

THE BURNING BUSH

Greetings,

Do you wonder... What does God say about Spring in the Bible? These Bible Verses for Spring will Renew Your Spirit and tell you exactly what this season means for nature and you!

Spring is in full bloom! It's a beautiful season of renewal in nature. The trees are budding, and the flowers are peeking out. They've come to life after a long winter's rest. Just like them, we've been tucked away during the cold winter months and we're ready to spring to life again. And nothing accompanies the backdrop of spring better than the many scriptures about this glorious event. So, today we're reading Bible verses for spring that will renew your spirit. Together, let's fill our minds with God's word, allow it to take root in our hearts, and renew our tired spirits. In no time at all, we'll be ready to bloom like the flowers of the fields. The first scripture is about a fresh start and spring is all about renewal.

A New Season

For as the earth brings forth its bud,
As the garden causes the things that are sown in it to spring forth,
So the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth
Before all the nations. **Isaiah 61:11**

Spring wouldn't be spring without flowers. Their vibrant pops of color are a metaphor of the delicate balance between life and death and represent the new life we have in Jesus.

The flowers appear on earth;
The song of singing has come,
And the voice of the turtledove
Is heard in our land. **Song of Solomon 2:12 NKJV**

This beautiful time of year ushers in a new season for the whole world to see. The old life we had is gone. And new life in Jesus is waiting ahead. He is ready to turn the storm clouds overhead into a sunny day. And with a little help from the Holy Spirit renew our hearts and minds for the season ahead. From: Master's Hand Collection

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the April 21 Session Meeting:

CLERK'S REPORT –

- Correspondence: None
- Email/Text Votes:
 - Email (text for Nyle) on March 24 amending the hours for the CE Building by Missy Herron for a Graduation Party. She wants to use the Building on Sunday, May 22 from 3-6pm. Approved.
 - Email (text for Nyle) on April 1 requesting approval for use of the CE Building by Tammy Duley for a Graduation Party. She wants to use the Building on Saturday, May 14 from 2-5pm. Approved
 - Email (text for Nyle) on April 16 requesting approval for use of CE Building by Kathy Welch for a PEO Meeting. She wants to use the Building on Tuesday, April 17 from 6-9pm. Approved.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Liz (chair), Beth, Tony, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Sam Rutledge.**
 - Our numbers are up, have been over 55 several weeks.
 - Have had some awesome guest speakers and are booked thru the end of May.
 - Vivian Stobaugh (Ryan & Kaitlyn's daughter) will be baptized on May 1st; Rev Laura Reason will perform the service.
 - Rev. Jennifer Sakata has a published book that will be offered to the congregation. It will be displayed in the CE Building. She will be filling the pulpit on May 15.
 - Will have to get the nursery going again. Steffanie is going to look into the insurance to see what is needed. For now, volunteers will staff the nursery.
 - Beth, Sam and Diana have picked out songs for worship, through June 5.
- **Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Alissa**
 - On Palm Sunday, the children of the Church brought in the palms and sang for the service. The Easter Egg Hunt was held after Church. We owe a big thank you to all who donated candy and helped with the hunt.
 - On May 1st there will be a meeting for all interested in helping with VBS. Many have already come forward to volunteer so we have a good start. I have been or will be in touch with representatives from the other local churches as well. We will be working on setting the dates for VBS at the meeting after comparing schedules.
 - Some of the classes have needed more supplies and these have been purchased. Sunday School will continue until the end of May and then resume in the fall.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair), Liz & Alissa**
 - Personnel - Deb Canevit started cleaning the church on Tuesday, April 12th. She gave the church a very good cleaning. The plan is for her to clean weekly @ 4 hours per week. Kathy

Welch handles the payment of all employees. She will be paid monthly. We decided against background checks for employees. It would not be right to only check new employees and not existing employees and was felt it was an extra expense with no financial break on our current insurance premium.

- This committee continues to send the weekly emails. We also sent out the first Burning Bush with the help of Crystal Gomes and Kathy Welch.
- This committee also confirmed with Sarah Perardi that we will participate in the July 4th Park event. I will soon be requesting volunteers for this important event. Parade is July 4th at 10:30AM.
- Stewardship and Memorial - nothing to report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team** – Tony (chair), Nyle & Liz
 - We've had 3 weeks of Fellowship so far and it has been very well attended. There are lots of folks staying for treats and visiting.
- **Evangelism Team** – Steffanie (chair) & Brady
 - Evangelism - I have the paperwork from Spoon River Drive for the 2022 Reed Park event. I was told by Tammy Duley we do not advertise in the SRD book. \$50 is due to the SRD before September 1st. A committee will need to be formed prior to this date. I will need serious help as I've never participated in the taco booth. (I've always had other commitments)
 - Steffanie would like to form a committee to reach out to those families who are attending and those who are not attending for ideas on how to get our pews filled?
- **Technology Team** – Brady (chair) & Nyle
 - No report.
- **Nominating Team** – Steffanie (chair), Deacon, At-Large
 - No report.
- **Deacon's Report**

DEACONS MEETING

MARCH 27, 2022

The Deacons met on Sunday, March 27 in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:45am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Sue Lane, Missy Herron, Marianne Taylor, Pat Welker and Linda Riley.

February Minutes were approved. Treasurer's report has a balance of \$208.19.

Cards sent: Since the February 20 meeting Chris sent 1 card, Sue 1, Missy 2, Marianne 3, Linda 0 and Pat 22. Missy is going purchase a roll of 100 stamps and put them on bookshelf in CE Building for use by Deacons.

Missy has gotten the information from Hy-Vee for Easter Flowers. There will only be lilies available for purchase as the other spring plants were too expensive. Hy-Vee will deliver the lilies as well as the palms on April 8 or 9. Palms will be used by kids on Palm Sunday and also by Jane to decorate the sanctuary. The sign-up list is going to be passed through sanctuary for sign-up on Sunday, April 3 for the final time. Missy will make sure the list of Memorials is typed up and given to Brady to be put on the video screens.

March 6, Sunday, Communion served to 22. Next Communion will be served on Maundy Thursday, April 14 service at 6:30pm. Pat will bring bread and Linda will help. Communion also to be served on Easter Sunday, April 17 with Marianne bringing bread and Missy, Linda and Chris helping. Sue will take care of changing paraments.

We decided to wait and discuss how we will visit/honor our shut-ins going forward at the April Meeting.

Meeting closed at 12:10 pm with prayer by Chris.

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

- Steps to hire a Minister: The steps we can follow are:
 - 1. We can immediately start the search for an Interim by completing the MIF for Interim Minister and getting it posted through Presbytery. This would necessitate the need to keep the pulpit filled on a weekly basis. We need an Interim for 1-1 ½ years and they would help us through the process of finding a hired minister.
 - 2. We could opt to hire a Bridge Minister immediately. A Bridge would fill the pulpit and eliminate the need to try to fill the pulpit each week with different individuals. The Bridge Minister would be with us until we could hire an Interim.
 - 3. The MIF light is filled out by either the Session or the Personnel Team. Need to get this done no matter which avenue we take to find a minister.
- N. Zobrist and Sons, Inc replacing doors in CE Building.

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

- None

The Session voted to adjourn at 7:30pm. Next Meeting will be Thursday, May 19 at 6pm followed by a June 9 at 6pm meeting.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2022

ELDERS: Liz Johnson, Tony Rolando, Brady Johnson, Beth Martin, Alissa Holder, Nyle Staley and Steffanie Ulm – Ministry Partner – Rev. Brandon Ouellette

DEACONS: Chris Evans, Marianne Taylor, Melissa Herron, Linda Riley, Pat Welker and Sue Lane

TRUSTEES: Clark Evans, Ben Vermillion, Joe Herron, and Kevin Phillips
(2 open trustee spots)

TREASURERS: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Mickie Ulm

CLERK OF SESSION: Pat Welker

Mission Giving

Food Pantry

The Farmington Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12:30pm – 1:30 pm. The Food Pantry is located at New Hope Fellowship Church 1102 N. State Route 78, Farmington, IL 61531. You do not even need to get out of your car. It is open to anyone in the Farmington area 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.

Per Capita for 2022

The Per Capita amount for each member of the Farmington Presbyterian Church for 2022 is \$35.25. This is not an assessment or dues, but a covenantal 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 and the denomination to fund all of its administrative and mission projects.

We are asking that everyone consider the important work of the Great Rivers Presbytery and support it by paying the 2022 Per Capita apportionment. To date we have received 35% or 35 members' per capita for 2022. Per Capita giving may be mailed directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 61531, or can be sent directly to the church at 83 N. Cone St. Farmington, IL 61531.

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 supports those in our community who might need some extra food on those days when the Food Pantry is closed.

OGHS

In 2022, we donated \$222.81 to One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for your support of this important offering of the PCUSA!

Our Church Life

Presbyterian Women

On Friday, April 8, 2022, meeting of the Presbyterian Women was held in the CE Building at 1pm with 11 ladies present to enjoy the fellowship.

We had our business meeting and Bible Study. This was followed by our fellowship. Cheryle Fryman provided a delicious fruit salad and her husband Ed, baked cookies for us to enjoy. Cheryle even sent home bags of cookies with anyone who wanted them. How great is that!

The next meeting will be Friday, May 13 at 1pm. We will have our Bible Study, business meeting followed by a dessert provided by Kay Fairburn. The Bible Study will be led by Pat Welker and the Least Coin given by Marianne Taylor.

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.

Graduates

COLLEGE:

Abbie Phillips, Daughter of Jodi and Kevin Phillips. Graduated from Truman State University, receiving her bachelor's degree in English with minors in Child Studies and Justice Systems.

Alyssa Ulm, Daughter of Steffanie and Jay Ulm, Granddaughter of Mary Ulm. Graduated from Illinois College, Jacksonville, receiving her bachelor's degree in English and Education. Has accepted a teaching position at Abingdon-Avon High School teaching English.

Colby Evans, Son of Chris and Clark Evans. Graduated from Spoon River College with associates Degree in Ag Business.

Addison Harrison, daughter of Stu and Lisa Harrison, Granddaughter of Mickie and Tim Ulm. Graduated from Southern Illinois University, receiving her bachelor's degree in English and minor in Psychology.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Melody Martin, Daughter of Beth Martin. Plans are to attend Illinois State University and major in special Education, (vision impaired).

Emma Evans, Daughter of Chris and Clark Evans plans to attend a 4 year university.

Ethan Evans, Son of Chris and Clark Evans plans to go into the trades.

Tessa Balagna, Daughter of Dennis and Sara Balagna, Great Granddaughter of Kay Fairburn.

Corbin Rutledge, Son of Michael Rutledge, Grandson of Jane and Sam Rutledge. Plans to attend Spoon River College.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

Gracie Duley, Daughter of Tammy Duley.

Adela Herron, Daughter of Melissa and Joe Herron.

Pulpit Supply

On April 3, the Pulpit was filled by Pastor Chris Roland. He is a Chaplin at OSF Hospital and gave a good sermon. He spoke about when Jesus went to the home of Lazarus. A woman came to the house and wanted to see Jesus. She had a jar of perfume that she poured on Jesus' feet and then wiped them with her hair. Judas told Jesus that instead of wasting the perfume, she should have sold

it for the money. Jesus explained that she was honoring him. In those days, when a person was buried, they were anointed with perfume on the body. Jesus told the group that he would not always be with them and that she was honoring him. A good message leading up to Palm Sunday.

April 10, Palm Sunday, was Dean Warner and he can be counted on to give a great message. His message was about Jesus entering the city on a donkey and the people waving palms to welcome him. Dean told the story of how a Roman Emperor was put into power 1) He would be honored by a celebration at the Army Headquarters. 2) He would get a purple robe and gold wreath for his head. 3) Emperor would go to the armies, and they would honor him. 4) There would be a sacrificial bull. The emperor was in a parade down the road, in front of all the people. The bull would be following behind. 5) The parade would make its way to Capitol Hill (or Head Hill). 6) Emperor would then enjoy wine and the bull would be sacrificed. 7) Emperor had a right-hand man and a left-hand man. Crowd would yell their honors. 8) Emperor would be affirmed hopefully by some miraculous sign from above. -- Compare this to Jesus' entry. 1) The people were expecting a King to come and save them. They were ready with the palm leaves as Jesus came in riding a donkey. He was arrested by the soldiers. 2) The soldiers put a purple robe on Jesus and a crown of thorns was jammed on his head. 3) Jesus was not honored by the people or his disciples. In fact, Peter would deny him and Judas would betray him. 4) He was marched down the road carrying his cross in front of the people. 5) Jesus made his way to Golgotha (Place of the Skull). 6) As Jesus was on the cross, the soldiers gave him a sponge soaked in vinegar to drink. 7) There were two others next to Jesus who were also crucified. 8) At Jesus' final moments he said, "It is over" and he gave up his spirit. As Dean pointed out, Jesus' crucifixion was foretold.

April 14, Maundy Thursday, Rev. Jennifer Sakata filled the pulpit and gave a great message. She spoke on the last supper and how Jesus washed the feet of the disciples. He attended each disciple, including Judas, who Jesus knew was going to betray him. Peter also did not feel that Jesus should be washing his feet, or the other disciples, as that was the job of a servant. Jesus explained to him that they were all to be servants and spread the word of the Lord to the people. We also were given Communion as those who attended the last supper were given.

April 17, Easter Sunday, Rev. Sue Krummel gave us a message of hope. She talked about Jesus being crucified and buried in the tomb. Mary Madeline went to the tomb on the third day and the stone was rolled away from the entrance. She peeked in and then went for help. They entered the tomb and saw the angels sitting on either end of the burial space. The angels told them that Jesus had gone to his Father, but they couldn't grasp that. Even when they saw Jesus later in the garden, they still had trouble believing.

April 24 was Dean again. This time his message was about Peter denying the fact that he knew Jesus. He denied him 3 times but Jesus forgave him. Dean then talked about our spiritual health and how we need to bring our problems to Jesus. There are 3 things we should do. First, Jesus is ready to forgive and restore us. No matter what we have or have not done. Jesus is there, we just need to truly accept Him as our savior. Second, Be honest about your spiritual condition. Do you pray to God, read His word, try to do what He would want you to do as all times? Admit our spiritual problems and give them to God. And Third, Be honest with God and ourselves. He knows all and is there waiting for us. We are the ones who aren't there for Him all the time.

May will be another month of different folks bringing us a message each week. You should really try to make these worship services because these people really do a great job. I'm sure we will find something great in the messages they are giving. Hope to see you there.

Also, during this time, Crystal Gomes, Alissa Holder and Bonnie Suydam are leading the Children's Sermons. I love to see the kids are being open and willing to listen. I mean, we now know that if someone gives Lucas a bunch of money, he would get a John Deere Combine. If it wasn't for these ladies, we would not know that. So come and learn about the things that these kids have to say.

Bringing Folks Back

Do you have any ideas on how to get folks back in the pews? How about bringing in new families? Steffanie is wanting to get a committee going to work on this. Could you help? Please consider ways you could help with this or ideas you could come up with. Let Steffanie know your ideas and your willingness to help. It's a great idea, we need people willing to implement it. Please help!!!

Monthly Calendars

May 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30AM Communion Rev. Dr Laura Reason – Guest Preacher VBS Meeting	2	3 PEO 5:30PM	4	5	6	7
8 10:30AM Mother's Day Dean Warner Guest Preacher	9	10	11	12	13 PW 1PM	14 Duley Reserved CE Building
15 10:30AM Rev Jennifer Sakata Guest Preacher FCHS Graduation Martins Reserved CE Building	16	17	18	19 Session 6pm	20	21
22 10:30AM Dean Warner Guest Preacher Herrons Reserved CE Building	23 BB deadline	24	25	26	27	28 Evans Reserved CE Building
29 10:30 AM Rev. Sue Krummel Guest Preacher	30 Memorial Day	31				

June 2022

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

Joys & Concerns

May Birthdays

1 Emily Phillips 2 Ed Fryman 5 Annie Swanson 11 Emma Evans; Ethan Evans; Crystal Gomes 12 Monica Swanson 15 Jayme Johnson 22 Blake Johnson 24 Craig Duley 27 Paul Watters

June Birthday

3 Mike Daniels 5 Linda Elliott 6 Grace Berry 15 Cindy Daniels 16 Jodi Phillips 19 Gracie Duley 25 Chris Evans 27 Abbie Phillips; Kathy Welch 29 Sam Rutledge

May Anniversaries

25 Jay & Steffanie Ulm 27 Kent & Kathy Kowal

June Anniversaries

9 Tony & Diana Rolando 18 Sam & Jane Rutledge



✠ Prayer Request ✠

Joys: Gracie Duley made cheer team for high school. Ellie Duley made cheer team for junior high school. Adela and Brielle for their track accomplishments. Great help at church clean up day!

Concerns: Delano O’Haver, Corbin Rutledge, Sam Rutledge, Tammy Duley, Bonnie’s co-worker’s Michelle & Michelle in their separate cancer recovery journeys,

Bereavement: Glenene Benson, death of her sister.

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



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 firstpresfarmington@gmail.com

Check out the “Farmington Council of Churches” Facebook page. Make sure to like the page so that you receive notifications and updates. We will use this page to post community events and information. This is also where you will also be able to watch the Council’s Facebook Live worship services.

Did you know that our church is on Facebook and YouTube? Like and Subscribe to our pages to keep up-to-date on the latest happenings!

Moving....Please be sure to provide your new contact information to the church office or a session member.

Guest Preachers for the Month of May

May 1 – Rev. Dr. Laura Reason

May 8 – Dean Warner

May 15 – Rev. Jennifer Sakata

May 22 – Dean Warner

May 29 – Rev. Sue Krummel

If you would like to add something to next month’s Burning Bush, please submit it to the office by the last Monday of the month. We prefer receiving it by email at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com or by dropping it off in the office.

We thank you for sending in your tithes and offerings, especially. 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 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

Blessings on:

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

