



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF NORMAL

WE ARE GLAD YOU'RE HERE!

NEW? SEE THE WELCOME CENTER FOR YOUR GIFT!



26 APR
2026



START AT
8:30 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
8:30AM ORDER OF WORSHIP
(When you see the * please stand, if you are able)

PRELUDE Sonatina (L. Beethoven) Resounding Joy!
 Sarah Jome, flute; Barb Lemmon, violin; Sara Garrett,
 cello; Pat Warren, bassoon

CALL TO WORSHIP (PSALM 22) Beth MacDonald
Leader: From every moment and experience of our lives, let us remember and turn
 to the Lord.
People: O Lord, our God, do not be far away from us.
Leader: From each of our families and with every voice, let us worship the Lord.
People: We will praise our great God Who holds us and keeps us safe.

***HYMN #355** Hear the Good News of Salvation

CALL TO CONFESSION Beth MacDonald

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that we do not always live as people set free by the cross of Christ. We cling to guilt, carry shame, and act as though sin and death still have power over us. We forget the fullness of what You have accomplished through Jesus - our forgiveness, our freedom, and our restoration. Forgive us, and help us to trust and live into the new life You have given us through the cross. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

CHORAL RESPONSE Chancel Choir
 Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather (Hymn #465)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS Beth MacDonald
Leader: When we look to the cross, we find it empty. Our Savior is not there. He has
 been raised to life and now offers us grace and hope.
People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

***HYMN #579** Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 53:4-6 Beth MacDonald
*The word of God for the people of God: **thanks be to God.***

TIME WITH CHILDREN Kelli Owens

ANTHEM I've Got Peace Like a River (L. Larson) Chancel Choir

SCRIPTURE Colossians 1:19-23, 2:13-15 Pastor Matt Wilcox

MESSAGE Sacred Objects: év the Cross

***HYMN #347** Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive (stanzas 1-3)

COMMUNITY PRAYER Pastor Karol Schilling
*God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING - MISSION MOMENT Bob & Kristi Rice

OFFERING It Is Well with My Soul Resounding Joy!

***HYMN #592** Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Beth MacDonald

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Pastor Karol Schilling

***HYMN #84**

In the Cross of Christ I Glory (stanzas 1-3)

COMMISSIONING OF BOB & KRISTI RICE

Pastor Matt Wilcox

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

As Jesus Hung on the Cross (J.S. Bach)

Phil Enge, organ

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.



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BE A LITURGIST ON SUNDAY



BE AN USHER ON SUNDAY



HELP AT THE WELCOME CENTER



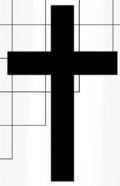
TIME WITH CHILDREN



HELP STUFF THE BULLETIN



HELP ASSEMBLE THE NEWSLETTER



SACRED OBJECTS 'ΕΝ ΤΗ ΚΡΥΒΑΝΤΙ 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.

Prayer Response

Here, O Lord, Your Servants Gather

Here, O Lord, Your servants gather, Hand we link in hand;
Looking toward our Savior's cross, Joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, We unite to pray;
Jesus, Savior, guide our steps, For You are the Way.

Text: Tokuo Yamaguchi, 1958. Translated by Everett M. Stowe. Used with permission under OneLicense.net #A-711651.

Anthem

I've Got Peace Like a River

arr. Lloyd Larson

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul.

I've got peace like a river, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got love like an ocean in my soul, my soul.

Words and music traditional Spiritual. This arrangement © 2018 Celebrating Grace Music. Used with permission, printed and livestreamed under OneLicense.net #A-711651.

355 Wotanin Waste Nahon Po

Hear the Good News of Salvation

NETTLETON 8.7.8.7 D

Native American (Dakota)

John B. Renville, 1879

Trans. Emma Tibbets, 1955

Vers. Jane Parker Huber, 1989

Wyeth's *Repository of Sacred Music*, 1813

1. Wo - tan - in wa - ste na - hon po, Je - sus he wa - i - hdu - sna:
2. Wo - a - hta - ni kin e - ca - mon, Hdu - ha Je - sus si - ha en,
1. Hear the good news of sal - va - tion: Je - sus died to show God's love.
2. All the sins I have com - mit - ted To my Sav - ior now I bring.



To - wa - o - si - da kin tan - ka, He de - han i - yo - ma - hi.
 Kun i - wa - hpa - mda wa - ce - ya, Je - sus on - si - ma - da ce.
 Such great kind - ness! Such great mer - cy! Come to us from heaven a - bove.
 I bow down with tears of an - guish; Christ for - gives and so I sing:



Je - sus Christ wa - ste - wa - da - ka, Je - sus Christ ni - ma - yan: Han, Wa -
 Je - sus Christ, how much I love You! Je - sus Christ, You save from sin!



ste - wa - da - ke a - ma - ton - we Is e - ya wa - ste - ma - da.
 How I love You! Look up - on me. Love me still and cleanse with - in.



Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

347

DETROIT CM

Rosamond E. Herklots, 1969, 1983

Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, 1820
Harm. Margaret W. Mealy (b. 1922)

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The piano part features a steady bass line with chords in the right hand. The vocal line has four verses of lyrics. The first system of music includes the first four verses. The second system includes the continuation of the lyrics and the final chord of the piece.

Dm Gm Dm F Am Dm

1. "For - give our sins as we for - give," You taught us, Lord, to pray,
2. How can Your par - don reach and bless The un - for - giv - ing heart
3. In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals The truth we dim - ly knew:
4. Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls And bid re - sent - ment cease.

Bb Am F Gm Am Dm

But You a - lone can grant us grace To live the words we say.
That broods on wrongs and will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?
What triv - ial debts are owed to us, How great our debt to You!
Then, bound to all in bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

Text: By permission of Oxford University Press.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

RATHBUN 8.7.8.7

John Bowring, 1825

Ithamar Conkey, 1849



1. In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, Tower-ing o'er the wrecks of time;
2. When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes de-ceive, and fears an - noy,
3. When the sun of bliss is beam-ing Light and love up - on my way,
4. Bane and bless-ing, pain and plea-sure, By the cross are sanc - ti - fied;



All the light of sa - cred sto - ry Gath - ers round its head sub-lime.
Nev - er shall the cross for - sake me: Lo! it glows with peace and joy.
From the cross the ra - diance stream-ing Adds more lus - ter to the day.
Peace is there that knows no mea - sure, Joys that through all time a - bide.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

APRIL STORY STROLL - EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

The Green Team has set up another engaging story stroll. Start at board #1 by the south entrance and work your way around the building to board #6. The story is geared toward our youngest, but the QR codes are for youth and adults alike. Enjoy! The stroll will be available for the whole month of April.

TODAY | BOB & KRISTI RICE GOING 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 as they share about this next chapter in their call to serve.

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 sign-up form is available online.

MAY 3 | BAPTISM GATHERING

You are invited 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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. Contact Kelli 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.

MAY 17 | BLESSINGS WOMEN'S MINISTRY

All women are invited to a 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.



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
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 Director of Playmates Preschool - Robin Schaefer rschaefer@firstpresnormal.org
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