



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

May 2022

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

From the Pastor **Bon Voyage!**

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff

I can't believe it! The Sabbatical I planned to take in the summer of 2020 is now a reality in the summer of 2022. Finally, after multiple waves of different variants, I made it! I will be gone from May 26 through September 5 and I want to spend a little time laying out for you what you can expect over the next three months while I'm away.

The first thing you need to know is that my family and I will be travelling to the United Kingdom and Europe. During that time, I will be out of contact with all of you. I'm removing my e-mail from my phone and I'm going to be changing my phone number. In other words, you will be unable to contact me and, even if you find a way to do so, I won't respond.

I don't mean this to sound harsh, but the church is something I think about 24/7. I never stop thinking about it, so in order to really get some rest, I need to completely detach. While I'm gone, Judy will become the acting head of staff. She will be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the church and for making sure everything runs smoothly in my absence. Of course, this means that Judy is responsible for most of the preaching, along with her husband Ken and other guest preachers. Judy will not be in contact with me, so she can't deliver any messages on your behalf. It'll just have to wait until September.

Normally, during a Sabbatical, the pastor uses it as a time for personal study. They usually have some project they are working on while they are away. The Session has given me permission to use the time abroad to finish the last four chapters of a new book I've been writing. It's called *Restorative Beauty* and the concept of the book is to address the topic of spirituality

for those who would not consider themselves to be spiritual. This summer will be a great help in finishing the main body of the text. My hope is that once I have all the academic notes and editing finished, it will be ready for release by the spring of 2023.

I'll let you know about my progress on the book once I'm back, but in the meantime, I just want to encourage you all with a couple of things. First of all, please don't check out for the summer because I'm no longer around. Although many people see the church as being about the pastor, the

truth is that the church is much more about you. So please make it a priority to come to church and participate in our programs over the summer.

Secondly, please continue your financial support of the church while I'm gone. If I return from this trip and our giving has taken a major nosedive, then that's going to be an immediate source of stress. Therefore, let me say thank you up front for continuing to support the church in my absence.

The staff here really does need your support while I'm gone. They are going to do their very best to make sure everything happens the way it's supposed to in a timely manner, but just remember that we are used to working with three pastors and with TC's departure, we are now down to one, so be kind to Judy.



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May Worship Theme



May is a month of celebration at First Pres. We celebrate our eighth-grade Confirmation class finishing the first step in their journey towards becoming members. We celebrate the important role mothers play in our lives. We celebrate graduations from high school and college. Through this celebration we reflect on what we've accomplished and the sacrifices of those who came before us on Memorial Day to make those accomplishments possible.



May 1 | **Removing the Mask**

Celebration Sunday – Recognizing the Faith Journey of our Eighth Graders

Holy Communion

Scriptures: Matthew 23:25-28; Genesis 6:11-22

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

May 8 | **Lessons from a Southern Mother**

Celebrate Mothers

Scriptures: John 15:12-15; Romans 12:4-13

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

May 15 | **While I'm Gone...**

Celebrate our Volunteers

Scriptures: Matthew 14:19-23; Genesis 2:1-3

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

May 22 | **And One More Thing**

Celebrate our Graduates (9:00 am)

Joshua 1: (select verses); I Corinthians 16: 13-14

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

May 29 | **Heroes in Plain Sight (One Service)**

Honor Those Who Died Serving our Country

Acts 16: 16-34

♪ 10:00 am – Bruce Blanck Jazz Trio

One 10:00 am Worship Service begins May 29

On May 29, we will move to one worship service at 10:00 am. We will continue with this schedule through Sunday, September 4 and return to two services at 9:00 am & 10:30 am on Sunday, September 11. Preaching will be led by Judy Hockenberry and several guest preachers. Music will be provided by our many ensembles, soloists and instrumentalists.

Pentecost Offering

Pentecost happens fifty days after Easter, and it is considered the birthday of the church. We learn about Pentecost in the second chapter of Acts where the tongues of fire danced on the heads of the disciples and a great wind blew through the room where they were gathered.



SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PENTECOST

Our congregation receives a Special Offering for the birthday of the church. This offering will take place on June 5 and we hope you will contribute as you might give a financial gift to a family member having a birthday. This offering is taken throughout the Presbyterian Church (USA) so it gives us an opportunity to participate in ministries around the world. However, forty percent of the offering stays in our church. Last year we used this offering to support our rising fourth and fifth grade students in our MissionFactory program.

The Mission Committee hopes you feel the heat of the fire and the strong winds stirring within you. We want to help our young people feel the Spirit. In 2021, our offering totaled \$1,527.00. We invite you to fan the flames a little higher this year. There will be special envelopes in the pew racks and in your mailed envelope boxes. Please give generously. Thank you.

Thank You to all our Musicians

As we complete the 2021-2022 program year, a special note of thanks is due to all the musicians that provide such beautiful music for our worship services and concerts. To our many singers, ringers and instrumentalists, thank you for providing uplifting music despite all of the challenges with COVID-19. Please plan to attend worship on **June 12 for Music Appreciation Sunday** to say thank you to our musicians.

In addition, we had a very successful **Concert Series** that provided seven evening concerts and eight **Wednesdays@Noon** recitals. We started the series in



October with music from the Arab world with *Crossing Borders Music*. In November, we hosted a community All Saints' concert with Howard Goodall's *Eternal Light* and provided a rousing brass and organ concert coupled with the youth hosted Wise and Sage dinner. We got in the holiday spirit in December with our *Carols From Around the World* concert and went to the movies with Organ Fest in February. March brought a member talent show and our final concert of the year brought us music and poetry of creation.

CAROLS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



This series is self-funded and was underwritten by generous contributions from 70 giving units as well as freewill offerings.



Performers for Organ Fest

Thank you to all who contributed.

Be on the lookout for the exciting 2022-2023 Concert Series line up this summer.

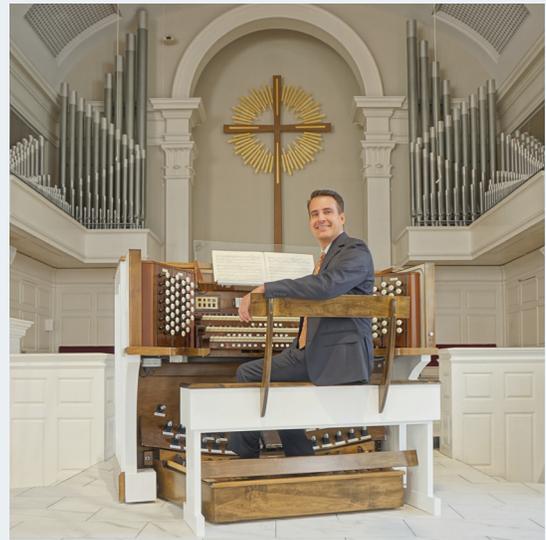


November Praise and Thanksgiving Concert

Wednesdays@Noon Recital

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

Soloists and Christopher Urban, organ
Favorite Sacred Arias



Pastor's message continued from page 1

Judy will have some help, but the truth is, there is only so much she can pass off to the people who are here to help. When Judy was away on medical leave, having Rev. Steve Howerly around was great for some things, but when someone died, particularly if it was someone important to our community, I couldn't pass that off to him. Therefore, I'm just asking for you to have patience and know we are doing our best.

Finally, I just want to say thank you again for giving me the time. There are a lot of churches that cannot afford to allow their pastor to go on Sabbatical. We are in a privileged position where that can happen. I promise I will take lots of pictures and, as is my custom, I will likely put together a short video of my adventures so that upon my return you can get a flavor of what it was like. Have a great summer, get some rest and relaxation for yourself and I'll see you in September!

May Family Night Schedule

In May, we will have our final three sessions for the 2021-2022 Family Night program year. Mark your calendars for our fall start-up on September 14, with dinner at 6:00 pm and programming at 7:00 pm.

May 4

6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm God's Honest Truth, Sanctuary

May 11

6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Game Night



May 18

6:00 pm Dinner and end of year celebration

Volunteer Appreciation

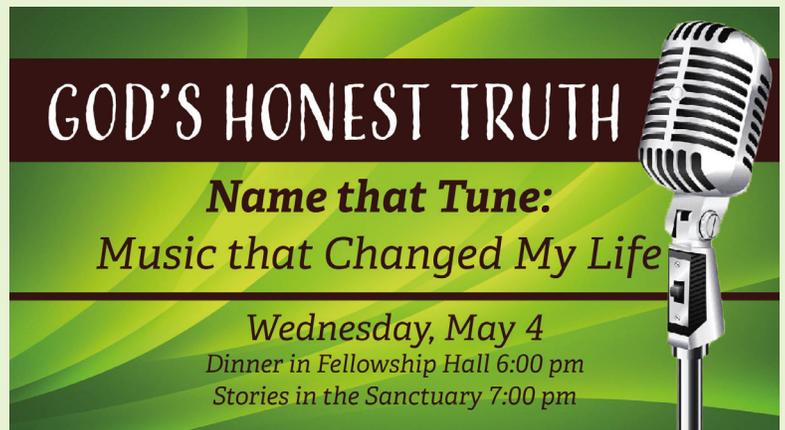
On Sunday, May 15, join us as we show deep appreciation for the many volunteers who make the mission and ministry possible at First Pres. Whether you usher, participate in mission opportunities, sing or ring in a choir, teach Sunday School, the list goes on... we want to say THANK YOU! Join us for a special reception honoring YOU after each worship service.



God's Honest Truth

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.

Our God's Honest Truth Storytellers:
Jessie Hammersmith, Lois Hartung,
Larry Olson, Richard Scott



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)



Scan the QR code to sign up for Restaurant Walk



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

Summer Reading With Stone Catchers

You're invited to join Stone Catchers, First Pres' social justice ministry group, for our summer book club.

We will kick off the summer with Yolanda Pierce's *In My Grandmother's House*. Pierce tells stories that center the experiences of those living on the underside of history, teasing out the tensions of race, spirituality, trauma, freedom, resistance, and memory.

Next, we will explore *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez* by Aaron Bobrow-Strain. Aida Hernandez tells the story of what happens when an undocumented teen mother takes on the U.S. immigration system.

Our final book of the summer is *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett. A New York Times #1 Bestseller and one of Barack Obama's favorite books of 2021, *The Vanishing Half* tells the story of twin sisters who grew up together but whose adult lives couldn't be more dissimilar.



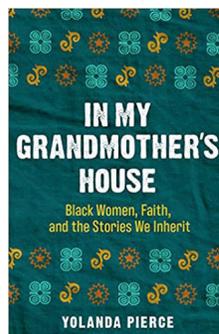
Mark your calendars now for a summer of engaging reading with your fellow Stone Catchers! We will meet for a light dinner and book discussion in the Parlor at 6:00 pm on the following evenings:

June 22 – In My Grandmother's Kitchen

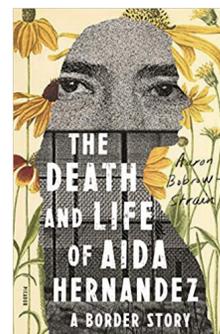
July 27 – The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez

August 24 – The Vanishing Half

Please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org or Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org with questions about Stone Catchers or our summer book club.



June 22



July 27



August 24

Memorial Day Exhibit

Join us in the Parlor after worship on May 29 for an exhibit highlighting the stories of some of the fifty-eight members of the Arlington Heights community that gave their lives defending our country. Please plan to donate new household items to our drive supporting Veterans Exiting Homelessness throughout the month of May. See page 7 for more details.



The Bridge - Parade of Patios

This summer we will resume our annual Parade of Patios. This will include a patio party every two weeks starting in early June at the home of a member of The Bridge. Patio parties are held on various evenings during the week as decided by the host. Attendees bring a small appetizer to share and their own beverages. Gatherings usually start around 7:00 pm. Look to the summer Chimes in June for more details.



Women's Spring Luncheon

All women of the church are welcome to our **Spring Luncheon and program at 12:00 pm on Wednesday, May 18**. Presbyterian Women are celebrating this year with a delicious lunch followed by a presentation by Carol Frieberg. Carol has been working at the Arlington Heights Historical Museum for quite some time, and she will share her experiences and fascinating tidbits about the museum. Don't miss this delightful luncheon.

Thank You for Easter Flowers

Thank you for all your donations toward Easter flowers that beautified our church on Easter Sunday. Our church looked like a spring garden! Thank you to all those involved in creating such beauty. Thanks, too, to the many members who generously donate to our worship flowers that decorate our church each Sunday. Thank you for your generosity!



Collection for Veterans

Throughout May

We will collect new household items for Veterans Exiting Homelessness. VEH seeks to provide move-in-essentials to veterans as they transition to permanent housing. See page 7 for more details.



Restaurant Walk

Sign-up online – Spots still available

Our popular Restaurant Walk program returns for a third session at Bistro Chen. Meals take place throughout May. Details on page 4.



Wednesdays@Noon

Wednesday, May 4, 12:10 pm

Favorite Arias

Christopher Urban, organ and soloists



God's Honest Truth

Wednesday, May 4, 7:00 pm

Music that Changed My Life. The significant impact a particular piece or song made on the life of those in our congregation.



Volunteer Recognition

Sunday, May 15, after both worship services

Join us for cake and fellowship as we say thank you to all the volunteers who make our ministry possible.



Family Night Celebration

Wednesday, May 18, 6:00 pm

Our year-end celebration of Family Night. Enjoy dinner and fellowship as we say goodbye to another program year.



Baccalaureate Sunday

Sunday, May 22, 9:00 am worship service

Celebrate and honor the academic achievement of our graduates and hear what their plans are post-graduation.



Memorial Day Exhibit

Sunday, May 29

First Pres will present an exhibit in our Parlor to honor the fifty-eight community members who have died fighting for our country in conflicts since the Civil War.

Summer Suppers Return in May

For many years, Summer Suppers have been hosted by faith communities in the area from May through September; providing a warm meal and fellowship to all who attend. In 2020 and 2021, Summer Suppers pivoted to a drive-thru meal pick-up to allow us to provide meals for those in need.

We are grateful that this year the option to once again host in-person meals is available. First Pres will host Summer Suppers on the third Monday of each month beginning May 16 and ending September 19. Dinner is served from 6:30 – 7:30pm. We provide a warm meal, some snacks to go, and other essential supplies. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Volunteers under high school age must be accompanied by an adult.

We are in need of volunteers each night as well as donations of supplies for the evening. If you are interested in either volunteering or donating, scan the QR codes to sign up. If you have questions regarding Summer Suppers please contact Kim Hogan at K_hogan2003@yahoo.com or Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org



Scan the QR code
to Volunteer



Scan the QR code
to donate

Mary and Martha's Lending Closet

Mary and Martha's Lending Closet is ready for the spring and summer seasons. If you have not checked out Mary and Martha's Lending Closet yet – now is the time. Make sure to reserve your items for your graduation party, summer backyard bbq, or whatever event you are hosting.

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? Just make a donation to the closet. All proceeds go toward 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 or Contact Michele Holifield or Amy Hempleman.

Thank You PADS volunteers

As the PADS season comes to an end, we would like to thank the faithful volunteers who gave of their time and resources to make our church a welcoming place for the guests each week. We were able to staff our shelter and make a home cooked meal once a week from October to April. There were weeks we worried we wouldn't have enough volunteers to open, but there was always someone willing to step up and take another shift. We are especially grateful to the people who were willing, at the last minute, to work an overnight shift! Thank you to all who donated food and funds, you all made a difference.

Michele, Amy, and Cathy

Honor Memorial Day – Collection for Veterans Exiting Homelessness

MAY 1 – MAY 30

In honor of Memorial Day and as an expression of our gratitude for those who have served our country, First Pres will host a drive to collect new move-in essentials for veterans exiting homelessness.

The Veteran Exiting Homelessness Program, is a collaborative effort between Military Outreach USA and the Department of Veterans Affairs. The program seeks to provide move-in-essentials to the veteran as they transition to permanent housing. If you would like to find out more about the program visit their website at <https://www.militaryoutreachusa.org/veterans-exiting-homeless/> or scan the QR code.

Beginning May 1, an information table will be in the Narthex at First Pres on Sunday mornings where you can drop off donations, pick up a list of needed items, and get more information. Donated items can be dropped off on

Sunday mornings in the Narthex, during the week at the church office, and in the church Parlor during the Memorial Day parade on May 30.

Contact Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org if you have questions about the collection. Thank you to all in this congregation for your continued generosity.



Scan the QR code
to learn more
about this
Veterans Program



Join the Summer Fun - VBS and MissionFactory

First Pres will be hopping with energy and excitement as we welcome preschoolers – 6th graders for our week of summer fun! 4-year-old preschoolers – 4th graders will participate in our Vacation Bible School - Food Truck Party, where we'll be on a roll with God. All week, lessons will help children understand that God provides for our needs. We will meet characters in the Bible and learn their stories, enjoy crafts and science, play games, and enjoy some awesome VBS music.

Incoming 5th and 6th graders will experience a variety of opportunities to engage their hearts, minds and hands in MissionFactory. We will engage in hands-on learning, participate in service projects, and have lots of fun along the way. Spots are limited so register today!

VBS and MissionFactory will be held July 11-15, from 8:45 am – 12:00 pm each day. Registration is \$35/child. Visit <https://firstpresah.org/programs/children-families/vbs-mission-factory/> to or scan the QR code to the right to register. Please contact Katy Allen with any questions.



VBS &
MISSIONFACTORY
JULY 11-15
8:45 AM – 12:00 PM



Scan the QR code
to register for VBS
or MissionFactory!



A Year in Review

It was wonderful to be back together as a Sunday School family this year! Preschoolers enjoyed a new curriculum called Follow Me. Each week, our 3- and 4-year-olds experienced a new faith practice, taught and explored at a very age-appropriate level. Lots of hands-on activities, songs, and Bible stories engaged our youngest learners as they took their first steps on their faith journeys.

Kindergartners – 5th graders also “practiced” their faith such as welcome, faithfulness, joy, and community. When we gather together each week, time is spent sharing things that are important to us, as well as praying for ourselves, one another, and our neighbors. Our weekly lessons offered kids a chance to see how the stories in the Bible relate to our lives today and why it’s important that we make connections between then and now. We loved going grocery shopping to donate food to our food barrels; making Creation Wreaths to remind us of God’s amazing gift of creation; and creating a community word cloud.

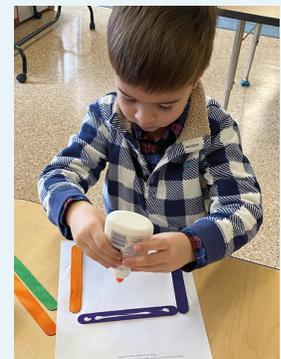
Thank you to our Sunday School teachers and shepherds for their faithful dedication to Children’s Ministries!



PDO Highlights

Seeds, dirt, worms and bugs are all a part of spring at our PDO, Preschool and Kindergarten Enrichment classrooms. Students are digging through dirt, planting their own sunflower seeds and are awaiting the arrival of classroom caterpillars to watch them turn into butterflies.

This spring the children will also be performing “outdoor concerts” for their parents. Our staff teaches and practices age-appropriate songs, some accompanied by instruments, all year and look forward to showing off all that the children have learned as this will be the first time we have been able to perform in over two years!



Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

LIVE IN COMMUNITY

Sundays, through May 15, 9:00 am
Boardroom / Laura Carlson, PhD. & Clerk of Session

Our Sunday morning class continues from 9:00 - 10:00 am through May 15. It meets in the Boardroom and is 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 uniting 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.

Coffee: Grounds for Discussion and Service



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

We are doing a study on David. It is based on a sermon series by Adam Hamilton of Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City.

LESSON SCHEDULE

May 1 - David: Shepherd

May 8 - David: Warrior

May 15 - David: King

This course for small groups explores the meaning of vocation for everyone. 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! This will be our final session for the 2021-2022 program year and we will resume in September.

For more information contact Kelly Dean at k_p_dean@hotmail.com

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings

MORNING CIRCLES 1, 2, 3

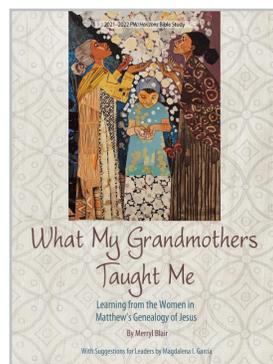
Join a morning of fellowship, delicious treats and Bible Study Wednesday, May 11, at 9:30 am in the Parlor.

Our last lesson in *What My Grandmothers*

Taught Me Is "Mary In The Faith And Tradition Of The Church". Rev. Judy Hockenberry will lead us and share the story of Mary and all the joy, fears and grief of motherhood and Mary's place in the church. Don't miss a chance to share in this interesting discussion.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN



CIRCLE 7

On a lovely spring evening, please join the women of Circle 7 with a light supper in the Parlor on Wednesday, May 17, at 6:30 pm. This is a celebration for a great year! All women of the church are invited to enjoy this special evening of good food and fellowship.

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

Spring brings with it new mothers and babies and our program to remember all these new young moms with gift cards and donations. THANK YOU for making this a special time for a brand new moms! The Kohls and Target gift card monetary donations will give these new moms a chance to get something special for their babies. Your generosity is appreciated. THANK YOU!



April Session Notes

By Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session



Session Highlights from the approved minutes from the April 3, 2022 and unapproved minutes from the April 11, 2022 meeting of Session.

Congratulations and Welcoming of New Members: Session had the honor and privilege to examine and welcome new members at the April 10 meeting. Please join us in welcoming the following new members: Milan Arpino, Rodger (James) and Sarah White with their two sons (James and Jonathan); and Jack and Donna Myers. On Sunday April 24, 2022, these new members will be formally introduced and welcomed at the 10:30 am worship service.

Progress on Strategic Goals: As part of the Internal Goal Subcommittee, Steve Olszewski invited Todd Hjermstad to present some impressions from the focus groups. Todd shared the objective of the focus groups was “to study distinct behavioral segments of the congregation to develop a deeper understanding of what motivates and drives engagement at First Pres.” They conducted six exploratory focus group discussions that were approximately 60-70 minutes long and consisted of 43 members of the First Pres community.

Two recurrent themes across the focus groups were 1) the need for a church to be a welcoming community; and 2) the need for a church to offer opportunities to grow in faith and for spiritual renewal. A take-away point is that a thriving church relies on both people and spiritual components. The report was very insightful, and the information will be helpful as Session moves forward with the implementation of strategic goals. **Session thanks all who participated in the focus groups.**

Steve Olszewski shared initial impressions based on conversations with Session members about financial strategies for the initiative Strengthening the Financial Foundation of First Pres. There was consensus for Steve to move forward with next step. There was also consensus for Gary Gehm, Chair of Administration and Finance, to reach out to the Trustees and staff to increase communication of finances.

Marc Washco shared a list for Session members to call members and extend invitations to Holy Week services and activities.

Saying Goodbye and Moving forward: At the April 3 meeting of Session, Reverend TC Anderson announced that he had accepted a call to another church in Michigan as Associate Pastor and Director of Camp Westminster. Members expressed appreciation for TC, congratulations,

and shed some tears of joy and sorrow. TC and Ellen will be missed dearly.

At the April 10 meeting of Session, there was a celebration for TC as this was his last Session meeting. Important discussions about creating a Nominating Committee and moving forward with an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) were also held. Plans for the summer and fall were discussed along with the role of an interim director.

ACTION ITEMS:

A **MOTION** to hold a special free-will collection for TC and Ellen Anderson was approved electronically.

A **MOTION** to call a special meeting of the congregation for the purpose of dissolving Reverend TC Anderson’s call was approved.

A **MOTION** passed to accept the following new members Milan Arpino, Jack and Donna Myers, and Rodger (James) and Sarah White and their sons James and Jonathan.

A **MOTION** passed to create a nominating committee to identify candidates for an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC). Laura Carlson will serve as the elder on the Nominating Committee. The nominating committee will present its slate of nominees for the APNC to the congregation for election at a meeting of the congregation sometime in May.

SYMPATHY TO

Bill Borst, on the death of his wife, *Ann Borst*

The Crouch family, on the death of *Marilou Crouch*

The *Merilatt*, Reid and Nelson families on the death of *Lee Nelson*

The Sayre family, on the death of *Charles Sayre*

Karen & Al Wilson, on the death of their brother-in-law, Houston Godfrey

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Will and *Leah Lorenzo*, on the birth of their son, Carter. Congratulations to grandparents, *Rick and Laura Liston*, aunts & uncles, Mark and Katy Liston and *Becky Liston*.

Dear First Pres Family,

It is with joy and sorrow that I tell you that I have been offered and accepted a position back in my home state of Michigan. I will be working throughout the school year at a church in Detroit and then in the summers will be working at the camp associated with that church. That camp happens to be the same camp I worked at for seven summers throughout the aughts. This has been a dream of mine to work as the program director full time at Camp Westminster for several years and now that dream is becoming a reality! So, that is the joy.

The sorrow is obviously leaving you all. It has been my deepest delight to walk with you all for the past decade. I have made more meaningful connections than I can count, grown in ways I couldn't have dreamed of when I started, and created memories that will never fade, even if I wanted them too (I'm looking at you 24-hour bus ride through Peru's mountains while deathly ill).

When I started this job, I wanted to stay for four years to see my freshmen graduate. I've now seen those who were in 3rd grade when I arrived graduate, and what a blessing to see so many amazing children and youth come through this church and go on to amazing things, as spectacular people.

As we know from Ecclesiastes everything has its season. I am thankful for my season here, and thankful for everyone



who welcomed me, embraced me, laughed with me, cried with me, confided in me, picked me up when I was down, allowed me to help them up when they were down, taught me, allowed me to teach them, heard me, saw me, grew with me, supported me, challenged me, and allowed me to walk this path. There are not enough words for me to express how thankful I am to all of you for the past 10 years. It both feels like a lifetime and the blink of an eye.

To all of my youth throughout the years: Keep being the amazing, inspirational people that you are, as you grow and learn and completely change this world for the better! Know that you are deeply and completely loved, just as you are. Always remember to leave things better than you found them and above all (to steal from one of the greatest teachers I know) love one another, even when it's hard.

To the parents of all of my youth throughout the years: They are who they are because of who you are. You should be endlessly proud of that.

Again, thank you all so much for everything. I cannot express how much this place has altered my life for the better. I will miss you all and this place will always have a piece of my heart.

Forever your brother in Christ,
TC Anderson

Reflections from Youth about TC

A memory of TC I have is from the middle school retreat. TC really helped me when I was on crutches. He walked with me in the back. He waited for me when I was getting on the ATV to go places. He helped me get food when I couldn't get food. TC is just a great man and it was so kind of him to help me when I was on crutches having a tough time. He even sat out with me when I couldn't play some of the games and played games with me that he knew I could play. Thank you TC for everything you've done for me here at this church. – *Sincerely, William Haines*

TC is a great youth leader. I remember on the Kansas City mission trip when we walked to Andy's Custard for ice cream. I've been going there ever since! Another fun memory I have of TC was when we went to Jans Jam and stayed up until midnight. We went to some fun places! These are some fun memories of TC that I wanted to share, and I wish him the best as he goes off to his new job! – *Ben Haines*

On my first middle school retreat I was too scared to go on a zip line but TC encouraged me to give it a try. I didn't end up going on the zip line but instead I sat and chatted with TC while we watched everyone fly over us. I appreciate everything he's done to push me to be my best self. We'll miss you so much TC! – *Reagan Dean*



The CHIMES

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WELCOME New Members

Milan Arpino — Milan recently moved to the Arlington Heights area. By profession, she is an underwriter and her hobbies include attending music events, traveling and volunteering with various groups. Milan is looking forward to taking part in a book discussion, as well as taking part in service initiatives. She has enjoyed attending worship at First Pres due to the skillful sermons, which are enhanced by the beautiful music that is incorporated in worship each week.



Jack and Donna Myers — Jack and Donna have been married for 20 years. Jack has lived in Arlington Heights for 40 years and Donna has lived here for 21. Both Jack and Donna are retired from the banking industry. Jack enjoys golfing, scuba diving, hiking and backpacking. Donna enjoys walking and together they like to travel, play pickleball and spend time with their four grandchildren. Jack is currently on the Administration & Finance Committee. Both Jack and Donna



have volunteered with PADS and Meals on Wheels. They enjoy Pastor Alex's sermons that encourage them into action, the music and Wednesdays@Noon recitals. They are looking forward to getting involved in more social events at First Pres.

Rodger and Sarah White — Rodger and Sarah have been married for 8.5 years and have lived in Arlington Heights for seven. Rodger's occupation is in sales. Sarah is a stay-at-home mom, but used to work in event planning. Rodger is interested in sports, music and movies and Sarah enjoys fitness classes, volunteering with school/church and participating in activities with her children. She is currently on the Children's Ministries Committee and is a shepherd for K/1st grade. Rodger enjoys the sermons and finds First Pres a place to learn and reflect. Sarah loves the people, music, services and variety of activities to participate in. They have two sons, James and Jonathan.

