Vol. 195, No. 3

First Hand News

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ALTON

September 2026



A Letter from the Pastor

Blessings and Greetings to you all!

The summer has come and gone, although the heat is sticking around even as we enter into September. The kids have returned to school, the snowbirds are (mostly) back from Florida, and here at First Presbyterian we are beginning our next Program Year.

With Commissioning Sunday on September 13th, many changes will be taking place in our community. The most obvious change is on Sunday mornings: the choir is back in action! Mark Brooks has been preparing thoughtful and inspiring works of spiritual and Scriptural reflection that will support us in our worship. And my sense is that the choir has a lot of fun doing that as well!

We will also be returning to Bible Studies on Sunday mornings. This Fall, the Bible Studies will focus on a journey through the Book of Acts - and all are welcome to join whichever time and day works best for you!

I'm also leading a new type of Bible Study - one oriented for folks seeking to learn more about Christianity. I'll be hosting that study on Sunday afternoons, somewhere in the community, rather than at Church. It is just one more aspect of our worship existing outside of the doors of our building.

Last but not least, the Children's Church ministry is starting up again, and we have a dedicated crew of volunteers ready to work with any and all children who join us for our worship! And we are continuing our partnership with St. Paul's Episcopal for Kids' Night In!

Whether you're interested in finding a place for spiritual growth this Fall, or a place to share your talents, or a place to serve, there's a little something for everyone this year! Feel free to reach out, and I'll help you get connected!

By the Holy Spirit,

Pastor Ian Edward Caveny

FALL EVENTS

- **September 13th:** We will be welcoming the return of the choir and the start of our Program Year with **Commissioning Sunday**!
- **2026-2027 Program Year Begins:** This year we will have **three Bible Study** options: the traditional groups will happen at 9a before service on Sundays and at 10a on Wednesdays, with a seeker-oriented group meeting on Sunday afternoons at 1:30p!
- **September 19th: Church Hayride and Bonfire** at Marquette Stables, starting at 6p.
- **September 26th:** Sacred Spaces of Care is hosting a **Block Party** on 5th and Market from 11a-2p. First Pres. is gathering funds to provide laundry detergent for those in need!

CHURCH OFFICE

4th & Alby St. | 618-465-3592
Office Hours Mon-Fri
9:00-1:00 p.m.

SUNDAY EVENTS

Sunday Bible Study
9:00 am | *Library*

Worship Service
10:00a | *Sanctuary*

Seeker Bible Study
1:30p | *Milton School House*

WEEKLY EVENTS

Wednesday Bible Study
10:00 am | *Library*

Wednesday Choir Practice
7:00 pm | *Music Room*

Tuesday Soup's On
11:30 am | *Fellowship Hall*

Saturday Café
11:30 am | *Fellowship Hall*