

THE BURNING BUSH

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

I am so happy to report that we are seeing a winding down of the COVID restrictions around the country, including in Illinois. More and more people are getting vaccinated. At the time of me writing this, we had one day this week with no new COVID-19 cases in Fulton County. On Sunday, May 23, our congregation began singing during worship again, with our masks on and socially distanced. We are hoping that once the state reopens to Phase 5, we can further relax our restrictions. We will continue to stream our worship services on Facebook Live and post the videos to YouTube and our website, even after we fully reopen worship. We hope that you come back to worship soon. We miss you all so very much.

I wanted to share with you a few things that are going on this summer. First, we are planning on having activities for our youth throughout the summer. These will be some fun events, along with a mission event or two perhaps. We will keep you updated as these events are planned. Some of the things we have talked about include having a pool party, a movie night, visiting some farms to see the animals, and so on. If you have any ideas on ways we can engage our youth, please let me, Beth Martin, and/or Tammy Duley know. The plan, right now, is for us to return to Sunday School in September. Second, I wanted to let you know that, after considerable time discussing the pros and cons of having a community-wide VBS this year, Session decided that the best thing to do would be to cancel it this year, and plan on having it next summer. We did not make this decision lightly. We want to offer a full, regular VBS like the children are used to, and in order to do that, we feel it's best to wait one more year.

Speaking of activities for the summer, the Farmington Council of Churches will start up its "Movies in the Park" series this year. We will be showing 4 movies this year on the big screen in Reed Park. The first movie we will be showing is "National Treasure", which is rated PG. We will show it on Saturday, July 10 around sunset in Reed Park. You are welcome to arrive anytime around 7pm. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket and watch a movie with us! The best part is: all of our movies are free admission. We will also have snacks and drinks available, all of which will be donation based. We hope you can attend these films this summer. We'd love for you to bring your whole family, as all films are rated G or PG.

We are also participating in this year's Fourth of July community event, which will be on Saturday, July 3 this year. Our church will be selling our usual: hot dogs and hamburgers, chips, and drinks. It will be in Reed Park this year. There will be a parade down Fort St. and music entertainment in the park, as well. If you can volunteer, please reach out to Michelle Lane or Steffanie Ulm or Pastor Andy. It will be so great to see everyone. I've missed being able to do things like this!

COVID-19 has changed all our lives in deep and profound ways. Many of us have lost loved ones and friends in the past year, but due to the pandemic restrictions, we were unable to do our normal grieving process. To help memorialize all those we've lost this year, the Council of Churches is going to

host a Service of Remembrance for Those Affected by COVID-19 on June 26 at 1pm in Reed Park. The whole community is invited to participate. Several of the community pastors will be leading this service, and members of the Farmington community leadership will be in attendance as well. We will also toll the church bell 1 time for each person who passed away due to COVID-19 in our County. We hope you can attend this service.

We are slowly come out of this pandemic shut down. I know that things aren't all the way normal yet. We must remain vigilant and optimistic. So much has happened, I would hate it if we had to go backwards in mitigation. Please get vaccinated for yourself and for others. Take care of yourself and each other.

Blessings,

Pastor Andy

Snippets by Pat

Snippets from May 11 Session Meeting:

DEVOTION Steffanie read a devotion about 1John 4:11, reminding us that God loves us no matter what. He forgives us for everything we do/don't do. So, we should be able to do the same for our neighbors. (Next Month's Devotee will be Michelle.)

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS:

- **Worship Team – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Tony**
 - No report/changes
- **Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Tammy**
 - VBS – After conducting a survey to judge the interest in the community, it was decided that we would not be able to have VBS this year. Instead, the Team is looking at having several events over the summer for the kids from Church and also for the community. This could include a movie night, farm visit, fishing day, etc. The Team will continue to define what this will look like.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair) & Michelle**
 - Personnel- Michelle and I met with Pastor Andy for a review on Wednesday, April 28 in his office to go over the past year plus. Most employees are not being reviewed at this time due to their limited amount of work this past year but that may change in the future.
 - Finance- We have used the full PPP loan and Cindy Daniels has submitted the paperwork for forgiveness.
 - Memorial - We received a new donation from the Amber Lercher estate. See financial reports.
 - Stewardship- nothing to report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Tony (chair) & Steffanie**
 - No report/changes.
- **Evangelism Team – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Brady**
 - No report/changes.
- **Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Michelle**
 - No report/changes.

○ **Nominating Team** – Elder Tammy (chair), Deacon (Lyndsey Vermillion or Alissa Holder), Cozy Hoover, Crystal Gomes & Pat Welker

- Will meet in Sept./Oct.

DEACONS' REPORT – Meeting April 15, 21

- Attending: Chris Evans, Pastor Andy, Lynsey Vermillion, Sue Lane, Missy Herron, Marianne Taylor
- Secretary report - report was submitted in March by Chris Evans
- Treasurer report - Alissa Holder was not in attendance. Easter lilies were purchased by the Deacons and the receipt is in the Deacons' mailbox. The money collected for the lilies was given to Alissa from Mickie Ulm.
- Cards sent - Chris 8, Sue 4, Marianne 4, Lynsey 3
- Cards have been placed on the shelf of a bookcase in the Fellowship Hall. Jane Rutledge organized the cards for us.
- Session update from Pastor Andy
 - VBS
 - August 18- Food Pantry
 - August Nominating Committee (Outgoing Lynsey or Alissa on the committee)
 - Deacon and Session Training - August
 - Zoom account expiring
- Communion - Maundy/Thursday 15 Easter Sunday 38
 - May 2nd Communion - set up in back of Sanctuary- Deacons in back attending- Marianne and Sue
- Paraments- stay white until May 23 - Sue will change for that date
- Please check updated lists for corrections and send any to Pastor Andy.
- Print out lists and put in the back of the church for people to check.
- Graduations - please send to the church so that we can send cards from the deacons.

Trustee's Report- Meeting April 22, 21

- Attendees: Joe Herron, Ben Vermillion, Jay Ulm, Clark Evans, Tim Ulm, Kevin Philips
- The Trustees appointed Joe Herron as secretary and Clark Evans as Chairperson
- Pastor Andy noted that there was an anonymous donation of \$7,000 provided to the church for widespread use to make improvements.
- The Trustees went through the Manse, C.E. Building and Main Church
- The Trustees will meet again in June to review the noted list below and prioritize the requests for resolution:
- Manse Location Noted Concerns
 - Master Bathroom pop-up drain not functioning. Master Bathroom sink cabinet needs to be fastened to the wall.
 - Basement Water coming into the basement near driveway side.
 - Exterior Request to have weeds sprayed on back patio pavers.
 - Gutter needs to be cleaned to help water flow down the downspouts and not overflow.
 - Request to have an exterior outlet installed on front porch.

- C.E. Building Location
 - Water heater does not work reliably for the kitchen. Ben V. might have a possible free replacement.
 - Exterior 7 doors are needing replaced at some point due to rust, gaps in doorway seals and church members unable to open doors to enter building. Trustees need to investigate costs of doors both 48" wide and 36" wide and possibilities of phase replacement. One at a time.
- Sanctuary/Church Main Building
 - Andy requesting to have a small shelf installed with extension cord near middle isle for social networking camera.
 - Request to have motion activated lights installed over each entrance to be triggered only at night to help walk through the church at night.
 - Water damage near roof pitch west side interior needs repainted.
- Basement Nothing noted.
- Exterior Weeds need sprayed in rocks in seating area between church and CE Building.
- Exterior Winter Salt supply has been exhausted. We need more before winter.
- Bell Loft Concerns about the bees/wasps coming in. Not sure where they are coming in from.
- Stairway up to Bell Loft wall plaster is falling off from earlier moisture damage.

Sincerely, Joseph R. Herron

Pastor's Report-

- Worship
 - We continue to worship in person and online.
 - I led Communion online and in person on May 2, 2021
 - We had a special music video, prayer, and gifts for mothers on Mother's Day.
- Pastoral Care
 - I continue to call several members throughout the week to check in on them.
 - I received several phone calls from members this month looking for pastoral care.
 - I have left messages with members in the nursing homes.
 - I met with a couple to do a wedding in July.
- Presbytery
 - The next Presbytery meeting is Tuesday, May 25, 2021 on Zoom.
 - I attended the May 4, 2021 Committee on Ministry meeting via Zoom
 - I continue to serve on as the moderator of the Session of Petersburg Central Presbyterian Church in my role as their COM Ministry Partner.
 - I continue to meet with the Administrative Commission of Greenview.
- Administrative
 - I attended the Deacons meeting in April and plan on attending the May meeting
 - I developed and sent out the May Burning Bush
 - The Deacons and I are working on updating their contact lists with updated birthdays, anniversaries, and addresses.
 - I attended the Trustees meeting in April and plan to continue meeting with them in the future.

- I continue to send out weekly announcements
- I continue to count and drop off the food pantry items
- I met with Pat Welker to update the By-Laws and the Manual of Operation.

OLD BUSINESS: (identified as ongoing issues that need to be addressed)

- By Laws: Pastor Andy and Pat Welker have made several changes to the By Laws. There were additional suggestions from the Elders. Pastor Andy is going to update all the changes and then send it out to all Elders/Clerk for approval before calling a Congregational Meeting for them to be officially approved per Book of Order.
- Manual of Operations: Pastor Andy and Pat Welker are continuing to work on this. Need to have each sub-group look over their duties as listed and suggest any needed changes.
- Baptism – Pastor Andy has sent text to the Stobaugh’s to set a date. Has not heard back. May have to call them.
- Confirmation Classes are on hold until further notice.
- Suspension of Secretarial position until further notice.
- Church cleaning changed to normal summer cleaning of every two weeks.

NEW BUSINESS: (items that need to be addressed.)

- Covid 19 – The committee and the Worship Team will look into what is now allowed and decide on how the changes will be implemented into worship and Church functions in general.
- Movies in the Park – Even though this is a Council of Churches event, Pastor Andy said that he has picked out some movies, hoping to have the first showing on July 3, Saturday. The cost of each movie is \$350 for rights to show it, if 3 or more movies are ordered at the same time. He has asked each Church to donate money to cover the costs. In light of this, the Session voted to approve using \$70 (note: this was then amended to \$70-80) from the Professional Expenses Account for this.
- Tuesday, May 25 Presbytery via Zoom. No Elder committed to attending this meeting. Pastor Andy said if anyone decided to attend, to let him know.
- Spoon River Drive is definitely going to be held the first two full weekends of October. Tammy is going to check with Sarah Perardi to see if we will have a booth in the park or not. This is an Evangelism Team project.
- Fourth of July Picnic in the Park (to be held July 3). There will be a 4th of July Parade for sure, organized by the Masons. At this time, there is no assurance that there will be any activities in Reed Park. That would affect whether food would be provided or not. The Finance Team will work with Kathy Welch on this. It was noted that this is the planned date for the first Movie in the Park by Council of Churches.

SINGING IN CHURCH

Finally, a small step towards getting back to a normal worship service. On Sunday, May 23, we got to sing a hymn and also some of the responses during worship. We still had our masks on, but hey, it was great just the same. I have really missed the singing, even though I can’t carry a tune very well. So slowly we are getting back the different parts of worship. Come join us.

Mission Giving Updates

Food Pantry

Thank you for your on-going support of the Farmington Area Food Pantry. In the month of May, our congregation donated 81 items, weighing 55.8lbs to the pantry. In the month of May, our congregation also donated \$20. Our running totals for 2021 are: 665 items, weighing 522.11lbs; and \$470. If we keep up our trend, we will be close to donating 1,200lbs and \$1,200 by December 31, which I think are good goals for us to set this year. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Please note our collection day for non-perishable items is the last Sunday of the month. Our next collection day is May 30, though you can always donate food ahead of time. Please place your items in the grocery cart in the fellowship hall near the entrance. As always, your financial donations are also appreciated. Please place these in the offering plate, or mail them to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 6531.

Per Capita for 2021

The Per Capita amount for an active member of Farmington Presbyterian Church for 2021 is \$35.25. The Per Capita 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. This money is used by the Presbytery and the PCUSA to fund its administrative and mission projects.

Did you know that the Presbyterian Church (USA) has a disaster assistance program called the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)? PDA responds to local, national, and international crises like floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc. Your Per Capita dollars pay the administrative costs for PDA. That means that when you donate to PDA to go towards a disaster, unlike most other agencies, 100% of what you donate goes directly to the crisis. Lest you think that PDA is just some far off agency that helps people on the other side of the world, did you know that PDA responded quickly to a tornado that struck Taylorville, IL in December 2018 with assistance?

So far, 43 members have paid their per capita in 2021, for a total \$1517.13. That represents 42% of our active membership. All organizations need money to enable them to provide all that is expected from them, and our Presbytery and denomination are no exceptions. We, the members of Session, are asking every active member to support the important work of our denomination by paying their 2021 Per Capita. Please mail your per capita directly to Mickie Ulm, our Financial Secretary, at 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 61531 or drop it in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. Please make sure you denote that your donation is earmarked for per capita.

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

TREASURERS: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES: Mickie Ulm and Gayle Lucas

CLERK OF SESSION: Pat Welker

Monthly Calendars

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		June 1 COM Meeting for Pastor Andy	2 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	3 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	4	5
6 Worship 10:30AM Communion Trustees Meeting after worship	7 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	8 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	9 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	10 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	11	12
13 Worship 10:30am	14 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	15 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	16 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm Food Pantry 12:30-1:30pm	17 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	18	19
20 Worship at 10:30am Father's Day	21 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	22 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	23 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	24 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	25	26 Service of Remembrance 1pm in Reed Park
27Worship 10:30AM Food Pantry Sunday	28 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm BB Deadline	29 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	30 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm			

July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	2	3 Community 4 th of July Event
4 Worship 10:30AM Communion Independence Day	5 Office Closed for Independence Day	6 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	7 No Devotion Committee on Ministry Pastor Andy	8 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	9	10 Movie in Reed Park. "National Treasure". Opens at 7:30pm.
11 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 at 10:30am	19 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	20 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	21 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm Food Pantry 12:30-1:30pm	22 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	23	24
25 Worship 10:30AM Food Pantry Sunday	26 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm BB Deadline	27 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	28 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	29 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	30	31

Joys & Concerns



June Birthday

3 Mike Daniels 5 Linda Elliott 6 Grace Berry 15 Cindy Daniels 16 Jodi Phillips 19
Gracie Duley 25 Chris Evans 27 Abbi Phillips; Kathy Welch 29 Sam Rutledge

July Birthday

2 Pauline Sprowls 5 Blanche Wilson 10 Alyssa Ulm; Tammy Duley 15 Jake Suydam
18 Jay Ulm 29 Caleb Suydam

June Anniversaries

9 Tony & Diana Rolando 18 Sam & Jane Rutledge

July Anniversaries

2 Clark & Chris Evans

✠ Prayer Request ✠

Joys: Corbin Rutledge got into the Epileptic Clinic in Cleveland! Prayers for help and hope for a treatment plan.

Concerns: Dave Waggoner is struggling with side effects from a cancerous tumor and the aggressive treatment; Linda Staley, going through cancer treatments; Sharon Slaughter, Kathy Welch's cousin, is in a rehab hospital near St. Louis; Emily Benson (Dale and Glenene Benson's granddaughter through marriage) complications from difficult childbirth and following surgery; Terry Howard, is off the ventilator and improving daily

Bereavement: Family of Marj Guidi; Family of Darren Wright (Tony Rolando's cousin)

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

Pastor Andy's Contact Information

Cell Phone: (217) 994-8588 (preferred)

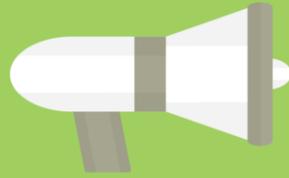
Office Phone: (309) 245-2914

Email: revandysonneborn@gmail.com (preferred)

Office Email: firstpresfarmington@gmail.com

Home Address: 68: N. Gold St. Farmington, IL 61531

Office Address: 83 N. Cone St. Farmington, IL 61531



UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

We thank you for sending in your tithes and offerings, especially during this time of crisis. You may either bring your tithes and offerings to worship or you may send your tithes and offerings directly to Mickie Ulm, our financial secretary. Her address is 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 61531.

List of 2021 Graduates

Nick Swanson: 8th Grade Graduation, Illini Bluffs, Glasford

Ethan Ulm: Farmington Central High School

Emily Phillips: Eureka High School

Brady Johnson: Masters of Science in Information
Technology from SNHU

Ashlyn Welch: Badger High School (Kathy Welch)

Alec Welch: 8th Grade Graduation, Badger Middle School
(Kathy Welch)

Tessa Balagna: Farmington High School (Kay Fairburn)

Jayden Flicht: Canton High School (Kay Fairburn)

Nadia Edwards, Richwoods High School (Donna DeGroot)

Logan Pescaglia: Hickman High School, Colombia, MO
(Donna Degroot)

Ashley Christensen: University of Oregon (Donna DeGroot)

Sermon topics and Scripture for June:

June 6: "Courage to be Vulnerable"
Philippians 2:5-11

June 13: "Courage to be Gracious"
Philippians 1:2-12

June 20: "Courage to be Last" Philippians
2:1-5

June 27: "Courage to be First" Philippians
3:10-16

If you would like to add something to next month's Burning Bush, please submit it to the office by the 4th Monday of the month.

For July's BB, that would be June 28. We prefer receiving it by email at
firstpresfarmington@gmail.com or by dropping it off in the office.

Movie in the Park!

July 10: "National Treasure" (PG)

August 14: "Beauty and the Beast" (PG)
2019 Live Action version

September 11: "Soul" (PG)

October TBD: "Addams Family" (2019)
(PG)

The Farmington Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (June 16) from 12:30pm-1:30pm. The Food Pantry is located at New Hope Fellowship Church 1102 N State Route 78, Farmington IL 61531. You don't even have to get out of your car. It is open to anyone in the Farmington school district or who lives in Elmwood. There is no income requirement. If you cannot make it during that time, other arrangements can be made by calling Pastor Andy.

**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 and in person

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)**

