



# The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

December 2021

♥ Choose love. 🏰 Be the light. 🌍 Change the world.

## From the Pastor **The Road to Bethlehem**

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

As a young boy growing up in the Presbyterian Church, I was aware that Christmas was about two things—presents and Santa. Jesus really didn't figure into my understanding of Christmas until much later in my childhood. It wasn't until I was about 9 or 10 years old that I realized Christmas was about the birth of Jesus. If I'm being perfectly honest with you, that information did not change much about my approach to Christmas. Even though I now understood Christmas was celebrating Jesus' birth, my focus was still predominately about presents and Santa.

It wasn't until I was in high school that the balance started to shift and Christmas became predominately associated with Jesus' birth in my mind. In college, I started to read the stories directly from the

Bible. There are only two narrative accounts of Jesus' birth in the New Testament, found in Matthew and Luke. These stories are the source material for our Christmas pageants and represent most of what we know about Jesus' origins.

What I have found during my time as a pastor is that, as much as Christians know the biblical story of Jesus' birth, they know almost nothing about the history surrounding his birth. What was the world like when Jesus was born? What were the major events of the time? What was happening religiously, politically, socially, economically? Many Christians ignore these elements of Jesus' birth because they feel they are irrelevant. In my studies, I have found that one cannot fully appreciate the importance of Jesus' birth without this information.

Each Sunday during Advent, we will take a different element of that world and dive deep into what was happening. Each sermon is going to get us closer and closer to the event of Jesus' birth. Hence, the name of this sermon series is called *The Road to Bethlehem*. The best way to picture how this sermon series will work is to think of it geographically. We're going to start wide with the Roman

Empire and slowly work our way closer and closer to the town and people of Nazareth. The goal of this series is to paint a full and complete picture of the world into which Jesus was born.

As we compare the biblical narrative with the surrounding historical evidence, what you will find is that sometimes they

match, sometimes they diverge, but as with all my sermon series, your knowledge of Jesus will be greatly enhanced by this series. In the end, my hope is that you will come to appreciate how so much of what the people in Jesus' day and time were anticipating with Jesus' birth is still relevant and important to our walk as Christians today. Our Advent series begins on Sunday, November 28. I look forward to walking along this journey with you!



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## December Worship Theme



Jesus' birth is central to Christianity. Part of what makes Jesus' birth so special are all the events surrounding his birth. During Advent, we will explore these events and how they influence our celebration on Christmas day.



### November 28 | *The King of the Jews*

Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-12; Luke 1:5-7  
 Celebration of Holy Communion  
 Hanging of the Greens  
 🎵 9:00 am – Compass 🎵 10:30 am – Chancel Choir

### December 5 | *Zeal for the Lord*

Scriptures: Luke 2:22-32; Luke 1:8-20  
 🎵 9:00 am – Compass 🎵 10:30 am – Men's Chorus

### December 12 | *Outcast*

Scriptures: Luke 1:26-40; Matthew 1:18-20  
 🎵 9:00 am – Compass  
 🎵 10:30 am – Chancel Choir, Children's Choir and First Pres Brass

### December 19 | *The Birth Certificate*

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:13-18  
 🎵 9:00 am – Compass  
 🎵 10:30 am – Chancel Choir and Chancel Handbell Choir

### December 26 | *One Service at 10:30*

On Sunday, December 26 we will have one worship service at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary. Judy Hockenberry will preach, and music will be provided by a soloist. Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 am returns January 2.

## Christmas Joy Offering

We will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering on each Sunday in December and at the Christmas Eve services. This is a Presbyterian denomination Special Offering. Some describe it as an opportunity to share our love with the leaders of the church, past, present, and future. This offering, which has been taken for many years, is divided so half is used to support mission and church workers who have retired with modest pensions or others who are experiencing emergency needs. The other portion is directed for support of Presbyterian-related schools and colleges which are equipping communities of color.

We have many stories and examples of how these funds were used to address critical financial needs. One example: Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL, was founded by Presbyterians and has become a training school for African American ministers. The Christmas Joy Offering funds help Stillman provide scholarships to gifted, promising students.



Gifts to this offering also support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which helps current and past church leaders and their families who are in critical financial need.

Other retirees who have inadequate financial resources receive Income Supplements to move from uncertainty to stability.

In 2020, our congregation contributed over \$3,100.00. Let's make it our goal to exceed this amount in 2021. Thank You.

### Christmas Eve Services

Friday, December 24

**4 PM** Children's Pageant & Candlelight  
*Music:* Children's Choir

**8 PM** Lessons, Carols & Candlelight  
*Music:* Chancel Choir

**10 PM** Communion & Candlelight  
*Music:* High School & College Ensemble

# Concert Series

## Wednesdays @ Noon

**Wednesday, December 8, 12:10 pm-12:45 pm**

Kris Ward, handbells; Carol Frieburg, piano  
Seasonal favorites to ring in the Christmas season.



**Wednesday, January 5, 12:10 pm-12:45 pm**

Andrew Orals, violin; Chris Urban, organ  
We welcome violinist Andrew Orals who is a member of First Presbyterian. He is a graduate of Lake Zurich High School and a sophomore at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he is studying Computer Science and Music.



## CAROLS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



**Sunday, December 12, 4:00 pm**

Chancel Choir, Chancel Handbell Choir, Men's Chorus, and orchestra will provide a concert of seasonal favorites to celebrate the birth of Jesus. This year, we will be sharing Christmas Carols from around the world. Come hear music from the United Kingdom, Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Norway, Russia, Ukraine, the Caribbean and the United States. Audience participation is encouraged as we raise our voices singing familiar carols of the season. Come early to get a seat.



## Bite-sized Music Opportunity

Continuing in December, we are pleased to offer a short-term singing opportunity for those who can't make a long-term commitment. Rehearse two Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 pm December 1, 8 and sing in the choir for the 4:00 pm Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 12.

Contact: Adam Hendrickson - [adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org](mailto:adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org)

Child care is provided for evening concerts by calling the office for a reservation (no later than four days in advance).

All concerts can be attended in person or livestreamed at [firstpresah.org](http://firstpresah.org)

# Family NIGHT

Our final Family Night before we take a break for the holidays will be Wednesday, December 15. Join us on Wednesday, January 5 as we start our new winter session. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

## Weekly Schedule

### Dinner for all ages

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall, enter through Door 4, 7, or 8

### Children's Choir (K-5th grade)

6:30 - 7:00 pm | Sanctuary

### Classes & Programs

7:00 - 8:00 pm

## Adult Education

### THE POWER OF POVERTY

Wednesdays, December 1st, 8th

7:00 pm / Boardroom / *Contact: Michele Holifield*

Read more about this class on page 10.

## Children And Youth

Kids Connect (K-5) and MSYG (Middle School)



## Join us January 18-25, 2022 for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The theme, "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him" (Mt 2:2), was prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches, based in Beirut, Lebanon. The international theme speaks to our world's urgent need for solidarity and transformation in the face of political, economic, and social turmoil, including the challenges and injustices highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As we join Christians of the Middle East in the journey to Christ's manger, may we become a sign of the unity that God desires for all creation, and may we return to our homes, our churches, and our world by new ways.

More information will be in the January *Chimes*, but please plan to join us as you are able for prayer in our church sanctuary sometime during that week.





**Saturday, December 4, 9:00 am**

**Christmas Breakfast**

Men's Monday Morning Bible Study invites you to the annual Christmas Breakfast served by Scout Troop 32. Grandfathers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends, and neighbors are all welcome. Come and enjoy food, coffee, fine conversation, and fellowship.



**Wednesday, December 8, 12:10 pm**

**Wednesday @ Noon Recital**

Kris Ward and Carol Frieburg present seasonal favorites for handbells and piano.



**Sunday, December 12, 4:00 pm**

**Carols from Around the World**

The Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus, and orchestra provide a concert of seasonal favorites to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Audience participation is encouraged as we raise our voices in singing familiar carols of the season. Come early to get a seat!



**Wednesday, December 15, 1:00 pm**

**Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea**

Join us for tea in the Parlor and a 1:30 pm performance from dazzling barbershop quartet, Take Note.



**Sunday, December 19, after worship**

**Cookie Walk**

Join us in the Parlor — \$5-per-box donation to support Youth Ministries.



**Sunday, December 19, 4:00 pm**

**Service Sunday - Christmas Caroling**

Join a caroling group to spread Christmas cheer throughout our community. Pizza dinner at 6:00 pm at church.



**Friday, December 24**

**Christmas Eve Worship**

Join us for worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus at 4:00, 8:00 and 10:00 pm worship services.



**Friday, January 7**

**Jan's Jam**

This event for middle school through college-aged youth is in remembrance of Jan Munz, a strong supporter of our youth program. An overnight event via bus where we visit many fun, local hotspots for laser tag, roller skating, trampoline time, gaming, and more!

## All-Church Caroling

After last year’s virtual Christmas Caroling the All-Church Caroling event is back on **Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 pm**. The festive occasion will begin in the Parlor where everyone will break into groups, receive maps, and tune up our voices by practicing a few carols. All ages and all levels of singers are welcome. Instruments are also welcome. Put on your Christmas gear and come out on Sunday, December 19 at 4:00 pm.

After caroling we will gather back at the church for pizza and a time of fellowship. There is no cost to participate. Donations of \$15-\$20 gas cards that will be donated to **Journeys the Road Home** will be accepted. While reservations are not required for caroling or dinner, we would like to have an idea of who is coming, so please register at this link or scan the QR code below.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C044DADAF29A7FB6-allchurch>

For questions contact Katy Allen.



# ALL CHURCH Caroling

**Sunday, December 19  
4:00 pm in the Parlor**

Return to church at 6:00 pm for a pizza dinner

All are welcome, bring your friends & family

Dress for the weather, we'll be walking!

RSVP requested but not required

Questions?

Contact Katy Allen  
Katyallen@firstpresah.org



Consider donating a \$15 or \$20 gas card or cash to purchase gas cards for Journeys

## Coats on Poles Project

For the last six years, members of The Bridge who spend time together each Sunday morning in a member-lead study group called Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service have conducted a project that has become known as Coats on Poles.

This project was first discovered through a social media post. While a simple concept, those of us who have participated in it have kept it going even through the pandemic to make sure that warm, gently used winter coats are readily available for those who need them.

Each year in the Advent season, on one Sunday, we take some time to attach a simple note that says “If you are stuck out in the cold, please take this coat to stay warm” to each of the winter coats we have gathered. Then we go out into the downtown area of Arlington Heights to hang the coats on poles. That’s all there is to it!



In the past few years, some of us have even started buying a coat or two at Goodwill, sort of killing two birds with one stone. Others continue to scour the closets around the house for coats that are gently loved but ready for a new owner.

This year would you please consider donating a coat to our Coats on Poles Project? We will gladly add a tag to it and hang it up with the rest of the coats around town.

You can drop them off in the Coffee: Grounds Room 110/112 on the first floor of the Education Wing.

Or contact Kelly Dean [k\\_p\\_dean@hotmail.com](mailto:k_p_dean@hotmail.com) to let her know that you would like to donate a winter coat.

On Sunday, December 12, we will be hanging the coats. We would appreciate your donations anytime before that date.

Thank You!

# Mary and Martha's Lending Closet is Open

Reserve your holiday gathering items today at Mary and Martha's Lending Closet. We have everything you need for a casual or elegant gathering.



Cost is by donation. Since June, 2021, donations to the lending closet have exceeded \$1,000.00. Donations are distributed to area organizations seeking to address food insecurity in the Chicago area. Email [maryandmartha@firstpresab.org](mailto:maryandmartha@firstpresab.org) today for an appointment to reserve your fall and holiday celebration items.



## November Service Saturday



On November 13, fifty First Pres members and friends gathered for a morning of fellowship and service. We packaged cookies baked by our members and then delivered them to church members who can't physically come to the church building.

We assembled over one hundred and fifty Gifts of the Heart Hygiene Kits for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) from items donated by members prior to the event.

The kits were sent to a central distribution site and distributed by PDA and Church World Services to make an impact all over the world.

Lunch was prepared and delivered to four

Arlington Heights fire stations. Children, youth, and adults participated in baking cupcakes, preparing chili, wrapping hotdogs, cutting vegetables for salad, and packing the homemade lunch for delivery. Families then took the lunches to each fire station. The fire stations were very appreciative, and our members got some personal tours of the fire equipment!



The Mission committee is grateful for the many people who have supported these service opportunities this fall. We encourage you to continue to find ways to be of service in the community during the holiday season. Join us on December 19 as we spread holiday cheer by singing carols to our members who can't physically come to church. Details about the caroling event are on page 6.



# Children's Ministries

## A SCARY "GOULD" TIME

First Pres' west parking lot was transformed into a Halloween Jamboree at our Second Annual Trunk or Treat event! Over one hundred and fifty kids and their families enjoyed the beautiful fall afternoon! From Peanuts to the Addams Family, each car had its own creative theme. Enjoy these photos of the event!

# TRUNK OR TREAT WAS A BLAST!



## Children's Christmas Pageant

Calling all sheep and angels! Calling all shepherds and magi! Keep watch for the sign up to participate in the **Children's Christmas Pageant on Friday, December 24 at 4:00 pm.** Children in preschool – 5<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate as costumed characters, candle lighters, ushers, and liturgists. Sign up will be available through the Children's Ministries Weekly Newsletter beginning in early December. There will be a mandatory rehearsal on **Saturday, December 18 at 9:00 am** for all participants and their parents. Children's choir members will remain at the conclusion of the rehearsal for a brief choir rehearsal. We are looking forward to awaiting the birth of Jesus together as a church family again this year! Questions? Contact Katy Allen at [katyallen@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org)



# Youth Ministries News

## High School Retreat

From Friday, November 12 through Sunday, November 14 the high school youth had a retreat at YMCA Camp Edwards. Our contingent traveled the 1 1/2 hours in the snowy rainy mix and even though it stayed fairly wet throughout the weekend we still managed to have a great time doing team building activities, archery, field games, crazy uno, and more. We also learned how Jesus would often retreat and take time to recharge, so taking a page out of his book we learned how to unplug to recharge, how to do self care for our particular enneagram type, and how to be a pitcher (be filled so that you can fill others). All in all it was a wonderful trip with bonds made and strengthened!



High School Retreat

## MS Lock In Recap

On Friday, October 22, the Middle School Youth had a lock in at the church for six hours! We played church wide games, gym games, put our names on the wall in the Middle School Lounge, and more. All in all we had 20+ people running around, having fellowship with one another, making new friends, and having a great time.

## Jan's Jam Preview

The Youth Ministries annual Jan's Jam is coming up, from Friday, January 7 at 7:00 pm through Saturday, January 8 at 7:00 am, youth from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through college will be invited to participate in this Bus Lock In, where we go to several different fun locations throughout the evening. Past years have included K1 Speed, Trampoline Parks, Skating Rinks, Laser Tag, GameWorks, The Main Event, and much more. Make sure to mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information as this amazing event gets closer! Contact *TC Anderson* for questions.

# First Pres PDO & Preschool Update

We are planning on fun-filled weeks ahead. December is always a magical time for the students in our program with creating gifts for parents, decorating the classrooms, and discussing this magical time of year. Our six classrooms close the last two weeks of the month to celebrate the season with friends and family.

In January, we look forward to snow activities, making ice melt with treasures inside, learning about winter animals, and all things cold! We also will start planning enrollment dates for the 2022 – 2023 session late winter. Please check out the PDO & Preschool page of the First Pres website at the end of January to mark your calendar for PDO Sunday; the day that church members can register their child in our PDO, preschool or kindergarten enrichment programs for the next school year. **WISHING EVERYONE A SAFE AND HEALTHY HOLIDAY SEASON!**



**FIRST PRES**  
PDO & Preschool



# Engage & ENCOUNTER

Our two adult education classes continue from November. Feel free to join even if you missed the classes in November.

## Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

### REVISITING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Sundays, through December 19  
9:00 am / Boardroom / Dr. Donald Kaasch

Sunday morning class is led by Dr. Donald Kaasch and focuses on a historical/critical approach to the materials within the New Testament.

#### QUESTIONS OF FOCUS FOR THE CLASS:

- Who wrote the New Testament?
- What gave these few writers the status of writing the very words of God?
- What were the conflicts within the 1st century church and who came out the winner?
- Do we even dare look with a critical and open mind at the only source in existence for the life and message of a Jew named Y'shua who came from a Galilean town called Nasreta?

## Wednesday Evening Adult Education Class

### THE POWER OF POVERTY

Wednesdays, through December 8  
7:00 pm / Boardroom / Michele Holifield

Come and hear how poverty affects people in the suburbs and how, as a community of faith, we can answer the call to empower those who experience poverty.

## Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Join the Men's Monday Morning Bible Study Group! We meet every Monday at 8:00 am via Zoom and in person in the Parlor. If you are interested in joining the group or if you have questions, contact Bill Dillon at [crdillon@sbcglobal.net](mailto:crdillon@sbcglobal.net) or Dave Berkow at [dwberkow@att.net](mailto:dwberkow@att.net).

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.*

- Proverbs 27:17

## Coffee: Grounds For Discussion And Service

Sundays through May 15 / 10:30-11:30 am  
Room 110/112

## Advent 2021 Service Projects

This Advent Season, Coffee: Grounds will focus on service each Sunday with a different project. Whether or not you will be able to join us, won't you please consider providing some items to help us out as we strive to show love and support to others during this season? We'd love to have you with us in-person or in-spirit.

### First Sunday of Advent, November 28

#### CARDS TO FIRST PRES SERVICE PEOPLE & SHUT-INS

We will write cards to let these people know that we are praying for and thinking about them this holiday season.

### Second Sunday of Advent, December 5

#### BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS

We will fill small bags with items and divide them up among us to keep in our cars to give to people who seem that they could use a little something extra.

Scan the QR code to sign up to provide items for Bags for the Homeless.



### Third Sunday of Advent, December 12

#### COATS ON POLES

We will gather to add labels to gently used coats. We then will go out into the Arlington Heights downtown area to hang them on poles for those who might be out in the cold and in need of a coat. If you'd like to donate a coat, please email Kelly Dean at [k\\_p\\_dean@hotmail.com](mailto:k_p_dean@hotmail.com)

### Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 19

#### ORGANIZE BREAKFAST FOR PASTORAL & CHURCH STAFF

To say thank you for all they do, The Bridge will provide and serve a Christmas Breakfast.

Scan this QR code to sign up to provide items for the breakfast.





## November Session Notes

By Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session

These highlights are from the unapproved minutes from the Strategic Planning Meeting of Session held on November 7, 2021.

Session was thrilled to interview and formally recommend the new officers present at this meeting. The following Deacons and Elders were welcomed: Deacons: Denise Beihoffer, Ann Borst, Bill Hellyer, Carol Kelley, Stephanie Levinsky, and Andy Sturgeon. Elders: Floyd Mays and Steve Olszewski.

At the November 15, 2021 Administrative Meeting of Session, Session will interview and vote on the new officers that were unable to attend the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. All new officers will be installed and ordained on Sunday November 21, 2021.

Session will send an email to the First Pres community reminding everyone to sign up to be **ALIN!** Those who already volunteer will be thanked and asked to sign up and share the ways they currently volunteer. Session will also ask them to let us know if there are any other ways they want to volunteer. Those who have been prayerfully considering volunteering will be encouraged to sign up and let us know how they wish to volunteer.

Training was conducted on the use of the new communication process, including use of new forms that are located on the First Pres website. Also discussed were items Session needs to know and most common reasons for Session approval. All committees and boards will keep meeting minutes and complete and submit the form monthly to the Session Clerk.

Session has identified an Internal, External, and Culture Goal which are summarized respectively:

1. Reengage members who are on the rolls and have become disengaged.
2. Serve as a humanitarian resource to our external community.
3. Establish an all-inclusive welcoming church culture.

Session will be working on further development of these goals over the next month. Keep a look out for more information, including ways you can get involved. Most Respectfully Submitted, Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session \*A copy of the unapproved minutes is available upon request at [lauracarlson2011@hotmail.com](mailto:lauracarlson2011@hotmail.com).

## Building Update

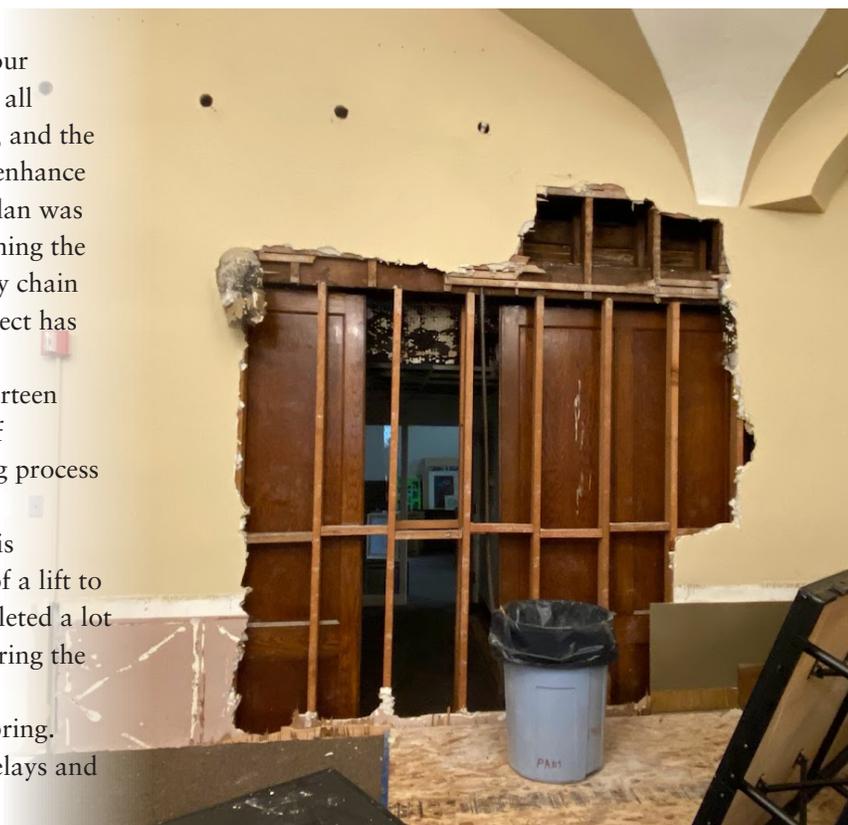
There are currently two building projects underway in our facility: the installation of a lift that will allow access to all three levels of the CE, Chapel and Fellowship Hall area, and the renovation of the Chapel that will increase seating and enhance the overall worship and gathering space. Our original plan was to complete both projects by this fall with hopes of opening the areas by Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, because of supply chain and labor issues driven by the global pandemic our project has been delayed.

The good news is Trustees are on track to approve thirteen different trade contracts for the lift project by the end of November. This will allow us to complete the permitting process and begin demolition in early to mid-December.

In the Chapel, installation of central air conditioning is complete, and we are progressing with the installation of a lift to the new permanent raised platform. We have also completed a lot of discovery behind the Chapel walls that will aid us during the construction process.

The new target completion of both projects is early spring. Thank you for your patience as we work through the delays and your generosity in supporting these projects.

Reach out to [Tony Scheurich](#) or [Michele Holifield](#) with questions.



Back to the



Our Stewardship campaign is underway for 2022. This year, the Stewardship Committee is asking the congregation to completely renew our commitment to God. This means in addition to your financial commitment; we are also asking you to make a time and talent commitment through our **ALLIN!** initiative. The website for all-in can be found at [firstpresah.org/allin](http://firstpresah.org/allin)

If you did not receive a commitment card in the mail, you can pick one up at the church office or make a commitment online by following the directions below.

Thank you for making a commitment to our stewardship campaign and helping us to ensure that First Pres continues our momentum to be a light in the midst of the darkness.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### CAN I SUBMIT MY GIFT COMMITMENT ONLINE?

Yes, visit [firstpresah.org/giving](http://firstpresah.org/giving) to make an online commitment.

**WHAT PAYMENT METHODS MAY I USE?** Gifts can be made with cash or check. You may also give online using our safe and secure (SSL) online giving option.

Set up one-time or recurring gifts by charging to a debit or credit card account. Visit [firstpresah.org/giving](http://firstpresah.org/giving) to get started. You may set up electronic funds transfer (EFT), which automatically withdraws funds

from a checking or savings account (form available in the church office). You may also give gifts of stock.

To get more information on any of the payment methods available, please contact Debbie Walter, Business Administrator, at 847-255-5900 or [debbiewalter@firstpresah.org](mailto:debbiewalter@firstpresah.org).

**MAY I CHANGE MY COMMITMENT?** Yes, you may adjust your commitment by contacting Debbie Walter.

**CAN I GET A RECEIPT FOR MY ONLINE GIFT?** After you submit your gift information, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to you. This is considered a valid receipt. In addition, your gift will appear on your regular giving statement.

**DO I HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO GIVE ONLINE?** We welcome gifts to the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church from both members and nonmembers.

**HOW SHOULD I SET UP MY OFFERING SCHEDULE?** You can contribute weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

Thank you for your continued support.

INCOME			TITHE					
ANNUAL	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	WEEKLY GIVING					
			4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
\$18,000	\$1,500	\$346	\$14	\$21	\$28	\$35	\$42	\$52
\$25,000	\$2,083	\$481	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$58	\$72
\$30,000	\$2,500	\$577	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58	\$69	\$87
\$40,000	\$3,333	\$769	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$92	\$115
\$45,000	\$3,750	\$65	\$35	\$52	\$69	\$87	\$104	\$130
\$50,000	\$4,167	\$962	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$115	\$144
\$60,000	\$5,000	\$1,154	\$46	\$69	\$92	\$115	\$138	\$173
\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,442	\$58	\$87	\$115	\$144	\$173	\$216
\$100,000	\$8,333	\$1,923	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192	\$231	\$288
\$125,000	\$10,417	\$2,404	\$96	\$144	\$192	\$240	\$288	\$361
\$150,000	\$12,500	\$2,885	\$115	\$173	\$231	\$289	\$346	\$433
\$175,000	\$14,583	\$3,365	\$135	\$202	\$269	\$337	\$404	\$505
\$200,000	\$16,667	\$3,846	\$154	\$231	\$308	\$385	\$462	\$577
\$225,000	\$18,750	\$4,327	\$173	\$260	\$346	\$433	\$519	\$649

**“But just as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” - II Corinthians 8:7**

## GIVING FOR OCTOBER 2021

Below is a summary of the church’s income for the month of October and Year-to-Date.

We encourage everyone to give regularly and generously. 2021 year-end contributions must be received by December 31 to be included in 2021 giving. You may give by check, online via the church website or by stock transfer. If you need assistance to make a stock transfer contact Debbie Walter at the church office. Thank you for your good stewardship!

	MONTH OF OCTOBER	YEAR TO DATE
Receipts	\$ 71,188	\$973,728
Expenses	\$105,828	\$1,066,032
Balance	(\$34,640)	(\$92,305)

## Welcome New Members!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest members!  
If you see them, please make a point to introduce yourself and say hello.

### Andrew Bennett



— Andrew has lived in Arlington Heights for 31 years, and is a financial advisor. He enjoys golfing, biking and cooking. He has been involved with First Pres for 17 years, but never officially joined...until now! Andrew enjoys the music, messages and church mission.

### Steven Miller



— Steven has been married to his wife, Courtney, for eight years, and has lived in Arlington Heights for three. He is in asset management and likes history, sports, reading and music (both making it and listening to it). He currently teaches Sunday school and is looking forward to getting involved in more volunteer opportunities. He finds the messages engaging and fulfilling.

### Gerri Campbell



— Gerri has been married to her husband, Chris, for 46 years and has lived in Arlington Heights for 14 years. She is an art teacher for grades K-12 and has a graduate degree in education and works with special needs children. She enjoys gardening, photography, cooking, and traveling. Gerri enjoys the services and reflecting on the sermons to make herself a better person.

### Peter Truell



— Peter has been married to his wife, Melissa, for a little over a year and they currently live in Palatine. Peter is a behavioral therapist and enjoys art, painting, photography, traveling, music and games. He likes that First Pres is involved in local community programs and events.

### Launa Ismail



— Launa is a retired parish nurse and enjoys spending time with her two granddaughters and two cats! She also enjoys nature, reading, and communicating. She is currently involved in the Chancel Choir. She enjoys the sense of expanded community, the exceptional music program, and the community outreach that First Pres has to offer.

### Kenneth and Susan Weller



— Ken and Susan have been married for 23 years and have recently moved to Arlington Heights from Libertyville. Ken is a retired commercial insurance underwriter. He is involved in Men's Bible Study. Susan is a social worker and enjoys walking, biking, Bible study, reading, and music, especially opera. Ken and Susan participate in PADS, Family Night and participated in the recent Restaurant Walk. Ken and Susan have felt warmly welcomed at First Pres and look forward to where God wants them to serve next!

### Eric and Codi Larson



— Eric and Codi have been married for 18 years and have lived in Arlington Heights for 39 years, as both children and adults. They have two children, Eric, Jr. (13) and Anika (10). Eric is a principal in Arlington Heights District 25 and Codi is a homeschool teacher. They enjoy gardening, camping, reading and spending time together as a family. They look forward to Family Night, adult education, and the Youth Ministry activities. They love that they have felt welcomed and really like that First Pres actively serves the community.

### Brittany Winslow



— Brittany was married to Shannon Bennett in August and has lived in the Arlington Heights area for three years. She is an automotive mechanic and her hobbies include drawing and crafting. She is looking forward to getting involved in anything and everything!



## Thank You For Decorating!

We are all enjoying our festive looking church thanks to all the many helpers who came on Saturday, November 27, to help with the decorating that gets us all in the Christmas spirit. Many hands made the work go a lot faster and we are now enjoying all the beauty. Thank you so much for helping!

Don't forget, we will need help again Saturday, **January 8 at 9:30 am** to take down and store all the beautiful decorations. We'll need lots of helpers, so please volunteer! Thank you.



### SYMPATHY TO:

*Nancy Conning* and family,  
on the death of her husband, *Stan Conning*

The Lash Family, on the death of *Betty Lash*

*The Orzechowski Family*, on the death of Mark's mother

### CELEBRATIONS:

*Wayne and Barbara Tsutsumi*, on the birth of their granddaughter, Mia Rae Tsutsumi

*Earl and Gloria Oak*, on the birth of their great-granddaughter, Austen Lisa DeSilvia

## Thank You for Flower Donations

The beauty throughout our church each week and during the Christmas season is made possible by each of you who donated and made the magic happen! Thank you so much for your generosity and for supporting the Flower Fund! You make the difference in the beautiful surroundings of our church for all to enjoy!



## Thank You

### From Firman And Christopher House

Your donations for food items made a huge difference to the families that have been struggling through rough economic times. The amount collected was \$1,121.00 and was split between Firman House and Christopher House. It allowed families to have a very special Fall holiday and much needed food and supplies during this difficult time. Your generosity has made a **Big Difference! Thank You!**



## Thank You for Food Barrel Donations in November

During the month of November, we asked you to donate non-perishable food items so that we could make a donation to local food banks. Your generosity made a direct impact in helping to fight hunger in our community. The Larsons, new members in our November 2021 class, used the opportunity to focus on hunger as a family. In the month of October, they agreed to eat through all the food in their pantry before going out to eat or buying more groceries. This meant eating some not so favorite meals, but it was all for a good cause. They split the money they saved from their monthly grocery bill between supporting our food drive and supporting Pacific Garden Mission ([pgm.org](http://pgm.org)). In all, they donated 214 canned goods to our food drive. Our food barrels are open for donations year-round. May this be an inspiration for you to donate generously.

**Eric and Eric Jr. Larson** collecting the donations.



## Framing a piece of History

In preparation for the chapel renovation, a transom window was discovered. While it came from the Chapel, it's difficult to pinpoint the original location. However, it is safe to assume the window was installed in 1912 when the Chapel was built. Larry Olson cleaned, repainted and framed the window now hanging in the second floor hallway near the Boardroom.



## Presbyterian Women

### It's Time To Celebrate!

Join a Presbyterian Women Circle and get an early start to celebrating Christmas with group discussions and a festive morning brunch. Bring a friend!

Circles 1-3 will meet Wednesday, December 8, as follows: CIRCLE 1 led by Jan Niemeyer will meet at 10:00 am in the church Parlor. Refreshments and goodies will be served, but please bring your own water.

CIRCLE 2 led by Bonnie Schaap will meet at 10:00 am in Bonnie's home, 2935 N Windsor Dr., Arlington Heights

CIRCLE 3 led by Phyllis Green will meet at 10:00 am in Phyllis' home, 201 N. Vail, #708, Arlington Heights.

CIRCLE 7 will be celebrating, Christmas early on December 14 at 6:30 pm with dinner and fellowship at Palm Court Restaurant.

Please confirm a reservation with Karen Wilson 847-669-2677 or [karenuw814@comcast.net](mailto:karenuw814@comcast.net)!



### A Christmas Celebration

You won't want to miss the chance to enjoy the songs of the Christmas season presented by the local barbershop quartet, TAKE NOTE. On Wednesday, December 15, at 1:00 pm, join us in the Parlor for refreshments. At 1:30, we will move to the Sanctuary to hear one of the top ten senior quartets in Illinois and the nation. Join them and us in "The Gathering for Christmas" and hear beloved holiday songs as well as some surprises!

If you cannot make it in person and want to watch the program online, watch the livestream at 1:30 pm. Go to the website, click on the Experience tab, and choose livestream. Enjoy! For more information, contact Betty Launer at [blauner2@comcast.net](mailto:blauner2@comcast.net) or 847-749-0402.

# The CHIMES

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## December 2021

## Staff Directory

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