

THE BURNING BUSH

“Oh my Lord, (said Moses) I am not eloquent, but slow in speech and of the tongue.” Exodus 4:10 Some translations say that Moses stuttered.

From the Pastor’s desk...

Have you ever not known how to respond to something or someone and would prefer someone else took on the task? But then after a while you got up the gumption to do it and surprised yourself? When Moses, latter to be dubbed the Prince of Egypt, stood before the burning bush, he heard God’s call and winced like a pauper. “Wait a minute, Lord,” he said. “Not me. I stutter. My knees knock. I even drool.” And the Lord said, “that’s OK. I can work with that.” And he did.

Sometimes when I am called upon to do something that causes me to think twice because I don’t think I handle it or I don’t have the right tools, I think of poor, scared Moses. Then I remember all the other people in the Bible who had various degrees of impairments.

Moses stuttered. Sarah laughed. Jacob wrestled. Abraham lied. Rahab was a lady of the ill repute. David liked rooftops—we all know what went on up there. Samson brought down the house. Jeremiah was depressed. Peter was afraid. Matthew worked for the IRS—imagine his fears. Lazarus was dead. Paul was murdered. Zaccheus didn’t measure up. And then I think, well, you can use me too, Lord. All the above people were used by God.

Today, believe it or not, I speak to people all the time in all kinds of circumstances. It is the most rewarding thing I get to do. Not because I am such a great speaker. But because Christ’s power is made perfect in my weakness. That’s found in 2nd Corinthians.

In my years, I have discovered that God continually chooses the most underqualified to do His work. Maybe it’s because they find it easiest to remember Who deserves the credit.

How about you? Is there something rewarding you are missing because of fear?

Do we go with the flow or our strengths? You see too many of us are chisels, but we spend a lifetime thinking only in areas we are screwed up. After all, a chisel is just a more flattened screwdriver! I’ve been guilty of spending too much time scrutinizing myself instead of learning better at things that I am not. You can be a mother or father your children will never forget. A janitor who is remembered for his whistle. Or an ordained horseperson.

Whatever it is, do something you can’t imagine not doing. And never forget Who gets the credit.

There is always something to do at the church. If you don’t know how or what, just ask. We all want to share our gifts and know that you have some too. The holidays await!

Pastor Linda

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COOKIE EXCHANGE

Presbyterian Women have set the date for the Annual Cookie Exchange as Friday, December 9, 2016 at noon. Once again, Pauline Sprowls is opening her beautiful home to us for our meeting. So ladies, mark your calendars so that you don't miss out on all the fun and fellowship. We will have a soup/sandwich luncheon followed by a brief business meeting. At this meeting we distribute our yearly collection excess to our favorite local charities. This is done by unanimous decision, so let us know your favorite charity. We also elect new officers for 2017. Once all that business stuff is out of the way, we have our Christmas Trivia Game. This is a fun game and it can get competitive. Just a wonderful afternoon of fun, friendship and lots of good food. When you go home, you take a variety of cookies with you to enjoy at a later date. What could be better. So mark your calendars, find your favorite cookie and candy recipe and brush up on your Christmas Trivia.



Kirkin' O' the Tartan

This tradition of “plaiding the church” reflects a tradition of the Church of Scotland, the mother church of the Presbyterian Church. The actual Kirkin of the Tartans was instituted by Dr. Peter Marshall in April of 1941 as a worship service to remember and honor those of Scottish blood that have given so much in the centuries past. This time of blessings reflects a far older tradition, that of the Old Testament practice of the annual renewal of the Covenant.

Kirk is Scottish Gaelic for church, and kirking is a “churching” or a “blessing”. Although plaids are worn throughout the world, Scots look on the tartan as a multicolored bit of wool. To the Scots, the tartan is steeped in history, saturated with the blood of martyrs and interwoven with the sentiment and tradition.

For us, as Presbyterians, it is a celebration of the Reformation of the 16th century and the liberation of the church. In the end, Martin Luther would have said if asked what the Reformation was good for, “It’s about people finding what he found: peace with God and being set free for love toward others.”

We have our theological roots in this history. On this Reformation Sunday, we first honor our “Saints of the Ancient Past”, like Martin Luther, John Calvin and John Knox, but also those saints of First Presbyterian Church, Farmington – those people who have faithfully walked among us, worshipped with us, prayed and played with us, struggled together with us to find the peace with God and freedom to love one another.

Holy Land Presentation

You Are Invited!!

To join Reverend Caleb and Reverend Jenny Suydam who will present pictures and voice of their June 2016 trip to the Holy Land. Both are graduates of the Presbyterian Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa and are currently serving churches in Iowa.

The presentation will be Friday, November 4th, 2016 at 6:30 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in Farmington (83 N. Cone St)



- 1 Christi Garlish
- 7 Trevor Martin
- 8 Brady Johnson
- Delano Ohaver
- Tate Ulm
- 11 Karen Goggin-Wilson
- 14 Cozy Hoover
- 15 Pat Welker
- 30 Velma Petty

Thanksgiving Service

November 20th, there will be a Thanksgiving Service at the First Baptist Church sponsored by the Council of Churches. Service begins at 6:30PM



To my Presbyterian Family,

I want to inform everyone that I have accepted a full-time position with OSF. I begin my new adventure on Monday, September 26th.

My plan is to continue to serve you to the best of my ability until a suitable replacement comes along. I will be unavailable 8-4:30PM weekdays, but will avail myself as much as possible otherwise to see that everything runs smoothly. I have thoroughly enjoyed my role as an employee of the First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, and thank you for always making me feel welcome and appreciated both in my work and otherwise.

I look forward to remaining a part of this church family.

Leigh Ann

Prayer List

Ongoing Prayers: Todd Guidi; Butch Johnson; Jeff Sturch; Mary Ulm; Pat Welker; Cally Posten to Mayo; Jodi Phillips' mom, chemo; Chris's friend has cancer--Stage 4; Ed Goggin; Charlotte Gates; Bonnie's workmate, Deb Parker, has cancer; Sandra Farwell; Polly McDonald, cancer; Kevin Martin; Angie; Velma Petty; Carolyn Ludwig; Sally (Grebe) Seaman; John Ramsey (Leigh Ann's nephew); Leigh Ann Taylor (stroke); Cindy Duley, Craig's mother; Jeff Luna's brother; Karen Lee, Marj Guidi's sister; Hubert Schuman; Doug Sinclair; Jacob Oest in Iraq; Denise's brother, Lou DeGraff; Marj Guidi, Carrie's dad, Doug

At Home: Kenny Johnson; Amber Lercher; Gary Hoover, Gisela Schuman

Bereavement: Tadd's Aunt Nancy at the loss of her father, Terry Runyan Family (Chris Evans' Dad), Doug Rainey and Family, Carol Morby Family, Richard Switzer Family

Those in Nursing Homes: Bernita Murphy at Red Oak Estates Room 303; Dianna Threw and Sara Hirz at Farmington Country Manor; Hazel Morby at Courtyard Estates in Canton; Becky Urbanc Littell and Leigh Ann Taylor at Heartland in Canton. Barbara Frank at Courtyard Estates in Farmington



Join us for this year's Soup Supper and Bazaar on Nov 19, 4-7pm. Sign up sheets will be going around and thank you in advance for your donations in whatever form they may occur. We will be selling advance raffle tickets. \$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5. See anyone on the Bazaar committee to make a purchase. Also, we will be needing help after church on Nov. 13 to move the nursery items into the sanctuary and re-arrange some tables in preparation of the Bazaar.

HELLO!

My name is Meghan Krusa and I am the new First Presbyterian Administrative Assistant! A little about myself, I just celebrated my 5th year of marriage to my husband Jordan, together we have twin boys, Braelan and Braxton, who are in first grade at Farmington Elementary and a daughter, Brooklyn who just started preschool! I look forward to meeting every one of you! My office hours are 10:30-3 Tuesdays and Thursdays! Feel free to stop in anytime! ☺

NOVEMBER 2016

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Session meeting 7PM	2 Choir Practice 7PM	3	4 Holy Land Presentation 6:30PM	5
6 Daylight Savings Communion	7	8 Bible Study	9 Pastor Linda's Surgery 	10	11	12
13 Trustee Meeting after Service	14	15	16 Food pantry open	17	18	19 Soup & Supper Bazaar 4-7PM
20 Thanksgiving Service @ First Baptist Church by Council of Churches 6:30PM, Deacons Mtg., Hanging of Greens, Soup Lunch	21	22 Bible Study	23 Burning Bush Deadline NOON	24  <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	25	26
27 First Sunday Advent "Joy"	28	29 Bible Study 7PM	30			

The Burning Bush – November 2016

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
83 North Cone Street
Farmington IL 61531-1248

Blessings on:



**COME WORSHIP WITH US
SUNDAYS!**

Sunday School	9:30AM
Fellowship Time	10:30AM
Worship Service	11:00AM

Join us for a great message and God's word! Enjoy wonderful music and fellowship!

**“In the
Beginning
was the
Word, and
the Word
was with
God, and
the Word
was God.”
(John 1:1)**

