

THE BURNING BUSH

This month we continue the series on the five developmental tasks of the congregation during the Interim time.

4. Facilitating shifts in lay leadership and changes in congregational power structures.

Changes in lay leadership happen naturally as people rotate off and on to the Session, the Deacons, and the Trustees. And on occasion someone will need to step aside from their leadership role due to family issues, health concerns, work conflicts, or even due to burnout. In addition, sometimes the interim time is fruitful for some people to feel a tug from the Holy Spirit to minister in a new way. It isn't unusual for someone in a congregation to contemplate a call to lay ministry or even think about going to seminary during this transition time. Supporting one another in these changes in ministry is absolutely key at all times, but especially in this interim time.

As the Interim Pastor, I expect and welcome visits from members as they consider taking on a new role or stepping back from one for a while. Please feel free to talk with me about the nudging you may be feeling. There is no great honor for an Interim Pastor than to witness God's call in the lives of others.

***Please consider serving on the Mission Study Team. We need at least five people to meet together to discern what mission God is calling us to in this next phase of the congregation's life together. This is a unique opportunity to learn from community leaders and organizations, to dream and discern what God may have in store for us, and to remember how many strengths and gifts are already present in this congregation working already to build up the body of Christ! This is a key part of the search for the next pastor. We will need to accurately describe what we already do and what we think we are called to do next so that we can call a pastor whose gifts and passions match God's call for First Presbyterian Church in the area surrounding Farmington, IL.

Please talk to Pastor Cindy or one of the Session members if you are willing to serve.

Blessings,
Pastor Cindy Bean

SNIPPETS

by Pat

No July Session Meeting.

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.

Our Church Life

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women will meet again September 8, Friday, at noon for a potluck. Ladies, please mark your calendars and join us.

Presbyterian Church of Elmwood

All are invited September 17, 2023, from 3:00 – 5:00 pm at the church to enjoy – Live From Nashville, Tennessee – **Diane & Daphne – Two Full Hours of Country Gospel Music – “God’s Country”**. *LIMITED SEATING*. Call or Text with Attendance Numbers to (309)264-4294. Cost: Free Will Offering. FOOD served 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Proceeds will be divided among: 1) Elmwood Fire Department 2) Ministerial Alliance of Elmwood 3) Samaritan’s Purse & 4) Midwest Food Bank

July 4th Picnic in the Park

Thanks to all who donated items/food, helped set-up/tear-down the tent, worked in the kitchen, and worked outside serving customers or cooking. It’s a well-oiled machine and couldn’t happen without all of the volunteers and items donated. Great job to all involved!

VBS 2023

VBS has long been an important outreach for our church. This year we held Bible School July 9th through the 13th from 5:45 to 8:00 pm. Our curriculum this year was The Rocky Railway.

Each evening supper and later in the evening snacks were provided for the children and staff. The children loved the food, Opening Skit, music, crafts, recreation and learned about Jesus and his Power. Each day had a different Bible Point such as; Jesus' Power helps us do hard things, Gives us hope, Helps us be bold, Live Forever in Heaven and To Be Good Friends. We provided each child with a "Watch for God" bracelet to help them remember daily to keep an eye out for God sightings and they were encouraged each day to share their God sightings with their group.

The last night of VBS we had a program at the end of the evening for the Children to show their family and friends some of the songs and lessons we learned throughout the week. They wore the Conductor hats they made, Bandanas we gave them and carried the cute little conductor lanterns they made and paraded into the Sanctuary that was full of family and friends. The children loved performing their favorite songs for their loved ones! After the program everyone gathered in the Christian Ed building for an ice-cream treat for all. We also gave each child their own New Testament Bible to take home.

We had 2 mission projects, a local boy who is fighting Leukemia and has a familial connection to our church and St. Jude because there are other children in the community fighting cancer and we didn't want to leave them out. Our support for these missions was \$430.00 from the offerings children brought in each night. Another \$257.00 was donated by the families after the program to make a total of \$687.00. We split this money equally between the two missions.

Spreading the love of Christ!!!! That is what we are all about! This year we were able to touch the lives of 43 children (an increase of about 18 children from last year), 10 teen helpers, and 23 adult volunteers. We were thrilled to have so many teens and adults volunteer their time to help the children learn about God. Thank you to all who volunteered! Our biggest classes were preschool and K-1, so we hope our numbers will only continue to grow as these children continue coming each year.

We hosted a mission dinner in June to help with funds, as we do each year. Several members of the Baptist Church attended the mission dinner and helped financially and volunteered to help during VBS. It was such an enjoyable gathering that reflected the strong commitment their membership has to the children of the community and also their relationship with our Presbyterian members. We look forward to continued, strong relationships / partnerships with our Baptist friends! – Bonnie Suydam

VBS – Kitchen Helpers

Once again, VBS for the community. There were so many great helpers there to take care of the 35-38 kids we had in attendance each night. The kitchen crew (Sam Sprecher, Liz Johnson, Sue Lane, Michelle Lane) went above and beyond serving a nightly meal plus a snack and fruit to the kids plus the 8-10 teen helpers and any adults that wanted to eat. I must admit that the 4 named above did most of the work. I come up with the crazy ideas and they do a great job of getting things done in a timely manner. I think all in all, the kids really enjoyed their time with us. I didn't recognize most of the kids, so hopefully we get a few of them to start attending Sunday School. Wouldn't that be great? We'll see what happens. – Pat Welker

Worship with Dean Warner

We have already enjoyed one July service with Dean Warner giving the message. He is also going to be with us on July 30. He always gives such a good message, putting some humor into it. This time he was talking about listening to what God's instructions to us and used examples from his recent cruise to Alaska. He talked about how we, as humans, are so bad at listening to instructions and then following them. For instance, at an airport, when they announce that they are boarding a certain section, everyone stands up and gets in line. During the flight they say to stay buckled in your seat and hardly anyone does that. Then when they were on the Cruise Ship and told that certain things would be done at a certain time, everyone went at once to stand in line. Same with the eating areas. So, message is to relax, listen to the instruction and then do what you are being asked to do. Listen and hear God. All in all, it was a great message and I expect we'll have another one on July 30, so hope you are all there. – Pat Welker

Sunday School in September

Sunday School will be back in swing before we know it! We will be having Sunday School Round-up Pancake Breakfast on Sunday Sept. 10th at 9:30 am for everyone. We hope the Children, their families and the whole congregation will join us for this tasty welcome back to Sunday School. Sunday School classes resume September 17th.

We also will be presenting Promotion Bibles and acknowledging our wonderful teachers that day during the worship service on Sept. 10th.

Monthly Calendars

August 2023

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

September 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion 10:30 AM	4 Labor Day	5	6	7	8 PW Noon	9
10 10:30 AM Sunday School Breakfast @ 9:30 AM	11	12	13	14 Session 6PM	15	16
17 10:30 AM Sunday School classes resume Gospel Concert 3-5 pm @ Elmwood	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30 AM	25	26	27	28	29	30

Joys & Concerns



August Birthdays

4 Kay Fairburn **5** Kathleen Kowal **7** Sue Lane; Ralph Welker **18** Deb O'Donnell;
Beth Martin **23** Bonnie Suydam

September Birthdays

1 Ethan Ulm; Mary Ulm **2** Steve Johnson; **3** Wanda Ohaver **21** Sydney Johnson;
Steffanie Ulm; **22** Todd Guidi **23** Mickie Ulm **26** Landry Duley

August Anniversaries

8 Ralph & Pat Welker; **12** Darrel & Crystal Gomes

September Anniversaries

25 Ben & Lynsey Vermillion;
27 Tim & Mickie Ulm; **30** Nicholas & Ciara Ulm

✝ Prayer Requests ✝

Joys: Excellent turnout for July 4th! Vacation Bible School 2023 brought in 43 children plus all of the teen helpers as well as adult helpers!

Prayer Requests: Diana Rolando's mother, Eileen Dillard; Dale Benson's son-in-law, Kevin; Chris Evans' sister, Michelle & brother-in-law, Chris; Darryl Phillips Wanda Ohaver; Carol Roberts; Dave Moermond, Wanda Ohaver's son-in-law; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge.

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.



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

The church needs your help! Please consider volunteering to be on the Misson Study Team!

**Sunday School Kick-off September 10th!
Come Eat Pancakes to Celebrate @ 9:30 am!
Classes begin September 17th**

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)**

