
The Burning Bush

March 2022

Greetings Colleagues in Ministry!

It has been an honor working here over the last three years. I am grateful that I have gotten to know each of you. We have been through quite a bit together as a faith community, haven't we? We are going through a global pandemic, economic turmoil, a developing conflict in Ukraine, the deaths of beloved members, and numerous other difficulties. However, we have also been through some great things together. We have celebrated weddings, rejoiced in reunions, and attended community celebrations. When I was a younger, it was my hope that life would be one series of fun thing after another. As I matured and aged, I have come to realize that life is a series of ups and downs...what matters is how we respond to these events. We can try to hide from things or fight to make things easy or fun all the time, or we can embrace all that comes our way. I choose the later.

Life is throwing us all challenges right now, including myself. I choose to face these challenges head on, trusting in the grace and mercy of God. In September, I will join the staff of Carle BroMenn Hospital in Bloomington-Normal as a Chaplain Resident, where I will complete a year-long training to become a chaplain. I would covet your prayers as I work to complete this program. I imagine that Farmington First Presbyterian Church will similarly be going through a time of discernment about the future of its own ministry and calling. I pray that God continues to guide this congregation into the misty future.

Thank you for welcoming me over the last three years. I will continue to cherish the relationships that I have made here. I will still be in the Peoria area until September, so if we run into each other, feel free to say hello and catch up with each other. Please know that I take with me fond memories of my time here. As I close out my last letter to you, I leave you with these words: God loves you and there ain't nothing you can do about that. Rest assuredly in the love and grace of God this day and every day. Alleluia and Amen.

Snippets by Pat

Snippets from the February 8 Session Meeting:

CLERK'S REPORT –

Correspondence: None

- Email/Text Votes:
 - Tammy Duley sent email on January 14 requesting use of the CE Building by the Girl Scouts from 4pm-5pm. They are going to be filling out paperwork concerning their 'Little Food Pantry' as well as making sure it is well supplied. Elders approved.
 - Email sent from Pastor Andy confirming that the Annual Meeting is rescheduled for February 13, Sunday after worship. Previously approved by Elders at January 11 meeting.
 - Pastor Andy sent Email on January 24 concerning the Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday Food Pantry Collection. A motion was received approving the collection on Sunday February 13 with some food donations also going to the Scouts Little Food Pantry at our church. Elders approved.

DEVOTION : Steffanie read a devotion from Proverbs 31.org. It was about the sound of dropping rocks. In life we can't be caught between a rock and hard place because Jesus is the rock. He is there for us. When was the last time you threw a stone at someone, via your words or actions? Jesus can help you rid yourself of the heavy stones you carry around all the time. (Next Month's Devotee will be Liz.)

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Liz (chair), Beth, Tony, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Sam Rutledge.**
 - Discussion about mask wearing at worship. The Session voted to approve allowing parishioners to decide if they want to wear a mask or not. Also, they will be allowed to sit where they want. With the low attendance we are currently seeing there is plenty of room to social distance if that is their wish. The motion passed with 4 yes and 3 no votes. This decision will go out on the prayer chain as well as the weekly mailing list.
 - There was a request from Diana Rolando to keep a few of the older hymnals around the sanctuary, as some of the music in the new ones are not the traditional tune everyone knows.
 - Souper bowl Sunday was approved, by email vote for Feb 13th....went out in your weekly announcement as Feb 6th.
 - Think we can remove the announcement about the council of church collection for "recent fires", these were months ago.

- Attendance continues to average around 25 per Sunday for in person worship service.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair), Liz & Alissa**
 - Personnel - still working on janitress information and doing background check. Church Insurance has sent 26 pages of information about how to do the background check that has to be studied.
 - Finance - The Session voted to approve the amended 2022 Budget that reflects the new 'Pastor Related' finances. See monthly financials as provided by Cindy and Mickie.
 - Memorials – Memorial donations received for Jean Peterson.
 - Stewardship - no report
- **Deacon's Report**
 - The Deacons met on Sunday, January 30 in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:15am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Sue Lane, Missy Herron, Marianne Taylor and Pat Welker. Pastor Andy was present. Thanks to Alissa Holder and Lyndsey Vermillion who completed their terms.
 - The officers were appointed for the year with Chris staying on as Chair, Missy moving to Treasurer and Pat becoming the Secretary. Sue is going to take care of Paraments. Chris will send a letter to the Bank of Farmington to let them know of the change in Treasurer and Missy will stop in to sign a signature card.
 - The Deacons attended the December Session Meeting for training. Those present were Alissa Holder, Missy Herron, Sue Lane and Marianne Taylor.
 - Communion was served to 25 on Sunday December 5, 2021 and 60 on Christmas Eve, December 24, 2021.
 - The Treasury balance is \$280.86 with a \$63.00 bill that's due, from Hy-Vee for Poinsettias with the money having come from those who ordered a plant. After that payment the Treasury balance will be \$217.86.
 - Cards sent: Most folks on the mailing list received a Christmas Card. During January Chris sent 4 cards, Sue 1, Missy 2, Marianne 2 and Pat 6. The mailing lists will be updated and distributed.
 - February 6, Sunday, Communion will be prepared by Sue and Missy, with Missy bringing the bread.
 - The 2022 Communion Dates and special services approved by Session are as follow:
 - Sunday March 6; Maundy Thursday April 14; Easter Sunday April 17; Sunday May 1; Sunday June 5; Sunday July 3; August 7; Sunday September 4; Sunday October 2; Sunday November 6; Sunday December 4; and Christmas Eve

December 24. Special Worship services are Ash Wednesday March 2; Maundy Thursday April 14; and Longest Night Service December 21.

- Meeting adjourned with prayer by Pastor Andy at 11:38am.
- Pat Welker, Secretary
- **Pastor's Report**
 - Worship
 - Continued to worship in person and online.
 - Attended the funeral of Jean Peterson
 - Developed the bulletins for February
 - Pastoral Care
 - I continue to call/text several members throughout the week to check in on them. I try to contact people monthly or when I think of it.
 - I had several phone conversations with people for pastoral care and in person meetings.
 - Presbytery
 - I attended the COM meeting virtually on February 1, 2022
 - I plan on attending the Presbytery Meeting February 26 via Zoom.
 - Administrative
 - I attended the Deacons meeting in January.
 - I attended the Trustees meeting on February 6.
 - I developed the February Burning Bush.
 - I continue to send out weekly announcements.
 - Community
 - I continue to attend meetings with the Masons.
 - I delivered the donated food for the food pantry to the Newcomb's.
 - I will meet with the food pantry board on Wednesday at 1pm.

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

- N. Zobrist and Sons, Inc replacing doors in CE Building.

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

- Presbytery Commissioner for Saturday, Feb. 26 via Zoom – No Elder agreed to attend.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Friday, February 11, 2022 meeting of the Presbyterian Women was held in the CE Building at noon for a potluck. There were 12 ladies present to enjoy the fellowship. There was a short business meeting and our Bible Study.

The next meeting will be Friday, March 11 at 1pm. We will have our Bible Study, business meeting followed by a dessert provided by Donna DeGroot. The Bible Study will be led by Pat Welker and the Least Coin given by Sue Lane.

Remember that all women of the congregation are invited to join the meeting. We have wonderful fellowship and would love to have you join us.

DIANNA THREW

8/13/1948 to 2/13/2022

On Sunday February 13, Dianna passed away. She was a big part of the church years ago and everyone knew when she was there. She was a little ornery and loved to pick up anything that was laying about. I know that was probably a bad thing for the Nursing Home where she lived for the last few years as she kept everything. But that was Dianna. Before Covid I went to the Nursing Home to visit 4-5 times a week and Dianna was a big part of that place. She participated in most activities as long as it didn't involve too much manual labor. One thing she used to love to do was Noodle Hockey, when the residents would line around several tables that had been pushed together. Using a swimming pool Styrofoam noodle as a bat, they would hit punch balls back and forth. Dianna and another lady, Jean Moore, used to really hit the balls well. They had a contest to see who could smack it the hardest. Dianna read the newspapers every day and would take pages of notes about the things that interested her. Dianna also participated in cooking classes and crafts. Lots of time, she wanted you to put the craft together for her, because she didn't want to get glue on herself. She loved when people brought in any animals for the residents to hold and/or pet. She named every chicken that the Nursing Home was raising in the backyard. She would sit out back and hold the chickens and talk to them. She was a very special person and the Nursing Home will not be the same without her. Rest in Peace Dianna and I know you are now pestering the Angels of God and probably God Himself.

Mission Giving

Food Pantry

Thank you for your on-going support of the Farmington Area Food Pantry. Our monthly total donations for February were 209 items, weighing 137.19lbs, and \$95.00. The total for 2022, so far, is 249 items, weighing 170lbs, and \$95.00

Please note our collection day for non-perishable items is usually the last Sunday of the month. For March, please bring your donations Sunday, March 27. Please designate your food pantry giving to the Farmington Food Pantry on the memo line. 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.

Little Free Pantry

On the East side of the CE building, just south of the door, is a Little Free Pantry that the local Girl Scouts put together. This little free pantry is open and free for anyone, anytime. Feel free to drop off any food to help keep it stocked. Also feel free to take any food that you might need, no questions asked. This food pantry is meant to help support those in our community who might need some extra food on those days when the food pantry is closed.

Church Officers 2022

Elders: Liz Johnson, Brady Johnson, Tony Rolando, Steffanie Ulm, Beth Martin, Alissa Holder, Nyle Staley

Clerk of Session: Pat Welker

Deacons: Melissa Herron, Sue Lane, Christ Evans, Marianne Taylor, Pat Welker, Vacant

Trustees: Ben Vermillion, Clark Evans, Kevin Phillips, Joe Herron, Vacant, Vacant

Treasurers: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

Financial Secretary: Mickie Ulm

March 2022

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		1 PEO 6pm	2 Ash Wednesday 4:30PM @ Methodist Church	3	4	5
6 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM Communion	7	8 Session 7pm	9	10	11 PW 12PM	12
13 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 SS 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM	21	22	23	24	25	16
27 SS 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM	28	29	30	31		

April 2022

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
					1	2
3 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM	4	5	6	7	8 PW 12PM	9
10 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM Palm Sunday	11	12 Session 7pm	13	14 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Communion	15 Good Friday	16
17 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM Easter Sunday Communion	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Joys & Concerns

March Birthdays

1 Paula Monari; 11 Marianne Taylor; 17 Avery Daniels; 23 Colton Evans; 24 Tim Ulm; 27 Diana Rolando

March Anniversaries

15 Cindy and Mike Daniels; 23 Monica and Tadd Swanson

April Birthdays

3 Brian Elliott 8 Alissa Holder 16 Colby Evans 21 Kevin Phillips 24 Leigh Ann Stephens

April Anniversaries

8 Joe & Melissa Herron

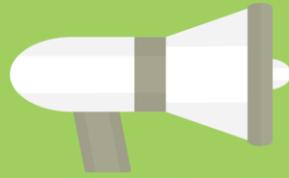
† Prayer Request †

Joys: Melody Martin got a good report on her EEG and her doctors lowered her medicine for her seizures. She will have a check up in 6 months; Pat Welker lifted-up that Ralph is home and recovering after being in the hospital. Gary Suydam turned 70; baby James Suydam turned 1; Pat Welker lifted up her grandson Zek who turned 23; Pat Welker lifted up her “granddaughter” for her 24th birthday; Sue Lane lifted up the joy of Michelle’s birthday; Sue Lane thanked the people who cleaned her driveway; Cindy Daniels is grateful for all the help her and her family have been receiving; Cindy Daniels has a new nephew (mom and baby are doing well); Varsity boys basketball team going to Sectionals; Tammy Duley is grateful for the help she has been receiving;

Concerns: Barb Deacon, Sue Lane’s sister-in-law, was placed on hospice care; Corbin Rutledge’s doctors are continuing to try and figure out what is going on. They are questioning his seizure diagnosis; Cindy Daniels fell and fractured her knee and is recovering; Prayers for our nation and the discord. Beth Martin’s mother fell and broke a rib; Mary Moermond, Wanda OHaver’s daughter, found out she has heart trouble while getting tested. She is figuring out next steps to address these issues; prayers were lifted up for those in Ukraine; Tammy Duley will be starting treatments soon;

Bereavement: Family of Dianna Threw; Family of Bill Waggoner (friend of Pat Welker)

Those in Assisted Living: Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft; Eileen (Diana’s mom) Red Oak Estates, Canton.



UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Farmington Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (March 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. You can now follow the Food Pantry on Facebook at Farmington IL Food Pantry

March Meetings

Congregational Meeting to elect and install Linda Riley Deacon: Sunday, March 6 following worship

Session: Tuesday March 8 at 7pm in the CE Building

PW: Friday, March 11 at 12pm in the CE Building

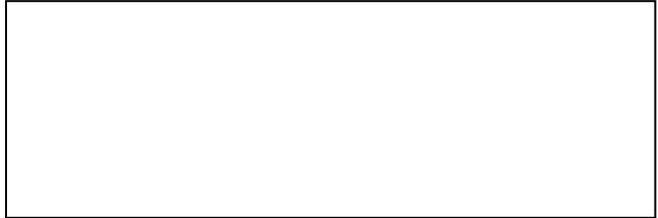
We thank you for sending in your tithes and offerings, especially during this time of crisis. You may either bring your tithes and offerings to worship or you may send your tithes and offerings directly to Mickie Ulm, our financial secretary. Her address is 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 61531.

If there is a pastoral emergency that should arise, you are asked to contact Pat Welker at (309) 338-4575 or Steffanie Ulm at (309) 678-3686.

The Farmington Council of Churches will host an Ash Wednesday service on Wednesday, March 2 at 4:30pm at the Farmington United Methodist Church.

The Per Capita amount for each member for 2022 is \$35.25. This is not an assessment or dues, but a covenant relationship with the greater church. This amount is not in our 2022 budget, but paid as collected from each member to the Presbytery of Great Rivers. This money is used by the Presbytery to fund all of its administrative and mission projects. We partner with other churches in our Presbytery and are called to share Christ's love by partnering in Service, Uniting in Worship and Risking in Ministry. Currently, 26 members have paid their per capita for 2022. All organizations need money to enable them to perform and provide all that is expected from them. We are asking that everyone consider the important work of the Great Rivers Presbytery and support it by your 2022 Per Capita. Per Capita giving may be mailed directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, or can be sent directly to the church.

**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