

**Prospective Members, and New Members
2026**



Contents

Introduction
Meet our pastor
Worship Experience
Children's Programs
Adult Programs
Music opportunities
Opportunities to serve
Mission
Congregational life
Our church's organization
Financially supporting the church

Introduction

Welcome to the Presbyterian Church of Barrington. This introductory guidebook has been designed to introduce our church to guests, prospective members, and new members. If you would like further information about anything in this guidebook, please call the church office **(847-381-0975)** to be referred to members who can best help or refer to our website **www.pcbarrington.org**

Location - Our church was founded over sixty-five years ago on this beautiful thirteen-acre site in Barrington Hills. We are part of The Presbytery of Chicago (Presbyterian Church USA) which has nearly 30,000 members in more than 84 diverse, dynamic church congregations and worshiping fellowships throughout Chicago and the surrounding area.

Contact

- Address: 6 Brinker Road Barrington Hills, IL 60010
- Office Phone: 847-381-0975
- Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Website: www.pcbarrington.org

Worship service - We have worship service each Sunday: 10 am in person and livestream, with extra services on Christmas Eve and Easter.

Our Mission - We are a compassionate community of faith, following the teachings of Jesus Christ, affirming His grace, sharing God's love and serving all those in need.

Our Vision As faithful and caring members of the Presbyterian Church of Barrington, we will welcome all to join with us to worship and serve God.

- We will challenge each other to become better disciples of Jesus Christ as we celebrate our faith, share it with all and invite others to join us in our common journey.
- We will encourage and equip all to become contributing ministers while providing service opportunities for all age groups.
- As we strive to expand our presence, we will develop and accept opportunities to join with others in our community, from local to global, to serve those in need.

- As stewards of God's resources we will have church facilities and grounds, which are accessible, functional, pleasing and safe for all who enter.

Meet our pastor, Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, our Music Director, Organist and Administrative Assistant

Pastor David Ezekiel – Pastor David's passion is congregational health and vitality. He has decades of experience leading and working with a variety of congregations and organizations in transition. David desires for his churches to discover their place of most potential and opportunity. He is relentless in his efforts for the congregations he coaches to develop a purpose, goals, and a plan. One of the defining scriptures for his life and ministry is Jeremiah 29:11-14, which says in part: "For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope..."

His ministry experiences have been teaching at the seminary level, working for the denomination, serving as a consultant and conflict mediator, and pastoring a variety of congregations – Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Independent, United Church of Christ, and Baptist.

David is married to Janet, and they love to travel. They have lots of stories: sleeping out under the stars on the ice of Antarctica is a favorite one. He loves to cook and try new foods. (Sushi is the exception – he grew up where raw fish is called "bait"). David is a religious devotee of college football, especially the Alabama Crimson Tide. (He will point out that the University is referenced in the Old Testament book of Ezekiel – of course).

He is not a patient driver. Always has a good quip, joke, or story. Loves dogs. Loves good scotch. And loves good coffee.

Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries, Raechel Sowa - As a Christian educator, Raechel strives to facilitate a welcoming space for all ages to learn together about God, share the love of Jesus with others, and allow the Holy Spirit to move them into action (and spontaneous dance parties). She was asked once to define her ministry and answered, "Sunday Supper." Raechel truly believes that when we create a space for *everyone* to come together around the table, we can really get to know one another, learn from one another, and see God in each other.

Raechel has been part of a Christian Education team for over 30 years. She has volunteered in the nursery, taught Sunday School for all ages, guided over 10 confirmation classes and led a youth group for 10 years. She attended her first mission trip when she was 42 and looks forward to them each year. Working side by side with our youth to transform a community is an incredible experience and makes the cold showers at a local gym and sleeping on a hard floor worth it.

Raechel is married to Mark, and they have resided in Cary for almost 29 years. She enjoys being at their cottage in Wisconsin, the beaches of Sanibel Island, Florida, hiking and spending time with their adult children, Alexandra (Tim), Katharine, and Daniel. She also loves reading, pretending to garden, cooking/baking, and watching all the nieces and nephews' sporting events.

Director of Music, Kirsten Hedegaard – As a committed church musician, Kirsten believes that music is an integral part of worship, supporting the liturgy and gospel through diverse repertoire choices and thoughtful preparation by the volunteers and guest musicians. In addition to conducting the Sanctuary and Bell Choirs at PCB, she also oversees the Choral and Organ Scholar program, as well as the Music on the Hill Concert Series (MOTH).

In addition to her role as director of music at PCB, Kirsten is currently Director of Choral Activities at Loyola University and Director of The EcoVoice Project, a non-profit organization that engages music and the arts for climate change education and action. She holds a B.M. from Northwestern University, a M.A. from the University of California, where she was conducting assistant to Paul Hillier, and a D.M.A. from the University of Illinois, where she studied choral conducting with Andrew Megill and orchestral conducting with Donald Schleicher. She is married to conductor Andrew Lewis and has three boys: George, William, and Henrik.

Organist, Andrew Luzwiczik - Andrew is a freelance musician based out of Chicago with a passion for various styles of music and performance. Most often, he is seen music directing with various professional and amateur theatre groups. He is also the proud bandleader of the youngest and largest cover band in the Chicagoland area, The Dynamix- Ultimate Classics Cover Band.

An avid multi-instrumentalist, in addition to piano, Andrew has also been trained in all the saxophones, clarinet, and flute. He has studied at The Chicago College of the Performing Arts at Roosevelt University under saxophonist and arranger Jim Gailloreto, as well as other Chicago jazz legends like Tom Garling, Henry Johnson, Scott Mason, and Paul Wertico.

In 2019, Andrew was honored to be a part of the inaugural class of Choral Scholars at the Presbyterian Church of Barrington. Since that term ended, he often returned as a guest singer in the choir and guest musician on piano and saxophone. Andrew returned as Organ Scholar in January 2024, under the tutelage of Rich Leasure. Most recently Andrew has supported the music program as interim organist, during which time his skills as a church musician have continued to blossom. Effective July 1, 2025, Andrew was welcomed as our permanent organist.

Office Administrator, Patti Fugle - Patti has worked at Barrington Presbyterian Church as a Financial and Office Administrator for 18 years. She is a coffee lover who enjoys spending time with her children, grandchildren, and grand dogs. She appreciates photography, good books, and exploring new places on walks and on bike rides.

Worship experience

Worship at PCB is carefully planned by our Pastor and our Worship Committee.

Worship planning – The Session, through its Worship Committee, manages our overall worship experience throughout the seasons of the Christian year. Pastor David develops the sermon outline about three months in advance and shares it with our music director Kirsten Hedegaard. This gives her the time that she needs to select the hymns and music that best fit with the message and find the right outside supporting singers and musicians to support our organist and our choirs to make beautiful music together.

Messages - Pastor David develops sermons he feels are important for us. Some are contemporary and challenging (as Christ challenged the rabbis in the temple); others are based upon what David feels that we need as a congregation. Each sermon provides a clear message

about what the biblical text said and meant then, and what the implications are for today. We always learn something new and develop a new perspective each Sunday.

Seasons and volunteers - Our church changes visually with the calendar and the seasons. Dedicated volunteers change the draping colors behind the cross and decorate for Pentecost, Christmas, Easter, and the fall harvest season. They arrange weekly sanctuary flowers, print and stuff Bulletins, usher, read the liturgy, and serve communion.

Children in Worship

Intergenerational worship is an important part of life in our church. We invite active participation from every age and stage—from the youngest to the oldest, and everyone in between.

At PCB, we don't expect children to sit still and be quiet. Children are welcome to be heard and seen—they can ask questions, wiggle when they need to, cry, sing, read Scripture, and lead. After all, *Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."* —Matthew 19:14.

Children's Programs

Christian Education

Children

We believe faith formation begins at home, and we enthusiastically partner with caregivers as they nurture faith in everyday moments—offering simple, practical tools that fit real family life.

Through worship—and programs like "Time with Young Disciples", our resource center, nursery, and Sunday School—we help support and strengthen that learning as your family grows in faith together.

Youth

Youth at PCB actively participate in all aspects of the life of the church. You will find them leading on Sundays, attending an annual fall retreat with other youth from all over Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa, serving our neighbors throughout the year, and participating in an annual mission trip.

Beginning in 8th grade, they are invited to participate in confirmation. Along with their mentor they dig deeper into their beliefs and explore their relationship with Christ

Family

Throughout the year, we offer opportunities for families to connect and build community. Join us for our monthly Breakfast Club, informal coffee chats, and fun, faith-filled Messy Church gatherings. Other offerings include Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party, Easter egg hunt, and Blessing of the Backpacks.

Adult Programs

Adult education programs – We are all ministers of our faith. Christ has entrusted us with the responsibility to practice Christianity now, here and everywhere through a deep understanding of His teachings as they apply in our world, 2000 years later. We presently offer six adult education opportunities at varying dates and times to make it easy for everybody to participate in one or more programs.

- Adult Education Opportunities – Most Sunday mornings after worship we meet for an educational program. Topics vary.
- Theology on Zoom moderated by Robert Riley. Held Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom.
- Men's Bible Study. Held Fridays at 8:00 am, on Zoom.
- Women's Bible Study - GTIF (Growing Together in Faith) moderated by Jill Minner. Held the third Tuesday of the Month at 7 pm, on Zoom.
- Women's Fellowship/PCB Ladies Night – On the second Tuesday of the month women of the church meet at 5:30 at a local restaurant for dinner and conversation. We gather at restaurants that provide us with separate checks, to help keep our lives simple. Email Cindy Zichal: zichalc(at)sbcglobal.net to get on the email list or to get details about the upcoming Tuesday.
- Men's fellowship group – On the third Thursday of each month except December, men of our church meet for dinner, typically in a member's home. This is primarily a social group, with the host often providing a discussion topic. New members find that it is a good forum to meet others in a casual setting.

Music opportunities

PCB offers a wide range of quality participation and listening music programs under the Leadership of Kirsten Hedegaard, who is a unique talent in choir, conducting, and singing. Kirsten also taps into the Chicago area musical talent pool to supplement our home-grown choirs to enhance the musical experience.

Choir – Our choir sings 9 months of the year. During the summer months we often invite individual guest artists to assure a high-quality musical experience.

- Bell Choir
- Music on the Hill – Three to four times per year Kirsten Hedegaard offers a unique concert program that is open to the public.
- The Gaudete Brass ensemble often plays at Music on the Hill, and during our Sunday 10 am service.

Opportunities to serve

Stephen Ministry - Stephen Ministry is a model for those of us who want to commit our time and talent to the service of others in need. Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our church and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives.

Youth mission trip – Every year, youth of confirmation age take a week-long service mission trip. In addition to the mission work we do, we also meet, understand, bond, and live with people in disadvantaged places and conditions. Our youth fund their trip through their hard work in various fund-raisers throughout the year. After their return, they typically lead a Sunday church service to explain their experience personally and through a video.

Participation in service programs beyond our church – Members of our church regularly participate in the service programs that are externally organized. The list below is partly representative of our service.

- FISH Food Pantry – Stocking shelves, projects, and providing food donations.
- Habitat for Humanity – Participating in local Habitat for Humanity projects.
- Meals on wheels – Members of our church regularly deliver meals to shut-ins on a scheduled route basis.

Mission

The following local charitable organizations are some of those supported by The Presbyterian Church of Barrington and its various groups.

- Christopher House, including a family gift program at Christmas. Each year, about two-dozen needy families receive Christmas presents and funds for a Christmas dinner.
- Crop Walk
- Feed My Starving Children
- FISH Food Pantry of Barrington and Carpentersville
- Habitat for Humanity
- Good News Jail Ministry
- Meals on Wheels
- World Relief Chicagoland – Refugees
- Ross Bogue Memorial Run the Hills 5K Run/Walk
- Build Project

Additionally, our church, through its Hope Fund can provide specific confidential financial assistance to local families in extreme financial need.

Congregational life

Throughout the year we offer events for our congregation and guests to enjoy each other's company and make new friends. The events listed below are just some of our ongoing events.

Advent dinner – This is a family potluck meal at Advent to celebrate the season.

Card party – This is a social adult mixer with a lot of fun. No card playing skills required.

Lenten Breakfast – This is a spiritual gathering to celebrate the season. The day begins with a short worship / reflection followed by a breakfast in Fellowship Hall

Church picnic – Each summer we have a picnic with games and events for children. Bring your game chairs or blankets for the grass and enjoy a summer day of fun.

Our church's organization

Two groups of ordained members manage the most critical parts of the church.

Session – Our church is governed by the Session who are elected by the membership. Session committees include new members, hospitality and fellowship, Christian life and education, mission, personnel, worship, stewardship and finance, nominating, and communications and outreach.

Deacons – Our deacons are divided into geographic parishes. Each deacon is charged for caring for his or her parishioners.

Supporting the church

Stewardship – Stewardship is using all our God given resources to accomplish God's purpose here on earth. All that we have and all that we are, is entrusted to us by God. Stewardship is the way we give back to God with our time, money and natural gifts. Our church relies on the generous support of its members. We are deeply appreciative of those who regularly support the work of the church financially and with their time and talents.

This information pamphlet has been designed to give background of who we are. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us with any questions you may have. Please let us know how we can develop your faith and support you and the ones you love.

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