

THE BURNING BUSH

My self-assigned task for this month (and the next four) is to write about each of the developmental tasks we will work on during my time with you. This month I will try to shed light on:

1. Come to Terms with History.

In “normal” times, the departure of a pastor or the circumstances surrounding the departure need to be grieved. Part of the “history sharing” is recognition of that grief and may include any unresolved grief around any previous pastoral departures. But we have come through a pandemic and grief is all around us, especially in this congregation. So many have lost loved ones and friends in the last few years. Our church life and personal lives were substantially altered, and some things may never be the way they used to be. Any new circumstances for grieving may cause the grief process to be heightened as other losses (recent and old) come flooding back into our hearts. Through the grief sermon series, regular conversations, sharing of our concerns in prayer, and home visits, our congregation has multiple ways that we have supported one another in our common grief. This is work that we will continue to address in these healthy ways.

Additionally, we come to terms with history by recognizing the work of church members in the development of programs and ministry. This congregation regularly takes responsibility of taking charge of the direction and work of the church. We need to tell the great stories of the church and encourage members to hear each other’s stories as they relate to God’s great story of creation and re-creation.

Finally, as a part of the Mission Study process we may review (or create, if needed) a timeline of the significant events and ministries of the church through its inception to now. Reviewing a timeline and seeing patterns or unique moments almost always inspires new thoughts about our current life together and possibilities of what God may be calling us to do and be next.

(Information for this and the future articles are based on information taken from the Interim Training Manual of the Synod of Mid-American and Lincoln Trails and specifically from material written by Barry Williams.)

Blessings,
Pastor Cindy Bean

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the April 13 Session Meeting:

Financial Reports/Discussions: Kathy was in attendance and went over the financial reports. She answered the questions presented. She then went over the Trustees Report that she had written/presented.

REPORTS:

○ CLERKS REPORT:

- Correspondence: Thank you from Spoon River Valley School's principal for all the coats and accessories from the Coat Closet. She stated that the items were very much needed/appreciated.
- Email/Text Approvals:
 - On March 20, an email was received requesting the use of the CE Building on Saturday, April 22 from 1-3pm. There will be a baby shower for Bonnie Suydam's newest Grandson, Reed hosted by Jenny Suydam. This was approved.
 - On March 21, an email was received requesting a vacation week for Pastor Cindy. This would be from Sunday, April 16 through Saturday, April 22. This was approved.
 - On March 21, an email was received requesting that Dean Warner be approved to fill the pulpit on Sunday, April 16. Pastor Cindy will be on vacation. This was approved.
 - On March 24 an email was sent from Brady asking for approval of the Video Upgrade (not to exceed \$450) for the new TVs and Audio Upgrades (not to exceed \$7,500) which will include the purchase of new mics, for use during kid's programs and other events. Audio Upgrade to include 3 lapel microphones, 2 Pulpit microphones and 2 wireless handheld microphones. 3 microphones will also be installed above the TVs for better sound pickup in the sanctuary. Six Elders responded with their approval votes.

NEW MEMBER: Ben Arnold desires to become a member of the congregation via reaffirmation of faith. He told the story of his faith journey. He will be a welcome addition to our congregation. The Session voted to approve his desire to become a member of First Presbyterian and will be received on April 23, Sunday. Pastor Cindy offered a prayer. At this point, Ben was given the chance to either leave or stay for the rest of the meeting. He chose to stay.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Alissa (chair), Beth, Brady, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.**
 - Beth reported that both pianos, one in CE Building and one in Sanctuary, needed tuning. Clark Evans had tuned one of them and within a couple weeks it was again out of tune. The

Session voted to approve the tuning of both pianos. It was approved to spend up to \$500, but if more, to come back to Session for further action.

- Beth relayed information from Diana that the organ also needs repairs. The lower keyboard does not work as well as other problems. The Session voted to approve the organ be repaired. It was approved to spend up to \$1,000, but if more, to come back to Session for further action.
- The music Committee will take care of getting this work done.

○ **Christian Education Team – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa**

- Dates herein are approved by consensus.
- Review Curriculum for the Confirmation Class.
- Sunday School Curriculum: The teachers for Sunday School will be offered the chance to try other study materials for their fall classes, if they so choose. The upper grades would like to switch from the David Cook Series.
- Fall Sunday School: Sunday School will resume September 10, Sunday, with a pancake breakfast.
- Last day of Sunday School is May 21, 2023. It was decided to have regular class but break early so the kids can enjoy a Sundae Bar. Bonnie and Lissy will take care of getting the ice cream and different toppings. This will also be used for Fellowship.
- VBS: A committee of Bonnie, Alissa, Crystal, Missy and Pastor Cindy met to discuss VBS. It was decided to hold VBS on Sunday, July 9 through Thursday, July 13.
 - Safety – The current Safety Policy in place will work for VBS. The sign-up sheet will include a section for any special things a kid might need (i.e., food allergies). Bonnie also thought it would be good to have someone in charge of watching for any security problems during each session.
 - There was a question of whether background checks will be needed, Kathy Welch is going to be asked to check with Church insurer to see what, if anything, is needed.
- FOOD: The committee decided that there should be no meals served and maybe even having prepared individual snacks purchased. In that way, no County Food Permit would be required. After some discussion, Bonnie said she would bring this back to committee.
- New ideas:
 - Will work on the idea of having mailings before VBS and find out if address labels can be loaded into church computer. Steffanie might be able to help with this question.
 - Will move furniture from Sunday School Rooms with help from congregation on Sunday 5/21/23.
 - Clean up sanctuary and CE building will be done the Sunday after VBS. A date will be set up for a Crew to organize and put away VBS materials in the storage room.
- Clean out: Sunday School rooms need to be de-cluttered. Before VBS, the Preschool and High School rooms will be cleaned. Before next Fall, clean out 1st – 3rd rooms. Need to get the TV's removed.

- New TVs: The Session voted to approve the purchase of 32" smart TVs for Sunday School rooms. Bonnie will get back to Session with the number of TVs wanted.
- 3rd grade Bibles. Will be needed for Gianna Perardi and Nolan Ulm.
- Teacher recognition, Gifts will be provided for SS Teachers. Bonnie will find out what the overall budget is for Sunday School needs.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Ryan (chair) & Liz**
 - Finance –
 - The 4th of July Picnic in the Park is going to be held. Ryan will let the City Chamber of Commerce know that. It was decided to use the money earned from the Soup Supper to help with costs for the needed supplies for this event.
 - Stewardship/Memorial/Personnel – No Report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Jodi & Liz (Co-Chairs)**
 - Palm Sunday Potluck was a success with many enjoying the Fellowship and the kids enjoyed the Egg Hunt.
 - Jodi stated that we will have a bazaar and walking tacos during Spoon River Drive. She said that the plan is to sell out of the Church kitchen. More info in the future.
- **Evangelism Team – Jodi (chair), Bonnie & Beth**
 - The Community Soup Supper on Saturday, March 25, was a great success with a profit of \$1,093 realized. Good time had by all those in the kitchen.
 - On Sunday, June 11, Jodi wants to try a food/fellowship evening. She proposed listening to a Bible Pod Cast and then discussing it. More info to come but mark your calendar now. This sounds like fun and something different. Let's all give it a try.
 - Jodi also wants the Church to get involved in the Christmas Walk this year. More info to come.
- **Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Ryan**
 - Brady reported that the Wi-Fi Upgrade Project is now complete.
 - The Video & Sound Project will be complete before the end of the month. An additional lapel mic was added to the project, since the one used for worship has quit working.
 - The Session voted to approve the disposal of all the old equipment. That equipment which is usable, will be kept.
- **Nominating Team** – Beth, Elder, Sue Lane, Deacon & At-Large members Cozy Hoover, Kathy Welch and Tony Rolando. Will meet in fall.
- **Deacon's Report**

MARCH 19, 2023 (as corrected)

The Deacons met on Sunday, March 19 in the CE Building after worship. The meeting opened at 11:40am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Missy Herron, Sue Lane, Glenene Benson, Pastor Cindy and Pat Welker.

February Minutes were approved.

Missy is still trying to get prices from Hy Vee for Easter flowers. She plans to have a sign-up list ready to pass around on Sunday, March 26.

Cards: Since the January meeting Chris didn't have any birthdays on her list, Sue sent 3 cards, Glenene 1, Missy 4 and Pat 19.

Communion: Sunday, March 5, 2023 served 48 in sanctuary. Home Communion was taken to our shut-ins by Pastor Cindy, Pat and Sue, with 13 served. Those visited were Wanda Ohaver at Farmington Village plus Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard and Larry Roberson, with Donna DeGroot, at home.

****April 6, Maundy Thursday is next Communion.** Chris will bring the bread and get set up to deliver Communion to the Shut-ins. She and Pastor Cindy will do the visits in the morning. Glenene and Pat will prepare elements for the evening Maundy Thursday service.

Easter Communion will be Sunday, April 9. Chris will bring bread, Missy and Glenene will help set up for 70 to be served. Sue will take care of paramment changes.

Sue will be Deacon Rep. on the Nominating Committee.

Diana Rolando's Mom is living at Red Oaks Care Center in Canton. She used to be on our Shut-in/Care list and needs to be put back on. Pat will contact Rolando's and get her name.

Pat is going to purchase more Communion Cups.

Next meeting Sunday, April 23, after worship.

Meeting closed at 12:05pm with prayer by Chris.** clarified who was in charge of getting Communion elements ready for Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services.

○ **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

April 2023

- Attended Presbyterian Women meeting
- Dropped in on the sound system meeting
- Attended the Deacon's meeting
- Was unable to participate in the Soup Supper because my granddaughter was sick (102.7 fever) and both of her parents were working.
- Met with the music staff and selected hymns through Pentecost
- Attended the Christian Education meeting and they helped select the curriculum for Confirmation.
- Led Sunday morning worship services and Maundy Thursday worship services.

- Took home communion to Wanda Ohaver, Blanche Wilson, Wilma Brentz, and Larry Roberson. Chris Evans accompanied me at each visit and Donna DeGroot also received communion during the visit with Larry. Reached out to Nyle Staley but he did not return my call. Spoke with Cheryle Fryman and mutually decided not to visit at this time.

○ **TRUSTEE'S REPORT:**

MEETING APRIL 2023

The Trustees met in the Church office on Monday April 10. Members present were Joe Herron, Kevin Phillips, Jake Suydam, Tim Ulm and Kathy Welch.

1. Current Projects:

- a. Reschedule work day from Saturday 4-15-23 to 4-22-23.
- b. Tim to start mowing the grass.
- c. Memory garden work: trimming of trees, leaves raked and weeds sprayed.
- d. Heating/AC replacement to begin next week by Boyer. Kevin has agreed to be available for any assistance needed.
- e. A lift is to be rented for one week to access bell tower for bee removal and repairs, removal of chimney once heating system installed and repair of exterior fascia for roof on room behind the choir loft.
- f. Removal of base cabinet in CE storage room and put out for city wide pick-up week of May 15. Metal shelves will be added to room.
- g. Clean out room behind choir loft.

2. Future Projects:

- a. Seeking bids for repair and painting exterior Church windows.
- b. Seeking contractor to repair heading of east basement window.
- c. Roof repair on east side of basement entrance. (Tim)
- d. Memorial name plates for new CE Doors. (Clark)

NOTE: Trustees are finding outside doors open during the week. Defer this to Session.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Status of request for numbered envelopes for tithes. Liz will report next meeting, May.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discernment Discussion – will discuss later.
- VBS will interfere with the regular July Session Meeting. After discussion, it was decided to skip the July Meeting. If something comes up, it will be handled at that time,
- It will be announced in Church the next two weeks, that a Mission Study Group is being formed and that interested parties contact an Elder or Pastor Cindy. The Group will meet on April 23 after worship to discuss the Mission.
- Next meeting May 11, Thursday at 6pm.
- The Session voted to adjourn at 8:15pm 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, April 14 at 1pm for a meeting, Bible study & fellowship. There were 9 ladies in attendance, which was great. We had our business meeting. We continued the Bible Study on Mary, mother of Jesus.

After the meeting/Bible Study, we had coffee and Texas Cake/Ice Cream furnished by Pauline Sprowls. All in all, a great day of fellowship. Next meeting will be Friday, May 12 at 1pm. We will have dessert and continue our Bible Study on the Women of the Bible.

Graduates

COLLEGE:

Emily Phillips, Daughter of Jodi and Kevin Phillips. Graduating from Illinois Central College

Colton Evans, Son of Chris and Clark Evans. Graduating from University of Colorado Colorado Springs with a master's degree in physics.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Adrianna Rutledge, granddaughter of Sam and Jane Rutledge. Already obtained her CNA license from Illinois Central College and is working.

Haylie Balagna, granddaughter of Kay Fairburn. Plans to attend Midwest Technical Institute and study welding.

Sunday, April 16th Worship

Pastor Cindy was on vacation on April 16, so our friend Dean Warner delivered a message for us. He is really a great speaker and gives good messages. He spoke of the new generation that uses electronic devices for all communication, whether texting, email, FB, etc. So, as he said, if you get a handwritten letter or a card with a note, it is really meaningful. So take the time and write a note to someone you care about or someone who you think would enjoy it. You will probably make their day. Speaking of cards, I received a "Hope Today is one of the Good Days", inside it said "Hope you can feel all the love coming your way". No signature on the card, only a heart drawn on it. But it did make my day and I felt really good to receive it. Whoever sent it, know that it really did make me feel good. Thanks. – Pat Welker

Summer Music Opportunities

Special Music – Grab your favorite instrument or warm up your vocal cords and share your gift with a very appreciative congregation. We promise to cheer you on! By May 7th, a sign-up sheet will be circulated so that you can select your Sunday to gift us with your talent. Feel free to invite friends who don't normally worship with us to share their gifts also. Special music will begin on May 21st and will be offered until the choir returns in September. Wouldn't it be great to hear special music every single Sunday!

Monthly Calendars

May 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 PEO 5:30 pm	3	4	5	6
7 10:30AM Communion VBS Meeting After church	8	9	10	11 Session 6pm	12 PW 1pm	13
14 10:30AM Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 10:30AM Last Day Sunday School – Sundaes!	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:30 AM	29	30	31			

June 2023

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

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 Dunn **22** Blake Johnson **24** Craig Duley **27** Paul Watters

June Birthdays

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 Requests ✝

Joys: Trustees Clean Up Day! New Member – Ben Arnold;

Prayer Requests: Beth Martin's sister-in-law; Diana Rolando's mother, Eileen Dillard; Ashley McCabe's mother; Dale Benson's son-in-law, Kevin; Claire Herron; Chris Evans' sister, Michelle; Bud Stobaugh; Darryl Phillips; Patty Benson; Chris Evans' brother-in-law, Chris; Wanda Ohaver; Carol Roberts; Marilee Stephan; JoAnn Ray; Dave Moermond, Wanda Ohaver's son-in-law; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge; & Steffanie Ulm's Aunt Chris.

Bereavement: Sue Lane, in the loss of her sister.

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.



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

Have a favorite hymn? If you'd like to sing it this summer let a member of Session or Pastor Cindy know.

Vacation Bible School will be July 9 – July 13, 2023

Planning meeting May 7 after church

Mission Meal for VBS – Sunday June 11

New Audio Equipment in the sanctuary to help pick up hymns during the service for Facebook/You Tube – Be Aware – You may be recorded!

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.

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.

**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)**

