

# Welcome

## REV. ANN SCHWARTZ Lead Presbyter Presbytery of Great Rivers



### Meet Ann...

The Rev. Ann Schwartz has been Pastor/Head of Staff of First Presbyterian Church in Danville, Illinois since 2016. Prior to that she was a staff Chaplain at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana, Illinois (2014-2016) and Co-Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hoopeston, Illinois (1999-2012).

During her 24 years in the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois, she has served in a variety of ministries, including the Commission on Ministry, General Council, the Committee on Representation, and the Permanent Judicial Commission. She recently completed two terms as the commissioner to the Synod of Lincoln Trails and was a commissioner to the 223rd General Assembly in St. Louis.

Ann is eager to connect with folks in the Presbytery of Great Rivers. She feels called to partner with others to build beloved community based on our common identity and mission; to give encouragement, support, and hope to leaders and congregations; and to help prepare and equip the church for an uncertain future – **always trusting in the transformative power of God to make all things new.**



Ann earned a Master of Divinity from McCormick Theological Seminary and an undergraduate degree in English and Secondary Education from Central Michigan University.



Ann is married to the Rev. Wade Meranda, also a PCUSA pastor, who served First Presbyterian Church in Hoopeston (1999-2023) and recently began as Business Administrator of Wesleyan United Methodist Church in Bloomington. They have two adult daughters.



She loves traveling and exploring new places, reading, writing, walking, cooking, spending time outside, and most recently, birdwatching.



# HERE'S WHAT THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS SAYING ABOUT ANN...



**“I am grateful to have spent some time with the Rev. Ann Schwartz during our time together on April 13th & 14th. I was impressed with her friendliness and wanting to get to know each of us during our meal together. I believe she has a great sense of vision for our Presbytery.”**

**“Ann has a true pastoral presence and during our time with her, I found myself feeling a renewed sense of hope for our Presbytery. Ann communicated well her vision for the future. I am excited to work with Ann as we re-imagine how the congregations in Great Rivers Presbytery can be the church together.”**

**“Ann is someone who exhibits wise discernment, and the ability to apply her Christian faith to challenging matters that confront our churches today.”**

**“Ann is one who immediately engages with you and is an active listener. She has the heart of a pastor and the skills of an administrator who brings vision to her work.”**

**“Impressions: attention to detail, entering into conversation, listening, asking questions, seeing the possibilities.”**

**“Ann has the heart of a very caring pastor, her participation at all levels within the PCUSA will bring to us the knowledge and skills necessary to meet the needs of our presbytery in the short and long term.”**

