

THE BURNING BUSH

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

Praise God that 2020 is over with and that we are now into 2021! Here's praying that 2021 proves to be a much better year than 2020. I don't know about you, but that is a pretty low bar. We have said goodbye to far too many this year. We have dealt with so much this last year, it seemed like we'd never get through 2020. But here we are and now I am grateful that we have a new year to look forward to now. It was said that 100 years ago, when we went through a similar global pandemic and WW1 had finished, people were ready to celebrate. What followed this desire to celebrate is now called "the Roaring 20's". May that be true for us in 2021. May we have a renewed exuberance and excitement for life followed by happier times. May we enter the new year with a renewed commitment to celebrate and change what needs to be changed.

I also have to admit that we still don't know what 2021 will look like for our church. I don't know when we will be able to do all the things we want to do. Many say that it could be summer or early fall before things are "normal" again. If I knew the end date for this pandemic, that would make the next few months easier. The uncertainty of everything makes planning events for the new year difficult for our congregational leaders. So, I ask for patience as we follow the guidance of the scientists and doctors about when it will be safe to return to large gatherings and singing in worship. We will get to do VBS again soon. We will get to have a 4th of July BBQ again sometime. We will celebrate and worship together in person soon. I have high hopes for 2021, but at this point, we have to wait and see when we can do these things again.

Until then, we will still worship on-line. In fact, it is likely that worshipping on-line will be around for the foreseeable future, even after we start worshipping in person. Starting in the new year, we will resume doing on-line Communion. On the first Sunday of the month. You are invited to bring a piece of bread and something to drink. Typically, we use bread and grape juice, but you can use whatever elements you have in your house. On January 24, we will do our Annual Congregational Meeting on Zoom. You can join that meeting on a smartphone, on a computer, or by calling the number using your landline. All that information on how to do that is found in this newsletter.

I am very excited about the vaccines coming out. As more information and guidance comes from the scientists and the doctors regarding when it will be safe to gather in person again, Session will make decisions that are in line with that guidance. We want to make sure that we are keeping people safe and healthy in this time. We will endeavor to keep everyone informed when things change. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

Blessings, Pastor Andy

SNIPPETS BY PAT

Snippets from December 8 Session Meeting:

The Rolando's sent a Thank You note to the Church thanking everyone for the cards and prayers during their battle with Covid. Diana is back at work, but tires very easily. Tony is doing pretty well, is home recovering. He also gets tired very easily. Keep them in your prayers.

Steffanie Ulm reported that Mary Ulm is still recovering from Covid and losing Larry. She also gets very tired easily. Keep her and the entire Ulm family in your prayers.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

Nominating Team – Liz (chair)

- Liz, a Deacon and At-Large members Kevin, Ben and Cozy. They will find 3 Elders, 2 Deacons and 2 Trustees for the Class of 2021.

Stewardship, Finance, Memorial, Personnel Team – Michelle (chair) & Crystal

- Finance - The Session voted to retain Cindy Daniels and Kathy Welch as Co-Treasurers for 2021.
- Budget – The 2021 Budget was approved by the Session and will be presented to the congregation in the 2020 Annual Report in January. Not only did Presbytery raise the wages for all Ministers, we also have a big increase in our Insurance premium. So 2021 is going to be a challenge, but nothing we can't handle as a congregation.
- Memorial: The new camera being used for streaming the Sunday Worship Service on FB Live, was purchased using Esther Molchin's memorial fund money and some donations of some of the people responsible for the purchase. Marianne Taylor gave with permission to use her Mom's memorial money. So a great big thanks to Marianne as well as the others involved in this purchase. The camera makes a big difference in the Sunday worship services on FB Live.

DEACONS' REPORT: Deacon's Meeting November 19, 2020

- Attending- Melissa Herron, Linda Riley, Maryanne Taylor, Andy Sonneborn, Lynsey Vermillion and Chris Evans.
 - Old Business-
 - Stamps and cards available in Church office.
Cards sent – Chris Evans – 4; Marianne Taylor – 3
 - We still need a finalized Birthday list and addresses.
 - New Business-
 - Candles for Christmas Eve-
 - 3 pink left; 6 purple left; plenty of white candles for Christmas Eve service

- Deacons will decorate Church on November 28th at 10am. We will decorate Advent area including pew & organ areas.
- Family Donations & Shut-Ins: Will work on these December 20th, please bring food for a basket for needy family.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

▪ Worship

- We are doing worship solely online right now.
- I am doing an Advent devotional every week on Wednesdays at 1:00pm
- I am ringing the church bell (25 times) at 7pm, every day during Advent.

▪ Pastoral Care

- I've been in touch with members who are recovering from health issues and grief.
- Since we last met, I led the funerals for Larry Ulm, Keith Quin, and Fred Balagna

▪ Presbytery

- I am part of the Administrative Commission for Greenview Church and continue to have meetings with this commission.
- I attended the September, October and November COM meeting on Zoom.

OLD BUSINESS:

- By Laws/Manual of Operations – Pastor Andy and Pat working on updates.
- Baptism of Vivian Kate Stobaugh & Confirmation Class are on-hold until further notice.
- Presbytery Grant for use by the CofC Movie in the Park will be used before end of year.
- Congregational/Annual Meeting – The Session voted to approve holding the Congregational Meeting to elect/ordain officers for the Class of 2021, the Annual Meeting to review the Annual Report, elect At-Large members of the Nominating Team and approve Pastor Andy's Terms of Call jointly on Sunday January 24, 2021. This will be a Zoom Meeting with availability to call in and vote for those without computers. If mitigations are lifted/adjusted to allow in-person meetings, that will also be considered.
- The Scouts are approved to start meeting in the CE Building as long as they follow all the State Mandated Guidelines for meeting in person. This is complete.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Session Pat Welker as Session Clerk for 2021.
- The Longest Night Service on Monday, December 21, 2020 had been approved at a previous meeting. The Session recommended going ahead with the service. The Service will be on FB Live with Beth playing the music and Kathy as the liturgist.

FOOD PANTRY

Received an updated member list for the Farmington Food Pantry from Linda Schultz, St Matthews Church. She also included a chart showing how many families are being served each month. It is pretty interesting and shows the need for our food and monetary donations each month.

Households Served during 2020:

January – 32; February – 24; March – 34; April & May had two pick up days– 30 first time and 69 second time; June – 66; July – 33; August – 49; Sept. – 43; Oct – 41; November – 64 (they include a turkey along with the regular items, so this usually has a bigger turnout. With the number of families being served monthly so far, I would expect that December will be a big turnout also. So, if you can help out the Food Pantry, don't hesitate to do so.

You all have been so amazingly generous to the food pantry. You have donated, so far, 682 items weighing 800lbs. Mickie Ulm also reported that, for 2020, our giving to the Food Pantry has doubled. This time last year, we had donated just over \$400 to the Food Pantry. This year, as of December 31, we donated \$885!! Thank you for your continued support of the food pantry!



ZOOM INSTRUCTIONS

The following Instructions are for people to use Zoom for our congregational meeting on January 24. If you would like to have a practice run with this before the meeting, I have set up a practice meeting on Sunday, January 17 at 11:30 AM. **These instructions are the same for the practice meeting on January 17.**

For those who will use computers/smartphone/tablet Zoom App

1. Download the Zoom app if you are using a smartphone or table
 - a. Once downloaded, go back and click the link in your email.
2. If you are using your computer, click the link that I sent out via email.
3. Click through the prompts allowing access to your camera and microphone/audio.
4. You will be admitted to the meeting by the Host. Your mic will be muted upon entry.

For those who will use their phones to call in

1. Dial the number: 1-312-626-6799
2. When prompted, punch in the meeting id: 891 1816 2726 followed by the # key
3. Press the # key again. You do not have or need a personal id number.
4. Enter meeting password: 415678 followed by the # key
5. You will be muted upon entry. To mute or unmute yourself, you just need to hit *6

Important Notes:

1. Upon entry to the Zoom meeting, everyone will be muted. If you wish to talk, and you are using the computer/phone/tablet, I ask that you hold up something yellow and I will acknowledge you as soon as possible. You will have to unmute yourself on your device. The host cannot unmute you. I ask that once you are finished talking, please mute yourself again. This will prevent confusion and unnecessary sounds from interrupting the meeting. If you are on the phone and wish to talk, please unmute yourself by hitting *6, state your name, and announce that you want to make a comment. I will call on you in the order that I hear or see you.
2. In order to cast your vote, I ask that you type your vote in the chat if you are using a computer or smartphone. For instance, you might type "Andy Sonneborn votes yes". Please do that for each person with you who is a member of the congregation. If you are on the phone, Pastor Andy will pause to ask for your vote. **Please remember that only "active members" of our congregation can vote during a congregational meeting. If you are not a member but would like to attend, you are more than welcome, but you may not vote.**

Per Capita for 2021

The Per Capita amount for each member of the Farmington Presbyterian Church for 2021 is \$35.25. This is not an assessment or dues, but a covetable relationship with the greater church. This amount is not in our 2021 budget, but paid as collected from each member to the Presbytery of Great Rivers. This money is used by the Presbytery to fund all of its administrative and mission projects. We partner with other churches in our Presbytery and are called to share Christ's love by partnering in Service, Uniting in Worship and Risking in Ministry.

45 out of 104 members paid their per capita in 2020, approximately 43%. All organizations need money to enable them to perform and provide all that is expected from them. We are asking that everyone consider the important work of the Great Rivers Presbytery and support it by paying the 2021 Per Capita apportionment. Per Capita giving may be mailed directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, or can be sent directly to the church.

For Sale

"Come and experience changing times, a gathering at a table, flying kites, a special place to picnic, four leaf clovers, end of the garden relish, a brownie camera, the old oak tree, the cloth napkin, farmer's market, holidays and many more. These poem's hold memories, experiences, love, faith, laughter, tears, and an amazing gift given to me from God...my poetry written for all." Kathleen (Finnie) Williams, Jane Rutledge's sister, has published her first poetry book called, "Kathleen's Pad and Pen Kollections." If you would like to purchase a signed book, they are \$20.00. Contact Jane Rutledge at 30-245-2238. She will deliver to anybody in Farmington or mail you one.

Pastor Andy Contact Information

Manse Address: 68 N. Gold St. Farmington, IL 61531
Church Address: 83 N. Cone St. Farmington, IL 61531
Cell Phone (Call first): 217-994-8588
Office Phone: 309-245-2914
Email: revandysonneborn@gmail.com

MONTHLY CALENDARS

JANUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Pastor Andy Vacation	2 Pastor Andy vacation
3 Worship 10:30am Epiphany Sunday	4 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	5 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	6 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	7 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm	9	12
10 Worship on-line 10:30am Annual Reports due	11 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	12 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	13 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	14 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm	15	16
17 Worship 10:30am Practice for Zoom congregational meeting 11:30am	18 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	19 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	20 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	21 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm	22	23
24/31 Worship 10:30am Zoom Congregation meeting Jan 24 at 11:30am	25 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	26 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	27 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	28 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm	29	30

FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	2 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	3 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	4 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm	5	6
7 Worship 10:30am Communion	8 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	9 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	10 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	11 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm	12	13
14 Worship 10:30am	15 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	16 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	17 Ash Wednesday Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	18 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm	19	20
21/28 Worship 10:30am	22 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	23 Pastor Andy Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	24 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	25 Pastor Andy Office Hours 1pm-5pm	26	27



January Birthdays

5 Lindsey Danley **9** Mason Gomes; Claire Herron **14** Conner Berry **15** Darren Berry **27** Clark Evans

February Birthdays

5 Jane Rutledge **9** Gary Suydam; Alexis Haynes **11** Nyle Staley **13** Kari Berry **17** Ryan McMaster **18** Linda Riley **20** Michelle Lane **21** Rachel Elliott; Denise Lane **22** Kaitlyn Stobaugh; Brea Marinich **23** Melody Martin **27** Marj Guidi



✝ Prayer Request ✝

Ongoing Prayers: MG-muscular disease; Blake Melz (Tim Melz' son) age 11, undiagnosed health issues; Corbin Rutledge, health; Dave Waggoner, struggling with side effects from a cancerous tumor; Cole, 5 days old, surgery to repair damage in the throat (family friend of Swansons); Marilyn Garrett with long term illnesses. (Melody Martin's music teacher); Melody Martin, more medical tests; Cooper, diagnosed with autism (Jodi Phillips' grandson, Blake's son); Herb Stufflebeam, treatment for non-Hodgkin's Marginal Zone Lymphoma; Tom, a friend of Mary Ohaver Moermond; Mike Link (friend of Mary Ulm); Jodi Phillips' co-worker's daughter, Cassidy (continued issues with Leukemia)

Bereavment: For the family of Rev. Gerald Shibley, who served our church from 1964-1967; For the family of Marian Edwards (Larry Roberson's sister).

Those in Assisted Living: Marj Guidi, Courtyard Estates; Dianna Threw, Sue Utsinger at Farmington Country Manor; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft; Eileen (Diana's mom) Red Oak Estates, Canton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Due to COVID-19, our Annual Congregational Meeting will be on Zoom this year. We will receive the Annual Report, elect and ordain/install officers, elect the nominating committee for 2021, and approve Pastor Andy's Terms of Call. Please have your reports turned into the office by January 10. There is an option for people who don't have internet or a smart phone to call in to a Zoom meeting with a regular phone. Instructions on how to use Zoom are included in this Burning Bush. The Annual Meeting will be on January 24 at 11:30AM. There will be a practice meeting on January 17, 2020 at 11:30AM so you can familiarize yourself with Zoom before the meeting. Minutes of the meeting will be made available for anyone who can't make the meeting.

We are trying to reach the goal of having 100 subscribers on YouTube. If you haven't subscribed to us on YouTube, please log in and do so. Reaching this goal will help us unlock new features on YouTube.



As most of you know, Session made the difficult decision to cancel in-person worship until our region (Region 2) is out of mitigation and back in Phase 4. Until we re-open for in-person worship, we will continue to worship on Facebook Live at 10:30AM on Sunday mornings. If you would like to receive a hard copy of the bulletin and sermon, please let Pastor Andy know. You may reach him in the office, on his cell phone, or by email.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2020

ELDERS: Crystal Gomes, Jodi Phillips, Liz Johnson, Tammy Duley, Michelle Lane, Steffanie Ulm, and Brady Johnson.

DEACONS: Linda Riley, Melissa Herron, Lynsey Vermillion, Alissa Holder, Chris Evans, Marianne Taylor

TRUSTEES: Kent Kowal, Randy Welch, Tim Ulm, Clark Evans, Ben Vermillion, and Jay Ulm.

**The Burning Bush
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
83 North Cone Street
Farmington IL 61531-1248**

Blessings on:



COME WORSHIP WITH US ON FACEBOOK:
First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL
Worship Service live at 10:30AM Sunday
mornings

Video of worship service will be posted on:
YouTube: First Presbyterian Church of
Farmington, IL
&
On the website:
www.firstpresfarmington.com

**“In the
Beginning
was the
Word, and
the Word
was with
God, and
the Word
was God.”**

