

First Presbyterian Church

May 2024



It's hard to believe that it has been almost three years that our church has been operating without an installed pastor. At the start of this journey, I don't think anyone on session expected us to be at this point. It has been amazing to watch all the people who have stepped up and served in a wide variety of roles during that time. I would like to give a significant thank you to Ken Kwantes who has served as an elder and the chair of the administrative committee during this period. He has done so many things behind the scenes from battling alarm systems and heaters to managing the complicated government program to provide money post-COVID. He has dealt with contractors and church financial investment that would have sent most people off the deep end. The Book of Order wisely has officers take a year off every six years to have a break and recharge themselves. Ken is taking that much needed time off. When you see him, please thank him for all he has done for the church, the preschool, and the session. I can't list all he has done, and I am sure I don't

know but a small fraction of the things he has done to keep things together.

Thank you, Ken!

I also want to thank Joanne Zap and Katie Sands. The church has moved bookkeeping firms, purchased a new recordkeeping system, had several major remodeling/repair contracts, and overhauled the church budget. I think the new system and budget will save us lots of headaches in the future, but Joann, Katie, and Britt (he replaced Ken as the chair of the administrative committee) have invested many, many hours making sure the "books are in order." So, a big thank you to them as well.

Amy Whitaker and all of the deacons have embraced a larger role of caregiving and visiting. Thank you to all of those folks for their continued service. Jeff and Lorie, along with the choir, have continued to fill our sanctuary and our hearts with beautiful music. Each Sunday I am impressed our a few voices can make such powerful music.

Maudanne and the PNC are continuing to search for a part-time minister for our congregation. As if our finances weren't enough to prove changing software systems is challenging, the Presbyterian system to advertise and find a minister has also changed during this time period.

Maudanne and I are in debt to Steve Skelton's computer expertise and patience to move our search for a part-time minister into the new system. I'm sure I have forgotten many people in this column, but thank you to everyone for your support, hard work, prayers, and patience during this process.

Susan Murray, Clerk of Session

COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER PROGRAM (CRE)

Our church session is in discussion with Jonathan Kimball about his serving our church part-time as a CRE. If you are not familiar with the term, the following information from the PCUSA is a good introduction.

What is a Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE)? A CRE is an elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA) who is granted a local commission by the presbytery to limited pastoral service as assigned by the presbytery.

Who commissions the ruling elder? When the presbytery is satisfied with the qualifications of a ruling elder to serve a congregation, it shall commission the ruling elder to pastoral service as designated by the presbytery.

What is the ruling elder commissioned to do? A commissioned ruling elder is responsible to watch over the people and provide for their worship and nurture. Permission for specific activities will be included in the approval of the Committee on Ministry.

Why commission Ruling Elders? We believe that God's Spirit provides opportunities for new forms of ministry to build up Christ's Church. Baptized Christians who are ordained as Ruling Elders may bring particular gifts to share in discernment of God's Spirit and governance of God's people.

What is the CRE application process? A CRE must be a Ruling Elder in the PC(USA); Must be endorsed by home church; Must submit application for approval by the Committee on Ministry; Must complete a psychological evaluation administered by LeaderWise.

Who certifies a CRE candidate as prepared to be and suitable for the role of CRE? The Committee on Ministry (COM) interviews, reviews application, determines what training is required, and certifies to the presbytery that a candidate is ready to serve as a CRE.

What training is required? A ruling elder who seeks to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder shall receive such preparation and instruction as determined by the presbytery. (G-2.1001-2.1004)

How is a CRE compensated? A Commissioned Ruling Elder shall receive compensation in accordance with the presbytery's Compensation and Personnel Policy for Pastors.

The Committee on Ministry requires the following areas of training for CRE candidates. The training for each CRE candidate shall be overseen and administered by COM. • Biblical Studies • Reformed Theology and Sacraments • Presbyterian Polity • Preaching • Leading Worship (including administering sacraments when authorized) • Pastoral Care • Field Internship • Healthy Boundary Training

What is the process for examination and eligibility for ministry? • The Committee on Ministry is charged with conducting a background check and the examination of those it certifies as prepared to be and suitable for the role of Commissioned Ruling Elder.

What can the CRE be authorized by COM to do? A CRE can perform one or more of the following services:

Prepare and lead worship

- Provide administrative leadership in this ministry
- Administer the Lord's Supper only in this ministry
- Administer the Sacrament of Baptism only in this ministry
- Moderate the session and congregational meetings of the congregation
- Have a voice in meetings of presbytery
- Have a vote in meetings of the presbytery (such vote to be counted as a ruling elder)

Who supervises the CRE? The CRE shall work under the supervision of the Committee on Ministry. A minister of the Word and Sacrament shall be assigned as a mentor.

Worship and Music

Worship and Music provides: liturgy and hymns, special music (thanks Jeff), preachers in the pulpit scheduled by Mary Kwantes, worship leaders as scheduled by Linda Rose, preparation of Worship Guides and PowerPoint provided by Jonathan, serving of communion the first Sunday of the month in the church and the 2nd Sunday at the Manor, also seasonal liturgical colors in the sanctuary plus planning of special services.

We held a regular communion service where elders passed the elements. We feel it went well. Please let any worship member know how you feel about any of these activities.

We experienced \$1500 repairs to sound and streaming equipment.

We are hoping to continue streaming, but all this equipment, including piano, and organs need repair and/or tuning. Please help us maintain all the services we now provide by giving generously in the next few months as air conditioning expenses kick in.

Ming has provided our minutes regularly to session.

Let us know if our worship meets your needs both in the sanctuary and at home.

Congregational Life

May First-Friday activity: Game and snacks/dessert night

Location: Fellowship Hall

Date: Friday, May 3rd.

Time: 6:30 PM

Outdoors get-together: Sunday, June 2

Location: Veteran's Park

Time: 11:30 AM

Bring your own lunch.

June First Friday out:

Date: Friday, June 7

Location: Los Arcos

Time: 5:30 PM

2024 PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

First Presbyterian Church - Rolla

\$ 40.25 per member

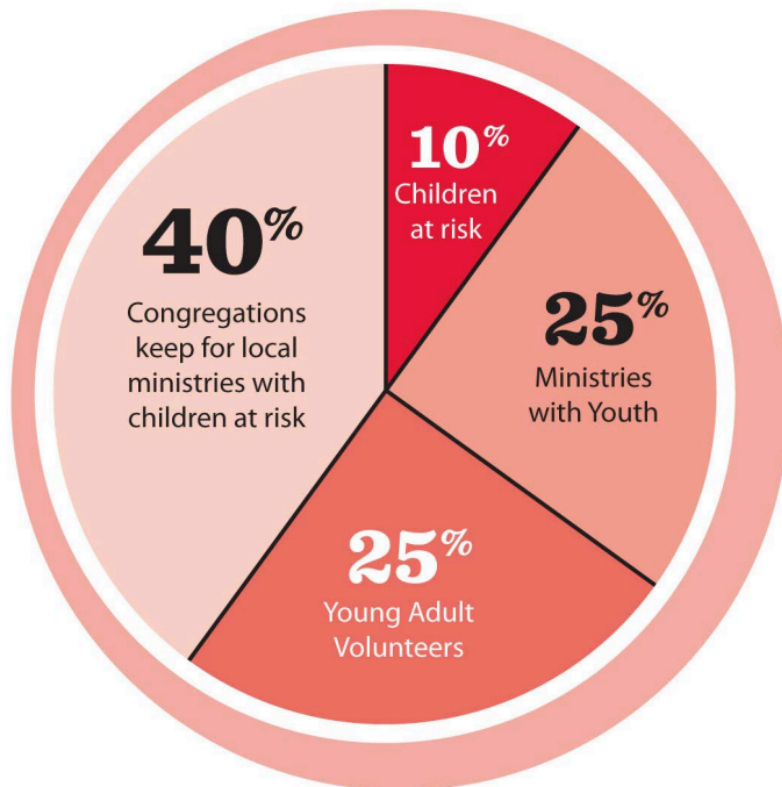


The 2024 Per Capita for ecclesiastical expenses is based upon the membership of your church as reported to General Assembly on December 31, 2023.

Mission and Outreach

We would like to thank everyone for all the Basket of Hope donations brought in during Lent. The Russell House, Rolla Mission and Grace were all very thankful!

The PCUSA Church has four special offering a year. We will be collecting for the Pentecost Offering. This special offering helps support ministries to young people and the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering is retained by our congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people in the Rolla community (upon Session approval CASA will receive that 40%) The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency as shown below in the pie chart.



June we will be collect Crayons for the Back to School Fair.

July we will be participating in GRACE'S
Christmas in July collecting Toys.

PRESCHOOL News 🍏

Some important dates for the Preschool:
Graduation for our pre-k classes will be May 9th at 6:30.



The tiniest cap and gown for the biggest accomplishments.
Congratulations on your Preschool graduation!



Muffins with Mom

Friday May 10th 7am to 8:30 am fellowship hall

Happy Birthday wishes go out to

Linda Rose,
Mary Alofs,
Sharlene Morgan,
Horace Jeffery,
Pam Cottingham



May Anniversaries

Ken & Mary Kwantes
Ardel & Christine Rueff



If you would like your birthday or anniversary shared please update in the office with Katie.

PRAYER REQUEST

Connie & Bob Dewitt - Continuing health care needs
after stroke and surgery.

Ruby & Lee Malone - Residents of Silverstone.

Bob Yenzler - Continuing health challenges.

Katherine Cook Russell - Suffering from dementia.

Pat Look & family - Loss of DC Look.

Bill Neely - Headaches, Back & Hip pain.

Dale Hall (cousin to Debbie Hall) - major health issues.

Steve Day & Family - Loss of Jean Day

Fredi & George Zobrist - Fredi is home from hospital
and on Hospice.

Please pray for those named and their families
as well as their caregivers.

The prayer request will start over every two months.
If you have someone that needs put on or taken off the list,
Please contact Katie in the office.