



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORMAL

WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

NEW? SEE THE WELCOME CENTER FOR YOUR GIFT!



26 APR
2026



START AT
11 AM

2000 E College Ave, in Normal, IL

www.firstpresnormal.org

We affirm that all people are children of God and are created in the image of God. Believing this, we welcome all individuals into the life, community, and ministry of First Pres. This includes people of every age, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental ability, economic status, political belief, background, and past experience. No one is excluded, marginalized, or held outside the warm welcome of this congregation. You can find our full statement of affirmation & inclusion on our website.

**APRIL 26, 2026
11AM ORDER OF WORSHIP**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Karol Schilling

SONG Lead Me To The Cross

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

Julia White

SONG The Wonderful Cross

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 53:4-6

Levi Wilcox

TIME WITH CHILDREN

Kelli Owens

SCRIPTURE Colossians 1:19-23, 2:13-15

Pastor Matt Wilcox

MESSAGE Sacred Objects: év the Cross

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

SONG At The Cross (Love Ran Red)

COMMUNITY PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor Karol Schilling

OFFERING INVITATION - MISSION MOMENT

Bob & Kristi Rice

OFFERING REFLECTION TIME

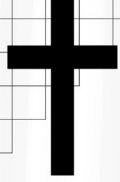
SONG This Is Amazing Grace

BLESSING

Pastor Matt Wilcox

THE FLOWERS ARE GIVEN BY:

Jim Bouas, in loving memory of Jim's mother and in memory of Jim and Barb's great granddaughter, Kaylin.



SACRED OBJECTS 'EV THE CROSS

COLOSSIANS 1:19-23, 2:13-15

The Main Point

(A quick summary of the sermon.)

The cross is the central symbol of our faith, revealing all that Jesus accomplished for us: reconciliation with God, forgiveness of sin, freedom from condemnation, and new life. Though difficult to fully explain, the power of the cross is deeply personal, showing that we are not alone, not defined by our failures, and fully loved. In, through, and because of the cross, we find hope, healing, and a restored relationship with God.

One Question

(A single question to carry with you this week.)

Where in your life do you still feel defined by guilt, distance, or condemnation, and what might it look like to truly believe that the cross has already spoken a different word over you?

What Now?

(A clear, simple next step.)

This week, write down one burden you've been carrying (guilt, shame, or a regret) and physically place that paper somewhere visible (like near a cross or in your Bible) as a daily reminder that it has already been carried and dealt with by Christ on the cross.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY | YOUTH GROUP DESTINATION UNKNOWN

Students in 6th-12th grade are invited to meet at church at 2pm to travel to a surprise destination! Wear comfy clothes and walking shoes! Parents can pick up students at the church at 4pm. Contact Kelli with questions!

TODAY | PRESBYTERY REGIONAL GATHERING: DESSERT POTLUCK IN LEROY

You are invited to a time of food, fellowship, and conversation with other area Presbyterians today at 2pm at LeRoy Presbyterian (101 E Pine St).

MAY 3 | CENTERING PRAYER

Representing Central Illinois Contemplative Outreach, Toni & John Petersen will lead a Centering Prayer presentation on Sunday, May 3, at 9:45am in the library. They'll offer an overview of the practice and its benefits for daily life, provide an opportunity to experience the prayer style, and answer questions. For more information, contact Pastor Karol or Jan Weyhrich. A signup form is available online.

MAY 3 | BAPTISM GATHERING

If you have not yet been baptized, we would like to invite you to an informal conversation about the meaning of baptism. This will be on Sunday, May 3 at 9:45am in the lounge. Contact Pastor Matt or Pastor Karol if you are interested or if you'd like to know more.

MAY 3 | KIDS OF THE KINGDOM & YOUTH GROUP SUMMER BASH!

K-5th graders will have a snack and play games led by Youth Group students (6-12th grades) in our green space near the patio, from 5:45-7:30pm, weather permitting. We will move indoors if needed. Please contact Kelli Owens with any questions!

MAY 5 | JOY LUNCH & DESSERT DEMO

Seniors (60+) are invited to bring their own lunch to the church on Tuesday, May 5 at noon, then enjoy a step-by-step no-bake dessert demonstration by Anne Lunt. Anne will share the dessert with everyone and provide a recipe to take home. A firm headcount is required—please sign up online by Friday, May 1 by 7pm to reserve your dessert.

MAY 10 | SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE BEGINS & YOUTH SUNDAY

Sunday, May 10 (Youth Sunday) marks the start of our 10am worship schedule. We will only have one service at 10am through Sunday, September 6. Please also join us as we celebrate our graduating seniors and confirmands.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MAY 17 | BLESSINGS WOMEN'S MINISTRY

All women are invited to our social event on Sunday, May 17, at 2:30pm. We will enjoy the musical DreamGirls at Community Players in Bloomington. 20 tickets have been reserved. Please sign up by Sunday, May 3! If you have questions, call or text Irene DenBesten at 309-824-5611. Details will be sent to those who sign up.

CHECK OUT OUR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES!

We have many opportunities for you and your family to serve. We would love your help! You can sign up to help on a one time basis or on a recurring basis. Thank you to all of our current volunteers - we appreciate you!

GET CONNECTED! SIGN UP OR VOLUNTEER TODAY!



Quick Read Codes: Use your phone's camera and point it at the code you want. When a link pops up, click on it to be redirected.



**BE A LITURGIST
ON SUNDAY**



**BE AN USHER
ON SUNDAY**



**HELP AT THE
WELCOME CENTER**



**TIME WITH
CHILDREN**



**HELP STUFF
THE BULLETIN**



**HELP ASSEMBLE
THE NEWSLETTER**



Connect with us!

I'm NEW

*Scan the QR code to fill out our
Connection Card so we can get to
know you!*

Start here



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Sun. April 26	9:30am 9:45am 9:45am 11am 2pm 2pm 5:30pm	Coffee Fellowship Outside the Great Hall Sunday School & Adult Discipleship Hour Confirmation with Session Lounge Contemporary Worship Service Sanctuary Presbytery Regional Gathering Dessert Potluck LeRoy Youth Group Destination Unknwn Alpha Small Group Library
Mon. April 27	6pm	Women's Blessings Bible Study Lounge
Tue. April 28	2:45pm	PASS After School Program Great Hall
Wed. April 29	4:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm	Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary Geen Team Meeting Library Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sanctuary
Thu. April 30	9am 2:45pm 5pm	Book Group Library PASS After School Program Great Hall Serving Meals at Safe Harbor
Fri. May 1	11:15am	Worship Band Rehearsal Sanctuary

CONTACT OUR CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor - Rev. Matt Wilcox..... mwilcox@firstpresnormal.org
 Associate Pastor - Rev. Karol Schilling..... kschilling@firstpresnormal.org
 Director of Music - Phil Enge penge@firstpresnormal.org
 Director of Family Ministry - Kelli Owens kowens@firstpresnormal.org
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