

THE BURNING BUSH

As you know, the congregation will go through a process to search for and call your next pastor. My goal is to outline the process so that you'll know what to expect. This process is set by our Presbytery.

1. The Mission Study

The first step is to conduct a Mission Study. The Presbytery of Great Rivers defines the Mission Study as follows: "During the time of transition between pastors, a congregation is invited to engage in a spiritual discernment process to discover or reconfirm its call to ministry - what God wants the church to be and do in the next phase of the congregation's life. It is required that every church do a mission study under leadership of the Session when their pastor leaves. (Exceptions may be granted by COM) that involves Bible study, prayer, and an honest and thoughtful look at your congregation and community, as a way to discern the ministry direction in which God is leading you."

2. Assessment of the Congregation's Finances.

A report is submitted to the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry that will help them understand the ability to meet the financial obligations of meeting a pastoral salary package and for the level of service that you would be seeking.

3. Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) Elected

Once the Mission study and the Financial Assessment are approved by the Committee on Ministry, you will be given permission to elect a Pastoral Nominating Committee. The committee members are nominated by the Congregation's Nominating Committee and elected at a congregational meeting. These people should represent the diverse interests, ages, committees, and groups in the congregation.

4. Ministry Information Form (MIF)

The Pastor Nominating Committee will complete a form that describes specific gifts that they are seeking in your next pastor, describe the community and its needs, outline the job description, etc. The salary range used in the MIF will be set by the session. Once this form is completed and approved by our Presbytery ministry partner, it will be uploaded to the PC(USA) computer matching system.

5. The Search Process Begins

This small group (usually 5-7 people) will be trained to review Personal Information Forms (PIF) (resumes) matched to your specific needs and preferences through a computer matching process and those submitted directly by interested pastors. They will most likely read dozens if not over a hundred PIF's, watch/listen to sermons by pastors they are interested in, and pray a lot. Before

they conduct any virtual interviews with pastors, the PNC will ask the Presbytery to conduct reference checks. Members of the PNC will also do reference checks. If after virtual interviews, there are a few pastors that the PNC is seriously interested in, the Presbytery will conduct criminal background, drivers' record and credit checks. The Presbytery's Committee on Ministry will also do a virtual Theological fitness interview.

6. In-Person Interviews

The Pastor Nominating Committee will bring the most likely candidates to be the next pastor to the church and community for a face-to-face interview. This is not a time for members of the church to meet with the prospective pastor. This is only for the PNC and possibly their immediate family members to spend time with them. The pastor candidate (and possibly their family) will tour the church facilities (including the manse), travel through the area, share meals with the PNC, etc.

7. Neutral Pulpit

If the interview goes really well and/or possibly at the same time as the interview, the pastor may preach and lead worship at a different PC(USA) church so that the Pastor Nominating Committee can experience worship with him/her in person.

8. Examination of a Candidate to be the Pastor

There is an examination process spelled out by the PC(USA) and by the Presbytery of Great Rivers for any pastor who may be called to be installed as a Pastor in one of the Presbytery's congregations and who will also be a member of the Presbytery. This will need to be completed before or during the next step.

9. Offering of a Call

In conjunction with work of the Presbytery in examining potential candidates to be your next pastor, the Pastor Nominating Committee will offer a call with specific salary details to be negotiated with the next pastor. When all are in agreement (the PNC, the pastor, and the Presbytery), then a congregational meeting can be called where following worship led by the pastor candidate, the congregation can vote to call this person to be your next pastor. The pastor would then accept the call and starting dates, and moving arrangements would be negotiated.

Throughout this whole process, the congregation, the Pastor Nominating Committee, and any pastor candidates will be supported by a Ministry Partner from the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry. At the current time, our Ministry Partner is Rev. Edwin Brinklow, pastor of the Canton congregation.

My role, as Interim Pastor, is to work with the session on leading the Mission Study, but I will not be involved in working with the Pastor Nominating Committee in the Search Process.

Blessings,
Pastor Cindy

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the March 9, 2023, Session Meeting: There is still time if you want to help with any of the Ministry Teams, let one of the Elders know. They would welcome more help/input.

Mission Statement: “The Church is organized to give seekers the opportunity to study God’s Word and learn about Christ, to bring believers together in worship, and to encourage disciples in the service of God through spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world.”

Financial Reports/Discussions:

The Session voted to receive the Financial Reports at this time. Kathy went over the reports and answered questions. Cindy then went over her Transaction Report that has the payments for the new doors. She explained how she is showing the money coming in from the Memorial Account and going out to N. Zobrist & Son as payment.

Trustee Jobs/Quotes:

Kevin Phillips was present to go over quotes received for several jobs to be done around the Church.

- 1) The Session voted to approve payment to Coker’s Repair, Inc. of Peoria Heights for repair of the kitchen stove in the CE Bldg. A solenoid, ignitor, freight, labor and trip charge.
- 2) The Session voted to approve the following: Quote for “plaster repair for the NW stairwell to belfry”. 4 different people were asked to quote the job and only one person came to see what the job would entail. Contractor Josh Lopeman, Yates City, looked over job and gave a quote to replaster the wall and scrape, plaster border, apply a base coat and sand finish. He can start within 2 weeks of contract approval. There is a deposit on day the work starts, with balance paid when finished job approved.
- 3) The Session voted to approve the quote from W. Boyer & Son, Inc. of Hanna City, for the Church Building furnace/air conditioner. The following quote is from them to replace both furnaces with RHEEM 95% efficient 115,000 BTU gas furnaces and a SEER 5 Ton air conditioner and includes all material needed. Labor to install and removal/disposal of old units, including refrigerant. McVey Mechanical of Farmington was also asked to quote the job.

CLERKS REPORT:

- Correspondence: Thank you from Brady Johnson for Christmas gift.
- Email/Text Approvals: none

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Alissa (chair), Beth, Brady, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.**
 - Met with Diana & Sam and they are ok with the way the music is selected for worship. Pastor/Session wants the choir to sing for Maundy Thursday so will check with organist and choir directors.
 - The bells for the Bell Choir need to be moved into the warmer sanctuary and not in colder rooms. They will be moved this week.
 - Bonnie is working on welcoming letters for new kids for Sunday School. She is trying to build up the numbers.
- **Christian Education Team – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa**
 - Spring Sunday School materials have been received.
 - Palm Sunday – Fish banks handed out and informational notes explaining what is going on for that worship.
 - Palms have been ordered for decoration as well as for the kids to wave on way into sanctuary.
 - Asking for candy donations to fill plastic eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. No peanut or hard candy and that it be individually wrapped.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Ryan (chair) & Liz**
 - Finance –
 - Brady has been reimbursed for TVs and mounts.
 - Personnel –
 - The Session voted to approve Pastor Cindy's contract. It reflects her requested changes and is valid for 364 days.
 - Memorial –
 - Worked with Cindy Daniels to find memorial monies to pay balance on new door installations.
 - Stewardship – No Report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Jodi & Liz (Co-Chairs)**
 - Planning to have a potluck meal on Palm Sunday, April 2.
 - Jodi stated that the kitchen will be cleaned prior to the Soup Supper, with help from a couple others. Want to get all counters cleaned off.
- **Evangelism Team – Jodi (chair), Bonnie & Beth**
 - The Community Soup Supper on Saturday, March 25, from 4-7pm or when food runs out. Bonnie making chili; Cozy making potato; Missy making chicken/wild rice; & Tammy making cheeseburger soup. Paula Monari is going to provide chili for hot dogs.
 - Alissa reported that she has posted about the Soup Supper on several area towns Face Book pages.
- **Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Ryan**
 - Brady is getting ready to work on the Wi-Fi upgrades. He hopes to install equipment, so coverage is available in office, sanctuary, and CE Building. Needed equipment will cost \$900-1,000. Ryan is going to make sure the money is available.
 - Tadd Swanson is working on the Sound System upgrades.

- **Nominating Team** – Beth & Deacon & At-Large members Cozy Hoover, Kathy Welch and Tony Rolando. Will meet in fall.

DEACONS

FEBRUARY 26, 2023

The Deacons met on Sunday, February 26 in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:30am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Sue Lane, Glenene Benson, Pastor Cindy and Pat Welker.

December Minutes were approved. Missy had told Chris that the Hy Vee bill for flowers had been paid. Nothing else to report.

Cards: Since the January meeting Chris sent 5 cards, Sue 11, Glenene 5, and Pat 29.

Communion: Sunday, February 5, 2023 served 28 in sanctuary. Home Communion was taken to our shut-ins by Pastor Cindy, Missy and Glenene, with 12 served. Those visited were Wanda Ohaver at Farmington Village plus Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard. March 5 is next Communion. Chris will bring the bread with Glenene helping set up. Pat and Sue will go with Pastor Cindy to do Home Communion. Sue will take care of any needed parament changes.

Looking forward to Easter week, the Session will be asked if there will be a Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt and luncheon at their March 9 Meeting. Additionally, there will be a Maundy Thursday service with Communion. Pastor Cindy plans to take Home Communion to the shut-ins that day, with assistance from Chris. There will also be Communion during Easter Sunday worship.

Chris is going to contact Missy to see if she will be in charge of getting the Easter flowers from Hy Vee. There will be a sign-up list passed through the congregation a couple times prior to placing the order for the flowers.

Next meeting Sunday, March 19, after worship.

Meeting closed at 11:53am with prayer by Chris.

- **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

Visits/Meetings

Home Visits

- Larry Roberson and Donna DeGroot
- Val Wagoner

Communion Visits

- Wanda Ohaver, Blanche Wilson, and Wilma Brentz.

Visit with member at manse

Meetings

- Deacons
- Worship
- Hymn selections with Sam and Diana
- Great Rivers Presbytery meeting

Community

- Yoga class and laundry mat

Worship

Ash Wednesday service, communion on March 5th

General

- 1) Would like to have a Christian Education meeting to talk about Confirmation Class curriculum selection and schedule.
- 2) Would like to shift Interim Pastoral agreement beginning April 1st to move to Minister's choice (10% of effective salary) from the Pastor Participation plan (39% of effective salary). Intend to use the difference for cost of utilities, cost of travel to and from Carbondale, and increased cost for medical expenses due to shift in plan. This would also increase my SECA expenses and increase my income tax.
Need to decide if the agreement will be for 6 months or 364 days. When you are getting close to calling a pastor, I will start searching for my next call, in hopes that I can secure it so that you won't have to pay me 3 months' salary after my work ends. I can't guarantee that will happen, but I will do my best! (Pastor Cindy sent the following to explain difference between a 6-month contract vs a 364-day contract. I have added it here.)
- 3) Still have not looked at the bylaws.

○ TRUSTEE'S REPORT:

MEETING MARCH 2023

The Trustees met in the Church office on Sunday March 8 at 11:45am. Members present were Clark Evans, Joe Herron, Kevin Phillips, Tim Ulm and Kathy Welch.

1. Spring Cleanup Day – April 15 @ 9am/rain date April 22.
2. Clocks and Thermostats will be advanced 1 hour for DST.
3. Projects completed:
 - a. All CE & Breezeway Doors & trim installed/painted.
 - b. Motion lights installed at north breezeway entrance and east office entrance.
 - c. Key to north breezeway door given to Diana Rolando.
 - d. Bible/songbook rack reattached and all other racks checked for loose nails/screws.
 - e. Range in kitchen repaired.
 - f. Drywall work started in room behind choir loft.

4. Ongoing Projects:
 - a Bids are out for new furnace and A/C in Sanctuary (completion early summer - chimney work/removal after)
 - b Bee man coming in April/May
 - c Repair to fascia/wall outside storage room behind choir loft. Trying to coordinate with bee work (requires lift)
 - d Bids to be presented to Session for plaster repair on stairway to bell tower
 - e Seeking bids for outside painting and repair of Sanctuary windows.
5. Cleaning of storage closet in CE building

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

- CE Bldg. Doors - COMPLETE
- Souper Bowl food collection – big success - COMPLETE

NEW BUSINESS:

Report on February Presbytery Meeting. Alissa attended via Zoom and reported it was mainly about accepting floor nominations and getting language written to make filling Presbytery positions easier in the future.

- Discernment Discussion – will discuss later.
- Request from congregation to again provide numbered envelopes for tithes. This would make it easier for cash donations to be tracked for income tax information. Liz is going to talk with Financial Secretary Mickie about this & find out cost.
- Beth noted that it is the 100th and final year of the Passion Play in Bloomington/Normal. She will announce it at worship to see if enough are interested in going to the Saturday, April 1st performance at 1pm. The play is 3-3 ½ hours long. If enough people are interested, she would look into car-pooling to the event.
- Next meeting April 13, Thursday at 6pm.
- The Session voted to adjourn at 8:30pm with Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Cindy.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2023

ELDERS: Liz Johnson, Brady Johnson, Beth Martin, Alissa Holder, Ryan Stobaugh, Jodi Phillips, and Bonnie Suydam– Interim Pastor Cindy Bean

DEACONS: Chris Evans, Melissa Herron, Linda Riley, Pat Welker, Sue Lane, and Glenene Benson

TRUSTEES: Clark Evans, Joe Herron, Kevin Phillips, Jake Suydam, Kathy Welch, and Tim Ulm

TREASURERS: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES: Mickie Ulm and Michelle Lane

CLERK OF SESSION: Pat Welker

Pastoral Care Contact Information

Church Address: 83 N. Cone St. Farmington, IL 61531
Contact Phone: Interim Pastor Cindy Bean (618)316-1171
Email: cindyb825@gmail.com
Mon, Tues, Wed 8:30 – 2:00 (subject to change)
Office Phone: 309-245-2914(messages checked weekly)
Email: firstpresfarmington@gmail.com

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.

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.

Per Capita 2023

The Per Capita amount for each member for 2023 is \$36.25. This is not an assessment or dues, but a covenant relationship with the greater church. This amount is not in our 2023 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. 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 2023 Per Capita. **24 members have paid Per Capita to date.** Per Capita giving may be mailed directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct., Farmington, or can be provided during offering at the church in the pew envelopes.

Our Church Life

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women met on Friday, March 10 at 1pm for a meeting, Bible study & fellowship. There were 7 ladies in attendance, which was great. We had our business meeting. Pat is going to the Farmington Bank to get put on the PW checking account.

We continued the Bible Study on Mary, mother of Jesus. After the meeting/Bible Study, we had coffee and dessert furnished by Pat Welker. All in all, a great day of fellowship. Next meeting will be Friday, April 14 at 1pm. Dessert by Pauline and we will have a Bible Study on the Women of the Bible.

Community Soup Supper

Our first big Church Event was held on Saturday, March 25 from 4-7:30pm. This was the brainstorm of our Evangelism Committee consisting of Jodi Phillips and Bonnie Suydam. Their goal for the year is to get people back in the Church. Well, if this night was any indication, they are really succeeding. Many people signed up to help and there were also many who signed up to provide desserts.

The menu consisted of 4 soups (cheeseburger by Tammy Duley, turkey/rice by Missy Herron, chili by Bonnie Suydam and cheesy veggie by Cozy Hoover.) In addition, there were Monari chili dogs or hot dogs and the aforementioned desserts.

I tried to keep track of all the servings we put out, but I'm sure I missed some as we had a steady stream of customers all night. The best part of the night was all the people who helped. We had some different people helping which was really great to see. We always have fun which makes the work go easier and faster. When I left at about 7:30 or so there were still people finishing the clean-up. But what a great thing for our Church.

Here are the numbers as I recorded them:

- 130 people who paid to eat.
- 36 bowls of chili
- 34 bowls of cheeseburger soup
- 29 bowls of cheesy veggie
- 35 bowls of turkey rice
- 115 chili dogs (one person ordered 15 chili dogs)
- 35 hot dogs

So, a big thank you to all those who helped in any way, whether working at the event or providing desserts. A special thanks to Jodi and Bonnie for all their work in organizing it. Watch for more events in the future months. – Pat Welker

Trustee Update

The trustees have been busy with many related church projects. Completed projects are the new doors in the CE building and breezeway leading into the sanctuary, including a handicapped door on the north entrance. The project was financed from memorial contributions and donations. Repair of the West wall in the church entrance, leading to the bell tower, was repaired and plastered. New motion lights were installed on the North door of breeze way and church office. Work is being done in the storage room behind the choir loft because of water damaged sustained. The sanctuary heating and air conditioning will be replaced. As part of this project the existing chimney will be removed. Work will be done on the bell tower in an effort to eliminate the bee problem and to repair some structural damage.

A workday is planned for Saturday, April 15 at 9 am. Rain date is April 22 at 9 am. We will be doing yard cleanup, some trimming of landscaping and window washing. Please come and HELP. Contact any trustee with any concerns.

Monthly Calendars

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 am Worship Palm Sunday Egg Hunt & Potluck	3	4 Men's Bible Study 6pm	5 Choir practice 7pm	6 Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm	7 Good Friday	8
9 10:30 am Easter Worship	10	11	12	13 Session 6pm	14 Presbyterian Women 1 pm	15 Trustee Workday 9am
16 10:30 am Worship Dean Warner – Guest Speaker	17	18 Men's Bible Study 6pm	19	20	21	22 RAIN DATE Trustee Workday 9am
23 10:30 am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:30 am Worship						

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 PEO 6:30 pm	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 am Worship Communion	8	9	10	11 Session 6pm	12 Presbyterian Women 1pm	13
14 10:30 am Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:30 am Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 am Worship	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

Joys & Concerns

April Birthdays

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



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

April Anniversaries

8 Joe & Melissa Herron

May Anniversaries

25 Jay & Steffanie Ulm **27** Kent & Kathy Kowal

✝ Prayer Request ✝

Joys: Jake & Carissa Suydam welcomed their new baby boy! CE Building Doors Project is Complete! Pat Welker passed her 6 month cancer check up! Ryan & Kaitlyn Stobaugh are expecting their third child! Emily Phillips is engaged to be married! Community Soup Supper was a HUGE Success! Plaster work is Complete!

Prayer Requests: Liz Johnson's niece; Bud Stobaugh; Darryl Phillips; Patty Benson; Dwight Helle; Chris Evans' brother-in-law, Chris; Wanda Ohaver; Nyle Staley; Beth Martin; Melody Martin; Carol Roberts; Marilee Stephan; JoAnn Ray; Dave Moermond, Wanda Ohaver's son-in-law; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge; & Steffanie Ulm's Aunt Chris.

Bereavement:

Those in Assisted Living: Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Wanda Ohaver at Farmington Village Nursing & Rehabilitation; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft; Eileen (Diana Rolando's mom) Red Oak Estates.

Sunday School is @ 9:15 am Every Sunday
from Labor Day to Memorial Day

Pastor Cindy is on Vacation – April 16 – 22nd

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

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!

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.

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

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.

Interested in becoming a New Member?
Please contact Pastor Cindy for more details!

**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)**

