



**9:00 AM WORSHIP**

**WELCOME** Adam Hendrickson

**LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**  
Dan & Jenny Berg

✦ **“PREPARE THE WAY”**  
“LET IT RISE”  
*Hall & Ginlio*  
*Holland Davis*

✦ **TIME OF GREETING**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** Judy Hockenberry  
*Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.*

**EXODUS 13:20-22**

**MESSAGE** “The Star” Alex Lang  
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-9

**SONG** “I Saw the Light” *Hank Williams, Sr.*

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Judy Hockenberry

**LORD’S PRAYER**  
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**SHARING OUR GIFTS** “Go Light Your World” *Chris Rice*

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

✦ **“MARY DID YOU KNOW”** *Greene & Lowry*

✦ **BENEDICTION** Alex Lang

✦ Please stand as you are able.

**Compass:** Dan Berg, guitar; Amy Carroll, piano; Kevin Carroll, bass; AJ Coleman, drums; Adam Hendrickson, guitar/vocals; Greg Schultz, saxophone; Katie Walsh, vocals

## WELCOME, GUESTS!

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning.

Stop by the Welcome Center in the Narthex (lobby) to pick up information that will acquaint you with our church services and programs. You are also invited to join the conversation on Facebook, at facebook.com/firstpresah, Twitter, at @FirstPresAh, and Instagram, at @firstpresah. We look forward to connecting with you again.

**CHILD CARE**  
Children of all ages are warmly welcomed and encouraged to participate in worship. Child care is available (infants through age four) in the Christian Education Wing (8:45 am – 11:45 am).

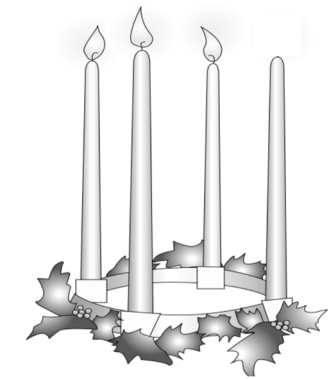
**CLASSES FOR ALL AGES**  
From September through May, Sunday morning Christian education classes are held for all ages. These include classes for preschool, elementary, middle school, and high school students, as well as education and discussion groups for adults. To learn more, visit firstpresah.org or call the church office at 847-255-5900.

**SPECIAL ASSISTANCE**  
For worship in the Sanctuary, large print bulletins, and hearing amplifiers (some with T-Coil lanyard adapters) are available from the ushers.

**IMPORTANT WORSHIP REMINDERS**  
Please silence cell phones and refrain from taking photos or recording the worship service. Services are webcast live at firstpresah.org/experience/livestream. To download or listen to a podcast of today’s sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word @ First Pres**. Past sermons are available at firstpresah.org/experience/sermons.

# First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

*A congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Organized in 1855*



“The Prophet, peace and blessings be upon him, said: ‘My Companions are as stars. Whomsoever of them you follow, you will be rightly guided.’ By merely looking at the star, we know the road from roadlessness and we reach our goal.”  
— Rumi

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**DECEMBER 11, 2022  
9:00 & 10:30 AM**

Choose bve .Be the light.Change the w orld .

**First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights**  
302 N. Dunton Avenue • Arlington Heights, IL 60004  
847-255-5900 • firstpresah.org • mail@firstpresah.org



# 10:30 AM WORSHIP

## GATHERING AS GOD'S PEOPLE

PRELUDE "Star of Bethlehem" *Linda R. Lamb*  
"An English Christmas" *Douglas Wagner*  
Chancel Handbell Choir, Nick Pulikowski, director  
*The prelude is your invitation to quiet preparation  
for the worship of Almighty God.*

WELCOME Alex Lang

LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE  
Kurt & Mary Ahlers

✠HYMN 88 (vs. 1,6,7) "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" VENI EMMANUEL

CALL TO CONFESSION Judy Hockenberry

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, forgive us for spending our time looking down, ignoring the guiding lights that you send to us. We depend on ourselves and forget to look to you or others for help in illuminating our path. You created the heavens and the earth. You put the stars in the sky, too numerous to count. Teach us to look up and see their beauty. Help us to trust the lights that struggle to lead us in your way. Grant that our eyes may be open wide to your star and give us the courage to follow that star wherever it may lead...**

### SILENT CONFESSION

*(please pray a silent and personal prayer of confession during this time)*

...in Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

### WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

✠RESPONSE (Hymn 84 vs.1)

**Creator of the stars of night, your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, redeemer of us all, we pray you, hear us when we call.**

✠TIME OF GREETING

### COMMUNITY LIFE

*Please sign the Friendship Pad and pass it along to those around you.*

## HEARING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION Judy Hockenberry

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING Exodus 13:20-22  
(Pew Bible, p. 53) Judy Hockenberry  
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

ANTHEM "Three Kings of Orient"  
*Text from Hymn 151* John Rutter  
Chancel Choir

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING Matthew 2:1-9  
(Pew Bible, p. 783) Alex Lang  
The Word of the Lord/**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON "The Star" Alex Lang

✠HYMN 800 "Sometimes a Light Surprises" SALLEY GARDENS

## GIVING THANKS TO GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Judy Hockenberry

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our sins, as we forgive  
those who sin against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever.  
Amen.**

### OFFERING

OFFERTORY "Christ is the Morning Star" John Rutter  
*"Christ is the morning star, The light of God that shines from afar; The Son of God in human form revealed, The wound of Adam's sin for ever healed. For God, who formed mankind of clay will bring forth our salvation that day. When he, who made all things since time began, will send his Son, to live on earth as man. And when he comes, a child on earth, the sun and stars will shine at his birth, to light a world that long in darkness lay; the light of God, the gift of Christmas Day. And when he comes again as King, Then heaven and all creation shall sing; with saints in glory seated round his throne, we'll see his face, and know as we are known."*  
Chancel Choir

✠DOXOLOGY (Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.**

✠PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

## GOING FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

✠HYMN 152 PUER NOBIS NASCITUR  
"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright"

✠BENEDICTION Alex Lang

POSTLUDE "Carillon on 'Joy to the World'" Mary Beth Bennett

✠Please stand as you are able.

**Preaching:** Alex Lang

**Pastors:** Alex Lang, Judy Hockenberry

**Director of Music and Worship:** Adam Hendrickson

**Associate Director of Music and Organist:** Christopher Urban

**Praise Band:** Compass (9:00 am service)

**Flowers:** **Mike & Laura Grochocki**—In celebration of 50 years of marriage for John and Roz Klein

**Homer Smith**—In loving memory of Mary Alice Smith

## WORSHIP NOTES

# Prayer Requests

## Healing & Comfort

### First Pres Community

Mario Alberico  
Don & Judy Ayers  
Wendy Blanck  
Virginia Blocki  
Lee Bruce  
Jean Castles  
Jo Christian  
Mary Clarbourn  
Graham Gutzmer  
Marylyn Jirsa  
Karen Johnson  
Nancy Johnson

Betty Launer  
Karen Lindquist  
Gloria Oak  
Stu Olin  
Barrett Peterson  
Patty Richard  
Betty Sanders  
Susan Scott  
Nancy Stautzenbach  
Barb Tsutsumi  
Bob Webb

### Friends & Family

Mike Ferdinand — husband of Sharon Ferdinand  
Karl Gates — friend of Mary Kiepura  
Dorita Godfrey — sister of Karen Wilson

Sheri Jones — friend of Jan Niemeyer  
Doug Martin — son of Helen Martin  
Lindsey Spalding — friend of the Hockenberrys  
John Stotz — friend of the Tsutsumi family

### Sympathy to

The family of Marlene Hayman

### Serving in the Armed Services

AMN Charles Arthur Brousseau, Air Force — son of Liz Moses and Bob Wendling  
MU3 Wesley Carroll, Navy — son of Kevin and Amy Carroll, grandson of JoAnn Thompson  
Maj. Michael B. Ford, US Army Reserves — stepson of Kris Ford  
Brandon Latuzek — nephew of Elaine Chen  
E5MM Marc Robert McGrath, Jr., Navy — grandson of Donald and Jacqueline Schultz  
Capt. John Olszewski, USMC — nephew of Steve and Lisa Olszewski  
Sergeant Benjamin David Schultz, Air Force — grandson of Donald and Jacqueline Schultz  
Colonel Gretchen Wiltse — sister of Vincent and Heidi Wiltse

# About First Pres

## STAFF

**Pastor / Head of Staff:** Alex Lang  
**Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care:** Judy Hockenberry  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Harry Thompson  
**Associate Pastor Emerita:** Dianne Shields  
**Interim Youth Director:** Jeni Eklund  
**Director of Children's Ministries:** Katy Allen  
**Director of Music and Worship:** Adam Hendrickson  
**Associate Director of Music and Organist:** Christopher Urban  
**Worship Technicians:** Amy Senior, Jonah White

**Business Administrator:** Debbie Walter  
**Senior Administrative Assistant:** Mary Fino  
**Administrative Assistant / Receptionist:** Carol Vega  
**Facilities Director:** Tony Scheurich  
**Facilities Coordinator:** Michele Holifield  
**Director of First Pres PDO & Preschool:** Coleen Anzalone  
**Nursery Coordinator:** Beth Johnson  
**Volunteer Librarian:** Matt Meisterheim

## Save the Date

Today All-Church Christmas Caroling & Pizza Dinner  
December 14 Wednesday@Noon  
December 14 PW Christmas Tea  
December 18 Cookie Walk  
December 18 Concert: The Glory of Christmas  
December 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 4:00, 8:00 and 10:00 pm  
December 25 Worship Service at 10:30 am Only

**LIVE WEBCAST & WORSHIP RECORDINGS** — Services are webcast live at [firstpresah.org/experience/livestream](http://firstpresah.org/experience/livestream). To download or listen to a podcast of today's sermon, search Apple podcasts for **The Word @ First Pres**. Past sermons are available at [firstpresah.org/experience/sermons](http://firstpresah.org/experience/sermons). If you need help with technical problems, please send an e-mail to [webcasting@firstpresah.org](mailto:webcasting@firstpresah.org).

**GET CONNECTED** — Join the conversation on Facebook, at [facebook.com/firstpresah](https://facebook.com/firstpresah); Twitter, at @FirstPresAH; and Instagram, at @firstpresah. Download the free ACS Church Life app or visit the website to access the church directory or manage your giving online. Simply set up a user account at [firstpresah.org](http://firstpresah.org) under the Member Login tab to get started. We look forward to connecting with you!

**PASTORAL CARE** — If you have a death in the family, an anticipated surgery, the birth of a new baby, or if you or a loved one are struggling, your pastors and church family want to be there to support you. Please contact Pastor Judy Hockenberry, at [judyhockenberry@firstpresah.org](mailto:judyhockenberry@firstpresah.org) or 847-255-5900, or call the church office to share your pastoral needs.

# Church Life

December 11, 2022

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. Thank you for worshipping with us in this spirit.



**ALL-CHURCH CAROLING** — Today / 4:00 pm — Join a caroling group to spread Christmas cheer throughout our community, followed by a pizza dinner at 6:00 pm in the Parlor. RSVPs are not necessary, but helpful. Contact Katy Allen at [katyallen@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org) with questions or to RSVP.

**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 understanding 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@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org) or at church through **December 18** and enjoy the display in the Narthex through January 8.

**HELP US CLOSE THE 2022 BUDGET DEFICIT** — As we near the end of the year, we are facing a budget deficit of \$200,000. In worship on October 30, Gary Gehm, chair of the Administration & Finance Committee, challenged each member to prayerfully consider giving an additional \$400 (or \$800 per couple) in 2022. It will only take 500 members giving \$400 to totally erase our deficit. Your vital gift will help us maintain the life changing mission and ministry that First Pres offers. For questions or more information, contact Gary Gehm at [AdminFinance@firstpresah.org](mailto:AdminFinance@firstpresah.org).

### Sunday, December 11 — Third Sunday of Advent

8:45 am – 11:45 am — Child care (infants – 4 years) — Room 205/207 (Blue Room), Main Floor Christian Education (CE) Wing  
9:00 am **Worship** — Sanctuary  
9:00 am Adult Education — Boardroom  
10:00 am Adult Choir Rehearsal — Choir Auditorium  
10:00 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex  
10:30 am **Worship** — Sanctuary  
10:30 am Coffee: Grounds for Discussion & Service — Room 110/112  
10:30 am Preschool Sunday School (3- & 4-year olds) — Room 206  
10:30 am K-5 Sunday School — Room 304  
10:30 am Confirmation (Grade 8) — Room 109/111  
10:30 am Sunday School (Grades 6-7 & 9-12) — Room 301/302  
10:30 am Pageant Costuming — Gym  
11:30 am Fellowship Time — Parlor, Narthex  
12:00 pm Session Meeting — Parlor  
4:00 pm All-Church Christmas Caroling & Pizza Dinner — Parlor



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## Upcoming Events


**FAMILY NIGHT PROGRAMMING** — *Wednesday Evenings / 6:00-8:00 pm / September through May* — Come and share dinner and fellowship with families from First Pres and the broader community. This program includes dinner, adult education and programs for youth and children. Contact Katy Allen at [katyallen@firstpresah.org](mailto:katyallen@firstpresah.org) for more details.


### Weekly Schedule:

- 6:00-7:00 pm: Drop-in dinner time for all ages
- 6:00-6:30 pm: Middle School Hand Chimes
- 6:45-8:00 pm: Christmas Camp (Preschool-5th grade)
- 7:00-8:00 pm: Middle School Youth & Adult Education


**ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER: Restorative Faith** — *Wednesdays, through December 14 / 7:00 pm / New Location: Boardroom / Instructor: Rev. Alex Lang* — Rev. Lang is teaching his book *Restorative Faith*. The book is designed to help explore many of the logical pitfalls created by traditional Christian doctrine and to replace them with a more consistent theology for people with a 21<sup>st</sup> century worldview.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSIC OPPORTUNITY** — *Wednesday nights: December 14 and December 21 during Family Night / 6:00-6:30 pm* — Middle Schoolers will have the opportunity to learn hand chimes, leading up to ringing a piece at the 4:00 pm Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Practice will take place 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 at [jeniekund@firstpresah.org](mailto:jeniekund@firstpresah.org).

 **CHRISTMAS CAMP SCHEDULE** — *Wednesday evenings, through December 21 / 6:45-8:00 pm* — Preschoolers-5th graders will participate in Christmas Camp during Family Night. Children will learn the music and drama for our Christmas Eve Family Worship and Pageant. They'll also enjoy making some Christmas crafts. Children's Choir and Kids Connect will return to their usual times on January 8.

 **WEDNESDAY@NOON** — *December 14 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary* — Christmas music for harp and organ. Christopher Urban, organ and Samantha Bittle, harp.

**PW CHRISTMAS TEA** — *Wednesday, December 14 / 12:10 pm / Sanctuary, Parlor* — The entire congregation is invited to a Christmas Concert featuring harp and organ in the Sanctuary followed by tea in the Parlor at 1:00 pm.

 **THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS** — *December 18 / 4:00 pm / Sanctuary* — 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. Come early to get a seat!

**COOKIE WALK** — *Sunday, December 18 / Parlor* — Support Youth Ministries by participating in this delicious event. Stop in the Parlor after each service to select cookies for each \$5-per-box donation!

**PW CIRCLE 7** — *Tuesday, December 20 / 6:30 pm* — Circle 7 will be celebrating the holidays with dinner at Toscana Restaurant (1859 W Central, AH). RSVP to Karen Wilson at 847-669-2677.


## Serving, Giving, and Growing

**COFFEE: GROUNDS FOR DISCUSSION & SERVICE** — *Sundays / 10:30-11:30 am / Room 110* — This Advent Season, we will focus on service each Sunday with a different project. We'd love to have you with us in person or in spirit. **December 18** — **PREP A CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST FOR OUR FIRST PRES STAFF:** Join us in the kitchen of Fellowship Hall where we will prep casseroles. You can also donate ingredients! Contact Chuck Yedor at [cyedor@gmail.com](mailto:cyedor@gmail.com), Mark Allen at [markallen586@gmail.com](mailto:markallen586@gmail.com) or Kate Ingemunson at [kate.ingemunson@gmail.com](mailto:kate.ingemunson@gmail.com).

**NEW SUNDAY ADULT ED CLASS** — *Sundays, through December 18 / 9:00 am / Boardroom / Rev. Ken Hockenberry / Advent in Plain Sight* by Jill J. Duffield — Duffield will draw our attention to ten ordinary objects that appear in the biblical narratives of messianic prophesy and incarnation. Through everyday objects, we can find new meaning in the biblical account of Jesus' coming.

**WINTER ITEM COLLECTION FOR FIRMAN HOUSE** — *Donate throughout December* — Our congregation truly was the light that changed the lives of so many children at Firman Community Services last winter. Your generosity allowed so many children the warm winter items needed to face our cold winter winds. Once again, Presbyterian Women are asking for donations to the 2023 winter item drive. Your donations will warm the hearts and the bodies of the less fortunate clients of Firman House. Checks can be made out to Presbyterian Women (note winter items in memo), or by donating online on our website. Thank you from Presbyterian Women and the children of Firman House. Questions? Contact Kathy Doering at 847-255-4364.

**CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING** — We will be receiving the *Christmas Joy Offering* on all Sundays of December and at the Christmas Eve services. This is a Presbyterian denomination Special Offering. 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. Last year, our congregation contributed over \$6,500. Let's make it our goal to exceed this amount in 2022. Thank you for your generosity!

 **HAVE YOU TURNED IN YOUR COMMITMENT CARD?** — If you have not yet had a chance to turn in your Commitment Card for 2023, you are invited to place your card in the offering plate today. Or, you can drop it off or mail it to the church office, to the attention of Debbie Walter, business administrator. You can also enter your commitment online at [firstpresah.org](http://firstpresah.org).

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SCHEDULE**  
*All Christmas Eve services will be webcast at [firstpresah.org/experience/livestream](http://firstpresah.org/experience/livestream).*

### Christmas Eve — Saturday, December 24

**4:00 pm: Christmas Pageant**  
*Featuring children in preschool through fifth grade and the First Pres Children's Choir*

**8:00 pm: Lessons, Carols & Candlelight**  
*Featuring the Chancel Choir*

**10:00 pm: Communion & Candlelight**  
*Featuring High School & College Ensemble*



## Worship Next Sunday

**December 18, 2022: Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**9:00 am — Worship** (Sanctuary)  
*Music:* Compass

**10:30 am — Worship** (Sanctuary)  
*Music:* Children's Choir, Chancel Choir and First Pres Brass

*Preacher:* Alex Lang  
*Scriptures:* Matthew 2:10-12, Mark 10:17-27  
*Sermon Title:* "The Treasure Chest"  
*Sermon Series:* "Christmas Tableaus"



**SERMON SERIES: 'CHRISTMAS TABLEAUS'** — *Sundays, through December 24* — 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.

If you give electronically but would like to put something in the offering plate, we invite you to use the laminated bookmarks available in the pew rack in front of you. We will be keeping you abreast of your generosity.

Bookmarks	\$2,075.00
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**CURRENT GIVING OPPORTUNITY:** Hurricane Ian caused catastrophic damage and flooding in the state of Florida. Any money attached to our bookmarks will be donated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which is providing support to those affected by this disaster.

**MARY AND MARTHA'S LENDING CLOSET** — Mary and Martha's Lending Closet is ready to help with all of your holiday hospitality. We have all that you need to host friends and family. If you have not visited Mary and Martha's, stop in on Sunday morning, Wednesday evening or make an appointment to see all that we have to offer. We have the turkey roaster you might need when you run out of oven space or a complete set of Christmas dishes for that special gathering. Tell your family and friends about us. We look forward to seeing you this holiday season. Contact Mary and Martha's Lending Closet at [maryandmartha@firstpresah.org](mailto:maryandmartha@firstpresah.org).

**PADS** — Through generous donations and hours of service of friends and members of First Pres, our shelter has opened during the fall, winter and spring months for over 30 years. We are grateful for your continued generosity. Follow the links in Weekly Highlights to donate goods and money for meals or to volunteer. We are especially looking for volunteers for our 3:00-7:00 am shift. If this is something you could do even once per month, please consider signing up. PADS site directors this year are Amy Hempleman, Cathy Mataloni and Michele Holifield. Please contact [pads@firstpresah.org](mailto:pads@firstpresah.org) with any questions.

**DON'T FORGET OUR FOOD BARRELS!** — Please remember our food barrels, which are located throughout the church. Donations of nonperishable food items benefit many families and individuals who are clients of several local organizations that we support. Please note that foods past their expiration dates will have to be thrown away.