



The Carillon

2026

**First Presbyterian Church
220 East Franklin
Clinton, Missouri 64735**

PASTOR'S CORNER

Tra la, it's May, the lusty month of May,
That lovely month when everyone goes blissfully
astray.
Tra la, it's here, that shocking time of year,
When tons of wicked little thoughts merrily appear.

So, if you want to stay on the straight and narrow,
stay out of Camelot this month, or you may be led
astray!

This month we celebrate Mother's Day. Although many have given credit to Hallmark or other greeting card companies, the modern holiday was first celebrated in 1908, when Anna Jarvis held the first Mother's Day service of worship at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church in Grafton, West Virginia. She later came to regret the commercialism that resulted, since her intent was to recognize and pay tribute to Mothers, the first to place us on the path of righteousness. Although Jarvis is widely credited as the holiday's founder, others had floated the idea earlier — with a different agenda in mind, according to *National Geographic*. The poet and author Julia Ward Howe had aimed to promote a Mothers' Peace Day decades before. For her and the antiwar activists who agreed with her position — including Jarvis' own mother — the idea of Mother's Day should spread unity across the globe in the wake of so much trauma following the Civil War in America and Franco-Prussian War in Europe. Astoundingly, we spend \$843 million on cards, and

\$2.6 billion each on flowers and gift certificates, according to the data, and an untold amount taking mothers to brunches, lunches and special outings. Maybe we should send Peace Cards instead.

Pentecost is a liturgical holiday recognizing the promised coming of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost is a major Christian festival celebrated 50 days after Easter (including Easter) that commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and other followers of Jesus in Jerusalem. Regarded as the "birthday of the Church," it marks the start of the church's global mission. It is celebrated with church services, red decorations, and sometimes baptisms, usually falling in May or June. Described in Acts 2: 1-31, the sound of a rushing wind and tongues of fire indicated that they had been filled with the Holy Spirit. Now able to speak different languages, the Apostles could spread the good news throughout the area. This birthday of the Christian Church is celebrated at the same time as the Jewish festival of Weeks. This May it falls on May 24th.

Trinity Sunday is the first Sunday after Pentecost in the Western Christian liturgical calendar, and the Sunday of Pentecost in Eastern Christianity. Trinity Sunday celebrates the Christian doctrine of the Trinity, the three Persons of God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The doctrine, part of the belief of the Presbyterian Church, states that God the Father is not the same as God the Son or God the Holy Spirit. Neither is the Son or the Holy Spirit the same as God the Father (each is separate) But each is God (equally God). This is one of the most challenging elements of faith in all Christian religions. On this Sunday we focus on the power of God as He existed from creation to the present.

Thus, May is the month within which we honor our earthly mothers and our Heavenly Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete: God our advocate, protector, and helper. This month you might want to focus on the role of the Holy Spirit in our Christian lives. You might want to meditate on the following: The

Helper/Counselor: John 14:16-17, 26; Power and Witness: Acts 1:8; Fruit of the

May 2026

The Carillon, First Presbyterian Church, Clinton, Missouri

Spirit: Galatians 5:22-23; Intercessor: Romans 8:26-27 – The Spirit helps in weakness and intercedes for us with groans too deep for words. Baptism and Indwelling: 1 Corinthians 6:19; Transformation: Ezekiel 36:26-27; and Freedom: 2 Corinthians 3:17. I pray you feel the Holy Spirit encouraging you daily in your Christian life.

Pastor Mary

Meet & Eat

First Sunday Meet & Eat for May will be at El Puerto.

Ushers/Greeters for May

Martie Zumbrennen Jan McKenney
Larry Brown

Fellowship for May

Cheryl Hicks, chair Diane Hannah
Sherry Himes

Ushers/Greeters June

Monica Sheek Judy Lawrence
Gayle Dunahee

Fellowship for June

Martie Zumbrennen, chair Sandy Snider
Ann Booth

Deacons Meeting Minutes

April 14, 2026

No minutes available

Session Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2026

Elders Present: Donna Doll, Sharon Gilkey, Diane Hannah, Neil Crayden, Jr., Gay Smith, Linda Wilson and Debbie Wilson. Mike McCoy was absent. Rev. Mary Anna Townsend, Moderator, was present.

The Docket order was changed and a motion was made to approve. Minutes from March 22 Session meeting were approved.

Buildings and Grounds: Neil reported that the parking lot resurfacing is complete but will check it thoroughly on Monday before payment is made. He presented information about roof damage that he received a bid for from Quality Roofing. He also reported that we had a good updated report from Foundation Recovery. Neil would like to install new solar powered motion flood lights on the outdoor poles in the parking lot and also the north side of the church. There is budget to cover that so no motion is necessary.

Neil presented a bid for \$3,200 from Stanley Steemer to clean the carpet in the church and strip the wax and re-apply in the Fellowship Hall. Neil will stay in touch with them.

Neil, with the help of the Finance Committee, will continue to work on a letter prioritizing projects around the church and asking for help with funding. The letter will be brought back to Session before going to the congregation.

Neil reported that some of the homeless have been staying under the big tree on the SE corner of our church. He will clean out all the leftover items.

Communication: Diane shared that she had spoken with Mark Smith and it appears that no one knows how to get into our Facebook

account. It was suggested that we can either open a new account or hire Wes Bradley from

CISC to help us. It was decided that Diane will call Wes Bradley to help us and Mary Anna, Donna and Diane will become a new committee to try to solve the problem.

Donna had a message from Debbie Willings concerning Fed Ex packages. It was a form we needed to sign if we want to allow Fed Ex to leave packages behind the flower pot if it is past noon when they arrive and the church is locked. Session did not want to do that. Diane offered to have packages delivered to her house which is close by. Donna will speak to Debbie about it and see if Fed Ex will deliver to a location other than what the address says.

Clerk's Report: Diane reported that the Clinton Community Choir, which is an outreach project of FPC, had their performance earlier in April and it went very well with many great reviews. Diane would like to thank all of our FPC members who helped out.

Treasurer's Report: Donna gave the March Treasurer's Report. After review. Gay made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Debbie seconded and motion approved.

Moderator's Report: Rev. Townsend asked who is in charge of paraments and offered to take care of it. She will visit with others about how and when the paraments should be changed.

Personnel Committee: Rev. Townsend reported that she had a very good visit with the Personnel Committee and they discussed some changes to make. It was also decided that we would have a card shower for Neil Crayden, Sr. Donna will write up something for the Carillon for the congregation to know about it.

Worship: Gay will continue to sign up communicants as needed and is working on the idea of a Hymn of the Month.

Missions: Debbie Wilson reported that Meet and Eat on May 3 will be at El Puerto. Debbie is working with Rev. Townsend to reach out to Facebook friends that listen to our service each week.

Christian Education: Donna reported that the Sunday School Adults are getting new materials for Spring. Donna also reported that Jesus Camp has received a \$4,000 grant from Truman Lake Community Foundation (TLFC) for which we are very grateful. Thank you to Sarah Hall for writing the grant request.

Fellowship: Sharon Gilkey will serve as co-chairman for Fellowship. The Easter breakfast went

very well. There will be more events in the fall.

Nominating Committee: No Report

Other: No Report

Motion to adjourn at 12:45 pm. Meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane Hannah, Clerk of Session

On



Friday, May 1, at 1:30 p.m., Presbyterian Women will meet in Fellowship Hall. The ninth lesson this season is the third of the *Finding our Identity* segment entitled "When You Are Walking with Jesus: The Road to Emmaus" and will be led by Donna Doll. The scripture is Luke 24:13-35. Everyone will be a hostess, each person bringing a treat to share. All women of the church are invited to attend. Come join in the study, missions, and fellowship.



All those interested in being baptized or having their children baptized should contact the Pastor with their interest.



*Please be aware of your surroundings at the church and report any issues.

*Please make sure the church is locked if you are the last one leaving.

If you have any questions, please contact Neil Crayden, Jr. Thank you.

The Pastor will host a class or individualized instruction for any youth wishing to be confirmed in the elements of Christian worship and Presbyterian policy. Relay your interest to Donna Doll or the Pastor.

JESUS CAMP – 2026

Jesus Camp will be Monday, July 13th through Friday, July 17th. First Presbyterian Church will sponsor this camp, with no cost to the campers due to a \$4,000 grant received from the Truman Lake Community Foundation. The children attending camp will experience the love of God through a week-long blend of outdoor and counselor-led ministries.

This year we will host 36 campers along with one leadership staff and three counseling staff from Heartland Camps.

Camp registration is filling up fast, so if you know of any children who just finished kindergarten or grades 1 thru 6, please have them register soon at www.heartlandcamps.org/Clinton.

We will also need to recruit adult and junior counselors. If you are interested in volunteering during this week of camp, please contact one of the committee members listed below.

As it gets closer to camp time, we will reach out to the congregation for donations of snacks. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church and notate on the memo line, "Jesus Camp".

Jesus Camp Committee,
Donna Doll, Sarah Hall and Monica Sheek

PER CAPITA 2026

It is through the faithful support of our congregation that we can engage with Presbyterians in mission and ministry in and around the world. Our Per Capita dollars have helped Heartland Presbytery support our congregations with sharing new ideas and thinking together about how God is calling us forward.

Per Capita is set each year by Heartland Presbytery. **For 2026, the per member amount is \$45.91** and is broken out as follows: Heartland Presbytery receives \$31.50, Synod of Mid-America receives \$3.15 and \$11.26 goes to General Assembly. The Per Capita amount for 2026 is based on our membership as of the first day of January 2025, which was 52 members. In February, we paid the total amount of \$2,387.32.

If you would like to make a special donation to help with this expense, please make your check payable to the First Presbyterian Church and in the memo line write "Per Capita". This will help the financial secretary, Ann McCoy, allocate the funds to the correct place. We appreciate the contributions that several of you have already made towards the Per Capita expense, and we thank you.

Church Safety and Security

Reminder:



The Clinton Community Choir (CCC) had their annual performance on April 9 at the Clinton High School Performing Arts Center. It was very well received and received rave reviews. We would like to thank all from this congregation who helped make it happen. CCC is an outreach project of FPC and would not happen without so many volunteers. Whether you were a singer, director, usher, photographer, accompanist, stage worker, or simply attended, your participation was a valuable part of the occasion and we are very grateful for your involvement. Special thanks to Mark and Gay Smith without whom this project could not happen. Thank you very much and we will see you again next year!

P.S. Mark & Gay: Big thanks to Diane Hannah. Community Choir was her idea and she has worked so hard to make it happen and keep it going.



An A-Plus Answer

Twelve-year-old Daniel was doing his best to test the patience of his mother, the Rev. Ann Lewis. He pushed back on every request, and the tension in the room kept rising as he refused to cooperate. Finally, his mother reached her limit. Looking at him firmly, she said, "Daniel, you have tested me to my limits." Without missing a beat, Daniel grinned and replied, "Yes! And you get an A-plus."



The Session of First Presbyterian Church is hosting a "Card Shower" for Neil Crayden, Sr. After 25+ years of keeping our church building clean and ready for services each week, Neil has "retired" from the position of church custodian.

We are asking our church members and friends to please send a card or note to Neil thanking him for his years of service as our custodian and being an active member. Neil, an ordained elder of this church, also served many years on the Session and the finance and audit committees.

Help us "Shower" Neil with good wishes and thanks for a job well done. Please mail your cards to his home address, 103 S. Vansant Road, Clinton, MO 64735.

Grateful for Those Who Gave All



We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake. May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Jokes Only a Mother Could Love

Why is a computer so smart?
It listens to its motherboard.

Why did you chop the joke book in half?
Mom said to cut the comedy.

Why do mother kangaroos hate rainy days?
Because their kids have to play inside!

What did the mother rope say to her child?
"Don't be knotty."

Thank God for Mother's Love

There is no love, like a mother's love,
No stronger bond on earth...
Like the precious bond that comes from God,
To a mother when she gives birth.

A mother's love is forever strong,
Never changing for all time...
And when her children need her most,
A mother's love will shine.

God bless these special mothers,
God bless them every one...
For all the tears and heartache,
And for the special work they've done.

When her days on earth are over,
A mother's love lives on...
Through many generations,
With God's blessings on each one.

Be thankful for our mothers,
For they love with a higher love...
From the power God has given,
And the strength from up above