



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights



December 2022

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

From the Pastor Christmas Tableaus

by Rev. Alex Lang, Head of Staff



This is my tenth year preaching the four Sundays in Advent. Over the last nine years, I've experimented with all kinds of different approaches to Advent. Since I like to produce original content for each sermon, coming up with something new for Advent every year can be challenging because we are

limited to a handful of texts. Therefore, back in February of 2022, when I was reading over the scriptures associated with Advent, something popped out at me that I had never seen before—every story hinges on an object that facilitates that story coming to life.

This doesn't just happen once. It happens over and over again, which led me to envision our Advent series for 2022 called *Christmas Tableaus*. A tableau is a fancy word for illustration, but what makes a tableau unique is that it is an illustration with religious overtones. If you've ever happened upon a tableau scene, it's usually based off of a famous painting or photograph. The scene will be recreated with physical models of the objects within the painting or photograph. The idea in this series is that we are going to isolate one object from a scene associated with Jesus' birth and discuss its importance to our lives.

Hence, each sermon will utilize an object, animal or a thing (like stars). We will highlight the illustration and discuss how it informs the story of Jesus' birth and our faith as Christians. In all, we will be examining five illustrations that are associated with Jesus' birth—a tablet, a sheep, a star, a treasure chest and, on Christmas Eve, a manger. Each week, when you come to service in Advent,

we will have these items as an object lesson in the sermon—and, yes, this even includes live sheep!

Although each of these illustrations might seem insignificant in light of the larger purpose of Christmas, they are the lynchpin through which each of the various narratives of Jesus' birth are woven together. As we will



discover, each illustration holds particular significance to us as Christians. Not only do they convey important information about the person of Jesus and the messiah he was destined to become, but these illustrations also have a lot to teach us about how we are supposed to live as Christians.

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Our Advent sermon series, *Christmas Tableaus*, will look at five illustrations, or tableaus, that are associated with Jesus' birth. Each sermon will take an illustration (which could be objects, animals or things like stars) and discuss how that illustration informs, not only the story of Jesus' birth, but also our faith. As we will discover, each of these illustrations within the birth narrative have particular significance to us as Christians in that



they tell us interesting information about the person of Jesus, who he was and how we are supposed to live as Christians.

November 27 | *The Tablet*

Scriptures: Luke 1:18-23a; 57-64; Luke 1:5-13
9:00 am – Compass 10:30 am – Chancel Choir
Celebration of Holy Communion
Hanging of the Greens

December 4 | *The Sheep*

Scriptures: Luke 2:8-15; 1Samuel 16:1-13a
9:00 am – Compass 10:30 am – Men's Chorus & Chancel Choir

December 11 | *The Star*

Scriptures: Matthew 2:1-9; Exodus 33:20-22
9:00 am – Compass 10:30 am – Chancel Hand Bell Choir & Chancel Choir

December 18 | *The Treasure Chest*

Scriptures: Matthew 2:10-12; Mark 10:17-27
9:00 am – Compass 10:30 am – Children's Choir, Chancel Choir & First Pres Brass

Saturday, December 24 | *The Manger*

Scriptures: Luke 2:1-14
4:00 pm Children's Pageant, 8:00 pm Lessons & Carols,
10:00 pm Communion & Candlelight

December 25 | *Service of Lessons and Carols*

One worship service at 10:30 am

Christmas Joy Offering

We will be receiving the Christmas Joy Offering on all the Sundays of December and at the Christmas Eve service.

This is a Presbyterian denomination Special Offering. Some describe it as an opportunity to share our love with the leaders of the church; past, present and future.

This offering, which has been taken for many years, is divided so half is used to support mission and church workers who have retired with modest pensions or others who are experiencing emergency needs. The other portion is directed for support of Presbyterian related schools and colleges which are equipping communities of color.

We have many stories and examples of how these funds were used to address critical financial needs. One example: Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, AL, was founded by Presbyterians and has become a training school for African American ministers. The Christmas Joy offering helped Stillman provide scholarships to gifted, promising students.

One young lady at Stillman wrote: "The money you give goes directly to the students and keeps them in college. Like me, many students often feel like they are hanging by a thread. Your donation fills in the threads and make a rope-a lifeline of financial assistance."

Gifts to this offering also support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, which helps current and past church leaders and their families who are in critical financial need. Other retirees who have inadequate financial resources receive income supplements to move from uncertainty to stability. Last year, our congregation contributed over \$6,500. Let's make it our goal to exceed this amount in 2022. – Thank You.

Christmas Eve Services

Saturday, December 24

4^{PM} Children's Pageant

Music: Children's Choir

8^{PM} Lessons & Carols

Music: Chancel Choir

10^{PM} Communion & Candlelight

Music: High School & College ensemble



2022-2023

Concert Series

Messiah Sing-Along

Sunday, December 4, 4:00 pm

Join Northwest Symphony Orchestra and soloists for Handel's *Messiah*. The many will become one as the audience serves as the chorus. Warm up your vocal cords as we fill the Sanctuary with beautiful music, such as the *Hallelujah Chorus*, honoring the birth of our Savior.



The Glory of Christmas

Sunday, December 18, 4:00 pm

Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus, and orchestra present Ola Gjielo's *Dreamweaver* as the featured work on the program, as well as other Christmas favorites from John Rutter, Dan Forrest and Elaine Haganberg. Audience participation is encouraged as we raise our voices in singing familiar carols of the season.



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



Wednesdays @ Noon

Wednesday, December 14, 12:10 pm

Christopher Urban, *organ* and Samantha Bittle, *harp*
Christmas music for harp and organ

All concerts livestreamed at firstpresab.org



Middle School Music Opportunity

This December, Middle Schoolers will have the opportunity to learn hand chimes in a four-week program, leading up to ringing a piece at the 4:00 pm Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. The practice sessions will be from 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm Wednesday nights November 30, December 7, December 14 and December 21 during Family Night, just before dinner and youth group. Youth of all musical abilities are welcome to participate (it's easy) and they should be able to attend a minimum of two rehearsals. If your middle schooler is interested in participating, please contact Jeni Eklund.





Christmas Breakfast Saturday, December 3, 9:00 am

Men's Monday Morning Bible Study and Scout Troop 32 invite the entire congregation to a Christmas breakfast. Come enjoy food, coffee, fine conversation and fellowship.



Messiah Sing-Along Sunday, December 4, 4:00 pm

Join Northwest Symphony Orchestra and soloists for Handel's *Messiah*. The many will become one as the audience serves as the chorus.



All Church Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 11, 4:00 pm

Join a caroling group to spread Christmas cheer throughout our community. Pizza dinner at 6:00 pm at church.

Wednesdays @ Noon Wednesday, December 14, 12:10 pm

Christopher Urban, organ and Samantha Bittle, harp present a program of Christmas music for harp and organ.



Presbyterian Women's Christmas Tea Wednesday, December 14, 1:00 pm

The entire congregation is invited to a Christmas tea hosted by Presbyterian Women in the Parlor. Be sure to attend the Wednesdays @ Noon concert with harp and organ at 12:10 pm in the Sanctuary.



Cookie Walk Sunday, December 18

After worship join us in the Parlor — \$5-per-box donation to support Youth Ministries.



The Glory of Christmas Sunday, December 18, 4:00 pm

Chancel Choir, Men's Chorus and orchestra present a concert of Christmas favorites. Audience participation is encouraged as we raise our voices in singing familiar carols of the season.



Christmas Eve Worship Saturday, December 24

Join us for worship as we celebrate the birth of Jesus at 4:00, 8:00 and 10:00 pm worship services.

Pumpkin Smash

On Saturday, November 5, First Pres partnered with the Master Gardeners – University of Illinois Extension to host a Pumpkin Smash. Community members were invited to bring their pumpkins to our east parking lot where a dumpster awaited them.

Why is a Pumpkin Smash important?

When pumpkins end up in landfills, they produce methane gas. The Pumpkin Smash diverts this waste to a composting company and prevents the pumpkins from ending up in the landfills.



This year, over 150 people brought their pumpkins to be smashed. A good time was had by all volunteers and community members. We plan to repeat the smash in 2023!

Share a part of your Christmas Story

In the season of Advent, our sermon series will focus on objects from the Christmas narrative that have particular significance to us as Christians and inform our understating of Jesus and how we are to live as Christians. To go along with our sermon series, we would like to invite you to share a picture of an object that has meaning to you in the Christmas season. Perhaps an ornament, a nativity scene passed down through generations or a movie. When you submit the picture, please include a short description of why the object is particularly meaningful to you. You can submit your photo and description to Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresab.org or at church through December 18 and enjoy the display in the Narthex through January 8.



save the date

Sunday, February 5 – Field trip to the Illinois Holocaust Museum to see the Negro Motorist Greenbook Exhibit. More information coming in January.

A Note from Pastor Judy

Dear Ones,

At the regularly scheduled Session Meeting on Sunday, November 13th, I told the Session that I believe God is



inviting me to retire as an active Minister of Word and Sacrament. The Session agreed that a motion to dissolve my call with First Presbyterian Church could appropriately be part of the business at our Annual Congregational Meeting on February 12, 2023. If the Presbytery concurs and the congregational vote is favorable, I will retire effective February 15, 2023.

I vividly remember the day I was called to be your Associate Pastor. It was the first weekend of February 2015 and there was a blizzard! If it hadn't been for the faithful who attended the 8:30 Finding Grace service, there may not have been a quorum to elect me as your associate pastor. Ironically, I will preach my last sermon as your called and installed associate pastor on the eighth anniversary of my call to this church. (February 5, 2023) We can do without the blizzard this time.

It has been a privilege to serve as one of your pastors these past eight years. I have baptized several and married a few and buried a lot – over 150 funerals in 8 years. I have preached and led Bible Studies. Throughout these eight years I have marveled at God's amazing grace in calling me to serve the church where my Christian discipleship began over sixty years ago.

Very few pastors get to return to the church of their formative years to serve in their later years. In my service here, I have often felt as though I was paying back the saints who guided me and supported me all those years ago. Some are still living; others surround us as a great cloud of witnesses. All that I have done in my service here has been done with the utmost gratitude to you, to those who have gone before you, and to God.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the love and prayers with which you surrounded me about one year ago. I know that it was your love and prayers and that of people around the country that healed me and made me strong again. I still have a complete drawer full of your get-well wishes.

The call to serve this church has been so much more than words can express. I thank you from the deepest place in my heart. I thank God for each of you.

With deep gratitude,

Judy

From Generation to Generation... An Advent Devotional

This year we are offering a devotional guide for the season of advent titled: **From Generation to Generation... An Advent Devotional**. You can pick up a hard copy of the guide at church in the literature racks, visit the website below or scan the QR code to enjoy the guide electronically.

<https://online.flippingbook.com/view/261712895/>

INTRODUCTION TO THE GUIDE

The stories, scriptures and traditions of the Christmas season have been passed down to us throughout the generations. Many of us enter this season with a swell of memories and emotions as vast as the cultural and religious rituals this holiday holds. Like a tapestry woven throughout time, the Christmas story weaves us in—to remember how God has shown up in the past, to continue the work of collective liberation, to behold the presence of God in flesh and bone.

In this daily devotional, we invite you to take a closer look at how the Christmas story unfolds. We encourage you to pay attention to each of the characters in these familiar narratives and ask: What did each person pass on or contribute? How did they either participate in God’s liberation and love—or try to thwart



God’s justice? What can we learn from them and what is our role now? What will we pass on to the next generation?

As creatives, they’ve contemplated these questions and themes while revisiting the stories surrounding Christ’s birth. In response, they’ve created visual art, written reflections, poems, hymns and journaling prompts. And, because many of us connect to our ancestors through the food they’ve passed down to us, they’ve shared family recipes for you

to prepare as an act of Sabbath rest. Day by day, we invite you to journey through the reflections and prompts in this devotional with wonder and curiosity for the ways God is speaking to you.

From Generation to Generation... reminds us of the ways our lives, histories, actions and stories are interconnected and

woven together. The work of God is always unfolding—in and through us. This Advent, may you remember that you belong—to a story etched into the wrinkles of time, to generations that have come before and will come after, to a love that won’t let you go.



Scan the QR code to view the devotional electronically

The Bridge Annual Christmas Party

Saturday, December 10, at 7:00 pm
Kate & Kirk Ingemunson’s House at
123 S. Kaspar in Arlington Heights
Please Bring



An appetizer, \$10 per person for the beverage fund and an unwrapped toy

RSVP to kate.ingemunson@gmail.com or text 773-405-3735
The Bridge is a group of parents and singles, 40s & 50s plus. We’d love to see you at the Christmas Party.



Associate Pastor Nominating Committee Report

The APNC is pleased to announce that the two Ministry Information Forms have been successfully posted and are now live on the Church Leadership Connection site. Furthermore, we have a presence on our own church website - both on the home page and a landing page within. We will be sharing the link to the landing page via different social media platforms and will begin screening candidates as they emerge. Feel free to direct anyone you know who might be interested in our opening to visit our landing page and inquire using the form. We also have an APNC email address that we will be using for all communications related to the open position: apnc@firstpresah.org.
Respectfully, The APNC

Thank You For Decorating!

We are all enjoying our festive looking church thanks to the many helpers who came on Saturday, November 26, to help with the decorating that gets us all in the Christmas spirit. Many hands made the work go a lot faster and we are now enjoying all the beauty. Thank you so much for helping!

Don’t forget, we’ll need help again Saturday, January 7, at 9:30 am to take down and store all the beautiful decorations. We’ll need lots of helpers, so please volunteer!

Mary and Martha

Mary and Martha's Lending Closet is open for the holidays. While you are planning for your holiday gatherings, small or large, consider borrowing from the Lending Closet and support programs addressing food insecurity in the Chicago area.

It is easy to borrow from the closet. Send us an email at maryandmartha@firstpresah.org and let us know what you are looking for. We have tables and chairs, matching dishes for all of those extra guests, glassware, serving dishes and items to help you create a beautiful gathering.

Curious about what we have available? Email us to set up an appointment to browse.

Mary AND
Martha's
LENDING CLOSET



All Church Caroling

Caroling dates back to the 13th century. In its earliest days, caroling involved people going house to house giving out well wishes during the colder months. Over the years caroling evolved into a Christmas tradition. First Pres will continue our caroling tradition on Sunday, December 11.

Everyone is invited to gather in the Parlor at 4:00 pm to prepare for going out into the community to bring cheer to our community. When we have finished caroling we will gather back at the church for pizza. This is an all ages and abilities event. We could even use some instruments to keep us in tune. If you have questions please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org



Sunday, December 11

4:00 pm in the Parlor

Return to church at 6:00 pm for a pizza dinner

All are welcome. bring your friends & family

Dress for the weather!

RSVP requested but not required

Questions?
Contact Katy Allen
Katyallen@firstpresah.org

Consider donating a \$15 or \$20 gas card or cash to purchase gas cards for Journeys



Advent Season Service Projects with Coffee Grounds

1st Sunday in Advent, November 27

COATS ON POLES PROJECT



Coffee Grounds will once again spend a Sunday morning providing much needed outerwear for those in need with our annual Coats on Poles Project. We will gladly accept new and gently used winter coats from First Pres members which we will hang around the outside of the church and downtown area! Coats can be dropped off in Room 110 of the CE Wing or you can contact Kelly Dean at k_p_dean@hotmail.com to let her know that you have a donation.

2nd Sunday in Advent, December 4

CARDS & LETTERS

For Service Men & Women related to First Pres Members, and Homebound Members



Join us on Sunday, December 4 at 10:30 am in Room 110 of the CE Wing to send wishes of hope and love to service men and women related to First Pres members, as well as homebound members! We will provide the cards and addresses; all you need to do is come ready to sign and seal them! You might want to bring your favorite pen! For more information, contact Kate Ingemunson at kate.ingemunson@gmail.com or Kelly Dean at k_p_dean@hotmail.com.

3rd Sunday in Advent, December 11

BAGS FOR THE HOMELESS



Scan the QR code to Volunteer

Have you ever seen a homeless person on the corner and wish you had more than a dollar or two to give to them? Join us at 10:30 am in Room 110 in the CE Wing to create bags of items that you can keep in your car to hand out as needed. Can't make it to help this week but want to contribute in some way? Then use the QR code to donate items. Items will need to be available for packing on or before December 11. Contact Kelly Dean k_p_dean@hotmail.com if you have questions.

4th Sunday in Advent, December 18

PREP A CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST FOR OUR FIRST PRES CHURCH STAFF



Scan the QR code to Volunteer for Breakfast Prep

Help us say Thank You to the hardworking staff at First Pres with a Christmas Breakfast! We are asking for ingredients for the casseroles plus other breakfast items to be donated on or before December 18. Scan the QR code to donate needed breakfast items.

On Sunday, December 18, meet us at 10:30 am in the kitchen in Fellowship Hall where we will prep egg casseroles to serve later in the week. Don't forget your apron! Questions: contact Chuck Yedor at cyledor@gmail.com, Mark Allen at markallen586@gmail.com, or Kate Ingemunson at kate.ingemunson@gmail.com.

November Session Notes

By Laura Carlson, Clerk of Session

Highlights from the unapproved minutes from the November 13, 2022 meeting of Session.

Action Items

1. The Session approved a motion to accept new incoming officers after examination over lunch. Session welcomed and thanked these officers who will be installed and/or ordained on Sunday, November 20, 2022. Session approved a Motion to allow incoming Elders to join the meeting at discussion.

Elders: Garrett Childs, Jennifer Fick, Richard Levinsky and Susan Weller

Deacons: Ruth Burkholder, Toni Eaton, Suzanne Kowalski, Sherri Mayhew, Jeri Monroe and Sue Taflinger

2. Pastor Judy told the Session that she believes God is inviting her to retire as an active Minister of Word and Sacrament. The Session agreed that a motion to dissolve Reverend Judy Hockenberry's call with First Presbyterian Church could appropriately be part of the business at our Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2023. If the Presbytery concurs and the congregational vote is favorable, Pastor Judy will retire effective Wednesday, February 15, 2023. Session thanked Judy for her exemplary service with grace and love. She will be missed dearly.
3. The Session approved a Motion that requested Trustees establish a Task Force to identify people in the congregation with special needs including people with short term or long-term disabilities following guidelines developed by the PC(USA). A Trustee would chair said Task Force and other at-large members will serve on the Task Force.



Session Highlights

Lindsey Landwehr-Fasules, Board of Trustees President, presented to Session proposed changes to the Trustees' Bylaws with rationale for changes. These proposed changes will be considered and voted upon at the next Trustees' meeting before returning to Session for approval. The congregation will be asked to approve these changes at the Annual Meeting in February 2023.

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 Administration & Finance provided details of our monthly finances. Budget discussions will continue through year end. Stewardship responses have started to come in, and we are hopeful that the campaign is successful.

Session has called a Special Meeting of Session later this month to continue conversations about budget and discuss cost-savings strategies moving forward.

Presbyterian Women



PW Christmas Tea

Wednesday, December 14, 12:10 pm
Please join us as we enjoy a beautiful concert of Christmas music presented by Christopher Urban on the organ and Samantha Bittle on the harp. The concert will be followed by a delicious Christmas Tea in the Parlor.

PW Christmas Celebration

PW Circle 7 – Our December meeting will be December 20 at 6:30 pm. Join us for a holiday celebration at Toscana Italian Restaurant 1859 W. Central, Arlington Heights. RSVP to Karen Wilson at 847-669-2677.



CHRISTMAS CAMP

It's beginning to feel a lot like Christmas, and Children's Ministries is excited to partner with our Music Ministries for a refreshed Christmas Pageant experience!

Christmas Camp will offer preschoolers – 5th graders the opportunity to prepare for our Christmas Eve pageant and family worship service over four Wednesday evenings. We will incorporate drama, music, crafts and fellowship into our time together. There will be a dress rehearsal at 2:30 pm on December 24, with the pageant beginning at 4:00 pm.

Christmas Camp is open to all and free to participate. Online registration is available on our church website at <https://firstpresah.org/programs/children-families/christmas-camp/>, or by scanning the QR code to the right. Christmas Camp begins on November 30 from 6:45-8:00 pm. Please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org with any questions.



Scan the QR code to register for Christmas Camp

SUNDAY SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

It was wonderful to see so many church members and friends at our All-Church Breakfast on Sunday, November 6. Children's and Youth Ministries had a great time working together to host, serve and clean up.

Homemade breakfast casseroles, sausage and pancakes were on the menu, along with breakfast treats and fruit salad. Kids of all ages poured beverages and staffed the food line to make sure everyone had their fill of delicious breakfast items!

Money given to the freewill offering will be donated to Partners for Our Communities. POC works to coordinate community resources and engage skilled staff, service providers and volunteers to provide direct services and referrals to those who are seeking an improved future in the community.

A special thanks to all who volunteered their time to make the breakfast a warm and welcoming event! We can't wait to see you again next fall!



Our youth serving at the All-Church Breakfast



Who knew serving others could be so much fun!

Family Night is FUN!

Join us for Family Night!

Dinner 6:00 - 7:00 pm

Children's Choir 6:30 - 7:00 pm

Programs for all ages 7:00 - 8:00 pm

KIDS Connect

MSYG Middle School Youth Group

Engage & ENCOUNTER



We are upon the season of being thankful and grateful for all that we have. At First Pres PDO & Preschool, we are grateful for so many things this holiday season.....

- **We are grateful** to the First Pres musical team that offers to create memories during class time and on Wednesdays at noon.
- **We are grateful** for the First Pres staff that helps with our administrative and building needs. They always greet our students with kindness when they come down for a visit.
- **We are grateful** for the Connections volunteers that help us with repairs and improvements.
- **We are grateful** to be able to educate, enrich and care for so many children each day.
- **We are grateful** to hear laughter and see smiles each day we walk into this building.
- **We are grateful** to be completing our 44th year of being a part of this congregation and community.

May you all feel as grateful and blessed in this holiday season as the staff at First Pres PDO and Preschool!



Nursery Help Wanted!

Are you in need of a “baby fix”? We are experiencing a “baby boom” in the nursery. The church nursery is in need of additional volunteers, and we can now accept volunteers who are at least 16 years old as long as they are working with an adult! The immediate need is the third or fourth Sunday of the month, but we will accept help any Sunday! Adults (age 18+) will need to take Safe Sanctuary Training. Please contact Beth Johnson, Nursery Coordinator, at btj0914@hotmail.com

Trunk or Treat

Children’s Ministries and First Pres PDO & Preschool hosted our third Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 29.



Cookie Walk

While it might be hard to believe that we are already nearing the most wonderful time of the year, Youth Ministries would like to invite you to dust off your holiday apron, break out your snowflake shaped cookie cutters and find those tried-and-true family recipes for our annual Cookie Walk on December 18! Cookie Walk is a fundraiser that contributes to our youth missions fund, which helps us to subsidize the cost of youth attending mission trips all over the country (and sometimes, the world!). You can help in two main ways: (1) We will need lots of cookies! You can give a new recipe a whirl, or stick with a classic—just be sure to let Jeni know how many you’re planning on bringing, and bring them in on Saturday, December 17 between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. (2) On December 18, come with your sweet tooth, an empty stomach and \$5 for Youth Missions. It’s a great way to support Youth Missions and taste some ooey gooey holiday joy. If you’d like to commit to bringing in a batch or two, email jenieklund@firstpresah.org to confirm!



Jan’s Jam

The iconic all-night bus lock-in is coming back on January 6, 2023! All Middle and High School youth are invited to a night of fun as we bus from activity to activity all night. Along the way, we will get to do things like laser tag, mini golf, trampolining, etc! It is truly the biggest new year kick-off Youth Ministries could ask for. Jan’s Jam is named in memory of Jan Munz, who was deeply committed to Youth Ministries here at First Pres, and was often known to say,

“YOU GOTTA HOOK ‘EM BEFORE YOU CAN REEL ‘EM IN.”

Jeni will be reaching out with more information, important logistics and permission slips, so be sure to keep an eye on your email.



High School youth’s Halloween party



Middle + High School Sunday School Art + Activity Day, in which we walked around outside and made meditation jars out of recycled jars and natural materials we found on our walk.

Middle School Music Opportunity

This December, Middle Schoolers will have the opportunity to learn hand chimes in a four-week program, leading up to ringing a piece at the 4:00 pm Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. The practice sessions will be from 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm Wednesday nights November 30, December 7, December 14 and December 21 during family night, just before dinner and youth group. Youth of all musical abilities are welcome to participate (it’s easy) and they should be able to attend a minimum of two rehearsals. If your middle schooler is interested in participating, please contact Jeni Eklund.



First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights – The Chimes

Engage & ENCOUNTER

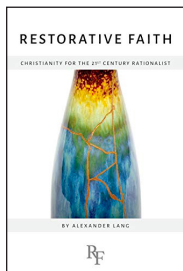
Wednesday Evening Adult Education Class

RESTORATIVE FAITH

Wednesdays through December 14
7:00 pm / Sanctuary / Rev. Alex Lang

Our Wednesday Engage and Encounter programming continues to 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!



Scan the QR code to purchase Restorative Faith

Sunday Morning Adult Education Class

ADVENT IN PLAIN SIGHT

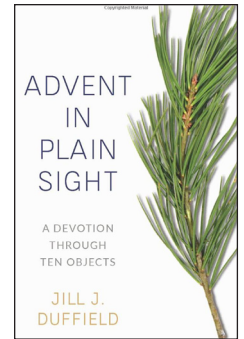
Sundays, November 27 through December 18
9:00 am / Boardroom / Rev. Ken Hockenberry

At Christmas, God came into our ordinary world in the form of a child, and still today, God is at work through the ordinary stuff of life, if we train our eyes to see.

In this daily devotional for Advent, Christmas and Epiphany, author Jill J. Duffield will draw our attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation--objects we encounter in our own lives. Through objects such as gates, trees, cloth, light and water, we can find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' coming. By connecting everyday objects with biblical texts, *Advent in Plain Sight* prompts us to see the near kingdom of heaven on earth and ponder what that divine proximity enables and asks us to do - and to be. For surely, God still dwells among us, even in the most ordinary places.

You are welcome to join this discussion group at 9:00 am Sunday mornings, November 27, December 4, 11 and 18 in the Boardroom. Class is led by Rev. Ken Hockenberry.

The book is available on Amazon - for \$12.19

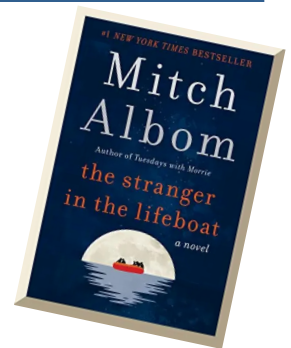


Scan the QR code to purchase Advent in Plain Sight

Coffee Grounds Book Study in January

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

We will kick off the new year with a study on Mitch Albom's latest book, *The Stranger in the Lifeboat*. This book is a quick read and would be great to put on your Christmas list! It's available for Kindle and audiobook! Join us on January 8 and 15 to discuss this interesting short novel.



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 cdillon@sbcglobal.net or Dave Berkow at duberkow@att.net. Proverbs 27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another.

Thank you for your support

Dear First Pres,
Thank you for the get well cards, prayers and cheering me on to recovery. Truly appreciated!

My next challenge is to get off of (kidney) dialysis soon. A nice shower would feel good. Stay well and thanks for thinking of me.
Love, prayers and God bless,
Bill & Marilee Hamilton



SYMPATHY TO

The Garland family, on the death of *Saralu Garland*
The Holyoak family, on the death of *Lois Holyoak*
Darah Landwehr and family, on the death of her grandfather, Richard Middleton
Patty Richard, on the death of her son, Tim Stone

BAPTISMS

Beatrice Melissa Lozano, daughter of Daniel and *Elizabeth Lozano*
Cooper Henry Kehoe, son of *Bret and Lauren Kehoe*
Beckett Kay Barry, daughter of *Jon and Christine Barry*

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Sarah Dwyer and Jake Kunde, on their wedding

Help Us Close Our 2022 Budget Deficit

Thanks again for your tremendous, steadfast support over the years. Your financial commitment has contributed to the success of our church's extensive programs and activities and has assisted in fulfilling our mission: **Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.**

Unfortunately, one of our challenges is that operating expenses continue to exceed revenues, and as reported last year, our operating budget for 2022 anticipated a deficit.

The most significant contributors to this deficit include greater costs associated with church operations, including construction costs relating to the Chapel and Memorial Hall projects; increased expenses in maintaining our infrastructure; continual decline in membership; current inflationary conditions; and the lingering effects of COVID.

The 'Ask' is this: If each Church member could consider giving an additional \$400 (or \$800 per couple) before year end, this would greatly reduce, or possibly eliminate, the 2022 operating deficit.

Simply put, if 500 members contributed an additional \$400 by year end, \$200,000 more could be applied to our operating budget.

We are aware of the current challenging economic conditions, but please consider this 'Call', as you often have in the past.

Your generosity is a blessing.

Gary Gehm

Chair, Administration and Finance Committee

First Presbyterian Church Financial Update

Below is a summary of the church's income for the month of September, 2022 and Year-to-Date, 2022

We encourage everyone to give regularly and generously. Thank you for your good stewardship!

	September			Year to Date through September				
	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	Actual vs Prior Year	2022 Actual	2021 Actual	Actual vs Prior Year	2022 Budget	Actual vs Budget
Operating Income Sub-Total	109,076	89,864	19,212	901,363	902,540	(1,177)	949,500	(48,137)
Operating Expense Sub-Total	125,993	137,996	(12,003)	1,034,430	960,204	74,226	1,022,791	11,639
Operating Income/(Deficit)	(16,917)	(48,132)	31,215	(133,067)	(57,664)	(75,403)	(73,291)	(59,776)
ANNUAL BUDGET 1,266,000								

Stewardship Campaign

The past two years didn't come with a playbook for any of us. There was no manual that outlines how to overcome a global pandemic. It's with great pride that First Pres has maintained an important place within our church family and in the northwest suburbs. That said, we have more work to be done and now we need your continued and growing support.

First, the Stewardship Committee simply asks that everyone start attending church regularly. We all need community and fellowship, which is critical to the life blood of our church. If you've fallen out of the habit, consider reconnecting through Sunday morning worship or Wednesday Family Night.



New Beginnings
our promises for tomorrow

Second, we're also fully aware of how the cost of living is impacting everyone in our congregation. The church is feeling the same pressures and we prayerfully request that you maintain, and hopefully expand, your financial support of First Pres. We are at a critical juncture in the life of our faith community. Indeed, this is an opportunity for a **New Beginning** and we hope that your promise of support will provide an opportunity for First Pres to not just survive, but thrive for a better tomorrow.

Finally, Acts 2:44 says of those who were part of the early church: "All the believers were together and had everything in common." The Stewardship Committee would like to challenge everyone to live by those words. We are stronger together, than apart. Let's get back together in-person and financially support our church community that has given us so much.

Thank you for making your commitment to our stewardship campaign! Your support ensures that not only will First Pres have the funds to operate throughout 2023, but also to impact the lives of those who have the greatest need. Please return your commitment card to the church office or place the card in the offering plate.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN I SUBMIT MY GIFT COMMITMENT ONLINE? Yes, visit firstpresah.org/giving to make an online commitment.

WHAT PAYMENT METHODS MAY I USE? Gifts can be made with cash or check. You may also give online using our safe and secure (SSL) online giving option.

Set up one-time or recurring gifts by charging to a debit or credit card account. Visit firstpresah.org/giving to get started. You may set up electronic funds transfer (EFT), which automatically withdraws funds from a checking or savings account (form available in the church office). You may also give gifts of stock.

To get more information on any of the payment methods available, please contact Debbie Walter, Business Administrator, at 847-255-5900 or debbiewalter@firstpresah.org.

MAY I CHANGE MY COMMITMENT? Yes, you may adjust your commitment by contacting Debbie Walter.

CAN I GET A RECEIPT FOR MY ONLINE GIFT? After you submit your gift information, a confirmation email will be sent to you. This is considered a valid receipt. In addition, your gift will appear on your regular giving statement.

DO I HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO GIVE ONLINE? We welcome gifts to the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church from both members and nonmembers.

HOW SHOULD I SET UP MY OFFERING SCHEDULE? You can contribute weekly, monthly, or quarterly.

Thank you for your continued support.

Suggested Giving Amount

INCOME			WEEKLY GIVING					
ANNUAL	MONTHLY	WEEKLY	4%	6%	8%	10%	12%	15%
\$18,000	\$1,500	\$346	\$14	\$21	\$28	\$35	\$42	\$52
\$25,000	\$2,083	\$481	\$19	\$29	\$38	\$48	\$58	\$72
\$30,000	\$2,500	\$577	\$23	\$35	\$46	\$58	\$69	\$87
\$40,000	\$3,333	\$769	\$31	\$46	\$62	\$77	\$92	\$115
\$45,000	\$3,750	\$865	\$35	\$52	\$69	\$87	\$104	\$130
\$50,000	\$4,167	\$962	\$38	\$58	\$77	\$96	\$115	\$144
\$60,000	\$5,000	\$1,154	\$46	\$69	\$92	\$115	\$138	\$173
\$75,000	\$6,250	\$1,442	\$58	\$87	\$115	\$144	\$173	\$216
\$100,000	\$8,333	\$1,923	\$77	\$115	\$154	\$192	\$231	\$288
\$125,000	\$10,417	\$2,404	\$96	\$144	\$192	\$240	\$288	\$361
\$150,000	\$12,500	\$2,885	\$115	\$173	\$231	\$289	\$346	\$433
\$175,000	\$14,583	\$3,365	\$135	\$202	\$269	\$337	\$404	\$505
\$200,000	\$16,667	\$3,846	\$154	\$231	\$308	\$385	\$462	\$577
\$225,000	\$18,750	\$4,327	\$173	\$260	\$346	\$433	\$519	\$649

The CHIMES

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December
2022



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