

THE BURNING BUSH

As we move through this Advent and Christmas season, I offer you this poem. Some of us will be very busy, tired, overwhelmed. Others will feel lonely, sad, grieving. Some will be surprised by joy or peace or love. As we journey through Advent to Christmas may we find times and places for kneeling.
Pastor Cindy.

In Search of Our Kneeling Places by Ann Weems

*In each heart lies a Bethlehem,
an inn where we must ultimately answer
whether there is room or not.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we experience our own advent in his.
When we are Bethlehem-bound
we can no longer look the other way
conveniently not seeing stars
not hearing angel voices.
We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily
tending our sheep or our kingdoms.
This Advent let's go to Bethlehem
and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us.
In the midst of shopping sprees
let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts.
Through the tinsel
let's look for the gold of the Christmas star.
In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos,
let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.
This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem
and find our kneeling places.*

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the November 10 Session Meeting:

CLERK'S REPORT –

- Text sent to Elders for approval of the following. Herrons' want to use the CE Building on Saturday, December 10 from 2-6pm. It will be a family gathering for the Holidays. 4 Elders approved.

FINANCIAL EXPERTISE - Steffanie went over reports.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team** – Liz (chair), Beth, Sam Sprecher, Diana Rolando & Jane Rutledge.
 - Services seem to be going well since Pastor Cindy started. Thanks to everyone that volunteers to collect offering and light candles.
- **Christian Education Team** – Beth (chair) & Alissa
 - No report.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team** – Steffanie (chair), Liz & Alissa
 - No report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team** – Liz & Ryan
 - November dates filled, will work on December.
- **Evangelism Team** – Steffanie (chair) & Brady
 - No report.
- **Technology Team** – Brady (chair) & Ryan
 - No report.
- **Nominating Team** – Steffanie (chair), Deacon, At-Large: Michelle Lane, Bonnie Suydam & Jodi Phillips.
 - The team met and the entire slate is filled with exception of one Trustee. (Note: Since the Session Meeting, the final position has been filled.)
- **Deacon's Report**

The Deacons met on Sunday, October 30 in the CE Building after worship. Meeting opened at 11:28am with prayer by Chair Chris Evans. Those in attendance were Chris Evans, Missy Herron, Sue Lane and Pat Welker.

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

Cards sent: Since the August meeting Chris sent 2 cards, Sue 2, Missy 2, and Pat 19.

Sunday, October 2, Communion served to 22. Next Communion will be November 6, Sunday, with Chris bringing bread and Missy helping. Sue will take care of any needed parament changes.

Advent starts on Sunday, November 27. Sue has checked the candle supply for the Advent Wreath and we have extras on hand. The supply of individual candles for Christmas Eve will be checked.

Since Advent starts November 27, Hanging of the Greens will take place on Sunday, November 20. We will be in charge of the Sanctuary decorating. Pat is going to check with Session to see if there will be a Soup Luncheon provided on that day.

Deacons are once again going to be providing a Thanksgiving Basket to a local family. Missy is going to do the shopping for most of the items to be included in the basket. We have \$100 available for the items, but if it runs more, the Deacons will make up the difference. Chris is going to check with the school and come up with a family to honor. The basket will be delivered on November 20.

We decided to make a list of items and have the congregation make donations toward the Christmas Bags for our Shut-ins. Sue is going to come up with a list of items to be included and we will present it to the congregation on November 20 or 27. Will deliver Christmas Bags for our Shut-ins on December 18, Sunday. Our shut-ins include Wilma Brentz and Blanche Wilson at Courtyard, Sue Utsinger and Wanda at Farmington Village Nursing Home and Leigh Anne Taylor at The Loft.

Missy is going to check with Hy Vee to see if they are going to provide Christmas Flowers this year and whether they will be delivering them. Once we find out what they are providing, we will make our plans.

Next meeting Sunday November 13, after worship.

Meeting closed at 11:55am with prayer by Chris.

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

Visits

Fortunately, I have only done one visit since I arrived. I was planning to visit Wanda Ohaver but my granddaughter was very sick the night before I intended to visit and I chose to stay away. It was good that I did because I would have exposed her to COVID.

Worship

I met with the music leaders of the congregation to talk about upcoming worship services.

- The first topic concerned Reformation Sunday. After our conversation, I chose to change my plans and fashioned the service that you experienced without my leadership. (Thank you for stepping in Steffanie)
- We talked about the Blue Christmas service. The consensus was that with the All-Saints Day service we would not have a Blue Christmas service this year.
- We talked about the Christmas Day service options. They thought that it might be good to either have the service at the regular time thinking that older adults without families in the area may like to attend a worship service that morning OR we could post that people may wish to watch the Christmas Eve service on Christmas morning.
- By the session meeting, my goal is to have planned the worship services through Christmas Eve. (Pastor Cindy said she is getting started on Advent messages and readings.)

Is there a history of having congregation members assist in the worship service - perhaps leading the opening section of worship... perhaps having a young person read one of the Scripture passages, etc.

The plan is to train Elders and Deacons as we go along this year.

Committees and Groups

I attended the Nominating Committee meeting. I was impressed by this group's work and support for one another and the church.

I have been disappointed that I have not been able (and will not be able this week) to attend the Presbyterian Women meetings. I have an honorary lifetime membership in PW and in 1987 I started a PW circle at my home church.

I am looking forward to being able to attend the Deacon's meeting next Sunday after worship. How does the Session work with the Deacons?

Pastor Cindy has been thinking of ways to utilize our coat closet. She said that she learned there is a person assigned to each school district to work with kids and families in situations where they need help. At Farmington Central it is Mr. Clint Mathewson. The Farmer's Closet was also discussed, which helps kids. Pastor Cindy didn't know about that group.

Interim Work

I would like you to reflect on your desired sense of pace for the interim time. Are there expectations – a timeline of when the next Pastor would arrive? That the Church could afford a full-time pastor again? That pursuing options for a part-time Pastor would need to be explored – yoking, sharing a pastor, finding a pastor that only wishes to work part-time, finding a pastor that has an additional job outside of the Church?

It was decided to invite COM to the January Session Meeting to discuss steps in finding a minister.

Pastor Cindy wants Elders to have access to the Book of Order as well as the Book of Confessions. BofO is available online as well as hardcopy.

Pastor Cindy had presented a Part Time Pastor "Priorities Worksheet" to the Elders last meeting. She is asking that they fill it out and return in during the December meeting. It basically will answer the question of "what they want Pastor Cindy to spend her weekly time on."

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.
- Trustees – Want to hire yard cleanup and need to get a quote.
- Weekly Post 'free' thank you ad placed by Pat. They sent a bill, so Pat took care of it.
- Session decided to have Christmas Eve service at 6:30pm as well as a regular Sunday service on New Years' Day, 2023. The Session said to poll the congregation to see if they want a Christmas Day service. (Note: Since the meeting, it has been decided to have a service at regular time.)
- Pastor Cindy to meet with Deacons to decide how to handle Home Communion.
- Adaptive Question for discussion – Elders to fill out form and bring it to December meeting.

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

- Nyle Staley has resigned from Session effective 10-14-2022 because of health issues. The Session voted to accept his resignation with thanks for his hard work the past year and with prayers for his health.
- There will be a Soup Luncheon on Hanging of Greens Sunday, November 20. Ryan said he would take charge of the meal. Liz volunteered to make cookies.
- The Session voted to have a Congregational Meeting on Sunday November 27 for the ordination/installation of Ryan as an Elder as well as the election of officers, per the Nominating Committee's recommendations. The installation/ordination of the slate of officers will take place either Dec. 4 or 11 depending on availability of the new officers to attend.
- Presbytery Mission Pledge Form will be given to Kathy for recommendations to the Session. Will vote on it at the December Meeting.
- Visioning Grant – Will look over form and decide if we have a project to submit.
- Next meeting December 8, Thursday at 6pm.
- The Session voted to adjourn at 7:20pm - prayer by Pastor Cindy.

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
Email: cindyb825@gmailcom
Mon, Tues, Wed 8:30 – 2:00 (subject to change)
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, November 11 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. Pat made Peach Cobbler w/ice cream for us to enjoy. I think we all enjoy the great fellowship and Bible study, We have set our next meeting for Friday, December 16 at noon. This will be our Annual Cookie Exchange, so mark your calendars. Look up your favorite cookie recipe to make or get some candy to share. Just make sure you join us as we have lots of fun. All ladies invited. – Pat Welker

Delano Ohaver

During November we lost a stalwart member of the Church, when Delano passed on November 12. He was a member of the Church for as long as I can remember and even before that. Over the years, he was a silent fix-it man. You could be on Church property and see something wrong or broken. Next time you were there, it was fixed because Delano would come in, fix it and leave. Never wanted to be acknowledged for what he did. He wasn't much of a talker, but when he did, it was worth your time to listen. Over the last year, he has been joining Wanda and I around their

kitchen table for coffee and conversation. He was always in the middle of a project of some sort, with parts laying on the table. He was a great person. He and Wanda were married 69 years on September 3 and Delano turned 90 on November 8. Said if he made it to 90, he would be satisfied with his years. Even though he hasn't been able to attend Church the last few months, he was with us in spirit. We have lost some good people this year. – Pat Welker

Hanging of the Greens

On Sunday, November 20 we had Hanging of the Greens. After worship, there was a soup luncheon hosted by Ryan/Kaitlyn Stobaugh & Jodi/Kevin Phillips. There were two delicious soups from the hosts as well as some beef, chicken, potatoes and beans left from the Ohaver luncheon on Saturday. Also had cookies and cakes for dessert. The luncheon was enjoyed by 25-30 folks. After eating, some went upstairs to decorate the sanctuary for the Christmas Season, the young ones were put to work making crafts and the rest of us cleaned up the kitchen. It was a great time of fellowship. We had 3 new people that have started coming to church join in the festivities. Hopefully they will continue coming to worship. It was a fun time and it was good to get back into some of the old traditions that we haven't done in the Covid years.

Monthly Calendars
December 2022

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

January 2023

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

Joys & Concerns

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

January Birthdays

5 Lindsey Danley **9** Mason Gomes; Claire Herron **14** Conner Berry; Tadd Swanson **15** Darren Berry **19** Dexter Ulm **24** Donna DeGroot **27** Clark Evans



† Prayer Request †

Joys:

Concerns: Wanda 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, Jayden Rutledge; Tammy Duley, & JoAnn Ray.

Bereavement: Ohaver Family

Those in Assisted Living: Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Wanda Ohaver at Farmington Village Nursing & Rehabilitation; 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!

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)**

