

# THE BURNING BUSH

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

July was quite the busy month. Activities within our congregation are starting to pick up quickly. I don't know about you, but it feels good to be busy again. I love having things to do. I love having a busy and active church. A church building should be used. It's terribly sad when a church building remains locked up throughout the week. As we have slowly reopened our congregation after the COVID outbreaks, it is great to be able to have people in worship and singing again. I am also happy to see several people worshipping with us on Facebook each week. It is my hope that each of you stops in sometime to say hello. You are all missed terribly.

I wanted to take a few moments and update you on some changes that have been made in worship recently. We recently took down the tape that had been blocking off certain rows. There are hymnals back in the pews (more on that in a second). We are singing hymns again. Things are returning to normal slowly. We will continue to have our camera in the sanctuary to record worship services, so you can continue to watch live on Facebook if you are not comfortable returning to physical worship. I am happy and excited to be worshipping again with all of you.

And now back to the hymnals. One of the changes that you will soon notice during worship is that Session is about to order new hymnals. The Presbyterian Church (USA) came out with the Glory to God Hymnal back in 2012. One of the updated features to this hymnal is our ability to project the words and music on the screens in the sanctuary. We also plan to order a limited number of physical hymnals for the sanctuary. We are asking people who are interested in purchasing a hymnal and dedicating it to donate \$18/hymnal. We will add a few extra hymnals for general use as well. It is my hope that these new hymnals will help us in our worship for years to come. There is a sign-up sheet in the CE for several weeks. You can also place your order by emailing the office at [firstpresfarmington@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresfarmington@gmail.com) and telling me how many copies and to whom you would like to dedicate the hymnals.

One final thing I would like to highlight in this article is: the Deacons and the office are updating the birthdays, anniversaries, and addresses/contact information for the congregation. Sheets will be in the CE building for several weeks. If your birthday or anniversary is incorrect in the Burning Bush, or they are missing, please make sure to update the sheets. We use this information regularly to send out cards and put them in the Burning Bush.

I hope to see you all soon. We have so much going on in our congregation right now and all of you help make the congregation what it is. There is still so much to give God thanks for, so let us gather together in worship and praise.

Blessings,

Pastor Andy

## **Snippets by Pat**

Snippets from July 13 Session Meeting:

**DEVOTION:** Liz played a YouTube video about Isaiah 65:24 “And it shall come to pass that, before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.” – There was a American doctor in Africa delivering a baby. He lost the mother, but the baby girl was born alive. They desperately needed to keep the infant warm, but their last hot water bottle had recently broken. The 2-year-old sister of the infant prayed to God for a hot water bottle for the infant and a doll for herself. The medical team was not at all hopeful to receive a package. A nurse slept with the infant near a fire to try to keep her warm. The next day, miraculously, a package arrived. It had been in transit for 5 months. Opening the package there was a note along with medical supplies. Near the bottom of the box was a doll and a hot water bottle. The note said that as he was packing the box, something told him to throw in a doll and a hot water bottle. God was with them all the way. (Next Month’s Devotee will be Tony.)

### **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

- **Worship Team – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Tony**
  - Enjoy seeing people's smiling faces and singing. Numbers still about the same, average around 25-28.
  - The Session voted to remove all the tape on pews that was installed to help with social distancing.
  - The Team said that it is no longer necessary to mention the masking rules each week. It was suggested that a sign be placed at each entrance stating that “If not vaccinated, please continue to wear a mask”.
- **Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Tammy**
  - June 17<sup>th</sup> a cookout was held to kick off our summer activities. About a dozen people were there for dinner and games.
  - On Thursday, July 22 and 29, we are planning on meeting at the Church for presentations by Kathy Welch on butterflies. A lunch is being considered for the kids after the presentations.
  - Looking ahead to August, the Team is looking at an Olympic themed activity and/or a pool party.
  - In early August, the Sunday School teachers will meet to discuss starting Sunday School.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair) & Michelle**
  - Finance: 1) We received full PPP loan forgiveness. 2) July 4<sup>th</sup> cookout brought in around \$1,400 for the Church’s general fund. It should be noted that the Team had received donations to cover the cost of supplies so all sales

were profit. Sales included 96 hotdogs, 158 burgers, 67 bags of chips, approximately 8 pies worth of slices (+ 1 whole pie), lots of cookies/brownies as well as 7 packages (10 burgers each) of unused burgers.

- **Fellowship and Mission Team** – Tony (chair) & Steffanie
  - The Team will look into starting Fellowship again soon.
- **Evangelism Team** – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Brady
  - Spoon River Drive: We are going to have a booth in the park again this year. We will be responsible for putting up the tent as well as taking it down at the end of the drive. Tammy to look into the costs for spot as well as for joining the SRD Association.
- **Deacon's Report**: Minutes from July 1, 2021 (June Mtg.) meeting
  - Attending- Marianne Taylor, Sue Lane, Lissy Holder, Chris Evans, Melissa Herron, Andy Sonneborn
  - Old Business-
    - Communion- June 5- 27 served
    - Secretary- Nothing to Report
    - Treasurers Report- \$253 in bank
    - Cards sent-
      - Sue- 6; Marianne- 2; Chris- 5; Lissy- 1; Missy- 0
  - New Business-
    - Addresses to be changed-
      - Mike & Cindy Daniels- zip 61529
      - Phillips Family- zip 61569
    - Pastor Andy suggested sending cards to Linda Staley-
      - Her address is 11419 W. Farmington Rd. Hanna City, 61536
    - Session update-
      - This Saturday- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration
      - Need donations of m&m's or money for movie in the park
      - Communion- next Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>-
        - Lissy and Sue are serving

**Trustee's Report** Minutes from the June 27, 2021 meeting

- Members present: Tim Ulm, Jay Ulm, and Clark Evans
- The following items were discussed:
  - Manse
    - 2/3 of the companies contacted sent us bids for gutter protection on the parsonage. We reviewed the other two and we recommend that Nathan Harper of Four Seasons from East Peoria sent us a bid for \$2496.00 for Gutter Rx installed with a lifetime clog-free guarantee.
    - We are getting estimates on buying and installing a garage door from Crawford and Brinkman. (740-1014)

- Tim will work on installing an outlet on the parsonage porch. He'll contact us when he's going to do it.
- CE Building
  - Waiting for K.B. on bids for the CE fascia repair
  - As of meeting time, we had no bids on new doors, but they are in the process of getting them out to us. We think the double door with ADA access should be done ASAP.
  - Water heater replacement is being worked on.
- Church
  - Waiting for Mike Robinson to come look at the plaster work in church
  - Looking for carpet cleaning bids for breezeway/church carpeting.
  - Start looking for replacement of ADA chair lift from the breezeway into the church.
  - It was noted that Joe Herron put a downspout extension on the SW corner of the church
- Next Meeting is August 1, 2021

### **Pastor's Report**

- Worship
  - We continue to worship in person and online.
  - I led Communion online and in person on July 4, 2021
  - We are now singing during worship,
  - We will have special music for July 11 worship service
  - I continue to lead the devotional on Wednesday at 1pm.
  - I will lead the wedding service on July 17<sup>th</sup>
  - I am watching the videos from the 2021 Festival of Homiletics.
- Pastoral Care
  - I continue to call and to receive calls from several members throughout the week to check in on them.
  - I started visiting people in person again.
- Presbytery
  - I attended the July 7, 2021 Committee on Ministry meeting via Zoom
  - I continue to meet with the Administrative Commission of Greenview.
  - I attended two subcommittee meetings for COM
- Administrative
  - I attended the Deacons meeting in June and July
  - I developed the July 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
- Community

- I worked with Chris Evans and Matt Ulm on developing the July 4<sup>th</sup> community events.
- I volunteered with various activities for the July 4<sup>th</sup> activities
- I developed the community worship service for Saturday, June 26 at 1pm. It was a highly meaningful service.
- I continue to attend the city council meetings when available.
- I continue to attend meetings with the Masons
- We will have the movie in the park this Saturday.
- 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 final draft of the By Laws will be sent to the Elders and provided to the congregation.  
The Session voted to approve calling a Congregation Meeting on August for the purpose of approving the By Laws, per Book of Order.
- **Manual of Operations:** Having received input from Elders on the various job descriptions, Pastor Andy and Pat Welker will work on getting the first draft of the Manual ready for Elders to look at.
- **Confirmation Classes** are on hold until further notice.
- **Suspension of Secretarial position** until further notice.
- **2021 Officers Training for Elders and Deacons.**
- **Hymnals** – In February, 2020, Session had approved the purchase of words/music for the screens @ \$499; Organ/Piano Accompaniment @ \$85. The Financial Team will look into Sara Hirz Memorial Monies to see if there is enough to cover these costs. The Pew Hymnals are \$18 each so a list will be sent around the congregation to see how many are interested in having one available and if they are willing to donate the money for the purchase. This will be finalized at the August Meeting prior to any purchases.

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

- The Session voted to approve Continuing Education financial reimbursement for \$150 for the 2021 Festival of Homiletics videos
- The Session voted to approve one Con-Ed day for August 5, 2021-August 6.
- The Session gave the nod to Presbyterian Women to have a meeting and potluck.
- The Session voted to approve a request from Kathy Welch for the PEO rental of CE Building for meetings on Tuesday Dec. 7, 2021 from 5-9:30pm; Tuesday March 1, 2022 from 6-9pm; and Tuesday May 3, 2022 from 6-9pm.

## Mission Giving

### Food Pantry

Thank you for your on-going support of the Farmington Area Food Pantry. In the month of July, our congregation 29 donated items, weighing 18.98lbs to the pantry. In the month of July, our congregation also donated \$130. Our running totals for 2021 are: 718 items, weighing 558.9lbs; and \$620. If we keep up our trend, we will be close to donating 800lbs 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 August 29, 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

## August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 10:30AM Communion Trustees meeting	2 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	3 Committee on Ministry Meeting on Zoom	4 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	5 Continuing Education Days	6 Continuing Education Day	7
8 Worship 10:30AM	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 10:30 Congregational Meeting;	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 BB Deadline	24 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	25 Presbytery meeting on Zoom	26 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	27	28 Movie Reed Park "National Treasure" 7:30pm
29 Worship 10:30AM Food Pantry Sunday Deacons	30 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	31 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm				

## September 2021

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

# Joys & Concerns



## **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

## **September Birthday**

1 Ethan Ulm; 2 Steven Johnson; 3 Wanda Ohaver; Jean Peterson; Gisela Schuman 21 Sydney Johnson; Steffanie Ulm; 22 Todd Guidi 23 Mickie Ulm  
26 Landry Duley

## **August Anniversaries**

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

## **September Anniversaries**

3 Delano & Wanda Ohaver; 25 Ben & Lynsey Vermillion; 27 Tim & Mickie Ulm; 30  
Nicholas & Ciara Ulm

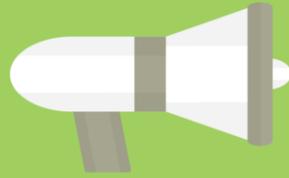
## **† Prayer Request †**

**Joys:** Bonnie Suydam's grandson James (Caleb and Jenny's baby) is growing; Trustees for all they do; Trey and Abbi Harrison's wedding (Tim and Mickie Ulm's grandson); wedding of Jessica (Crystal Gomes' daughter); Melody Martin got her driver's license; Pauline Sprowl's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday; Blanche Wilson's 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday;

**Concerns:** Dave Waggoner is struggling with side effects from a cancerous tumor and the aggressive treatment; Mike Daniels recovering from a stroke; Clark Evans' nephew Joseph Christensen is receiving new chemo for his thyroid cancer; Stephanie Franks, Crystal Gomes' daughter, struggling with gestational diabetes; Cheryle Fryman's daughter who is struggling with nerve pain; Beth Martin's "in-laws"; Jane Rutledge's niece had gall bladder removed; Jane Rutledge's cousin had kidney damage from a fall;

**Bereavement:** Family of Linda Staley; the family of Karen Wilson's son-in-law's sister; the family of Larry Roberson's cousin's wife; family of Donna Degroot's granddaughter's aunt; family of Terry, Beth Martin's friend; family of Dorothy Elliot, Beth Martin's friend

**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

Pastor Andy will be out of the office on August 5 and August 6 for a conference in Champaign.

There is a brief congregational meeting on August 15<sup>th</sup> following worship to update the church By-laws

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month (August 18) 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](mailto:revandysonneborn@gmail.com) (preferred)

**Office Email:** [firstpresfarmington@gmail.com](mailto: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 August:**

August 1: John 6:24-35 "Bread of Heaven"  
August 8: 1 King 19:1-13 "God's Still Small Voice"

August 15: Ephesians 5:15-20 "Always Give Thanks"

August 22: Ephesians 6:10-20 "Put on the Armor of Christ"

August 29: James 1:17-27 "True Devotion"

If you would like to add something to next month's Burning Bush, please submit it to the office by the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. For August's BB, that would August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

We prefer receiving it by email at [firstpresfarmington@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresfarmington@gmail.com) or by dropping it off in the office.

### **Movie in the Park!**

August 14: "Beauty and the Beast" (PG)

2019 Live Action version

August 28: "National Treasure" (PG)

September 11: "Soul" (PG)

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

### **Meetings**

Trustees: Sun Aug. 1 before worship

Session: Tuesday, Aug. 10 at 7pm

Deacons: Sun. Aug. 15 after congregational Meeting

Congregational Meeting: Sun. Aug. 15 after Worship

**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](http://www.firstpresfarmington.com)

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

