that were fulfilled on Easter Sunday. And sing in your hearts: *Because he lives, I can face tomorrow, because he lives all fear is gone, because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.*

Blessings,

Pastor Marla Bauler

Frequently Asked Questions about Per Capita

Q: What is per capita?

A: Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Because every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system should be shared by everyone as well.

Q: Who pays per capita, and how much is it?

A: Congregations (through their Sessions) pay an annual amount of money per church member— per capita apportionment—to their respective presbyteries. The amount requested from a congregation is a combined total of requests from that congregation's presbytery, the synod in which the presbytery is located, and the General Assembly—based on the budgets of those respective councils for the coming year. Our total for 2024 is \$37.25 per member.

Q: Why does the rate differ among presbyteries?

A: Each presbytery begins with the General Assembly per capita rate and adds the amount needed to support its specific mission and administrative functions. Their costs depend on geographical location and size, as well as its missional needs and the needs of its synod. Our presbytery has one of the lowest rates in the country.

Q: How is the General Assembly per capita rate set?

A: The GA per capita rate is set every two years at the biennial General Assembly meeting. At each GA, a proposed budget for the coming two-year period is approved. The per capita rate is set by dividing the total GA-approved budget by the total PC(USA) church membership.

Q: What do GA per capita dollars provide?

A: Per capita funding is how we mutually share the costs of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. Funding provides for the costs of bringing together commissioners and advisory delegates as the General Assembly; publishing and distributing (in multiple formats) the Book of Order, The Book of Confessions, and other General Assembly publications; underwriting the expenses of the Co-Moderators of the General Assembly as they travel across the church and around the world to interpret the work of the GA and attend church anniversaries, presbytery meetings, retreats, and ecumenical gatherings; gathering church leaders from presbyteries and synods for training events; providing necessary tools to develop and administer ordination exams to seminararians preparing to become future pastors; maintaining Church Leadership Connection, the online system that supports the call process for pastors and congregations; providing information, advice, and counsel to presbyteries and pastors whose members have immigration issues; providing a Presbyterian presence at ecumenical groups and gatherings in this country and worldwide—extending our mission efforts and our work for peace and justice far beyond what we can do by ourselves to promote Christian unity; and more!

Q: What happens if a presbytery cannot or will not pay its per capita to the General Assembly?

A: The PC(USA)'s Constitution does not mandate the payment of per capita by congregations. At the same time, the Constitution provides no provision on the part of congregations (sessions) to withhold per capita as a form of protest. If a church withholds per capita because of insufficient funds or protest, the presbytery is still obligated to pay per capita.



Presbytery of Great Rivers

Bringing Hope: Every Hour, Every Day

Lead Presbyter - Ann Schwartz 309-683-6983 Email: aschwartz@greatriverspby.org
Stated Clerk - Elissa Bailey- Email: pastorebailey@gmail.com
Bookkeeper - Sabrina McGrath 309-683-6981 Email: smcgrath@greatriverspby.org
Treasurer - Bill Strawbridge Email: bnc.sbridge@gmail.com

March 22, 2024

Friends,

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful for your faithful ministry and rejoice in all the ways you share the love of Christ in your church and community.

These are challenging times to be the Church, as congregations throughout the nation and across denominations are impacted by the trends of aging members and buildings, declining membership, and pastor shortages.

What we know for sure is that we are better together! To that end, we in Great Rivers are making a fresh start with new leadership and initiatives to strengthen relationships and churches. We do not have to do ministry on our own. We have each other—from whom we can learn and with whom we can share.

You are invited to a gathering where we will imagine together the creative partnerships for shared ministry that are possible in your region of the presbytery. Sharing ministries does not necessarily mean sharing a minister, merging, or consolidating congregations. It does mean being open to the Holy Spirit's movement in our midst and listening together to what God is calling us to do and be today.

Clerks, session members, PNC members, and pastors are invited to gather at Faith United Presbyterian Church, 107 W. Bishop, Yates City, on Sunday, April 14, 2024, 2:00-3:30 pm. The Rev. Drew Nagle and I will provide a brief overview, and then you can participate in table discussions on the particular topic(s) that most interest you: considering types of pastoral relationships and the benefits and challenges of sharing a pastor with another church; considerations for partnering with pastors of other denominations; engaging in collaborative ministries with other churches and organizations; discerning a vision for the future and doing a mission study; and determining if it is time to close your church (and how to do it well), or move forward.

Our hope is that as you connect with other congregations in your region, you will be inspired to dream new dreams for your churches and find inspired guidance and clarity about your future. Feel free to invite other members of your church and Presbyterians from congregations other than your own whom you think might be interested in this conversation.

We are resurrection people who profess faith in a God who, even now, brings new life. We pray that you will join us in an afternoon of beginning to discover what that new life may be.

In Christ,

Rev. Ann Schwartz

Rev. Drew Nagle

Mailing address: 3601 N Sheridan Road, Peoria, Illinois 61604

Stated Clerk Mailing address: 1216 Kim Dr, Bloomington, Illinois 61704

General Inquires: (309) 683-6980

www.greatriverspby.org

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL
Session Meeting Minutes January 11, 2024

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on January 11, 2024. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Pastor Marla at 6:30 p.m.

Elders present: 2024 – Calie Stalter
2025 – Anita Asbell and Steve Winslow
2026 – Ron Cox, Brandy Stevens and Marty Tarter

constituting a quorum. Absent was Absent was Julie Barrett. Rev. Marla Bauler moderated the meeting. The guidelines for a quorum were established at the January 12, 2023 Session Meeting as the presence of 50% of currently serving Elders.

Welcome and Examination of new Elders. We welcomed Ron Cox, Brandy Stevens and Marty Tarter as active Elders to the church. Each shared their faith journey.

Elder Training: Pastor Marla led a discussion on Serving as Elders of our church based on 2 Timothy 3:1-7.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

Motion made, seconded and approved the following items:

- Anita Asbell as CLERK OF SESSION for one year.
- Emily Roberts as TREASURER for one year.
- Amy Kepple as ASSISTANT TREASURER for one year.
- Calie Stalter as PRESBYTERY COMMISSIONER for one year.
- Dates for COMMUNION as the 1st Sunday of each month during 2024 as well as Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.
- ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT for 2023.
- SESSION QUORUM as 50% of currently serving elders.
- PASTOR'S HOUSING ALLOWANCE of \$20,000 for 2024.

The Deacons Report dated December 10, 2023 was reviewed.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report for December 2023 was reviewed. Approved.

Clerk's Report

The minutes from the December 7, 2023 Session meeting were reviewed and found to have one correction needed. Motin made to accept the minutes. Seconded. Approved.
No correspondence to review.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Marla gave a formal report which listed her monthly ministry activities. Communion was served to 31 members of the congregation on December 31, 2023 and 28 members of the congregation on January 7, 2024.

Time off April 25 through May 6, 2024 (2 Sundays missed) as well as June 3 through 8, 2024 (no Sundays missed) was requested. Motion made to approve request. Seconded and approved. Motion to approve the annual Housing Allowance of \$20,000 was made, seconded and approved.

Committee Reports

Reorganization of committee chairs was completed.

Personnel: Chair – Ron Cox

Finance: Chair – Marty Tarter

Worship/Membership/Christian Ed: Co-Chairs – Calie Stalter & Anita Asbell

Worship: Meeting was held on December 31, 2023 to discuss Souper Bowl Sunday on February 11, 2024. There will be no Children's Sunday School that day. Motion was made to not have February communion due to Scout Sunday being February 4th and Pastor Marla being out of town on February 11th.

Christian Ed: Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting: Beginning Balance as of 12/01/2023 = \$4,021.78 . Deposits: 156; \$58; \$643; Donation: \$1,900 Interest: \$5.87
Spent: \$1,100 (Merrick Floor Covering – helping local individual)
\$500 (Elmwood Elementary School)
\$1,200 (purchased Kroger Gift Cards for individual in need)
\$500 (Dream Center Peoria)
\$500 (Sugar Plum Project)
\$700 (gave \$100 to each of the 7 families supported by our church at Christmas)
Ending Balance = \$2,284.65 as of 12/31/23.

Missions: Chairs – Marty Tarter

New movie to be shown on January 20th "Big George Foreman".

Marketing and Evangelism: Chair – Brandy Stevens

We discussed the need for new advertising at the Palace Theater. Also, Brandy will take over Facebook.

Building and Grounds: Chair – Steve Winslow; Asst. – Julie Barrett

Will be calling the original builders of our church to see if they can help with the lights behind the stained-glass window.

New Business

Motion to give blanket approval for the use of the church building in 2024 for the following: PEO (Philanthropic Educational Organization); EBW (Elmwood Business Women); EDA (Elmwood Development Association); ECF (Elmwood Community Foundation); American Red Cross; Elmwood Fire Department, BYE Ambulance Service (Brimfield, Yates City, Elmwood), 4-H, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, Daisies, Brownies, Prairie Quilters of Central IL and Elmwood School events (with adult sponsors/volunteers present). Seconded. Approved.

We discussed whether or not to continue paying for subscriptions to the Nationwide Yellow Pages, Yellow Pages Directory and Business Yellow Pages. Motion was made to discontinue these subscriptions. Seconded. Approved.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 8:05 p.m.

The next session meeting is February 8, 2024 with Devotions & Prayer by Anita Asbell.

Prayerfully Submitted,

Moderator,

Anita W. Asbell,
Clerk of Session
(bdt)

Rev. Marla Bauler

Note: See approvals for the following:

Anita Asbell as Clerk of Session for one year.
Emily Roberts as Treasurer for one year.
Amy Kepple to remain as Assistant Treasurer for one year.
Calie Stalter as Presbytery Commissioner for our church for 2024.
Communion served on the 1st Sunday of each month during 2024
as well as Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve.
Annual Statistical Report for 2023.
Session Quorum as 50% of currently serving elders.
Pastor's Housing Allowance of \$20,000 for 2024.

First United Presbyterian Church, Elmwood, IL
Session Meeting Minutes February 1, 2024

A regular meeting of the Session of First United Presbyterian Church of Elmwood was held in the Fellowship Hall on February 1, 2024. The meeting was opened with devotions and prayer by Anita Asbell at 6:30 p.m.

Elders present: 2024 – Julie Barrett and Calie Stalter
2025 – Anita Asbell and Steve Winslow
2026 – Ron Cox, Brandy Stevens and Marty Tarter

constituting a quorum. Rev. Marla Bauler moderated the meeting. The guidelines for a quorum were established at the January 11, 2024 Session Meeting as the presence of 50% of currently serving Elders.

Elder Training: Anita Asbell
Keeping records of Session Meeting.

The meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

No Deacons Report this month.

Treasurer's Report

Due to an early monthly Session Meeting, we did not have a report to review.

Clerk's Report

The minutes from both the January 11, 2024 Session meeting and the January 21, 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting were reviewed & approved.
Correspondence was reviewed.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Marla gave a formal report which listed her monthly ministry activities.
Communion was served to 28 members of the congregation on January 7, 2024.

Committee Reports

Personnel: Chair – Ron Cox

No report.

Finance: Chair – Marty Tarter

No report.

Worship/Membership/Christian Ed: Co-Chairs – Calie Stalter & Anita Asbell

Worship: Meeting was held on January 8, 2024. Discussed having cupcakes for Scout Sunday on February 4, 2024, and ideas for Souper Bowl Sunday on February 11, 2024. Will be wearing our favorite football team shirts. Will also be asking the congregation to donate cans of soup or a monetary donation. There will be no Children's Sunday School that day.

Christian Ed: Adult Sunday School reports the following financial accounting: Beginning Balance as of 1/01/2024 = \$2,284.65 . Deposits: \$1,100 (wasn't needed as previously issued); \$222; \$228; \$126 Spent: \$135 (McVey Mechanical Service – helping local individual)
\$273.51 (Merrick Floor Covering– helping local individual)
\$35 (Advertising for movie "Sound of Freedom")
Ending Balance = \$3,517.14 as of 1/31/24.

Missions: Co-Chairs – Marty Tarter

Will need to find volunteers and will also need to discuss a new budget.

Marketing and Evangelism: Chair – Brandy Stevens

Brandy is trying to get herself as an administrator for Facebook.

Building and Grounds: Chair – Steve Winslow; Asst. – Julie Barrett

Have been calling the original builders of our church to see if they can help with the lights behind the stained-glass window. Very difficult to get in touch with.
Windows scheduled to be cleaned before Easter.
Will be looking into training for the new AED machine.

New Business

Session has decided to make this a year of safety and have begun discussing ideas and will be broken down into an idea each month. Our first idea is to begin locking all doors during the service. Start time will be during the first hymn. Any late comers will still be able to get in by using the buzzer and Brett can let them in. March we will be discussing weather and fire safety; April will be safety for all God's Children – young and old; May will be training on CPR and the AED machine.

There being no further business to come before the session, the meeting adjourned with a short prayer offered by Pastor Marla at 7:50 p.m.

The next session meeting is March 14, 2024 with Devotions & Prayer by Calie Stalter.

Submitted with prayer by,

Anita W. Asbell,
Clerk of the Session
bdt

Moderator,

Rev. Marla Bauler