



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

September 2022

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

From the Pastor **Come to Jesus Moments**

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff



I'm back from sabbatical and I cannot express to you how wonderful it was to get away and enjoy some rest! For those of you who might have missed the memo, my family travelled over to the United Kingdom and Europe. Our home base was London. We stayed with Christine Rowley, Gale Myer's daughter, who

graciously put us up for June and July. Courtney worked during the week at her company's global headquarters, which was only about 20 minutes away from our house.

During the day, my boys and I would take off around 11:00 am. We'd get on the Underground, which is their subway, and we would go somewhere. Sometimes I would plan where we were going. Sometimes, I would tell them just to choose a random spot and we

would see what we could find. We would go exploring, eating lunch in various different pubs and shops. We had a ton of fun and the boys really came to love London.

On the weekends we took small excursions onto the European continent when it was feasible to do so. At the end, we spent two weeks travelling to Budapest in Hungary, Florence in Italy and San Sebastian in Spain. We came back at the beginning of August as the boys had to start school. I spent my last month relaxing and working on my new book, which I am hoping will be ready for publication by spring of 2023.

Now that we are back from the trip of a lifetime, I want to say thanks again for giving me so much time away. I can't tell you how much I needed it. My first sermon, on September 11, will be a recap of my time away. I plan to show you pictures and video of our travels. I also have some great stories to tell you about our adventures and how it has shaped the way I see the world.

The following week will begin our fall sermon series, which is entitled "Come to Jesus Moments". In the common vernacular, we use the phrase "come to Jesus moment"

to indicate when we need to have a hard conversation about something really important. I developed this sermon series because there are a lot of things happening in our world and within the Christian faith where we need to have some hard conversations.

Some of these conversations will revolve around personal issues we all face, some will revolve around the future of the church, and some will revolve around larger issues of culture and society. The idea will be to have these hard



continued on page 3

In This Issue

From the Pastor	1	Adult Education	10
Worship & Music	2-3	Youth Ministries	11
Upcoming Events	4	Children's Ministries & PDO	12-13
Community Life	5-8	Session Highlights	14
Presbyterian Women	8	Building & Finance Update	15
Opportunities to Serve	9	Staff Directory	16



Beginning on Sunday, September 18, and continuing through Sunday, November 13, we will present our fall sermon series titled **Come to Jesus Moments**. We use the phrase

“*come to Jesus moment*” to indicate when we need to have a hard conversation about something really important. There are a lot of things happening in our world and within the Christian faith where we need to have hard conversations. Some of these conversations will revolve around personal issues, some will revolve around the future of the church and some will revolve around larger issues of culture and society. The idea will be to have these hard conversations that are often avoided because we don’t want to offend anyone or cause anyone to be upset.



One Service 10:00 am

September 4 | **Back to Work**

Scriptures: Genesis 2:4b-9, 15;
Ephesians 4:25-5:2

♫ 10:00 am – Adam Hendrickson, baritone

Return to 9:00 am & 10:30 am services

September 11 | **Guess Who’s Back?**

Scriptures: Daniel 2:19-23; Exodus 2:15b-22
Kick-Off for Sunday School and Programming

♫ 9:00 am – Compass ♫ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir, bagpipes & First Pres Brass

September 18 | **The Technology Paradox**

Scriptures: Matthew 8:1-4; Genesis 11:1-9

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

September 25 | **Managing Misinformation**

Scriptures: Matthew 18:1-4; 2Chronicles 1:7-12

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

Join A Music Ensemble This Fall

HIGH SCHOOL AND OLDER

Chancel Choir (mixed adult)

Rehearses every Thursday at 7:00 pm; sings weekly at 10:30 am service; rehearsals begin September 8.

Men’s Chorus (men)

Rehearses 1st and 3rd Thursdays at 6:30 pm; sings about eight times a year at 10:30 am service; rehearsals begin September 8.

Chancel Handbell Choir (mixed adult)

Rehearses every Thursday at 5:30 pm; rings about six times a year at 10:30 am; rehearsals begin September 8.

Compass (Praise Band)

Rehearses every Sunday at 8:00 am; plays weekly at 9:00 am service; rehearsals begin September 11.

CHILDREN (GRADES K-5)

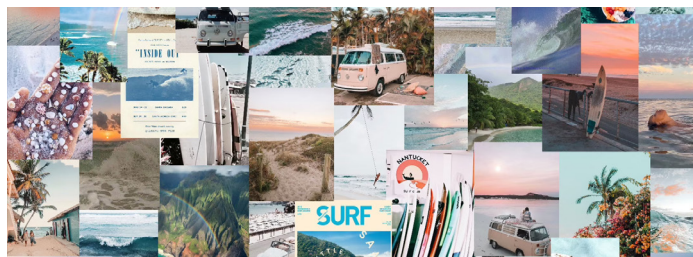
Children’s Choir

Rehearses every Wednesday at 6:30 pm; sings about six times a year at 10:30 am service; rehearsals begin September 14
Contact Adam Hendrickson for more details.



What I Did Over the Summer

Children’s Ministries is sponsoring a church-wide photo collage of “What I Did Over the Summer”. We will begin collecting photos of your summer adventures on Sunday, September 11. You can email photos to Katy Allen or drop off a printed photo at the display in the lobby. Photos will be collected until Thursday, September 29 and displayed until Sunday, October 2.



2022-2023 Concert Series Begins in October

Wednesdays
@ Noon

Wednesday, October 5, 12:10 pm

Christopher Urban, organ; Chuck Beech, piano
Favorite hymns for piano and organ.

Concert Series

Bruce Blanck and Friends

Sunday, October 9, 4:00 pm

A long-time member of First Pres, Bruce Blanck brings to our Concert Series his inimitable jazz piano stylings coupled with other musicians. The program will include sacred and secular selections. *Contact: Adam Hendrickson*



From the Pastor Come to Jesus Moments

Continued from page 1

conversations that are often avoided because we don't want to offend anyone or cause anyone to be upset. However, we are doing a disservice to ourselves by not addressing these issues and having these hard conversations.

We are doing this because Jesus was the kind of man who had hard conversations with his disciples. Take for instance in the gospel of Mark when Jesus tells his disciples that he must undergo great suffering. Peter does not like the sound of this and becomes angry with Jesus for suggesting that he must suffer. Jesus calls out Peter and says, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." (Mk. 8:33) Peter didn't understand that to be part of Jesus' movement, one must be willing to sacrifice and suffer for the benefit of those who are in need.

Jesus would confront issues of moral ambiguity. He would force people to examine their hypocrisy. Jesus wants us to live a life of consistency. One where our internal world and our external world match. Perhaps one of the most challenging ways he does this is by asking us to examine our role in the larger fabric of society. We are but one thread that makes up the whole tapestry, but our presence in the tapestry matters and we need to make sure that we understand how our choices, both conscious and unconscious, impact the people in the world around us.

Some of these conversation will be hard, but they are necessary for us to be honest about where we stand as Christians and as a church. Hopefully, as we examine ourselves and where we stand in relationship to Jesus' gospel, these hard conversations will inspire us to want to change and reach our fullest potential as humans and as Christians who are dedicated to creating God's kingdom on earth.

I'll see you on September 11 for the kick-off! I'm super excited to be back. It's going to be a great year!

New Worship Schedule and Education For All Returns Sunday, September 11

- We will be moving back to two worship times, 9:00 am (modern) and 10:30 am (traditional).
- Education for children and youth will meet from 10:30-11:30 am.
- Nursery care is available from 8:45-11:45 am.
- Adult education with Dr. Donald Kaasch begins September 18 at 9:00 am in the Boardroom.





Fall Kick-Off Sunday, September 11

Join us for Modern Worship at 9:00 am or Traditional Worship at 10:30 am. From 11:30 am - 1:00 pm, enjoy food, fellowship, pony rides, a petting zoo and live music in the East parking lot. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to see all First Pres has to offer.



Family Night Kick-Off Wednesday, September 14, 6:00 - 8:00 pm

A time for families from the community and First Pres to come together to share dinner and fellowship time every Wednesday night. See page 5 for more details.



Annual Speaker Series: Susan Burton

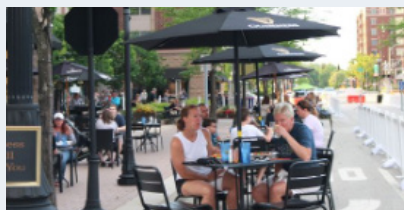
Saturday, September 24, 4:00 pm

A conversation with Susan Burton, a leader in the criminal justice reform movement. The discussion will focus on her life from prison to recovery to leading the fight for incarcerated women.



Congregational Dinner Saturday, September 24, 5:30 pm

An all-church dinner in Fellowship Hall following the Annual Speaker event.



Restaurant Walk Sign-up throughout September

Our popular Restaurant Walk program returns for a fourth session, meeting at Hey Nonnny. Sign-up throughout September with meals taking place in October. Come to meet some new faces and support a local restaurant.



Wednesday @ Noon Wednesday, October 5, 12:10 pm

Christopher Urban and Chuck Beech present favorite hymns for piano and organ.

What I Did Over The Summer

Remember when you were a child in school and on the first day of school your teacher would ask the class to write a paragraph about your summer vacation? You might've loved the assignment, or you might've hated it, but you knew it was coming every fall!

Fast forward a lot of years and Children's Ministries is resurrecting that old assignment but with a modern twist – photographs! You are invited to share a photo of something you did over the summer. Maybe you took a trip. Maybe you reconnected with family. Maybe you tried something for the first time. Maybe you managed to take a beautiful family picture where everyone smiled *and* looked at the camera at the same time!

A Church Family Collage

Our church family collage is for everyone – if you did something this summer, you've invited to participate! Photos will be on display in the church lobby from Sunday, September 11 – Sunday, October 2. You can begin submitting photos by email to Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresab.org immediately or drop off an actual photo at the display in the lobby starting on September 11.

We look forward to seeing each other's summer adventures this fall!



Family Night

An Evening for Everyone!

All are welcome to join First Pres members and friends at Family Night beginning on Wednesday, September 14. Family Night begins with dinner, served buffet-style, from 6:00-7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Dinner offers an excellent chance to connect with old friends and make new ones, all while enjoying great company and delicious food. Children's Choir (Grades K-5) rehearses from 6:30 - 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.



After dinner, we offer programming for the whole family from 7:00-8:00 pm. Adults are encouraged to attend the adult education offering of the evening. Adult ed offerings range from book discussions to current event discussions to storytelling and beyond. Middle schoolers (6th-8th grade) meet for youth group, and K-5th graders participate in Kids Connect. High schoolers (9th-12th grade) are invited to volunteer with Kids Connect or attend the adult ed offerings. Nursery care will be offered if needed based on attendance.

We hope you will give Family Night a try this year! Please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org if you have any questions or anticipate needing nursery care.

New Members Class

Our next new members class will take place on **Sunday, October 2** immediately following the 10:30 am worship service. For more information, contact Alex Lang.

Restaurant Walk in October

Sign-Up Sunday Mornings or Online

Our popular Restaurant Walk program returns for a fourth session, meeting at Hey Nonny. Meet some new friends and support a local restaurant. Sign-up on Sunday mornings or with the QR code below.

MEALTIMES

Sunday, October 2, 12:00 pm
 Thursday, October 6, 6:00 pm
 Thursday, October 13, 6:00 pm
 Sunday, October 16, 12:00 pm
 Thursday, October 20, 6:00 pm



Scan the QR code
to sign up

September 24 Annual Speaker and Dinner

ANNUAL SPEAKER

Saturday, September 24, 4:00 pm, Sanctuary - Join us for a conversation with Susan Burton a leader in the criminal justice reform movement, founder of A New Way of Life and an outspoken voice to end mass incarceration. The discussion will focus on her life from prison to recovery to leading the fight for incarcerated women. You are encouraged to read her book *Becoming Ms. Burton* prior to the event. Stay for an all-church dinner in Fellowship Hall at 5:30 pm.

Contact: [Alex Lang](mailto:Alex.Lang@firstpresah.org)

CONGREGATIONAL DINNER

Saturday, September 24, 5:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
 Immediately following the Annual Speaker event, join us for an all-church dinner in Fellowship Hall. Enjoy this free meal and the opportunity for extended fellowship with other First Pres members. Contact: [Michele Holifield](mailto:Michele.Holifield@firstpresah.org)

Annual Speaker Series

SUSAN BURTON
 Activist

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 • 4:00 PM



Join us for a conversation with Susan Burton, a leader in the criminal justice reform movement, founder of A New Way of Life and an outspoken voice to end mass incarceration.

The discussion will focus on her life from prison to recovery to leading the fight for incarcerated women.

You are encouraged to read her book *Becoming Ms. Burton* prior to the event.

Book can be purchased from the QR code below, or we will have copies available for purchase after church in the Narthex.



First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights
 302 N. Dunton Ave., Arlington Heights, IL 60004 | 847-255-5900 | firstpresah.org



RESTAURANT WALK

- Dine with a group of 8-10 people at a local restaurant
- Check Weekly Highlights for restaurant, dates, times & signup link
- Register online

Enjoy a dinner out and meet new friends!

Dear Ones,



I have always known this church was special. My mother tells the story of me running into the church nursery at just over a year old, calling for Lucy Reinhard, who was a year older and my favorite person in the nursery. (Many of you remember her parents, Juanita and Saunders Reinhard.) I remember learning Bible verses in the new Christian Education wing from teachers like Grace Grey and putting pennies in a globe bank to “help the world”. I remember walking home from high school and stopping in the office of Jim Eby, Associate Pastor for Christian Education. He would let me come in and bog him down with questions about my dating life, my future, and all sorts of things in between. There was Gordon Palmer, Director of Music, who directed Westminster Choir. He called on several of us as high school students to be rehearsal and Sunday morning accompanists, giving us confidence in our skill as pianists. He and Jim Eby developed in me a gift for leadership. They were the first to whisper “think about ministry”. There was the congregation, many of them friends of my parents, who spoke to me and encouraged me and loved me through all the awkward and crazy years of growing up.

I have always known this church was special. This summer you all showed me your specialness once again. You asked how I was managing. You offered to help. You stepped up at the last minute. The Session had my back every step and so did the Personnel Committee as we dealt with a few tricky situations. You greeted me warmly when I preached. You welcomed the guest preachers. You offered suggestions gently and kindly. You were amazing, each of you in your own way.

I cannot thank you enough for the gift of your presence in my life this summer. Each one of you is incredibly special. In August, I turned 66. (I hope you are all saying “66!! I thought she was still in her 50s”). I will have to retire someday. I am not quite ready for that, yet. I do know, however, that whether an active Presbyterian minister or a retired Presbyterian minister, I will remember your specialness. The love of all of you and the saints that have gone before you follows me from the earliest moments of my life until now. I have always known this church was special. Thank you for showing that to me once again this summer.

Blessings,
Judy

APNC Update

On behalf of the **Associate Pastor Nominating Committee**, I wanted to provide an update regarding our progress. Since late May, we have been meeting regularly (10 meetings to date). Between meetings, committee members have been in constant communication and have been working hard on important tasks. I am proud of the efforts and time put forth by this committee and it’s been an honor to serve in this role.

In our first three meetings, we clarified our mission, met with our Presbytery liaison, and solidified the administrative logistics surrounding our task. The presentation by our liaison was super helpful and answered many questions regarding the processes involved. Before posting a position and seeking candidates, our committee was tasked to conduct focus groups of stakeholders in our children and youth ministries.

In our next four meetings, we began the process of creating the focus groups, inviting participants, collecting their responses and discussing our objectives. During these meetings, we received great support from our focus group facilitator, Todd Hjermstad. Ultimately, we conducted five focus group sessions (four with parents of children in our programs and one with high school students who attended the mission trip in Puerto Rico). The purpose of the focus groups went beyond determining likely participation and involvement of families moving forward. We also probed the most important characteristics of children and youth programs for our church and the attributes for the leader of such programs.

In the next two meetings, we unpacked the focus group sessions. In addition to each of us reporting out our individual experiences sitting in on one of the focus groups, we also received a summary from Todd who, of course, was present for all the sessions and led the discussions.

Finally, in our most recent meeting (August 8), we solidified our recommendation that will shape our next steps and finished preparing our presentation for the Session meeting on August 14th. At that meeting, the Session unanimously approved our recommendation to find the best candidate regardless of whether or not they are ordained. Therefore, we will be creating and posting two separate Ministry Information Forms to seek out candidates. A special thanks goes to Michele Holifield and Mary Fino for helping reserve spaces and providing technological support throughout the ongoing process.

Mark Smith, *Chair APNC*



Wally Meyer, Marty Kraybill, Tonya Griffin, Beth Johnson, Diane Larsen, Mary Kieपुरa & Ross Spencer



Diane Kappus, JoAnn Thompson, Sandy Meyer & Carolyn Young.

Thank You to our Amazing Garden Team!

If you are on the church grounds, you will notice how the facility bursts with color and beauty from our gardens. This beauty is made possible by a dedicated group of volunteers. Each spring the garden team works with the scout troop in mulching, trimming and planting to prepare the landscape for the growing season. In the fall, the scouts help winterize the gardens.

Each garden is tended by a dedicated gardener from the team.

Sara Thornton has cared for the Rose Court for several years and learned the skill of pruning roses so they are constantly in bloom from June to October.

The Dunton North Garden, from the Parlor windows to the front Sanctuary steps, has been cared for by the **Spencers** since they were part of the redesign team in 2012. **Ross Spencer** is responsible for the constant trimming and weeding required.

The Dunton South Garden, from the front Sanctuary steps to the Chapel, was redesigned in 2013 and **Susan Schuffler** works at planting and trimming perennials and annuals maintaining an English Garden appearance.

Sandy Meyer oversees the plot of natural plants on Eastman South of the Chapel stairs.

Tom Krigas hand trims and waters all of the boxwoods and plantings along Eastman and the corner of Vail.

The parking lot islands along Vail are maintained by **Diane Kappus**.

Carolyn Young takes care of the lower garden by door 8 and **Diane Larsen** plants and cares for the pots at door 8.

Beth Johnson oversees planting, watering and maintaining the area along the sidewalk by the administration offices on the north side of the building.

Tonya Griffin oversees the Memorial Prayer Garden and watering the inside islands in the west parking lot.

The North Courtyard is under the care of **Marty Kraybill** and **JoAnn Thompson** is in charge of caring for the flowerpots in the North Courtyard.

Heather Behles joined the team with planting the annuals.

Mary Kieपुरa took care of the Memorial Prayer Garden for several years and she is now planting and nurturing native grasses on the St. James side of the East Parking Lot and the flower pots at the Dunton entrance.

Wally Meyer has the job of keeping the island at the St. James exit of the west parking lot. Despite the traffic that finds its way over his plantings the area is always green and growing. Wally organizes all the hoses needed in the multiple areas that are not part of the sprinkler system.

Wally oversees the volunteers who fence in the gardens during village parades. This is a very valuable endeavor in protecting the plantings!

The garden team works as a team and helps cover for each other for summer vacations. Please thank these individuals for the amazing work they do in making our facility so beautiful.



Sara Thornton, in the Rose Court

SYMPATHY TO

The Almlblad family, on the death of *Dave and Pat Almlblad*

Betty Arnold, on the death of her husband, *Dick Arnold*

Mark and Kristine Bishop, on the death of Kristine's father, Richard Wenger

Chuck Cooper, on the death of his brother, James Cooper

Edythe Even, on the death of her husband, *Richard Even*

Beth Johnson, on the death of her mother, Joan Mac Millan

Don Larson, on the death of his wife, *Barb Larson*

Betty Launer, on the death of her sister, Grace Radel

Tim and Marjorie Lock and family, on the death of their sister-in-law, Linda Lock

Yoshiko Matsumura, on the death of her husband, Michio Matsumura (former member)

Reid, *Nelson* and *Merilatt* families, on the death of Katie Reid

Betty Sanders, on the death of her brother, Burt Kwitzky

Richard and Susan Scott, on the death of their sister-in-law, Emma Scott

BAPTISM

Carter Gabriel Lorenzo, born March 18, 2022 - son of *William and Leah Lorenzo*

Presbyterian Women



A Big Thank You From Christopher House



A BIG THANK YOU from all the young students beginning another year at Christopher House. Your generous donations will allow two third and fourth grade classrooms to begin the year with brand new backpacks and supplies to ensure a really great beginning! This is the tenth year since the K-8th grade school began. Many young scholars have advanced to excellent high schools with scholarships to charter and private high schools due to the great foundation they received at Christopher House. Your support over the years has made a difference! Thank You!

Presbyterian Women News

Welcome to a new year of our circle meetings! The circle leaders will be in touch about early gatherings of each circle. The first date of our scheduled meetings will be September 21 for daytime circles 1, 2, and 3. We start at 9:30 am in the Parlor. The evening circle, Circle 7, will meet on September 20, at 7:00 pm in the Parlor.

Morning Circles' new Bible study this year is *Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight*, by Carol M. Bechtel.

Presbyterian Women support Christopher House, Firman House and FamilyForward. We are a community of women helping to make a difference in the lives of others. We look forward to another year of growing, supporting each other and listening and learning God's Word.

Everyone is welcome, so plan on attending our first meetings in September!

PW Food Drive

Sundays, October 2-16, Presbyterian Women will be holding their annual collection of financial donations for the purchase of food items for the families served by Firman Community Services and Christopher House, two organizations that help families in need. Cash and checks made out to Presbyterian Women will be accepted. Donations can also be accepted on the church website. All donations will help these organizations to purchase nutritious items for their clients.

Please stop by the table in the Narthex between services!

Addressing Food Insecurity in Our Community

The Mission Committee along with other congregational committees work to address food insecurity in our community and the greater Chicago area. We regularly provide non-perishable food to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry, and our focus this year at MissionFactory for tweens was addressing food insecurity and our responsibility to address this growing issue. In addition, the following are some other ways that First Pres faithfully works to ensure that more people have access to healthy and nourishing meals.

Summer Suppers 2022

First Pres participated in the community-wide Summer Suppers over the past months. Churches and organizations throughout the community host evening meals for those who need assistance in stretching their budgets. We also provide essential items such as umbrellas, sunscreen, chapstick, lotions and other personal hygiene products. Since the pandemic, sites have provided meals both as a drive-up opportunity or the opportunity to come in from the heat and enjoy fellowship and a meal.

First Pres hosted Summer Suppers on the third Monday of each month. We hosted about 20 people each night and served another 30 meals through our drive-thru service. Coordinators for this year were Kim Hogan and Michele Holifield. We would like to thank everyone who donated time, funds and items needed for our meals and hospitality.

Loaves and Fishes Produce Market

If you come into the church building at Door 8, you cannot miss the bountiful garden growing. The Loaves and Fishes Garden provides fresh produce for Summer Suppers and PADS, as well as our weekly free fresh produce market. Each Wednesday from late July to early September, community members in need of access to affordable fresh vegetables are

invited to stop by the market. Congregation and community members are also welcome to donate from their home gardens. In addition to fresh vegetables, pesto, pickles and salsa made from the garden harvest are also available.

Mary and Martha's Lending Closet

Open since September of 2019, Mary and Martha's Lending Closet has a two-fold mission. First, by providing supplies for all types of gatherings, both big and small, we address sustainability by encouraging the use of sharing our things rather than accumulating. Through generous donations made by those who borrow from the closet, we are addressing food insecurity in the Chicago area. Over the past months, Mary and Martha's Lending Closet has contributed funds to the following organizations:

1. **Loaves and Fishes Garden at First Presbyterian Church:** The Loaves and Fishes Garden is a part of the Children's Ministry program at First Pres. Mary and Martha's Lending Closet provides funds for seeds and other supplies necessary to maintain the garden. Produce from the garden is distributed to the community free of charge on Wednesday evenings.
2. **Second Presbyterian Church Lunch Bag Program:** The Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago is located on south Michigan Avenue. The program provides lunch Monday through Friday to the local community free of charge.
3. **Gardeneers:** Gardeneers works to give students in food-insecure neighborhoods access to healthy food through urban gardens and school garden education in Chicago. For more information on Gardeneers, follow the link, www.gardeneers.org/about/. First Pres is planning our next Service Saturday on October 15, at one of their gardens.

RefugeeOne Update

Our mission to welcome the stranger is underway. After a successful information meeting in June, the Mission Committee assembled our Mentor Team in preparation for welcoming a refugee family to the Chicago area. Kim Hogan, Ken Weller, Katie Washco, Jen Berg and Dan Berg will serve on the Mentor Team. Currently they are working on their initial paperwork and will begin training soon. All training is provided by RefugeeOne.



While the mentor team is busy training and preparing, our Make A Home Team will begin working to gather what September 2022

is needed to create a home for the family we welcome. Michele Holifield, Amy Hempleman and Amy Lumsden are currently working to build that team. If you have expressed interest in working with the Make a Home Team, you will be hearing from us soon. The whole congregation will also be hearing from the team as we will be looking for donations of items to fill the home.

We do not know where the family will come from or when they will arrive, but we are on the road to welcome. Watch the church publications for continuing updates. If you have any questions about how you can be involved with RefugeeOne, please contact Kim Hogan at k_hogan2003@yahoo.com or Michele Holifield at micheleholifield@firstpresah.org.

Stone Catchers Book Club

On three Wednesday evenings this summer, a small group gathered to share a tasty meal and discuss three different books, each dealing with an important justice-related topic. Our discussions ranged from talking about the importance of storytelling, the challenges of our immigration system and racism in our country. Each of the books this summer, *In My Grandmother's House* by Yolanda Pierce, *The Death and Life of Aida Hernandez* by Aaron Bobrow-Strain and *The Vanishing Half* by Brit Bennett, provided much opportunity for lively discussion.

If you missed this summer's book club, keep watching Church Life and Weekly Highlights for more opportunities to read and study together. Stone Catchers encourages everyone to consider reading *Becoming Ms. Burton* by Susan Burton, in preparation for our annual speaker event on September 24, 2022.

The Bridge

The Bridge is a group of parents and singles, 40s & 50s plus. This group, which is going on 20 years strong, is led by members and focuses on events for social, service and spirit. Watch for upcoming announcements in the bulletin, *The Chimes*, and emails for social gatherings this fall.

Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service is a Sunday morning study group with members leading Bible study and discussion that vary from week-to-week and month-to-month. During the Advent session, the group focuses on weekly service projects. You can also watch the bulletin and *The Chimes* for announcements of upcoming studies and projects. Coffee Grounds is set to begin weekly Sunday morning sessions again on September 11 from 10:30 – 11:30 am on the lower level of the Education Wing in room 110. We'd love for you to join us! Bring your coffee with you or help yourself to a cup from our Keurig! Questions? Contact Kelly Dean at k_p_dean@hotmail.com.



As we start our new program year this fall, we have two new adult education classes that will provide a lot of food for thought.

Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

THE MAJOR PROPHETS

Sundays, September 18 through November 20
9:00 am / Boardroom / Dr. Donald Kaasch

Our Sunday morning class, which will be in the Boardroom from 9:00 – 10:00 am from September 18 through November 20 will be taught by Dr. Donald Kaasch, and is entitled *The Major Prophets*. He plans to provide a historical overview of the major prophets of the Old Testament.

Dr. Kaasch will be evaluating Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel and Ezekiel and asking a series of important questions: Do they prophesy? If they do, what are they prophesying? Has it come to pass? Is it about Jesus? How in the world do we attempt to read these very complex and strange writings?

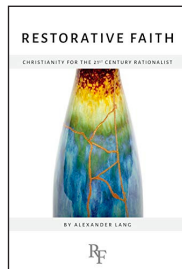
These are the major 'Ketuvim' of the Old Testament. Although many people assume Ketuvim translates to *Prophets*, it simply means *Writings*. During this 10-week course, we will discover what is written, what it means and what is said that it means. It will be a very interesting ride that will forever change the way you read the prophets.

Wednesday Evening Adult Education Class

RESTORATIVE FAITH

Wednesdays, September 14 through November 23
7:00 pm / Sanctuary / Rev. Alex Lang

Our Wednesday Engage and Encounter programming will be led by Rev. Alex Lang. Beginning on Wednesday, September 14 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm, Rev. Lang will be teaching his book *Restorative Faith*. Every week during this 11-week course, we will discuss a different chapter from the book. The book is designed to help people explore many of the logical pitfalls created by traditional Christian doctrine and to replace them with a more consistent theology for people with 21st century worldview.



Scan the QR code to purchase Restorative Faith

The book can be purchased on Amazon or you can purchase a copy from the office. This will be a lively discussion where people can discuss their faith and ask questions that are usually off the table. We hope you will come and enjoy what will prove to be a very fun and intellectually stimulating class!

Mission Trip Spotlight

Middle School

Due to COVID-19, this year's Youth Works trip to Milwaukee was many of our middle schoolers' first ever mission trip, and while that may have been apparent on the unexpectedly quiet drive up to Milwaukee, by the time we were driving back home, the van was practically a karaoke stage, blaring classics like "the YMCA." Not only did this trip provide space for the middle schoolers to grow together as a group, but it was also a space of serious service. The theme of this year's program was "Be Real", and throughout the week we were invited to meditate on Romans 12, which calls us to love authentically and actively, in service to others because of the love Christ has shown us. Our youth had the opportunity to practice embodying this concept each day of the trip, as they endured the heat and humidity while weeding urban garden beds, cleaning up underserved neighborhoods, packing food to be distributed to those in need, and building relationships with children and youth in the day care and development programs we served with.

Next summer's middle school mission trip will be with Youth Works in Louisville, KY. Email Jeni Eklund at jenieklund@firstpresab.org for information about signing up.



Our Middle School Youth in Milwaukee

High School

This year's high school mission trip was to Camp El Guacio, a Presbyterian summer camp in San Sebastián, Puerto Rico. We had the amazing opportunity to worship and roast marshmallows with the Presbyterian youth in Puerto Rico, interact with the amazing tropical ecosystem (including spiders, frogs, lizards, fish, snails, crabs, and parrots), hack through fifty-foot tall bamboo groves, paint an entire two-story building, and play a lot of fun games. The story of Camp El Guacio was a powerful example of the sacrificial service we are all called to participate in as Christians. Wilmari Vagras, the camp director, told us how, in the wake of hurricane Maria, the camp faithfully served the community in whatever way was needed—as a medical refuge, a source of free, clean water, and even as the only place (a year after the hurricane!) to get ice. El Guacio's commitment to service, hospitality, and growing with their community was a profound reminder of the work that we carry with us—whether we're in places like Puerto Rico, or in Arlington Heights.



Our High School Youth in Puerto Rico

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

First Day of Y-Search, Confirmation Class, and High School Sunday School: Sunday, September 11 at 10:30 am in their respective classrooms.

Fall Kick-Off: Sunday, September 11, at 11:30 am.

First HSYG: Sunday, September 11, at 6:00 pm in the high school lounge.

First MSYG: Wednesday, September 14, 6:00 pm family night dinner, 7:00 pm youth group in the Y-search room.

All Parent & Youth BBQ: Sunday September 18 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm at Kelly Dean's house. All parents and youth are invited to come get to know one another and learn about the program year.

Nursery Help Wanted!

Would you like to provide loving care for the children in our nursery? We have the job for you. All it requires is taking the Safe Sanctuary class and volunteering 90 minutes a month. You'll get a chance to see children grow right before your eyes. Babies and toddlers will think anything you do is perfect. The best reason of all is following Jesus' example of welcoming children to the family of God. Please contact Beth Johnson at btj0914@hotmail.com or 847-253-3667. There are always less than 4 children, so no worries, right?

First Pres PDO & Preschool



First Pres PDO & Preschool will be kicking off our 44th year on September 12. Our staff has been busy getting the classrooms ready for crafts, music, math, science and all things relating to fun and education. We welcome back our alumni families from First Pres, the community and our new families too. Looking forward to another great year!



Preparing for our lemonade fundraiser at MissionFactory

Children's Ministries Looks Ahead To Fall

The start of the program year is always an exciting time as we return to familiar routines, seeing familiar faces at church, and taking advantage of opportunities to reengage at church! Children's Ministries has a lot to look forward to this fall and we hope to see you there!

Sunday school begins on September 11 at 10:30 am. 3- and 4-year old preschoolers will meet for Sunday school in the Green Room located on the main floor of the CE Wing. Preschool Sunday school is a positive and fun environment for our youngest learners to begin their faith journey.

K-5th graders will meet on the upper level of the CE Wing, starting with a Gathering Time followed by activities in classrooms. This year, our elementary grades will be combined into two classes – a K-2nd grade class and a 3rd-5th grade class. We're looking forward to making new friends in different grades and seeing where this change will take us.

Nursery care is available for infants – preschoolers from 9:15-11:45 am during Sunday morning worship services. Nursery care will be offered in the Blue Room, located on the main floor of the CE Wing.

Third graders will receive their Bibles in church on Sunday, October 16; Children's Ministries will team up with PDO again this Halloween for our third annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 29; and we're looking forward to co-hosting our annual Church Breakfast with Youth Ministries on Sunday, November 6.

All these exciting activities and more will be described in the Children's Ministries Weekly News email newsletter. If you are not receiving the Weekly News, please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org. It's a great way to stay on top of all the things Children's Ministries is up to!



Summer At The Loaves & Fishes Garden

The summer sun and rain showers blessed the vegetables growing in our Loaves & Fishes Garden and provided lots of opportunities for our young gardeners participating in Summer Sunday school. We began the summer by having the kids help us plant seeds of all sorts and learning about the plants that had already started growing. Since then, we've watched as our beans, peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, watermelon, sunflowers and herbs have just taken off! We also do the hard work of gardening – weeding and watering!



Harvesting is a favorite task each time we meet, so is weighing what we've picked! At press time, the Loaves & Fishes Garden has yielded over 90 pounds of produce! All that the garden produces is given away during our weekly free produce market and used in Summer Supper meals.



Working in the garden at MissionFactory

One of the Best Weeks of the Year!

Highlights from VBS and MissionFactory

When we opened our doors on July 11, we welcomed an amazing group of preschoolers – 6th graders for a week of fun, fellowship, and service.

Preschoolers – 4th graders enjoyed this year's VBS theme, Food Truck Party, and all the awesome stories in the Bible of God providing for God's people. The groups enjoyed games, snacks, crafts, and Bible stories. Especially fun and impactful this year was our new mission station where kids learned how we can help provide for God's people through community gardens. We started and ended each day with high energy in the Sanctuary where we learned new songs, made new friends, and raised money for a community garden in Harlem, NY called Harlem Grown.

On the other side of the building, our 5th and 6th graders really engaged with the theme of Feeding People during MissionFactory. From meeting children's author and founder of Harlem Grown, Tony Hillery, to participating in a Hunger Banquet, to visiting Farmhouse School and harvesting and cooking their own lunch from an organic garden, the tweens were immersed in what it means to provide for others through faithful stewardship of the earth's resources and learning about the forces that cause food insecurity and unequal access to healthy food.

Our tweens also hosted a "Stop & Drop" food drive on the front steps of the church, the proceeds of which were donated to the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Thank you to all who stopped and dropped off donations to support their food drive. The kids in both MissionFactory and VBS raised enough money through their fundraisers to make generous contributions to both Harlem Grown (NY) and Gardeners (Chicago), two organizations that are making a positive difference by turning vacant and neglected land into community gardens.



Making music at VBS

Summer Session Notes

By Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session

Session Summer Highlights from the approved minutes from the June 12, 2022 Meeting of Session and unapproved minutes from the August 14, 2022 Meeting of Session. Note instead of a regular stated meeting in July, Session held a Special Meeting of Session.

The Session approved the recommendation from the APNC to search for a “unicorn” by conducting two simultaneous searches to find either an ordained minister or Youth Director for the open position in Youth Ministries. The APNC will move forward with the next step in the process to create two separate MIFs for Session approval.

The Session approved the Mission Committee’s motion to display two Pride Flags in the flowerpots outside door 1 annually during the month of June.

The Session approved the Worship Music and Sacrament Committee’s motion before Session to hold one service at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary on Sunday, December 25, 2022 and one service at 10:30 am in the Chapel on Sunday, January 1, 2023.

The Session approved change in date of September Session meeting from September 11, 2022 to September 18, 2022.

The Session approved call for Congregational Meeting on September 25, 2022 for the purpose of electing new officers.

The Session approved by consensus that the Admin & Finance Committee move forward with creation of a Task Force from within our membership to consider the potential, viability, and appropriateness of selling the parking lot on the East side of Dunton and exploring alternative revenue-generating options for the CE Wing.

Mark Smith, Chair of APNC along with Kelly Dean and Brian Landwehr, members of APNC, gave an excellent presentation summarizing the work they conducted over the summer. Todd Hjermstad was hired as a professional focus



group facilitator to conduct five focus groups to gather data on the leadership needs for the First Pres Youth Program. The APNC presented Todd’s report along with the APNC work. The APNC presented its recommendation to Session and Session approved. Session thanked the APNC for their hard work, dedication, and for the new work they will begin now with Session’s approval of the recommendation.

Lindsey Landwehr-Fasules, Board of Trustees President, updated Session on the construction project of the Hallway and Chapel and answered questions.

Gary Gehm, chair of Admin & Finance reported on financial status and proposed creation of a Task Force, which Session approved.

Steve Olszewski, Chair of Task Force on Restructuring the Financial Foundation of First Pres, gave a status report and shared next steps.

Liz Thompson, chair of All-Church Nominating Committee reported she found a replacement for Deacon Stephanie Levinsky who had resigned.

Cynthia Hiskes, Chair of Personnel Committee, reported for the Personnel Committee.

The next meeting of Session is Sunday, September 18, 2022 in the Parlor at 11:30 am.

Please Consider Paying Your Per Capita Apportionment

A friendly reminder to all members to make your per capita payment for 2022. As mentioned earlier this year, each year every Presbyterian Church is apportioned a share of the ecclesiastical expenses of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly. These activities are important in driving key initiatives in the Presbyterian Church beyond Arlington Heights. This year the apportionment is \$36.00 per member.

We would very much appreciate your per capita payment for each church member in your family. Your assistance with

this payment allows us to utilize our General Fund dollars in supporting the vision, ministry and mission of First Pres.

Please consider contributing your share of the per capita. Please send payment to the church office or you can make your payment through the Online Giving page on our website www.firstpresab.org.



Scan the QR code for a direct link to our giving page

First Presbyterian Church Financial Update

Below is a summary of the church's income for the month of June, 2022 and Year-to-Date, 2022. We encourage everyone to give regularly and generously. Thank you for your good stewardship!

	June			Year to Date				
	June 2022 Actual	June 2021 Actual	Actual vs Prior Year	H1 2022 Actual	H1 2021 Actual	Actual vs Prior Year	2022 Budget	Actual vs Budget
Operating Income Sub-Total	82,700	98,299	(15,599)	629,986	617,170	12,816	633,000	(3,014)
Operating Expense Sub-Total	128,558	115,888	12,670	702,646	620,856	81,790	681,859	(20,787)
Operating Income/(Deficit)	(45,858)	(17,589)	(28,269)	(72,660)	(3,686)	(68,974)	(48,859)	(23,801)
ANNUAL BUDGET 1,266,000								

Chapel Construction

During 2022, the facilities team has been diligently working with contractors to create a new worship space in our historic Chapel building. While we hoped to be complete and ready to open on September 11, many supply and service issues mean that the opening will be delayed. A new date will be announced when we get firmer information on supply shipments. We regret that we will not be able to gather on September 11 in our newly designed Chapel. We look forward to the day when the space will be open for all to enjoy. If you have questions concerning the project please contact Michele Holifield.

UPDATE ON THE CE BUILDING

Over the summer the trustees and facilities team worked to continue improvements and updates in the CE Building. The building was originally constructed in 1961. While some updates have occurred in the past 60 years, it has become

increasingly important that we address some immediate needs.

- The domestic water lines are being replaced throughout the CE Building. Over the past several years we have experienced many leaks causing some damage to ceilings and floors.
- The lower level of the CE building adjacent to Fellowship Hall has a new look. A polished concrete floor, new ceiling and new lighting was installed during the month of August.
- An original heating system in Fellowship Hall will be replaced. Replacing this heating coil will allow us to also add a cooling unit providing air conditioning to Fellowship Hall.

We look forward to sharing with you other updates to the CE building that will provide a welcoming and hospitable gathering place for the congregation and wider community. If you have any questions concerning these or other projects in the building, please contact Michele Holifield.

New Bulk Permit Significantly Reduces our Postage Cost

You may have noticed we have returned to mailing *The Chimes* monthly. We have received feedback from many of you that getting this in the mail is much improved over receiving it digitally (you are actually reading it!). We can do this in a low-cost way because we applied for and received a non-profit bulk mail permit with the post office last year. The current first-class postage rate is \$.60 for a piece of mail, but we only pay about \$.12 a unit with our permit. That means it costs us about \$67 a month to mail *The Chimes* with the permit vs. a cost of \$336 if we were to mail first-class. That is an

annual savings of \$2,690. We also use this permit beyond *The Chimes*. Just last month, we mailed a reminder about the per capita apportionment and used our bulk mail permit. It cost us \$70 to send the reminder letter and we have already received an additional \$3,600 towards our per capita apportionment for 2022. Despite being in a digital world, one of the most effective ways for us to communicate with you is through "snail mail". The bulk mail permit allows us to do so in a very cost-effective way.

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

The CHIMES

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September 2022

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