

# THE BURNING BUSH

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

## 5. Preparing for new Pastoral Leadership and a new future.

According to Interim Pastor Trainer, Barry Williams:

“The interim pastor is temporary! The presence and work of an interim pastor can take the pressure off a pastor nominating committee, allowing them to work diligently, but not hastily. Upon departure an interim pastor can help provide for an enthusiastic and an informed transition to new pastoral leadership. The interim pastor will depart cleanly drawing appropriate boundaries that facilitate the development of the ministry of the new pastor.”

Indeed, I will depart someday – hopefully once you have called your next pastor. In the ideal situation you will be full of mixed feelings because you will be preparing to say goodbye to me as you are getting VERY EXCITED about welcoming your new pastor into your lives and ministry. But even if things don't go strictly according to plan, you will still have to say goodbye to me, hopefully with a party! And I will have to say goodbye to you... but hopefully we'll enjoy some really good gluten-free dessert first!

In the meantime, please prayerfully consider serving on the Mission Study Team. I will do my best to make sure that you enjoy the process!

Blessings,  
Pastor Cindy Bean

# SNIPPETS

by Pat

Minutes from the Session meeting on August 10, 2023

## MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Christian Education Team** – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa
  - VBS has long been an important outreach for our church. This year we held Vacation Bible School July 9<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> 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 also 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!
- **WE WERE AWARDED \$1977.00 For the Visioning Grant!! Alissa and Bonnie are working on the report to send back to the Visioning Committee.**

- Sunday School will be back in swing before we know it! It was noted that the teachers will again be Bonnie-Preschool; Jane-Grades 1,2,3; Lissy-Grades 4,5; Missy-Jr/Sr High.
- We will be having Sunday School Round-up Pancake Breakfast on Sunday Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 for everyone. We hope the children, their families and the whole congregation will join us for this tasty welcome back to Sunday School. Bonnie will pass a list for donations of items needed for breakfast.
- We also will be presenting Promotion Bibles to Nolan Ulm 4<sup>th</sup> grade and Gianna Perardi 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and acknowledging our wonderful teachers that day during the worship service on Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Bibles and gifts have been purchased.
- Sunday School Curriculum has been purchased for Preschool and Early Elementary. Alissa has found some interesting on-line resources for Upper Elementary and Jr. / Sr. High and has acquired it. She will be sharing the info with Melissa.
- Kathy and Blanche donated a TV and Michelle Lane donated a Roku stick. We also had a new TV donated to the Sunday School so we will be able to do online curriculum.
- Follow up letters have been sent to all VBS Children and also our Jr. / Sr. High students.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Ryan (chair) & Liz**
  - Finance -- 4th of July Picnic monies will go into the general fund. The 2024 Budget will be worked on in the fall.
  - Personnel – Prior to the Budget, the Team will meet with the employees for questions and concerns.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Jodi & Liz (Co-Chairs)**
  - June 11 Mission Dinner supported VBS and was a great success.
- **Evangelism Team – Jodi (chair), Bonnie & Beth**
  - Feed the Faith Bible Study is June 22 was a success with 11 in attendance. A great meal was enjoyed by all and there was great discussion on the Podcast that was presented.
  - The next Feed the Faith Bible Study will be Tuesday, August 22 from 6:30-7:30pm. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own snack.
  - The Team has decided to not participate in SRD this year due to the lack of help. Instead, we will do a November Soup Supper (open to public) and plan for something for the Christmas Walk. We will have more information next month.
- **Nominating Team** – Elder-Beth (chair), Deacon-Sue Lane & At-Large members Cozy Hoover, Kathy Welch and Tony Rolando.
  - Beth given updated Active Member List and current Officers so the Team can begin working on a list of candidates for open offices. She will get the team together soon.
- **Deacon's Report**

#### MEETING ON JUNE 11, 2023

The Deacons met in the CE Building after worship and a Mission Meal. Meeting opened at 12:10pm with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris, Sue Lane, Glenene Benson, Pastor Cindy and Pat Welker.

April Minutes were approved. We did not meet in May.

Missy reported that a total of \$509 was collected for Easter Flowers. Hy Vee bill of \$424 for the flowers was paid. Pat was reimbursed \$34.44 for Communion Cups and a Cup Filler Funnel. This left a Treasury balance of \$233.26

Cards: Cards sent for May: Chris 3 cards, Sue 4, Glenene 7, Missy 3 and Pat 12. Cards sent for June: Chris 3 cards, Sue 5, Glenene 5, Missy 1 and Pat 21.

Communion: May 7 served 32 in worship and June 4 served 38 in worship. No Home Communion was served.

Sunday, July 2, is next Communion. Pat will bring the bread and Sue, Glenene & Chris will help prepare elements. Sue will take care of paraments. For Home Communion, Sue will accompany Pastor Cindy.

For Father's Day, June 18, we will prepare bags of cookies for the fathers/men of the Church to take home. Pat, Chris and Glenene will bake cookies and Pat will provide bags.

#### MEETING ON JULY 23, 2023

The Deacons met in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:33am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris, Sue Lane, Glenene Benson, Missy Herron and Pat Welker.

June Minutes were approved. We did not meet in May.

Missy reported that the Treasury balance is \$233.26

Cards: Cards sent for July - Chris 1 cards, Sue 5, Glenene 4, Missy 4 and Pat 13.

Communion: July 2 served 32 in worship. Home Communion was served to 7.

Sunday, August 6, is next Communion. Missy will bring the bread; Sue, Pat & Chris will help prepare elements. Sue will take care of paraments. For Home Communion, Glenene will accompany Pastor Cindy.

For Father's Day, June 18, we prepared bags of cookies for the fathers/men of the Church to take home

#### ○ **Pastor's Report**

Since our last session meeting in June, I have:

- Visits: 1) 1 home visit with a member
- 2) 2 sets of home communions visits

Worship: 1) Planned and led worship services and prepared worship service drafts for my two weeks away (thanks Alissa for your help with this!)

- 2) Co-Presided at a wedding at First Presbyterian Church, Carbondale with permission granted by the Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois

3) Began to journey back to a preaching style I have used twice in the past - walking and talking.

Community: 1) Helped in the kitchen until the parade started on July 4th and then enjoyed the event with my family.

2) Helped where needed during Vacation Bible School - such fun!

Time Away: Took one week of Continuing Education and one week of vacation.

Materials for a September discussion: Chapters 2 and 3 from the book, Part-time is Plenty. I will bring copies for each Ruling Elder to read.

For information: there is a Retirement Planning event in Chicago on October 24 and 25 that my husband and I hope to attend. Registration opens on August 15th.

○ **Trustees Report:** August 2023

- The Trustees met on Sunday August 6, with member Joe Herron, Tim Ulm and Kathy Welch present.
- Projects discussed:
  - Otto-Baum to start work on east SS Room window the week of August 14. Tim suggested that they also remove the old vents on the south side of office and repair the holes. Kathy will contact them when they begin the window work.
  - Tim moved the shop vac from the manse basement to the bell tower, changed the filter and swept up the bees. This is an ongoing process as the bees continue to be born and die. A short discussion followed as this is a long-term concern and apparently, the only solution is the removal of the hive, which would require removal of the roof where the hive and bees are located. This is also at a considerable cost. This plan is on hold at the present time.
  - Tim plans to begin work on the exit from the basement when the weather is more co-operative.
  - A future date will be set to clean out the room behind the choir loft.
  - Joe has been changing the furnace and A/C filters.
  - The timer for spotlights on the stain glass windows is broken and Joe is working on a solution.
  - A walk around the grounds was taken and it was determined that a great deal of landscaping work needs to be done: trimming of all bushes and weeding at the front entrance, trimming of all bushes on side of church, including around the A/C and entrance into the office, changing the flow of the down spout on the southwest corner of office and a new gutter extender, trimming of bushes around the office, weeding and trimming of bushes and tree in Memorial Garden and finally trimming the bushes at the manse.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Mission Study Committee: Bonnie and Beth will ask particular members.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Presbytery meeting on August 26 will be attended via Zoom by Alissa.

- Will make the SS Pancake Breakfast a mission to benefit Ben Arnold's project. (See under Pastor's Report above.)
- The Session voted to approve Pastor Vacation for Thursday, September 11 through Monday, September 18. Alissa to find Pulpit supply.
- Pat presented a review of the Active Member List as required by Presbytery. She will make sure the list is accurate and at next meeting make final decision on who to contact about moving from Active to Friends and Family list.
- Next meeting September 7, Thursday at 6pm.

### **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

### **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. 10<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

## Monthly Calendars

### September 2023

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

### October 2023

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

# Joys & Concerns



## 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

## October Birthdays

**8** Dale Bensen **10** Haven McMaster **11** Lori Danley **12** Morgun Daniels **14** Adela Herron **23** Kurt Daniels **25** Brielle Herron **29** Ben Vermillion **31** Gary Hoover, Wilma Brentz

## September Anniversaries

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

## October Anniversaries

**20** Liz & Steve Johnson **25** Ryan & Heather McMaster **27** Gayle Lucas & Paul Watters **30** Darren & Kari Berry

## ✝ Prayer Requests ✝

**Joys:** Our church was awarded the Visioning Grant for Vacation Bible School next year! Colton Evans is a published physicist! Sam Sprecher won music copy for the whole choir!

**Prayer Requests:** Cheryl Fryman; Pam Lainge; Dale Benson's son-in-law, Kevin; Chris Evans' sister, Michelle & brother-in-law, Chris; Darryl Phillips; Dave Moermond, Wanda Ohaver's son-in-law; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge.

**Bereavement:** Ralph Welker family.

**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](mailto:firstpresfarmington@gmail.com)

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

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

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](mailto: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](http://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)**

