



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

March/April 2020

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

From the Pastor Summer Sabbatical 2020

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

In September of 2019, the Session approved my Sabbatical Leave for June, July, and August of 2020. Many of you discovered this for the first time at our Annual Meeting on February 9th. The Sabbatical Leave was part of my original terms of call when I began my ministry in 2013. If you are unfamiliar with Sabbatical Leave, let me explain how it works.

Sabbatical Leave is recommended for all full-time pastors and educators serving churches, who have served in their present position for six (6) continuous years. My seventh year of ministry began in September of 2019. The recommended length of the Sabbatical Leave is three (3) months.

The PC(USA) defines Sabbatical Leave as “a planned time of intensive enhancement for ministry and mission. Sabbatical Leave follows precedents in the academic community and among a growing number of private sector groups.”

For the first two months (June and July) of my Sabbatical, I plan to travel over to the United Kingdom and Europe with my family. Church attendance in the UK is under three percent of the population. I want to attend some of the last thriving churches in England to see what they are doing to flourish under such difficult circumstances. Hopefully, we can learn some important information that can be used by our congregation.

We plan to return home and remain in Arlington Heights during the month of August where I will rest and recuperate, while preparing my research findings to present to the Session. During this time, Rev. Judy Hockenberry will assume the duties as Head of Staff. Given that Rev. TC Anderson will often be away on youth mission trips throughout the summer, the Session has approved funding


to hire a part-time pastor (20 hours per week). This pastor will help offset the pastoral care needs of the congregation and to preach on occasion when Judy needs a break.

For some, the idea of a Sabbatical Leave may feel like an unnecessary luxury. However, many Presbyteries have begun requiring churches to include Sabbatical Leave in their Terms of Call because the rate of burnout is so high. The average length of time a pastor remains in the church before leaving to find another career is five years. Note that I didn't say five years until finding another church or another call. I said finding a new career.

What this means is that within five years, many pastors are so burned out by their jobs that they end up leaving the pastorate behind entirely. The reason why this occurs is because there is no separation between your church life and family life. To be a pastor is to live and breathe the church.

One might say, “Pastors should have better boundaries,” but you can't say no when someone is suffering in the hospital. You can't say no when someone

has just lost a loved one. You can't say no when the church needs your attention to function. Your weekends are always filled with work. As we say on Sunday afternoon: your next sermon is always seven days away.

When I arrived at First Pres, I was full of energy. I was ready to give everything to this church...and I did just that. I have given the entirety of my energy and thoughts to this congregation. I always give 110% to everything that requires my attention in the church. It is exactly because of this that I am in need of this time of rest. After seven years, I need to get the church out of my thoughts for an extended period of time so I can continue to give you my absolute best. Thank you for giving me this much needed and necessary time away! 

“For six years you shall sow your land and gather in its yield; but the seventh year you shall let it rest and lie fallow, so that the poor of your people may eat; and what they leave the wild animals may eat.” (Exodus 23:10-11)

From the Pastor

Lent 2020 – The Fruit of the Spirit

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

When I was growing up in Virginia, I had a really good friend who was Roman Catholic. His name was Joey and his family went to church every Sunday. He attended a Catholic school from kindergarten through 8th grade. The Catholic Church was a central to everything he did in his life. One day, I remember going over to Joey's house and he had ash all over his forehead. I asked



him why his face was dirty. Joey explained that the ashes on his forehead was part of the ritual of Ash Wednesday.

As a Presbyterian, I had never heard of Ash Wednesday. Joey looked at me perplexed, "Don't you celebrate Lent?" Immediately, my 9-year-old brain thought of fabric lint—you know, the stuff that builds up on your dryer vent. Obviously, I had no idea what he was talking about and I wouldn't for many years. The celebration of liturgical seasons, like Advent and Lent, did not become prevalent in the Presbyterian Church until the late 90s. Indeed, there are still many southern Presbyterian churches that never adopted the practice of celebrating liturgical seasons.

It wasn't until I was in seminary that I learned more about the season of Lent. Traditionally, Lent is a period of 40 days where Christians walk alongside Jesus, as he journeys towards Holy Week where we mourn Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection. Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and ends the Saturday before Palm Sunday. During the season of Lent, we are often asked to reflect on how we can change our lives to become more like Jesus. Towards this end, over the next six weeks, we are going to be doing a sermon series called the *Fruit of the Spirit*.

In Christianity, we believe that God is manifest through the person of Jesus and through what is known as the Holy Spirit. Most of us are comfortable with the idea of God being manifest through Jesus. However, God being manifest through the Holy Spirit is a little bit more complicated. In my opinion, the best way to think of the Holy Spirit is simply as God's presence in all things.

In other words, the Holy Spirit is God's presence in the air you breathe, the water you drink, the lilies of the field, and so on. You, as a human, have

the Holy Spirit inside of you and, when you are in touch with that Spirit, it causes you to embody certain qualities. These qualities are known as the Fruit of the Spirit and they are outlined by the Apostle Paul in his letter to the church in Galatia. Paul tells us that the Fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.** (Gal. 5:22-23)

During the season of Lent, we are going to attempt to cultivate these qualities in our own lives by becoming more in touch with God's Spirit inside of us. Therefore, each week during Lent, we will focus on a different quality from the Fruit of the Spirit. We will examine each quality through the lens of Jesus' actions, exploring how Jesus demonstrates a particular Fruit of the Spirit in his own life. Jesus' example will provide the launching point for how we should cultivate that particular quality in our lives.

What's more, these qualities build on each other. I've worked hard to show how, by mastering one Fruit of the Spirit, it lays the foundation for you to be able to master the second and so on. Each week the hope is that you will leave church ready to work on fostering that quality in your own life. Furthermore, at the end of every sermon in this series, we will leave some time for contemplating this quality by using a Psalm as point of meditation through song, Taize chant or guided prayer.

I believe it will be a very meaningful spiritual journey as we strive to cultivate the qualities of the Holy Spirit in our lives through this season of Lent. I look forward to walking this journey alongside you! 🙏

"Fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control." (Gal. 5:22-23)



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

by Phyllis Orzechowski, Mission Committee Chair

During Lent, the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) Offering is collected by Presbyterians around the world. The OGHS Offering certainly makes a difference in the world and provides safety, sustenance and hope to individuals and communities in need. Have you ever wondered how? Where does the money go? How does it help others?

The OGHS Offering is used for:

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) – receives 32% of funds raised

Floods, mudslides, tornadoes, typhoons, wildfires – natural or human-caused disasters leave heartache and devastation in their wake. PDA works alongside communities, nationally and internationally, to show the healing love of Christ by caring for communities adversely affected by these events. From the initial disaster response to ongoing community development, PDA provides people with safety, sustenance and hope.



Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) – receives 36% of funds raised

PHP works to alleviate hunger. When anyone doesn't have enough food, quality nutrition or clean water, life suffers.

PHP provided food relief to more than half a million people last year. PHP also works with individuals to provide training, knowledge, and products (such as native, quality seeds) to empower individuals to provide their own healthy food.

Self-Development of People (SDOP) – receives 32% of funds raised

The Presbyterian Committee on Self-Development of People works with low-income communities across the United States to overcome oppression and injustice.

Projects focus on advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, and immigration/refugee issues. With OGHS Offering support, over 5,000 projects in poor communities in the US and around the world have developed solutions to their own challenges.

Your support of the OGHS Offering changes lives, improves living conditions, and gives people hope. This year our OGHS Offering will be collected from February 26th through

April 12th. What could we, as a congregation, do to support OGHS? How could the money we donate change the world? Could we raise \$7,500? Could we raise \$8,000? Why put a limit on what we can do? Thank you for your support. 🙏

Pentecost Offering April 13 through May 31, 2020

“God, from my youth, you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds”..... Psalm 71:17

Each year we celebrate the birthday of the church and the gift of the Holy Spirit through the Pentecost Offering. The Holy Spirit stays with us – connecting us with the church of the past, inspiring us in the present, and pointing us to the church of the future.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church of the future – children, youth, and young adults. The Pentecost Offering provides support in the following ways:



40% for Congregational Initiatives with Young People – this money stays with our congregation to support ministries with children and youth that will have a future effect on our church as well as our community.

25% goes to Young Adult Volunteers – This money goes to young adults serving communities around the world, and helps them to grow as leaders through Christian service.

25% supports Guiding Youth or Youth Ministries for ages 12-18 by uniting them and lifting them up as leaders and messengers of God's word.

10% is devoted to Child Advocacy – helping to improve the education and provide safe havens for children at-risk.

The Pentecost Offering does so much for the youth – the youth of our church and youth worldwide. These individuals will become our future leaders and will shape our world. Let us help our youth begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith – through generous giving to the Pentecost Offering. 🙏

WINGS 2020 Easter Basket Collection

Believe it or not, Easter will be here before we know it. WINGS (Women in Need Growing Stronger) has reached out to First Presbyterian Church and asked if we could donate Easter baskets for the children of WINGS.



WINGS is an organization dedicated to providing support to women and their children who have left abusive environments and need a “hand up” to begin a new and better life. WINGS provides educational opportunities, job training, and support in various ways to help these families change their future.

We would like to give Easter baskets to each child supported by WINGS. These children range in age from tiny tots up to 17 years old, with almost 80% being between the ages of 6 through 17 years old.


This year we will again have tags that will be sorted by age and gender which might make your shopping a little easier, if you opt to purchase an Easter basket. However, if you'd like to support this great cause but don't have time and/or enjoy shopping, a monetary donation would be greatly appreciated. We will do the shopping for you!

Please stop by the WINGS Easter Basket table in the Narthex on Sundays, March 1, 8, 15 or 22 to pick up an age/gender tag for a



basket or give a monetary donation. We need to have all baskets dropped off at the church by noon on Sunday, March 22. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Phyllis Orzechowski at 312-520-8966 or orz2141999@comcast.net.


Also, we love to find volunteers who can get store discounts to help purchase the remaining Easter Baskets. Come by the table and let us know if you can help stretch our monetary donations a bit further!

On behalf of WINGS and the many families who rely on WINGS, thank you for your love and support of this mission. 

Borrow from Mary and Martha & Support the Kids

Mary and Martha's Lending Closet is up and running. We were busy during November and December, and we loved assisting so many with finding the right items for your gathering. Mary and Martha's has whatever you need for that next book club, birthday party, friends over for dinner, or large gathering. Tables, folding chairs, tents, beverage tubs, and string lights are available. Check out the Closet before you purchase all of your entertaining supplies. We expect a busy spring and summer – you can reserve now for any dates through August 2020.

Mary and Martha's Lending Closet makes it possible for all children in District 25 who are eligible for reduced price lunch to now receive free lunch. We also are continuing to work with District 59 to pay down student lunch debt. The more you borrow and contribute the more debt we can pay off, and the more kids we can help. Through your generous donations to Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday, we will be able to sponsor the District 25 Summer Breakfast program for Summer 2020. Thank you for your generous donations.

Mary and Martha's Lending Closet is open on Sunday mornings, and other times by appointment. Email Michele Holifield or Amy Hempleman at maryandmartha@firstpresah.org. 

Lenten Bible Study

“A Lenten Journey Through the Lectionary: Exploring Our Story Through the Biblical Story”

February 23 through April 5 (no class March 15),
9:00-10:00 am in the Boardroom

Led by Rev. Judy Hockenberry

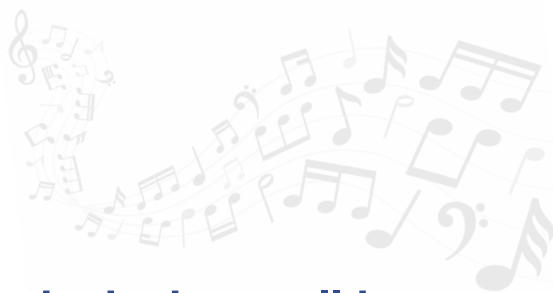
The series will follow the Revised Common Lectionary Readings and will include both Old Testament and New Testament. We will read from Genesis, Ezekiel, Matthew, and John. Our challenge through these weeks will be to discover where these stories are happening in our own world today, whether in our community, or our world, or ourselves.

Welcome New Members

We welcomed our newest members into our family of faith on January 26, 2020. Join us in welcoming:

- Roxane Komar
- Scott Peddicord
- Sarah Beth Speciale

Music fills the Soul...



Concert Series

Concert Series Schedule

Sundays at 4:00 pm

March 15 First Pres Community Talent Show

It's time again for those in Arlington Heights and the surrounding communities to share their talents with each other!

April 5 Spring Choral Concert: Festival of Psalms!

Our Spring Choral Concert will be the closing concert of the season, and we will be celebrating the Psalms!

Wednesdays at Noon

Our **Wednesdays @ Noon Recital Series** is presented on the first Wednesday of the month from 12:10 pm to 12:45 pm in the Sanctuary.

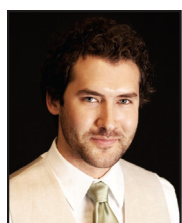
March 4 Michael Hawes, trumpet;
Christopher Urban, organ

April 1 Chuck Beech, piano;
Christopher Urban, organ

From the Conductor's Stand

by Adam Hendrickson, Director of Music and Worship

March and April are going to have some real highlights brought to you by the Music Ministry at First Pres. Our Wednesday @ Noon recitals in March and April are going to be fantastic. I cannot wait for you all to hear Michael Hawes on the trumpet. We are also truly spoiled and blessed to hear Chris Urban every week, and even more so when he and Chuck Beech offer music together. In March, we are bringing back the Community Talent Show. Please, please tell all your friends! Not only do I want a plethora of entries, I want to see a real effort to let members of the Arlington Heights community know that this is for them too, even if they're not a member of the church. Our final concert of the season will celebrate music inspired by the Psalms. You can expect to hear a new arrangement of Psalm



Which choir will be at worship?

9:00 am Worship Ensembles

March/April Music led by Compass

10:30 am Worship Ensembles For March/April

March 1 Chancel Choir

March 8 Chancel Choir and Chancel Handbell Choir

March 15 Chamber Singers

March 22 Chancel Quartet and Chancel Choir


March 29 Chancel Choir

April 5 Chancel Choir and Men's Chorus

April 12 Combined Choirs and First Pres Brass

April 19 Bruce Blanck Jazz

April 26 Chancel Choir

23, as well as Felix Mendelssohn's 'Hear My Prayer'. There might even be an original piece of music by yours truly. Holy Week and Easter are going to be packed full of opportunity for you to fill up your soul, musically speaking. The Chamber Singers will present the 'Psalms of the Passover' complete with a quartet comprised of piano, violin, cello, and clarinet on Maundy Thursday. Good Friday is becoming a mini-concert of its own. You won't want to miss out on that experience, and when we come together again on Easter Sunday, be prepared to experience the Resurrection in a truly inspiring way as our praise band, Compass, Combined Choirs, and First Pres brass provide music for their respective services. We are continually blessed with beautiful music and talented music makers here at First Pres. Thank you for all that you do to make this space a vibrant place for such praise! 

Children's Ministries

by Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries

Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School fun at First Pres! This year our theme is Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. VBS will be held from Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10.



Online only registration will begin mid-March.

With the help of Bible Buddies Ramsey, Ava, Sierra, Finn, and Lawrence Elk, children in preschool – 4th grade will

learn all about the power of Jesus to pull us through even the most challenging times in our lives. Through interactive stations such as Imagination Station, Bible Adventures, Locomotion Games, and the Chew Chew Snack station, kids will learn about themselves and the world around them. Bible lessons help to make the theme come alive through scripture and drama, while other stations use creative and unique ways to capture kids' hearts and minds.

If you have questions about Vacation Bible School, please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org.



MissionFactory

We are planning another awesome week of mission to our incoming 5th and 6th graders to experience this summer. Through field trips and on campus activities, our tweens are given many opportunities to see how they can make a difference in our community and the world.

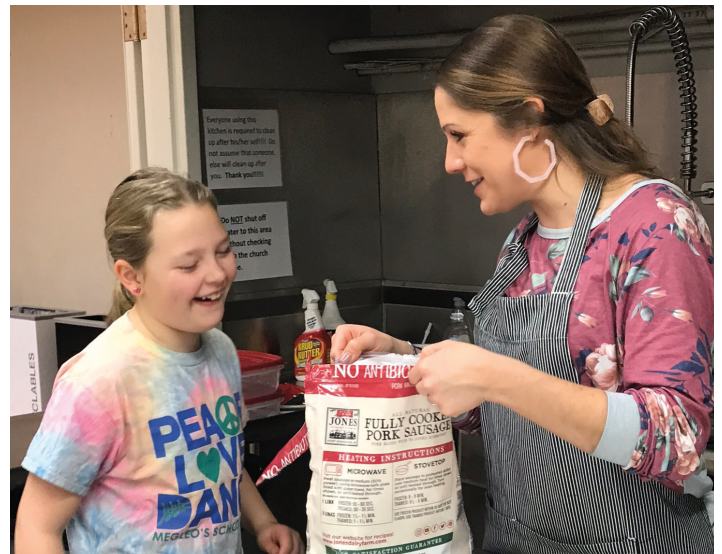
As we head into our fifth year of a mission-based program for tweens, we're excited to introduce new experiences while also continuing to offer some favorites from over the years. Specific details on activities will be available later in the spring. MissionFactory will be held from Monday, July 6 – Friday, July 10. Online only registration will begin mid-March.

If you have questions about MissionFactory, please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org.

Pancake Breakfast Thank You

Children's Ministries would like to thank everyone who supported us through our Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser in January. Through your generosity, we raised over \$750 that will be used for Children's Ministries programs. We were delighted to welcome so many members and friends to our delicious breakfast fundraiser.

We would like to offer a special thanks to all those who helped make the breakfast possible: Kurt Landwehr and Jeff Martinka for being our pancake chefs; Katie Washco, Laura Puckett, Ellen Anderson, Susannah Holifield, and Susan Schuffler for hosting, serving, and cleaning up; Charlotte and Susannah L. for clearing and setting tables and scooping syrup; and Michele Holifield for pulling it all together!



Preparations are a fun learning experience for kids as they prepare pancake batter and packages of pancakes to go.

Kids Connect Workshops Are A Hit

Yoga! Card making! Woodworking! Science! Art! Cooking! Kids Connect has it all! Children's Ministries is so thankful for everyone who has enabled us to offer a variety of hands-on activities during Kids Connect. Our Yoga workshop kicked off the program year and was very popular. Card making gave kids the opportunity to make their own scrapbook-quality greeting cards to use at Christmas or other times. They loved being able to create things to give away. Woodworking was another favorite – kids got to use real woodworking tools to create their own wooden game and treasure box. Science, art, and cooking will round out the program year.

The thing kids love most about the workshops is the chance to do things that really speak to them! They select which workshops throughout the year they would like to participate in and get to learn and try new things. It's a real gift to our Kids Connect program to be able to offer these opportunities!

An APCE Recap

The Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) held another terrific conference in late January. Thanks to the generosity and support of our congregation, Pastor Judy, Michele Holifield, and Katy Allen were able to attend the conference in Little Rock, AR. In addition to idea-generating workshops, inspiring plenary sessions, and moving worship services, this year's annual conference included a trip to Central High School where nine African-American students endured daily attacks and taunts as they sought an education at the all-white school. Elizabeth Eckford, one of the "Little Rock 9", shared with the APCE audience and members of the public her memories of what it was like to be on the front lines of the civil rights movement.

APCE attendees also had the opportunity to tour the grounds of Heifer International, an organization that is working to support sustainable economies and provide nutrition and other necessities in countries all over the world. First Pres has been a generous supporter of Heifer International and it was a treat to see their brand new facility and learn about the resources they can provide congregations who are interested in integrating Heifer into their programs.

Connecting with fellow educators, pastors, and leaders is a vital part of APCE. Ministry is a shared experience and it is incredibly valuable to give and take ideas from others, to feel supported and encouraged by others, and to experience the renewal that comes from time away. We are all looking forward to bringing ideas from APCE to First Pres! 📍

Youth Ministries

by TC Anderson, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, & Families

Youth Stock Sale

The Youth Stock Sale is back! It's happening on Youth Sunday, February 23 and continuing for the first two weeks of March (1 & 8). Make sure to buy your Stocks for \$10 a share to support Youth Missions throughout the year and their mission trips in the summer. This year, Middle School is going to the Twin Cities and High School is staying local and doing a trip into downtown Chicago. 📍



SAVE THE DATE

ROCKY RAILWAY VBS

July 6-10, 2020

8:45 am – 12:00 pm

Open to 4-year olds –
incoming 4th graders

\$25 per child

MISSIONFACTORY

July 6-10, 2020

8:45 am – 12:00 pm

Open to incoming
5th and 6th graders

\$25 per child



Family Night Program Weekly Wednesday Evening Schedule

September through May

Dinner 6:00-7:00 pm

Drop-in dinner time for all ages, in Fellowship Hall

Classes and Programs 7:00-8:00 pm

- Adult education and mentoring
- Conversation Classes
- Engage & Encounter adult Christian education
- Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)
- Kids Connect (grades K-5)
- Free nursery care

ENGAGE AND ENCOUNTER

Adult Christian education on Wednesday nights

January 8 — March 18, 2020

The American Experience: Religion in the New World

Presenters: Dr. Donald Kaasch & Rev. Alex Lang

For the third year in a row, Rev. Alexander Lang and Dr. Donald Kaasch are team teaching. This year they are talking about history and evolution of American Christianity. Starting with Puritans, we will examine and dissect all the various permutations of American Christianity over the last four centuries. The goal of the class will be to discern the thread of how each new variation of American Christianity is a reaction and response to how the prior variation has become established and entrenched in the American culture of the day.

April 1 — May 6, 2020

Unoffendable: How Just One Change Can

Make Your Life Better – *Presenter: Dr. Bob Gorsky*

We're not entitled to our anger? Really? Isn't taking offense normal? Aren't we supposed to get offended? Isn't anger at sin justifiable? If God gets mad, why can't we? Are there any pearls of wisdom from scripture and our experiences? In his book *Unoffendable*, Brant Hanson asks a radical, freeing question:

What if Christians were the most unoffendable people on the planet?

And he offers a life changing idea: "righteous anger" is a myth, and giving up our "right" to be offended can be one of the most healthy, simplifying, relaxing, refreshing, stress relieving, encouraging things we can do.

Each Wednesday we'll share insights and stories from his book, and our own about things we can do that will help to...

- ... release religious burdens
- ... experience the joy of gratitude
- ... love others in risky, unexpected ways
- ... replace weariness with energy, and
- ... flourish the way God intends each of us to.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Children and middle school youth are invited to take part in fun and educational activities from 7:00 to 8:00 pm. Grades 6-8 are invited to MSYG (Middle School Youth Group), a time to build relationships and faith and have fun. Contact Rev. TC Anderson to register (no fee). Grades K-5 are encouraged to attend Kids Connect for gym time, hands-on and creative/learning activities. Children must be accompanied by their parent(s) for dinner. No registration is required for Kids Connect, and children may attend any or all portions of the program.

ACT & SAT Math Preparation for High School Students will be offered again this spring **March 4, 11, 18, and April 1 — Cost \$50**

ACT & SAT Test Prep Course – High school students can register for a four-week course on math subject areas of the ACT and SAT tests. This course will be taught by church member Don Rowley, a retired math teacher and expert in ACT and SAT prep. There is a \$50 fee for materials. Registration is required, and students are expected to attend all four weeks. Register with Carol Vega in the church office at carolvega@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900 by February 26.

GOD'S HONEST TRUTH

Child's Play: Stories of How Children Change Our Lives

Wednesday, May 6

Dinner in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm
Stories in the Sanctuary 7:00pm

Session Highlights January & February Meetings

by Barbara MacDowall, Clerk of Session

From the January 13, 2020 Meeting:

- Children's Ministries announced that their annual pancake breakfast will be held on Sunday, January 26.
- In early December, our High School Youth participated in a retreat, our Middle School Youth participated in a lock-in, and our College youth, who were home for the holidays, helped out with the Christmas Service.
- Middle School, High School, and College Youth, along with their friends and numerous adult leaders, participated in the annual Jan's Jam on Friday, January 2. Activities included roller skating, a trampoline park, laser tag, video gaming, donut eating, and a movie at church.
- The Discipleship Dinner will be held for our 10th grade confirmands on Monday, February 10.
- The Commission on Anti-Racism and Equity (DARE) is continuing its efforts to increase awareness of systemic racism. A presbytery-wide training event will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020, at First Pres. This event is open to all pastors and congregation members in Chicago Presbytery, not just the Presbytery Commissioners.
- We heard a presentation by representatives from the Kenneth Young Center, which provides mental health services to children and adults in our community.
- We heard a presentation by Coleen Anzalone, Director of Parents' Day Out (PDO).

by Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session

From the February 10, 2020 Meeting:

- Annual Meeting of the Congregation was held Sunday, February 9, 2020, the Pastors Terms of Call were approved.
- A dinner was held with Session for confirmands and families. Session approved the following confirmands for church membership and welcomed them:
 - Elise Anfenson • Mollie Lumsden • Molly Tavares
 - Ellie Bay • Kelly Marr • Katelyn Wagner
 - Jamie Cerniglia • Brianna • Sam Walter
 - Annabelle Hilder Michalczyk • Will Wascher
- Congregational and Community Life Committee is planning a spring event for mid-March.
- Session approved donation of "loose change" non-designated offering monies collected on Ash Wednesday and Palm Sunday to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering.
- Easter Basket Collection for the children of WINGS will begin March 1 and run through March 22.
- Watch for "in-house" Service Day sometime in May.
- The Children's Ministries Pancake Breakfast was very successful. We made around \$600. "Valentine's Day Out" was held on February 9, 2020.
- CATS was completed and consultants will present results to Session for review later in the month of February.
- Youth Sunday is February 23, followed by the Youth Stock Sale on 2/23, 3/1 and 3/8.
- God's Honest Truth on Wednesday February 5, 2020, provided the congregation with many amazing stories.

We are praying for these and many other members in our congregation.



SYMPATHY

Please join in extending sympathy to:

Bill, Liz, and Emily Thompson, on the death of Bill's mom, Nancy E. Thompson

The family of **John "Jack" Bonthron**

The family of **Margie Seastone**

The **Hartung** and **Hockenberry** families on the death of Ralph P. Hwastecki, their brother-in-law and uncle

The **Reinhard** family on the death of Thomas Saunders Reinhard

Carolyn Schmidt, on the death of her husband, **Keith**

Jill Hilder, on the death of her mother, Barbara Clary

Darl Pochert, on the death of his mother, Marjorie Pochert

BAPTISMS

The following were welcomed into the family of faith on:

Sunday, January 12, 2020

Calder Bennett Lewis

son of **Phillip and Courtney Lewis**

A NOTE OF THANKS

Recent expressions of gratitude were received from **Liz Armstrong** for the congregation's care and support through calls, cards, visits, prayers, and words of encouragement to her these past couple of months as she recuperates.

What's Happening at First Pres



90th Birthday Celebration

Sunday, April 26, at 10:00 am in the Parlor

The Deacons cordially invite you to join us at our Annual 90th Birthday Celebration for cake, punch, and joyful recognition of our amazing friends of nine decades!



Baby Shower For Christopher House

Please donate unwrapped baby and toddler items for the young moms in need who are supported by Christopher House. Rattles, clothing including onesies, sippy cups, lotion, baby shampoo, towels and washcloths, crib mattress covers, board books and toys, and first aid kits for newborns are needed. Gift cards for Target, Costco, and Walmart are appreciated. Please drop off your gifts in the baby shower boxes in the Narthex during April. The items will be given to Christopher House on April 28. Thank you! Questions: Jody Stanhope, 847-259-8054



Easter Flower Sign Up

You have two chances – Sunday, March 1 & Sunday, March 8 to order your Easter Flowers to help decorate the church with a lovely touch of spring. On those two Sundays in March, look for the sign-up table in the Narthex and bring a little spring to the church for Easter! Questions, contact Marty Kraybill at 847-398-3423 or marty1110k@gmail.com



Blanket Drive will Keep Many Warm - Thank You For Your Generosity

Blankets can mean survival for people facing disaster, hardship, and terrible situations. Thank you for your generosity in January & February for contributing to the World Wide Blanket Drive and providing those blankets that are so badly needed.



The FPCAHL Golf League

We are organizing teams for the 2020 season at Palatine Hills Golf Course. During May through August, we will have Tuesday evening tee times for 9-hole rounds. Whether you are already a great golfer or just learning how to play, you are welcome to join the League. We also need substitutes! For additional information, please contact Arlene Bullerman at 847-670-0319 or abullerman@earthlink.net.



Aluminum Can Drive

Saturday, March 21, 2020
9:00 – 11:00 am in the West Parking Lot

Bring your crushed aluminum cans to the west parking lot on March 21 from 9:00 am – 11:00 am. Our last drive collected 116 pounds of cans! We also accept anything made of copper. If you need cans picked up call Stan or Nancy Conning at 224-735-7310. This is our forty-second year collecting, and all proceeds go to the Men's Club sponsored charities.



Upcoming Events March & April 2020

MARCH

- 1&8 Easter Flower Orders
- 1&8 Youth Stock Sale
- 4 Wednesday @ Noon (Michael Hawes, trumpet; Christopher Urban, organ)
- 15 First Pres Community Talent Show
- 16 VBS/Mission Factory registration
- 17 PW Circle 7
- 18 PW Circles 1,2,3
- 21 Aluminum Can Drive
- 22 No Sunday School or HSYG (Spring Break)
- 25 No Family Night or Kids Connect & MSYG (Spring Break)

APRIL

- 1 Wednesday @ Noon (Chuck Beech, piano; Christopher Urban, organ)
- 4 Easter Brunch
- 5 Palm Sunday
- 5 Spring Choral Concert
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday worship
- 10 Office closes at 12:30
- 12 Easter Sunday Worship
- 13 Office Closed


Greg Athnos Program at The Moorings

Greg Athnos will have two programs at **The Moorings** in March. Programs will be held in the Chapel at 7:00 pm.

March 10 **Richard Wagner: The Man Who Destroyed Music (As We Knew It)**

The towering giant of the 19th century pushed music to the breaking point. None could compare with him or with his ego. His music was radical; so was his view of the human race. In two sessions we'll examine the multitude of ways he exhibited his genius. In this session we'll examine his life and the reasons for his anti-Semitism. In session two we'll examine his Magnum Opus 'The Ring of the Niebelungen'.

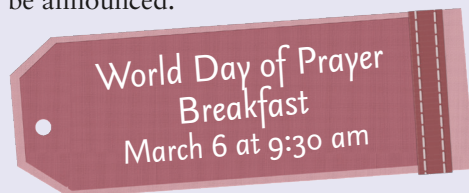
March 24 **Wagner's 'Ring Cycle'**

Based on the Norsk 'Ragnarok' legend, Wagner's 'Ring of the Niebelungen' portrays the creation of 'greed' and 'lust for power'. Both result in the final destruction of the world, and the seeds of a 'new redemption' brought about by a sacrificial immolation and a flawed hero: Siegfried. Wagner's 'super hero' became the subject for Hitler's Aryanism and one of the greatest cataclysms in history. 

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Church Women United

It is time for **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER BREAKFAST** for Church Women United on **Friday, March 6 at 9:30 am**. Come join in the program and discussion and enjoy a tasty breakfast and fellowship with other women and The World! Place to be announced.



News from Faith Community Homes

Members of **Presbyterian Women, Circle 2** and others have faithfully been donating food and other items each month to support the families involved with Faith Community Homes. Here is a list of items supplied each month, since September: canned fruit, instant oatmeal packets, ground coffee, and body wash. In December, there was a special donation of Aldi gift cards which amounted to \$370.00. Members are happy that these items can assist what we as a congregation donate to Faith Community Homes.

Presbyterian Women

Circles 1-3 welcome women of the church to join us for some fun, refreshments, and fellowship with other women and a little music on **Wednesday, March 18, at 9:00 am** in the Parlor. "Our Words of Love" continues, but now we have a fascinating subject of "Do Not Steal". Add your voice to our discussion.

Something to Think About


Have you thought hard about times you have not spoken truthfully?

That little white lie or exaggeration? "Words of Love: Speak Truthfully" will be the topic for discussion for Presbyterian Women, Circles 1-3 on **April 15, at 9:00 am** in the Parlor. Join us for fellowship, lively discussion, and refreshments and bring a friend! It should be an interesting topic and we will welcome spring, we hope!

Circle 7

If nighttime is the right time for you, join Presbyterian Women for fellowship, fun, discussion, and refreshments on **Tuesday, March 17, at 7:00 pm** in the home of Mary Hebden (1645 N. Evergreen Ave. Arlington Hts). This is the beginning of an ongoing discussion of the book "Almost Everything, Notes On Hope" by Anne Lamott. Do join in and add a spark of hope of your own! Perfect for St. Patrick's Day! Information? Contact Liz Thompson at liz85@yahoo.com.

Welcome Spring with Circle 7

Presbyterian Women Circle 7 welcomes you to join an evening of fellowship, study, refreshments, and a lively exchange of views and ideas. On **Tuesday, April 21, at 7:00 pm**, join this group in the home of Ridgely Jackson (299 N. Dunton Ave. Arlington Hts). The book "Almost Everything, Notes on Hope" by Anne Lamott will be the topic and should offer a lively discussion! Information? Contact Liz Thompson at liz85@yahoo.com. 

The CHIMES

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Lenten SERVICES

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SERVICES WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 26 *Ash Wednesday*

6:00–7:00 pm Dinner in Fellowship Hall
7:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion and the
Imposition of Ashes, in the Sanctuary
(No Family Night Programming this evening)

The **Lenten Sermon Series “Fruit of the Spirit”** kicks off on **Ash Wednesday**. Invite someone new to come and learn! The **One Great Hour of Sharing** fish coin banks will be distributed Ash Wednesday and on the first Sunday of Lent, March 1.

APRIL 5 *Palm Sunday*

9:00 & 10:30 am Welcome the Messiah with waving
palm fronds

APRIL 9 *Maundy Thursday*

7:00 pm Celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion

APRIL 10 *Good Friday*

7:00 pm Experience Christ's passion in worship

APRIL 12 *Easter Sunday*

Celebrate Christ's glorious resurrection!

6:30 am Sunrise Service at North School Park
(intersection of St. James and Evergreen Streets)
8:00 am Worship in the Chapel
9:30 am Worship in the Sanctuary
11:00 am Worship in the Sanctuary
(Please note time changes for all services)