



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

February 2022

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

From the Pastor **April 30 Retreat: Sacred Soil, Sacred Soul**

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

Over the last two years, as we have maneuvered our way through the pandemic, the Congregational Life and Education (CLE) committee has been searching for ways to bring our members closer together. Even though worship services have resumed, new waves of the pandemic continue to fracture our sense of community. In an effort to strengthen the bonds of old relationships and foster new ones, the CLE committee wants to invite you to an all-church retreat to be held on Saturday, April 30th from 11am-2:30 pm at the Morton Arboretum.

We will spend time listening to inspirational presentations, walking the trails or sitting on the grounds enjoying the natural beauty of the Arboretum in an attempt to grow closer to God through nature. The cost is \$40 per person or \$100 per family (scholarships available) and includes admission to the Arboretum for the full day, lunch and programming for children, youth and adults.

We have rented a facility on the grounds of the Arboretum where the theme of the day will be *Sacred Soil, Sacred Soul*. Katy Allen and Rev. TC Anderson will provide programming for our children and youth. For the adults, our speaker will be Rev. Amy Heinrich, associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Libertyville. An ordained PC(USA) pastor for 37 years, Amy is a self-described “Eco-Theologian” where her Christian spirituality is most nurtured in the “roof-less Cathedral” of God’s creation.

Amy says that in Genesis, God created the first human being from the soil of the earth and named the human “Adam”, from the Hebrew “adamah”, which means earth. We are earthlings. We come from the earth and to the earth we return. We are integral strands in the vast, sacred web of life.

Our morning session will explore how we can experience God’s revelation in both the little book of Holy Scripture and

in the big book of Creation. Our hope is that we will be able to adopt the Psalmist’s posture, full of humility and wonder: “When I look up at the skies, at what your fingers made—the moon and the stars...what are human beings that you pay attention to them?” (Ps. 8:3-4) Our afternoon session will explore how nature heals our bodies and souls and, in return, how we are called to heal the creation.

You can come early (opens to the public at 9am) or stay late (closes at sunset) and enjoy the trails, sculptures and exhibits. If you have children and youth, there is plenty to occupy their attention in the Children’s Garden with various activities from climbing to immersive play to hands-on learning. The Arboretum provides a great opportunity for your kids to unplug and enjoy nature.

You can sign-up online through Weekly Highlights or at church on Sunday mornings, during the month of February there will be members of the CLE committee at a table in the Narthex. If you are interested, make sure to reserve a spot as we are limited to 125 people. We look forward to you joining us amidst the natural beauty of the Morton Arboretum on an experiential and contemplative retreat.



“When despair for the world grows in me...I go to lie down where the wood drake rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds. I come into the peace of wild things...I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.”
—Wendell Berry

In This Issue

From the Pastor	1	Adult Education	10-11
Worship	2	Presbyterian Women.....	11
Music	3	Session Highlights.....	12-14
Upcoming Events.....	4	Member News.....	15
Community Life.....	5-6	Building Update.....	15
Opportunities to Serve.....	7	Stewardship.....	15
Children’s & Youth Ministries	8-9	Staff Directory.....	16

February Worship Theme



Throughout the month of February, we will focus on our greatest assets – our children and youth. Whether in worship or in our educational offerings or our activities, children and youth will be center stage. We hope you enjoy the energy and insight that our youth will share with the congregation on Youth Sunday as they lead all aspects of worship. Confirmation Sunday is a special day for our church family as we recognize our 10th and 11th graders becoming new members. Join us in February and experience for yourself the power of our children and youth to change the world!



February 6 | *Whom Shall I Send?* Rev. Steve Howery

Scriptures: Isaiah 6: 1-8; Luke 5: 1-11
 🎵 9:00 am – Compass 🎵 10:30 am – Chancel Choir

February 13 | *Youth Sunday*

Children and youth leading Worship
 🎵 9:00 am – High School Ensemble
 🎵 10:30 am – Children’s Choir

February 20 | *There are Always Alternatives* Rev. Ken Hockenberry

Scriptures: Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40; Luke 6: 27-38
 🎵 9:00 am – Compass 🎵 10:30 am – Men’s Chorus
 Annual Meeting, 11:30 am

February 27 | *Confirmation Sunday*

Welcome our 10th and 11th graders into church membership
 Holy Communion
 🎵 9:00 am – Compass 🎵 10:30 am – Chancel Choir

February Highlights

SOUPER Bowl of Caring

Sunday, February 13, after both worship services

Help our youth as they participate in the Souper Bowl of Caring by donating a few dollars after worship on February 13. Souper Bowl of Caring supports local hunger relief charities across the nation and encourages neighbors to tackle hunger in their local communities. This year’s goal is to raise \$10 million nationally.

An estimated 111 million people watch the Big Game while 48 million Americans struggle with hunger. What if each person watching the game gave just one dollar to feed their neighbor in need? Don’t sit on the sidelines. Our youth will be at the doors of the Sanctuary after worship collecting for this mission. Please give generously.



Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 20, 11:30 am

Mark your calendars for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. The congregation will vote on the Terms of Call for the Pastors, the Nominating Slate and Restructuring of the Deacons. Please plan to attend in person, as we need a quorum of the congregation to conduct business.



Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 20, during worship

Join Scout Troop 32 as they celebrate 80 years. The troop is chartered by First Presbyterian Church Men’s Club/Bible Study group.



Organ Fest Goes to the Movies



Sunday, February 13, 4:00 pm

In the first thirty years of the twentieth century, a new art form took America and the world by storm. Cinema. Film. Motion pictures. “The picture show.” Whatever one called it, movies captivated the masses in a way nothing else ever had, and our love affair with movies has continued to the present day.

Unlike today, when we are likely to watch movies in a small multiplex theater or from a big screen at home, early movie-goers were treated to a much grander spectacle for their nickel. The show often included movies, musical numbers and stage acts, and



were often accompanied by an extravagant pipe organ. The massive, ornately-decorated theaters quickly became known as the “movie palace,” or even the “cathedral of the motion picture,” virtually every city neighborhood and small town had one.

For our 37th Annual Organ Fest, we will be inviting you to come to the theater. Selections will feature some of the great film and musical selections from the second half of the 20th century: Star Wars, Phantom of the Opera, Sound of Music, Mission Impossible and many more. Join organists Michael Gagne, Marianne Kim, Christopher Urban and Gary Wendt as they invite you to escape from the troubles of the world as we transform the Sanctuary into a great movie house. Consider joining our Restaurant Walk after the concert with dinner at Javier’s at 6:00 pm. Sign-up details are available on page 4.

Wednesdays @ Noon

Wednesday, February 2, 12:10 pm-12:45 pm

Dr. Derek Nickels, organ

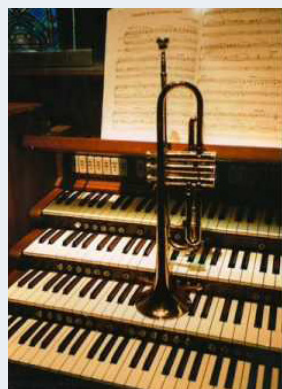
Derek E. Nickels is Director of Music at the Church of the Holy Comforter (Episcopal), in Kenilworth, IL, and has performed recitals across the United States. He holds Doctor of Musical Arts and Master of Music degrees in organ performance from Arizona State University and a Bachelor of Music degree from Southern Methodist University.



Wednesday, March 2, 12:10 pm-12:45 pm

Jered Montgomery, trumpet; Christopher Urban, organ

We welcome trumpeter, Jered Montgomery to First Pres for an afternoon of familiar and inspiring music. The silvery lustre of the organ sound blends wonderfully with the brilliant tone of the trumpet.



First Presbyterian Talent Show

Sunday, March 13, 4:00 pm

Please consider sharing your talent with the members of First Pres. If you sing, play an instrument, tell a good story, juggle, or even tell a good joke we have a spot for you! There are four categories of performers:

- K-5th grade
- 6th-12th grade
- adults (non-retired)
- adults (retired)

For vocalists or instrumentalists, we are happy to provide keyboard accompaniment.

Contact Adam Hendrickson for more information or to sign-up.

For non-performers, make sure you come out and clap your hands for the many talented members of First Presbyterian Church and the broader community.



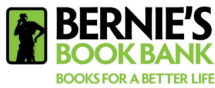
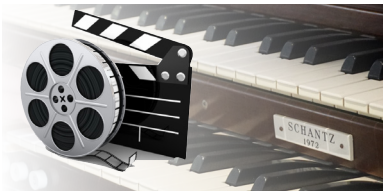
Child care is provided for 4:00 pm concerts by calling the office for a reservation (no later than four days in advance).

All concerts can be attended in person or livestreamed at firstpresab.org

BOOK DRIVE



Wednesdays @ Noon



SHROVE TUESDAY

Wednesdays @ Noon



Children's and Youth Book Drive

Donate Throughout February

Children's Ministries will host a book drive of NEW books for Children & Youth that we will donate to Bernie's Book Bank on our Service Saturday on February 26. Details on page 8.

One Book/One Church

Throughout February

Join us as we read NY Times Bestseller *Stamped*. The book looks at race in the United States and inspires hope for the future. Versions of the book for children, youth, and adults provide an opportunity for everyone to join in the discussion. Details on page 11.

Restaurant Walk

Meals throughout February

Our popular Restaurant Walk program returns for a second session, meeting at Javier's. Slots still available for February meals. Details on page 5.

Wednesdays @ Noon

Wednesday, February 2, 12:10 pm

Dr. Derek Nickels, organist

Parenting Class

Wednesdays, February 2 - 23, 7:00 – 8:00 pm

Children's Ministries and First Pres PDO & Preschool invite you to a series of parenting classes. Two sessions will be geared towards newborn to toddler and two sessions will be geared towards children/youth. Details on page 8.

37th Annual Organ Fest

Sunday, February 13, 4:00 pm

Organ Fest goes to the movies! A dynamic program of film and theater music transcribed for the organ. Selections include *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones*, *Sound of Music*, and *Phantom of the Opera*. Fun for all ages. Details on page 3.

Service Saturday: Bernie's Book Bank

Saturday, February 26

Join us for a service project at First Pres or travel to Bernie's Book Bank for sorting, sticker-ing, and packing books. Bernie's Book Bank sources, processes, and distributes quality new and gently used children's books to increase book ownership among under-served infants, toddler, and school age-children throughout Chicagoland. Details on page 7.

Shrove Tuesday

Tuesday, March 1, 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Join *Bruce Blanck and Friends* at Hey Nonny in downtown Arlington Heights for an evening of jazz and celebration before we begin our Lenten journey. Details on page 6.

Wednesdays @ Noon

Wednesday, March 2, 12:10 pm

Jered Montgomery, trumpet; Christopher Urban, organ

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2, 6:00 pm dinner; 7:00 pm service

Begin the Lenten journey with dinner at 6:00 pm, followed by worship at 7:00 pm that includes Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. We will also start our Lenten sermon series *Breaking the Cycle: Discovering Our Spiritual Roots*.

Family NIGHT

We anticipate a return to our normal schedule with dinner and full programming on February 2.

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

TORAH—WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND WHY?

Wednesdays, February 2 – 23

7:00 pm / Boardroom / Dr. Donald Kaasch

Read more about this class on page 10.

NAVIGATING PARENTHOOD: A SERIES FOR PARENTS

Wednesdays, February 2 – 23

7:00 pm / Sanctuary / Various experts

Read more about this class on page 6.

Career Planning Course

Wednesdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23, and March 9

7:00 pm / Room 102-104 /

Contact: CTR@firstpresah.org



This five-week class covers the most important cornerstones of your job search or career journey, including self-assessment, budgeting, resume building, marketing, networking, interview preparation, and negotiations. Whether you're on the hunt for a new job or seeking a change in your career path, you don't have to face these challenges alone. Sign up now!

Children And Youth

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



Restaurant Walk in February

SIGN-UP SUNDAY MORNINGS OR ONLINE

Our popular Restaurant Walk program returns for a second session, meeting at Javier's. Come to meet some new friends and support a local restaurant. Sign-up on Sunday morning or with the QR code below.

MEALTIMES

Tuesday, February 1, 6:00 pm

(full) Thursday, February 10, 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 13, 6:00 pm

(this session is perfect for those attending the Organ Fest concert)

Saturday, February 19, 12:00 pm

(full) Sunday, February 20, 6:00 pm

Sunday, February 27, 12:00 pm



Scan to Sign up for Restaurant Walk



Shrove Tuesday Celebration Sanctuary Flowers

Tuesday, March 1, 6:30-9:30 pm



Join Bruce Blanck and Friends at Hey Nonny in downtown Arlington Heights for an evening of jazz, celebration, and New Orleans inspired food before we begin our Lenten journey.

Shrove Tuesday is the day before Ash Wednesday and the start of our Lenten journey. It is observed by many Christians who make a special point of self-examination, of considering what wrongs they need to repent, and what amendments of life or areas of spiritual growth they need to ask God’s help in dealing with during Lent.

The expression “Shrove Tuesday” comes from the word shrive, meaning “absolve”. The observance can include practices like indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice for the upcoming forty days. In French, it is referred to as Mardi Gras or “Fat Tuesday”, referring to the practice of the last night of eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season. So, join us for a Mardi Gras inspired evening of great jazz and New Orleans inspired food and then consider what you might want to shrive or “absolve” for Lent. Reservations can be made for dinner at <https://www.heynonny.com/shows/free-mardi-gras-show-with-bruce-blanck-friends-630pm-930pm/> or by calling (224) 202-0750. Bruce Blank and Friends will be doing three 45-minute sets between 6:30 and 9:30 pm. Just make your dinner reservation in that time frame. The music is on us, the dinner tab is on you!



Hey Nonny
10 S. Vail Ave
Arlington Heights,
IL 60005



Hey Nonny RSVP

Make sure you join us on Ash Wednesday, March 2, with dinner at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall and worship with Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Here is your chance to honor or remember someone special in your life and add a little beauty to a worship service on a special Sunday. Sign-ups for 2022 Sanctuary flowers will take place in person on February 13 and 20 in the Narthex after both services. You may pick a date and dedicate the flowers or just donate by listing your request in the memo section of your check. Suggested donation is \$25. Orders can also be placed online (select PW-Flowers-Sunday on the dropdown fund menu). Thank you for adding a little beauty to our Sundays! Questions? Contact Sue Henderson at suhenco@comcast.net



Thanks from Firman House

Thank you to those in our congregation who generously supported the Firman House winter items collections. Donations totaling \$2,051 for the Firman House collection made it possible for many children to have much needed hats, gloves and scarves this winter. Thank you for your continued generosity supporting this worthwhile organization.

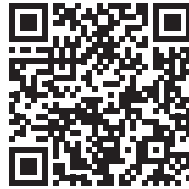
Tucking Away Christmas

It was fun decorating the church for Christmas and a big THANK YOU goes out to all those who came on Saturday, January 8, to safely tuck away all the decorations. Many hands helped, once again, to make the job fun and light. Deb Artman, Pam Miller and Marty Kraybill.



All Church Book Drive for Children & Youth

Give the gift of reading by donating a NEW Children's or Young Adult book to the Children's Ministries Book Drive to support Bernie's Book Bank. The benefits of reading go beyond ABC's and 123's. Reading impacts children for the rest of their lives. Confidence soars. Knowledge expands. Vocabulary grows. Offer a child a book and you've given them the gift of a lifetime!



Amazon Wish List

During the month of February, Children's Ministries will gladly accept your donation on Sunday mornings before and after worship in the Narthex, and Wednesday evenings at Family Night. Books will be donated to Bernie's Book Bank in conjunction with our Service Saturday event on February 26. Visit our Amazon Wish List to get started.

Service Saturday at Bernie's Book Bank



On Saturday February 26, Service Saturday will travel to Bernie's Book Bank, located in Lake Bluff, IL. Founded in 2009, Bernie's Book Bank is the leading provider of quality books to under-served children in the Chicagoland area. Read more about Bernie's Book Bank here www.berniesbookbank.org/about/

When you work a shift at Bernie's you will be involved with sorting, stickering, and packing books to be distributed throughout the area.

First Pres will staff two shifts at Bernie's on Saturday February 26. The first shift is

from 9:00-11:00 am and the second shift is from 12:30-2:00 pm. In order to reserve your spot, scan the QR code to the right. You will be prompted to create an account and pick your shift. We will gather at Bernie's for each shift. Please note that Bernie's Book Bank requires that volunteers be 5 years old and up.



Bernie's Book Bank Sign up

Following your morning shift or prior to the afternoon shift you are invited to join other volunteers for lunch at a local restaurant. Watch for an announcement closer to February 26 for information on the lunch meeting spot.

For help in registering for a shift or other questions please contact Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresab.org
February 2022

MLK Food & Essentials Drive Thank You

On Monday, January 17, Stone Catchers hosted the Fourth Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Community Food and Household Essentials Drive. The MLK Day of Service is an annual event held nationally to encourage communities to take action to build the beloved community of Dr. King's dream. MLK Day is the only federal holiday also designated as a national day of service to encourage all to volunteer to improve their community.



First Pres volunteer families worked together to unload donations from cars that pulled up to the front door of the church on Dunton Ave. Donations were sorted and distributed to Palatine Township Food Pantry, Wheeling Township Food Pantry, Congregation Beth Am Food Pantry, and the Elk Grove Presbyterian Church Pantry. Thank you to all of the generous donors.

Blanket Drive

On cold nights in January and February, it is wonderful to have a warm house and cozy blanket to wrap yourself in.

Unfortunately, not everyone is that lucky.

During January and February, we will be collecting for the Blanket



Drive to

provide a blanket as a virtual and powerful resource for someone needing a little support, warmth and encouragement. A donation of \$10 will provide such a blanket through the CWS. Please help those facing crisis with your checks made out to First Presbyterian Church of AH (indicate Blanket Drive in memo) or donate online. Thank you for your generous help!

Contact: Val Schuffler at valerie901p@gmail.com

Children's Ministries

NAVIGATING PARENTHOOD: A SERIES FOR PARENTS

Children's Ministries and First Pres PDO & Preschool are pleased to announce a series of parenting presentations being offered on Wednesday evenings during the month of February. Each presentation will focus on a timely parenting topic and geared towards certain stages of parenthood. All presentations will be held in the Sanctuary from 7:00-8:00 pm.

February 2 – Newborn & Infant Sleep Basics: This session will cover safe sleep practices, age-appropriate schedules, and how to navigate nap transitions to avoid sleep regressions. We'll also discuss common sleep challenges (trouble falling asleep, night waking, early rising, short napping) and ways to adjust your child's sleep habits so they are the best, rested versions of themselves! This session is geared toward parents of babies ages 0-24 months old. Presented by *Mary Cape, certified pediatric sleep and behavior specialist, and owner of Beanstalk Sleep Consulting.*

February 9 – Toddler Sleep & Positive Parenting: This session will address sleep strategies for toddlers & preschoolers and provide tools for parents to navigate bedtime battles, night wakings, early rising and naps. We'll also discuss parenting tools that will help support your

child through tantrums, picky eating, potty readiness, and more! This session is geared toward parents of children ages 2-5 years old. Presented by *Mary Cape, certified pediatric sleep and behavior specialist, and owner of Beanstalk Sleep Consulting.*

February 16 – Don't Overlook Yourself – Self Care for Parents: In this session, parents will be given the opportunity to slow down, take a breath, and learn ways that they can care for themselves during these challenging times. Topics such as mindfulness, the importance of checking in with yourself to identify feelings, stressors, and reactions, and how taking care of yourself allows you to be a more present and patient parent. Ideas for where to turn for help will also be offered. This session is geared towards parents at any age and stage. Presented by *Rebecca Horwitz, LCSW, manager of the Mobile Crisis Response Team (Child and Adolescent Division) at Kenneth Young Center.*

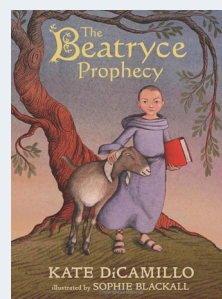
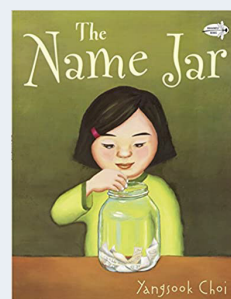
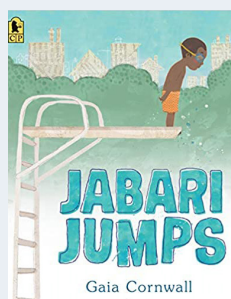
February 23 – Navigating Your Child's Mental Health: This session will address common signs and symptoms of a decline in mental health, how to approach conversations with your child about mental health, ways to support and advocate for your child, and what services are out there for parents and children who need help? This session is geared towards parents of children upper elementary/middle/high school age. Presented by *Katrina Flesvig, MA, LCPC, clinical project consultant and therapist at Kenneth Young Center.*

A Book is Much More Than Words on a Page

SUPPORT CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES' BOOK DRIVE

Give the gift of reading by donating a NEW Children's or Young Adult book to the Children's Ministries' Book Drive to support Bernie's Book Bank. The benefits of reading go beyond ABC's and 123's. Reading impacts children for the rest of their lives. **Confidence soars. Knowledge expands. Vocabulary grows.** Offer a child a book and you've given them the gift of a lifetime!

During the month of February, Children's Ministries will gladly accept your donation on Sunday mornings before and after worship in the narthex, and Wednesday evenings at Family Night. Books will be donated to Bernie's Book Bank in conjunction with our Service Saturday event on February 26. Visit our Amazon Wish List to get started <https://smile.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1MZSK81KRIQ47>. You may also purchase and donate a book of your choice.



Amazon Wish List

First Pres PDO & Preschool

This February is a busy month for our PDO and Preschool program. We will be teaming up with Children's Ministries to offer a series of parenting classes on Wednesday evenings and we will be kicking off registration for the 2022 – 2023 school year.

If you are looking for part-time childcare, preschool placement or a kindergarten enrichment program for the 2022 – 2023 school year, mark your calendar for PDO Sunday, February 27, 2022. PDO Sunday is the day that church members can register, online, for the next school year, before the currently enrolled students, alumni and the public. Registration takes place on our church website, under the PDO and Preschool tab. We once again will be offering our morning, kindergarten enrichment program, K-Club. Coleen Anzalone, the director of our PDO and Preschool program, will be available to answer questions on Children and Youth Sunday, February 13 at the First Pres PDO & Preschool table in the Narthex. If you have questions prior, you can contact Coleen by emailing; coleenanzalone@firstpresab.org.



FIRST PRES
PDO & Preschool



Youth Ministries

February's Special Sundays!

We have several special Sundays happening in February. Make sure you come each week so you don't miss out on a single one.

FEBRUARY 13

- **Children's and Youth Sunday** – The children and youth of the church will be leading worship at both services this day. Come join them as they sing, play, pray, read scripture, and more!



- **Souper Bowl of Caring** – the children and youth will be collecting your change in pots and pans after each service. 100% of the proceeds will be going to local charities. Please bring your piggy banks to empty out!



FEBRUARY 20

- **Scout Sunday** – Join Scout Troop 32 as they celebrate 80 years.



FEBRUARY 27

- **Confirmation Sunday** – We will be celebrating the Confirmation youth completing their 2 ½ year program to become members of the church. Come to either service and celebrate these youth as they are welcomed as new members.



Engage & ENCOUNTER

We have two new adult education classes for the month of February. Our Sunday morning class, which will be in the Boardroom from 9:00-10:00 am on February 6, 20 and 27 will be taught by Laura Carlson, PhD., First Pres member and Clerk of Session, and is entitled *Honor God's Diversity* from the *Follow Me* curriculum being published by the PC(USA).

God calls for us to invite everyone to the table and make everyone feel they belong. Join Laura as she explores ways we can strengthen our community by appreciating and understanding the different talents, abilities, and voices in our community. Living in community means being united in God's love across differences as a people of faith, listening to all, helping each other, and welcoming everyone.

In Genesis we are reminded that we are created equally in God's image; yet sometimes our words or actions fall short of that vision. A community that lives out God's love is one where we affirm God's love for everyone, listen to each other, practice empathy, focus outward as well as inward, and celebrate our differences.

Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

HONOR GOD'S DIVERSITY

Sundays, February 6, 20 and 27
9:00 am / Boardroom / Laura Carlson, PhD

Wednesday Evening Adult Education Class

TORAH—WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND WHY?

Wednesdays, February 2 - 23
7:00 pm / Boardroom / Dr. Donald Kaasch

Our Wednesday Engage and Encounter programming will be led by Dr. Donald Kaasch. His class entitled *Torah—Who, What, When, Where and WHY?* explores the Torah as the odd cornerstones of Judaism and Christianity...What are they? Do they matter and, if so, why? When were they written? Where and by whom were they written? Why were they written and what do they accomplish?

Starting with whether they are the first five 'Books' of the Old Testament, we will take the time to look at the Jewish Torah from an academic perspective. As with other classes taught by Dr. Kaasch, the focus will be on the historical/critical approach to the materials within the Old Testament. There is much to learn, so come with an open mind and look forward to discovering new ways to read the most foundational texts in our Bible. Contact: [Alex Lang](#)

Coffee: Grounds For Discussion And Service

Sundays through February 27

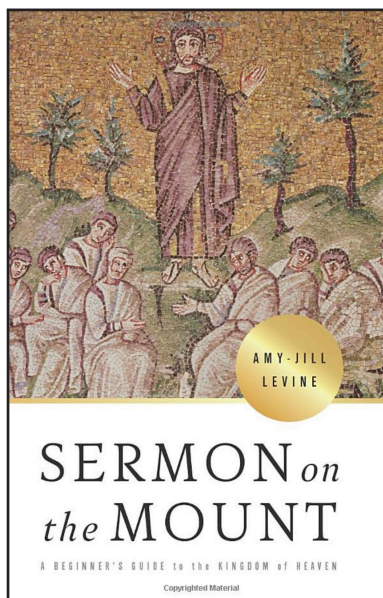
10:30-11:30 am / Room 110/11

Join us for a book discussion on *Sermon on the Mount: A Beginner's Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven* through the end of February. In the book, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine introduces the major topics in the Sermon on the Mount, explains historical and theological contexts, and shows how the words of Jesus echo his Jewish tradition and speak forward to reach hearts and minds today.

Bring your own coffee and your mask. We are set up to social distance in our classroom. Whether you can make it every week or not, we would love to see you there!

For More information contact Kelly Dean at

k_p_dean@hotmail.com



Sermon on the Mount on Amazon

ONE + ONE BOOK CHURCH

In honor of Black History Month, Stone Catchers is sponsoring a community reading of the book *Stamped From the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi.

Editions of this book are available in adult, youth, and kids editions making it a wonderful book for the whole family to read. Books are available in the lobby on Sunday mornings or by contacting Michele Holifield.

During the month of February each week you will receive an email with a thought prompt related to your reading, and then you are invited to join in an all church dinner and discussion on Sunday February 27th. Discussion and activity groups will be available for all ages after we enjoy a dinner together.

For questions contact Michele Holifield or Katy Allen.



Scan to RSVP for Dinner & Discussions

READ | DISCUSS | ACT



READ

Reserve your copy of *Stamped* by Ibram X. Kendi until Feb 10. Read on your own.



Scan to reserve book



DISCUSS

Sunday, February 27, 5:00 – 7:00 pm
Come for dinner & join a discussion group. Groups will be divided by age group and will meet separately (adults, youth, kids)



ACT

Sunday, April 3, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Attend an all-ages follow up activity to reflect on what you've learned and how you might be changed as a result.



Cost of Books		February 27	
Adult	\$15	Dinner	5:00 – 6:00 pm
Youth	\$10	Discussions	6:00 – 7:00 pm
Kids	\$10		

STAMPED by Ibram X. Kendi

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings – February

MORNING CIRCLES 1, 2, 3

What do you know about Bathsheba? How did she gain power in a man's world? How did she tempt David? Lesson 6 in the study *What My Grandmothers Taught Me* will be the discussion for Circles 1-3 meeting on Wednesday, February 16, at 9:30 am in the Parlor. On a cold winter day, it is a chance for warm fellowship, discussion, and the latest news. Drop in and learn a little something new and meet members of the church. All are welcome! Mark your calendar!



EVENING WITH CIRCLE 7

On such a cold winter's evening, warm up with fellowship, great discussions, and the surprise of a new book, starting on Tuesday, February 15, at 7:00 pm in the church Parlor. Join in to explore, enjoy, and take away things to ponder. Each chapter from book discussions offer exciting new ideas.

Questions, contact Liz Thompson at lizht85@yahoo.com.

Eleanor Roosevelt: Overcoming The Odds

On Wednesday, February 23, at 9:30 am you are invited to join in the gathering program of Presbyterian Women featuring a presentation of *Eleanor Roosevelt: Overcoming the Odds*, presented by historian Jim Gibbons. Learn a little about her life and struggles being the wife and First Lady of President Franklin Roosevelt. What issues of the time did she face as a woman and what expectations became part of her life? Join us in the Parlor before the program for fellowship. All are welcome to join in a lively program on a cold winter day! For more information, contact Betty Launer at blauner2@comcast.net.



November Session Notes

By Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session

Session Highlights from the unapproved minutes from the January 9, 2022 Combined Administrative and Strategy & Vision Meetings of Session.

Session was thrilled to welcome the new Elders as we started the New Year!

Passage of the proposed 2022 budget from the Administrative and Finance Committee was among the first orders of business. Overall, we are in good shape moving forward in 2022, but we will discuss some cost-saving strategies looking ahead to 2023. Session also discussed ideas for increasing pledges while expressing appreciation to the congregation because the \$1 million mark for pledges was reached.

Session received a building and construction update from the Trustees and is happy to report that construction for the hallway and lift is underway. Session acknowledged much appreciation for the congregation's support and patience.

Session approved the Deacons' White Paper, which will be presented to the congregation at the Congregational meeting scheduled Sunday February 20, 2022.

Session approved the recommendation from the COVID-19 Task Force that food and beverage service be suspended at church gatherings to prevent the removal of masks at gatherings. This will be re-evaluated every two weeks by program staff and the COVID Task Force.



Session approved the 2022 Terms of Call for Pastors from the Personnel Committee, which will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Congregational Meeting February 20, 2022.

Session discussed the next steps moving forward with the internal, external, and culture goals. Three teams of three Elders were formed. Each of the three teams will bring to the next Strategy & Vision meeting (February 6, 2022) a First Action Step for discussion and to seek full Session approval before moving forward with communication to the congregation and recruitment of at-large members.

Session discussed the results from the Faith Survey and agreed that the results not only reflected a positive direction for First Pres, but results reaffirmed that the core message of First Pres as a Matthew 25 church is strong and well received. Session will utilize these results moving forward with strategic goals, planning, and marketing. Additionally, Session will provide an Executive Summary for the survey results, which will be distributed to the congregation.

The next Session Strategy and Vision Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 6, 2022. The next Administrative Meeting of Session will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2022.

As we move forward in 2022, Session would like to express deep gratitude for the congregation's continued support, prayers, and financial contributions. As your governing body, we are committed to the mission of First Pres to build the kingdom of God and a desire to see that mission lived out by all the members of our community. *Respectfully submitted by Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session*

Deacon Reorganization Plan

Last year, during our 2021 Annual Meeting, the congregation approved a reduction in the number of elders serving on Session. This was a result of the feedback received from the Congregational Assessment Tool (the CAT Survey), which was taken by the congregation in January of 2020. If you read the executive summary of that report and attended the congregational discussion held by our consultant, Susan Czologosz, who helped us interpret the results of the survey, you learned that, "Overall, we are a strong, thriving congregation." Our community is deeply committed to serving God and loving our neighbors through service.

The success of the Session restructure inspired the Session to want to review the other boards at First Pres. At the Session's September Administration Meeting, the Session approved the creation of the Deacon Task Force. The goal of the Deacon Task Force was to analyze the mission of the

Board of Deacons and better define how they are to function in our community at First Pres.

In order to determine the mission of the Board of Deacons, we turned to scripture, utilizing Acts 6:1-6 and the description provided by the Book of Order in G-2.0201. After considering both of these sources and the needs at First Pres, the Deacon Task Force developed this mission description:

The purpose of the Board of Deacons shall be to demonstrate care to the members of the congregation, particularly during significant life events.

From this definition, we began the process of gathering information by interviewing current and past Deacons about

what they feel the Board of Deacons is doing well and what needs to be improved upon. From this data, we were able to further refine the mission and determine the number of Deacons required to execute the tasks required of the various Deacon Ministry Teams.

Now we come to you with a request that requires congregational approval at the annual meeting on February 20. We would like to change the size of the Board of Deacons to more effectively deliver our mission. Our current By-Laws set the number of Deacons to be no less than 30. We would like to change that range to 14 - 18.

The current number of Deacons in the church By-Laws was influenced by the “parish system”. Each Deacon was assigned a parish where they became responsible for the care of church members located in a particular geographical area. The parish system was abandoned in the late 2000s. In the meantime, the role and function of the Board of Deacons has changed and evolved.

Our suggested number of Deacons requested by the Deacon Task Force reflects the needs of our current congregation and the duties of the Board of Deacons going forward. Reducing the size of the Board of Deacons will facilitate a more efficient board that will allow the Deacons to better execute their mission to demonstrate care to the members of the congregation, particularly during significant life events.

It may be helpful to know that this is not an unusual action to take, for other churches or for us. We have altered the size of the Board of Deacons before and it is simply time to do it again. What we propose is clearly within the guidelines of the Book of Order and our congregational By-Laws.

If approved, the next step is to implement a comprehensive transition plan for the Board of Deacons. Our goal is to have that plan completed by summer so that we can complete the transition by the end of 2022. This would allow the Nominating Committee to create the next slate of Deacons with the new structure in mind so we can begin with the new size in 2023.

We wanted to provide this as a preview to the presentation at the Annual Meeting so that you have time to reflect and consider this proposal. The congregation will have the opportunity to ask questions at the Annual Meeting. However, if you have any questions or would like to discuss this change, please feel free to reach out to any member of the Deacon Task Force (below) or contact the Chair, Laura Ryerson directly at lryerson@me.com.

Deacon Task Force

Laura Ryerson (chair), Courtney Childs, Therese Haines, Doug Hiskes, Rev. Judy Hockenberry (ex officio).

Frequently Asked Questions

Why are we doing this?

Primarily, we are recommending this in response to a shift in volunteerism which has necessitated a renewed structure to the Board of Deacons in order to ensure the work of the Deacons is accomplished in an efficient and effective manner. By more precisely aligning the size of the Board of Deacons with the size of the congregation and, more specifically, with the number of members who are willing and able to accept a multi-year commitment as a Deacon, as well as incorporating members-at-large as volunteers, we believe the Deacons will continue to successfully demonstrate care to the members of the congregation.

Is there an ‘optimal’ size that the Board of Deacons wants to get to and how will we get there?

If approved, the size of the Board of Deacons could range between 14 and 18 members with an optimal size of 15 members. The optimum of 15 Deacons will allow each Deacon to serve as co-coordinator of a specific Ministry Team (the Deacon equivalent of a committee) and will provide a logical succession plan as Deacons roll off the board at the end of their terms and new Deacons begin their term. The range between 14 and 18 members will give the flexibility to adjust the size in the event that the Deacon workload warrants it in the future. The process by which the size reduction occurs will be delineated as we begin the transitional stage this year. The reduction in size will begin with the 2023 incoming class.

What is the term of the Deacon members in this new model?

The term will remain the same at three years.

When will we move to this structure?

We plan to move to the new structure starting January 2023.

How will Deacons be selected?

Deacons will be selected as they have always been, through the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in serving, please contact Liz Thompson at nominating@firstpresab.org

Our Deacon restructure plan includes specific steps to assist the Nominating Committee members as they recruit congregants to serve as Deacons. The intent is to develop a more robust and targeted recruitment process that pairs the skill set of a potential Deacon with one of the particular Deacon roles that needs to be filled. Prior to the recruitment period, the Board of Deacons will provide the Nominating Committee with a list of the specific Deacon roles where vacancies are anticipated, descriptions of the responsibilities for those roles and the skill set each of those roles requires.

Deacon Reorganization Plan continued

How does this impact me, as a member of the congregation?

One of the advantages of this change is to provide more and easier avenues for congregants to engage in the work and ministry of demonstrating care to fellow members of the congregation by serving as volunteers on one of the Ministry Teams run by the Deacons. We encourage you to explore this volunteer opportunity and learn more about the area of care that is the focus of each Ministry Team. For more information, reach out to co-chairs of the Deacons, Pam Miller pamiller323@sbcglobal.net and Carol Kelley carolkel8@comcast.net.

How does this get more people in the congregation involved?

By incorporating members-at-large as volunteers on each Ministry Team, we will provide an opportunity to those who feel called to take an active role in demonstrating care for fellow congregants without the multi-year commitment of serving as a Deacon. This will give members whose schedule, life stage, and/or other commitments lend themselves to more of a “one and done” volunteer opportunity.

How does this move help us deliver our mission?

We are striving to increase the effectiveness and efficiency with which the Board of Deacons accomplishes its mission. This means the structure of this board must provide a foundation which supports fewer Deacons who coordinate and oversee the completion of the tasks of each Ministry Team while maintaining or improving their outreach to the congregation. The move to reduce the number of Deacons on the board while simultaneously increasing the number of at-large members who volunteer on each Ministry Team will allow each Deacon to focus their effort on coordinating the tasks of the mission without the pressure of doing all of the work to carry out the entire mission themselves.

If we didn't do this, what would happen?

The Board of Deacons would be out of compliance with our By-Laws because we currently do not have enough ordained Deacons to reach the 30-person threshold. Furthermore, since the number was determined for the parish system and the parish system is no longer being utilized, the current number of Deacons is too large for the goals we are trying to achieve. Finally, without this move, the Nominating Committee will be under constant pressure to find Deacons to fill slots, which has been a problem in the last few years.

What is the next step?

Once the congregation has approved the change in the number of members on the Board of Deacons, the Deacon Task Force will focus on implementing a plan that transitions the board to the new structure.

What will the Deacons spend their time on, specifically in the next 6-12 months and after we move to this new structure?

Roughly speaking, the first half of 2022 will be focused on creating the transition plan and the second half on executing it so that we are ready to operate in the new structure by January 2023. Ongoing, the Board of Deacons will be more fully focused on fulfilling the mission set forth by the Deacon Task Force.

How will we know what progress is being made and how this is working?

We understand that transparency and open lines of communication are really important as we make these changes. We will communicate with the congregation regularly on this topic to report status as we create and execute this transition plan.

Who should I contact if I have questions or want to get involved?

You should reach out to Laura Ryerson at lryerson@me.com or the co-chairs of the Deacons, Pam Miller pamiller323@sbcglobal.net and Carol Kelley carolkel8@comcast.net.

Will the Deacon Task Force still exist after the change?

No, after the change is initiated, the Deacon Task Force will be dissolved.

Is this in accordance with church polity?

The motion reflects a change in the size of Deacons as the size of the congregation has changed since the By-Laws were first adopted in 1996. Furthermore, the motion is consistent with previous changes made to the size of the boards of the church, such as the reduction in the size of the Session in 2021. The motion seeks a range in the number of Deacons in active service that enables the Board of Deacons to continue to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities as stated in the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (USA), specifically G-2.0202, and allows for flexibility in the event of changes that may arise over time in the mission and ministry of the church.

Scout Sunday February 20, 2022

Boy Scouts of America is celebrating 112 years of Scouting Tuesday, February 8, 2022. Troop 32B for Boys will be celebrating 80 years of Scouting this year and Troop 32G for Girls is celebrating three years of Scouting. The troops are chartered by First Presbyterian Church Men's Club/Bible Study group. Scouting is an extension of the Youth Ministries program.

Scouting provides fun, fellowship, and training to First Pres youth, as well as youth in our community. It emphasizes honesty, self-reliance, character development, and respect. The success of our Scouting program depends on our volunteers, who serve in a variety of leadership roles so our youth may benefit from our Scouting ministry. As the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) celebrates its anniversary, we salute the splendid volunteers who serve as scoutmasters and other positions of leadership. Our two troops would like to invite you and your family to be a part their program. Contact Al Wilson, Chartered Organization Representative for Troop 32. Email: alwilson100@comcast.net or 847-669-2677.



Construction Update

On Monday, January 10, crews arrived to begin work on the renovations that will include the installation of an elevator lift allowing access for all to Fellowship Hall and the Chapel. Crews began with the demolition of the existing staircases, and opening of walls to allow for new construction. It is an exciting time for First Pres as we work to improve our facility. We expect the construction work to begin in the Chapel soon with a goal of completing the entire area by Easter Sunday.

During the demolition of the Gallery Hallway a time capsule from August 1973 was discovered in

one of the walls. Plans are underway to replace that time capsule with one from 2022. Items from the 1973 capsule will be on display during the month of February in the Parlor. If you have questions about the renovations or would like a tour of the area please contact Michele Holifield. A reminder not to enter the construction area at anytime without permission – Thank you.



Time Capsule from 1973

SYMPATHY TO

- Ray Green*, on the death of his wife, *Phyllis Green*
- Therese Haines and family*, on the death of her brother, Christopher Smolen
- The Hodges family, on the death of *Lois Hodges*
- The Jessogne family, on the death of *Myrtle Jessogne*
- Susan Kogan*, on the death of her mother, Sarah Underwood Black
- Jim and Mary Mayer*, on the death of Jim's sister, Jeanette Breedlove

CONGRATULATIONS TO

- Peter & Melissa Truell*, on the birth of their son, Blake Evan Truell

GIVING FOR DECEMBER 2021

Below is a summary of the church's income for the month of December and Year-to-Date. We encourage everyone to give regularly and generously. 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 DECEMBER	YEAR TO DATE
Receipts	\$ 131,670	\$1,193,775
Expenses	\$127,389	\$1,313.027
Balance	\$4,281	(\$119,252)



The CHIMES

First Presbyterian Church
of Arlington Heights
302 N. Dunton Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004
Phone: 847-255-5900
Fax: 847-255-3475
www.firstpresah.org / mail@firstpresah.org

Nonprofit
U.S. Postage
PAID
Palatine, IL
Permit No. 688



February 2022

Staff Directory

PASTORAL STAFF

Alex Lang
Pastor/Head of Staff
alexlang@firstpresah.org

Judy Hockenberry
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
judyhockenberry@firstpresah.org

TC Anderson
Associate Pastor for Children, Youth
and Families
tcanderson@firstpresah.org

Steve Howery
Interim Associate Pastor
sHowery@hotmail.com

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Adam Hendrickson
Director of Music and Worship
adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org

Christopher Urban
Associate Director of Music & Organist
chrisurban@firstpresah.org

Nick Pulikowski
Director of Children's & Handbell Choirs
nickpulikowski@gmail.com

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Katy Allen
Director of Children's Ministries
katyallen@firstpresah.org

Coleen Anzalone
Director of PDO & Preschool
coleenanzalone@firstpresah.org

Beth Johnson
Nursery Coordinator
bethjohnson@firstpresah.org

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

Debbie Walter
Business Administrator
debbiewalter@firstpresah.org

Mary Fino
Senior Administrative Assistant
maryfino@firstpresah.org

Carol Vega
Administrative Assistant/Receptionist
carolvega@firstpresah.org

GRAPHICS & COMMUNICATIONS

Sara Gorsky - Website
Laurie Ruhlin - Graphic Design
Christopher Urban - Coordinator

FACILITIES

Tony Scheurich
Facilities Director
tonyscheurich@firstpresah.org

Michele Holifield
Facilities Coordinator
micheleholifield@firstpresah.org

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Laura Carlson
Clerk of Session
sessionclerk@firstpresah.org

Pam Miller & Carol Kelley
Co-Chairs Deacons
deacons@firstpresah.org

Lindsey Landwehr-Fasules
President of Trustees
trustees@firstpresah.org