



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

October 2022

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

From the Pastor Emerging Patterns

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff



If you were here for my sermon on September 11, you probably know that we stayed with Christine and Charlie Rowley. They are voracious readers with numerous bookshelves around their house. Every so often, when I needed a break from writing, I would pick up a book to read, one of which was about

severe volcanic eruptions throughout the history of the earth.

Perhaps one of the most catastrophic that impacted humans occurred around 70,000 B.C. A volcano called Toba, located on the island of Sumatra in Indonesia, erupted. This eruption ejected roughly 650 miles of vaporized rock into the air. It is the largest volcanic eruption humans have ever experienced. The human population, which was concentrated solely in Africa at this point in history, plummeted to less than 5,000 people. Humans were on the brink of extinction.

There was so much ash, dust and vapor in the air that Toba likely dimmed the sun for six years, disrupting seasonal rains and choking off streams. Berries, fruits, trees and African game became scarce, causing the homo sapien population to plummet, which raises an interesting question: How was this small group of humans able to survive this global catastrophe where others perished?

It's not that they were the strongest or the fastest. In this instance, they were the smartest. As the food supply ran short, they moved swiftly towards the coastal regions, whereas others were waiting around to see if the food supply would recover, which it didn't. This small group of humans could see

a pattern that others could not see—the changing weather from the volcanic ash was going to fundamentally alter their habitat and food supply.

This may have been the first time in history that the human mind was the most advantageous survival tool on the planet. Those who survived this mass extinction are the proverbial Adam and Eves from which we descend. Their genes are the basis of our genes and they have something pretty spectacular built into their genes that they passed onto us—the ability to survive under incredibly harsh conditions. Indeed, it would seem that the more difficult the conditions, the more our minds are prepared to engineer a way around the problem we are facing.

Reading about this event felt serendipitous. While my

family was travelling over in Europe during my sabbatical, we experienced the heatwave that was engulfing much of the northern hemisphere. Florence, Italy was where the heat was the worst. During our time there, Florence experienced the

hottest days ever recorded. One of the issues with Florence is that there are no trees in the city, which means there is no foliage to deflect the direct sunlight. Combine this with the cobblestone streets that literally absorb all of the heat



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Continuing through Sunday, November 13, we 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.



October 2 | *Back to the Future*

Scriptures: Isaiah 43:15-21; Galatians 5:2-6
Celebration of Worldwide Communion
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir

October 9 | *Groundhog Day*

Scriptures: Mark 11:15-18; Genesis 4:1-16
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir

October 16 | *Unrealistic Expectations*

Scriptures: James 5:1-6; Titus 1:7-9
Commissioning of Sunday School Teachers (9:00 am)
Bible Sunday for 3rd and 8th graders (10:30 am)
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Men’s Chorus & Children’s Choir

October 23 | *Numbing Solution*

Scriptures: Mark 8:34-37; Ecclesiastes 8:14-17
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir & Chancel Hand Bell Choir

October 30 | *Ghost Stories*

Scriptures: John 15:12-17; Matthew 26:69-75
Recognition of Members Lost
♪ 9:00 am – Compass ♪ 10:30 am – Chancel Choir

Worship Highlights

October 2 – World Communion Sunday

The Worship, Music & Sacraments committee reviewed our current communion practice and agreed we were not ready



to start passing the elements like we did prior to COVID. However, we all agreed that

something was missing when taking communion together. The thing missing was the intentionality of sharing each element separately. So, starting with our next communion on World Communion Sunday, we will still use the single serving communion elements but will share each of the elements one at a time as directed by the pastors. That means please be ready to open and consume the cracker portion first but then wait to drink the juice until directed by Alex and Judy!

October 16 – Bible Sunday

We commission our Sunday School teachers at the 9:00 am service and our 3rd & 8th graders will be receiving new Bibles at the 10:30 am service. We invite you to celebrate with them by bringing your own Bible on this special day.



Bite-Sized Music Opportunity

On **Wednesday, November 2**, our church will hold a community wide **All Saints’ Day Service at 7:00 pm**. We will be offering **Gabriel Fauré’s Requiem** with choir and orchestra. The choir will be made up of singers from our Chancel Choir and singers from other churches in Arlington Heights. We are extending the invitation to anyone in the congregation that would like to sing for the service. Membership in the Chancel Choir is not required. Plan to attend the following rehearsals:

Thursdays, October 6, 13, 20, 27 from 7:00 – 7:30 pm and Saturday, October 29 from 10:00 am – Noon

Only the Saturday morning rehearsal is mandatory for participation. We hope you can participate in as many Thursday evening rehearsals, as possible, but we understand and absolutely respect the weekly schedules everyone needs to maintain.

We will meet at 5:30 pm on the evening of Wednesday, November 2nd, for a warm-up/rehearsal, and the service will begin at 7:00 pm. If you are interested in participation, please contact Adam Hendrickson.

2022-2023 Concert Series



Bruce Blanck and Friends

Sunday, October 9, 4:00 pm

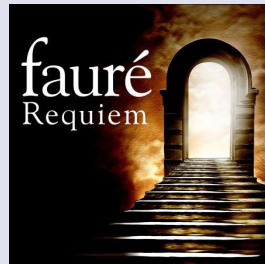
The opening concert of our series features longtime member of First Pres, Bruce Blanck. He brings his inimitable jazz piano stylings coupled with other musicians. The program will include sacred and secular selections.



All Saints' Day Service

Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 pm

The Concert Series and the Arlington Heights Ministerial Association provide a community wide All Saints' Day service with a presentation of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem. The choir will be made up of singers from First Pres and neighboring Arlington Heights churches. They will be joined by soloists and orchestra. Free will offering will support the Arlington Heights Emergency Assistance Fund. *Contact: Adam Hendrickson*



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



Wednesday, October 5, 12:10 pm

Christopher Urban, organ;

Chuck Beech, piano

Favorite hymns for piano and organ.

Wednesday, November 2, 12:10 pm

Christopher Urban, organ

Organ music with harp, chimes and carillon.



All concerts livestreamed at firstpresah.org

New Addition to the Organ

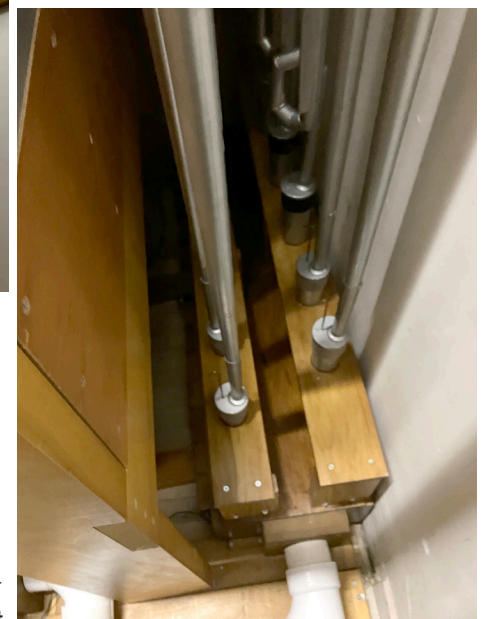
Over the last 15 years, we have made several tonal additions to the organ. This summer we had our latest addition, a new 16-foot Contre Trompette (French trumpet) stop, installed in the swell division of the organ. This new addition adds strong fundamental reed tone to the organ. We sourced the pipes from a Schantz organ from the early 1980's that is undergoing a rebuild. Because our organ is a Schantz built in 1972, the pipe work blends seamlessly in our tonal palette. The used pipe work came at significant savings to new pipe work. This addition was made possible by memorial gifts in memory of Betty Lou Bukowski.



This almost completes the tonal additions to the swell organ. We have one remaining addition, the bottom octave of the Oboe, and the swell division will be complete. If you would like to hear the new stop or have interest in helping us complete the Oboe, please reach out to Chris Urban. We are truly blessed to have such a fine pipe organ at First Pres to enhance our worship services and concerts.



◀ Looking up to the tallest 16 foot pipe



Bottom of the pipes ▶ sitting in the wind chest



Restaurant Walk October

Our popular Restaurant Walk program returns for a fourth session, meeting at Hey Nonnny. Come to meet some new faces and support a local restaurant. Scan the QR code or call the church office to sign up.



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

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



Concert Series: Bruce Blanck & Friends Sunday, October 9, 4:00 pm

First Pres member Bruce Blanck brings his inimitable jazz piano stylings coupled with other musicians.



Service Saturday Saturday, October 15, 12:30 pm

We will meet at First Pres at 12:30 pm for lunch and fellowship, and travel together to our work site. We will work from 2:00 – 4:00 pm with Gardeneers. More details on page 8.



Sunday School Teacher Commissioning and Bible Presentation Sunday, October 16

Join us in worship as we commission our Sunday School teachers at 9:00 am and our 3rd and 8th graders receive their Bibles at 10:30 am.



God's Honest Truth: The Story You Always Wanted to Tell Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 pm

An evening of storytelling where members of our community talk about important moments from their lives.



Halloween Trunk or Treat Saturday, October 29, 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Join Children's Ministries and First Pres PDO in the West parking lot as we invite children in our community to trick or treat from the decorated trunks of our cars.



Wednesday @ Noon Wednesday, November 2, 12:10 pm

Christopher Urban presents organ music with harp, chimes and carillon.



All Saints' Day Service Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 pm

Chancel Choir, orchestra and soloists present Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem* in a community All Saints' Day service. Join us for dinner at 6:00 pm.

Family NIGHT

An Evening for Everyone!

Family Night has returned for our seventh year. We are excited for this important community event! Our first gathering was Wednesday, September 14, with a free of charge dinner and full programming. We are always in need of volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean-up our meal. If you are interested in helping, please contact Michele Holifield.

Full programming for all ages

- Engage & Encounter Adult Education
- Middle School Youth Group grades 6-8
- Kids Connect grades K-5
- Children's Choir grades K-5

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.

Fall Kick-Off

Despite a rainy day on September 11, we had a blast at our fall kick-off! Great food, fun and fellowship was had by all.



Food and face paint!



Petting zoo



Pony Rides



Games

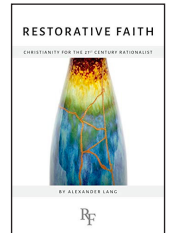


Fellowship

Family Night Highlights

ADULT EDUCATION

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. More details about the class on page 10.



GOD'S HONEST TRUTH

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 pm

The Story You Always Wanted to Tell



Do you have a story you have always wanted to tell? Then we have the evening for you! We are looking for five to six story tellers to tell their favorite story. Pastor Alex will work with you to craft the story, just drop him an email or find him on Sunday morning.

If you aren't telling a story, plan to attend to support members of our community as they talk about an important moment from their life. Honest, funny, heartwarming, emotional and brave, every story opens a door that brings our community closer together.

Stephen Ministry

Christ caring for people through people

Stephen Ministry is a program that provides one-to-one care for those going through significant life transitions. A Stephen Minister is one who has the natural gifts of compassion and care and adds about fifty hours of training to those natural gifts. This provides them with the ability to build a confidential relationship with someone who is experiencing a life transition – a serious illness, a move, a new disability, a divorce, children leaving home, a marriage are among the things that are considered a significant life transition.

A Stephen Minister will meet with you once a week for approximately one hour. They will listen, offer guiding questions, and provide support. The relationship can last anywhere from three months to five years. It depends on the situation. This is not meant to take the place of therapeutic counseling or other interventions recommended. It is simply an additional level of support offered from one Christian to another in a time of need.

Stephen Ministry came to First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights in the late 70's under the direction of Dr. Jim Martin. Following the death of Jim Martin and under the leadership of successive pastors, the Stephen Ministry



program dwindled. However, when Alex Lang was called to serve our church there was a strong desire to rebuild our Stephen Ministry program. Pastor Judy Hockenberry, Beth Drost, and the late Larry Hayes traveled to Pittsburgh, PA for leadership training in August of 2015. We trained our first group of Stephen Ministers in 2016 and our second group finished training in 2018. We currently have 10 well-trained Stephen Ministers. During this time, Ray Powers, having received training as a Stephen Minister, was trained as a Stephen Leader.

Covid had a big impact on our ministry, since it is truly a ministry of presence, and we simply weren't allowed to be physically present to many people during 2020 and 2021.

We are now re-energizing our Stephen Ministry program and we want to make sure that you know that Stephen Ministers are here for you – any of you and all of you!

If you are going through a life transition or struggling with an issue and you'd like someone you can trust with confidentiality to listen as you talk through and work through this transition, call Pastor Judy at church. She will be happy to find a Stephen Minister to accompany you on your journey. This program is completely free of charge and completely confidential.

Social Events for The Bridge

The Bridge is a group of parents and singles, 40s & 50s plus. We'd love to see you at one of our upcoming social events. Watch Church Life for more details or contact Kelly Dean at k_p_dean@hotmail.com.

Game Watch Patio Party

Sunday, October 30, 12:00 pm

Bears (v. Cowboys) at Vince & Heidi Wiltse's. Guests may bring a small appetizer and BYOB. They will also have food and drinks.



Sanctuary Flowers

Here is your chance to honor or remember someone special in your life and add a little beauty to a worship service on a special Sunday. Presbyterian Women will be available in the Narthex (lobby) on Sundays October 2 and 9 after both services to accept your donations. You may choose a date and dedicate the flowers or just donate by listing your request in the memo section of your check. Suggested donation is \$30, but any amount is appreciated. Orders can also be placed online (select PW-Flowers-Sunday on the dropdown fund menu). A memorial will be in the Sunday Bulletin on the date you select. Thank you for adding a little beauty to our Sundays!



From the Pastor Emerging Patterns

Continued from page 1

and the temperature on the ground was around 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

Florence was hardly unique. Temperatures soared in countries all around Europe. Three rivers in France went completely dry for the first time ever. In India temperatures topped out at 121 degrees causing thousands of deaths from heat stroke. Clearly, there is a pattern emerging that threatens to fundamentally alter our habitat and food supply.

I think most people can feel that mother earth is out of equilibrium. There is an imbalance. Rather than the right amount of heat or the right amount of rain, there's either too much or too little. All of this has forced me to ask the question: Are we approaching another Toba event that threatens the long-term survival of our species?

Humans are notoriously bad at addressing these existential questions because we feel powerless to do anything about them. With nearly 8 billion people on the planet, my actions feel insignificant. Indeed, you are but one drop in an ocean of people. However, what the Christian faith teaches us is that you must always take into account how your actions impact the larger community around you. As a Christian, you are challenged to individually sacrifice for the benefit of the community. This type of sacrifice is, of course, what Jesus does for us and it is the example by which we are called to live our lives.

Jesus' message is that your sacrifice for the larger community does matter. Rather than view your life as but a drop in the ocean, Paul tells us that we are part of a larger body. I think of each human as one cell in a much larger organism. The organism can't survive without you. You play a critical role in keeping the whole organism alive. In other words, you are a critical part of bringing this planet back into equilibrium. Your actions and sacrifices matter for the long-term survival of the coming generations.

I was inspired to write this article because Christine and Charlie Rowley, the family with whom we lived, hand planted 5000 tree seedlings on their property. Nobody asked them to do this. They didn't tell me this information to brag. I asked them what they were doing over the weekend and they told me they were going to finish their project. Their example is what all of us need to be doing for mother earth. Her resources have given us such a rich and remarkable life. Now we have to make sure that we are using that same ingenuity that created all of our modern comforts to give back, because when mother earth can breath easy, so can we.

Therefore, I implore each of you to take your Christian duty seriously. Ask yourself how you can sacrifice what you have to benefit this planet that has given us life. Together, if each one of us is willing to take a step in the right direction of helping the earth to better cope with our presence, then I believe we can reverse these alarming trends and create a livable earth for future generations.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women News

Family to Family for Christopher House

We once again will be able to adopt a family to buy Christmas gifts for each member of that family, for those who love to shop. The sign up will start in November.

We also will have the option to donate money to **Thrive Fund**, on the church's website which Christopher House uses for clients in emergency situations.

Any questions, call Liz Thompson, 847-537-9087.



PW Meetings

Morning Circles 1, 2 and 3 meet monthly on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 am in the Parlor. Join Circles 1, 2 and 3 on Wednesday, October 19 for Bible study and fellowship.

Evening Circle 7 meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm in the Parlor. Join Circle 7 on Tuesday, October 18.

Annual Collection for Firman Community Services & Christopher House

Sundays, October 2, 9 and 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!

Peace and Global Witness Offering

On World Communion Sunday, October 2, we will receive the **Peace and Global Witness Offering**. Through this offering we celebrate that we are all connected, and we are called to extend Christ's peace to all. Through your contribution to the Peace and Global Witness Offering you are participating in our commitment as followers of Jesus to build a more just and peaceful world.

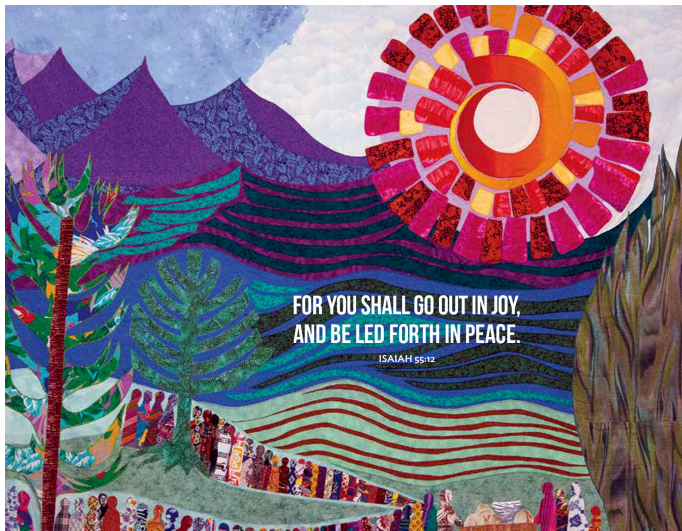
Our congregation retains 25% of the offering to be used in our community. This year the Mission Committee is committing our offering to support Chalice House. First Pres is currently a community partner with Chalice House, a ministry working with Interfaith Community for Detained Immigrants to provide housing for families seeking asylum.

In their first two years, the Chalice House model was so successful that it is being used as a national model for other organizations seeking to assist families seeking asylum.

You can contribute to the Peace and Global Witness Offering online or envelopes are available in the pew racks. Thank you for your generous contributions to spreading peace throughout our community and the world.



Scan the QR code to Donate



First Pres members volunteering with Chalice House. They are setting up a home for an immigrant family.



gardeneers
growing school gardens



Service Saturday

Saturday October 15 12:30 – 4:00 pm Spend the afternoon volunteering at an urban garden

On Saturday October 15, Service Saturday will travel to North Lawndale to volunteer with Gardeneers at Spaulding Memorial Garden. We will meet at First Pres at 12:30 pm for lunch and fellowship, and travel together to our work site. We will work from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the garden. Work will include fall harvesting and garden clean-up. This is an all-ages activity – friends and neighbors are also welcome to join us. Please sign-up by scanning the QR code.

Gardeneers was created in 2013 to address social and racial justice in the form of school garden education. Through garden education, they address food inequity in the city and across the county. They also promote the growing of one's own food. Gardeneers has gardens at schools throughout the westside and southside of Chicago. To find out more about Gardeneers visit gardeneers.org



Scan the QR code or call the church office to sign up for Service Saturday.



Help Make A Home for an Immigrant Family

First Pres is moving closer to living out our calling to welcome the stranger. We will be working with Refugee One over the next several months to complete mentorship training and gathering items to create a welcoming home for a new family.

How can you help?

- During the month of October, visit our giving tree to pick a leaf. Each leaf will describe an item needed to help us make a new home. We will be collecting these items throughout the month of October and November. In addition to specific items we will accept donations of gift cards to Ikea, Target and Jewel. Opportunities to pick a leaf will be available on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings at Family Night. For questions on donations please contact Michele Holifield, Amy Hempleman or Amy Lumsden.
- When we receive word that our family will arrive at O'Hare we will have about 5 days notice – possibly less. In that time we will need to set-up their new home. First Pres is not responsible for securing the apartment, but we are responsible for setting up the apartment once it is secured. This might include cleaning, furniture set-up, decorating, stocking supplies and food. If you would like to be on a list to possibly help during this time please contact Michele Holifield.

It takes a village, and the Mission Committee is thankful for all of those in this congregation that have supported this mission.

Hate Has No Home Here

At the September Session meeting, First Pres took a bold stand against hate speech in all forms by joining Cook County United Against Hate (CCUAH), an initiative launched this spring by Cook County Commissioner, Scott Britton.

By joining CCUAH, First Pres pledges to unite against hate and join with other partner organizations in Cook County to welcome all people regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, class, or other background. We will display the CCUAH logo on our

PADS Site Opens October 4

The First Pres PADS shelter will open on Tuesday evening, October 4. Over the past two and a half years the PADS shelter program has faced many challenges, and we are thankful for all the volunteers at First Pres who have allowed our shelter to remain open.

We are expecting the current hotel program to end during the month of October, which will mean that the number of people looking for shelter will increase. We would like to be able to welcome thirty guests each Tuesday evening. In order to do this, we need both volunteers for Tuesdays into Wednesday mornings, donations of items and financial donations. We are especially in need of people to volunteer for our third shift which is from 3am – 7am. Scan QR codes below or call the church office to volunteer and donate.



Scan the QR code to Donate



Scan the QR code to Volunteer

church door and website. We will also make resources available through our website and may serve as a host site for events in the future.

Stone Catchers, with the support of our Mission Committee, will be actively involved in sharing CCUAH information and opportunities with the congregation.



Engage & ENCOUNTER

Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

THE MAJOR PROPHETS

Sundays through November 20

9:00 am / Boardroom / Dr. Donald Kaasch

Our Sunday morning class, taught by Dr. Donald Kaasch, 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

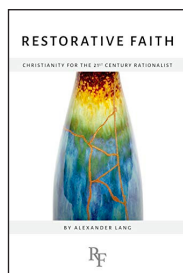
Wednesdays through December 14

7:00 pm / Sanctuary / Rev. Alex Lang

Our Wednesday Engage and Encounter programming will be led by Rev. Alex Lang, 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.

The book can be purchased on Amazon. 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!

No class on Wednesday October 26, (God's Honest Truth), November 2 (Concert) and November 23 (Thanksgiving).



Scan the QR code to purchase Restorative Faith

Coffee Grounds

For parents and singles, 40s & 50s plus. Sundays 10:30 – 11:30 am on the lower level of the Education Wing in room 110/112. 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.

October 2-23

Freedom: Rescue from Cokesbury

This fall, our Bible lessons follow the theme "Freedom." The lessons explore the concept of salvation and God's gracious acts in redeeming us. They challenge those who have experienced God's gracious salvation to work for freedom and justice on behalf of others. They acknowledge that as we do, we will encounter those whose beliefs and values are different from our own, so they encourage us in ways to remain faithful to our beliefs while we act as neighbors to others.

October 30 - November 20

Christianity's Family Tree

What Other Christians Believe and Why by Adam Hamilton. Adam Hamilton presents a welcoming, inspiring vision of eight Christian denominations and faith traditions. Comparing the Christian family to our own extended families, he contends that each denomination has a unique, valuable perspective to offer on the Christian faith. For each group, he gives a brief history, outlines major beliefs, and describes some things we can learn from that tradition to strengthen our own Christian faith.

Monday Morning Men's Bible Study

Join the Monday Morning Men's Bible Study Group! We meet every Monday at 8:00 am via Zoom and in person. If you are interested in joining the group or if you have questions, contact Bill Dillon at crdillon@sbcglobal.net or Dave Berkow at dwbberkow@att.net. Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Youth Sunday School Update

This fall, due to low volunteers, and a desire to rethink Sunday school engagement, we are going to be combining Y-search and high school Sunday school classes. Both groups will be meeting in the High School Youth Lounge for our 10:30-11:30 am class. High schoolers will have the opportunity to lean in to elevated leadership and service roles while building relationships with middle school youth, and both groups will still have opportunities for break out discussion with their peers.

The theme for Sunday School this year will be creation care, and in addition to our normal Bible exploration lessons, our youth will be leading our congregation in exploring what we can do to become a PC(USA) certified earth care congregation.



Upcoming Youth Events



October 14: Middle School Lock-In

Middle schoolers are invited to come and enjoy twelve straight hours of fun, games, movies and snacks (and maybe some sleep) in the church building! The lock-in will run from 7:00 pm-7:00 am.

October 16: Bible Sunday

On October 16th, Confirmands will be recognized and presented with Bibles during 10:30 am worship. Families are invited to attend and support their youth in this special moment.

November 11-13: High School Retreat

High schoolers will be headed up to Camp Edwards to enjoy a refreshing weekend bonding, enjoying nature, playing games and reflecting on the year so far.

November 20: Wise and Sage Dinner

Be on the lookout for forthcoming sign-ups for high school youth to cook, serve and clean up at the Wise and Sage dinner, where we serve our Wise and Sage members (those who are 60+) a Thanksgiving meal.

December 18: Cookie Walk

Cookie Walk is coming up on December 18th! Be on the lookout in November for sign-ups to bake cookies for this annual youth missions fundraiser.

January 6: Jan's Jam

The iconic all night bus lock-in for all youth is coming back in 2023! More details to come in November.

Children's Ministries

A GREAT START TO THE PROGRAM YEAR!

It was wonderful to welcome so many children to Sunday school as we began our new program year on Sunday, September 11. Our 3 and 4-year olds had a fun morning of meeting their teachers and classmates, while also exploring the Green Room and learning what Sunday school will be like.

Our K-5th graders enjoyed much of the same – meeting teachers and shepherds, and getting reacquainted with friends. We also took some time to make some decorations for our gathering space, as well as making beautiful greeting cards to share with loved ones.

Our nursery was a busy place as we greeted babies and toddlers to the Blue Room for playtime while parents enjoyed worship in the Sanctuary.

We are looking forward to a great year of learning and growing! Thank you to all the volunteers who make programs like Sunday school and the nursery possible each Sunday!

BIBLE SUNDAY FOR 3RD AND 8TH GRADERS

On October 16, Children's and Youth Ministries will continue the tradition of giving our 3rd and 8th graders Bibles during worship. It is a privilege that we look forward to every year. Putting God's word into the hands of our children and youth encourages curiosity and empowers them to question and seek their own answers to life's big questions. As they continue to forge ahead on their faith journeys, their Bibles can help light their way.



3rd and 8th graders will receive their Bibles during the 9:00 am worship service. Families are encouraged to attend to show support for their children as they mark this special occasion.

TRUNK OR TREAT – FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Children's Ministries and First Pres PDO and Preschool invite families of all ages to our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat event this fall! Trunk or Treat will be held in our west parking lot on Saturday, October 29 from 1:00-3:00 pm.

Decorated car trunks will create a festive atmosphere as kids trick-or-treat from each car. If you are interested in participating by decorating your car trunk, please

contact Katy Allen. This is your opportunity to get creative and transform your car into something Halloween-y!

Allergen-free treats will be available at a number of cars, and will be designated by a teal pumpkin in their display.

Bring your friends and family for an afternoon of ghoulish, old-fashioned Halloween fun! Trunk or Treat is open to the community and is free of charge.



Christmas Camp

Plans are underway for a new winter program for kids, preschool – 5th grade, called Christmas Camp. Christmas Camp will incorporate the fun of Vacation Bible School, including music, drama, and crafts, while also preparing for the Children's Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Camp will coincide with Family Night on Wednesday nights, beginning on November 30. Families are invited to enjoy Family Night dinner in Fellowship Hall from 6:00-6:45 pm, followed by Christmas Camp from 6:45-8:00 pm in the CE Wing.

For the 4-weeks of Christmas Camp, Kids Connect will be on hiatus. Children who normally participate in Kids Connect are encouraged to participate in Christmas Camp. Kids Connect will return after the New Year on January 11.

Online registration for Christmas Camp will begin in early November. Participation in the Children's Christmas Pageant is not required to join Christmas Camp. Christmas Camp will be open to First Pres family, friends, and the community.

For more details, please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org.



*New for
Preschoolers – 5th graders!*

Join us during Family Night for a four-week program of music, drama and crafts as we prepare for our Children's Christmas Pageant at the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service.

*It's like VBS
at Christmastime!*

When: Wednesdays
6:00 – 6:45 pm
6:45 – 8:00 pm

November 30, December 7,
December 14 and December 21
Family Night Dinner (*optional*)
Christmas Camp

Pageant: Saturday, December 24 · 4:00 pm

Participation in at least three Wednesday evenings is encouraged so students can learn their music and parts.

For more details, contact Katy Allen. Registration begins in November.



We are off to a fun, busy start to the school year! Classes began on September 12th. We learned about apples, sunflowers, new school songs and all of the names of our new classmates. In October, we start looking forward to fall fun and upcoming Halloween crafts, activities and celebrations. Hoping to see many familiar faces at Trunk or Treat on October 29!



Member News

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Andy and Sam Sturgeon — on the birth of their son,
Kai Evan Sturgeon

WEDDING

Robert Gehm & Lisa Nitti — September 17, 2022

BAPTISM

Hudson Eric Zyks — born March 12, 2020, son of
Ryan and Rebecca Zyks

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.

Do you need a Keycard?

Keycards for church access are available to church members as friends who need them to gain access to the building when the main office is not open. The following might be some reasons that you need a keycard. If one of these is applicable to you, and you do not have a keycard please contact Michele Holifield to have one issued.

1. You are an officer or committee chair and need access to attend meetings and complete other assignments.
2. You attend meetings or other activities in the evening or weekends other than Sunday morning. (i.e. – Choirs, committee meetings). Please note you do not need a keycard to access the building for Family Night.

3. You are the parent of a child or youth and would like to enter at the Vail entrance (Door 6) on Sunday mornings.
4. You are a High School youth who attends High School youth group on Sunday evenings.



September Session Notes

By Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session

Highlights from the unapproved minutes from the September 18, 2022 meeting of Session.

Session approved the Mission Committee and Stone Catchers' motion to adopt the **Cook County Against Hate Pledge** as follows:

I/we pledge to unite against hate and join with my/our community to welcome all people regardless of their race, religion, ethnicity, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, class, or other background.

I/we pledge to:

- *Actively learn from those with lived experiences that are different from mine*
- *Question hateful acts when I/we see or hear them*
- *Educate myself/ourselves on how to safely interrupt hate*
- *Support efforts towards social justice*
- *Inspire others to take this pledge*

Session approved the Worship Music & Sacraments (WMS) Committee motion for the following 2023 Communion dates:

January 8	First Sunday of New Year / Epiphany / Baptism of Our Lord
February 22	Ash Wednesday
February 26	First Sunday in Lent
April 6	Maundy Thursday
May 7	Eighth Grade Celebration Sunday
May 28	Pentecost
July 23	Mid-Summer
October 1	World Communion Sunday
December 3	First Sunday in Advent
December 24	Christmas Eve Service (10:00 pm only)



Session agreed that at the start of each worship service, the pastors and congregation will resume speaking the welcoming statement, which was previously approved by WMS & Session.

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

Gary Gehm, Chair of Administration & Finance along with Steve Olszewski, Chair of Task Force on Strengthening the Financial Foundation of First Pres gave a detailed status report and reviewed finances, which will inform budget discussions in the coming months.

Lindsey Landwehr-Fasules, Board of Trustees President, updated Session on the construction project of the hallway and Chapel and answered questions. Session requested that Lindsey provide an update and summary of the hallway and Chapel projects to the congregation at a time coinciding with the reopening of the hallway and Chapel.

Steve Olszewski, Chair of Task Force on Restructuring the Financial Foundation of First Pres, will provide a summary paragraph to be included in with the fall stewardship campaign.

The CHIMES

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October 2022

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