

Welcome to our Church Family!

We are called into community.



*"The Ethiopian Eunuch," a stained-glass window
in the Exeter College Chapel, Oxford, England.*

First Presbyterian Church

602 West Green Street

Urbana, Illinois 61801

(217) 367-8357

www.FirstPresUrbana.org

For Our Worship of God

Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:30 a.m.

April 28, 2024

We Gather in worship

Moment for Reflection

Susannah Heschel

“There is a phrase in the Zohar that says only someone with a broken heart is a whole person. It is a very cryptic statement, and one of the interpretations is that when the heart is broken, then the Shekinah, God’s presence, comes and fills it.”

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Greeting

Rev. David Oliver-Holder

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Prelude

Prelude on LOBE DEN HERREN

E.-J. van der Hel

Introit

If ye love me
Sanctuary Choir

Malcolm Archer

Call to Worship

Bob Burger

L: In the wilderness, water brings life.

A: Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.

L: In the Word of God, the good news gives light.

A: Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

L: In the bread and the wine, the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.

A: Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.

L: Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.

Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

Prayer of the Day

Bob Burger

Wondrous Vinegrower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the

font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish your creation, in the name of the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, one God, now and forever. Amen

*Hymn of Praise # 611 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

HYMN TO JOY

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee; earth and heaven reflect thy rays;
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowering fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Mortals, join the happy chorus which the morning stars began.
Love divine is reigning o'er us, joining all in heaven's plan.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife.
Joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.

Call to Confession

Bob Burger

Prayer of Confession

Bob Burger

O Christ, you are the true vine, and you have made us your branches. In your grace, we find strength, and in your love, we are set free. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who have been freed, when we act as if the Easter story did not turn the world upside down. Forgive us, O God, when we do not live as people who are your branches, when we forget that we are rooted in you and bound to one another by your spirit. Forgive us, O Christ, our one true vine, and teach us to abide in you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Bob Burger

L: Hear the good news of God's promise: I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh.
Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

A: In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God.

Sung Response, Hymnal # 591 "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah!" (refrain) HALLE, HALLE

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Halle, halle, hallelujah!

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

We Listen for God's Word

Prayer for Illumination Bob Burger

Scriptures

First Reading Acts 8:26-40 (p. 127) Bob Burger

Second Reading 1 John 4:7-21 (p. 241) Bob Burger

Anthem *Let us Love one another* Mark Sirett

Gospel Reading John 15:1-8 (p. 109) Rev. David Oliver-Holder

Sermon "Struggling to Keep Up with God" Rev. David Oliver-Holder

Affirmation of Faith *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

We believe in Jesus Christ, son of the one God, maker and sustainer of earth, sea, and sky. Born of Mary's womb, faithful to the God of Abraham and Sarah, Jesus healed the sick, served the poor, and proclaimed heaven on earth.

Condemned by the religious, crucified by the state, he died, but transformed even death and rose to life everlasting. He blessed the disciples with his Holy Spirit and send them forth, east and west, north and south. We commit ourselves to Jesus, to one another as siblings and to his mission in the world in the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labor, God's will be done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will be done.
In the worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvest we are sharing, God's will be done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Prayers of the People

Rev. David Oliver-Holder

L: ...God, who makes us one,

A: hear our prayer.

*The Lord's Prayer (Spoken)

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

We Respond to God's Word

Invitation to Discipleship

Matthew 11:28-30

L: Jesus said: Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.

A: Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;

L: for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

A: For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Offering (*the offering plate will be available after the service in the narthex*)

Doxology, Hymnal # 609

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God, all creatures high and low.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise God, in Jesus fully known:

Creator, Word, and Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Prayer of Dedication

Bob Burge

Through our offerings, O God, give your loving Spirit to a world in need of comfort. Make our many gifts one offering for the world; in the name of Jesus. Amen.

We Go Out to Show the Love of God

Hymn, Hymnal # 300

“We Are One in the Spirit”

THEY'LL KNOW WE

ARE CHRISTIANS

1. We are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord;
we are one in the Spirit; we are one in the Lord,
and we pray that all unity may one day be restored: *[Refrain]*

Refrain: And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love;
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

2. We will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand;
we will walk with each other; we will walk hand in hand,
and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land: *[Refrain]*
3. We will work with each other; we will work side by side;
we will work with each other; we will work side by side,
and we'll guard human dignity and save human pride: *[Refrain]*

4. All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,
and all praise to Christ Jesus, God's only Son,
and all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one: *[Refrain]*

*Announcements, Charge and Benediction

Rev. David Oliver-Holder

Postlude

Toccata, from Symphony for organ, Op. 42 #1

C.-M. Widor

**All who are able may stand*

Worship Leader

Bob Burger

Steward

Sandy Nieman

Head Usher

Andy Harden

New to First Pres Urbana?

We warmly welcome you and are so glad you've come to worship with us!

Visit our usher (located by the front doors) anytime if you have questions about the service.

Please sign in at the **Welcome Station** with your contact information – and feel free to take a **Welcome Folder** for helpful information about our church, or maybe even a **festive Rainbow Mask!** Contact our office at office@firstpresurbana.org for more information or if you would like a check-in from our Fellowship Committee (we LOVE to meet new people!!)

Hearing Devices and Large Print Bulletins are available – just ask the usher for assistance.

There is a play area with a kids' rug and a few quiet toys, in the space between pews about halfway into the sanctuary on the right side. Kids, parents and caregivers and all are welcome to be on the rug or in the chairs. Some Sundays there will be a children's sermon. After the children's sermon, or just before the regular sermon, kids and caregivers will head downstairs for the rest of worship.

Worship bags are available in the front entrance (narthex). These are stocked with fun activities to keep kids entertained during our service. Feel free to grab as many as you need, and return when finished.

Remember to **silence your cell phones** before the worship service, and feel free to post about your experience on social media (find us on **Facebook at First Presbyterian Church of Urbana**).

☞ *"When a guest comes, Christ comes."*
Please introduce yourself to those around you. ☞



Online Offering: Use this QR code to make an online offering through our SimpleGive webpage.

Church Announcements

In the Church Family: *Let us pray for:* Don Hunt, Betty Belanger, Shirley J. Walker, Nancy Jane Pellet (awaiting a diagnosis, prayers for her and her family); Carolyn Conrad (eye surgery in Peoria on April 5; followed by surgery on the other eye at the end of April); Nadja Altstetter; Cindy Fraser's niece, Hannah (who is being treated for an eye condition); Phyllis Mast; Amanda Pellett; Laura Mast (recovering from surgery); Joan Freestone (hospice); Marilyn Thies; Jonathan Kloepfel; Harold and Lois Guither.

We were saddened to learn of the death of Allen Beyler on Monday, April 15, 2024. Please remember Peter, his son and family in prayer. No details about a memorial service have been announced.

Church Breakfast: Sunday, April 28 after the seminar, in Fellowship Hall. No need to bring anything; just bring yourselves! Fun F&M Committee will provide breakfast.

The Status of Central Illinois Water Resources

A public seminar series sponsored by First Presbyterian Church of Urbana
Sundays, April 28 and May 5 at 10:45 a.m. in the Chapel

Historically, Central Illinois has enjoyed a safe and plentiful supply of water which met the needs of households, agriculture and industry. But what is the status of this vital resource today?

Sunday, April 28

Impacts of Climate Change on Water Resources in Central Illinois

Dr. Jim Angel, an employee of the Illinois State Water Survey from 1984 to 2018 and the State Climatologist from 1996 to 2018, will discuss the impact of climate change on water supplies available to Central Illinois homeowners, agriculture and industry.

Sunday, May 5

Mapping Aquifers from the AIR: A New Way to Study the Mahomet Aquifer, the Major Source of Drinking Water in Much of Central Illinois

Dr. Kisa Mwakanyamale-Gilkie, Associate Research Scientist and Geophysicist at the Illinois State Geological Survey and lead investigator for the Mahomet Aquifer Airborne Mapping Program will describe improved techniques for mapping and understanding aquifers like the Mahomet Aquifer, the major source of drinking water for Champaign-Urbana and many other municipalities.

Food & More Program Item of the Month: For April the item is **Single Roll Paper Towels**. Please place donations in the Food & More box near the church office.

Prayer and Psalms Zoom Group meets **Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.** Join us for fellowship, prayer, friendship and mutual support. Click to join:

<https://zoom.us/j/92573248618?pwd=V1UySnBqbjFWVTJiL1NLbTBKMDIiUT09>

Meeting ID: 925 7324 8618 (if necessary)

Password: poetry

Fellowship Outing: **Illini Baseball Game, Sunday, May 5 at 1:00pm.** Meet at 12:45pm at the U of I baseball stadium to watch Illini vs. Ohio State. Admission is free.

First Fridays: A new opportunity for fellowship and refreshments with our church family is happening the first Friday morning of most months at Pekara Bakery, 811 West Springfield in Champaign (southeast corner of Springfield and Prospect.) **Our next meeting is at 9am on Friday, May 3.** Order a beverage, a bakery item or whatever sounds good and join in on the conversations we never seem to have enough time for on Sunday morning! Question? Contact Karen Badger or Cindy Fraser.

Calling All Graduates: Will you or someone in your family be graduating this spring? Please send information describing their degree, school/college/university, and plans for the future to the church office so we can celebrate with you! We will run notices in bulletins starting mid-May and in the June Open Door.

The Church Office will be open Monday through Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Tracy works from home on Thursdays).

FPCU Cookbooks! Contact the church office if you would like a PDF copy of our church cookbooks (or find it in the April 19 E Report):

- Favorite Recipes (1940)
- Be Present at Our Table (1997)
- Merry Christmas (1956)

If you didn't order paper copies, but are interested in any of the above or a compilation of all three, please let the church office know.

WANTED: Twice Is Nice Thrift Shop needs smaller paper shopping bags. Also, large paper and plastic shopping bags. We **DO NOT NEED** very large plastic bags (13 gallon on up) used for tall garbage cans and larger -- we have many of these from our donations. We also do not need newspapers at this time. Thank you!

Community Events

Church Women United – May Friendship Day: What does the Lord Require of CW-You? “[. . .] *the Lord has told you what is good, and this is what he requires of you: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.*” Micah 6:8

You're invited to our May Friendship Day Celebration **Friday, May 3 – 6:30 p.m.** Fellowship; **7:00 p.m.** Program – Faith United Methodist Church (1719 S Prospect Ave., Champaign). For More Information, contact Beth Chato.

Join Us for Sunday worship!

1. **Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresChurchUrbana/>
Scroll down to the post from that morning
2. **Zoom** click on: <https://zoom.us/j/8144246357>
Meeting ID: 814 424 6357 (if necessary)
Password 475210
3. **Landline or phone** that is not a smart phone:
1 (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 814 424 6357 (if necessary)
Password 475210

Church Calendar for April 28 – May 5, 2024

Sunday, April 28

9:30 AM Worship (S & Streaming)
Play Area (S), Child Care (DS)
After worship Fellowship (N)
Parish Nurse (NO)
10:45 AM Earth Care Seminar: *Impacts
of Climate Change on
Water Resources (C)*
11:30 AM Church Breakfast (FH)

Monday, April 29

Office Open

6:00 PM Cub Scouts (Offsite, Rain: FH)

Tuesday, April 30

Office Open

9:00 AM Thrift Shop (607 W Elm)
7:00 PM Scouts Troop 6 (FH)
7:00 PM CYM (Zoom)

Wednesday, May 1

Office Open

Open Door Mail Date

10:00 AM Prayer and Psalms Group (Zm)
7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (CL)

Thursday, May 2

Office Closed

5:30 PM Deacons (L)
7:00 PM Worship (Zoom)

Friday, May 3

Office Open

9:00 AM First Fridays (Pekara Bakery)
6:30 PM CWU Friendship (Faith
United Methodist)

Saturday, April 4

9:00 AM Thrift Shop (607 W Elm)

Sunday, May 5

Communion

9:30 AM Worship (S & Streaming)
Play Area (S), Child Care (DS)
After worship Fellowship (N)
Parish Nurse (NO)
10:45 AM Earth Care Seminar: *Mapping
Aquifers (C)*
12:45 AM Fellowship (U of I Baseball)

C – Chapel
N – Narthex

CL – Choir Loft
NO – Nurses' Office

DS – Downstairs
S – Sanctuary

FH – Fellowship Hall
Zm – Zoom

Church Staff:

Pastor/Head of Staff: The Rev. Dr. David Oliver-Holder

Sexton: Steve Johnson

Office Manager: Tracy Weddle

Office Support Manager: Melissa Records

Director of Music: Seungah Kwon

Organist: Camille Goudeseune

AV Tech. Coordinator: Cedar King

Music Program Associate: Jennifer Immke

Childcare Workers: Erin O'Connor, Madhu Pradhan