

THE BURNING BUSH

Lent and Easter Quiz

1. The Tuesday before Ash Wednesday (today) is known as

1. Shrove Tuesday because to prepare for Lent we confess and our sins are (shriven) forgiven.
2. Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras in French) because people stuff themselves with rich delicacies before Lent.
3. Carnival because it is the last time many Catholics will eat meat before the start of Lent.
4. All of the above.

2. The number of days in Lent are:

1. 40
2. 42
3. 46
4. 50

3. The ashes for Ash Wednesday are

1. Purchased from a Christian bookstore.
2. Made from the burning of the palm branches from last year's Palm Sunday.
3. Made in whatever manner the minister chooses.
4. Made from burning paper that traditionally lists our sins that we confess.

4. The date of Easter is set

1. By a group of Christian church leaders who meet every 10 years to set the dates.
2. As the first Sunday after the first full moon after the equinox - unless that occurs on a Sunday then it is the Sunday after.
3. By the Roman Catholic pope.
4. As a rotation of the different Sundays that scholars think Jesus actually rose.

5. "Easter" is?

1. A celebration that was set forth in the Bible and the word "easter" is found there too.
2. A celebration declared by a Pope Gregory in 600 A.D.
3. A blend of a pagan festival for spring and the celebration of Jesus' resurrection.
4. All of the above.

6. Easter has been celebrated in America since the arrival of the Puritans.

True or False.

7. We have Easter eggs and hunt for them because

1. Jesus did.
2. Eating eggs was forbidden during Lent and so people really couldn't wait to find some eggs to eat.
3. Birth from an egg is different enough from the way humans and most other animals are born to stand out as something special. To some, breaking out of an egg recalls Jesus escaping from his tomb.
4. Both 2 & 3 are right.

Blessings,

Pastor Cindy Bean

SNIPPETS **by Pat**

Snippets from the March 25 Session Meeting.

FINANCIALS: Kathy Welch went over the financial reports pointing out the CD present and upcoming changes. She also went over the expenses and noted that there would be an insurance payment next month. She then went over the Trustee report that was distributed to Elders.

MISSION STATEMENT: "The Church is organized to give seekers the opportunity to study God's Word and learn about Christ, to bring believers together in worship, and to encourage disciples in the service of God through spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world."

CONSENT AGENDA:

- The Session voted to approve the presented consent agenda that consisted of the Meeting Agenda as amended, the 02-15-2024 Session Meeting Minutes as corrected and receive the Clerk, Deacon, Pastor and Trustee reports.
- CLERKS REPORT:
 - Correspondence: None.
 - Email/Text Approvals:
 - A text sent on March 3, 2024, for approval by Pastor Cindy. Bonnie Suydam would like July 7-11 (Sunday-Thursday) approved for Vacation Bible School. The Session voted to approve.

- A text sent on March 3, 2024, for approval by Pastor Cindy. Missy Herron would like to use the CE Building on Sunday, May26 from 2:00-8:00pm. She will be hosting a Graduation Party for Brielle. The Session voted to approve.
- A text sent on March 14, 2024, for approval by Pastor Cindy. Pastor Cindy is requesting permission to Baptize Bennett Stobaugh as requested by his parents Ryan and Kaitlyn Stobaugh during worship on Sunday, April 7. The Session voted to approve.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- **Worship Team – Alissa (chair), Dale, Brady, Diana Rolando, Sam Sprecher & Jane Rutledge**
 - Not much new. I think we enjoyed Jennifer Sakata and Rev Ann Schwartz. Thanks to Dale for helping with locking doors during service!!
 - Side note: Rev Ann Schwartz's sermon was based on the book "Sailboat Church". When I spoke to her, she said she changed her sermon the day before after attending a session with the author of the book (I was also in attendance). I would love to read Sailboat Church as a group book study starting in May. I think it would provide a lot of insight on what was shared and how things are being done now. At the end of each chapter there are questions to help guide reflection/discussion. I do not think this should just be limited to session members, but that can be discussed. I am halfway through the book now and trying to get it finished. The book can be purchased new for around \$13 on Amazon, but I bought it used for \$6. NOTE: It was decided to discuss this further in the April meeting.
- **Christian Education Team – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa**
 - Palm Sunday 3/24: children will be singing during worship and bring in their fish banks while waving palms w/potluck and Easter egg hunt after worship.
 - Vacation Bible School will be 7/7 through 7/11/24. We chose the Camp Firelight curriculum. We should discuss inviting the local churches to join us. Bonnie said that since we received a grant from Presbytery and are in good shape financially for VBS, she was not going to apply for a grant this year.
 - Curriculum for Spring has been ordered and received.
 - Last Sunday for Sunday school will be May 19th.
 - Alissa reported that kids are not showing much interest in having a Youth Group. Therefore, she has decided that for now, she will honor the current published schedule of meetings, but after that, barring a lot of interest popping up, the Youth Group will disband for the current time.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair) & Dale**
 - Steffanie is checking with city groups to see if there will be a July 4 celebration this year. This is when we host our Hamburger/Hot Dog cookout in Reed Park.
 - Pastor Cindy mentioned that her contract is up the end of March and needs to be updated/agreed to.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Cozy (Chair) & Jodi**
 - Planning Potluck for March 24, Palm Sunday.

- Will plan VBS Mission Meal for June date TBD.
- **Evangelism Team** – Jodi (chair) & Cozy
 - Served 15 families with Feed the Faith in February. We are meeting March 25 to prepare the next meal.
 - Mission Meal April 7 to support Feeding the Faith.
- **Technology Team** – Brady (chair) & Steffanie
 - Website Updates are in Progress
 - The ministry teams need to look over their pages on the website to see if anything needs to be updated. <https://www.firstpresfarmington.com/ministry-teams.html>
 - The "Online Services" Page has been revamped and we will be adding the bulletin to the website prior to worship that week. Also, we now have an Announcements page that shows up under the "News & Events" tab that will have the weekly announcements posted. The post of what will be on the TVs will be on the website prior to 8AM on Sunday mornings. The announcements made during church will be added at a later time, with a note next to the Announcement.
 - Google Business Profile
 - Linked this to the firstpresfarmington@gmail.com account (Will allow for edits to google search to be made and controlled via the office email account)
 - Instagram Account / [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) Media
 - [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) Media is a "per user" setup, so will just create an account using the secretary email and provide the login for anyone that wants to be able to schedule posts.
 - Need to discuss thoughts on an Instagram Account for the church. It is possible to link both the Facebook page and Instagram Account together so that posting between platforms is seamless.
 - Copier Contract
 - After discussion of the following information gathered by Brady, the Session voted to pay off the lease for \$585 by March 31 and cancel the Maintenance Contract prior to Oct. 1. Brady is going to see that this is completed.
 1. Lease Ends 10/29/2024
 2. \$585 to pay off lease by 3/31/2024....quote would need updated if paid after, since we would have paid a \$65 monthly bill. So, it will only go down from this price.
 3. Maintenance Contract that is currently \$41.93 per month, renews on 10/1 (they would like a 30-day notice but can cancel anytime, just need the final meter read provided to them).
- **Nominating Team 2024** – Alissa Holder or Bonnie Suydam – Elders; Pat Welker or Linda Riley – Deacons; At-Large Members – Tony Rolando, Liz Johnson & Missy Herron.
- **Active Member Review** – Complete for 2023.

- **Deacon's Report:** :

DEACON'S MEETING

FEBRUARY 25, 2024 (as corrected)

The Deacons met in the CE Building after worship and opened at 11:30am with prayer by Chair Michelle Lane. Those in attendance were Michelle, Chris Evans, **, Glenene Benson and Pat Welker. January Minutes were approved. The Treasury Balance remains at \$540.76.

Cards Sent:

February

Chris	1
Glenene	7
Michelle	17
Pat	30

Communion: Feb 4 served 22 in worship. There was no home communion since Pastor Cindy was on vacation. Next Communion is March 7th. Glenene will bring bread and Chris and Michelle will help set-up. Pastor Cindy and Chris will be doing home communion. Michelle is going to check with Hy-Vee about Easter Flowers and will get a list ready to pass at Church on March 10 & 17. Next meeting will be Sunday, March 17 after worship. The meeting closed at 11:55am with prayer by Michelle.

Pat Welker, Secretary

** removed Sue Lane

DEACONS MEETING

MARCH 17, 2024

The Deacons met in the CE Building after worship and opened at 11:27am with prayer by Chair Michelle Lane. Those in attendance were Michelle, Chris Evans, Glenene Benson and Pat Welker.

February Minutes were approved. The Treasury Balance is \$362.26 after payment of \$178.50 for poinsettias.

Cards Sent:

Chris	3
Glenene	6
Michelle	15
Pat	36

Communion: March 3 served 32 in worship. Pastor Cindy and Chris served home communion to 7. Next Communion is March 28, Maundy Thursday. Michelle will bring bread and set-up followed by Easter Sunday worship, with Glenene bringing bread and Michelle helping set up. This will be followed by April 7 Communion with Chris bringing the bread and Michelle helping set-up. Pastor Cindy and Glenene will be doing home communion on April 7 only. It was

decided that there would be no home communion on Easter Sunday. Michelle is going to coordinate with Hy-Vee for the delivery of the Easter flowers prior to Easter Sunday. Next meeting will be Sunday, April 28 after worship. Meeting closed at noon with prayer by Michelle. Pat Welker, Secretary

- **Pastor's Report** – – February 15, 2024, Interim Pastor's Report
Pastor's Activities

- One home visit with a member
- Communion visits with Wilma Brentz, Larry Robeson and Donna DeGroot.
- Taught 3 three-hour confirmation classes. The confirmands are now to write their statements of faith and interview their mentors before meeting with the session on April 21st.
- I vacated the manse and had it cleaned.
- Led worship including Communion on March 3rd.
- Trying to assist Kathy Welch with Board of Pension difficulties, but I am also having difficulties making changes for myself. I reached out to our regional BOP today, Tuesday, March 19th.
- Recently found out (thanks to Pat) that the By-laws that I was given by Laura Reason are NOT the current by-laws. I will review the current bylaws in the weeks to come.
- **For information:**
Adam Benson has requested to be baptized and join the church. I will meet with him to talk about faith, being Presbyterian, and baptism. Then he will meet with the session and we will set a date for the baptism. Anticipate it will be sometime in May or whenever Glenene can attend worship following her knee replacement.
- Pastor Cindy provided information for the Elders – Update on Changes to the Board of Pensions Benefits. These changes are effective Jan. 1, 2025, and will affect churches nationally.
- **TRUSTEE'S REPORT:** March 2024
 - Projects Completed:
 - Furnace filters changed.
 - Rope on Church bell repaired.
 - Upcoming Projects:
 - Light over Communion tables is burned out, H&H Lighting will replace light fixture and install LED light.
 - Leak in CE Building roof with water staining on the kitchen ceiling. Massey Roofing has inspected roof and it needs to be replaced. Bid will be sent this week. Stained ceiling in kitchen to be painted.
 - Basement SS outdoor window trim on east side to be repaired, scraped, primed and painted.

- Outdoor work, including trimming bushes and leaf removal. Will ask Session to approve a workday for April 20, with rain date April 27. (See New Business below.)
- **OLD BUSINESS:**
 - Mission Study- Alissa's report on the 13 Surveys returned and the themes the replies addressed:
 1. What makes you thrive?
 - involved in activities and lessons and engaged
 - When happy and around those that are happy
 - Feel needed/useful and loved
 - Family and Friends
 - Music
 2. Elements of church you feel best about?
 - Togetherness/fellowship/family – “small by mighty in what we do”
 - Financially Sound
 - want church to succeed/committees working for church
 - young families/ meals being made
 - choir
 3. See as Mission
 - rebuild membership with focus on children, hopeful parents will eventually come.
 - serve others/Christ's love for all coming in doors and community
 - survive and have stability for new full-time pastor
 4. Dreams for church?
 - more attendance - children
 - more activities, laughter and fellowship
 - remember Christian heritage
 - remain active and continue to evolve without losing the “good old things”
 5. Visualization
 - more attendees and children
 - enjoy current format, but open to new
 - welcoming and vibrant
 - no cliques/just families – loving place for all
 - active with members and community
 - organ music
 - screens filled with pictures of families celebrating events in their lives
 - greeters, bulletin
 6. Improve
 - Worship earlier
 - Attendance/involvement/outreach/home visits
 - Accepting of change – say they want it but don't accept it (currently)
 - Stability of own pastor
 - Printed bulletin

- More active to suggested improvements (person said he/she needed to be)
- Communication and personal contact
- Cut down on reading screens – like to have head down to pray, read from Bible not screen

7. The Reason I go to church.....

- reinforce faith in God
- to hear sermon
- see church family/fellowship
- habit
- part of god's family
- calm and reflection during services

NOTE: To address the requests for a Worship Bulletin, Pastor Cindy is going to print off 5-10 copies of the bulletin and place them on the back tables near each sanctuary entrance for those wishing to have a paper copy versus the video screen information. This will allow us to measure how many actually want a paper bulletin.

- One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday – fish banks to be collected Palm Sunday and Envelopes Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday.
- Copy Machine – see under Technology report.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Session voted to approve the request for a Special Session Meeting on Sunday, April 21st following worship to meet with the confirmands and to approve them for membership in the congregation following their confirmation.
- The Session voted to approve Confirmation during the service on Pentecost Sunday May 19, 2024, if the way is clear with those involved.
- There was no action taken concerning having the American Flag in sanctuary.
- The Session voted to approve the Trustee Workday for Saturday, April 20, with a rain date of Saturday, April 27.
- No action taken on request from Camp Big Sky via Brad Guidi, for a letter of recommendation to Presbytery to give them a grant of \$75,000-\$150,000 through the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering.
- Add item to April agenda to discuss occasionally adding some Christian Music to our Worship Service.
- There was discussion concerning the locked doors during worship. This is to be added to the April agenda for further discussion.

The Session voted to close meeting at 7:50pm with the Lord's Prayer recited by all. Next Meeting April 18, the third Thursday at 6pm.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2024

ELDERS: Brady Johnson, Alissa Holder, Jodi Phillips, Bonnie Suydam, Cozy Hoover, Dale Benson and Steffanie Ulm – Interim Pastor Cindy Bean

DEACONS: Chris Evans, Pat Welker, Glenene Benson, Tammy Duley and Michelle Lane

TRUSTEES: Clark Evans, Joe Herron, Kevin Phillips, Jake Suydam, Kathy Welch, and Tim Ulm

TREASURERS: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES: Mickie Ulm and Michelle Lane

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@gmail.com
Office Hours (Contact Pastor Cindy)
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.

Per Capita 2024

The Per Capita amount for each member for 2024 is \$37.25. This is not an assessment or dues, but a covenant relationship with the greater church. This amount is not in our 2024 budget but paid as collected from each member to the Presbytery of Great Rivers. This money is used by the Presbytery to fund all of its administrative and mission projects. We partner with other churches in our Presbytery and are called to share Christ's love by partnering in Service, Uniting in Worship and Risking in Ministry. All organizations need money to enable them to perform and provide all that is expected from them. *So far this year, 23 have paid their Per Capita.* We are asking that everyone consider the important work of the Great Rivers Presbytery and support it by your 2024 Per Capita. Per Capita giving may be mailed directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct., Farmington, [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly), or can be provided during offering at the church in the pew envelopes.

Our Church Life

Presbyterian Women

The Presbyterian Women met on Friday, February 9 at 1pm, with 8 ladies present. We had our business meeting, then started our new Bible Study on Women of the Bible. This was followed by fellowship with a delicious coffee cake and cookies provided by Marianne. Our next meeting is the 2nd Friday, April 12 at 1pm. Hope to see you there.

Feed the Faith Mission

The ladies are meeting on Monday, March 22 at 9am to make some more meals for several folks in the area. They will also make extra meals to put in the freezer to use during the month if a need

comes up. This is a great thing this group is doing. I hope to be able to help one of these months as it sounds like they have a great time doing this. So, remember, if you know an individual and/or a family that could use a prepared meal, be sure to let Cozy Hoover, Jodi Phillips or Bonnie Suydam know. I'm sure the recipients will appreciate it. – Pat Welker

Palm Sunday

Palm Sunday, March 24, was a great time at worship. First off, the choir was there and sang for us. We also got to enjoy the kids performing 3 songs. They are really enthusiastic and so much fun to watch. Then Pastor Cindy gave us a good sermon about Palm Sunday. All in all, a great worship service.

Once service was over, we went to the CE Building to enjoy a potluck lunch. Everyone usually makes their specialty, so we end up with great food. I know everything I had was wonderful. I have found that we single ladies don't always get a lot of choices for a meal. So, this was great because we certainly had a wide variety of choices.

Once the meal was ending, the kids were taken into the Church for an Easter Egg Hunt, since the weather outside didn't cooperate to have it outside. The older kids had hidden the eggs throughout the Church for the little ones to find. There was a lot of excitement and it didn't take long for them to find all the eggs and I heard there were lots and lots of them. Each of the kids had a sack full of candy that is for sure.

All in all, a great day for everyone. Thanks to all hands that helped in anyway including cleanup. And for those who missed it, I'm sorry, because you missed out on a great time of fellowship and great food. – Pat Welker

Answers to Lent and Easter Quiz

1. 4
2. Technically 3 is correct unless you know that the Sundays in Lent are considered little Easters and then 1 is correct.
3. 2
4. 2
5. 3
6. False. The Puritans thought it was a pagan celebration. It wasn't celebrated until after the Civil War when Presbyterians began the movement to celebrate it. Eventually, the Puritans began to celebrate it also.
7. 4

Monthly Calendars
April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:30 am Communion <i>Youth Group 6-7 pm</i>	8	9	10	11	12 Presbyterian Women	13
14 10:30 am Worship	15	16	17 Choir practice	18 Session 6 pm	19	20 Trustee Workday
21 10:30 am Worship <i>Youth Group 6-7 pm</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27 Trustee Rain Date Workday
28 10:30 am Worship	29	30				

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship Communion <i>Youth Group 6-7 pm</i>	6	7 PEO 5:30 pm	8	9	10 Presbyterian Women 1pm	11
12 10:30 am Worship	13	14	15	16 Session 6 pm	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship Confirmation <i>Youth Group 6-7 pm</i>	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship	27	28	29	30	31	

Joys & Concerns

April Birthdays

3 Brian Elliott 8 Alissa Holder 16 Colby Evans 21 Kevin Phillips 24 Leigh Ann Stephens

May Birthdays

1 Emily Phillips 2 Ed Fryman 5 Annie Swanson 11 Emma Evans; Ethan Evans; Crystal Gomes 12 Monica Swanson 15 Jayme Johnson 22 Blake Johnson 24 Craig Duley 27 Paul Watters

April Anniversaries

8 Joe & Melissa Herron

May Anniversaries

25 Jay & Steffanie Ulm 27 Kent & Kathy Kowal

† Prayer Requests †

Joys: Palm Sunday Children's Service; our organist, Diana Rolando who blessed us with her beautiful music during the Easter season; Pat Welker's 6-month check-up – Cancer Free; Allison & Alex Smith had their daughter Amelia Lori on March 11!

Prayer Requests: Cozy Hoover; Kevin Phillips's cousins with cancer; Tony Rolando; Katie Berry (Doug & Laura Schmied's daughter); Eileen (Diana Rolando's mother); Pastor Cathy (Pastor Cindy's friend from NY); Chris Evans' sister, Michelle & brother-in-law, Chris; Dave Moermond; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge

Bereavement: Family of Ralph Bitner; Marissa Ulm and family in the loss of her stepfather.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

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

**Sunday School 9:15 am
Every Sunday All School Ages**

Per Capita is \$37.25 – Please consider providing this valuable support for the Presbytery

The church needs your help! Please consider volunteering to be on the Mission Study Team!

New Audio Equipment in the sanctuary to help pick up hymns during the service for Facebook/You Tube – Be Aware – You may be recorded!

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, financial secretary. Her address is 516 Idlewhile Ct., Farmington, IL 61531. OR now you can sign up on Tithe.ly via our church website by clicking "GIVE" on the Home Page. www.firstpresfarmington.com There are many settings of offerings – one-time, monthly, weekly,

**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)**

