

THE BURNING BUSH

I am a planner by nature and nurture. Normally, my November newsletter article would tell you about my/our exciting plans for Advent. But I haven't planned any worship services or any activities for Advent yet. In fact, I'm still learning about your Advent and Christmas practices. And while part of me feels uneasy about not having everything planned out for Advent, it is an opportunity to reflect on the unique nature of November for our church and our society.

In the church calendar, there are many unique worship opportunities. This year we will recognize All Saints Day on November 6th. This is what the Presbyterian Church (USA)'s website tells us about the occasion.

In early Christian tradition, saints' days began as a way to mark the anniversary of a martyr's death — his or her "birthday" as a saint. By the middle of the church's first millennium, there were so many martyrs (particularly due to the persecution of Diocletian) that it was hard to give them all their due. All Saints' Day was established as an opportunity to honor all the saints, known and unknown.

All Saints' Day has a rather different focus in the Reformed tradition. While we may give thanks for the lives of particular luminaries of ages past, the emphasis is on the ongoing sanctification of the *whole* people of God. Rather than putting saints on pedestals as holy people set apart in glory, we give glory to God for the ordinary, holy lives of the believers in this and every age. This is an appropriate time to give thanks to members of the community of faith who have died in the past year. We also pray that we may be counted among the company of the faithful in God's eternal realm.

All Saints' Day has been celebrated on November 1 since the year 835. Previously it had been connected with the Easter season as a feast of all martyrs.

Since First Presbyterian Church of Farmington has not observed All Saints Day in a number of years, we are inviting people to remember any loved one who has died by lighting a candle in their honor on November 6th. We will not be limiting the remembrance to those who died in the last year. Because this observation is happening with short preparation, we will not be publishing a list of those being honored in advance. Next year, we will have more time to collect and publish the names of those that you/we have loved who have joined the cloud of witnesses that are cheering us on, those saints in light.

On a personal note, I wish to thank Steffanie Ulm for filling in at the very last second for the Reformation Sunday service. One never wishes to get a positive COVID test, but a pastor doesn't want to get one (actually two) on a Sunday morning. Steffanie has been instrumental in this time of transition and I hope each of you find a way to thank her for her service on your behalf! – Pastor Cindy Bean

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the October 13 Session Meeting:

CLERK'S REPORT

- Text sent to Elders for approval of the following. Ryan & Kaitlyn Stobaugh want to use the CE Building on Sunday, September 11 from 2:30-4:30pm. It will be a family gathering for the Bdays of their kids, Rowan and Vivian. 4 Elders responded/approved.

FINANCIAL EXPERTISE - Kathy Welch went over the Financial Reports, pointing out certain things and answering questions. She went over the Ameren Bill and also read a notification from Insurance Board saying that premiums could go up as much as 25%. She then went over comparisons of Budget over actual costs. She said they would be working on the 2023 Budget in November.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team** – Liz (chair), Beth, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.
 - So thankful for all the great guest speakers we had fill the pulpit and all the wonderful Children's Time speakers we had. Grateful we are starting our new path with Pastor Cindy.
- **Christian Education Team** – Beth (chair) & Alissa
 - Sunday School was cancelled the two Sundays of Spoon River Drive. Need to make sure communications reach everyone involved concerning Christian Ed decisions.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team** – Steffanie (chair), Liz & Alissa
 - Personnel – Pastor Cindy Bean began her employment with us on Saturday, October 1, 2022, preaching on Sunday, October 2. Kathy Welch has worked with Pastor Cindy to get everything ready for payroll and pension.
 - Stewardship, Finance & Memorial – No report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team** – Liz & Nyle
 - No report.
- **Evangelism Team** – Steffanie (chair) & Brady
 - It was noted that Bonnie Suydam is doing outreach to kids and their families that used to come to Sunday School. She and others are trying to get the families back in the fold.
- **Technology Team** – Brady (chair) & Nyle

- Pastor Cindy reported that she got some equipment to increase internet coverage in the manse.
- **Nominating Team** – Steffanie (chair), Deacon, At-Large: Michelle Lane, Bonnie Suydam & Jodi Phillips.
 - Steffanie is getting information gathered prior to an October 25 meeting at 6pm.
- **Deacon's Report**

DEACONS MEETING - SEPTEMBER 11, 2022

The Deacons met on Sunday, September 11 in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:30am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Missy Herron, Sue Lane, Linda Riley, Marianne Taylor and Pat Welker.

July Minutes were approved. Treasurer's balance is \$123.20.

Cards sent: Since the August meeting Chris sent 3 cards, Sue 1, Missy hasn't done her Sept. list yet, Marianne 1, Linda 1 and Pat 20.

Sunday, September 4, Communion served to 26. Next Communion will be October 2, Sunday, with Missy bringing bread and Sue & Chris helping.

Next big projects for Deacons will be providing a Thanksgiving Basket to a local family, Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Gifts for our Shut-ins. Be thinking of good ideas.

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

Next meeting Sunday October 16, before worship.

Meeting closed at 11:38 am with prayer by Chris.

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

Interim Pastor Cindy Bean's Report

Activities

- Almost have office equipment set up
- Attended the Spoon River Drive Thru each Saturday – went to each of the areas set up in Farmington
- Continuing to meet people in worship

Technical Questions – distributed prior to meeting via email

1. Do you have a pledge campaign and if so, how does that work? – No campaign at this time.
2. When do you do the budget? Who and how is it put together? - The budget planning starts in October, finalized in November and presented to Session in December. Finance committee with assistance from the Treasurers. All committees are asked to review their budgets and present changes. The finance records (receipts and disbursements) reviewed and adjustments made. (Example, utilities, insurance, payroll).

3. When do you elect new officers? - Nominating committee, chaired by Steffanie Ulm, starts work in October.
4. When is the Annual Meeting? - Annual meeting in January. All reports due end of December.
5. How do the Trustees make decisions? Do they have meetings or informal discussions? Historically, what has been the pastor's role with the Trustees? - Trustees meet (in past monthly, not sure time frame now). Their meetings have been before church, so pastor not present.
6. When do the Deacon's meet? Historically what has been the pastor's role with the Deacons? – Deacons meet Monthly. Chris Evans is chair.

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

- 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.)

- Steffanie brought this to Session from Trustees – Trustees are suggesting that it will be reasonable/efficient to have a lawn service do the fall church yard clean-up. They need to get a quote to see what costs actually are. More information to come.
- Pat will contact The Weekly Post to add Pastor Cindy to our newspaper ad. She is also going to put a free 'thank you' in for the folks who filled the pulpit during the last months, especially Dean Warner, who lives in Elmwood.
- Discussion on upcoming Holiday services. There will be a Christmas Eve 6:30pm service and a New Years' Eve regular Sunday service. A decision will be made on a Christmas Day Sunday service once more information is gathered and it is brought to the congregation to get their views.
- Pastor Cindy will discuss Home Communion with the Deacons at their October 30 meeting to be held after worship.
- Pastor Cindy brought up an Adaptive Question concerning what we want her to do with her 20 hours a week employment. The Elders have a questioner to fill out with what their wishes are and will return them to Pastor Cindy for review.
- The Session voted to approve a Congregational Meeting on October 23 for the purpose of electing Ryan Stobaugh as an Elder to fill the remaining year of Tony Rolando's seat.
- Hanging of the Greens is November 20 and Advent starts on November 27. Will decide on having a soup luncheon.
- The Session voted to close with prayer at 7:30pm with the next meeting Thursday, November 10 at 6pm.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2022

ELDERS: Liz Johnson, Brady Johnson, Beth Martin, Alissa Holder, Steffanie Ulm
and Ryan Stobaugh– Interim Pastor Cindy Bean

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: Interim Pastor Cindy Bean (618)316-1171
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 Presbyterian Women met on Friday, October 14 with 7 ladies present. We had our business meeting and Bible Study. We are almost done with our current study book, Living a Chocolate Life, so will be looking into a new study book that we will have for the future. Pauline made her delicious Chocolate Texas Cake for us to enjoy, with ice cream on top. It was great. I think we all enjoy the great fellowship and Bible study. Next meeting is Friday, November 11 at 1pm. Hope you can join us.

Interim Pastor

Pastor Cindy has been with us since October 1 and has preached 3 Sundays so far. She gives a good message that is easy to understand and also teaches us to be better people, friends and Christians. If you haven't attended services with us for a while, now would be a good time to come back. Our Session Personnel Committee has done lots of work to try get us a minister and I think they have done a great job. Come and hear the good news.

Monthly Calendars
November 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 10:30 AM Worship Communion	7	8	9	10 Session 6PM Zoom	11	12
13 10:30 AM Worship	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 10:30 Worship Hanging of the Greens	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27 10:30AM Worship 1 st Sunday in Advent	28	29	30			

December 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:30 AM Worship Communion	5	6 PEO	7	8 Session 6PM	9	10
11 10:30 AM Worship	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 Worship Christmas Programs Choir and Children	19	20	21 Longest Night Service	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7PM Communion
25 Christmas	26	27	28	29	30	31

Joys & Concerns

November Birthdays

7 Trevor Martin; Gayle Lucas 8 Brady Johnson; Delano Ohaver; Tate Ulm;
11 Karen Goggin-Wilson 13 Aniston McMaster 14 Cozy Hoover 15 Pat
Welker; Tony Rolando 16 Larry Roberson



December Birthdays

1 Darrell Elliott; 4 Liz Johnson; 5 Darrell Gomes; 8 Stephanie Franks; 10
David Black; 17 Randy Welch; 19 Marissa Ulm; 21 Kent Kowal; Heather
McMaster; 25 Jesus; 31 Ellie Duley

November Anniversaries

10 Mike & Paula Monari; 26 Randy & Kathy Welch; 30 Gary & Cozy Hoover

December Anniversaries

† Prayer Request †

Joys: Arrival of Interim Pastor Cindy Bean.

Concerns: Wanda and Delano Ohaver; Nyle Staley; Melody Martin; David Carr, Duane Carr's father; Carol Roberts; Rosie Patterson; Marilee Stephan; Dave Moremond, Wanda Ohaver's son-in-law; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge, Tammy Duley, & JoAnn Ray.

Bereavement: Pauline Sprowls and family; Val Waggoner and family; Rutledge family.

Those in Assisted Living: Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Delano and Wanda Ohaver at Farmington Village Nursing & Rehabilitation; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft; Eileen (Diana Rolando's mom) Red Oak Estates, Pat Threw, Proctor Home.

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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!

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.

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.

**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)**

