



# The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

April 2022

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

## From the Pastor

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

Easter is quite late this year, but I personally prefer late Easters because, rather than Easter being cold and dreary, we can experience Easter as it should be—warm, green and full of possibility. This Easter is actually quite special because it’s the first time we will have been back in our Sanctuary for Easter since the beginning of the pandemic. It’s also special because I have been waiting to preach this particular Easter sermon for a long time.

As many of you are well aware, I work pretty far ahead when it comes to my sermons. I plan out my sermon schedule in February, deciding what I am going to preach for September-August of the coming year. I spend a week holed up in my bedroom, researching scriptures and topics that I think might be relevant and important for the year to come.

For every sermon, I develop a primary and secondary scripture, then I jot down my thoughts about what I think might be important for that sermon. Sometimes I have a lot to say on a certain subject and I end up writing whole pages of the sermon in the notes. Other times, I only have the nugget of an idea and write very brief notes of where I think the sermon might go. By the end of the week, I’ve usually compiled together a 30+ page document of single spaced text.

I do this for a couple of different reasons. The first is a practical concern: it’s hard for me to write a sermon and memorize it all in the same week. I like to have a little bit of distance between myself and the text. In fact, I really like opening a sermon and not remembering anything about writing it. This allows me to look at it with fresh eyes and invest time into the parts that need to be polished or completely changed.

The second is that by planning far in advance, I can find good stories or create special videos for the sermon, which would be impossible if I was writing my sermon the same week I was preaching it. You would be amazed how I end up finding

fascinating little tidbits of information and ideas that relate to various sermons I’m planning on preaching.

The third reason why I plan so far out is that, by allowing the sermons to ruminate in my subconscious, when I finally sit down to write, my brain has worked out a lot of what I want to say. Sometimes I will dream about a sermon and how the ideas should be structured. Often, contemplating my

*Continued on page 7*

### Join us for Easter Worship

6:30 am

Sunrise Worship in  
North School Park

8:00 am

Modern Worship with  
Compass Praise Band

9:30 & 11:00 am

Traditional Worship  
with Chancel Choir  
and First Pres Brass



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## April Worship Theme



Our lives are often driven by a back and forth between our thoughts, feelings and emotions. Below this interplay is another layer of self, which is our spirit. Our spirit is the part of us which is most in touch with God. The goal of our Lenten sermon series is to break the cycle of getting stuck in the upper echelon of thoughts and feelings so that we can more fully experience our spiritual nature.



### April 3 | **Fear**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Matthew 6:25-34; 1 Chronicles 14:13-17

🎵 9:00 am – Compass 🎵 10:30 am – Men's Chorus

### April 10 | **Anger**

Palm Sunday

Scriptures: Matthew 21:1-11; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

🎵 9:00 am – Compass 🎵 10:30 am – Chancel Choir & Children's Choir

### Thursday, April 14, 7:00 pm | **Communion**

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion

Scriptures: Matthew 26:14-30

### Friday, April 15, 7:00 pm | **Complicity**

Good Friday

Scriptures: Matthew 26:36-75; 27:11-56

### April 17 | **Love**

**EASTER** 6:30 am | 8:00 am | 9:30 am | 11:00 am

Scriptures: Matthew 28:1-10; 16-20

🎵 8:00 am – Compass  
🎵 9:30 & 11:00 am – Chancel Choir & First Press Brass

### April 24 | **In Earth's Safe Keeping**

Rev. Ken Hockenberry, guest preacher

Scriptures: Psalm 104:1, 5-24; Romans 8:18-25

🎵 9:00 am – Compass 🎵 10:30 am – Chancel Choir

## April Highlights



### Procession of the Palms

April 10, during morning worship services, we begin Holy Week with the distribution of palm branches to mark the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

### Easter Worship

6:30 am

Sunrise Worship in North School Park

8:00 am

Modern Worship with the Compass Praise Band

9:30 & 11:00

Traditional Worship with Chancel Choir and First Pres Brass



## Easter Sunrise Breakfast



7:15 – 8:15 AM

IN THE PARLOR

Join us after the 6:30 am Sunrise Service, or before the 8:00 am Modern Worship

**All are Welcome!**



## Spring Choral Concert with Orchestra April 24, 4:00 pm



Taking place mere days after Earth Day, come celebrate our planet and existence itself with the Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus and orchestra. This closing concert of the 2021-2022 series will feature music to honor the renewal of spirit and the poetry of Earth. Featured works include *Jupiter* from "The Planets" by Gustav Holst, *The Heavens Are Telling* from "The Creation" by Joseph Haydn and *Psalms 150* by César Franck.



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](http://firstpresab.org)

## One Great Hour of Sharing

During Lent, we continue to take a special offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. Our goal is to surpass our giving of \$7,133.33 from last year. Please consider giving generously during worship.



April 2022

## Wednesdays @ Noon Recitals

Wednesday, April 6, 12:10 pm-12:45 pm

Adam Hendrickson, baritone;  
Christopher Urban, organ

Wednesday, May 4, 12:10 pm-12:45 pm

Soloists and Christopher Urban, organ  
Favorite Sacred Arias

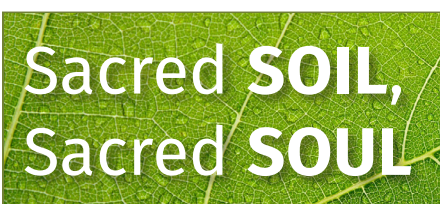


## 90th Birthday Celebration

April 24 during worship, we will recognize members of the congregation who are turning 90 in 2022. Please join us in celebrating this significant milestone.



## Wednesdays @ Noon



## Restaurant Walk

### Sign-up throughout April

Our popular Restaurant Walk program returns for a third session. Sign-up throughout April with meals taking place in May. Details on page 6.

## Wednesday @ Noon

Wednesday, April 6, 12:10 pm

Adam Hendrickson, baritone; Christopher Urban, organ

## Procession of the Palms

Sunday, April 10, Morning Worship Services

We begin Holy Week with the distribution of palm branches to mark the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem.

## Easter Brunch and Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 16, 9:00 am

Children's Ministries sponsored family brunch followed by an Easter egg hunt. Join us for fun and fellowship. Details on page 11.

## Easter Sunrise Breakfast

Sunday, April 17, 7:15 am

Join us for an Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall after our 6:30 am Sunrise Service or before our 8:00 am Modern Worship Service. Details on page 6.

## Service Saturday: Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 23, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

Join us for a morning celebrating God's Creation through service and learning. Discover ways that you can make a commitment to care for the earth. Details on page 8.

## Spring Choral Concert

Sunday, April 24, 4:00 pm



Taking place mere days after Earth Day, come celebrate our planet and existence itself with First Pres. Details on page 3.

## Sacred Soil, Sacred Soul – All Church Retreat

Saturday, April 30, 11:00 am – 2:30 pm

Taking place at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL, we will learn how scripture comes to life in creation and explore how nature heals our bodies and souls and, in return, how we are called to heal creation. Pre-registration for this event is required. Call the church office to see if space is still available.



# Celebrate God's Creation

This year at First Pres, in the week following Earth Day, April 22, we will have several activities and events that are designed to give thanks to God for the wonder and beauty of the world around us.

We invite you to connect with nature through worship, education, service, and music.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

## Service Saturday

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Join us for a morning celebrating God's Creation through service and learning. Discover ways that you can make a commitment to care for the earth.



SUNDAY, APRIL 24

## Morning Worship

9:00 am & 10:30 am

Our worship will reflect God's creation through music, scriptures, and the spoken word. Sermon "In Earth's Safe Keeping" by guest preacher Rev. Ken Hockenberry.

SUNDAY, APRIL 24

## Spring Choral Concert

4:00 pm

Join the Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus and orchestra in a narrative of creation expressed through music and poetry. Featured works include Jupiter from "The Planets" by Gustav Host, The Heavens are Telling from "The Creation" by Josef Haydn and Psalm 150 by César Franck.

SATURDAY, APRIL 30

## Sacred SOIL, Sacred SOUL All Church Retreat

11:00 am – 2:30

Taking place at the Morton Arboretum in Lisle, IL, we will learn how scripture comes to life in creation and explore how nature heals our bodies and souls and, in return, how we are called to heal creation. Pre-registration for this event is required. Call the church office to see if space is still available.



The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.  
Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they display knowledge.

Psalm 19:1-2

**Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt** **Saturday, April 16**  
 Brunch 9:00 am  
 Egg Hunt 10:00 am

**PLEASE BRING TO SHARE:**  
 ▶ **BREAKFAST TREAT** – Last name A-L  
 ▶ **FRUIT** – Last name M-Z  
**MAIN BREAKFAST** will be provided by Children's Ministries

**EGG HUNT GROUPS:**  
 Preschool and younger;  
 K-2nd grade & 3rd-5th grade  
 Prizes in each age group for discovering the Golden Egg!  
 ▶ Please RSVP to [katyallen@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org)


Family & Friends Welcome!



**GOD'S HONEST TRUTH**

**Name that Tune:**  
**Music that Changed My Life**

**Wednesday, May 4**  
 Dinner in Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm  
 Stories in the Sanctuary 7:00 pm



**Easter Sunrise Breakfast**

7:15 – 8:15 AM  
 IN THE PARLOR

Join us after the  
 6:30 am Sunrise Service,  
 or before the  
 8:00 am Modern Worship

**All are Welcome!**




**God's Honest Truth  
 Coming May 4**

Our next God's Honest Truth will be on Wednesday, May 4 at 7:00 pm. The theme for the evening is **Name that Tune: Music that Changed My Life**. This is a night where we will hear stories about the power of music and how a particular musician or song(s) influenced and changed a person's life. Please contact Alex Lang with your story at [alexlang@firstpresah.org](mailto:alexlang@firstpresah.org) or talk to him at church.

*Plan to attend one or more of these fantastic upcoming events!*

**May Restaurant Walk**

**SIGN-UP SUNDAY MORNINGS OR ONLINE**

Our popular Restaurant Walk program returns for a third session, meeting at Bistro Chen, 10 E. Miner St., Arlington Heights. Come to meet some new friends and support a local restaurant. Sign-up on Sunday mornings or with the QR code.

**MEALTIMES**

- Sunday, May 1, 6:00 pm (great for those dropping youth off for youth group)
- Thursday, May 5, 6:00 pm
- Thursday, May 12, 6:00 pm
- Sunday, May 15, 12:00 pm
- Thursday, May 19, 6:00 pm
- Sunday, May 22, 6:00 pm (great for those dropping youth off for youth group)



**Pictured: Lori & Curt Chandler, Kelly Dean, Kate Ingemunson, Mark Bishop, Matt Kogan, Carol Frieburg, & Tom Krigas**





Stone Catchers, First Pres' Social Justice ministry, marked Black History Month this year by inviting the congregation to embark on a journey of history and reflection by reading *Stamped From the Beginning* by Ibram X. Kendi. Three versions of the book (adult, youth, and children) encouraged a congregation-wide reading and discussion experience.

At the end of the month, a group of 25-30 folks, including families and members of our youth groups, took their reading one step further by attending a dinner and discussion event. A series of questions helped guide group discussions that encouraged dialogue about what we learned from the book, how we might have a new perspective

on the history of race and racism in America, and how we might be changed by what we read.

Stone Catchers invites you to take your reading and discussion yet one step further by attending our **follow-up event on Sunday, April 3**. We will gather to discuss ways we can take action based on what we discovered about ourselves through the experience of **One Book One Church**. If you were not able to attend the dinner and discussion but would like to be involved in the follow-up event, please attend!

We will gather in the Parlor at 11:30 am. Lunch will be included.

Please contact Michele Holifield [micheleholifield@firstpresah.org](mailto:micheleholifield@firstpresah.org) or Katy Allen [katyallen@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org) for more information.



## From the Pastor, continued

### Pastor's message continued from page 1

sermons over a long period of time helps me approach a topic from an unconventional perspective.

This is what happened to me two years ago right as COVID was ramping up. I had been inspired to write a very unique Good Friday and Easter sermon. I was very excited to preach them, but then everything shut down. I decided to set those sermons aside and recalibrate, using Easter to talk about the pandemic. Little did we know, at that time, how long the road would be to recovery and healing. The following year, 2021, I hoped I could use those two sermons, but, once again, I examined the landscape of where we were as a church and I felt that those two sermons were not appropriate for the time and place.

However, this year I feel the time is right for them. I don't often speak about my sermons ahead of time, but I am extraordinarily excited and proud of what I am going to bring you on Good Friday and Easter. For me, these sermons encapsulate so much of what I believe to be important about the Christian faith. Indeed, these sermons are a reflection of why I became a pastor in the first place. I'm not going to give away the content, but I will encourage you to be present in church on both of those high holy days as I believe you will find important inspiration for your soul that will draw you closer to God.

## One Great Hour of Sharing

Through gifts to **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** you are supporting three impactful programs of the PC(USA). **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** works alongside communities recovering from natural and human-caused disasters. The **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)** takes action to alleviate hunger, and **Self-Development of People (SDOP)** invests in communities dealing with causes of injustice. First Pres has long been a supporter of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, and this year we are hoping to surpass last year's offering of \$7,133.33.

### DETAILS ABOUT THE PROGRAMS YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS:

- 1 **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA)** works alongside communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation and support for refugees.
- 2 **Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP)** takes action to alleviate hunger, care for creation and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed.
- 3 **Self-Development of People (SDOP)** invests in communities responding to their experiences of oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of these issues.

Place your OGHS envelope in the offering plate on Sunday mornings, or give online at [firstpresah.org/give](http://firstpresah.org/give).

*When we all do a little – it adds up to a lot!*



## April Service Saturday

April Service Saturday is April 23 from 9:00-11:00 am. There will be a celebration of Earth Day with activities planned for all ages. Come at 9:00 am to enjoy some fellowship time with other First Pres friends, and then choose an Earth Day activity or two to take part in.

Although we are dependent on the weather, we are hoping to have both indoor and outdoor activities for all ages. Maybe you would like to help decorate rain barrels, help with a string of prayer flags, help clean up our church grounds, learn more about reusable materials, and much more.

Watch Weekly Highlights and Church Life for more information on donating your used running and gym shoes on Service Saturday.



Donate your used gym shoes for the April 23 Service Saturday event.





## Mary and Martha's Lending Closet

Mary and Martha's Lending Closet opened in September 2019. The closet started with a brisk business in the fall and winter, but then the pandemic hit and a mission centered on gathering and entertaining came to a halt. In summer and the fall of 2021, we once again picked up speed but slowed down again amid the COVID surge. We are ready for the spring and summer season. If you have not checked out Mary and Martha's Lending Closet yet – now is the time.

You might be wondering what exactly Mary and Martha's Lending Closet is. We are your one-stop shop for all things entertaining – from tables and chairs to serving dishes, dishes, glassware, vases, centerpieces, outdoor games, and yes – a giant movie screen and projector for that fun backyard movie viewing. We are the perfect place to borrow for your next book club, graduation party, shower, neighborhood gathering, the casual or fancy dinner party. We have it all. What does it cost? A donation to the closet goes towards programs that address food insecurity in the Chicagoland area.

Make an appointment today to reserve your items for your next gathering, or just to see what is available. Email [maryandmartha@firstpresah.org](mailto:maryandmartha@firstpresah.org) or contact Michele Holifield or Amy Hempleman.

## Baby Shower For Teen & Adult Parent Program (TAPPS)

Spring is coming and it's the perfect time to remember the young new mothers in Christopher House's **Teen and Adult Pregnant and Parenting Services (TAPPS)** program. These new moms are lucky enough to have a support system, including a social worker, to aid them through all the difficulties of having a new baby while still being a student.

An ability to be able to buy something special for the baby would mean so much to a new mother. To make that wish come true, we are asking for donations of gift cards from Kohls or Target or monetary contributions for gift cards to be given to these new moms. Please look for the table in the Narthex with a basket for gift cards or monetary donations each Sunday in April. Gift cards may be dropped off in the church office and donations may be given online to the church drop down website under PWBaby Shower. Please make checks to Presbyterian Women and note TAAPS on the memo line. Thank you so much!



## RefugeeOne

### NEW INFORMATION MEETING DATE THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET INVOLVED

The informational meeting on RefugeeOne has moved to April 24. Please continue reading to see how you can be involved in this important mission.

Beginning in April, First Pres will begin the process to co-sponsor a refugee family. After careful consideration, the Mission Committee has made the decision to enter a partnership with RefugeeOne. RefugeeOne is the largest resettlement agency in Chicago, in partnership with many churches and other organizations, and has welcomed thousands of refugees to the Chicago area since 1982.

You might be wondering what it means for First Pres to sponsor a refugee family. The Mission Committee wants to tell you all about our exciting plans for 2022 at an informational meeting on **Sunday, April 24, at noon in the Parlor**. We will provide information on how to get involved and you will have the opportunity to let us know how you want to be involved. If you are unable to attend on April 24, please contact Michele Holifield for more information.

### Get Involved – Make A Home – Be A Friend



#### HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

**Mentor Team:** We are looking for 6-10 people who can make a 6-month commitment to a refugee family. Attend the airport arrival, weekly visits and check-ins, assist with initial adjustments to Chicago (how to use public transportation – grocery shopping), help youth acclimate to school. Training is provided by RefugeeOne.

**Make A Home Team:** This team will be responsible for the gathering and set-up of the apartment. RefugeeOne will provide the list of items needed to prepare an apartment. While the collection of items can take some time, when we hear that our family will be arriving we will have several short days to turn the apartment into a home.

**Advocacy and Education Team:** While we are all busy gathering and welcoming a family to our area it is important to stay educated and advocate for policies that welcome newcomers to the United States. This team will work to keep our congregation informed and advocate for refugees rights, privileges and protections as needed.

## Bernie's Book Bank

On Saturday, February 26, we had another successful Service Saturday at Bernie's Book Bank in Lake Bluff. About 45



church members of all ages (down to age 5!) came together to pack, sort and sticker

books which Bernie's donates to underserved children across Chicagoland. In between the sessions, we even got some fellowship in at a local pizza restaurant so we could celebrate our hard work.

As a new member of the Mission Committee, this was a great way to spend a Saturday with my 13-year-old daughter (even though the 9:00 am start was a bit early for her taste!) give back to our community and get to know other members of the church while sneaking in peeks of beautiful children's books. Our packing team, made up of all First Pres members, even broke a Bernie's record by packing 8,568 books in our two-hour session!

If you have yet to do it, please come check out a Service Saturday. If you've come before, join us again! It is a great way for church members of all ages and abilities to come together and serve our community. Our next Service Saturday will take place on Saturday, April 23, from 9:00-11:00 am at the church. We will celebrate Earth Day with activities for all ages.

## A Big Thanks From Firman House

Firman Community Services and their clients would like to thank the members of our congregation for your generous monetary donations. These donations contributed to the purchase of much needed winter clothing items for the young children and babies of the Firman Community. First Presbyterian Church is a very caring congregation. Thank you!!



## Thank You for Blankets

So many people are thankful for the generous contributions from First Pres members and friends to this year's PW Blanket Drive! This January and February, we collected \$2,220 to send to the Worldwide Blanket Drive. A blanket can mean survival for people facing disaster! CWS Blankets Program was created to give a kind, loving and tangible response to someone facing a difficult time, reminding them that they are not alone. Thank you for making a big difference!



## Read-A-Thon Thank You!

Your gift of books for the scholars of Christopher House brought smiles to all the children who received a brand new special book to enjoy again and again at home. Thank you for your generosity and for making the joy of reading come true for so many children.





Our annual family  
Easter Brunch and  
Egg Hunt is back!

# Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 16**  
Brunch 9:00 am  
Egg Hunt 10:00 am

**PLEASE BRING TO SHARE:**

- ▶ **BREAKFAST TREAT** – Last name A-L
- ▶ **FRUIT** – Last name M-Z

**MAIN BREAKFAST** will be provided by  
Children's Ministries

**EGG HUNT GROUPS:**

- Preschool and younger;
  - K-2nd grade & 3rd-5th grade
- Prizes in each age group for discovering the Golden Egg!  
▶ Please RSVP to [katyallen@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org)



Celebrate Spring as families enjoy a delicious breakfast and fellowship with one another, while children have fun hunting for candy-filled eggs!

The brunch will be held on **Saturday, April 16 at 9:00 am** in Fellowship Hall. Families whose last names begin with **A-L** are asked to **bring a breakfast treat** to share. Families whose last names begin with **M-Z** are asked to **bring fruit** to share. Children's Ministries will provide the main breakfast items.

Families with children of all ages are welcome to attend. Egg hunts are open to children in 5th grade and younger and will be divided by age group – preschool, K-2nd grade, and 3rd-5th grade.

Please RSVP to Katy Allen at [katyallen@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org), indicating how many in your party and the ages/grades of children attending. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Spring has Sprung in our Classrooms!

We are so happy to welcome spring in our **PDO, Preschool and K-Club classrooms**. The students love playing on the playground, taking walks around the church and reading stories on the steps outside of the Sanctuary. This spring we will be learning about how things grow. Soon our classrooms will be planting seeds, watching caterpillars turn into butterflies and learning about the Earth.



## Save the Date for VBS & Mission Factory

As you're plotting out your summer fun, be sure to include First Pres in your plans!

**July 11-15, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm**

- **Vacation Bible School** (4 year old preschoolers - 4th graders)
- **MissionFactory** (incoming 5th & 6th graders)

Registration will begin soon.

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



**JULY 11-15, 2022**  
9:00AM - 12:00PM

4-year-old Preschoolers  
through  
Incoming 4th Graders

\$35  
per Child

[firstpresah.org/vbs](http://firstpresah.org/vbs)

# Engage & ENCOUNTER

We have two new adult education classes for the month of April. Our **Sunday morning class, which will be in the Boardroom from 9:00 - 10:00 am from April 24 through May 15 and will be taught by Laura Carlson, PhD.,** First Pres member and Clerk of Session. The class is entitled *Live in Community*, from the *Follow Me, Biblical Practices for Faithful Living* curriculum published by the PC(USA).

God calls for us to invite everyone to the table, welcome them, and help each person know that they belong. In this class, we will explore ways that we can strengthen our community by appreciating and understanding the different talents, abilities, and voices in our community.

Living in community means 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 His image; yet sometimes our words or actions fall short of that vision. We will identify and practice ways we can be a community that lives out God's love.

## Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

### LIVE IN COMMUNITY

Sundays, April 24 – May 15  
9:00 am / Boardroom / Laura Carlson, PhD.  
and Clerk of Session

## Wednesday Evening Adult Education Class

### EXIT STRATEGIES

Wednesdays, April 20 & 27  
7:00 pm / Sanctuary / Rev. Judy Hockenberry

Our **Wednesday Engage and Encounter programming will be led by Rev. Judy Hockenberry.** Benjamin Franklin once said that two things in life are certain: death and taxes. We spend a lot of energy avoiding thinking about or talking about our own death. Her class, entitled *Exit Strategies*, will be held on Wednesdays, April 20 and 27 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

This class will explore the ways we can face the certainty of death and put some of our own desires on paper. By doing a little pre-planning for our eventual exit we can bring more joy to our lives and ease the burdens of our loved ones. We will use the format of the Five Wishes. Contact Alex Lang at [alexlang@firstpresab.org](mailto:alexlang@firstpresab.org)

## Engage & ENCOUNTER Classes in session

There are several education opportunities continuing from March. Please feel free to join even if you have missed a few.

### Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes

#### LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

Sundays through April 10

9:00 am / Boardroom / Rev. Ken Hockenberry

God is often at work through the ordinary: ordinary people, ordinary objects, ordinary grace. Through the ordinary, God communicates epiphanies, salvation, revelation, and reconciliation. It is through the mundane that we hear God's quiet voice. Utilizing this devotional written by Jill J. Duffield, we draw attention to ten ordinary objects that Jesus would have encountered on his way to Jerusalem: dust, bread, the cross, coins, shoes, oil, coats, towels, thorns, and stones. In each object, readers will find meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' final days.

### Wednesday Evening Adult Education Class

#### WALKING THE WALK

Wednesdays through April 13

7:00 pm / Sanctuary / Rev. Alex Lang

As Christians, one of the greatest criticisms levied against us by outsiders is that we are hypocrites. We talk a big game about loving our neighbors and caring for others, but we often don't back up that talk with action. The goal of this series is to rectify that perception. At the end of every class there will be an assignment for the week based on the teaching.

#### COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION AND SERVICE

Sundays through April 10

10:30 am / Room 110/112

This course for small groups explores the meaning of vocation for everyone in five interactive sessions. It helps people embark on an adventure with God - a journey through life in which we contribute to the world around us. 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](mailto:k_p_dean@hotmail.com)



## Welcome Confirmands!

On Confirmation Sunday, February 27, we welcomed 14 youth into membership at First Pres.  
Congratulations and welcome!



Emily Allen



Garrett Doering



Will Gabrione



Ben Haines



Shelby Hiskes



Megan Mayhew



Max Menninga



Brooke Michalczyk



Tyler Olszewski



Brooke Runkle



Katie Ryerson



Anna Washco



Cecily Wengronowitz



Victoria Wiltse

### SYMPATHY TO

The Barnard family, on the death  
of *Virginia Barnard*

The Bennett family, on the death  
of *Marcia Bennett*

The England family, on the death  
of *Catherine England*

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

*Phil and Courtney Lewis*, on the birth of their  
daughter, Brynn Willow Lewis



## Congratulations Jana Blazek

Jana is the newly installed Synod Moderator of the Synod of Lincoln Trails. The Synod of Lincoln Trails is a regional governing body consisting of Presbyteries in Illinois and Indiana.

## March Session Notes

By Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session

Session Highlights from the unapproved minutes from the March 13 Meeting of Session.

Congratulations and Welcome of New Members: Session had the honor and privilege to welcome new members last month. Please join us in expressing our congratulations to the following confirmands who have chosen to become members of First Pres: Emily Allen, Garrett Doering, Will Gabrione, Ben Haines, Shelby Hiskes, Megan Mayhew, Max Menninga, Brooke Michalczyk, Tyler Olszewski, Brooke Runkle, Katie Ryerson, Anna Washco, Cecily Wengronowitz, and Victoria Wiltse. Again, we are thrilled to welcome these new confirmands as members of the First Pres community. Please also take a moment to say hello when you see them at worship or other activities.

### PROGRESS ON STRATEGIC GOALS:

Culture Goal Subcommittee has restarted Fellowship Time after each service and will be reaching out to other committees and congregants to sign up to provide cookies and restock tables after each service. Session has approved the "Welcome Statement" from the Culture Goal Subcommittee and Worship, Music and Sacraments Committee. This statement will be communicated using various mediums. The Culture Goal Subcommittee is also making progress on ways to improve welcoming process online.

Session encourages everyone to Learn, Love, and Live the words in this [Welcome Statement](#):

**"We believe in building the kingdom of God in this world. We strive to be a welcoming and inclusive church that celebrates the diversity existing in our community. That means bringing good news to the poor, freedom to the oppressed, welcoming the stranger, and loving one another as Jesus loves us. We do this by choosing love and being the light that changes the world. Thank you for worshiping with us in this spirit."**



Internal Goal Subcommittee has started implementation and facilitation of three focus groups with the objective of increasing engagement among congregants. These focus groups will gather feedback from various groups in the congregation. You may be contacted to participate.

External Goal Subcommittee has identified ways to improve the digital footprint of First Pres and they are working on a visitor guide with Chris Urban. The committee is also planning an event for the congregation and community.

Good Stewards of God's Resources: As part of Session's Strategic Planning and Goals, the Administration and Finance Committee presented a plan for strengthening the Financial Foundation. Session approved this plan which will be led by Steve Olszewski who has graciously offered his talents.

Session, Boards, Standing and Special Committee Meetings: Session approved the following changes at the February 13, 2022 meeting.

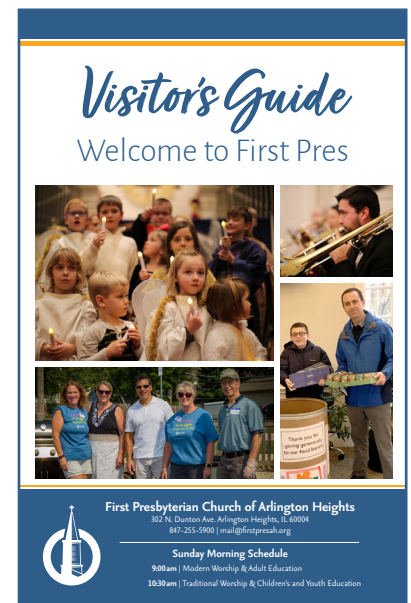
Session will meet on the second Sunday each month following worship. Session meetings will begin with administrative business followed by strategic business, including the work of the goal subcommittees and other strategic concerns.

Goal subcommittees will meet monthly and jointly quarterly.

All Boards, Standing and Special Committees of Session will continue to meet monthly.

All minutes and information will be submitted to the Clerk of Session in a timely manner.

*Respectfully submitted by Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session*





## Giving for February 2022



Below is a summary of the church's income for the month of February 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 FEBRUARY	YEAR TO DATE
Receipts	\$ 115,279	\$202,963
Expenses	\$ 117,501	\$225,563
Balance	(\$2,222)	(\$22,600)

## Presbyterian Women

### Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings – April

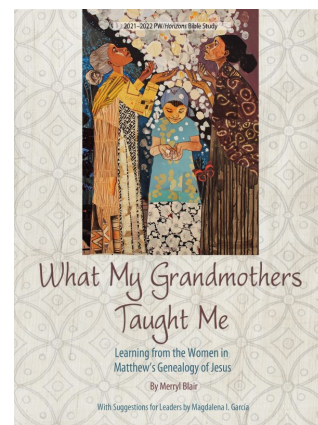
#### MORNING CIRCLES 1, 2, 3

All women of the church are invited to join the spring fellowship of PW Circles 1-3 meeting on Wednesday, April 20, at 9:30 am in the Parlor. Enjoy a cup of coffee and treats while getting to know someone new. Join in the discussion of Mary as a young woman and all the trials she is facing. Rev. Judy Hockenberry leads our study and will help us get a closer look at Mary as she experiences motherhood, a bewildering birth, a risky escape as a refugee, and a prophesy for her son. Don't miss a chance for fellowship and learning!



#### CIRCLE 7

It's spring and with that comes a chance to join other women of the church for an evening of fellowship and lively discussion with a special treat to end the day. Join in the fun on April 19 at 7:00 pm in the church Parlor. We'll discuss Lesson 3 from *What My Grandmothers Taught Me*, where we meet Rahab, a socially unacceptable outsider who is intelligent and strong. A marginalized woman, she recognizes the power of the God of Israel. When God's own people are melting with fear, her presence of mind allow God's plan to come to fruition. Questions, contact Liz Thompson at [lizht85@yahoo.com](mailto:lizht85@yahoo.com).



# The CHIMES

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April 2022

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