

THE BURNING BUSH

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

I hope all of you are doing well. Summer is now in full swing. We've had weeks of hot and humid weather. We've had weeks of cool and dry weather. We've even had severe storms that have damaged property in our area. This summer weather has been a wild ride so far. Also, this summer has seen our congregation entering a season of activities after a year + of not much activity. I gotta tell you, I'm loving all this busy-ness. After 16 months of doing not much of anything because of the pandemic, it feels great to be busy again.

If you haven't joined us for worship since the shutdown, I hope that you consider coming back to worship with us soon in person. Know that we will continue to have worship via Facebook Live with the video posted to YouTube later. For the month of July, I have developed several different worship services for the congregation. July 4th will feature patriotic preludes and postludes. July 11th will be a Christmas in July worship service of carols and lessons. July 18th will be a normal worship service. July 25th will be a Hymn Sing worship service. I hope that these worship services will entice you to come back to worship with us. Know that you have been missed greatly.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention that we are also trying to engage the youth of our congregation in various activities this summer. It is a participate as you are able kind of thing. We will take various trips around Farmington to visit various congregation members who are doing interesting things or who have interesting things for our youth to learn about. We plan to meet up to watch the movies in the park this summer. Dates, times, and movies can be found in the following announcements section. Session hasn't finalized this yet, but we will soon be talking about starting Sunday School back up in the Fall.

I have learned much during this pandemic. I learned that I have to take care of myself. I started working out and trying to eat healthier foods. I have learned that staying home and watching tv and movies gets really old, really fast. I learned that I don't like staying home all the time. I really miss being around people. I miss hanging out with people. We are now exiting a time of great isolation and loneliness, as a people. Please consider making the effort to get back out there and join us for the events going on this summer and for worship on Sundays. I will leave you with the following thoughts: I hope that you always remember that you are a child of God. God loves you and there ain't nothing you can do about it. Please continue to take care of yourselves and each other. Please continue to stay hydrated in this hot weather. Get vaccinated if you haven't already. Be safe. Have a great day.

Blessings,

Pastor Andy

Snippets by Pat

Snippets from June 8 Session Meeting:

DEVOTION : Michelle read a devotion about our time here on earth and how we spend it. Once it is gone, it is irreplaceable, so how we spend it is important. Don't arrive in heaven having used your time on earth without investing it in eternity. Make sure you use it according to God's plan for you. (Next Month's Devotee will be Liz).

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

Worship Team – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Tony

- The Session voted to approve the following: While in the sanctuary, the Church will no longer require those folks fully vaccinated to wear a mask, while non-vaccinated continue to wear them. There will still be social distancing observed for now.
- Liz is going to provide cookies for all the fathers for Father's Day and there will be a special video shown.
- Beth is going to get with Sam and try to get some special music for Sunday worship in the future.

Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Tammy

- The Session voted to approve a June 17 or 18 cook-out for the Sunday School kids. This will be held at the Manse with food and games to get the kids involved again.

Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair) & Michelle

- The Team is working on the 4th of July Cookout (to be held July 3). They have gotten the tent and grill lined up and noted that the Fire Department is letting us use the grill and furnishing the propane. The price of the hamburger patties **is going up slightly. All selling prices will be looked at and adjusted accordingly for 2021.

Fellowship and Mission Team – Tony (chair) & Steffanie

- Pastor Andy asked the Team to start thinking about getting Fellowship after worship started again.

Evangelism Team – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Brady

- No report/changes.

Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Michelle

- No report/changes.

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

- Will meet in Sept./Oct.

Deacon's Report – Minutes from May 25, 2021 meeting

- Attending- Marianne Taylor, Sue Lane, Chris Evans, Lynsey Vermillion, Lissy Holder, Melissa Herron, Andy Sonneborn
- Cards sent- Marianne- 3, Sue- 4, Chris- 4, Lynsey-1, Lissy-0, Melissa-6
- Session news- Movies in the park on July 10, August 14, September 11, and October 9- this is being sponsored by the Council of Churches and will be held at Reed's Park. No Vacation Bible School this year. Other activities are being planned. July 3rd- Fourth of July BBQ. The church needs volunteers.
- June 6th- is next Communion. Need to set up for 30-35. Discussed if the Communion arrangement (bagged bread and cups set at back of Church and being picked up by worshipper) is working well; everyone agreed it is.
- Sue is changing the paraments.

Pastor's Report

Worship

- We continue to worship in person and online.
- I led Communion online and in person on June 6, 2021
- We are now singing during worship, with masks on
- We will have a special music video planned for Father's Day

Pastoral Care

- I continue to call several members throughout the week to check in on them.
- I started visiting people in person again.
- I visited with the family of Marj Guidi.

Presbytery

- I attended the Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, May 25 on Zoom.
- I attended the June 1 Committee on Ministry meeting via Zoom
- I resigned as moderator of the Central Petersburg Session.
- I continue to meet with the Administrative Commission of Greenview.

Administrative

- I attended the Deacons meeting in May
- I developed the June Burning Bush
- I attended the Trustees meeting in June and plan to continue meeting with them in the future.

- I continue to send out weekly announcements
- I met with Pat Welker to update the By-Laws and the Manual of Operation.

Community

- I am working with Chris Evans and Matt Ulm on developing the July 4th community events
- I developed the community worship service for Saturday, June 26 at 1pm in Reed Park
- I continue to attend the city council meetings when available.
- I continue to attend meetings with the Masons
- I delivered the food for the Food Pantry to the Newcomb's

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

- By Laws: A draft was sent to the Elders for suggestions. The final draft will be sent to the Elders then a Congregational Meeting will be called to get approval, as 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.
- Confirmation Classes are on hold until further notice.
- Suspension of Secretarial position until further notice.
- 2021 Officers Training for Elders and Deacons.
- Spoon River Drive – Tammy to find out from Sarah Perardi to see if we will have a booth in the park.

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

- The Session voted to approve the use of the CE Building in case of rain, by the PEO from 1-3pm on Saturday, June 12. They are planning a plant sale in Reed Park, weather permitting.
- The Session voted to approve the use of the Church on Saturday, July 17, for the wedding of Trey Harrison and Abi Smith

CHURCH SERVICES

So, for a couple of weeks we have been attending Church without masks, if we are fully vaccinated, and we are also singing the hymns. It has been wonderful. I am hoping that soon we can remove the tape and sit where we want to sit. We can make choices as to whether we want to sit alone (6ft from everyone) or with another fully vaccinated person. It will be nice to be back to normal or as close as we can get to

that right now. The attendance has not been really great, but you could help change that. Let's all get back to worshipping together as we did prior to Covid when we had 50-60 of our friends in attendance every week. Come join us.

FATHER'S DAY

During the Father's Day worship service, a video was shown honoring Fathers. It was pretty powerful and was very enjoyable. As you might expect, there were many pictures of Dads and their kids, with some of them being extra cute shots. Then as we left, Liz provided homemade cookies for all the Dads to take home and enjoy. Ralph certainly enjoyed his cookies. Big thanks to Liz for doing this for all the Dads.

COUNCIL of CHURCHES REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

On June 26, the Council of Churches held a special service to remember the 59 Fulton County citizens who passed from Covid. The service was held at First Presbyterian because of the threat of rain, and was for anyone who was affected by Covid, which means each and every one of us. We were all affected one way or another, whether through the death of a loved one, friend or neighbor. We all know someone who either passed/suffered from Covid. We also endured months of isolation, etc.

The sad part of this whole service is that there were only 28 total people in attendance, including Pastor Andy, Pastor Jon Dainty of First Baptist, Pastor Debbie Rhodes of United Methodist and Deacon Gary Schultz of St. Matthews and a bagpipe player from Monmouth College. Also included were a policeman, 6 Rescue Squad members and 3 of their family who were honored for their service during the pandemic.

Pastor Andy gave the introduction followed by Deacon Gary who read passages including the 23rd Psalm. This was followed by Pastor Debbie who read a meditation with Pastor Jon honoring all who continued to work during the pandemic including the one's in attendance.

Tim Ulm then rang the Church bell 59 times to recognize the 59 Fulton County residents who lost their battle with Covid. Pastor Debbie then read a prayer of forgiveness followed by Pastor Andy reading Sonnet #30 by Shakespeare.

After the benediction, Amazing Grace was played by the bagpiper. All in all, a great service. Thanks to the Council of Churches for doing this for us.

JULY EVENTS

Some important things coming up in July. First will be the July 3rd Cookout in Reed Park to celebrate July 4. Our Church is once again cooking hamburgers and hotdogs in the park. The weather is predicted to be dry and 75-80 degrees. Come up and buy your lunch and enjoy the entertainment.

Also, Blanche and Pauline are both celebrating their birthdays. Extend them good wishes when you see them.

Mission Giving

Food Pantry

Thank you for your on-going support of the Farmington Area Food Pantry. In the month of June, our congregation 63 donated items, weighing 52.83lbs to the pantry. In the month of June, our congregation also donated \$20. Our running totals for 2021 are: 689 items, weighing 539.9lbs; and \$490. If we keep up our trend, we will be close to donating 1,200lbs and \$600 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 July 25, 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

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 Choir Practice 7:15pm	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

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	3 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	4 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	5 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	6	7
8 Worship 10:30AM Communion	9 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	10 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	11 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	12 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	13	14 Movie in Reed Park. "Beauty and the Beast". Opens at 7:30pm.
15 Worship 10:30am	16 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	17 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	18 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm Food Pantry 12:30-1:30pm	19 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	20	21
22 Worship at 10:30am	23 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	24 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	25 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	26 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	27	28
29 Worship 10:30AM Food Pantry Sunday	30 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm BB Deadline	31 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm				

Joys & Concerns



July Birthday

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

August Birthday

4 Kay Fairburn 5 Kathleen Kowal; Pat Threw 7 Sue Lane; Ralph Walker 13 Dianna Threw 18 Deb O'Donnell; Beth Martin 23 Bonnie Suydam

July Anniversaries

2 Clark & Chris Evans

August Anniversaries

8 Ralph & Pat Welker; Hubert & Gisela Schuman 12 Darrel & Crystal Gomes

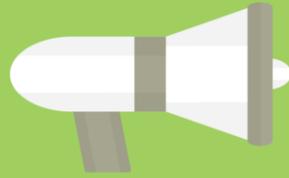
† Prayer Request †

Joys: Council of Churches' COVID-19 worship service; Church is reopened; Jane and Sam Rutledge celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary; Pat Welker got a clean bill of health from her cancer doctor; Sam Sprecher's twin grandchildren were baptized in June

Concerns: Dave Waggoner is struggling with side effects from a cancerous tumor and the aggressive treatment; Linda Staley, going through cancer treatments; those affected by the recent storms, including the Schleich family in Fairview (friends of Mary Ulm) and Cindy Daniel's son; Mary Lee Nunly (friend of Mary Ulm) diagnosed with breast cancer

Bereavement: Family of Charles Houston; Family of Mary Guidi; family of Chris Watters (Paul Watters' son); Family of Dwayne (Sue Lane's brother-in-law); family of Edith Richard (Larry Roberson's family)

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.



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.

The Farmington Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (July 21) 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.

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

Sermon topics and Scripture for July:

- July 4: "Get out there and preach"
Mark 6:1-13
- July 11: Christmas in July
- July 18: "The Time is coming"
Jeremiah 23:1-6
- July 25: "Make a Joyful Noise"
Psalm 95

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 August's BB, that would July 26. 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 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

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

