

THE BURNING BUSH

A Thanksgiving Prayer

(author unknown)

I lift my heart to Thee, O God,

In gratitude and praise.

For all Thy blessings of the past,

And those of future days...

For well I know if I shall live,

Thy blessings still shall flow

Across my soul in greater joy

Than I could ever know...

I thank Thee for my faithful friends,

For sunshine and the rain,

And every blessing hid or seen

Though some may come through pain

O God, accept my thanks to Thee

Each time I come to pray,

And grant each day that I shall live

Will be Thanksgiving Day.

Pray for the Confirmands as they begin their journey. Pray for Adela Herron, Brielle Herron, Ellie Duley, Gracie Duley, Annie Swanson, Nick Swanson.

Pray for Wanda Ohaver as she gains strength. She has moved to Renaissance in Canton. Her new address is 1675 E. Ash, Canton 61520.

Pray for the Nominating Committee and for those who will answer the call to serve on the Session, the Board of Deacons, and the Board of Trustees.

Blessings,

Pastor Cindy

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the October 12 Session Meeting.

Financial Reports/Discussions : Kathy went over the Finances. There was a meeting of those involved in the Financial Report. The Finance committee met because the monthly offering does not cover expenses. The recommended and the Session agreed to institute a three-tier plan.

- CLERKS REPORT:
 - Correspondence: None
 - Email/Text Approvals: None

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Alissa & Beth (co-chairs), Brady, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.**
 - Liz mentioned that if she or Alissa were not at Church, someone else needs to assure doors are locked during worship, for safety.
- **Christian Education Team – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa**
 - Sunday School roundup breakfast on September 10th was a success! We had a wonderful turnout for breakfast and the mission donation for William's (the young boy from Jakarta) preschool tuition was \$399.00! Our congregation is just so generous! Teacher recognition gifts were given to Melissa Herron (High School & Jr. High), Alissa Holder (4th & 5th grade), Beth Martin (taught 4th & 5th grade), Jane Rutledge (1st, 2nd & 3rd grade) and Bonnie Suydam (Preschool & Kindergarten). Promotion Bibles were given to Nolan Ulm (4th grade) and Gianna Perardi (3rd grade).
 - September 17th was the first day of Sunday School and attendance has been good.
 - We are working on selecting a program for Christmas. Kids will present their program during worship on Sunday, December 17.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Ryan (chair) & Liz**
 - Finance – There was a Finance Committee meeting held to start discussion on finance/budget. See the Financial Report above from Kathy.
 - Personnel – Continue to meet with employees.
 - Stewardship/Memorial – No report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Jodi & Liz (Co-Chairs)**
 - By consensus it was approved to hold a Soup Supper, open to the Public, held on Saturday, November 11 from 4:30-7pm. The money collected will go to fund for the Honor Flights.
- **Evangelism Team – Jodi (chair), Bonnie & Beth**
 - The Church will participate in the Christmas Walk held in town. Need to find out the date and then will decide what will be done, whether food, crafts, etc.
- **Technology Team – Brady (chair), Ryan**
 - The Session voted to approve Brady dispose of the Assisted Hearing items.

- Discussion on Electronic offering options
- Tithe.ly (<https://get.tithe.ly/>) - is "Live", we have done testing and went Live with the service on 10/8. We have the link both on the Facebook Page and Website. We plan to have an official Launch Date towards the end of the month, after Spoon River Drive is over.
- **Nominating Team** – Elder-Beth (chair), Deacon-Sue Lane & At-Large members Cozy Hoover, Kathy Welch and Tony Rolando.
 - Beth said the Team would be meeting soon.
- **Active Member Review** – Pat.
 - Letters will be going to the list of names.

Deacon's Report

MEETING SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 (as corrected)

The Deacons met in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:45am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris, Sue Lane, Glenene Benson, Missy Herron, Pat Welker and Pastor Cindy.

August Minutes were approved.

Missy reported that the Treasury balance is still \$233.26

Cards: Additional cards sent since August 13 Meeting as well as September –

| | <u>August</u> | <u>September</u> |
|---------|---------------|------------------|
| Chris | 3 | 4 |
| Sue | 6 | 3 |
| Glenene | 2 | 5 |
| Missy | 3 | 12 |
| Pat | 17 | 21 |

Communion: Sept 3 served 16 in worship. Home Communion was served to 4**.

Sunday, Oct. 1 is next Communion. Missy will bring the bread and Glenene and Sue will help prepare elements. Sue will take care of paraments. For Home Communion, Glenene will accompany Pastor Cindy.

Next meeting Sunday, Oct. 29, after worship. Our Annual Thanksgiving Basket donation will be discussed at this meeting.

Meeting closed at noon with prayer by Chris.

Pat Welker, Secretary

** changed from 10 to actual number served of 4.

○ **Pastor's Report** – October 2023

Since our last Session meeting, I have done the following:

- Visits: One with member at the manse.
Home communion with Larry Roberson with Glenene and Donna
- Confirmation -- Found two dates for meetings so far: November 5 and 12.

- Continuing Education Time -- ***The Session voted to approve time off for the week of October 23 - 28 to attend Board of Pensions seminar on Retirement Planning. (Won't be taking a Sunday off at this time). I have already started (and almost completed) the homework required before attending this seminar.
 - Will participate in required on-line Boundary Training on October 31 and November 1 from 3pm to 5:30 pm. I think there may be some homework required before and/or after the first session. In the past there was homework afterwards that was required to be turned in by a specific deadline, but I think they have discontinued that practice.
- Vacation -- Took a week vacation for my younger son's wedding in Colorado.
- Worship -- Facilitated communication about the Passing of the Peace experiment.
 - Led worship, including Communion on October 1st.
 - Working with the music staff to review hymn selections. We did not meet as a team this time.
 - Will start Advent worship planning soon.
- Manse -- Been in communication with Clark about repairing/replacing carpet in one of the guest rooms and vinyl flooring by garage door entrance that were damaged by the dog who had separation anxiety during the time that I was pet sitting. I received a quote and the Trustees will have met the day before session to decide next steps which I believe will be selecting the carpet and vinyl they want installed.
- Budget -- I will be requesting a portion of my salary in 2024 be designated as housing allowance. This will provide relief from having to pay employer and employee social security on the amount of money I spend on utilities and now, the manse repair expense. I may have the figure by session meeting, but I may not. This is essentially a bookkeeping matter.
- Oasis Grant -- The Synod is offering grants for pastoral leaders for things that will restore them - not continuing education. The grants will be up to \$1,500 and priority will be given to Illinois pastoral leaders because the Indiana pastoral leaders have access to funding/grants through the Lilly Foundation that we do not. I will be asking for \$1,500 to cover some of the costs of my trainer who works with me on exercise and nutrition. My husband will be asking for money so that we can get away for an overnight once a quarter. We find that when we do get to see each other we jump right into home projects and never relax together. Since we've discovered that we don't get to vacation when the Peoria Beans do because we have to pet sit or babysit, finding an overnight once a quarter might be our best way to relax and reconnect.
- Covering for pastoral care -- I will be covering pastoral care for Rev. Marla Bauler October 12 - 16.
- **TRUSTEE'S REPORT: September 2023**
 - Projects completed:
 - Weeding, trimming and raking the Memory Garden.
 - Trimming bushes in front of manse, around the Church office and around the A/C.
 - Garbage can area cleaned and reorganized.
 - New aluminum flashing, roof repair and motion light on the basement exit.
 - New garage door opener for the manse.

- New timer and spotlights for the westside stained glass windows.
- Furnace filters changed.
- Furnaces set to heat and new times set for Sanctuary, CE Building and SS rooms.
- Batteries checked for smoke detectors.
- Otto Baum brick work completed above SS window eastside and holes filled on southside of office where heating exhaust vents were removed. The bill is paid.
- Snow removal set.
- Projects Planned:
 - No fall workday planned, as landscaping work done, and Tim will mow the leaves when they come down. A Spring 2024 cleanup day will remove those accumulated over the winter.
 - A Trustee work night is planned for November 8 at 6pm to clean and reorganize the room behind the choir loft.
 - Christmas Tree will be put up for Hanging of the Greens, which will be Sunday November 26, after worship.
 - Repair of trim around the basement SS window, eastside.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Mission Study Committee: Bonnie asked Randy Welch to join and he declined. Beth will check again with Michelle Lane. Currently have Lissy Holder, Dale Benson and maybe Cindy Daniels on the Committee. Would like to have 4-5 people.
- Alissa and Missy would like to start a youth group. The Session voted to approve the use of the CE Building on evening of October 29 to attempt a first meeting.
- The Mission Meal report is in the Christian Education section above. This is complete.
- Celebration in CE Building for Daryl Phillips on Saturday, Oct. 21.
- Discussion and Visioning Time – There have been some mixed comments on ‘Passing the Peace’ during worship. It was decided that it should be done after announcements. The Session voted to continue ‘Passing the Peace’ for the remainder of the year and then visit it again to decide whether to continue with it or not.

NEW BUSINESS:

- It was noted that Advent starts on Sunday, December 3.
- Clerk attended ‘Records Review’ in Macomb on Thursday Sept. 14 from 9am-noon. The Minutes Book was approved through August 2023. There was also training where much was learned about what does and doesn’t need to be included in minutes. Also, approval of things via text/email vote must be stated in the Bylaws and all requests need to go through the Moderator, who may ask the Clerk to send out the info to the Elders.
- A parishioner asked that a former Pastor be included in our Pulpit Supply contacts when the Interim Pastor is gone. There was discussion which included talking about other pulpit supply options, whether Presbytery policy/rules has changed (which will be confirmed), etc. There is an openness to considering this, but since there isn’t a need before 2024, the Session agreed to pray and think about it until the next Session Meeting.

- The 2024 Church-Wide Mission Pledge Form was received. The Session voted to approve the same percentages as 2023, which is/recommendation has changed 52.5% to Presbytery of Great Rivers; 5% to Synod of Lincoln Trails; and 42.5% to General Assembly Mission Council. Clerk will complete the forms and send them in.
- Next Meeting November 9, Thursday at 6pm
- The Session voted to adjourn at 8:47pm with the Lord's Prayer by all.

** correction of number of Home Communion served in October.

*** added info that Session approved Continuing Education time for 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.

Our Church Life

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women met on Friday, October 13 with 5 ladies in attendance. We had our meeting, Bible Study followed by Fellowship. Dessert was furnished by Pat. It was a good meeting/fellowship. The next meeting will be November 10, Friday, at 1pm for Bible Study/Meeting/Dessert. Ladies, please mark your calendars and join us.

Feed the Faith Bible Study

The October meeting was held on Tuesday, Oct. 24 with 7 in attendance. We listened to the second part of the podcast from the September meeting. We enjoyed the podcast as well as the discussion afterwards.

Next month we will meet on Tuesday, November 14 at 6:30pm. We are going to try a podcast by David Jeremiah and see how we like it. He has a popular radio and tv show that a few of the group has listened to in the past and say he gives a good message. Mark your calendar and plan to attend and see what is going on in the Church. It's a good time for learning about the Bible.

Soup Supper November 11th 4:30-7pm

There will be a Soup Supper with Mission to Honor Flight Guardians (those who attend with the veteran). There are many soups planned to include: chili, chicken noodle, cheeseburger chowder, tomato bisque, broccoli cheese, stuffed green pepper soup and turkey with wild rice. There will also be Monari chili dogs as well as plentiful desserts all for \$5 each with children 3 and under free. Gluten Free options available. Please MARK YOUR CALENDAR to attend and support this worthwhile cause.

Youth Group for Junior and Senior High

Alissa Holder and Melissa Herron sponsored our first Youth Group for Junior and Senior High students. There were many in attendance. The plan is to meet each month or possibly twice a month from 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm. They will have a snack, play a game or two, have discussion around a specific topic or two relating the Bible to their lives. After some time, the plan is to choose some mission projects. There are also plans to do group outings in the future.

Monthly Calendars

November 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|------------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 Communion 10:30 am All Saints Day - Light a Candle | 6 | 7 | 8 6 pm Trustee Workday Choir 7 pm | 9 Session 6 pm | 10 PW 1 pm | 11 Soup Supper 4:30 -7:00 pm |
| 12 10:30 am Choir Sings | 13 | 14 Feed the Faith Bible Study 6:30 – 7:30 pm | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 10:30 am | 20 Choir 7 pm | 21 | 22 | 23 Thanksgiving | 24 | 25 |
| 26 10:30 am Hanging of the Greens Choir Sings | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | |

December 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|---------|------------------|--------------------|--------|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 Communion 10:30 am Advent Begins | 4 | 5 | 6 Choir 7 pm | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 10:30 am Choir Sings | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 Session 6 pm | 15 | 16 |
| 17 10:30 am Childrens Christmas Program during worship | 18 | 19 | 20 Choir 7 pm | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 10:30 am Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm Choir Sings | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Joys & Concerns



November Birthdays

7 Trevor Martin; Gayle Lucas **8** Brady Johnson; Tate Ulm; **11** Karen Goggin-Wilson **13** Aniston McMaster **14** Cozy Hoover **15** Pat Welker; Tony Rolando **16** Larry Roberson

December Birthdays

1 Darrell Elliott; **4** Liz Johnson; **5** Darrell Gomes; **8** Stephanie Franks; **10** David Black; **17** Randy Welch; **19** Marissa Ulm; **21** Kent Kowal & Heather McMaster; **25** Jesus; **31** Ellie Duley

November Anniversaries

10 Mike & Paula Monari; **26** Randy & Kathy Welch; **30** Gary & Cozy Hoover

✝ Prayer Requests ✝

Joys: Bennett Cole Stobaugh was born to Kaitlyn and Ryan on October 3, 2023, 8 lbs 10 oz & 21 ½ inches long; Adela Herron and the FCHS band had a great season even without a director; Brielle Herron had a great cross country season

Prayer Requests: Cozy Hoover; Wanda Ohaver; Pastor Kathy (Pastor Cindy's friend from NY); Cheryl Fryman; 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:

Those in Assisted Living: Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Wanda Ohaver at Renaissance Care Center in Canton; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft; Eileen (Diana Rolando's mom) Red Oak Estates.



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

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

Per Capita is \$36.25 – Please consider providing this valuable support for the Presbytery

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, financial secretary. Her address is 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, IL 61531. OR now you can sign up on Tithe.ly via our church website by clicking "GIVE" on the Home Page. www.firstpresfarmington.com There are many settings of offerings – monthly, weekly, etc.

**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 10:30 am, 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)**

