

Welcome

We are an inclusive, Christ-centered community of faith, passionately committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ in practical ways. Please let us know of your interests and concerns.

Pastors:

Chuck Carlson
Eric Corbin

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF CHAMPAIGN

We want to get to know you!

- Fill in the Friendship Pads; please use a name tag.
- Introduce yourself to one of the pastors.
- Join us for coffee and conversation in Westminster Hall.
- Trouble hearing? Try a hearing device at the back of the Sanctuary.
- Large-print hymnals are on the back table.
- Wheelchairs are available for in-church use.
- Printed sermons are available; audio can be found early the following week on the church website.

Children, Youth & Families

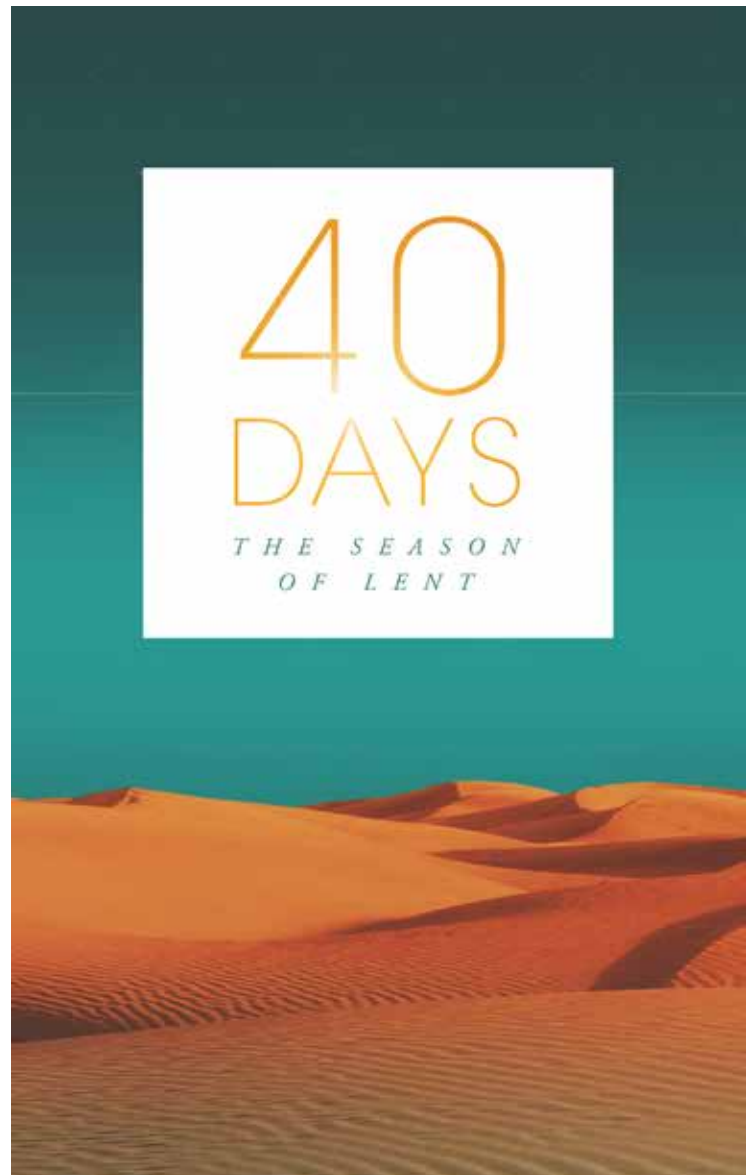
Please sign in your child in the Education Building. There you will receive a nametag for your child and a matching identification label to be used by the parent during pick up. Classes for Preschool-8th grade begin at 9 AM. High School Youth Sunday School begins at 10:30 AM after worship. All classes are held in the Christian Education Building. Children will be served a snack in their class. Our Nursery and Toddler Rooms (birth – 2 years) are open from 8:45 – 10:30 AM each Sunday.

Schedule

8:50-9:00	Students check-in
9:00-10:00	Sunday School for Preschool – 8 th Grade
10:00	Parents may pick up Preschool children
10-10:30	Children's Choir practice or Mission project option (K-8)
10:30	Parents pick up students in the Chapel or Café in the Christian Education Building.
10:30-11:30	High School and recent grad group in the Christian Education Building

Contact our Director of Children, Youth, and Families, **Mindy Watts-Ellis** (mindy@firstpres.church) for more information about children and youth education and family events.

March 19, 2017 8 and 9 AM



Welcome to First Presbyterian Church
Bienvenue à La Première Eglise Presbytérienne de Champaign
Bienvenidos a La Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana

삼페인 제일 장로교회에 오신것을 환영합니다.

Pour nos amis de langue française et les membres,
nous avons des copies du sermon d'aujourd'hui en français
à l'arrière de l'église

Office: 302 West Church, Champaign, IL 61820 217.356.7238
info@firstpres.church www.firstpres.church
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/firstchurchchampaign>

Service for the Lord's Day

A special welcome to those at our church for the first time.

Prelude Richard Rossi
Preparation for Worship – Tower Bell
Greeting and Announcements

9**Introit** *Sing Out with Joy to the Lord* Richard Rossi

Call to Worship (Adapted from Psalm 95)

Leader O, come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

People Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!

Leader O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!

People For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand.

All Come, let us offer praise and worship to the Lord our God!

♦**Hymn 298** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

♦Prayer of Confession

Lord, despite assurances that you are good and loving, despite the reminder that you are the ever-watchful keeper of our lives, we still find ourselves lacking trust in you. We find it difficult to hope in what is unseen, to believe in what we cannot prove, to take the leap of faith that walking with you requires. We believe, Lord. Help our unbelief. We would like to let go of our need to control which is grounded in our insecurity. Please grant us your peace, allowing us to rest in your ever-loving and gracious arms. May we enter the reality of experiencing Jesus' truth when he says, "My yoke is easy, and my burden is light." ...
(continue to pray in silence)

♦Assurance of Pardon (Adapted from Romans 5:1-11)

Leader "But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us."

People "Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand."

Leader "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

All "But more than that, we even boast in God through whom we have now received reconciliation." Amen!

♦Passing of the Peace

Leader The peace of Christ be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Please greet one another in the peace of Christ.
Response #576 *Gloria, Gloria*

Act of Friendship

Offering of Gifts and Tithes

Lenten Meditation

Larry Fleming

Humberto del Rivera, tenor soloist

9#592 **Doxology; Prayer of Dedication**

9♦**Hymn 80** *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

9**Call to Prayer** *Hear Our Prayer, O Lord*

Richard Rossi

9**Prayers for Ourselves and Others**
The Lord's Prayer

Scripture *Exodus 17:1-7* (OT pg 64)

Anthem Jean René Balekita and Bomoyi

Scripture *John 3:5-42* (NT pg 93)

Message *Finding Faith in the Wilderness*
Pastor Chuck Carlson

8**Prayers for Ourselves and Others**
The Lord's Prayer

♦**Hymn 85** *What Wondrous Love Is This?*

♦**Extinguishing the Third Lenten Candle**

♦**Benediction**

8♦Benediction Response

May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever. Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor. Lift your eyes and see His face, and His grace forever. May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

9♦**Choral Benediction** *Go Now in Peace*

Richard Rossi

♦**Postlude**

Richard Rossi

♦Please stand if able.

This Week

Sunday, March 19

- 8:00 AM Contemplative Worship/Sanctuary
- 9:00 AM Worship/Sanctuary
- 9:00 AM Sunday School (K-8th)/Chapel
- 9:00 AM 3rd Grade Bible Class/Youth Library
- 10:00 AM Youth Choir/Chapel
- 10:30 AM God's Abundant Table Study/Centennial Hall
- 10:30 AM Genesis Study (French/Lingala)/Parlor

Monday, March 20

- 11:00 AM GROW/Chapel
- 1:00 PM PW Coordinating Team/Westminster Hall
- 3:30 PM Environmental Stewardship/Parlor
- 5:30 PM AA/Centennial Hall
- 5:30 PM World Mission/Westminster Hall

Tuesday, March 21

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast Bible Study/Centennial Hall
- 10:30 AM Staff Meeting/Parlor
- 12:00 PM Classic Book Study/2nd Floor Atkins Bldg.
- 1:30 PM SAFE House Class/Westminster Hall
- 5:30 PM Fear of the Other Study/Library
- 5:45 PM Contemporary Worship Team/Parlor
- 7:00 PM Worship Team/Parlor

Wednesday, March 22

- 9:30 AM Women's Bible Study/Library at Windsor Court
- 10:00 AM Path to Peace/Parlor
- 12:00 PM Inclusion Ministry Team/Parlor
- 5:30 PM Spiritual Formation Study/Library
- 6:00 PM Bell Choir/Bell Room
- 7:00 PM Contemporary Rehearsal/Centennial Hall
- 7:00 PM Sanctuary Choir/Choir Room

Thursday, March 23

- 7:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Hardees on South Neil
- 9:00 AM Women's Bible Study/Parlor
- 9:00 AM Circle of Joy/Clark Lindsey
- 1:00 PM Circle of Faith/Parlor
- 5:30 PM Cuba Steering Committee/Parlor
- 7:00 PM Circle of Peace/Westminster Hall

Friday, March 24

- 8:30 AM Men's Prayer/Chapel
- 12:00 PM Office will close for afternoon

Saturday, March 25

- 8:00 AM Adopt-A-Highway/CE Bldg Entry
- 3:00 PM Worship Prep/Centennial Hall
- 6:00 PM Praise & Prayer/Centennial Hall

Worship

•Liturgist this morning is **Kathy Havey** at the 8 AM service and **Harry Bremer** at the 9 AM service.

•The Sanctuary flowers this morning are from **Sallie Hutton and Don Eberly's** Commitment Celebration held on March 18, 2017.

•**Easter lilies and flowers** will adorn our Sanctuary on Easter Sunday, April 16. Plants, \$13 each, may be given in memory or honor of someone. Either mail your check to the church office or drop in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Be sure to include a note for who the plant is in memory or honor of.

Connect

•In this season of Lent, we invite you to visit the **Spirituality Center** located in the State Street entryway to the sanctuary. The center consists of five self-guided stations for contemplation, reflection, and prayer. You will find a prayer wall, a fountain, a crown of thorns, artwork, and a cross. Each station invites you to interact in a tangible way.

•We extend an invitation to you to join one of our **adult education classes** as we learn and grow in Christ together.

Lenten Study: God's Abundant Table by Cynthia Campbell 10:30 AM Centennial Hall Sundays March 5- April 9 led by **Pastor Chuck Carlson** and **Judi Geistlinger**.

Fear of the Other by William H. Willimon 5:30 PM Parlor Tuesdays March 7- 28 led by **Judi Geistlinger**.

Serve

•The **Men's Emergency Winter Shelter** has found a permanent location at New Covenant Fellowship which means that we will no longer be the temporary shelter Sunday-Thursday evenings. Thank you to all who helped us to reach out to provide overnight accommodations during this interim period. Good luck to their staff and volunteers in their new location!

•We are looking for a **part-time CYF Assistant Director**. A complete job description can be found on our website.

•We would like to **serve coffee at Easter** services this year but need two people for making coffee and two for clean-up. Please let the Spirit move you and contact **Nancy Brombaugh** (356-2817) or **Leland Andrews** (352-1023) soon! This year Easter services will be held at 8 and 9:30 AM.

•We are collecting **school supplies** during Lent **for our sister Cuban church**. Suggested donations are: 1 pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip, only); 3 70-count bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper); 1 30-centimeter / 12" ruler; 1 hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package; 1 large eraser (no pencil cap erasers); 6 new, unsharpened pencils with erasers removed from the package; 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24)