

THE BURNING BUSH

What is the Importance of the Bible?

The importance of the Bible is impossible to overstate. Throughout the ages, countless men and women have written volumes to underscore the significance of the Scriptures. But we should not take any human's word for it. What the bible tells us about itself is all that matters.

Some writers have called the Bible God's love letter to us. Others have described it as our handbook for life. It is both things and much more. The importance of the Bible is based on the fact that it is the revelation of God to us. (John 1: 1-5). Scripture is God's word to humankind. "All Scripture is God-breathed and useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

The importance of the Bible is that it gives us the opportunity to see and know God. The Scriptures reveal His character and nature, His sovereignty and power, and His reason for creating us, the universe, and everything in it. We read about God's dealings with humankind, His goodness and grace, His light and love, His holiness and justice, and His mercy and compassion.

The Bible reveals from the beginning to have a people of His own (Leviticus 26:12). In it, we learn about the perfect fellowship that humans had with God in paradise and how it was broken by sin and disobedience. But through the sacrifice of God's son, Jesus Christ, we can be forgiven. We discover that God desires to redeem us and restore us to a right relationship with Himself (Roman 5: 1-11, 18-19). Through reading God's Word, we can come to understand the purpose of our lives as well as God's plan from the beginning of time through eternity (1 Peter 2:9, Ephesians 2:10).

The Bible contains essential wisdom and guidance for making our way through life: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Psalm 119: 105). The Word of God is eternal: "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever" (Isaiah 40: 8). How can we doubt the importance of the Bible, when we read, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away" (Matthew 24:35)?

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the May 19 Session Meeting:

CLERK'S REPORT –

- Correspondence: None
- Email/Text Votes:
 - Email (text for Nyle) on April 24 requesting use of CE Building on Saturday, May 28 by Chris Evans, for a graduation party. She would use the building from 2-5pm. Approved.

FINANCIAL EXPERTISE: Kathy Welch – Kathy went over the financial reports.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Liz (chair), Beth, Tony, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Sam Rutledge.**
 - Numbers in attendance steadily climbing. Have heard continued compliments on our guest speakers. Have started scheduling for the month of June since we haven't gotten a bridge/interim minister. Liz said she was going to contact Pastor Laura Reason about June 5 as it is a Communion Sunday, June 12 will be Dean Warner, June 19 will be Liz Weber and June 26 will be Dean.
- **Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Alissa**
 - Sunday School continues through Memorial Day Weekend (May 29th)
 - After our first VBS meeting it looks like July 10 - 14th (Sun - Thurs) is the best time for us to have VBS. We seem to have enough interest in volunteering to cover the positions we need. The Yates City Presbyterian and Farmington Methodist have been contacted with no response. There are volunteers from the Farmington Baptist Church.
 - The futons in the Jr. High/High School room are both broken and are not really usable anymore and have been put in trash. Will be looking to purchase new ones prior to Sunday School starting again in September. Missy is also looking at painting that room and getting rid of a television that is broken to improve the room.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair), Liz & Alissa**
 - No reports.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Tony (chair), Nyle & Liz**
 - We've had 3 weeks of Fellowship so far and it has been very well attended. There are lots of folks staying for treats and visiting.
- **Evangelism Team – Steffanie (chair) & Brady**
 - No report.
- **Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Nyle**
 - No report.
- **Nominating Team – Steffanie (chair), Deacon, At-Large**
 - No report.
- **Deacon's Report**

DEACONS MEETING

APRIL 24, 2022

Before the official meeting started, Alissa Holder was there to talk about having the Nursery staffed during Worship. After much discussion, it was decided that Session Personnel needed to find out what had to be done to allow our teens to staff the nursery. Do they need Babysitting Training and if so, where do they get that? Or can they just do CPR/First Aid training and that would suffice. Session will report back.

The Deacons met on Sunday, April 24 in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:55am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Sue Lane, Missy Herron, Marianne Taylor (late) and Pat Welker. Absent: Linda Riley.

March Minutes were approved. Treasurer's report has a balance of \$208.19.

Cards sent: Since the March 27 meeting Chris sent 10 cards, Sue 9, Missy 4, Marianne 0, Linda unknown and Pat 15. Missy is going purchase a roll of 100 stamps and put them on bookshelf in CE Building for use by Deacons.

Missy reported that we had collected \$172 for Easter flowers and the actual costs were \$110.50 so our Treasury gained \$61.50.

Maundy Thursday, April 14, Communion served to 19; Easter Sunday, April 17, Communion served to 56. Next Communion will be May 1, Sunday, with Pat bringing bread and Chris helping.

With Mother's Day and graduations going on during May, we will discuss visiting/honoring our shut-ins going forward at a later date.

Next meeting will be Sunday, May 22, after worship.

Meeting closed at 12:18 pm with prayer by Chris.

○ Trustees' Report

- No report.

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

- We went over the steps to hire a Minister
- N. Zobrist and Sons, Inc., replacing doors in CE Building.

NEW BUSINESS: (items that need to be addressed.)

- The Clerk attended a meeting in Lewistown on April 26 for training and having the Minutes Book approved by Presbytery.
- Presbytery is offering the chance for any Elder (past or present) to take training to be allowed to serve Communion. Beth was the only Elder who has expressed interest. Clerk is going to find out more details: how long is the training, where is the training held, etc. Once these details are learned, we will again try to find people interested in taking the training.
- The Session voted to adjourn at 6:55pm. Next Meeting is June 9 at 6pm meeting.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2022

ELDERS: Liz Johnson, Tony Rolando, Brady Johnson, Beth Martin, Alissa Holder, Nyle Staley and Steffanie Ulm – Ministry Partner – Rev. Brandon Ouellette

DEACONS: Chris Evans, Marianne Taylor, Melissa Herron, Linda Riley, Pat Welker and Sue Lane

TRUSTEES: Clark Evans, Ben Vermillion, Joe Herron, and Kevin Phillips
(2 open trustee spots)

TREASURERS: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Mickie Ulm

CLERK OF SESSION: Pat Welker

Pastoral Care Contact Information

Church Address: 83 N. Cone St. Farmington, IL 61531

Contact Phone: Pat Welker (309)338-4575 or
Steffanie Ulm (309)678-3686

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 Friday, May 13, 2022, meeting of the Presbyterian Women was held in the CE Building at 1pm with 9 ladies present to enjoy the fellowship.

We had our business meeting and Bible Study. This was followed by our fellowship. Kay Fairburn provided a dessert of strawberry cake and apple strudel. They were both very tasty.

The group decided to take off the summer, so we won't meet again until September. That meeting will be in the CE Building at noon, for a potluck, business meeting and Bible Study. The meeting will be Friday, September 9 at noon. The Bible Study will be led by Pat Welker and the Least Coin given by Wanda Ohaver.

Remember that all women of the congregation are invited to join the meeting. We have wonderful fellowship and would love to have you join us.

2022 Graduates

COLLEGE:

Abbie Phillips, Daughter of Jodi and Kevin Phillips.
Graduated from Truman State University, receiving her bachelor's degree in English major with minors in Child Studies and Justice Systems.

Alyssa Ulm, Daughter of Steffanie and Jay Ulm, Granddaughter of Mary Ulm.

Graduated from Illinois College, Jacksonville, receiving her bachelor's degree in English and Education majors. Has accepted a teaching position at Abingdon-Avon High School teaching English.

Colby Evans, Son of Chris and Clark Evans.

Graduated from Spoon River College with Associates Degree in Ag Business.

Addison Harrison, daughter of Stu and Lisa Harrison, Granddaughter of Mickie and Tim Ulm.

Graduated from Southern Illinois University, receiving her bachelor's degree in English major and minor in Psychology.

HIGH SCHOOL:

Melody Martin, Daughter of Beth Martin.

Plans are to attend Illinois State University and major in special Education, (vision impaired)

Emma Evans, Daughter of Chris and Clark Evans plans to attend Augustana College.

Ethan Evans, Son of Chris and Clark Evans plans to go into the trades.

Tessa Balagna, Daughter of Dennis and Sara Balagna, Great Granddaughter of Kay Fairburn.

Corbin Rutledge, Son of Michael Rutledge, Grandson of Jane and Sam Rutledge. Plans to attend Spoon River College.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL:

Gracie Duley, Daughter of Tammy Duley.

Adela Herron, Daughter of Melissa and Joe Herron.

Pulpit Supply

On May 1, the Pulpit was filled by Pastor Laura Reason. I was sick so couldn't attend in person and unfortunately the sound did not work very well on the video. Could only understand every 3rd word or so. I do know she Baptized Vivian Stobaugh, which I was able to watch. Pastor Laura also served Communion for us.

May 8, Mother's Day, was Dean Warner and he can be counted on to give us a great message. Again, I was not in attendance but watched the video version. He speaks into the mic, so I could hear him. His message started with some Mother Truths. Like when Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall and fell off. Mother says, how many times have I told you not to sit on wall; Michelangelo insisting on painting the ceiling and Mother wonders why he insists on painting the ceiling; and Jonah coming home after 3 days and saying he was swallowed by a whale. Mother really doubted that excuse. Then Dean talked about the Prodigal Son story, which we all know. The message was that God gives us free rein on our lives and if we choose to leave him, he will wait for our return with open arms. When we rebel, we break His heart. But when we truly repent, he will restore us. His Grace is given to us and He treats us as if we never hurt/left him.

May 15, Rev. Jennifer Sakata filled the pulpit and gave us a great message. She spoke about when Peter told Jesus that he loved him 3 different times, even though he had denied knowing

Jesus 3 times. We learn that there are 4 different kinds of love. They are Storge – empathy bond, or family love for us even when we err; Philia – friend bond or brotherly love; Eros – romantic love, passionate love, all about pleasure; Agape – unconditional/sacrificial love that only "God" can provide. Peter knew that he had failed Jesus, but Jesus wasn't trying to shame him.

May 22, we again had Dean Warner in the pulpit. He spoke about repentance. It doesn't mean that we can repent today and then return to our old sinful ways tomorrow. We must realize that we have offended God and stop rationalizing sin. We need to stop accepting our continuous sin as being ok. We need to take these 3 steps: 1) Admit we are wrong. 2). Regret that we have dishonored God. 3). We need to offer a heartfelt request to God to forgive us for our sins and the power to not do them again.

Remember that each Sunday we have a speaker to give us a message. Please join us for worship.

Bringing Folks Back

Do you have any ideas on how to get folks back in the pews? How about bringing in new families? Steffanie is wanting to get a committee going to work on this. Could you help? Please consider ways you could help with this or ideas you could come up with. Let Steffanie know your ideas and your willingness to help. It's a great idea, we need people willing to implement it. Please help!!!

Picnic In The Park – July 4th

Monday, July 4th, our church will be participating in the annual July 4th Picnic in the Park. Each year this outreach helps our church connect with community members that may or may not attend our church. This is an important fundraiser for our church as well. We will be soliciting donated items and volunteer participation for the month of June. Please consider helping support our church in this annual event.

Monthly Calendars

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 10:30 AM Communion	6	7	8	9 Session 6PM	10	11
12 10:30 AM Dean Warner Fill the Trailer 1-3PM (Catholic Church)	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 10:30 AM Father's Day Guest Preacher Liz Weber	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 AM Guest Preacher Dean Warner	27	28	29	30		

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:30AM Communion	4 Picnic In The Park 10:30AM	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30AM Vacation Bible School Week	11 VBS	12 VBS	13 VBS	14 VBS Final Program	15	16
17 10:30AM	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 10:30 AM	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 10:30AM						

Joys & Concerns



June Birthday

3 Mike Daniels **5** Linda Elliott **6** Grace Berry **15** Cindy Daniels **16** Jodi Phillips
19 Gracie Duley **25** Chris Evans **27** Abbie Phillips; Kathy Welch **29** Sam
Rutledge

July Birthday

2 Pauline Sprowls **5** Blanche Wilson **10** Alyssa Ulm; Tammy Duley **15** Jake
Suydam **18** Jay Ulm **29** Caleb Suydam

June Anniversaries

9 Tony & Diana Rolando **18** Sam & Jane Rutledge

July Anniversaries

2 Clark & Chris Evans

† Prayer Request †

Joys: Vivian Stobaugh's Baptism, Birth of Steven David Black (Pat Welker's great-grandson), Corbin Rutledge signed with Spoon River College to play basketball

Concerns: Corbin Rutledge, Sam Rutledge, Tammy Duley, Dave Waggoner, Bonnie's co-worker's Michelle & Michelle in their separate cancer recovery journeys,

Bereavement: Cindy Daniels and family in the loss of her mother-in-law, Patricia Daniels.

Those in Assisted Living: Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft; Eileen (Diana Rolando's mom) Red Oak Estates, Pat Threw, Proctor Home.



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

Check out the "Farmington Council of Churches" Facebook page. Make sure to like the page so that you receive notifications and updates. We will use this page to post community events and information. This is also where you will also be able to watch the Council's Facebook Live worship services.

Did you know that our church is on Facebook and YouTube? Like and Subscribe to our pages to keep up-to-date on the latest happenings!

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.

Guest Preachers for the Month of May

June 5 –

June 12 – Dean Warner

June 19 – Liz Weber

June 26 – Dean Warner

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.

Fill the Trailer – Sunday, June 12 from 1-3 PM at the Catholic Church in Farmington (previously Can-A-Thon)

**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)**

