

THE BURNING BUSH

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

I am so excited for the return of Fall. I know that there are people reading this who think I am absolutely bonkers for loving Fall. I know that they are not looking forward to Fall because that means winter is coming soon. However, I admit it. I am one person who really loves Fall (and who secretly loves winter too). I am excited for the changing leaves, pumpkins and cider, and the cooler days and nights to come. Another reason why I love the Fall is because that means we are about to kick off Sunday School again. My goodness how I have missed seeing all of you so terribly. Adults, we will be returning to Sunday school as well. Adults and children, you are invited to join us Sunday, September 12 for our Rally Day kick off. We'll have donuts to go, just in case you need some extra motivation. One final note about Sunday school. We feel it's important to keep our attendees safe and healthy, so we will be asking everyone to wear a mask, regardless of their vaccination status. I know it's a bummer, and that this is a hot-button issue in our community, but Session decided at the very beginning of this pandemic that we were charged with keeping our people, young and old, safe and healthy.

With the coming of Fall, that also means one thing in Farmington: Spoon River Drive. At the time I am writing this article, we are still planning on having a food booth at the Spoon River Drive in Reed Park. We are also planning on having our Rummage Sale in the CE building, so start saving your stuff now. I am sure that we will need plenty of donations and volunteers to make Spoon River a success this year. If you would like to help with the Spoon River Drive or you have questions, please reach out to me or Tammy Duley. We will have more information about that soon enough, so be on the look out.

As I close out my article, I want to say how happy I am for the small things that give us a sense of normality in our otherwise chaotic life right now. I am grateful for movies in the park and for singing in worship and seeing friends and family again. I am grateful that I got to go to the state fair this year with my mom. I am hopeful that people will remain safe and healthy out there. I wish that things weren't getting bad with COVID-19 cases and deaths again. I pray for all those who are struggling in this time. If there is anything I can do to help you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

Blessings,

Pastor Andy

Snippets by Pat

Snippets from August 10 Session Meeting:

DEVOTION: Tony gave the devotion this month. It was about the Covid Pandemic and how many people were affected and continue to be affected by it. Many of those who contacted the disease have lasting consequences. Pray for an end to this pandemic. (Next Month's Devotee will be Pat.)

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Tony**
 - The Team feels that for now we will keep doing worship as we have been. In the rare instance there would be someone in attendance that then tests positive for Covid, an Email would be sent informing people of this fact. Those without Email would be notified via phone. Beth is going to talk with Sam and together they will poll the choir to see how they feel about singing (with the new Delta issues) and go from there. Further, Pastor Andy is going to draft a letter stating the policy we have been following considering mask wearing. Also discussed placing signs on the doors stating the mask guidelines.
- **Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Tammy**
 - On July 22 & 29 there were presentations on monarch butterflies by Kathy Welch. She also completed a butterfly themed craft with us and had a butterfly release. Lunch was provided for the kids thanks to generous donations from congregation members.
 - On August 8th there was a meeting after church for teachers/helpers. The teachers from the previous years are all going to teach again this year. If all the kids return there will be 5 in Preschool/Kindergarten; 4 in grades 1-3; 4 in grades 4 & 5 and 9 in Jr. High/High School. Beth is going to use the Church Credit Card to order the teaching materials.
 - The Sunday School kick off breakfast was discussed and it was decided with Covid still going on, that instead of a sit-down breakfast, the kids be given a goody bag (donut, juice, etc.) on their way out the door. Everyone thought this would be a better option.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair) & Michelle**
 - Personnel - Lyndsey Forney (Johnson) tendered her resignation of secretary position effective 08/02/21. We currently have no plans to fill the position as it is not in the budget at this time.
 - Memorial - There is enough money in Sara Hirz's memorial fund to pay the \$499 for the words and music package for the new hymnals - we could also take additional monies to cover extra hymnals as we decide.

- Stewardship - Nothing to report
- Finance - See Cindy Daniels reports.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team** – Tony (chair) & Steffanie
 - Nothing to report.
- **Evangelism Team** – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Brady
 - Spoon River Drive: We are going to have a booth in the park again this year. Tammy said that the costs to have the booth is \$95. She will pay for this and be reimbursed from the money made running the booth.
- **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**: : Meeting 7/21/2021
 - Present – Lynsey Vermillion, Sue Lane, Alissa Holder, Marianne Taylor and Chris Evans. Excused - Melissa Herron.
 - No Secretary report - Melissa send minutes from our last meeting by email.
 - Treasurer Report - Alissa \$252.23
 - Cards: Lynsey 1, Sue 2, Alissa 1, Marianne 4, Chris 0. Alissa was going to send one from the church to Nyle Staley
 - Session Update
 - Communion July 4 - 23 people
 - Communion August 1 - Alissa, Chris, and Lynsey - 30 served
 - Addresses list – having updated by parishioners and remove Marj Guidi.
 - Next meeting August 29 after church.

Trustee's Report: No report.

Pastor's Report

- Worship
 - We continue to worship in person and online.
 - I led Communion online and in person on August 1, 2021
 - I continue to lead the devotional on Wednesday at 1pm.
 - I led the wedding service on July 17th
 - I did the funeral service for Linda Staley
- Pastoral Care
 - I continue to call and to receive calls from several members throughout the week to check in on them.
 - I had a couple pastoral care conversations on Facebook messenger
 - I am visiting people in person again.
- Presbytery
 - I attended the August 3, 2021 Committee on Ministry meeting via Zoom

- I continue to meet with the Administrative Commission of Greenview.
- I attended subcommittee meetings for COM
- Administrative
 - I attended the Deacons meeting in 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
 - I am working on updating the addresses and birthdays.
 - Attended both youth group butterfly exhibits by Kathy Welch
 - Attended the Christian Ed team meeting on August 8 after worship.
- Community
 - We will have the movies in the park on August 14 and 28.
 - 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)

- The By-Laws will be approved at a Called Congregation Meeting on August 15th.
- 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.
- 2021 Officers Training for Elders and Deacons.
- The purchase of new Hymnals is approved. The words/music for the screens @ \$499; Organ/Piano Accompaniment @ \$85 will be purchased with Sara Hirz Memorial Monies. The Pew Hymnals are \$18 and will be purchased with donations from members of the congregation.

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

- No Elder volunteered to attend the Zoom Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, August 24th. Pastor Andy did say that the COM is again recommending a 2% raise for Ministers in 2022. Learning this was concerning to all in attendance.

A Special Note from Pat Welker

If you missed the worship service on Sunday, August 22, you missed seeing your Session in action. Pastor Andy called me between 7-8pm on Saturday night and said he was running a fever and didn't know what to do about the worship service the next morning. I suggested that he call the Worship Team and let them know as it is their job to make sure the pulpit is filled. I had faith in them that they would handle the problem. Well, if you were there for worship, you witnessed your Session Worship and Personnel Teams in action. Michelle Lane did the announcements and opening prayers, Liz Johnson relayed the sermon that Pastor Andy had already prepared. Liz related that she was way out of her comfort zone, but she was encouraged by a co-worker and she did a great job. You could not tell that she was nervous. Steffanie Ulm then stepped up to finish the worship with joys/concerns. She also did a very good job. I would like to commend all those involved in the service. It reassures me faith is the Session members we have. They step up and make sure we congregants are taken care of. **A BIG THANK YOU TO YOU GALS**

A Special Note from Pastor Andy

I would like to echo Pat's sentiments in her special note. I am so grateful for the Session members who stepped up in a really difficult situation. I was feeling well enough that I could have probably done the service, but I absolutely did not want to risk spreading anything since I had a fever. My COVID test came back negative, which is wonderful. As a pastor, it is the worst case scenario to get sick Saturday night/Sunday morning before worship, but we have such a wonderful team of people here. Once again, thank you so much to Liz and Michelle and Steffanie!

Special Note Regarding Sunday School

Calling kids young and old! Come one, come all! We are getting pumped up for the return of Sunday school this Fall. Join us on September 12 for our Sunday School Rally Day. We will start Sunday school at 9:15 in the sanctuary. There will be a quick song and announcements and then y'all will go to your classes. Following worship at 10:30, we will have donuts and milk/juice for you to take home (or to eat in the car). We'd love to see you! We cannot wait to see you!

Mission Giving

Food Pantry

Thank you for your on-going support of the Farmington Area Food Pantry. In the month of August, our congregation donated 153 items, weighing 113.57lbs to the pantry. Our running totals for 2021 are: 871 items, weighing 672lbs; and \$620. If we keep up our trend, we will be close to donating 1,000lbs and \$750 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 September 26, 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.

Movie in the Park

By the time that you are reading this newsletter, the Council of Churches has already shown one movie in Reed Park. On September 11, we will show "Soul". These movies in the park started as a service idea. We want to serve our community by offering an opportunity for family fun. These movies are all family friendly and popular. The great thing is, all the movies we will be showing are free to the public. We are also selling snacks and drinks.

The money that we raised at this event will help cover the cost of future movies. Any extra money raised by the Council of Churches will be used to support our local ministry efforts. If you missed these two movies, do not worry. There are still two more options for you to join us. On September 11, we will be showing the movie, "Soul". All are invited to attend. Sometime in late September or early October, we will show the cartoon version of "The Addams Family". Everyone is welcome to attend.

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

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 Trustees meeting	6 Office Closed for Labor Day Homecoming week starts	7 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	8 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	9 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	10 UPW Homecoming football game	11 Movie in Reed Park. "Soul". Opens at 7:30pm.
12 Worship 10:30am "Rally Day" Sunday School starts	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 Movie in Reed Park "Beauty and the Beast" Opens at 7:30pm
19 Sunday School 9:15 Worship at 10:30am	20 Pastor Andy Retreat	21 Pastor Andy Retreat	22 Pastor Andy Retreat	23 Pastor Andy Retreat	24 Pastor Andy Retreat	25 Pastor Andy Retreat
26 Worship Dean Warner Food Pantry Sunday SS 9:15	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		

October 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Spoon River Drive
3 Sunday School 9:15 Trustees 10:00AM Worship 10:30 Communion Spoon River Drive	4 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	5 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	6 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	7 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	8	9 Spoon River Drive
10 Sunday School 9:15AM Worship 10:30am Spoon River Drive	11 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	12 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	13 Food Pantry 12:30-1:30pm Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	14 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	15	16
17 Worship at 10:30am	18 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	19 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	20 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	21 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	22	23
24/31 Worship 10:30AM Reformation Sunday (Oct 31)	25 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm BB Deadline	26 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	27 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	28 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	29	30

Joys & Concerns



September Birthdays: 1 Ethan Ulm; Mary Ulm 2 Steve Johnson 3 Wanda Ohaver; Jean Peterson; Gisela Schuman 5 Presley Vermillion 8 Nolan Ulm 13 Nick Swanson 14 Cheryle Fryman 21 Sydney Johnson; Steffanie Ulm 22 Todd Guidi 23 Mickie Ulm 27 Landry Duley 30 Sam Sprecher

October Birthdays: 8 Dale Bensen 10 Haven McMaster 11 Lori Danley 12 Morgun Daniels 14 Adela Herron 23 Kurt Daniels 25 Brielle Herron 29 Ben Vermillion 31 Gary Hoover, Wilma Brentz

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

October Anniversaries: 20 Liz & Steve Johnson 25 Ryan & Heather McMaster 27 Gayle Lucas & Paul Watters 30 Darren & Kari Berry

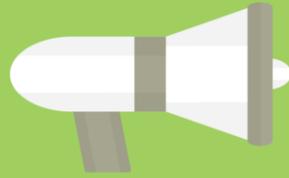
† Prayer Request †

Joys: Melody Martin has been able to drop her medicine; the marriage of Lindsey “Danley” Radner; having the choir sing; Beth Martin asked for prayers for those returning to school; thanks to the Trustees for all the work they’ve been doing recently; Chris Evans lifted up the Andersons who had a baby girl; Dale and Glenene Benson’s 58th wedding anniversary; Stephanie Franks had her baby boy, Will. 6lbs 10oz and 20” long. Mom and baby are well; Kathy Welch released 200 monarch butterflies this year.

Concerns: Those in the gulf coast; those in Afghanistan; Dave Waggoner is struggling with side effects from a cancerous tumor and the aggressive treatment; Mike Daniels recovering from a stroke; Bonnie Suydam’s coworker Lauren diagnosed with cancer; Bonnie Suydam’s coworker Mary has ruptured appendix and type 1 diabetes, the abscess is gone, but still needs surgery; Sue Lane’s grand niece Audrey had a preeclampsia and delivered her baby 2 months early, continued prayers for the health of Audrey and their baby; Corbin Rutledge as he continues testing for seizures; all those who have diagnosed with COVID, especially several members of Beth Martin’s family; Chris Evans’ nephew Joe Christiansen is still battling cancer and his father is having issues as well;

Bereavement: Amanda Carr’s father passed away; Bath Martin’s friend Erlene passed away; Jane Rutledge’s sister, Diana, husband passed away; Pat Welker lifted up the family of Rosalee Williams

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

The office will be closed on Monday, September 6 in honor of Labor Day. If you need to get ahold of Pastor Andy, feel free to contact him by cell phone.

Pastor Andy will be away from the office on retreat September 20-26. If you need to get ahold of him, the best way will be by email.

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 (September 15) 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 & Scripture for September:

September 5: Mark 7:24-37 "Persistence Pays Off"

September 12: Matthew 5:1-12 "Rally Day"

September 19: Mark 9:30-37 "Welcome"

September 26: Guest Preacher Dean Warner

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 October's BB, that would be September 27th. We prefer receiving it by email at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com or by dropping it off in the office.

Movie in the Park!

September 11: "Soul" (PG)

September 18: "Beauty and the Beast" (PG) Live Action

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

September Meetings

Pastor Andy: Committee on Ministry
September 7 online

Trustees: September 5 before worship
Session: September 14 at 7pm

**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)**

