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# The Burning Bush

November 2021

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Greetings Colleagues in Ministry!

By now, you may have noticed that our congregation is back into the full swing of things, and it makes me happy. Sunday school is going well. We are worshipping in person and still streaming on-line. We recently purchased and dedicated new hymnals during worship in October. Thank you to all those who donated to help purchase the hymnals. I've included in this Burning Bush a list of all those who purchased a hymnal and the names of those who they were dedicated in honor/memory of. We are excited to have these new worship tools at our disposal.

I am also excited about all the things that are coming up in the near future. The Deacons are preparing for their Thanksgiving food basket. They are also preparing for the arrival of Advent. We will be decorating our sanctuary on November 21 after worship. Speaking of Advent, I am working on a new Advent devotional guide for families this year. The first part of the devotional is the familiar structured devotional with prayers, readings, and devotions. I have also included some puzzles and coloring sheets for children. If your child is so inclined, please have them bring their finished picture, signed, to church so we can hang it up for all to see. Another new addition to the Advent devotional is a "Photo-a-day" devotional guide. There will be a topic for each day of Advent. You take a picture that strikes your creativity around that topic. If you have Facebook, I ask that you post it to the church's Facebook page. You can also email it to the office at [firstpresfarmington@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresfarmington@gmail.com). If you would like to participate in the photo devotional, and technology is not your strong suit, I would be more than glad to assist you in sharing your photos. We might even post a selection of photos during worship. It's my hope that this guide will help you and your family come together during the holiday season.

One last thing, at the October Session meeting, the local girl scouts presented a plan for a mini food pantry that they would like to put on our property. They will build it, install it, and maintain it. The food is free to all who need it. If you have any extra food to donate, you simply place it in the food pantry and someone can come by and pick it up, no questions asked. We are excited and grateful that the girl scouts thought of partnering with us in this wonderful community idea! That is all for now. God's peace be with you. - Pastor Andy

# SNIPPETS

## by Pat

Snippets from October 12 Session Meeting:

**DEVOTION** : No devotion this month. (Next Month's Devotee will be Pat.)

**\*\*GIRL SCOUT:** The Girl Scouts attended the meeting, to pitch their idea for a 'Free Little Food Bank' to Session. There were 10 girls in attendance as well as 2 leaders. The girls want to build a 'Free Little Food Bank' and place it on Church property and asked that the Church support it. The idea is that there will be nonperishable food placed in the Bank for people to take as needed. They also expect that people will place food in the Bank. This will be similar to the 'Free Little Libraries' that are located in area towns. The Scouts would like the congregation to help with the initial food donations to get the project started. The Session voted to approve the Scouts placing the Bank in the grassy area on the north side of the Church. The Scouts hope to have this done before winter sets in, so watch for this to happen in the near future.

### MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- Worship Team – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs), Tony, Diana, Beth & Sam.
  - No Report.
- Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Tammy
  - No Report.
- Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair) & Michelle
  - No Reports.
- Fellowship and Mission Team – Tony (chair) & Steffanie
  - The city's Winter Fest on Saturday Dec. 4 was discussed. Since this is mostly held in the business district it was decided to not have soup or activities in the Church. The decision on whether to have a float in the parade was tabled for now. Will address again when there is more information available.
- Evangelism Team – Liz & Tammy (co-chairs) & Brady
  - Spoon River Drive: Tammy reported that all went well. Final numbers are not in yet, but the profit should be around \$3,400 for the combined food booth/rummage sale. Will get final numbers.
- Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Michelle
  - Brady has been asked to write a "Job Instruction Manual" to be used in his absence.

- **Nominating Team** – Tammy (chair), Deacon Alissa Holder), Cozy Hoover, Crystal Gomes & Pat Welker
  - Need a meeting scheduled.
- **Deacon's Report:**
  - Meeting 9-19-2021
  - Attending: Marianne Taylor, Sue Lane, Chris Evans, Lynsey Vermillion, Lissy Holder & Pastor Andy
  - New Address Lists were passed out.
  - Treasurer's Report – no changes
  - Cards Sent – Chris– 2; Sue– 0; Missy– 1; Lynsey– 1; & Marianne– 2.
  - Communion – served 30 on September 5.
  - Next Communion October 3 with Lynsey Vermillion, Missy Herron and Lissy Holder assisting.
- **Trustee's Report**
  - Clark addressed the Session with information on the replacement of the front CE Building doors complete with the door opener mounted on a post. The original quote was approved at the September Session Meeting, but Clark reported that we missed the window for prices to hold. S&S Hardware also had changed installation contractors going with a bigger contractor. Therefore, the price had increased to about \$17,000 but this included steel framing, painting the doors and other changes to the installation including moving the door access button to the side of the building as opposed to a post mounting. After some questions, the Session voted to approve the new quote for the installation. Clark is going to get with S&S right away to confirm the quote.
  - Clark then suggested that we proceed with new quotes on the other 3 CE Building doors as well as the north door in the Breezeway. He said that prices are only going to continue going up and up so Session should really consider doing all the doors now, if at all possible. He will provide the information as soon as he gets it.
- **Pastor's Report**
  - Worship
    - We continue to worship in person and online.
    - I led Communion online and in person on October 3, 2021.
    - I continue to lead the devotional on Wednesday at 1pm. I recently changed the format of the devotional.
    - I ordered and received the Glory to God Hymnals.
    - Dean Warner will lead worship on Sunday, October 17.
  - Pastoral Care

- I continue to call/text several members throughout the week to check in on them.
- I had a couple pastoral care conversations on Facebook messenger.
- I had people drop by the office for pastoral care.
- Presbytery
  - I attended the October 5, 2021, COM meeting via Zoom.
  - I attended subcommittee meetings for COM.
- Administrative
  - I attended the Deacons meeting in September.
  - I developed the October Burning Bush.
  - I continue to send out weekly announcements.
- Community
  - I helped with the Masons booth for Spoon River Drive both weekends
  - I helped with the church's rummage sale both weekends
  - I continue to attend the city council meetings when available.
  - I continue to attend meetings with the Masons.
  - I delivered the donated food for the food pantry to the Newcomb's

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

- Manual of Operations – Draft has been written and sent to Elders for review. Plan to approve at the November Meeting.
- 2021 Officers Training for Elders and Deacons.
- Hymnals – Have arrived and dedication will be held October 24.

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

- The Session voted to approve the use of the CE Building on Wednesday, October 27 for a COM Meeting. All will be vaccinated, masked and practice social distancing.
- The Session voted to remove Denise Lane from the Active Membership list per her request as she now lives in Peoria.
- The Session voted to remove Charles and Diana Houston from Active Membership and transfer them to Elmwood (Illinois) Baptist Church effective January 21, 2021.
- Pastor Andy asked for a Presbytery Commissioner for Saturday, October 24 Zoom Meeting. No one volunteered.
- Presbytery sent out information for 2022 Church-Wide Mission Pledge. The 2021 Pledge was \$600. Clerk will give paperwork to Kathy Welch for Budgetary decisions.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women were able to meet on October 8 in the CE Building. There were 9 ladies in attendance for the meeting. We had a Bible Study followed by our Business Meeting. We decided that we would meet in November. This is a change for us as we usually combine November and December into one meeting, the Cookie Exchange. This year we decided to have a November meeting so we can get more money in our treasury so that when we have our Cookie Exchange, we will have more money to donate to our favorite charities. Once the meeting was over, we enjoyed Texas Cake and Ice Cream provided by Pauline. Thanks for a delicious snack.

Our next meeting will be on November 12 at 1pm in the CE Building.

## WORSHIP ON OCTOBER 17

Pastor Andy was on vacation so we again welcomed Dean Warner to the pulpit. As usual, he gave us a great message. He spoke about Mark 10:17-32. It speaks of the rich man who followed the commandments and asked Jesus how he could get eternal life. Jesus told the man to sell all he had and give it to the poor, then come and follow Him. But the man could not do that so walked away. Jesus then told the disciples that it was easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of Heaven. With man this is impossible, but not with God; With God all things are possible. So, this is what we need to work for ourselves. Use what we have for good and love and trust God.

### Church Officers 2021

**Elders:** Tammy Duley, Liz Johnson, Brady Johnson, Tony Rolando, Steffanie Ulm, Beth Martin, Michelle Lane

**Clerk of Session:** Pat Welker

**Deacons:** Alissa Holder, Lynsey Vermillion, Melissa Herron, Sue Lane, Christ Evans, Marianne Taylor

**Trustees:** Jay Ulm, Ben Vermillion, Tim Ulm, Clark Evans, Kevin Phillips, Joe Herron

**Treasurers:** Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

**Financial Secretaries:** Mickie Ulm and Gayle Lucas

## **Mission Giving**

### **Food Pantry**

Thank you for your on-going support of the Farmington Area Food Pantry. Our monthly total donations were 25 items, weighing 21.69lbs, and \$20.00. Our running totals for 2021 are: 955 items, weighing 731.43lbs; and \$670.

Please note our collection day for non-perishable items is the last Sunday of the month. Our next collection day is November 28, though you can always donate food ahead of time. Thank you so much for your generosity!

### **Sunday school Offering**

This year, the Sunday school kids will be raising money to go towards purchasing an animal through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, similar to Heifer International. We are going to have the kids pick which animal they would like to purchase and the money we collect throughout the year will go towards that purchase. If we have any extra money at the end of the year, the kids will be able to pick something else from the catalog.

### **Hymnal Donations**

The Welker's dedicated 2 Hymnals in honor of the Welker Family; 2 Hymnals in honor of the Black Family; 2 Hymnals in memory of the Fresia Family; and 4 Hymnals in memory of Steven E. Black. Dianna (Gary) Threw dedicated 1 Hymnal in memory of Gladys and Clair Threw and 1 Hymnal in memory of Betty Threw. Blanche Wilson and Randy & Kathy Welch dedicated 1 Hymnal in memory of Robert "Scotty" Wilson and Dick Wilson. Mary Ulm dedicated 1 Hymnal in memory of Larry Ulm. Tony and Diana Rolando dedicated 1 Hymnal in memory of Bud and Kay Rolando. Sue Lane dedicated 1 Hymnal in honor of Sara Hirz. The Hoover Family dedicated 1 Hymnal in memory of Mable Hoover. Shelby Holder dedicated 1 Hymnal in memory of Amber Lercher. The Duley Family dedicated 1 Hymnal in memory of the Huff and Duley Families. The Choir Members of First Presbyterian Church of Farmington dedicated 7 Hymnals in memory of Marj Guidi and Larry Ulm.

### **Presbytery of Great Rivers Update**

It was recently announced that the November 13, 2021 Presbytery meeting will be Rev. Ryan Landino's last meeting with us as Lead Presbyter for Transformation. He has taken a new call with Giddings-Lovejoy Presbytery in St. Louis. We thank Rev. Landino for his years of service to our Presbytery and wish him well in his new call. More information will be released soon about how the Presbytery will function until we find an interim Presbyter.

## November 2021

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
	1 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	2 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	3 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	4 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	5	6
7 SS 9:15AM Church 10:30AM Communion Daylight Saving ends	8 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	9 Office Hours 9:30AM-12pm Session 7pm	10 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	11 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	12	13
14 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM	15 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	16 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	17 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	18 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	19	20
21 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM Hanging of the Greens	22 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	23 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	24 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM	29 Office Hours 9:30AM-12pm	30 Office Hours 9:30AM-12pm				

## December 2021

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
			1 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	2 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	3	4
5 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent SS 9:15AM Church 10:30AM Communion	6 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	7 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	8 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	9 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	10	11
12 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM	13 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	14 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	15 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	16 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	17	18
19 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM	20 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	21 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Longest Night Service 6:30pm	22 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	23 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	24 Christmas Eve service 6:30pm	25 Christmas Day Pastor Andy vacation begins
26 Dean Warner Preaching SS 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	January 1 Pastor Andy vacation ends

# Joys & Concerns

**November Birthdays:** 7 Trevor Martin; Gayle Lucas 8 Brady Johnson; Delano Ohaver; Tate Ulm; 11 Karen Goggin-Wilson 13 Aniston McMaster 14 Cozy Hoover 15 Pat Welker; Tony Rolando 16 Larry Roberson

## **December Birthdays**

1 Darrell Elliott; 4 Liz Johnson; 5 Darrell Gomes; 8 Stephanie Franks; 10 David Black; 17 Hubert Schuman; Randy Welch; 19 Marissa Ulm; 21 Kent Kowal; Heather McMaster; 25 Jesus; 31 Ellie Duley

**November Anniversaries:** 10 Mike & Paula Monari; 22 Craig & Tammy Duley; 26 Randy & Kathy Welch; 30 Gary & Cozy Hoover

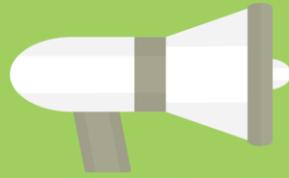
## † Prayer Request †

**Joys:** Chris Evans lifts up the joy of her daughter Emma pursuing her calling into ministry as she searches for colleges; Delita VanHouten is home from the hospital after heart surgery; Bonnie Suydam lifted up the joy of her and Gary's 41<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary in October; Missy Herron lifted up the joy of Brielle doing well in cross country.

**Concerns:** Glenene Bensen asks prayers for her son Ron who has a blood clot in his hand; The Rolandos ask prayers for their daughter-in-law's mother who is in the hospital with COVID-19; Chris Evans asks prayers for her nephew Joe Christiansen who is starting new treatment for cancer after the last treatment did not help; Kathy Welch asks prayers for Kay Stevens Down, whose son-in-law Pete Main, was in a farming accident...he is able to walk with a walker; Prayers for Wayne Kersh, who was in an accident at work, and had to have surgery on several bones; Sam Sprecher asks prayers for Troy Roberts who had complications due to surgery and had to have another surgery to repair those complications; Gisela Schuman asks prayers for her great-granddaughter who was born premature on October 16, weighing 4lbs, 16oz and is now in the hospital fighting an infection; Jane Rutledge asks for continued prayers for Corbin as he continues to deal with seizures; Pat Welker asks for prayers for her grandson's uncle who had a brain aneurism and surgery; prayers for Peggy Zessin, Ron Zessin's wife, who is struggling with COVID-19; Wanda O'haver asks prayers for her sister Sandy and her husband Louis of Aledo, both of whom are struggling with COVID

**Bereavement:** The Duley family on the passing of Craig's mother, Cindy Duley; The family of Fred McMaster, Lynsey Vermillion and Ryan McMaster's father; The family of Linda (Evans) Morgan; The family of Dorothy Urbanc; The family of Mary Bankert; The family of Judy Rogers; The Martin family on the passing of Beth Martin's father

**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

### **November Meetings**

Trustees: November 7 before  
worship

Session: November 9 at 7pm  
Great Rivers Presbytery: November  
13 on Zoom

### **Sermon topics & Scripture for November:**

November 7: "Giving Everything We Have"  
Mark 12: 38-44

November 14: "Pray like Hannah" 1 Samuel  
1:4-20

November 21: "Jesus' Reign" John 18:33-37

November 28: "Are you ready?" Luke 21:25-36

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 December's BB, that  
would be November 29. We prefer receiving  
it by email at  
[firstpresfarmington@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresfarmington@gmail.com) or by  
dropping it off in the office.

The Farmington Food Pantry is open on the 3<sup>rd</sup>  
Wednesday of each month (November 17) 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.

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.

### **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)

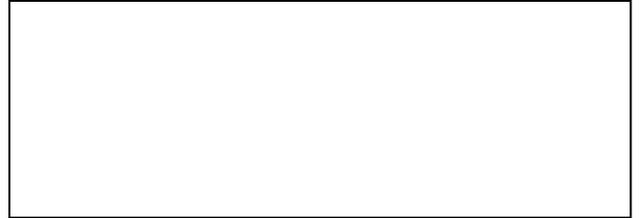
**Office Email:** [firstpresfarmington@gmail.com](mailto:firstpresfarmington@gmail.com)

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

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

Hanging of the Greens will follow worship on  
November 21<sup>st</sup>. We need lots of help decorating the  
church. Many hands make light work.

**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)

