

THE BURNING BUSH

What a wonderful month April has been for our congregation! First, we were able to celebrate the baptism of Bennett Stobaugh. Wasn't he a great, smiley, handsome boy! Next, we were able to bear witness to Adam Benson's baptism. As a child, Adam came to worship with his family and, as an adult, he felt the call to be baptized. We look forward to what God has in store for him as our newest active member! Finally, six confirmands came before the Session on April 21st and shared their statements of faith. After a couple of brief questions, all six were approved to become active members of the congregation upon their confirmation of Jesus as their Lord and Savior during the worship service on May 19th.

May promises to be an equally glorious month as we welcome the confirmands into membership. Back on December 10, 2006; September 20, 2009; April 6, 2016; and December 10, 2017, this congregation pledged to help raise Nick Swanson, Annie Swanson, Ellie Duley, Gracie Duley, Adela Herron, and Brielle Herron in the faith. This congregation has done well by their promise! I'm sure that you'll continue to be there for each and every one of them in the future too!

Also, in May we will enjoy the musical gifts of the choir before they take a summer break. We will celebrate the end of Sunday School year. We will honor our Mothers and the mothering figures in our lives. We will celebrate Pentecost (remember to wear red) and Trinity Sunday! Lots of special days!

Meanwhile, the rest of our regular ministries will continue - including meetings of the Deacons, the Session, and the Trustees. The Presbyterian Women will meet. Communion will be continued in the homes and apartments of our members. People will gather to cook meals for those who need one. And planning will be underway for July 4th in the Park and Vacation Bible School (July 7 – 11).

Thank you to the countless volunteers who do these ministries in our church and in our community!!! The love of God is evident here in Farmington!

Blessings,

Pastor Cindy Bean

SNIPPETS

by Pat

Snippets from the April 18 Session Meeting.

FINANCIALS: Cindy Daniels went over the financial reports pointing out changes she is making so that the reports will be easier to understand. She also pointed out CD's coming up for renewal and those that have been changed recently. She answered all the questions from the Elders.

MISSION STATEMENT: "The Church is organized to give seekers the opportunity to study God's Word and learn about Christ, to bring believers together in worship, and to encourage disciples in the service of God through spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ in the world."

GUEST: Adam Benson was in attendance. He has requested to be Baptized and join the Church on April 21 during worship. The Elders interviewed Adam and asked if he had any questions. When all were satisfied, the Session voted to approve this request.

CONSENT AGENDA:

The Session voted to approve the presented consent agenda that consisted of the Meeting Agenda as amended, the 03-21-2024 Session Meeting Minutes and receive the Clerk, Deacon, Pastor and Trustee reports.

- CLERKS REPORT:
 - Correspondence: None.
 - Email/Text Approvals:
 - A text sent on March 22, 2024 for approval by Pastor Cindy. As reported at last meeting, Trustees have learned of a leak in the roof of the CE Building and it requires a new roof. They have received a bid from Massey Roofing to do the work. They want to know if the Session wants them to get another bid for comparison. The Session voted to approve them getting a second bid.

MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS

- Worship Team – Alissa (chair), Dale, Brady, Diana Rolando, Sam Sprecher & Jane Rutledge
 - Palm Sunday and Easter were well attended, and it was great to see so many people in the sanctuary.
 - The Baptism of Bennett Stobaugh was beautiful! (another wonderful day with a full sanctuary)
 - Locking doors during worship was discussed further this month. It was decided that if there were kids in attendance, the CE Building/Breezeway doors would be locked during Children's time, prior to the kids going down to the nursery. The front door would remain unlocked.

- The Team is asking for people to send names of their favorite Christian music songs to the Worship Team so they can start inserting them into worship going forward.
- **Christian Education Team – Bonnie (chair) & Alissa**
 - Vacation Bible School curriculum has been ordered along with some decorations. I spoke with some of the Yates City members during the meeting we had Sunday and let them know the date and if they want to be a part of VBS we would love to have them. Still need to contact the Baptist ladies that usually help out.
 - Youth group will meet Sunday the 21st at 6:00 p.m. If there is no interest, this will be the last meeting.
- **Stewardship/Finance/Memorial/Personnel Team – Steffanie (chair) & Dale**
 - Personnel – Steffanie and Dale met with Pastor Cindy to get a contract finalized as the current one expired 3-31-2024. The new contract, effective 4-1, is for 6 months duration at Pastor Cindy's request to see how the Board of Pensions and any other upcoming changes may affect how she wants her pay constructed. She was given a 4% raise in the contract. The Session voted to approve the contract.
 - Finance – Confirmed that there is going to be a 4th of July parade/celebration again this year so we will have our booth as usual.
 - Stewardship/Memorial – no report.
- **Fellowship and Mission Team – Cozy (Chair) & Jodi**
 - The April 7 Mission Meal to support Feeding the Faith meal effort was a great success. Over \$900+ was donated. Thanks to all.
 - Planning a Mission Meal in June to support VBS, date TBD.
- **Evangelism Team – Jodi (chair) & Cozy**
 - Will meet April 28th after worship to cook the next Feeding the Faith meal to be delivered. Still need names/contact information for folks to add to the list.
- **Technology Team – Brady (chair) & Steffanie**
 - Instagram account has been created and shorter clips from Worship Services are uploaded weekly. The videos have a maximum length of 30 minutes. The videos uploaded include the Scripture Readings and Sermon.
 - Copier Lease has been paid off, the check of \$585 was mailed on March 23rd.
 - I called CDS on March 22nd and they were going to ship 2 toners. If they have not arrived, I will contact them again.
 - [Tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) Media no longer exists the way that it did before the last meeting. So, to manage both Facebook & Instagram, we are using "Meta Business Suite" (it is free). I have emailed the Facebook Admins to see which email they use for social media, so we can get them added to the platform. Then they can post to both Facebook and Instagram.
- **Nominating Team 2024** – Elder - Alissa Holder or Bonnie Suydam; Deacon - Pat Welker; At-Large Members – Tony Rolando, Liz Johnson & Missy Herron.
- **Active Member Review** – Complete for 2023.

- **Deacon's Report:** DEACON'S MEETING

- Next meeting will be April 28.

- **Pastor's Report** – – March 2024 Interim Pastor's Report

Pastor's Activities

- Presided at Communion on Maundy Thursday, Easter, and April 7th.
- Presided at baptism of Bennett Cole Stobaugh on April 7th.
- Met with Adam Benson to talk about baptism and membership in the congregation.
- Went to Regional gathering to explore shared ministry options on April 14th.
- Home communions on April 14th with Glenene Benson. Served Blanche Wilson, Wilma Brentz, Larry Robeson, and Donna DeGroot.

- **TRUSTEE'S REPORT:** April 18, 2024

- CE Building Roof – Two estimates were received, Massey Roofing and Kreiling Roofing. The old roof was applied in 2001. The Trustees recommend the bid from Massey Roofing for \$19,230. The kitchen ceiling, which received water damage, will be primed and painted when roofing is completed. The Session voted to approve Massey Roofing to do the work, with an upgrade to the Pro Series Shingles.
- East basement Sunday School window – New boards to be installed at the base, window scraped and all primed and painted.
- Workday – projects to get done were discussed.
- Bees – The current problem is that the bees are back and some are already dying, decaying and leaving an odor. Much discussion followed. Kevin and Jake worked with the beekeeper last spring. A lift was rented so the hive could be removed, but it was too extensive reaching into/under the roof. They could not be reached to be removed completely. The only way to eliminate the bees is to remove the queen, which would involve extensive roof and attic work and was deemed nearly impossible. The Trustees are going to do a weekly cleaning of the bell tower for now with ongoing discussion concerning this problem.

- **OLD BUSINESS:**

- Mission Study- Pastor Cindy is going to talk with the Presbytery COM in the near future to get our next steps to be taken.
- One Great Hour of Sharing Sunday – between fish banks and collection, \$428.34 was collected and sent in.
- Copy Machine – The Church now owns the copier as the lease was paid off. Brady has ordered two toners, prior to cancelling our service monthly contract. This is complete.
- Special Session Meeting on Sunday, April 21 to approve the confirmands for membership. This is complete.
- Session approved Sunday May 19 as date for the confirmands to become members of the Church.

○ **NEW BUSINESS:**

- The Session voted to approve Baptism and Membership of Adam Benson. See above at the start of the minutes.
- The Session is set to hear the confirmands Statement of Faith and approve their desire to become members after worship April 21.
- See Worship for information on locking doors during worship.
- The Session voted to have the Trustees change the pass code on the CE Bldg. and Office doors as well as the Manse garage door. Jodi will relay this info to them.
- The Session voted to close meeting at 7:45pm with the Lord's Prayer recited by all. Next Meeting May 16, Third Thursday at 6pm.

SPECIAL CALLED SESSION MEETING

There was a Special Session Meeting on Sunday, April 21 after worship to allow the Session hear the Confirmands 'Statement of Faith', interview them and approve them for membership.

Confirmands in attendance were Nick and Annie Swanson, Ellie and Gracie Duley and Adele and Brielle Herron. They each gave their Statement of Faith and answered any questions from the Elders. Each one was very sure of their Faith and spoke of their future journey in that Faith.

The Elders were very proud of all the young people. They told them that the Church is always there for them and that they would always be loved. The Session voted to approve them for membership after their Confirmation on Sunday, May 19 during worship.

First Presbyterian Church Officers 2024

ELDERS: Brady Johnson, Alissa Holder, Jodi Phillips, Bonnie Suydam, Cozy Hoover, Dale Benson and Steffanie Ulm – Interim Pastor Cindy Bean

DEACONS: Chris Evans, Pat Welker, Glenene Benson, Tammy Duley and Michelle Lane

TRUSTEES: Clark Evans, Joe Herron, Kevin Phillips, Jake Suydam, Kathy Welch, and Tim Ulm

TREASURERS: Kathy Welch and Cindy Daniels

FINANCIAL SECRETARIES: Mickie Ulm and Michelle Lane

CLERK OF SESSION: Pat Welker

Pastoral Care Contact Information

Church Address: 83 N. Cone St. Farmington, IL 61531
Contact Phone: Interim Pastor Cindy Bean (618)316-1171
Email: cindyb825@gmail.com
Office Hours (Contact Pastor Cindy)
Office Phone: 309-245-2914(messages checked weekly)
Email: firstpresfarmington@gmail.com

Mission Giving

Food Pantry

The Farmington Food Pantry is open on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 12:30pm – 1:30 pm. The Food Pantry is located at New Hope Fellowship Church 1102 N. State Route 78, Farmington, IL 61531. You do not even need to get out of your car. It is open to anyone in the Farmington area school district or who lives in Elmwood. There is no income requirement. You can now follow the Food Pantry on Facebook at Farmington IL Food Pantry.

Little Free Pantry

On the east side of the CE building, just south of the door, is a Little Free Pantry that the local Girl Scouts put together. This little free pantry is open and free for anyone, anytime. Feel free to drop off any food to help keep it stocked. Also, feel free to take any food that you might need, no questions asked. This food pantry supports those in our community who might need some extra food on those days when the Food Pantry is closed.

Per Capita 2024

The Per Capita amount for each member for 2024 is \$37.25. This is not an assessment or dues, but a covenant relationship with the greater church. This amount is not in our 2024 budget but paid as collected from each member to the Presbytery of Great Rivers. This money is used by the Presbytery to fund all of its administrative and mission projects. We partner with other churches in our Presbytery and are called to share Christ's love by partnering in Service, Uniting in Worship and Risking in Ministry. All organizations need money to enable them to perform and provide all that is expected from them. *So far this year, 23 have paid their Per Capita.* We are asking that everyone consider the important work of the Great Rivers Presbytery and support it by your 2024 Per Capita. Per Capita giving may be mailed directly to Mickie Ulm at 516 Idlewhile Ct., Farmington, [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly), or can be provided during offering at the church in the pew envelopes.

Our Church Life

Presbyterian Women

We also met on Friday, April 12 at 1pm with 6 ladies present. After our business meeting and Bible Study, we enjoyed fellowship with delicious lemon desserts from Sue Lane. We are going to meet again on May 10, at 1pm. This will be the last meeting prior to taking the summer months off. We will meet again on September 13 at noon for a potluck to kick-off the winter meetings.

Feed the Faith Misson

The ladies meet on Sunday, March 28 after worship to make some more meals for several folks in the area. I was able to help for a while and the fellowship was lots of fun. These ladies have a good time while doing this very good work for many in the community.

They will be doing this again next month, so remember, if you know an individual and/or a family that could use a prepared meal, be sure to let Cozy Hoover, Jodi Phillips or Bonnie Suydam know. You can either email the Church Secretary or call the Church office and leave a message. – Pat Welker

Celebrating Graduates for 2024

Brielle Herron – daughter of Joe & Melissa Herron is graduating from Farmington Central Junior High.

Ellie Duley – daughter of Tammy Duley and Craig Duley is graduating from Farmington Central Junior High.

Hanna Benson – daughter of Ron and Sara Benson, granddaughter of Dale and Glenene Benson will graduate from Earlville Grade School.

Emma Benson – daughter of Ron and Sara Benson, granddaughter of Dale and Glenene Benson will graduate from Illinois Valley Community College with an Associate's Degree. In the Fall she will start the Dental Hygiene program.

Gabrielle Benson – son of Kurt and Janet Benson of Trivoli, and grandson of Dale and Glenene Benson will graduate from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor's Degree in Business.

Monthly Calendars

May 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 10:30 am Worship Communion	6	7 PEO 5:30 pm	8 Choir practice	9	10 Presbyterian Women 1pm	11
12 10:30 am Worship (Choir sings)	13	14	15	16 Session 6 pm	17	18
19 10:30 am Worship Confirmation	20	21	22 Choir practice	23	24	25
26 10:30 am Worship (Choir sings)	27	28	29	30	31	

June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:30 am Worship Communion	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:30 am Worship	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:30 am Worship	17	18	19	20 Session 6 pm	21	22
23 10:30 am Worship	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 10:30 am Worship						

Joys & Concerns

May Birthdays

1 Emily Phillips **2** Ed Fryman **5** Annie Swanson **11** Emma Evans; Ethan Evans; Crystal Gomes
12 Monica Swanson **15** Jayme Johnson **22** Blake Johnson **24** Craig Duley **27** Paul Watters

June Birthdays

3 Mike Daniels **5** Linda Elliott **6** Grace Berry **15** Cindy Daniels **16** Jodi Phillips
19 Gracie Duley **25** Chris Evans **27** Abbie Phillips; Kathy Welch **29** Sam Rutledge

May Anniversaries

25 Jay & Steffanie Ulm **27** Kent & Kathy Kowal

June Anniversaries

9 Tony & Diana Rolando **18** Sam & Jane Rutledge

‡ Prayer Requests ‡

Joys: Adam Benson's Baptism; FCHS Theater Presented Chicago! Trustee Workday! May Day baskets from Jane Rutledge

Prayer Requests: Glenene Benson; Liz Johnson; Monica Swanson's mother; Lee Ray; Donna DeGroot's grandson, Todd; Pastor Cindy's brother; Pastor Cindy's friend, Rich Wells; Jane Rutledge; Kevin Phillips's cousins; Katie Berry (Doug & Laura Schmied's daughter); Eileen (Diana Rolando's mother); Pastor Cathy (Pastor Cindy's friend from NY); Chris Evans' sister, Michelle & brother-in-law, Chris; Corbin Rutledge; Sam Rutledge

Bereavement: Tony & Diana Rolando in the passing of her mother, Eileen Dillard; Mary Moermond and family on the passing of her husband David Moermond; The Berry Family on the passing of Sharon Gaul.

Those in Assisted Living: Blanche Wilson and Wilma Brentz at Courtyard Estates; Leigh Ann Taylor, The Loft.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

We try to keep our BB prayer list as current as possible. Please notify the office to update a prayer request listed, to add a new prayer request, or to remove a prayer request. Please contact us at firstpresfarmington@gmail.com

Per Capita is \$37.25 – Please consider providing this valuable support for the Presbytery

New Audio Equipment in the sanctuary to help pick up hymns during the service for Facebook/You Tube –
Be Aware – You may be recorded!

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS:
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
JULY 7 – JULY 11**

We thank you for sending in your tithes and offerings, especially. You may either bring your tithes and offerings to worship or you may send your tithes and offerings directly to Mickie Ulm, financial secretary. Her address is 516 Idlewhile Ct., Farmington, IL 61531. OR now you can sign up on Tithe.ly via our church website by clicking "GIVE" on the Home Page. www.firstpresfarmington.com There are many settings of offerings – one-time, monthly, weekly,

**The Burning Bush
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
83 North Cone Street
Farmington IL 61531-1248**



COME WORSHIP WITH US:
First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL
Worship Service is at 10:30AM, Sunday mornings, on Facebook Live and in-person

Video of worship service will be posted on:

YouTube: First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, IL
&

On the website:

www.firstpresfarmington.com

Blessings on:

**“In the
Beginning
was the
Word, and
the Word
was with
God, and
the Word
was God.”
(John 1:1)**

