



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

January/February 2020

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

We Want to Know Your Story!

by Rev. Judy Hockenberry, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

As you have heard recently in church announcements and read in Weekly Highlights, our Session voted to move forward with **HolyCow! Consulting** to help us look at congregational vitality and to help us plan for our future.

The first step of this process is to conduct a Congregational Assessment. This assessment will provide a clear picture of who we are as a faith community and what next steps are most important for our future. The tool we will be using is the **Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT)**. This tool will provide key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us collect and understand the wide range of views that exist here at First Pres and the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for moving our ministry into the decade of the 2020's.

Our window for taking this assessment will be from **January 6 through January 24, 2020**. Your Session will receive a full report on February 10, 2020 and from there we will set a congregational gathering to share the information with all of you.

This survey will take 30 minutes to complete and there will be approximately 90 questions. It is completely anonymous. The Session understands this means a real commitment on your part to take the survey. We are encouraging, urging, begging, pleading, and perhaps even

Continued on page 2



Watch for our upcoming **Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT)**

From the Pastor Crossover

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

When I was in high school, I loved having conversations about religion. At one point, I remember the words coming



out of my mouth, "All religions are basically the same." This was an interesting statement for me to make because I actually knew nothing about any religion. This was even true of the Christian faith in which I had been raised. My basis of

understanding the Bible and Christian history was essentially non-existent.

So why did I feel I had the authority to make the proclamation that religions are all the same? Because I had heard adults make that claim and,

being older and ostensibly wiser than myself, I assumed they knew what they were talking about.

My confidence in this maxim quickly disintegrated when I arrived at Rice University and began studying religious history. You can maintain the façade that all religions are

the same when you have a surface level understanding of what a religion purports to believe. However, the moment you start parsing out the details of the various religious traditions, you come to realize that each religion has their own truth claims that conflict with and invalidate the other religious claims.

For example, if the Buddhist belief in reincarnation is accurate, then the Christian

"Each religion has their own truth claims that conflict with and invalidate the other religious claims."

Continued on page 2

We Want to Know Your Story! (Continued from page 1)

providing prizes for you to take this time and answer these questions.

Alex Lang is in his seventh year as our Head of Staff, Judy Hockenberry is bringing her fifth year to a close, and TC Anderson is in his fourth year as our Associate Pastor for Youth. It's the perfect time to take our temperature as a congregation; it's the perfect time to think about what we want the decade of the twenties to look like here at First Pres; it's the perfect time to hear from you.

The survey will be sent to you via web link so you can take it online. If you prefer to take the assessment using a paper copy, there will be paper copies available in the church office and a box where you can place the completed paper copy. Please remember that we want to hear from EACH individual. Even if you only have one e-mail address for all

the members of your household, please be sure that each individual over the age of 16 living in your home has an opportunity to complete the survey. INDIVIDUAL INPUT is the key to gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences which will lead us to better understand the health of our congregation.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact Judy Hockenberry at judyhockenberry@firstpresah.org. If you simply want to make sure that the office has your most current email address you can give that information to Carol Vega or Mary Fino.

Thank you in advance for taking the time for this assessment. CAT will be our focus as we begin a new year together! 🕊

Crossover (Continued from page 1)

claim that belief in Jesus leads to salvation is wrong. Vis-versa, if we are right about Jesus, then the Buddhist belief in reincarnation is invalidated. That being said, as I studied the various religious traditions that humans have upheld throughout history, I found that some of the details had elements of crossover. Indeed, this crossover would occur between religions that seemingly had very little in common.

Over the years, I have taken note of these various elements of crossover, particularly when they intersected with the Christian faith. To this end, we are doing a short, five sermon series in January and February called *Crossover*. The idea behind this series is, rather than focus on what makes our particular religious tradition exclusive and unique compared to other religions, we are going to focus on the

places where different religious traditions align in terms of their beliefs.

Each week we will focus on different religious traditions that have points of intersection with Judaism/Christianity. At the beginning of each sermon I will provide a brief outline of a foreign religious tradition and then we will come to see how a particular tenet overlaps and has similar concepts within Christianity.

The point of this series is not to say that all religions are the same, because they're not. Rather, *Crossover* will show how religions share parallel paths of interest with the hopes of achieving similar ends, often by different means. This is a sermon series that will broaden your horizons and help you see your own faith from a new perspective. 🕊



A Stranger's Story

by Rev. Judy Hockenberry, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care

About twice a week I am called downstairs by Carol, our administrative assistant at the front desk to talk with someone who has come in seeking some sort of financial assistance. Sometimes I can help them and other times I cannot. Every time I am able to offer assistance it is due to your generosity.



A few weeks ago, Carol told me there was a young man who wanted to speak to a pastor. I went downstairs prepared to offer this stranger a Jewel gift card as I have other times. As he told me his story, my heart was filled with compassion. I tucked my Jewel gift card away because I knew this was a situation that would take more than a gift card.

This young man from Ghana explained to me that he had lost his job a while ago and he had come from the Romeoville area to the northwest suburbs seeking a job. He had found a job and was supposed to start tomorrow (this was a Thursday). But his car had broken down and he had it towed to a Midas. They were telling him he needed a new catalytic converter and the cost would be at minimum \$1300.00 dollars. I explained that there was no way that I could offer that level of assistance. He explained he had been to Journeys and to Northwest Compass but because his license had an address in Romeoville, where he had previously lived and worked, he was not eligible for their programs. He had been living in his car for a while.

After a few calls, I found a mechanic to do the work required at the price of \$800.00 and while that is quite a bit more than the assistance we usually give, I decided to give this young, earnest man a chance. I drove him to his car and we got it to the new mechanic. By now it was 4:00 pm and I was painfully aware that this man had nowhere to go for the night. I found a hotel nearby and made a reservation for the night. He was able to walk to the car repair shop and so I thought my work was finished. I got a call on Friday about noon that the car was repaired.

On Monday, this young man reached out to me again. The car was not repaired, in fact, it was not running at all. Apparently, the engine had “blown” due to the lack of a catalytic converter. The car could not be repaired for under \$2000.00. The young man had spent the weekend at various McDonald’s. He had gone to his first few nights of work finding his way through the Des Plaines bus schedules, but had almost no sleep because you are not allowed to sleep in the libraries or local restaurants.

I booked him a few nights in a Motel 6 and I took him to get his things out of his car. By this time, I determined that he was an honest and hard-working individual. He needed a car and a place to stay and I wasn’t sure how far our church could go financially. My husband and I discussed the situation and decided he could come and live in our home on a temporary basis. In the meantime, I told Alex about him. Alex found a car to replace his other one and I found a donor from our congregation so the car could be purchased.

This young man continues to work his night job at a logistics company in Des Plaines. He spends from 10:00 pm to 6:00 am loading boxes on pallets, wrapping them tightly, and getting them on a semi-trailer to go to their next stop. During the day, he sleeps in our guest room. He also spends time at the library and researching on the computer. He wants to go back to school but right now finances do not allow for that. Ken and I have told him he can stay with us until March and save money so that he might be able to attend computer classes at a community college.

Below you will see a note from this young man thanking you for your generosity. While Alex and I did the leg work, none of this would have been possible without your faithful giving week in and week out as well as your willingness to give above and beyond your regular commitment. The commitment cards you filled out a few weeks ago, the gifts you put in the offering plate every week, are about *saving lives*. You make a difference. Because of you, Alex and I were able to help a young man begin to find his way out of poverty. Even more importantly we gave him hope. Hope that comes wrapped in the love of God. 🙏

From: A Stranger
To: Church
Dear Church,
Greetings in Jesus name! Words cannot express how much I appreciate what you did for me. You provided a roof over my head, fed me, and gave to me a Honda car to drive. That was a huge help and support in my journey. Thank you so much for your benevolent gestures towards a stranger. May the Otweaduapan Onyankapan (almighty God) bless the church and continue to bless this land of the free.

Yours sincerely,
Eric Kwabena

Second Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Community Food Drive and Lunch

On Monday, January 20, Stone Catchers will host the Second Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Food Drive and Community Lunch. Join Stone Catchers as they address hunger in our community. Flyers will be handed out to neighborhoods surrounding the church prior to January 20 inviting families to leave a bag of food on their porch to be picked up on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, January 20.

Retired? Day off Work? No School?

Volunteer on **Monday, January 20**, to canvass the neighborhoods to pick up food donations and bring them back to the church. We need all ages. Meet in Fellowship Hall (enter Door 7) at 10:00 am. We will go out in teams to collect the food. Volunteers are needed to assist with sorting food as it arrives back at First Pres.

We will also be serving lunch for both volunteers and members of the community. A walk-in lunch will be available from **11:30 am – 2:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**. We need volunteers beginning at 10:00 am to help prepare and serve lunch.

If you cannot attend on Monday, January 20, consider bringing a donation of nonperishable food, or a monetary donation to the table in the Narthex from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm on Sunday, January 19.

There are volunteer opportunities for all ages! If you have questions, please contact Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org or Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org. 



Two bags of donated food and household goods are set on a neighbors' front porch, for pick-up by our volunteers. They were later delivered to Wheeling Township Food Pantry.



Happy volunteer, Mollie Lumsden, picked up donated bags of food during our first MLK, Jr. Day of Service.



Lunch for both volunteers and members of the community was enjoyed after collection and sorting.

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

BAPTISMS

The following were welcomed into the family of faith on:

Sunday, November 10, 2019

Jovie Sumner Smith,

daughter of *Todd Smith* and *Heather Behles*

Sunday, December 1, 2019

Haley Elizabeth Sedey,

daughter of *Jon* and *Kelly Sedey*

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Clara Belle Duffy,

daughter of *Kyle* and *Ali Duffy*

SYMPATHY

Please join in extending sympathy to:

The family of *Jane Kuntz*

The family of *Joe Lyon*

Don and Jody Rowley on the death of their daughter-in-law, *Michelle Rowley*

CONGRATULATIONS

Please join in extending congratulations to:

Phil and Courtney Lewis on the birth of their son, *Calder Bennett Lewis*, September 19



HEALING & COMFORT

Mario Alberico
Shirley Allen — sister of Hal Stern
Pat Almblad
Liz Armstrong
Betty Lou Bukowski
Kyle Campbell
Jane Cassaro — friend of Beth Balow
Mary Clarbour
Sally Costello
Jonathan Cranfill — nephew of Judy Hockenberry
Jordan Cutshaver — grandniece of Roger Fick
Bree Foley — cousin of Mario Alberico
Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepura
George Gerner — cousin of Kelsey Fuentes
Barbara Hayes
Helen Gee — aunt of Elaine Chen
Dorita and Houston Godfrey
Ermina Gomez & daughter — friends of Elaine Chen
Kit Graham — friend of Betty Sanders
Shirley Graham — sister of Marilyn Graves
Addy Hebden — granddaughter of Mary Hebden
Rich Jacobs — son-in-law of Barbara MacDowell
Mary Jessogne — sister-in-law of Myrtle Jessogne
Steve Jessogne — nephew of Myrtle Jessogne
Marylyn Jirsa
Fred Langer — father of Laura Carlson
Helen Lawson — friend of Liz Armstrong
Bruce Leonard — brother of Debbie Klein
Quentin Mare'
Paula Ford Martin — daughter of Mary Ford
Sue Minarik
William Palm — boyfriend of Rebecca Chen
Denise Poy
Theresa Scola — friend of Meg Haddad
Susan Scott
Ed Slivovsky
Je'Anna Paris Smith
Rosalie Stoike
David Stratton — brother-in-law of Elaine Chen
Carson Taylor — member of the Krigas family
Jaquan Thompson
Jewell Truskowski
Vasilios Tsironis — friend of Beth Balow
Dan Tsutsumi
Wes Upton — friend of Ralph Larsen
Marilyn Votava — sister of Judy Ayers
Don Voyles — father of Danielle Voyles
Martha Wade
Wes Wade
Rev. Kenneth Wegener — friend of Liz Armstrong
Rich Willuweit — brother of Carol Kelley
Doris Woods — friend of Sandy Naehar

Children's Ministries

by Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries

A Year of Beatitudes

Sunday school has been bustling with Bible lessons and service opportunities since September. Our kindergartners – 5th graders began the year learning about Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, and the ways in which Jesus calls us to live. Using the traditional beatitudes as a framework and the Bible as a guide, we updated a few and added a few, and each week explore how the Bible stories relate to our lives and what it means to show Jesus' love to the world.

Blessed are those who are voiceless and forgotten gave us the opportunity to write letters to our Cook County Commissioner, Scott Britton, and encourage fair housing practices throughout the county. Blessed are those who care for the Earth brought the importance (and fun) of reducing and reusing into focus as we learned how to reuse items in our homes instead of throwing them away. Each child also took home a reusable lunch bag to help make a difference in daily school lunches. Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty corresponded with a field trip to Feed My Starving Children's Hope Filled Holidays MobilePack. Over 60 parents and children from First Pres came together to pack hundreds of meals and spread the love of Jesus throughout the world.

We can't wait to see what 2020 has in store for us!

Preschoolers are Growing in Grace and Gratitude

Week by week, our 3-and 4-year-olds are becoming more and more familiar with Bible stories and Bible characters. The Green Room is busy each Sunday with activities, games, songs, and circle time, all centered around the Bible story for that week. As our youngest learners experience what it means to be a Child of God and a follower of Jesus, they are building a foundation of faith and service that they will carry with them throughout their lives.



Hope Filled Holidays at Feed My Starving Children

The Sunday before Thanksgiving found many of our Children's Ministries families donning hair nets, scooping soy and rice, and having a great time at Feed My Starving Children's MobilePack event at the Schaumburg Renaissance Center. It was a great morning of fellowship and serving – an awesome way to kick off the Thanksgiving holiday week.

The ballroom at the Renaissance Center was full of people from all walks of life – from groups like ours to single people to families to work groups, we all had one goal – to fill tummies and hearts around the world. It was a precision operation of stations, bins, scoops, and scales. The energy was high as we broke off into groups to work at each station, scooping protein and vegetables, soy and rice, into MannaPacks that cost the equivalent of \$.25/pack, but mean the world to the children and adults who receive them.

Thank you to all who participated and made this event possible! We can't wait to do it again!



Jesus is Born!

Candlelight and costumes marked another delightful **Christmas Eve Children's Pageant**. You could see and feel the excitement as preschoolers turned into sheep, as angels and shepherds descended from the gym to the Sanctuary, as the Star Bearer brought forth the star that guided the magi, and as Mary and Joseph came to life and the story of Jesus' birth was retold in its own charming way.

This service of carols and lessons gives parents and children, visitors and friends alike, the opportunity to slow down and watch the story unfold before their very eyes. As the empty stable fills, first with Mary, then Joseph, the sheep and shepherds, the angels, and finally the Magi and their star, hearts soften and eyes mist for the gift that God gave to us 2000+ years ago.

"To us a child is born, to us a son is given..."



Fun for Kids, Fun for Parents – It's Valentine's Day Out!

Mark your calendar now for **Sunday, February 9!** Preschoolers – 5th graders are invited for activities here at First Pres while parents get to spend a couple precious hours on their own! Hosted by Children's Ministries, Valentine's Day Out has become a very popular event for busy parents and kids love it! We offer Valentine's-themed activities, a snack, a game in the gym, and lots of fun! Watch for RSVP information in the Children's Ministries Weekly News and Church Life as the date gets closer! Valentine's Day Out will be from 2:00-4:00 pm, is free, and open to 3 year olds – 5th graders.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES SECOND ANNUAL PANCAKE BREAKFAST FUNDRAISER

Sunday, January 26 7:30 – 11:00 am

Fellowship Hall


\$5/person with a \$20/family maximum

All funds raised will be used to support Children's Ministries programs and activities. Tickets will be on sale beginning in January.

Association of Presbyterian Church Educators Annual Conference

The annual conference of the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) is being held in Little Rock, Arkansas at the end of January. First Pres will be represented as Pastor Judy, Michele Holifield, and Katy Allen attend this continuing education experience to soak up as much as they can to bring back and impact various ministries in positive ways. APCE is considered one of PC(USA)'s premier conferences that draws attendance from nearly all 50 states, and some international attendees. Each year, workshops, keynotes, worship services and informal gatherings feed the soul and refresh those who attend.

The wide range of workshop topics include ministry to children, youth, and families, ministering to an aging church population, how to make your church facility more accommodating and welcoming to all people, how hospitality can make or break a visitor's experience, and other topics aimed at helping church workers and volunteers make the best of their gifts, talents, and resources.

After attending as workshop presenters last year, we are looking forward to learning and sharing as attendees this year. Thank you for allowing us the time away and resources necessary to attend this excellent conference! We can't wait to share what we learn! 

SAVE THE DATE

ROCKY RAILWAY VBS

July 6-10, 2020

8:45 am – 12:00 pm

Open to 4-year olds –
incoming 4th graders



MISSIONFACTORY

July 6-10, 2020

8:45 am – 12:00 pm

Open to incoming
5th and 6th graders



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 will be team teaching. This year they will be 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

GOD'S HONEST TRUTH

February 5, 2020 **Hanging On by a Thread: Stories of Survival**

May 6, 2020 **Child's Play: Stories of How Children Change Our Lives**



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.

Family Night Fun



What's going on at First Pres?



PDO Registration Begins March 8!

Parents' Day Out will begin registration for the 2020 – 2021 program year on **Sunday, March 8**. Parents' Day Out (PDO) is the First Pres childcare program that serves children 6 months – Pre-K in the CE wing of the church during the school year. PDO is a play-based program that offers children the opportunity to be away from their primary caregivers in a safe, loving, and educational program. During the hours that children attend, they have the opportunity for music, art, large and fine motor development in the classroom, gym, and playground time. Educational, age-appropriate curriculum is offered in all five classrooms. PDO is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am – 1:30 pm, and offers an extended care program, too. Representatives will be in the Narthex several Sundays leading up to PDO Sunday and on March 8, to answer any questions first-time PDO families may have. As church members, you have the opportunity to register on PDO Sunday, one day prior to the currently enrolled PDO families and the general public. If you would like more information, please contact the Director, Coleen Anzalone, by email at coleenanzalone@firstpresah.org.



Blanket Drive

In the months of January and February, we will be collecting for the Blanket Drive. The goal of Church World Services is to build a world where there is enough for all. By providing a donation of \$10, Church World Service can provide a blanket as a vital and powerful resource for someone needing a little support, warmth, and encouragement. Please help those facing crisis by donating. Envelopes will be available starting in January! Thank you for your donations! More info? Contact Val Schuffler at valerie901p@gmail.com.



Give the Gift of Warmth

Aluminum Can Drive

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! If you need cans picked up call Stan or Nancy Conning at 224-235-7310. We also accept anything made of copper. This is our forty-second year collecting, and all proceeds go to the Men's Club sponsored charities.



Upcoming Events

January & February 2020

JANUARY

- 1 New Year's Day – office closed
- 3 Jan's Jam (youth event)
- 5 New Member Class
- 8 Family Night returns with full programming
- 11 Undecorating the church
- 13 New Members meet Session
- 15 PW Circles 1, 2, 3 meeting
- 20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service & Office closed
- 21 PW Circle 7 meeting
- 26 Children's Ministries Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser
- 26 New Members Received

FEBRUARY

- 2 Souper Bowl of Caring
- 5 Wednesdays @ Noon Recital
- 5 God's Honest Truth
- 9 Annual Meeting of the Congregation
- 9 Children's Ministries Valentine's Day Out
- 9 35th Annual Organ Fest
- 16 Confirmation Sunday
- 23 Youth Sunday
- 26 Family Night Dinner and Ash Wednesday Worship Service

MARCH

- 1 Easter Flower Orders
- 4 Wednesdays @ Noon Recital
- 8 Easter Flower Orders & PDO Registration
- 15 First Pres Community Talent Show
- 16 VBS/Mission Factory registration
- 21 Aluminum Can Drive
- 22 No Sunday School or HSYG (spring break)
- 25 No Family Night (spring break)

Our Congregation Is So Generous – Thank you!



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Thank you for the many food items which were donated during the month of November. **Firman Community Services and Christopher House families** are truly grateful for your support. You made a huge difference for families with limited resources and have helped them to have a joyful holiday! – *Kathy Doering and Jody Stanhope*



A sampling of the many food items donated to the Firman Community Services and Christopher House families.

Christopher House Family To Family

Thank you for your overwhelming generosity to our **Christopher House families!** The kindness of our congregation, friends, and families never cease to amaze us. You provided a bright holiday for so many moms, dads and their children who otherwise might not have had such a joyful season. Thank you!

Decorating our church

Thanks to all of you who joined in the fun of **decorating each and every corner of our church** to make it such a joy to see during all the Christmas and Advent activities. Many hands make for wonderful results and great fellowship! Thank you so much! – *Marty Kraybill and Kate McVay.*

Thank You From Firman House

Because of your kind and generous contributions of much needed **hats, gloves, scarves, and mittens** many children from Firman House will have a warmer winter this year! Thank you for your generous contributions that were delivered to all the children in December at the yearly Holiday Party! – *Kathy Doering*



Christmas Flowers

Your kind donations to support the efforts of making the church festive for Advent and Christmas are greatly appreciated. Thank you once again for your donations for **Christmas flowers** to continue the spirit and beauty of the season for all to enjoy!



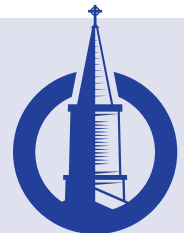
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 vimeo.com/firstpresah

We post many videos on Vimeo. Watch the morning announcements, sermons, and other special events.

Connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to be in the know and keep up with everything going on!

Greg Athnos at the Moorings

Greg Athnos will have three programs at The Moorings in January (there will be no programs in February). Programs will be held in the Chapel at 7:00 pm.

Jan 7: Jewish Composers Who Didn't Survive the Holocaust

Jewish composers had few opportunities to escape the wrath of Hitler and the Nazis. Many were murdered in the death camps. In this presentation we look at several 'giants' whose genius was snuffed out in the Holocaust. Our focus will feature Terezín, a Nazi Propaganda (Concentration) Camp in Czechoslovakia (the Nazis called it "Hitler gives the Jews a city"), and the composers who tried to make life livable, even to the end.

Jan 14: The Music of Spain

Crossroad of religions, architecture, and music, Spain is unique among the countries of Europe. Jews, Muslims, and Christians have all contributed to this astounding culture. We'll examine each of the influences while we indulge in the music of the Spanish Renaissance, particular Spanish musical scales, Flamenco, and the rise of the guitar as its major musical instrument.

Jan 21: Music of the American 'War Between the States', the Civil War

19th century America was a cultural 'backwater' with few orchestras, no professional composers, and no 'classical' musical language. It was a country trying to discover itself. We'll trace folk traditions, the music leading up to the 'Brothers War', the music of slavery, and the hope for the future. 🕒

Youth Ministries

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

Youth Ministries Stock Sale Coming!

The Youth are putting on another Stock Sale in the first few weeks of March. Make sure to get your stock for \$10 a share direct from a certified youth!

Special Youth Sundays

February is going to be a special month for Youth Ministries. We have Confirmation Sunday on Sunday, February 16, where the 10th grade youth who have completed the Confirmation process will be joining the church. The very next Sunday we will be having Youth Sunday, where the youth will be leading every aspect of worship in both services! Come and support our youth on both of these weeks. 🕒



Photos from the Wise and Sage Dinner

Wise And Sage Thank You!

A special thank you to all of the high school youth, adult volunteers, Michele Holifield, Kate Ingemunson, and all of the Wise and Sage members of the church for making the Wise and Sage Thanksgiving dinner such a wonderful time!! We look forward to seeing you next year!



Session Highlights November and December Meetings

by Barbara MacDowall, Clerk of Session


From the November 11, 2019 Meeting:

- The new officers for the Class of 2022 were examined and approved.
- PADS falls on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve this year. Volunteers are needed, especially from 11:00 pm to 3:00 am on New Year's Eve.
- First Quarter Bookmark Contributions will be donated to the Unitarian Church's project to establish a shelter for asylum seekers.
- The Congregational and Community Life Committee extended thanks to all who volunteered to help with Coffee Hour this year.
- The fire system in the kitchen has been tested and is working well.
- New way-finding signs are in place throughout the church.
- The church's portion of the Peace and Global Witness Offering will be donated to Salute, Inc., an organization that supports returning veterans.
- Monique Misenga spoke at Family Night on October 16th. She talked about her mission in the Congo to educate women and teach them to become self-supporting.
- The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected from December 1-24.
- Our congregation will again support Meals on Wheels during the month of December by delivering meals to individuals.
- After our Sunday School classes wrote letters to Cook County Commissioner, Scott Britton, encouraging him to vote in favor of fair housing bills whenever they cross his desk, he gave a shout-out to First Pres on Facebook. He also is planning a visit to Sunday school to read the children a story.
- The Sunday School family trip to Feed My Starving Children was planned for November 24.
- The Children's Ministries Annual Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser will be held on January 26th. Their "Valentine's Day Out" will be on February 9th.
- The Wise and Sage Dinner, was planned for November 23rd and coordinated by Michele Holifield.
- The Administration and Finance Committee reported that church expenses are in line with our budget.
- Session approved a Congregational Assessment Survey.

From the December 9, 2019 Meeting:

- Class of 2019 Session Elders were heartily thanked for their service.
- Over 100 senior congregants were served at the Wise and Sage Thanksgiving Dinner. Michele Holifield was thanked for spearheading the dinner again this year.
- The Youth Ministries Cookie Walk is planned for December 22.
- Jan's Jam will take place from 7:00 pm on January 3 to 7:00 am on January 4. Typically, 80-100 youth participate in the event. Volunteer supervisors are needed.
- Confirmation Sunday is planned for February 16.
- Youth Sunday is planned for February 23.
- Painting was completed in the Chapel and Fellowship Hall.
- Our Carillon can be heard daily at 6:00 pm and each Sunday before our worship services. The Carillon will be dedicated in January.
- The Christmas Joy offering will be collected through December 24.
- The Meals on Wheels sign-ups for December are filled.
- The 2020 Special Offerings will be One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness and Christmas Joy.
- In lieu of Sunday school on November 24, families participated in a Feed My Starving Children special event. The event was well attended, and fun was had by all.
- The Children's Ministries Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser is planned for Sunday, January 26.

Per Capita Apportionment

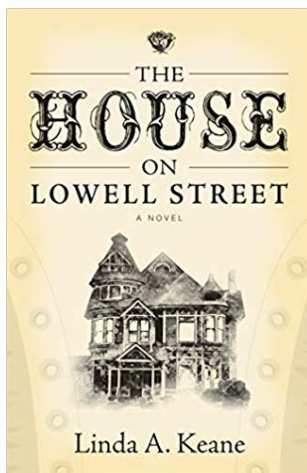
Each year every Presbyterian church is apportioned a share of the ecclesiastical expenses of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. These are the activities that make us Presbyterian. This apportionment is based on church membership. In 2020, this apportionment is \$36 per member. Any funds you designate for the apportionment will be used for this purpose and will free up our General Fund dollars to be used in supporting the vision, overall ministry, and missions of our congregation. Please consider contributing your share of the Per Capita Apportionment. An Initial Offering Envelope for this purpose has been included with the 2020 weekly offering envelopes. If you do not receive envelopes, please use one of the Per Capita envelopes from the pew pockets in the Sanctuary or in the Chapel. 

Presbyterian Women (PW)

Church Women United

Come hear author Linda Keane as she discusses her new historical novel, *The House On Lowell Street*. Hear about the courageous spirit of a woman willing to fight for women's dignity and equality in the workplace in a time of great limitations for women.

Church Women United invites all to their Annual Meeting and continental breakfast on **Friday, January 24, at 9:30 am** in Fellowship Hall. For more information, contact Patty Richard at patriciajr404@att.net.



“A Nostalgic Look Backwards” With Rochelle Pennington

Join us for a Presbyterian Women Gathering on **Wednesday, February 26, at 9:00 am** in the Parlor. Enjoy this special program by Rochelle Pennington. She will be taking us back



in time to enjoy the sights, sounds, and memories of times gone by. See the collection of all those special items and pictures you may remember. Hear Rochelle's stories of yesterday brought back today! Enjoy not only this special program but refreshments and fellowship with everyone! All are welcome for this wonderful event! More

information: contact Gladys Holtz at gladysholtz@comcast.net or 847-394-1216.



January Circles 1, 2 & 3

Presbyterian Women January 15

All women are welcome to join us on **January 15 at 9:00 am** for Circles 1, 2, & 3 and the topic “*Words Of Love: Honor The Life-Givers*” along with fellowship, delicious treats, and lively discussions. Come meet in the Parlor and bring a friend.

January Circle 7

It's a great time of year to get together with an evening group joining in the Song of Psalms for a lesson. Come join the women of **Circle 7** on **January 21 at 7:00 pm** in the home of Jo Christian (1604 N Chestnut, AH). We will be discussing *Psalms Lesson 8: “Celebrate The Cross”*.



February Circles 1, 2 & 3

Presbyterian Women February 19

February is a great month to enjoy warm, toasty refreshments and fellowship with other women! **Wednesday, February 19, at 9:00 am**, join us for a lively discussion of an unusual topic from our Bible Study of “*Words Of Love: Don't Kill Each Other*”. What a relevant topic for our time! Add your voice to the discussion!

February Circle 7

Join **Circle 7** on **February 18 at 7:00 pm** in the home of Kate McVay (603 S Belmont, AH). Come join the warmth of fellowship, yummy treats, and discussion of *Psalms Lesson 9: “Celebrate the Crown”*.

Undecorating the Church

Join us on **Saturday, January 11, at 9:30 am**, to make the magic happen! Many hands are needed to join in the fellowship of taking down all the beautiful decorations of Christmas and store them away for another year. Please come and help. Refreshments are served and many hands make it a fun, quick task. Everyone is welcome! Meet in the Narthex at 9:30 am. Questions: contact Marty Kraybill at marty1110k@gmail.com 847-398-3423 or Kate McVay at kkoening@hazchem.com.




Our church looked beautiful this year! Thank you to all the volunteers who put up the decorations. Please join us **Saturday, January 11 at 9:30 am** to take them down and pack them up for next year.

Stone Catchers

A group for justice and advocacy

Are you looking for a group to join? If you are interested in justice and advocacy, this is the group for you. Stone Catchers will meet on **Sunday, January 12, at noon in the Boardroom**. We have a wide range of interests and we are always looking for new people to join us. Some topics that we will try to tackle this year: sustainability and environmental issues, affordable housing in the northwest suburbs, quarterly letter writing campaigns, racial justice issues, immigration and asylum issues, hunger and poverty. Activities will include educational events, speakers, mission activities, and advocacy.



At our meeting on January 12, we will be discussing plans for 2020 as well as distributing flyers for the **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service event on January 20**. If you cannot attend the meeting but would like to be on our email list, please contact Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org or Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org. 

Concert Series

Concert Series Schedule

Sundays at 4:00 pm

February 9 The 35th Annual OrganFest
Come and celebrate as First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights hosts the 35th Annual Organ Fest. Join us as Adam Gruber, Marianne Kim, Christopher Urban and Gary Wendt team up to provide a wonderful organ program.

March 15 First Pres Community Talent Show

April 5 Spring Choral Concert: Festival of Psalms!

Wednesdays at Noon

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

February 5 Megan Hendrickson, soprano;
Sarah Jenks, piano

March 4 Michael Hawes, trumpet;
Christopher Urban, organ

April 1 Chuck Beech, piano;
Christopher Urban, organ

Carillon Dedication

by Adam Hendrickson, Director of Music and Worship

In 1983, the Schulmerich Coronation II Carillon was purchased in memory of First Pres Pastor, Dr. James P. Martin, who passed away suddenly that same year. The Coronation II functioned with minimal fuss until the fall of 2016. Around this time, it was being maintained by George Hellman, an on-site technician for the Schulmerich company. In 2017, Schulmerich was sold to the Verdin company, out of Cincinnati, Ohio. Verdin quickly shuttered the availability of technicians available to repair and service older Schulmerich machines. In other unfortunate news at the time, Mr. Hellman passed away in 2018, the last of his kind in the area to service and repair older, Schulmerich carillons. By the end of 2018, I was finally in touch with sales representatives from Verdin who were eager to show me, and hopefully First Pres, the newest models in their catalogue. Through a series of meetings with myself and WMS, WMS voted to purchase a new carillon in July of 2019. The

Which choir will be at worship?

9:00 am Worship Ensembles

January/February Music led by Compass

February 23 Music led by Compass and Youth

10:30 am Worship Ensembles For January / February

January 5 Chancel Choir

January 12 Chancel Choir

January 19 Chancel Choir

January 26 Chancel Choir

February 2 Combined Choirs and First Pres Brass

February 9 Men's Chorus

February 16 Chamber Singers

February 23 Youth

February 26 (Ash Wed) Double Quartet



Messiah Concert

Schulmerich g5 Electronic Carillon – Classic Plus, Series 2 was purchased using funds from the music endowment and various donors from within the music ministry here at First Pres. It rang its first piece of music, *Highland Cathedral* on bagpipes, at 6:00 pm on Thursday, November 21, 2019, after being installed that very day. Per the incredible wisdom of Rev. Judy Hockenberry, *Of the Father's Love Begotten* was the first Advent piece of music to ring on December 1, 2019, the first day of Advent. By now, you have probably heard the carillon ringing the Westminster chime at the noon hour, signaling the close of the work day at 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday, or preparing hearts and minds for worship before the prelude music begins for the 10:30 am service on Sunday mornings. On **January 12, 2020, we will dedicate the new carillon during our 10:30 worship service.** I hope you will be able to join us for this momentous occasion. 🎵

The CHIMES

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Welcome

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of the First Pres family of faith or learning more about the church? Join us for the New Members Class on **January 5 at 11:45 am in the Boardroom.** New Members will meet with Session on Monday, January 13 and will be welcomed into the congregation on **Sunday, January 26.** For more information or to sign up, contact Rev. TC Anderson at 847-255-5900 or tcanderson@firstpresah.org.