



# The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

March 2022

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

## From the Pastor **Breaking the Cycle:** Discovering Our Spiritual Roots

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

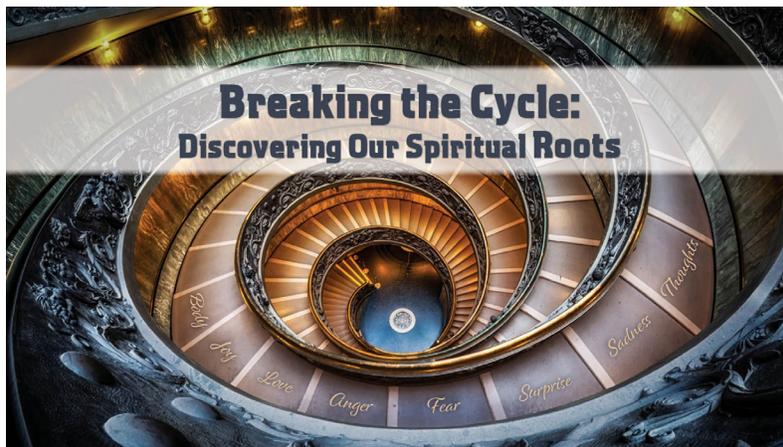
Every year during Lent, our goal is to be more in touch with Jesus as he makes his way to the cross. I can tell you that after the last two years of COVID, I need a refresher on how to get in touch with my spiritual side. I've been dealing with so many distractions in my life that I need to break through all the noise to get in touch with God. To this end, our Lenten sermon series is called *Breaking the Cycle: Discovering Our Spiritual Roots*. This is a series that focuses on the various issues and impediments that prevent us from experiencing our spirituality.

For instance, one of the most interesting aspects of being human is the fact that we seem to constantly be dealing with competing interests within ourselves.

On the one hand, we have a lot of bodily needs. We require air, shelter, clothes, food, water, exercise, medicine and sleep. We also have a lot going on within our minds. We are constantly thinking about various things, whether it be tasks we have to do with our day or ideas floating through our minds about life or our employment or our relationships.

Directly underneath all of those thoughts are all of these emotions. Our emotions are a reflection of our current state of being. There are six primary emotions that we can feel: anger, sadness, surprise, joy, love and fear. Within each

of these emotions are numerous subcategories that can define our mood. What complicates things is that we can feel multiple emotions at once and we can quickly slingshot between emotions without even realizing that it's happening.



A fascinating aspect of most humans is that we are often not even aware of the emotions we are feeling. We can be very disconnected from the emotions that are right beneath the surface. Interestingly, these three components (body, mind and emotions) drive most human action. Moreover, they are constantly influencing each other.

For instance, if you are hungry, then that is going to impact your thoughts and your mood. Likewise, if your thoughts are negative, they can end up driving

a lot of your emotions and what you end up doing with your body. When a person is sad, they have a tendency to become depressed, which makes them feel lethargic within their bodies and they have trouble motivating themselves to perform basic tasks.

To access our spiritual nature, we have to be able to weed through our bodily needs, our mental thoughts and our emotions. Indeed, once we can access our spirituality that's where we get in touch with God. That's what this series is all about.

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## Breaking the Cycle Continued from page 1

This is where most people reside for their entire lives—body, mind, emotion. It's kind of like a pinball machine when the pinball is just bouncing around at the top and never coming down to the paddles. These three elements are constantly ricocheting off of and influencing each other. This is a problem because underneath all of these things is our spiritual nature.

To access our spiritual nature, we have to be able to weed through our bodily needs, our mental thoughts and our emotions. Indeed, once we can access our spirituality that's where we get in touch with God. That's what this series is

all about. We're exploring how we can move past the body, mind and emotions towards the spirituality that lies beneath the surface.

The goal is to help you access the spiritual part of yourself, which is one of the best ways that we can bring balance to the bodily, mental and emotional aspects of our lives. Each week we will tackle a different aspect of the body, mind, emotion pinball machine and ask how we can create opportunities to access our spirituality so we can be more in touch with God.

### Upcoming Events



#### 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 7.

#### 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 which includes Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. We will also start our Lenten sermon series *Breaking the Cycle: Discovering Our Spiritual Roots*.

#### Faith in Action

##### Throughout Lent

Each week during Lent as we reflect on our spiritual roots, we will have small personal growth opportunities and tasks that can deepen our spiritual roots. Details on page 4.

#### One Great Hour of Sharing

##### Throughout Lent

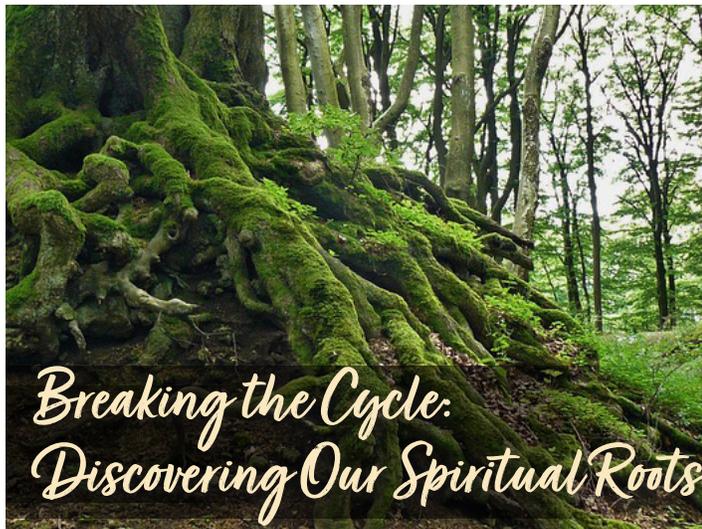
Join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. This Lenten season, please give generously to One Great Hour of Sharing. Details on page 5.

#### First Presbyterian Talent Show

**Sunday, March 13, 4:00 pm**

Come and clap your hands for many of the talented members of First Presbyterian Church and the broader community. There will be four categories of performers: K-5th grade, 6th-12th grade, adults (non-retired), and adults (retired). Details on page 3.

## March 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.



### Ash Wednesday, March 2, 7:00 pm | The Pinball Machine

Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes  
Scriptures: Matthew 4:1-11; Exodus 16:4-7

### March 6 | The Spirit in the Shell

First Sunday in Lent  
Scriptures: John 6:32-40; Genesis 25:29-34  
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir & First Press Brass

### March 13 | Surprise

Second Sunday in Lent  
Mark 5:1-20; Genesis 11:1-9  
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir & Children's Choir

### March 20 | Sadness

Third Sunday in Lent  
Matthew 11:28-30; Leviticus 4:27-31  
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir

### March 27 | Joy

Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Luke 2:8-15; 1 Samuel 18:6-9  
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir and Chancel Handbell Choir

## March Highlights

### Wednesdays @ Noon Concert

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 luster 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  
[adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org](mailto:adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org)  
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 [firstpresah.org](http://firstpresah.org)

## Faith in Action

During Lent, we are asking you to live into our calling as Christians to love our neighbors and care for others. Below are assignments you can complete to live out this promise in the world. These assignments coincide with the Wednesday evening Engage and Encounter class being taught by Rev. Lang. You can read more about this class and consider attending on page 8.

### WEEK OF MARCH 6 - JUDGMENT

*“Do not judge, so that you may not be judged.” (Mt. 7:1)*

**Assignment:** Think of someone who you have judged harshly in the past for whatever reason. Spend some time writing down a list of all the things you can think of that are positive about that person. Take that list and write a letter expressing your gratitude for the ways the positive attributes of that person have impacted your life or the lives of others. Call that person expressing your gratitude for the ways the positive attributes of that person have impacted your life or the lives of others.

### WEEK OF MARCH 13 - SELFLESS/SACRIFICIAL

*“If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.” (Mk. 8:34-35)*

**Assignment:** Consider something of great value to you. Perhaps it is an object with real or sentimental value. Perhaps it is something less tangible like your skills (writing, woodworking, computers, etc.) or your time. Whatever you deem to be something of great value, your job is to sacrifice that thing for the benefit of others. If it is an object, consider how it could be sold or used to benefit other people. If it is a skill, how can you give of that skill to someone who might need it? If it is your time, how can you give your time to those who might require your help?

**FAITH  
IN ACTION**

### WEEK OF MARCH 20 - GRACE/TURN THE OTHER CHEEK

*Jesus says, “You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also.” (Mt. 5:38-39)*

**Assignment:** Go about your day showing radical grace to others. In other words, choose a day where you are going to make this the best day it can possibly be for those you encounter. If you go to a restaurant, give a radical tip to a waiter. If you are in the grocery store, help someone take their groceries to their car. If you are walking into a building, hold the door for as many people as you can. In whatever ways you can, let the people around you know they matter!

### WEEK OF MARCH 27 - LOVE OF ENEMY

*“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...” (Mt. 5:43-44)*

**Assignment:** Think of someone you know who stands for the opposite of what you stand for and you feel their beliefs are harmful. For example, perhaps someone on the other side of an issue. You believe in a woman’s right to choose, but you know someone who is ardently pro-life. You are a Christian and someone you know is an atheist. Whoever you know as holding opposing beliefs, call them and setup a time to talk over the phone or in person. Your job is to ask them why they believe what they believe and listen to their explanation without interruption. Then, without stating why you disagree or why you think they are wrong, you must find a way to express your love and care for them as a person.

### WEEK OF APRIL 3 - CARING/GIVING

*“If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.” (Ja. 2:15-17)*

**Assignment:** Buy a drink (e.g. cup of coffee, hot chocolate, a coke) or a meal for someone who could use a pick-me up. Preferably, this would be a complete stranger or a homeless individual. However, if you cannot easily do this, a friend or colleague would work as well. If they are willing to talk to you, ask them about their lives (where they grew up, important moments in their lives, etc.). What’s important is to listen to their story and let them know you care.

WEEK OF APRIL 10 - FORGIVENESS

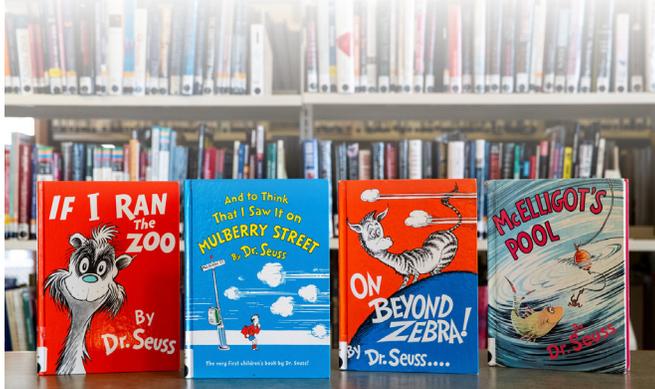
*“Then Peter came and said to him, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’”*  
 (Mt. 18:21-22)

**Assignment:** Think of someone in your life who you have hurt. Perhaps you said something you shouldn't have, or you did something you shouldn't have done. If you have never apologized or tried to make restitution, you should write a letter or make a phone call expressing your sincere regret and seeking their forgiveness. If you feel it would be better to have this conversation in person and they are willing to meet with you, this is acceptable as well. Important to this is knowing they may not reciprocate with forgiveness or accept their role in whatever transpired. That's not the point and you can't control their reaction. All you can do is offer your words of apology and move forward.

How will YOUR FAITH IN ACTION look?

## Christopher House Read-A-Thon

It is almost Dr. Seuss' birthday and to celebrate each year, we ask for donations of selected books for all the children in the Christopher House Charter School. The teachers have selected the books so that each child may have a book to take home that fits just right! What a special joy it is to have a new book! Be on the lookout for ways to support this Read-A-Thon in March in Weekly Highlights or Church Life as only certain books will be helpful for the different age groups. NO BOOKS MAY BE COLLECTED IN PERSON. Thanks for your support! For more information, contact Barb Larson at [barblar72@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barblar72@sbcglobal.net) or Gladys Holtz at [gladysholtz@comcast.net](mailto:gladysholtz@comcast.net).



## One Great Hour of Sharing

Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) – Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Received during the season of Lent (March 2- April 17) each gift to OGHS helps improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. The offering provides us a way to share GOD'S love with our neighbors in need. OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

- 1 Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) works along side 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.

Our traditional fish banks and pew envelopes will be available this year throughout Lent along with a calendar to help you fill your bank with coins. Fish banks can be returned on Palm Sunday. New this year will be coin jars in our Sunday School rooms and in the Narthex for you to drop your coins in when you are in the building. Donations to OGHS can also be made online.

Our First Pres goal is to surpass last year's total of \$7,133.33. OGHS is a positive way to respond to the needs around the world: From the wildfires on the West Coast to refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon and refugees trying to cross the Mediterranean. Contact [Michele Holifield](#) for more info.



# First Pres to Sponsor a Refugee Family through RefugeeOne

Beginning in March 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, March 13, at 11:45 am in the Sanctuary**. 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 March 13, please contact *Michele Holifield* for more information.



## GET INVOLVED – MAKE A HOME – BE A FRIEND

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

**Make-A-Home Team:** This team will be responsible for gathering household items and setting up the apartment. RefugeeOne will provide the list of items needed to prepare an apartment. The collection of household items can be done over time, but when we hear that our family will be arriving we will have a few 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 U.S. This team will work to keep our congregation informed and advocate for refugees rights, privileges and protections as needed.

## Community Life

# First Pres PDO & Preschool

Do you know how many feet-long a Beluga whale is if you measure in preschool children? How about the length of an Emperor Penguin compared to a five year old? We have been learning about these arctic animals in our math and science units. There is so much to explore in our winter months, but so much to look forward to as spring approaches.



**FIRST PRES**  
PDO & Preschool

We are looking forward to the kickoff of our 44th registration season. As church members, families can register a few days prior to the currently enrolled families on February 27. Our program helps to develop fine and gross motor development, language, math, socialization and most importantly the love of God and our friends. If you have questions contact Coleen Anzalone at [coleenanzalone@firstpresab.org](mailto:coleenanzalone@firstpresab.org).



## Shrove Tuesday Celebration 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 [heynonny.com/shows/free-mardi-gras-show-with-bruce-blanck-friends-630pm-930pm/](http://heynonny.com/shows/free-mardi-gras-show-with-bruce-blanck-friends-630pm-930pm/) or by calling (224) 202-0750. **Bruce Blanck 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



Hey Nonny RSVP

## Ash Wednesday Service

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.



March 2022

## Sign up for All Church Retreat through March 13

# Sacred SOIL, Sacred SOUL

## All-Church Retreat Saturday, April 30

11:00 am – 2:30 pm  
Morton Arboretum – Lisle, IL

### Grow Closer to God Through Nature...

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.

Led by **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" whose Christian spirituality is most nurtured in the "roof-less Cathedral" of God's creation.

This is a family friendly event, with programming for adults, children, and youth.

*"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*

**Cost: \$40/person or \$100/max per family** (scholarships available)  
includes:

- Full day admission to the arboretum from 9:00 am – dusk
- First Pres program from 11:00 am – 2:30 pm
- Lunch



Sign up at [firstpresah.org/retreat](http://firstpresah.org/retreat) or scan QR code  
For more information, contact Alex Lang at [alexlang@firstpresah.org](mailto:alexlang@firstpresah.org)

# Engage & ENCOUNTER

For our Engage and Encounter class during Lent we are doing a series called **Walking the Walk**. 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.

Every Wednesday during Lent beginning on March 9, Rev. Lang will discuss an area where there is an expectation based on the teachings of Jesus and how we often fall short of the expectation. At the end of every class, Rev. Lang will give an assignment/task that is based on the teaching. The following week, when everyone returns, our first order of business before moving onto our next area of teaching will be to discuss the outcome of the assignment. In fact, these assignments will be promoted across the whole church during Lent, so if you're interested in what's coming, see page 4-5 for the topics and assignments in the class.

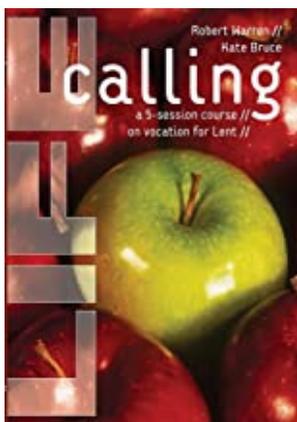
For Sunday School during Lent from Sunday, March 6th through Sunday, April 10, Rev. Ken Hockenberry will be

## Coffee: Grounds For Discussion And Service Sundays through Lent

10:30-11:30 am / Room 110/112

We will be starting a study for Lent on Sunday, March 6 and using the book titled *Life Calling: A 5-Session Course on Vocation for Lent* by Robert Warren and Kate Bruce.

Some people think that vocation is just for special people... but God calls us all to live our lives shaped and directed by his call. This course for small groups explores the meaning of vocation for everyone.



### Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

#### LENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

Sundays, March 6 – April 10

9:00 am / Boardroom / Rev. Ken Hockenberry

### Wednesday Evening Adult Education Class

#### WALKING THE WALK

Wednesdays, March 9 – April 13 (no class March 23)

7:00 pm / Sanctuary / Rev. Alex Lang

teaching the class *Lent in Plain Sight*. 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, Rev. Hockenberry will 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. Each week, readers encounter a new object to consider through Scripture, prayer, and reflection. *Lent in Plain Sight* reminds Christians to open ourselves to the kingdom of God.

Contact: [Alex Lang at alexlang@firstpresab.org](mailto:alexlang@firstpresab.org)

#### It offers five interactive sessions:

**Called by God:** The shape of God's call in scripture

**Called from within:** Drawing out the call and gifts that God has planted in us

**Called out:** How God sets us free from everything that stops us responding to God's call

**Called up:** Understanding how God calls us to join in with his loving care of the world

**Called on:** how we can grow in our sense of calling beyond the end of the course

This course helps people to embark on an adventure with God - a journey through life in which we make a contribution 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)

## Considering Church Membership?

Our next new member class will take place on Sunday, March 13, at 11:45 am in the Boardroom. If you are interested in finding out more about membership, please plan to attend. The new member class will meet with Session on April 3 at noon in the Parlor and will be welcomed into the church on Sunday, April 24 at both worship services. For more information, please contact Rev. TC Anderson at [TCAnderson@firstpresah.org](mailto:TCAnderson@firstpresah.org)

## Easter Flowers

It is still cold but Easter will be here before we know it! The first sign of spring is the sign up for Easter flowers on March 6 & 13 in the Narthex. Help our church put on a fresh new spring look by supporting PW flower orders. Members will be ready to take your contributions before and after the Sunday service on these two Sundays or just help contribute through the pull down menu on the church website under Easter Flowers. Thank you for bringing some Spring beauty to our church. Contact Sue Henderson [suhenco@comcast.net](mailto:suhenco@comcast.net)



## To my friends at First Presbyterian

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to minister among you these past few months. It's been great getting to know you. I've enjoyed working with Alex and the staff and your music has been a real blessing. You will be in my thoughts and prayers as we journey on into God's future.

- Steve Howery

## FamilyForward

News from FamilyForward! After so many years of faithful service, Chuck Warner has retired, and we thank him for all the hard work he has given to FamilyForward. Erika Chainella has begun as the new director for FamilyForward and we welcome her and hope for great things to happen!



During the month of March, Circle 2 will be collecting all-purpose cleaners such as Fantastic or 409. Please bring cleaning donations to the morning PW Circle meeting on March 16. All donations are really appreciated, thank you.

### SYMPATHY TO

*Dawn and Lee Bruce*, on the death of Dawn's aunt  
The *Fendius* and Nelms families, on the death  
of *Hal Fendius*

*Mike and Patty Noble* and family, on the death of  
Mike's mother, Jeanine Noble

### CONGRATULATIONS TO

Adam and Megan Hendrickson, on the birth of their  
son, David Orion Hendrickson

*Donald and Donna Holmes*, on the birth of their  
great-grandson, Colin Joseph Joyce

*Jon and Kelly Sedey*, on the birth of their  
daughter, Lily Sedey

## Thank You for Your Sock and Glove Donations

During the month of January, The Bridge sponsored a church-wide sock and glove drive to support The Night Ministry in Chicago. The Night Ministry compassionately provides housing, health care, outreach, spiritual care, and social services to adults and youth who struggle with homelessness, poverty, and loneliness. Your generosity provided 36 pairs of gloves and 85 pairs of socks. On behalf of The Bridge, Thank You!



## February Session Notes

By Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session

Session Highlights from the unapproved minutes from the February 6, 2022, Strategy & Vision Meeting of Session.

Session members were thrilled to discuss progress on each Goal Committee on the First Action Items derived from the three strategic goals that were voted on last year.

Each lead on the Goal Committees presented First Action Items along with steps to complete the action item. Committees also shared the next set of actions to be completed.

The **Culture Goal Committee** will begin implementing their “**Communication Welcome Plan**” as part of their First Action Items. The committee shared the importance of recognizing and welcoming our growing online community as well as those joining us each week in person. Much appreciation was expressed for our congregation’s support during the surge of COVID cases over the past few months coupled with bitter cold temperatures.

A big thank you was expressed to all who have been signing the **Friendship Pads** in person and the **Digital Friendship Sign** in online.

The **Internal Goal Committee** will begin Focus Groups upon identifying an expert facilitator and final review of the facilitation guide. A list of interested participants from the congregation’s ALL-IN database has been compiled. The first wave of focus groups will be completed soon.

The **External Goal Committee** will choose one action from their idea bank and share the steps to complete the action item at the next Strategy and Vision Meeting in March.



Session discussed filling the vacancy on Session due to the resignation of Floyd Mays. Floyd asked to step down from Session to continue growing his faith at another church. Session thanks Floyd for his service and dedication to First Pres and wishes him all the best; he will be missed on Session and by all at First Pres.

**The following MOTIONS passed at this February 6, 2022, meeting of Session:**

- **Motion** passed giving approval that the current COVID-19 protocols be amended to allow for food and beverages to be served at congregation gatherings provided that the food and beverage is plated and/or served family style, and that people remain seated while eating or drinking. Effective February 13, 2022.
  - **Motion** passed giving approval that the letter included in the docket summarizing the Christian Faith Survey results along with the survey results with private comments removed, will be made available to the congregation by email and printed copies available on demand.
  - **Motion** passed giving approval to the Internal Goal Committee to move forward with first set of focus groups.
- Session met again on Sunday, February 13, 2022, and welcomed youth new members.

*Respectfully submitted by Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session*

## Presbyterian Women

### Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings – March

#### MORNING CIRCLES 1, 2, 3

All women of the church are welcome and invited to join us on Wednesday, March 16, at 9:30 am to share in fellowship, a little tasty treat for March, and to join in the discussion of Lesson 7 in our study, *What My Grandmother Taught Me*. What do you know about Mary, one of the most important women in the Bible? What was her experience of motherhood? She experienced a bewildering birth, a risky escape as a refugee and a message from prophets. Drop in and learn a little something new and get to know some members of the church over coffee in the church Parlor.



#### CIRCLE 7

If you are looking for a chance to get to know some women of the church and you can't come during the day, please join in the fun on March 15, at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. Share a little treat, fellowship, lively discussion and the latest news. Lesson 2 from the study, *What My Grandmother Taught Me*, will tell all about Tamar. Explore who Tamar was and how her problems are a lot like the issues we face today. All are welcome!

Questions, contact Liz Thompson at [lizbt85@yahoo.com](mailto:lizbt85@yahoo.com).

# Stewardship

## 2022 COMMITMENT SNAPSHOT

|                   | 2022        | 2021        | Change from '21 |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Commitment Units  | 250         | 263         | (13)            |
| Total Commitments | \$1,013,552 | \$1,005,740 | +\$7,812        |

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2022 CAMPAIGN

- 34 new units pledged for \$78,602 (\$2,311.82 average pledge)
- 91 units increased their pledge amount for \$77,808 (\$855.03 average increase)
- Lost 20 pledging units for (\$27,602) (\$1,380.10 average pledge)



## 2021 Giving highlights

**General Fund**  
**\$1,183,340**  
 Pledge and loose offering

**Capital Campaign**  
**\$365,336**  
 received of pledged \$391,385

**Mission**  
**\$145,426**  
 Special offerings and PADS

**Memorial Gifts**  
**\$23,470**  
 Gifts received in memory of lost loved ones

**Community Relief Fund**  
**\$15,413**  
 Funds used to help those affected by COVID-19

## Building Update

# Facilities Updates

Are you walking around the church building wondering what is happening? Keep reading to learn more about exciting updates to the facility.

Our **renovation of the gallery hallway** and installation of a lift to allow access to all the levels continues. Crews have been onsite since mid-January. We expect the lift to be in operation sometime in mid-April. Alongside this project is the renovation and expansion of the Chapel. For those of you who regularly worship in the Chapel, it will be refreshing to now have central air during the warm summer (and sometimes fall) months. Our hope is to have the Chapel space ready for Easter morning worship. Our crews are working diligently towards this goal. Of course, we know in a building as old as First Pres surprises do happen. We are grateful for the staff, contracting crews and architects who can work together towards solutions to any challenges.

Perhaps you have walked down the **lower-level CE Wing** hallway and wondered why each time more of the ceiling has disappeared. We are currently working with our plumber to install new domestic water lines. Work began on this project in December and will continue through the spring and summer as scheduling permits. Plans are underway to update the ceiling and floor once the water lines are complete.

Michele and Tony are always available to talk with you about facility updates and the work planned throughout the year. Thank you to all for your generous support of our building and your patience while work continues.

## Building Access

**If you need access to the building for evening meetings, rehearsals or other small group gatherings, you will need a keycard to enter the building.** If you do not have a keycard or your current keycard is not working, please contact Michele Holifield. You do not need a keycard to enter the building during church office hours, Sunday worship, Family Night, or any all-church event such as concerts.

### A FEW REMINDERS ABOUT KEYCARD AND BUILDING SAFETY:

- Keycards are assigned to each person
- Do not share your keycards with others
- Report lost keycards to Michele Holifield
- Do not allow people unknown to you to enter the building with you when using your keycard
- Thank you to everyone for your part in keeping our building secure

# The CHIMES

First Presbyterian Church  
of Arlington Heights  
302 N. Dunton Ave.  
Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
Phone: 847-255-5900  
Fax: 847-255-3475  
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Palatine, IL  
Permit No. 688



## March 2022

## Staff Directory

### PASTORAL STAFF

**Alex Lang**  
Pastor/Head of Staff  
[alexlang@firstpresah.org](mailto:alexlang@firstpresah.org)

**Judy Hockenberry**  
Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care  
[judyhockenberry@firstpresah.org](mailto:judyhockenberry@firstpresah.org)

**TC Anderson**  
Associate Pastor for Children, Youth  
and Families  
[tcanderson@firstpresah.org](mailto:tcanderson@firstpresah.org)

### MUSIC AND WORSHIP

**Adam Hendrickson**  
Director of Music and Worship  
[adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org](mailto:adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org)

**Christopher Urban**  
Associate Director of Music & Organist  
[chrisurban@firstpresah.org](mailto:chrisurban@firstpresah.org)

**Nick Pulikowski**  
Director of Children's & Handbell Choirs  
[nickpulikowski@gmail.com](mailto:nickpulikowski@gmail.com)

### CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

**Katy Allen**  
Director of Children's Ministries  
[katyallen@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org)

**Coleen Anzalone**  
Director of PDO & Preschool  
[coleenanzalone@firstpresah.org](mailto:coleenanzalone@firstpresah.org)

**Beth Johnson**  
Nursery Coordinator  
[bethjohnson@firstpresah.org](mailto:bethjohnson@firstpresah.org)

### OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

**Debbie Walter**  
Business Administrator  
[debbiewalter@firstpresah.org](mailto:debbiewalter@firstpresah.org)

**Mary Fino**  
Senior Administrative Assistant  
[maryfino@firstpresah.org](mailto:maryfino@firstpresah.org)

**Carol Vega**  
Administrative Assistant/Receptionist  
[carolvega@firstpresah.org](mailto:carolvega@firstpresah.org)

### GRAPHICS & COMMUNICATIONS

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

### FACILITIES

**Tony Scheurich**  
Facilities Director  
[tonyscheurich@firstpresah.org](mailto:tonyscheurich@firstpresah.org)

**Michele Holifield**  
Facilities Coordinator  
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### CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Laura Carlson**  
Clerk of Session  
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**Pam Miller & Carol Kelley**  
Co-Chairs Deacons  
[deacons@firstpresah.org](mailto:deacons@firstpresah.org)

**Lindsey Landwehr-Fasules**  
President of Trustees  
[trustees@firstpresah.org](mailto:trustees@firstpresah.org)