

THE BURNING BUSH

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

I hope you all are remaining healthy and safe during these unpredictable times. Can you believe that the last time we all worshipped together in the sanctuary without any COVID restrictions was on March 8, 2020?! It has been quite the trying, exhausting, and difficult year. I am so immensely grateful for this congregation and your patience and flexibility and grace in this time. You all are so wonderful. I want to thank the Session, the Deacons, the Trustees and the staff for your leadership and guidance during this time. It is my deepest hope that we all can worship together soon. We must have just a little bit more patience as the vaccines continue to roll out and people get their shots.

Now for something completely different. The Season of Lent is now in full swing. I hope you are finding ways to deepen your spiritual practices this Lent. This year, our church is providing you with several different opportunities to do just that. First, this year, I am doing a Lenten sermon series on six (6) spiritual practices: prayer, reading scriptures, fasting, worship keeping silence, and gratitude. Second, in addition to these six (6) spiritual practices, I have also developed a Lenten daily devotional that you can use. Each day has a scripture lesson and discussion questions. If you would like a physical copy printed off, please let me know. I can also email you a copy if you have not yet received it. Thirdly, we have several copies left in the office of the "These Days" devotional. If you would like a copy, please contact the office and I can make sure to get you one. Third, we have several opportunities to worship together, especially during Holy Week. The dates and times are listed in the Announcements section below. I hope that you will join us for worship. Lent is a sacred time in the life of the Church. I always look forward to Lent. It is my hope this year that I will further develop spiritual practices that will sustain me throughout the year.

It is also my hope that sometime soon, we will be able to gather in the sanctuary for worship. I miss seeing all of you every Sunday. I miss seeing our children in the pews. I miss VBS. I miss the choir. There are a lot of things that COVID has taken away from us over the past year. There are a lot of people that COVID has taken away from us over the past year. The good news is, as more people receive the COVID vaccine, the quicker we will be able to return to some sort of "new normal." We must trust that God is guiding us towards that day. Until that day arrives, take care of yourselves and each other. Be kind to each other and yourself. Drink plenty of water. Get 8 hours of sleep. Get your vaccine when it's your turn. Pray daily. Read the Bible. Amen

Blessings, Pastor Andy

SNIPPETS by Pat Welker

Snippets from February 9 Session Meeting via Zoom:

Brady had a video to show as part of his devotion, but because of technical problems, he will run it at the March meeting. He did ask a question for everyone to think about: "Who are you?" So, you can think about how you would answer that question and I'll have more information for you in the next Snippets.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

- **Worship Team** – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Tony
 - After some discussion concerning opening the sanctuary for in-person worship, it was decided that it would be discussed further at the March 9 Session Meeting.
 - The Session voted to approve having a OGHS offering.
- **Christian Education Team** – Beth (chair) & Tammy
 - Pat will deliver the fish banks to the SS kids while delivering her Valentine gifts to them. Beth to provide a note about the banks. Pat will pick up the stuff from the CE Bldg. Thursday.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team** – Steffanie (chair) & Michelle
 - Went over the Financial Reports.
 - Stewardship & Memorial - nothing to report.
 - Personnel - Barb Brown, janitress, was told that Michelle or Steffanie were now the contact people from Session and provided their phone numbers. Pastor Andy is good to go with Media Shout. When the Church reopens to in-person Worship, there could be staff changes. If we stay with online Worship, no changes
 - Finance – Kathy Welch & Cindy Daniels sent in the paperwork applying for a new PPP Loan for 2021.
- **Nominating Team** - Elder (chair), Deacon, Cozy Hoover, Crystal Gomes & Pat Welker
 - Michelle & Tammy will decide which of them will chair this Team.

DEACONS' REPORT: The Deacons (Chris Evans, Lissy Holder, Marianne Taylor, Lynsey Vermillion, Linda Riley and Melissa Herron, along with Pastor Andy) did not officially meet in December, but they did gather together to decorate the Church for Christmas, put together a large food basket to deliver to a needy family in the area and to put together Christmas goodies for the shut-ins. The Deacons continue to keep in constant contact through Email and Text messages with each other. The next meeting will be via zoom with the date to be determined. Next meeting Feb. 20.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

- Worship
 - I continue to lead worship online via Facebook Live.
 - I am beginning to plan for Lent
 - I will participate in the Lenten worship services for the Farmington Council of Churches
 - I continue to lead a weekly devotional on Wednesdays at 1pm on Facebook Live.
- Pastoral Care
 - I continue to call several members throughout the week to check in on them. I would appreciate any suggestions on people who might need a phone call.
 - I also responded to text messages and Facebook messages for Pastor Care.
- Presbytery
 - I plan to attend the February 13, 2021 meeting of the Presbytery on Zoom.
 - I am now the chair of the Training and Resources Sub-committee for the Committee on Ministry. We had a meeting on January 29th
 - I attended the January 31st meeting of the coordinating team of Committee on Ministry
 - I attended the February 2 Committee on Ministry meeting
 - I am now the Moderator of the Session for Peterburg, Central Presbyterian Church
 - I continue to meet with the Administrative Commission of Greenview.
- Administrative
 - I moderated the Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom and in person.
 - I attended the Deacons meeting on February 4
 - I updated the officers lists in the Fellowship Hall
 - I got in touch with the technician from Mid Century for running the internet wire. Kevin Phillips ran the actual wire to the sanctuary and it is hooked up to the router.
 - I sent out the February Burning Bush
 - I continue to send out weekly announcements
 - I purchased some office supplies
 - I continue to count and drop off the food pantry items

OLD BUSINESS:

- By Laws/Manual of Operations – Pastor Andy and Pat continue working on these.
- Baptisms & Confirmation Classes on-hold until further notice.

- Presbytery Grant for use by the CofC Movie in the Park. Pastor Andy is going to order the final speaker, which will use up remainder of Grant.
- Suspension of in-person worship until further notice.
- Suspension of Secretarial position and Church cleaning changed to once per month until further notice.

NEW BUSINESS:

- The Can-A-Thon will be held March 14, Sunday and First Presbyterian is the host Church. The Food Pantry will park an enclosed trailer at the Church for people to drop off donations. The only people needed for help will be a couple people to help load/unload the trailer.
- The Session voted to approve the following Special Worship Services for 2021: Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021 at 6:30pm; Council of Churches Good Friday Worship at Presbyterian at 6:30pm. (Online, but using our Sanctuary.); Longest Night Service, Tuesday December 21 at 6:30pm; Christmas Eve Service, Friday December 24 at 6:30pm.
- The Session voted to approve Pastor Andy's vacation and Continuing Education time/money as follows:
 - **Vacation** -- April 5-April 11, 7 days; October 15-22, 5 days; December 25-January 1, 8 days.
 - **Continuing Education** -- September 20-26, 7 days (Retreat at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, Wisconsin); approved use of \$600 Continuing Education money.
 - **Pulpit** – Liz contacted Dean Warner and he will fill the pulpit for us in Pastor Andy's absences, as needed.

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

THINKING OF YOU

By Pat Welker

It's hard to believe that we have had to live for almost an entire year under these Covid restrictions. Now we are slowing getting our vaccinations and maybe before long we will be able to worship together again.

Seems like our prayer chain gets 4-5 requests each week with a need for prayer. If you want to be included in the prayer chain, call Pat Welker at 309-338-4575, Kathy Welch at 309-224-4287, or Pastor Andy at 217-994-8588

There are several of our friends who have went through many health issues and family problems during this past year. Maybe if we could each write a short note to some of these folks, it would give them a little bright spot in their daily routine. So, if you have time, maybe drop a note or call some of our folks.

I will get addresses for you if you want to drop cards to anyone. I don't want to include them here but can get them for you. Either text or call me at 309-338-4575 and I'll get you the information needed.

We try to keep our BB prayer list as current as possible. Please notify the office to update a prayer request listed, to add a new prayer request, or to remove a prayer request. Please contact us at 309-245-2914 or at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com

If you would like to add something to next month's Burning Bush, please submit it to the office by the last Thursday of the month. For April's BB, that would be March 25. We prefer receiving it by email at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com or by dropping it off in the office.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2021

ELDERS: Tammy Duley, Michelle Lane, Steffanie Ulm, Brady Johnson, Tony Rolando, Beth Martin, and Liz Johnson

DEACONS: Lynsey Vermillion, Alissa Holder, Chris Evans, Marianne Taylor, Melissa Herron, and Sue Lane

TRUSTEES: Tim Ulm, Clark Evans, Ben Vermillion, Jay Ulm, Joe Herron, and Kevin Phillips

Mission Giving Updates

Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone for supporting the Farmington Food Pantry. This month, our congregation donated 61 items, weighing 54.26lbs. We also donated \$150, at the time of writing this note. Our running totals for 2021 are: 223 items, weighing 171lbs in food; and \$250. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Please note, when our church is worshipping in person, our collection day is the last Sunday of the month. When we are not worshipping in person, weather permitting, the grocery cart will be set outside on the corner of Fulton and Gold. If the weather is bad that day, you may drop your donations off in the office later that week, or you can call Pastor Andy to make other arrangements.

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 covenantal 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 and the denomination 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 preform 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.

Can-a-thon

Sunday, March 14, the Council of Churches will have the can-a-thon. This year, the can-a-thon will be different than previous years. Rather than having people go around the Farmington community to pick up donations from people's front porch, this year, we will have a trailer set outside of First Presbyterian Church. You are asked to swing by and drop off your donations. We plan to "fill the trailer." You don't even need to get out of your car. We will be set outside the church from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. They will also have the trailer set up at the Farmington County Market on April 10, 2021 from 10:00am-1:00pm. Help us stock up the Food Pantry by filling the trailer!

MONTHLY CALENDARS

March 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	2 COM meeting 10am-3pm	3 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	4 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	5	6
7 3 Worship 10:30am Communion	8 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	9 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	10 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	11 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	12	13
14 Worship 10:30am Canathon First Pres. 1pm-3pm	15 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	16 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	17 Ash Wednesday Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	18 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	19	20
21 5 th Sunday in Lent Worship 10:30am	22 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	23 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	24 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	25 Office Hours 1pm-5pm BB deadline	26	27
28 Palm Sunday worship 10:30am OGHS offering	29 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	30 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	31 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	April 1	April 2	April 3

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm, Communion	2 Good Friday service 6:30pm	3
4 Easter Sunday 10:30am Communion	5 Pastor Andy Vacation	6 Pastor Andy Vacation	7 Pastor Andy Vacation	8 Pastor Andy vacation	9 Pastor Andy vacation	10 Pastor Andy vacation Canathon County Market: 10am-1pm
11 Dean Warner. Worship 10:30AM	12 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	13 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	14 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	15 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	16	17
18 Worship 10:30am	19 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	20 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	21 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	22 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	23	24
25 Sunday worship at 10:30am	26 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	27 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	28 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	29 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	30	May 1st



March Birthdays

1 Paula Monari 11 Marianne Taylor 23 Colton Evans 24 Tim Ulm 27 Diana Rolando

April Birthdays

3 Brian Elliott 16 Colby Evans 21 Kevin Phillips 24 Leigh Ann Stephens

April Anniversaries

8 Joe & Melissa Herron



✝ Prayer Request ✝

Ongoing Prayers: Corbin Rutledge is having upcoming tests to help determine what is going on with his continuing seizures; Dave Waggoner is struggling with side effects from a cancerous tumor and the aggressive treatment; Melody Martin, received diagnosis and is now receiving treatment; Linda Staley, return of her cancer; Marj Guidi is recovering from broken hip surgery at Farmington Country Manor; Tony Rolando's cousin, numerous difficult health conditions; Lynsey Vermillion's mother had a blood clot and is paralyzed, and her father had surgery the last week of February; Kay Fairburn's great granddaughter Andi is home and doing well after her open heart surgery; Kay Fairburn's daughter in law (Mark Balagna's wife) fell and broke her foot; Chris Evans' nephew Joe Christiansen is going through 7 weeks of radiation for a rare form of thyroid cancer

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



Session decided at its February meeting that we will reevaluate reopening our congregation for in-person worship at our March meeting. We want to see how the numbers of cases is going in our community, and to give people time to get vaccinated.

Check out the “Farmington Council of Churches” Facebook page. Make sure to like the page so that you receive notifications and updates. We will use this page to post community events and information. This is also where you will also be able to watch the Council’s Facebook Live worship services.

Did you know that our church is on Facebook and YouTube? Like and Subscribe to our pages to keep up-to-date on the latest happenings!

Sermon topics and Scripture for March:

March 7: “Fasting” (Matthew 4:1-17 & Matthew 6:16-18)

March 14: “Worship” (Acts 2:42-47)

March 21: “Keeping Silence” (Psalm 62; Luke 9:18; Luke 5:16; Mark 6:31-32; & Matthew 14:13)

March 28: Palm Sunday “Gratitude” (Mark 11:1-11)

We will collect the One Great Hour of Sharing offering on Sunday, March 28. Have your kids drop off their banks in the office the week before March 28. Adults may send in their offerings directly to Mickie Ulm.

We thank you for sending in your tithes and offerings, especially during this time of crisis. Until we reopen for worship, we ask that you send your tithes and offerings directly to Mickie Ulm, our financial secretary. Her address is 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 61531.

Upcoming Lenten Worship Services

- Maundy Thursday: 6:30pm on Facebook Live
- Good Friday: 6:30pm on Facebook Live (Council of Churches)
- No Easter Sunrise service or breakfast
- Easter: 10:30AM on Facebook Live

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



COME WORSHIP WITH US:
First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL
Worship Service is at 10:30AM, Sunday
mornings, on Facebook Live

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

Blessings on:

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

