

# THE BURNING BUSH

Until last month I lived in three different houses (Carbondale, Peoria, Farmington homes) and worked in two locations (Carbondale, Farmington). Now I live in two places (Carbondale, Peoria) but work in three – I know that you can guess where! With these shifts in living and work come changes. These changes have made me look at my life and work with fresh eyes and have opened my heart in new ways.

Each Sunday we gather for worship around the physical manifestations of the sacraments – the Communion Table and the Baptismal Font. Ideally, they are placed next to or very near one another, as they are in our sanctuary. So, with the changes in our world and in our church in recent years and decades I think it is good for us to re-examine some basic faith and spiritual practices as we “Come to the Table”. We will Come to the Table and look with fresh eyes and open hearts as we listen anew to God’s calling around the following:

- Learning and Service
- Forgiveness
- Working Miracles
- Change
- Righting Wrongs

The last Sunday of Lent will culminate with Palm Sunday with the children singing in worship. On Maundy Thursday we will gather to remember the events of Holy Week that lead to the Last Supper, the betrayal, the arrest, the trial, the crucifixion, and the death of Jesus.

Meanwhile, the work of the church continues. Please pray for the new Session, Deacons, and Trustees as they seek to lead and serve. Pray for our confirmands. Please pray for the work to begin in earnest towards calling a new minister. Pray for all those involved in education in our church. Please pray for the outreach and mission work. And please listen to see if God is calling you to further service here at First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL.

Blessings,

Pastor Cindy Bean

# **SNIPPETS**

**by Pat**

Snippets from the January 21 Session Meeting.

Once the meeting opened with prayer and a couple minor items taken care of, the meeting was suspended to allow for Deacon/Elder Training. Training started at 12:20pm with new Deacon Michelle Lane in attendance as well as some current Deacons. New Elders Cozy, Dale and Steffanie were also in attendance as well as several other sitting Elders. The Book of Order (BOO) was discussed, noting that you have power given by the BOO and should learn what is in it. Also went over the various Session Committees and what they cover. After some discussion, the Deacons, Michelle and Tammy Duley (via Phone) and the Elders, Cozy, Dale and Steffanie agreed to serve in their respective positions for the Class of 2026. The Session voted to proceed with ordination and installation of these officers on Sunday, January 28.

The Session Meeting then resumed.

**Financial Reports/Discussions:** Financial reports were discussed under the Finance Committee.

○ **CLERKS REPORT:**

- Correspondence: Thanks, from Pastor Cindy for the Bonus. It was appreciated.
- Email/Text Approvals:
  - A text sent on December 20, 2023, for approval. Pastor Cindy had asked Cindy Daniels and Kathy Welch if they were willing to serve as Treasurers during 2024. Both said they would, so the Session voted to approve them serving.
  - On January 11, the text message sent to approve vacation for Pastor Cindy from January 30-February 12, 2024. She and husband will be traveling. Elders approved.
  - On January 11, a text message was sent asking for approval of the following Pastors to fill the pulpit while Pastor Cindy's on vacation as well as serve Communion. Having Rev. Ann Schwartz fill the pulpit on February 11, who is the relatively new Lead Presbyter for our Presbytery. Elders approved.
  - On January 12, a text message was sent asking for approval to cancel church services on Sunday, January 14 because of the forecasted snow and subzero weather. This was amended to include Sunday School as well as a planned Youth Group Meeting. The Session voted to approve contacting parishioners as well as the local TV Stations to get the word out.

## **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

- **Worship Team – Alissa (chair), Dale, Brady, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.**
  - Session voted to cancel service on Sunday, January 14 due to weather.
  - The Session voted to approve an Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30pm.
- **Christian Education Team – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa**

- The Sunday School children presented their Christmas gift to the congregation on December 17<sup>th</sup>, the Christmas program. Each child had a speaking part in the program or the play and sang. The Jr. High / High School girls sang Where's the Line to See Jesus with the younger children singing backup. We are very fortunate to have so many talented children who are eager to share their talents with us.
  - The Jr./Sr. high youth group will be meeting 1/14/24.
  - **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team** – Steffanie (chair) & Dale
    - Transitioning responsibilities to new Team.
  - **Fellowship and Mission Team** – Cozy (chair) & Jodi
  - No Report.
  - **Evangelism Team** – Jodi (chair) & Cozy
    - As decided at December. Session meeting, Food Pantry will fall under this Team. Pastor Tom Wright of New Hope Fellowship, is in charge of the Pantry (309-231-8076) and recommends those working to pack boxes need to arrive at 11am. Other workers welcome any time.
  - **Technology Team** – Brady (chair) & Steffanie
    - No Report.
  - **Nominating Team** – Complete for 2023,
  - **Active Member Review** – Complete for 2023.
  - **DEACON'S REPORT:** Haven't met since Dec. 14, 2023, meeting.
  - **PASTOR'S REPORT:**
    - Since the last Session meeting:
    - **Transition**
    - I have moved out of the manse with the exception of cleaning supplies, a rug cleaner, and a mixer. I have yet to clean the manse because the electricity and water were off, but they are now back on. My plan is to clean the manse this Saturday.
    - I have transitioned to setting hours to work in the church office. I have my office set up to function pretty well. My biggest challenge at the moment is adjusting to getting my workout in, getting dressed and ready AND commuting in for work. Fifteen steps to work were much easier to complete in a timely manner.
    - **Worship**
    - Planned and presided over worship and home communions for Sunday mornings and for Christmas Eve.
    - I am pleased to report that Sam has completed ½ of the hymnal project - 1 (we know the hymn and sing it well), 2 (we kind of know the hymn and/or don't sing it often), 3 (we don't know this hymn at all) hymn. Sam has added a 4<sup>th</sup> category which are "hymns that we don't know but that he would like us to learn".
    - **Pastoral Care**
    - I have checked in with people through text, phone calls, and emails.
    - **Polity & Procedures**
- I stuck with the communication process about the procedure for cancelling worship until Liz

found the procedure in writing! We need to be sure to include that in our next version of our manual.

- I secured pulpit supply for the vacation that you approved by text (thank you!). I did that because it was short notice and because there has been some tension around who supplies the pulpit. I wanted to be sure that communion would be rightly administered, and I am willing to have people direct their opinion about pulpit supply towards me, not the worship chair.
- I have prepared for officer training.
- **TRUSTEE'S REPORT:** No meeting in December.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Mission Study – still need members.
- Community Youth Group - Alissa and Missy. – this will be reported under Christian Ed in the future.
- Officer training for Elders and Deacons was completed – see info at beginning of these minutes.
- Per Capita for 2023 was paid in full.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Per Capita for 2024 is \$37.25 per member, an increase of \$1.00.
- The Session voted to approve transfer of Beth and Melody Martin's membership to United Methodist in Elmwood per their request.
- The Session voted to approve the 2024 Budget as presented.
- The Session voted to have Alissa hand out a survey to see what the congregation would like in a Minister. It will be distributed by February 18 with a request to return completed forms by March 3. Alissa will then go over results and get an idea of what we should look for in a new minister.
- The Session voted to elect Pat Welker as the Clerk of Session for 2024. She informed Session that this will be her last year serving as Clerk.
- The Session voted to have meetings on the **Third** Thursday of each month at 6pm.
- The Session voted to approve One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday as Palm Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>, when the kids will march in with their palms and 'fish banks'. Special envelopes will be placed around the sanctuary for a couple weeks to collect donations.
- The Session voted to approve 4 Elders as a Session quorum.
- The Session voted to approve 20 as a Congregational Meeting quorum.
- The Session voted to approve that notification required for a congregational meeting is 2 Sundays and the meeting can be held on the Second Sunday.
- The Session voted to approve asking the congregation to allow the Session to approve the minutes of Annual and Congregational Meetings. This must then be stated in the Congregational Meeting Minutes.

- The Elders decided which Ministry Teams they wanted to be on for 2024. They are listed on each of the Committee Reports above. If you would like to help with any committee, contact one of the members.
- Next Meeting February 15, Thursday at 6pm.

### **First Presbyterian Church Officers 2024**

**ELDERS:** Brady Johnson, Alissa Holder, Jodi Phillips, Bonnie Suydam, Cozy Hoover, Dale Benson and Steffanie Ulm – Interim Pastor Cindy Bean

**DEACONS:** Chris Evans, Pat Welker, Sue Lane, Glenene Benson, Tammy Duley and Michelle Lane

**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  
Office Hours (Contact Pastor Cindy)  
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 2024**

The Per Capita amount for each member for 2024 is \$37.25. This is not an assessment or dues, but a covenant relationship with the greater church. This amount is not in our 2024 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 2024 Per Capita. Per Capita giving may be mailed directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct., Farmington, [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly), or can be provided during offering at the church in the pew envelopes.

## **Our Church Life**

### **Presbyterian Women**

The Presbyterian Women canceled the Friday, January 12 potluck meeting because of forecasted extremely cold and icy weather. We will meet and have our potluck on Friday, February 9 at noon, weather permitting. Hope to see you all there. – Pat Welker

### **Feed the Faith Bible Study**

The January 9 meeting was canceled because of the extreme cold and icy weather. Will meet on February 6, Tuesday at 6:30pm. Bring a snack to share and learn something you maybe didn't know. Hope to see you there! – Pat Welker

## **January 21<sup>st</sup> Congregational Meeting**

Meeting was held after worship to elect new officers for the Class of 2026. New Elders are Dale Benson, Cozy Hoover and Steffanie Ulm. This is first time being an Elder for Dale so welcome aboard. Deacons are Tammy Duley and Michelle Lane with Tammy being a first time Deacon. Trustees are Joe Herron and Kevin Phillips who are staying on for a second term. Getting people to take office positions is not an easy task to complete sometimes. So, thank you to the Nominating Team for doing this for us and especially thanks to the folks who answered the call. We really appreciate you all.

## **Important: Membership Questionnaire**

On February 18<sup>th</sup> and February 25<sup>th</sup>, we will be setting out a questionnaire that we would like you to fill out to help us begin our Mission Study to progress towards finding a new minister. There will be a box in the Sanctuary on February 25 and March 3. If you are not in attendance and are an active member, we will mail you a copy the week of February 18. We would like all of them to be returned by March 3<sup>rd</sup> so there is time to read through them. Adding your name to the questionnaire is optional but not required.

The idea is to see how everyone is feeling and what we are wanting to see going forward. We chose this because it allows everyone to share their ideas and feelings in a neutral way and does not leave the decisions to 3 or 4 church members.

The questionnaire is not limited to members, but open to all that attend services. It just will not be mailed out to anyone not on the active member list. – Alissa Holder

## Monthly Calendars

### February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:30 am Worship Communion	5	6	7 Choir Practice 7pm	8	9 Presbyterian Women Noon Potluck	10
11 10:30 am Souper Bowl!! Worship Choir Performs	12 St Matthews Church Blood Drive 1 – 5:00 pm	13	14 Ash Wednesday 6:30pm	15 Session 6pm	16	17 Farmington FD Chicken Dinner – 4-8 pm
18 10:30 am Worship	19	20	21 Choir Practice 7pm	22	23	24
25 10:30 am Worship Choir Performs	26	27	28	29		

### March 2024

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



# Joys & Concerns

## February Birthdays

**5** Jane Rutledge; **9** Gary Suydam; Alexis Haynes; **11** Nyle Staley; **13** Kari Berry  
**17** Ryan McMaster; **18** Linda Riley; **19** Zec Black; **20** Michelle Lane; **21** Rachel Elliott; Denise Lane; **22** Kaitlyn Stobaugh; Brea Marinich



## March Birthdays

**1** Paula Monari; **11** Marianne Taylor; **17** Avery Daniels; **23** Colton Evans; **24** Tim Ulm; **27** Diana Rolando

## ✝ **Prayer Request** ✝

**Joys:** Many Volunteers for Officer Positions; Annual Meeting; New Children in Sunday School!

**Prayer Requests:** Katie Berry (Doug & Laura Schmied's daughter); Val Waggoner; Eileen (Diana Rolando's mother); Tony Rolando; Allison Smith; Pastor Cathy (Pastor Cindy's friend from NY); Chris Evans' sister, Michelle & brother-in-law, Chris; Dave Moermond; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge

**Bereavement:** Mike Welch, nephew of Randy & Kathy Welch

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

We are celebrating the Super Bowl by bringing a non-perishable item for the Farmington Food Pantry – Come root for the 49ers or the Chiefs & support local! – February 11, 2024

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

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)

**Sunday School 9:15 am  
Every Sunday All School Ages**

**Per Capita is \$37.25 – Please consider providing this valuable support for the Presbytery**

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

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

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](http://www.firstpresfarmington.com) There are many settings of offerings – one-time, monthly, weekly,

**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)**

