

THE BURNING BUSH

The Hopeful Truth of the Verse "For Everything There Is a Season"

Pamela Palmer, Author

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under [heaven](#)" (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

Part of God's great design to this earth is seasons. We experience wet and dry seasons, the typical four seasons of winter, spring, summer, and fall, and there are planting seasons and harvesting seasons. We see creation moving through seasons each year, and we ourselves live through seasons, as well. In these seasons we learn to depend on and come to expect things. So, too, we find in the Bible that our lives go through seasons.

Seasons of sadness, loss, joy, newness, and growth. All of these life seasons are intentional and God's influence in them should be acknowledged and counted on. We find this often quoted verse in the book of Ecclesiastes, which is believed to have been written by Solomon, the son of King David. When Scripture declares that for everything there is a season, this means that the various circumstances we go through in life are not by incident, but orchestrated or allowed by God with great purpose and intentionality.

What Does The Bible Mean 'For Everything There Is a Season'?

Ecclesiastes 3:1 affirms two important reminders:

- The things we go through in life are not in vain.
- Our situations will not last forever.

If you are in a certain season of life, you can be confident the season will come to an end at some point. This verse serves as a reminder that our circumstances will change and that is something we can come to expect in life. Whatever God takes us through has purpose, perhaps to deepen our [faith](#) or to help us achieve breakthrough in an area of life.

We will get over our sorrows. We will get out of the valley. We will go through hardships. And whatever season of life we find ourselves in, it will have a beginning and it will have an end. We will enter new seasons, too. Ones that bring relief, hope, or a deeper sense of faith.

What Is the Context of This Verse and 'For Everything There Is a Season'?

As you read Ecclesiastes, you may get the impression that Solomon had somewhat of a grave outlook on life. The book begins with Solomon's declaration that everything is meaningless (see verse 1:1). He had seen the ups and downs of life, yet could not quite make sense of life. Why was there so much suffering? Where was God in the midst of life? What is the meaning of the mundane days we live? In this book, Solomon reflected on his understanding of God and how that fits with what he

knew and the life he was experiencing. Perhaps you have found yourself wondering or reflecting like Solomon did.

In the third chapter, we find perhaps some clarity around the mysteries of life. When nothing seems to make sense, if we find God's presence in life, that's when real meaning and satisfaction will emerge. Life without God is hopeless, but a life lived for God and in acknowledgement of his divine presence is one marked by fruitfulness and significance.

In this chapter, Solomon affirmed the seasons of joys and the seasons of hardships, the high and the low seasons, the valleys of despair and the peaks of honor. This is the ebb and flow of life that we can anticipate, and when we keep God at the center, purpose will emerge and refining of our hearts will take place.

Why Is There a Time for Bad Things?

The reality is that life gets hard. As we know, bad things happen even to those who follow Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Sinful nature has left nothing untouched, and this is why we await the second coming of Jesus. But until then, we know that we will go through tough seasons just as much as we go through joyful seasons.

Even Jesus reminded us that we will always have troubles, but we can still have peace in him (see [John 16:33](#)). The hope found in this Ecclesiastical passage is that these seasons of suffering, hate, and death will end. God will bring us through to better days marked by comfort, love, and new life. Through it all, we can rest in the peace Jesus has given us. Regardless of what we face, God remains in control and is the author of our days.

How Does God Make Everything Beautiful in Its Time?

God is our redeemer. To redeem something means to offset its negative traits. In a biblical sense, redemption means that Jesus' work on the cross has covered our sin. His sacrificial love has offset and delivered us from sinfulness, death, and guilt. God's redemptive work makes us beautiful and it makes all things beautiful.

This concept of redemption that we find in Scripture teaches us that God will redeem us from despair and work all things together for the good of those who love him (see [Romans 8:28](#)).

We find this promise written that God will make everything beautiful in its due season. God will judge right from wrong and bring about justice (see [Ecclesiastes 3:16-17](#)). God will make things right. We may not always know how he will make things beautiful or when he will do that, but we can count on it, pray for it to happen, and put our trust fully in God to redeem even the worst of our circumstances.

What Do We Learn from Ecclesiastes 3:1 about Change and Timing?

Solomon, the author of Ecclesiastes, goes to great lengths to preach that we must put our trust in God's sovereignty which means he is in control of all things. God is with us in the hardest battles. He guides our steps from one season to the next. He sees what is coming ahead for us and will provide what we need to get through. No matter what seasons lay behind us or ahead of us, God is always present and always leading us through each - for the purpose of His glory.

The greatest hope we have in seasons of trouble or change is that God will never leave us nor forsake us (see: [Hebrews 13:5](#)). We may experience God's timing as difficult, or late, or hard to understand, or

different than what we'd expect or hope for. But truly, God's timing is perfect and always comes to pass in a way that will bring us goodness rather than hopelessness.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/the-hopeful-truth-of-the-verse-for-everything-there-is-a-season.html>

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the August 11 Session Meeting:

CLERK'S REPORT – Nothing to report.

FINANCIAL EXPERTISE - In Kathy's absence, Steffanie discussed the financial reports. She said that there were 4 CD's coming due 8-15-2022 and it was recommended that they be invested at Edward Jones which currently has the best interest rates. The Session voted to approve and do this.

The Ameren bill was \$900 for July. VBS donations (received from the congregation to cover food costs) that were not used in the amount of \$200 was donated to Church General Fund to be used for air conditioning costs, which will help with this bill.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team** – Liz (chair), Beth, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.
 - The following Pulpit Supply is scheduled: 8-14 Dean Warner; 8-21 Pastor Laura Reason; 8-28 Dean Warner; 9-4 waiting to hear back from contact; 9-11 Dean Warner; 9-18 Liz Weber; 9-25 Dean Warner.
- **Christian Education Team** – Beth (chair) & Alissa
 - Sunday School to resume Sept. 11. The Team will discuss possible Pancake Breakfast to welcome all back.
 - All the Teachers from last year are going to teach this year, which is great news.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team** – Steffanie (chair), Liz & Alissa
 - Personnel - We are currently in discussion with a prospective pastor for our Interim position. We've had a successful zoom meeting and are planning for the candidate to come here on August 29 to visit and see the Church and Manse.
 - Finance, Memorial, Personnel – No report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team** – Nyle & Liz
 - No report.
- **Evangelism Team** – Steffanie (chair) & Brady
 - Bonnie Suydam has expressed interest in working with a committee for outreach to get our members or possibly other families attending. Jodi Phillips is also willing to help. They are thinking of possibly providing meals to two families that recently had babies. Will report back to Bonnie and give her the go ahead to pursue this. Many on Session and beyond would be willing to help with this. Just need the logistics figured out, then ask for help from congregation.

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

DEACONS MEETING

JULY 31, 2022

The Deacons met on Sunday, July 31 in the CE Building before worship. Meeting opened at 10:00am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Missy Herron, Sue Lane, Linda Riley, Marianne Taylor and Pat Welker.

June Minutes were approved. Treasurer's report has a balance of \$123.20 after paying bill for Easter Lilies and purchase of 3 rolls of stamps, prior to the postage price increase.

Cards sent: Since the June meeting Chris 0, Sue 2, Missy 0, Marianne 2, Linda 20, and Pat 32.

Sunday, July 3, Communion served to 28. Next Communion will be August 7, Sunday, with Pat bringing bread and Linda helping. Sue will be able to help as needed.

The Session checked with the Church Insurance provider and they said that the Sitter in the Nursery has to be an Adult at least 18 years of age. There were two teens (Freshmen) willing to babysit but would still need an adult. So, for now, the sitter position will be an adult volunteer.

Deacons need to visit our shut-ins. Wilma Brentz is at Courtyard, Sue Utsinger at Farmington Nursing Home and Leigh Anne Taylor at The Loft.

Next meeting August 28, Sunday, after worship.

Meeting closed at 10:20 am with prayer by Chris.

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

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

- Interim Minister: Have a candidate that Personnel is working with. More information to come.
- CE Bldg. Doors - N. Zobrist and Sons, Inc. have the balance of the doors being replaced in the CE Building on their agenda.

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

- The music committee of Diana Rolando, Beth Martin and Sam Sprecher have requested that the old Hymnals be placed in the pew racks along with the new Hymnal. Some of the hymns in the new hymnal have a different tune than the traditional tune the congregation knows. So, in the future, if the hymn comes from the older Blue Hymnals, that will be stated on the screen along with the appropriate number.

- Also discussed whether it would be ok to sing a different version of the ‘Praise God to...’ but the Session felt it was better to stick with the one currently being used. It can be brought to the congregation to get their feelings on a possible change.
- The Session voted to close with prayer at 6:55pm with the next meeting Thursday, September 8 at 6pm.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2022

ELDERS: Liz Johnson, Brady Johnson, Beth Martin, Alissa Holder, Nyle Staley and Steffanie Ulm – Ministry Partner – Rev. Brandon Ouellette (1 open spot)

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.

Session Elder

The Session is down one Elder. We would love to fill the position now as opposed to waiting for January 2023. If this is something you feel you can do, please let Steffanie Ulm or Pat Welker know. Thanks for your help.

Loss Of Friends

By Pat

The month of July was not a good one for our congregation. We lost two of our faithful members. Hubert and Gisela both passed away within days of each other. Hubert passed away on July 8 and Gisela on July 20. They had been members of First Presbyterian since 1962, the year I graduated High School. Wow that puts things into perspective.

They were married 69 years, just missing their 70th anniversary which was August 8. That certainly makes them an example we old married folks can strive to attain.

Hubert was in our Sunday School Class longer than I was. He was very knowledgeable of the Bible and was really a nice guy.

Gisela helped the Church by being the Treasurer for many years. She also was in that position the year we were short of cash and she was able to get money from here and there to cover the bills. She got us through the lean years.

They were a great couple and will be missed.

Choir

We would like to hold a choir informational meeting on Wednesday, September 7 at 7:00pm in the CE building. Sam, Beth & Diana would like to know who is interested in being a part of the choir and ideas on how often to sing per month, how often to practice, a preferred evening to practice, along with any ideas & suggestions for the choir. Everyone is welcome, we would love a BIG choir again.

Monthly Calendars

September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Communion 10:30 AM	5 Labor Day	6	7 Choir Meeting 7PM	8 Session 6PM	9 PW noon	10
11 10:30 AM Sunday School Begins Dean Warner	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 AM Liz Weber	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 AM Dean Warner	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2022

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

Joys & Concerns

September Birthday

1 Ethan Ulm; Mary Ulm **2** Steve Johnson; **3** Wanda Ohaver **21** Sydney Johnson; Steffanie Ulm; **22** Todd Guidi **23** Mickie Ulm **26** Landry Duley



October Birthdays

8 Dale Bensen **10** Haven McMaster **11** Lori Danley **12** Morgun Daniels **14** Adela Herron **23** Kurt Daniels **25** Brielle Herron **29** Ben Vermillion **31** Gary Hoover, Wilma Brentz

September Anniversaries

3 Delano & Wanda Ohaver; **25** Ben & Lynsey Vermillion;
27 Tim & Mickie Ulm; **30** Nicholas & Ciara Ulm

October Anniversaries

20 Liz & Steve Johnson **25** Ryan & Heather McMaster **27** Gayle Lucas & Paul Watters **30** Darren & Kari Berry

✝ Prayer Request ✝

Joys: Nancy's, Sue Lane's sister, heart surgery was a success! She's doing great!

Concerns: Blanche Wilson had a tumble in her yard and is recovering at home; Alissa Holder's friend Christina – terrible car wreck and recovering from multiple injuries; Carter Rolando had shoulder surgery; Dave Moremond, Wanda Ohaver's son-in-law; Corbin Rutledge, Sam Rutledge, Tammy Duley cancer recovery, Dave Waggoner cancer journey, Bonnie's co-worker's Michelle & Michelle in their separate cancer recovery journeys; JoAnn Ray cancer journey.

Bereavement: Evans Family – Chris's Aunt Patty.

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.

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

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.

Guest Preachers for the Month of Aug.

Sept 4 – Chip Roland

Sept 11 – Dean Warner

Sept 18 – Liz Weber

Sept 25 – 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.

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.

**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)**

