
The Burning Bush

February 2022

Greetings Colleagues in Ministry!

I hope that all of you are doing well in this time. As I am writing this letter, we are getting ready for another snow storm followed by frigid temperatures. I don't know about you, but by the end of January, I'm getting tired of the snow and cold weather. What was fun and beautiful in December is just annoying now.

Please know that you are all being prayed for by this congregation. We love and miss all of you. We hope that you will find your way back to our sanctuary in the coming days and weeks and months. If there is anything that this Church can do for you in this time, please know that we are here to help you.

February is shaping up to be quite a busy month for our congregation. We will be having our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 13, following worship. We will also be taking our Souper Bowl of Caring drive for the Farmington Food Pantry on Sunday, February 13, during worship. You are asked to bring non-perishable items for the Farmington Food Pantry or for our Small Food Pantry located on the East side of the CE building. Financial donations will go to the Farmington Food Pantry. We are still having our Sunday School, though attendance is way down. We really miss you and your bright faces and hope that you will come back soon.

In other news, please continue to lift up our congregation in your prayers. Included in the Burning Bush are the prayer requests that are lifted up during worship. Please keep them in your prayers throughout the week. Until next time,

God bless you

Pastor Andy

Snippets by Pat

Snippets from the January 11 Session Meeting:

- The Session voted to approve the election of Pat Welker as Clerk of Session as well as Cindy Daniels and Kathy Welch as Co-Treasurers.

CLERK'S REPORT –

- Correspondence: None
- Email/Text Votes:
 - Email sent December 23 with request from Tammy Duley to use the CE Building December 30 from 11am -2pm for a Girl Scout Event. Elders approved
 - Email sent December 23 with request to cancel both Christmas Eve service on Friday, December 24 due to the high numbers of Covid cases in the area and the December 26 service, because Dean Warner, who was filling the pulpit because of Pastor Andy's vacation, was going to be unavailable. Dean's daughter was in a car accident, so Dean needed to be with her. Elders approved this cancellation. The Elders approved **keeping** Christmas Eve service.

DEVOTION: Pastor Andy read a devotion from the Devotional App, D365. He started his devotion by having everyone take a deep breath in through the nose and out through the mouth. Psalm 36:8-10 with 9 saying "for with You is the fountain of life; in Your light we see light". Follow His light and receive peace. (Next Month's Devotee will be Steffanie.)

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Liz (chair), Beth, Tony, Diana & Sam.**
 - Great turn out for Christmas Eve, lots of old faces from other churches and the Rutledge's & Staley's packed several pews!
 - Weekly numbers continue to average of 25ish.
 - Had Advent worship services and candle lighting.
 - Had the Longest Night Service and Christmas Eve Service.
 - Session cancelled worship on December 26 because Dean Warner was not available. Session cancelled January 2 because of severe cold/snow.
 - The Session voted to approve the 2022 Communion Dates:
 - Sunday, February 6

- Sunday, March 6
- Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thursday
- Sunday April 17 Easter
- Sunday May 1
- Sunday June 5 Pentecost Sunday
- Sunday July 3
- Sunday August 7
- Sunday September 4
- Sunday October 2 World Communion Sunday
- Sunday November 6
- Sunday December 4
- Saturday, December 24
- The Session voted to approve the 2022 Special Worship Dates as amended:
 - Wednesday March 2, Ash Wednesday
 - Thursday, April 14 Maundy Thursday
 - Wednesday, December 21 Longest Night Service (added at meeting)
 - Saturday, December 24, 2022
- The Session voted to approved the 2022 Special Offerings:
 - One Great Hour of Sharing on Palm Sunday
 - Christmas Joy Offering
- **Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Alissa**
 - Turnout of kids to participate in the Christmas program was an all-time low this year. Hopefully we can turn this around before this year's program.
 - Not sure if anyone turned in video clips of their kids to Tadd Swanson to make up a Christmas Video.
 - A group went Christmas caroling and had a great time.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair), Liz & Alissa**
 - Personnel – Still working on getting background check for new janitress.
 - Finance – See year end reports from Cindy and Mickie.
 - Stewardship or Memorial – No Report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Tony (chair), ****Nyle & Liz**
 - No report
- **Evangelism Team – Steffanie (chair) & Brady ****removed Nyle**

- No report.
- **Technology Team** – Brady (chair) & Nyle
 - No report.
- **Nominating Team** – Steffanie (chair), Deacon, At-Large
 - No report.
- **Deacon's Report**
 - Deacons Meeting with the Session on December 14, 2021 for their annual training meeting.
 - Attending- Marianne Taylor, Sue Lane, Alissa Holder and Missy Herron.
 - The planned December 19 meeting was cancelled.
- **Trustees' Report**
 - Did not meet in December. All approved projects are in process. Clark filed the necessary paperwork with state for the Church's Non-Profit Status.
- **Pastor's Report**
 - Worship
 - We continue to worship in person and online.
 - Led Advent worship services, including preparing and arranging for Advent Wreath Lighters/Readers
 - Ordered candles for Advent Wreath
 - Led Longest Night Worship Service
 - Led Christmas Eve Worship Service
 - Session cancelled December 26 and January 2 worship services
 - I went to the Open House on December 22
 - Pastoral Care
 - I continue to call/text several members throughout the week to check in on them. I try to contact people monthly or when I think of it.
 - I had several phone conversations with people for pastoral care and in person meetings.
 - Presbytery
 - I attended the COM meeting virtually on January 4, 2022
 - Administrative
 - I attended the Deacons meeting in November.
 - I attended the Trustees meeting in November. There wasn't a meeting in December. All projects approved are in progress. Clark filed the necessary paperwork with the state of IL for non-profit status.

- I developed the November Burning Bush.
- I continue to send out weekly announcements.
- I updated the Master Calendar
- Community
 - I continue to attend the city council meetings when available.
 - I continue to attend meetings with the Masons.
 - I delivered the donated food for the food pantry to the Newcomb's
 - I coordinated the caroling and sang with them on December 22
 - I met with the Council of Churches to distribute donations for those affected by the recent fires.

THERE WAS AN EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD AT THIS TIME.

OLD BUSINESS: (identified as ongoing issues that need to be addressed)

- N. Zobrist and Sons, Inc replacing doors in CE Building.
NEW BUSINESS: (items that need to be addressed.)
- During the Executive Session, the question of using paper ballots for the Annual Meeting was discussed. Per rules only those present at a meeting can vote. Can be present via in-person, Zoom or phone number provided with the Zoom information.
- The Session voted to approve scheduling the Annual Meeting from January 23 to Sunday, February 13 or another Sunday in February that will fit the schedule of Pastor Laura as she will be the moderator. Since the meeting, Pastor Laura learned that she is available on Sunday February 13 for the Annual Meeting.
- The Session voted to approve the December 12, 2021 Congregational Meeting Minutes and the December 14 Session Minutes with correction.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The January 2022 meeting of the Presbyterian Women was cancelled because of the winter weather expected. We learned that one of our members, Jean Peterson had lost her battle with cancer. Her services were scheduled for the same day as our meeting, so that was another reason for the cancellation.

Our next meeting is Friday, February 11, weather permitting. This will be a potluck, so we will meet at noon in the CE Building. Hope to see you all there.

Mission Giving

Food Pantry

Thank you for your on-going support of the Farmington Area Food Pantry. Our monthly total donations were 40 items, weighing 32.82lbs, and \$0.00.

Please note our collection day for non-perishable items is usually the last Sunday of the month. However, our collection day in February is Sunday, February 13, which is Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday. Please bring your donations on that Sunday. Please designate your food pantry giving to the Farmington Food Pantry on the memo line. You can always donate food ahead of time. Thank you so much for your generosity!

Sunday school Offering

This year, the Sunday school kids will be raising money to go towards purchasing an animal through the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, similar to Heifer International. We are going to have the kids pick which animal they would like to purchase and the money we collect throughout the year will go towards that purchase. So far, we have raised \$37.00 towards our goal.

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 is meant to help support those in our community who might need some extra food on those days when the food pantry is closed.

Church Officers 2022

Elders: Liz Johnson, Brady Johnson, Tony Rolando, Steffanie Ulm, Beth Martin, Alissa Holder, Nyle Staley

Clerk of Session: Pat Welker

Deacons: Melissa Herron, Sue Lane, Christ Evans, Marianne Taylor, Pat Welker, Vacant

Trustees: Ben Vermillion, Clark Evans, Kevin Phillips, Joe Herron, Vacant, Vacant

Treasurers: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

Financial Secretaries: Mickie Ulm

February 2022

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>	<u>Saturday</u>
		1 Committee on Ministry	2 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	3 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	4	5
6 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM Communion Trustees 9:45AM	7 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	8 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Session 7pm	9 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	10 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	11 PW 12pm	12
13 SS 9:15 AM Worship 10:30AM Congregational Meeting	14 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Valentine's Day	15 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	16 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	17 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	18	19
20 SS 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM	21 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	22 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm	23 Office Hours 1pm-5pm Devotion 1pm	24 Office Hours 1pm-5pm	25	26
27 SS 9:15AM Worship 10:30AM Pastor Andy's last Sunday in the Pulpit	28 Office Hours 9:30am-12pm Pastor Andy's last day in the office					

March 2022

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

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 **23** Melody Martin

March Birthdays

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

March Anniversaries

15 Cindy and Mike Daniels; **23** Monica and Tadd Swanson

† Prayer Request †

Joys: Lynsey and Ben Vermillion on the announcement that Lynsey is pregnant; Marissa and Tate Ulm on the announcement that Marissa is pregnant with a boy; Mickie lifted up the joy that Dexter Ulm turned 6 last week; Pat Welker lifted up a joy of thanksgiving for the Blessing Bags that Beth Martin put together; Melody Martin will have an EEG, but hasn't had any seizures; Tony Rolando lifted up the joy of seeing Matthew;

Concerns: Parents of Missy Herron, Beth & Melody Martin, Jodi Phillip's son Blake & his family, the Herron family, and Huxton Ulm who are all recovering or have recovered from COVID-19; Marissa Ulm recovering from illness; Dave Waggoner, who is on hospice care; Dean Warner's daughter, who was in a serious car accident; Prayers for Cheryle Fryman as she has treatments for stage 1 lung cancer; prayers for the swift end of the pandemic; Donna Yeager, friend of Beth Martin, has Muscular Dystrophy and is having trouble getting help because of shortage of workers; Tammy Duley on her cancer treatment and recovery from surgery; Hubert Schuman who fell and is recovering; Corbin Rutledge is continuing to have seizures and is going for more tests; Tony Rolando lifted up prayers for friends who need prayers;

Bereavement: Family of Jean Peterson; Family of Larry Chatten

Those in Assisted Living: Dianna Threw, Sue Utsinger at Farmington Country Manor; Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft; Eileen (Diana's mom) Red Oak Estates, Canton.



February Meetings

Session: Tuesday, Feb 8th at 7pm
Congregational Meeting: Sunday,
Feb 13 following worship
PW: Friday, Feb 11th at 12pm

Sermon topics & Scripture for February:

February 6: Micah 6:6-8 "Do Justice"
February 13: Isaiah 58 "Repairers of the Breach"
February 20: 1 Corinthians 13 "Faith, Hope, Love"
February 27: Romans 8:31-38 "God's Love"

If you would like to add something to next month's Burning Bush, please submit it to the office by the 4th Monday of the month. For March's BB, that would be February 28. We prefer receiving it by email at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com or by dropping it off in the office.

The Farmington Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of each month (February 16) from 12:30pm-1:30pm. The Food Pantry is located at New Hope Fellowship Church 1102 N State Route 78, Farmington IL 61531. You don't even have to get out of your car. It is open to anyone in the Farmington school district or who lives in Elmwood. There is no income

We thank you for sending in your tithes and offerings, especially during this time of crisis. 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.

Pastor Andy's Contact Information

Cell Phone: (217) 994-8588 (preferred)
Office Phone: (309) 245-2914
Email: revandysonneborn@gmail.com (preferred)
Office Email: firstpresfarmington@gmail.com
Home Address: 68: N. Gold St. Farmington, IL 61531
Office Address: 83 N. Cone St. Farmington, IL 61531

The Per Capita amount for each member for 2022 is \$35.25. This is not an assessment or dues, but a covenant relationship with the greater church. This amount is not in our 2022 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. 43 out of 102 members paid their per capita in 2021. 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 2022 Per Capita. Per Capita giving may be mailed directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct. Farmington, or can be sent directly to the church.

**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