

# THE BURNING BUSH

## Why Is VBS Important?

By Besty Parham

Vacation Bible School has come a long way since the days of popcorn crafts and Bible lessons taught using a felt board. Today's VBS aims at reaching children using twenty-first-century methods and approaches. Music is filled with more contemporary sounding songs rather than hymns sung from a hymnal. Multimedia options abound. Children are able to follow along with other kids on DVDs and streaming videos, learning the songs and movements.

VBS is still a time for children and youth to connect with each other and with the Bible. It is still a time for the church family to be involved in a fun week of learning, activities, and celebration during the summer. Even though it has undergone significant changes, some things remain the same. VBS benefits not only the children who participate but also the churches that offer it and the adults and youth who volunteer to teach and lead it.

### How does VBS benefit children?

While at VBS, children encounter stories from the Bible, meet new children, have a good time with friends, and experience new and fun activities. They learn Bible verses, act out Bible stories, sing fun educational songs, watch and participate in skits, create crafts, participate in recreation, take part in hands-on mission projects, discover science activities, and have a snack or a meal.

VBS provides an opportunity to teach children about Jesus so that they can learn ways to be like Christ. "Jesus matured in wisdom and years, and in favor with God and with people" (Luke 2:52). Children grow in wisdom as they experience teachings from the Bible; they grow in divine favor as they discover more about God and God's amazing love for them, and they develop in favor with other people as they learn life application skills while interacting with them.

### That sounds great for the kids, but why should adults be interested in VBS?

VBS offers the church fun and creative methods of teaching Christ-like values and relationship-building skills. It is an excellent outreach tool into the community—a way to invite those who do not normally attend to come into the church, get involved, and build relationships with others and with Jesus Christ. It offers a variety of ways for the entire congregation to become involved.

(continued)

Adults can decorate, teach, shepherd children, prepare snacks, send invitations, send follow-up cards to visitors, work with publicity, and pray. They can prepare and serve meals. They can also serve as “buddies” for children who need special attention before, during, and after VBS.

As adults in a church spend time together to plan for and lead VBS, they build community spirit, make new friends, and work together for the benefit of both children they know and children they don't know. Their investment of time and energy makes their church stronger and more vibrant; a beacon in their communities.

Many churches offer an intergenerational VBS option, where people of all ages experience VBS stories, games, and crafts together. This approach offers additional opportunities to build community since all ages can learn from each other.

Why should you, at your age and stage in life, be concerned about vacation Bible school? Because it is our responsibility to empower and equip children and youth to follow God's call to action. VBS is based on the Bible and the gospel of the living Christ. As older Christian adults, we can provide a solid biblical foundation for faith development for these children—because VBS offers an opportunity to introduce children and youth to a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

[www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com))

\*\*\*We are hosting our VBS, The Knights of North Castle, July 10th to July 14th. Each night a meal will be served at 5:40 in the CE building. An opening program and music are performed in the sanctuary from 6:00 to 6:30. The children are then on the move and rotate to crafts, recreation, and bible story. Each evening ends in the CE building with a fun snack. If you can volunteer, please contact Beth Martin or Lissy Holder. All are welcome to come and join in the fun and excitement of VBS.\*\*\*

## **SNIPPETS**

**by Pat**

Snippets from the June 9 Session Meeting:

### **CLERK'S REPORT –**

- Correspondence: None
- Email/Text Votes:
  - Email sent June 3 – Our janitress, Deb Canevit, is done cleaning the Manse. The Finance Committee recommends using the money in the Manse Account to pay this so that the regular budget is not impacted. Elders approved.

- Email (text for Nyle) sent May 24 to approve the following change to the MIF that Steffanie has submitted. There has to be a minimum salary we are willing to pay listed. Elders approved.
- Email (text for Nyle) sent May 24 to approve changes to the way we are serving Communion. The Deacons would like to eliminate having to put the bread into individual bags and want to starting having the elements passed through the congregation. Elders approved with the suggestion that a few pieces of bread still be bagged for those who would prefer that.
- Email (text for Nyle) sent May 22 granting permission for the Jr/Sr High School Sunday School room to be repainted. Missy Herron is going to do the painting after VBS. Elders approved.

**FINANCIAL EXPERTISE:** Kathy Welch – Kathy went over the financial reports. She also went over the Ameren Illinois bills for the past few months and then warned that the electrical charges are going up in a couple months and it could really affect our bills. We need to try to make sure things kept at proper temperatures. Since we are going to have VBS this month, Kathy also reminded us that Memorial money was previously designated for VBS.

#### **MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

- **Worship Team – Liz (chair), Beth, Tony, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Sam Rutledge.**
  - Numbers in attendance down a little, normal for the end of school year and start of summer.
  - Pulpit supply scheduled thru end of June. June 5 was Chip Roland, who served Communion, Dean Warner on June 12, June 19 will be Liz Weber and June 26 will be Dean.
  - Will start working on July Pulpit supply.
- **Christian Education Team – Beth (chair) & Alissa**
  - Sunday School successfully wrapped up until Labor Day. The loyalty and dedication of the teachers and parents who brought their children is very appreciated.
  - Second meeting for VBS will be the 19th. Volunteers are being finalized and registration has been opened online.
  - The old futons are gone - thanks to session members for the help. The JH/HS room will be painted after VBS. Donations, either monetary and/or furniture, are being sought for seating options in that room.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair), Liz & Alissa**
  - Personnel- Deb completed her cleaning of the manse.
  - Finance- discuss Ameren charges. We are working on July 4 Picnic in the Park.
  - Stewardship & Memorial - no report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Tony (chair), Nyle & Liz**
  - No report.
- **Evangelism Team – Steffanie (chair) & Brady**
  - Steffanie is going to make a plea in Sunday worship for a volunteer to take over the planning/execution of the Spoon River Drive event. If no one steps up to take over this project, we will not be participating this year. There will be a loss of revenue if this is not held.

- **Technology Team** – Brady (chair) & Nyle
  - No report.
- **Nominating Team** – Steffanie (chair), Deacon, At-Large
  - No report.
- **Deacon's Report**

## DEACONS MEETING

MAY 22, 2022

The Deacons met on Sunday, May 22 in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:25am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Sue Lane, Missy Herron, Linda Riley, Marianne Taylor and Pat Welker.

April Minutes were approved. Treasurer's report has a balance of \$349.70.

Cards sent: Since the April meeting Chris sent 5 cards, Sue 1, Missy 3, Marianne 2, Linda 0 and Pat 30. Missy purchased a roll of 100 stamps and put them on bookshelf in CE Building for use by Deacons.

Sunday, May 1, Communion served to 31. Next Communion will be June 5, Sunday, with Pat bringing bread and Sue helping.

On Mother's Day, Sue and Marianne bagged up homemade cookies for all the women at worship. On Father's Day, Pat and Chris will bag up homemade cookies for all the men at worship.

The Nursery was again discussed. Missy said that Adele has completed First Aid/CPR classes and is willing to work the nursery when needed. Still waiting for Session to find out what training is needed to staff the nursery. We also talked about approaching Sydney Johnson to see if we could hire her for the worship hour.

Decided that we would leave it up to each Deacon to visit our shut-ins. Wilma Brentz is at Courtyard, Sue Utsinger at Farmington Nursing Home, Leigh Anne Taylor at The Loft and the Schuman's at home. (**NOTE:** *Gisela is now at The Villas of Holly Brook near Peoria Airport and Hubert is at Farmington Village Nursing Home.*)

Next meeting TBD. Meeting closed at 11:55pm with prayer by Chris. -- Pat Welker, Secretary

- **Trustees' Report**
  - No report.
- **Pastor's Report**
  - No Report

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

- MIF – Steffanie has submitted the necessary paperwork and is just waiting on COM to okay. The contact in this process has not responded to emails asking for approval or instructions on what has to be done to get approval.
- Steps to hire a Minister: Liz continues to get folks to fill the Pulpit each week for us. She has reached out to several of the ministers to become a Bridge-Minister for First Presbyterian. But there has been no response from any of them. This whole process is getting very frustrating for those trying to get things done, including Steffanie and Liz. Thanks to them for their persistence in this endeavor.

- N. Zobrist and Sons, Inc is working on the front handicap accessible doors for the CE Building.

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

- Pastor Brandon said that our Moderator for the next couple months will be Edwin Brinklow. Pastor Brandon will be on paternity leave.
- The Session voted to adjourn at 8:10pm. Next two meetings will be Thursday July 21 at 6pm and Thursday August 11 at 6pm. Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Brandon.

**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 next 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.

### **Pulpit Supply**

Remember that each Sunday we have a different speaker to give us a message. We have had many great messages. If you are not attending, you are missing out on hearing these wonderful folks. Please join us for worship.

### **Fellowship**

We have been having some wonderful snacks, cookies, cakes, etc., following worship each week. All are welcome to stay after worship to enjoy time together with each other. There are Sundays available to host worship should you feel called to do so.

## Monthly Calendars

### July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:30AM Communion Guest Preacher Rev. Frosty Krummel	4 Picnic In The Park 8-1PM 10:30AM Serve Food	5	6	7	8	9
10 10:30AM Guest Speaker Liz Weber VBS 5:45 – 8:15PM	11 VBS 5:45 – 8:15PM	12 VBS 5:45 – 8:15PM	13 VBS 5:45 – 8:15PM	14 VBS 5:45 – 8:15PM Final Program	15	16
17 10:30AM Guest Preacher Rev. Jenny Suydam	18	19	20	21 Session 6PM	22	23
24 10:30 AM	25	26	27	28	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
31 10:30AM Guest Preacher Rev. Sue Krummel						

### August 2022

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

# Joys & Concerns

## **July Birthday**

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



## **August Birthday**

4 Kay Fairburn 5 Kathleen Kowal; Pat Threw 7 Sue Lane; Ralph Welker 18 Deb O'Donnell; Beth Martin 23 Bonnie Suydam

## **July Anniversaries**

2 Clark & Chris Evans

## **August Anniversaries**

8 Ralph & Pat Welker; Hubert & Gisela Schumann 12 Darrel & Crystal Gomes

## **† Prayer Request †**

**Joys:** The new doors were installed in the CE building – much easier access for all!!!

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

### **Bereavement:**

**Those in Assisted Living:** Gisela Schumann at Villas at Hollybrook; Hubert Schumann at Farmington Village Nursing Home; 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](mailto: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 July

**July 3** – Rev. Frosty Krummel

**July 10** – Liz Weber

**July 17** – Rev. Jenny Suydam

**July 24** –

**July 31** – Rev. Sue Krummel

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.

### **Vacation Bible School 2022 Presents:**

**Knights of North Castle July 10 – July 14**

**Dinner @ 5:45PM – Dismissal by 8:15PM**

**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)**

