

Easter Edition



APRIL FIRST FOCUS

2026 FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORMAL

MARCH 29
Palm Sunday
8:30AM & 11AM SERVICES

APRIL 2
Maundy Thursday
5:30PM SUPPER
6:30PM SERVICE
RSVP ONLINE FOR THE TACO SUPPER

APRIL 3
Easter Egg Hunt
6PM OUTSIDE
BRING YOUR BASKETS!
We will move inside if inclement weather

APRIL 3
Good Friday
6:30PM SERVICE
INVITE A FRIEND!

APRIL 5
Pancake Breakfast
Youth Mission Trip Fundraiser
Pancakes, sausage, fruit, coffee & OJ
7:30-10:30am

APRIL 5
Easter Sunday
8:30AM & 11AM SERVICES

EASTER AT FIRST PRES

APRIL 2 | MAUNDY THURSDAY: TACOS & TAIZÉ

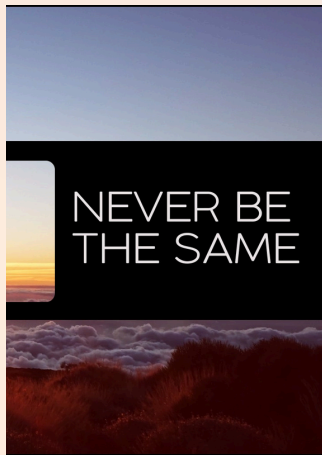
Join us for our Maundy Thursday taco supper and Taizé service. We will have a taco-bar supper in the Great Hall at 5:30pm, followed by worship in the sanctuary at 6:30pm. This service commemorating Jesus' last supper will include communion, meditative songs, and silence inspired by the Taizé ecumenical monastic community. If you plan to attend the supper, please sign up on the website by Monday, March 30, so that the Fellowship Committee can prepare enough food.

APRIL 3 | GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Join us on Good Friday. We will journey together along the Via Dolorosa, the Way of Suffering, at 6:30pm. This reflective, visually centered service will be an invitation to travel along the Stations of the Cross, prompting our own personal reflection on the final hours of Christ's life and preparing our hearts for the wonderful celebration of Easter.

Women's Blessings Ministry – Romans Study

It's not too late to join the Blessings Women's group as we read through the book of Romans. We meet at church every Monday, 6–7pm, now through May 18. Study guides are available for \$10. For this session, Blessings is supporting Home Sweet Home's The Bridge community with a monetary collection. There is a social activity every month. On April 25, we will carpool to the Tea Room at the Depot in Mackinaw, IL. Sign up on the website! All women are welcome at Blessings' events. Contact Ann Lamkey or Irene DenBesten with questions.



April 12 & 19 | Never Be the Same: Easter Invites a New Way of Life

Whether we like it or not, change is inevitable. What do we do when it happens? And more importantly, what does change do to us—or what should change do to us? In this video discussion series from Live a Better Story, we'll look at the role of change in the life of a Jesus-follower. Change isn't easy, but it certainly isn't the end of our story. In fact, it may be the beginning. And when we embrace the transforming aspect of change, we'll discover that we'll never be the same. Easter is an invitation to a new way of life. Join us at 9:45am on April 12 & 19 (and a third date TBD). Sign up online by Wednesday, April 8. Please contact Pastor Karol with questions.

April 18 | BloNo Go! The church is leaving the building!

The Mission Committee invites you to our annual BloNo Go! We will serve several of our local mission partners (including The Boys & Girls Club, Home Sweet Home, Habitat for Humanity, and more) on the morning of Saturday, April 18. Everyone in the church is invited to participate. We will even have a family-friendly project site that will be great for young kids! This is a fantastic opportunity to come together to serve our neighbors and enjoy a time of fellowship. We will meet in the Great Hall at 8:30am and return to the church by noon. See the sign-ups outside the sanctuary.



April 26 | Bob & Kristi Rice Heading to Ghana

Rev. Bob & Kristi Rice, who have previously served in South Sudan as PC(USA) mission co-workers, will be moving to Ghana in late May with The Antioch Partners. Come and learn about the ministry work they'll be doing with the Akrofi-Christaller Institute of Theology, Mission and Culture (ACI) and Healing Hearts, Transforming Nations. Join us in the Great Hall at 9:45am to be inspired by Bob and Kristi sharing about this next chapter in their call to serve.

April 26 | Presbytery Regional Gathering

Pastor Bill McLean (First United Presbyterian, LeRoy) and the Presbytery's Commission on Congregational Life invite Bloomington–Normal area pastors, session members, and congregants to a regional kickoff gathering on Sunday, April 26 at 2pm at LeRoy Presbyterian (101 E Pine St). Join us for introductions, a brief overview of the regional plan, idea-sharing, Q&A, and a dessert potluck. Questions? Contact Rev. Bill McLean at wsmclean@gmail.com.

SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR NEVILLE HOUSE

During the month of April, we will receive donations on behalf of Neville House, the domestic violence shelter for women and kids that is operated by Mid Central Community Action ("MCCA"), one of our long-time local mission partners. Primary needs include:

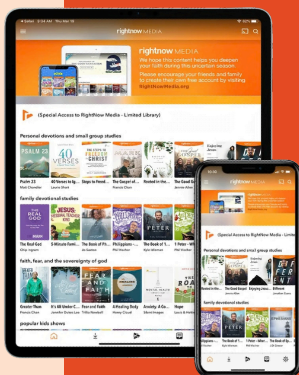
- Laundry detergent
- Facial tissue and toilet tissue
- Multi-surface cleaning spray
- Disinfecting wipes
- Disinfectant bathroom cleaner
- Cleaning sponges
- Garbage and trash bags

MCCA provides a variety of services to promote financial stability and combat homelessness. They also operate a 24-hour emergency shelter for victims of domestic violence, operate a 24-hour domestic violence telephone hotline, and provide a host of support services to help break the cycle of domestic violence.

April RightNow Media Featured Resource

Good Friday and Easter by Francis Chan: 2 Sessions (average 12 min)

In these sessions from The Gospel of Mark, Francis Chan teaches on Jesus's death and resurrection, and challenges us to consider how to live our lives in light of Jesus's sacrifice and victory over death. Free study guide available.



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To find these and thousands of other video studies for individuals, kids, families, and groups:

- Scan the QR code to the right or text FPCNORM to 49775
- or visit app.rightnowmedia.org/join/firstpresnormal
- Contact Pastor Karol if you have any questions



April Care & Share Needs: Home Sweet Home Ministries

- Brooms
- Dustpans
- Mop & Bucket
- Rags & Microfiber Cloths
- Clorox Wipes
- Floor Cleaner (Fabuloso or Lysol)
- Vacuums
- Towels & Shower Curtains



Donations can be brought on Sunday mornings or during the week, M-F, during office hours, 8:30am-3pm.



April Green Team “Earth Month” Events

April is a time of rebirth and new beginnings. Throughout the month, our Green Team will facilitate opportunities for us to renew our interest in caring for God’s Creation.

The spring story stroll, “Earth Day Every Day,” will be available throughout April. The storyboards will also include QR codes linking to questions for children and adults, to help us think more deeply about the importance of taking good care of the Earth. Green Team members will also team up with Kids of the Kingdom for a screening of *The Lorax* (shorter, 1972 version) and a discussion of the important themes from that Dr. Seuss favorite.

As the weather warms and rains fall, the first sprouts of the newly planted prairie will be visible. The Green Team will present updates on The Prairie Project, highlighting its growth, maintenance, and future development.

In honor of Earth Month, Green Team members will also provide information on ways to reduce consumption, reuse, and recycle, including how to recycle that old, leftover paint you have in the basement or garage.



The Birthday List

If you would like to be added or removed from the birthday list, please contact Anne Lunt at the church office to be added or removed:
alunt@firstpresnormal.org

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

Becky Yamamoto	4/2	Sandy Ireland	4/10	Cole Brent	4/17	Jireh Woodford	4/23
Charlotte Franklin	4/2	Nancy Guthoff	4/10	Poonam McAllister	4/18	Rob Mentzer	4/24
Kennady Stombaugh	4/3	Joyce Moncelle-Kaye	4/11	John Blanks	4/19	Melynda Blue	4/26
Michelle Pate	4/3	Morgan Bishop	4/11	Karol Schilling	4/19	Wayne Sorenson	4/27
Amy Hobbs	4/5	Alissa Briggs	4/12	Amy Welch	4/20	Eric Barbour	4/28
Mark Briggs	4/5	Taylor Beal	4/13	Leslie Henderson	4/20	Hayden Hancock	4/29
Jeremiah Woodford	4/5	Sally Bailey	4/13	Jo Ann Freeman	4/21	Layna Walker	4/29
Bergen Jome	4/7	Sherry Smith	4/15	Leni Swearingen	4/21	Kendyll Hobbs	4/30
Cody Walker	4/8	Dena Benscoter	4/16	Ralph Rodriguez	4/21	Jacque Hansing	4/30
Amanda Cryer	4/8	Buelah Hensey	4/16	Matt Litwiller	4/21		
Sheila Melzer	4/9	Mary Kirby	4/17	Jack Swearingen	4/22		
Brigham Kruger	4/10	Curt Spaur	4/17	Devan Bishop	4/23		