



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

February/March 2018

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

From the Pastor “The Lenten Journey”



By Rev. Alex Lang

During the season of Lent, we are taking a break from our *Church and State* sermon series. We will return to the third part of the *Church and State* series following our celebration of Jesus' resurrection on Easter.

Traditionally, Lent is a period of 40 days where Christians walk alongside Jesus as he journeys towards Holy Week. In order to experience this journey, it is common for Christians to engage in daily acts of self-denial (like giving up chocolate, caffeine, alcohol or some other indulgence), as well as acts of prayer, repentance, and generosity.

Therefore, during the season of Lent, in an effort to help you focus on your journey with Jesus towards Holy Week, we are doing a sermon series called *Seven*. You are probably familiar with the idea that, in Christianity, there seven deadly sins. The concept behind this series is that each week we will be examining one of the seven deadly sins and pairing it with its counterpart found among the seven cardinal virtues. The pairings look like this: Gluttony & Temperance, Envy & Kindness, Sloth & Diligence, Greed & Charity, Lust & Chastity, Wrath & Justice, and Pride & Humility.

The first Christian to create these sin/virtue pairings was Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, a governor who lived from 348-413 A.D.

Prudentius wrote an epic poem entitled “Psychomachia” (or “War within the Soul”) where he uses allegory to describe the battle between good virtues and evil vices. Thanks to the popularity of this poem these pairings persisted into Middle Ages when medieval preachers would use them as teaching tools among peasants as a means of convincing them to live holy lives as a way to avoid purgatory.

Since we do not believe in purgatory, the goal of this series is somewhat different than these medieval preachers. We are going to examine each of the deadly sins individually and how it impacts our lives. Our purpose is to explore what drives us to engage in that particular sin and how it can destroy our lives and the lives of those around us. Then we will focus on how God helps us to overcome that particular sin by investing in the correlating cardinal virtue.

The hope is that each week you will leave the church motivated to tackle the specific sin we have discussed for that Sunday and feel empowered to become more virtuous in that area of your life. In this way, during Lent, we will walk together alongside Jesus in our attempt to become more like him, sacrificing those parts of ourselves that are not aligned with his way of life. Our hope is that once we have finished the 40 day journey of Lent, we will not simply revert back to our old ways, but be changed and reborn into a new way of life.

It should be a very uplifting and restorative sermon series. I look forward to walking this Lenten journey alongside you!

Session Highlights

For December of 2017 and January of 2018

From the December 11, 2017 meeting: By Linda Byus (Clerk of Session for 2017)

- Received an update from the Stewardship Committee on the ongoing campaign for 2018. Through December 11, 2017, there were 307 commitments totaling \$1,130,000, about level with last year.
- Approved the 2018 budget as proposed by the Administration and Finance Committee.
- Approved the construction of a playground to be located in the West Parking Lot, behind the church.
- Approved a Seder meal with St. John's and other local congregations on Maundy Thursday in place of a Maundy Thursday service.
- Learned the Mission Committee approved \$3,000 funding for Christopher House, a Chicago organization that serves low income children and their families. The Committee also approved \$1,000 funding for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for the Kasai region of the Congo.



From the January 8, 2018 meeting: By Sue Henderson (Clerk of Session for 2018)

- Many church officers, staff, and other volunteers at the church attended an exercise regarding possible future threats to the church. It was led by Larry Martin and several law enforcement officials. The impetus for this meeting was several attacks that have occurred at churches across the country and asked how well prepared are we if something should happen at First Pres.
- Welcomed six new elders to the Session. Accepted with regret Kelly Dean's resignation as elder for personal reasons.
- Learned that there will be a New Members class on January 28.
- Jan's Jam and the Cookie Exchange were both very successful.
- rev. Barbara Gorsky will be present on January 21 to promote the Women's Retreat scheduled for April.
- Spent time discussing a change in the format to the Session meetings. This would include using the first half hour for business and the remaining time to discuss where we are going as a church. Initial discussions will be focused on a book, *Penguins in the Pews*.

First Pres Will Be The Place to Play!



Katy Allen

Director of Children's Ministries
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Coleen Anzalone

Director of Parents' Day Out
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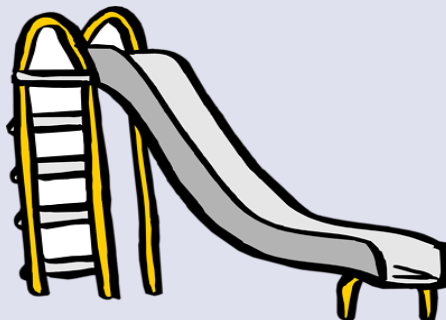
Parents' Day Out and Children's Ministries are excited to announce the approval by Session of a new playground on our church grounds! The playground area will also provide a permanent home for the Children's Ministries Loaves & Fishes Garden.

The playground will be a wonderful addition to the many ways First Pres welcomes families and children. Picnic benches will provide a comfortable place for families to gather after church on Sundays. Children in Parents' Day Out will be able to exercise and get fresh air right here on our property. Even Vacation Bible School will benefit from another area in which to play games during the summer!

As we look ahead to the third summer of the Loaves & Fishes Garden, having a permanent location will enable us to install sturdier planter boxes and make even better use of our space. We are excited about the opportunity to expand and enhance this 'growing' ministry.

Generous backing from the PDO Board, Children's Ministries, and Trustees will help get the project off the ground, but in order to close the funding gap, Parents' Day Out and Children's Ministries will be offering a variety of ways for our church congregation and past and current Parents' Day Out families to help. Watch for more details later this winter!

If you have any questions about the playground project or would like to make a direct donation, please contact Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries, or Coleen Anzalone, Director of Parents' Day Out. Donations can also be made online through our website at www.firstpresah.org, under our "Give" section.



PDO is turning 40!

By Coleen Anzalone, Director of Parents' Day Out

Sunday, February 25, will kick off the 40th registration season for Parents' Day Out (PDO)! So many incredible changes have occurred since we opened our doors in 1978 and we are looking forward to celebrating this awesome program with the congregation in the year ahead. PDO Board and staff members will be at the services on February 25 to talk briefly about our program and provide refreshments after each service.

PDO has a loving, educated staff that provides care to children 6 months – Pre-K, beginning in early September. Our four hour program allows for a healthier balance of socialization, introduction to early learning concepts, and exploration of life and world experiences. Our younger classrooms focus on being able to be away from caregivers for the first time, share with others, and are introduced to song, exercise, and creativity. Our older classrooms further develop these skills and work on relationship building, positive decision making, letter/word recognition, science, math, and art. All classrooms learn about God and how we should be kind to our friends.

Interested in signing up for the 40th year of enrollment? Contact Coleen Anzalone, Director of Parents' Day Out at 847-253-5516 or email coleenanzalone@firstpresah.org. All PDO information can be found on the church website under our 'Grow' section.



From the Music Stand

By Adam Hendrickson, Director of Music and Worship



The spring months promise to be an exciting time for our Concert Series. The 33rd Annual Organ Fest takes place on Sunday, February 11. On Sunday, March 11, a First Pres favorite, Marianne Kim, presents a concert of organ and piano pieces. The Adult Choirs and orchestra will present an exciting spring concert on Sunday, April 22. Each of these concerts takes place at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. If you would like the opportunity to participate in the spring concert, but are not quite sure about a commitment beyond that, please contact Adam Hendrickson to hear about a customized rehearsal schedule that takes place from February to April. The Adult Choirs are presenting Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living." It's an incredibly powerful and emotional piece that is sure to enrich the soul of any singer.

Also, if you have interest in singing in one of our adult choirs here at First Pres, but attending Thursday evening rehearsals is challenging due to child care obligations, you need to reach out to me at adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org as soon as possible! Our Music Ministry is very close to having child care options available at the church on Thursday evenings while choir rehearsals take place. The more interest there is in utilizing Thursday evening child care, the sooner that possibility can become a reality!

TIME FOR THE SOUPER BOWL!



On *Sunday, February 4*, the children and youth of First Pres will be outside of each service collecting money for the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will donate 100 percent of the proceeds to Journeys: The Road Home. Please bring some loose dollar bills or change that Sunday so you can throw them into one of the pots or pans that youth will be holding. For more information, visit souperbowl.org. **Contact:**

Rev. TC Anderson by e-mail at tcanderson@firstpresah.org with questions

Easter Flower Donations

Presbyterian Women (PW) will collect donations for the fresh flowers used to decorate the Sanctuary on Easter morning. Stop by the PW Flower Committee table in the Narthex on *Sunday mornings, February 11 and 18*, to make your contribution (suggested amount is \$20.00 – Checks payable to Presbyterian Women). You may dedicate your flowers and choose to pick them up after Easter services. **Contact:** Kathy Doering at 847-255-4364

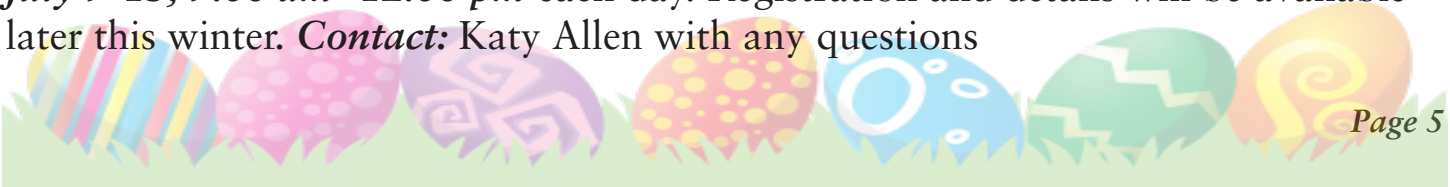


Children's Ministries Events

Sunday, February 11: Children's Ministries will host an afternoon of activities for kids, Preschool - 5th grade. Parents, drop your kids off here at church and enjoy a couple hours to yourself. Watch the Children's Ministries Weekly News, Church Life, and Weekly Highlights for more details!

Saturday, March 17, at 9:00 am: Join us for our Annual Easter Brunch with egg hunt and other Easter activities. There is fun for the whole family!

Vacation Bible School/MissionFactory: It's never too early to mark your calendar for Vacation Bible school (4 years old - 4th grade) and MissionFactory (5th & 6th grade) this summer. VBS and MissionFactory will be held from *Monday-Friday, July 9-13, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm* each day. Registration and details will be available later this winter. **Contact:** Katy Allen with any questions

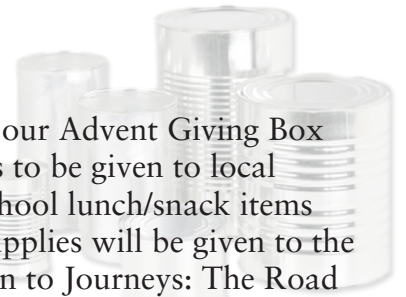


Children Ministries

By Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries

Advent Giving Box Recap

Thank you to Children's Ministries families and others who participated in our Advent Giving Box project. Over the four weeks of Advent we collected boxes full of donations to be given to local organizations. We collected baby items (food, formula, diapers, etc.) and school lunch/snack items for the Wheeling Township Food Pantry. Two large boxes of dog and cat supplies will be given to the Buddy Foundation. Also, a large donation of personal products will be given to Journeys: The Road Home. Each donation represents the generosity of our children and families. It also exemplifies the ongoing theme of this year's Sunday school program – a combination of Matthew 25 and our church's tagline, "Choose Love, Be the Light, Change the World."



Be the Light

Kindergartners – 5th graders began the new year with a new Sunday school unit. "Be the Light," taken from our church tagline, will be the focus of our lessons. In addition to exploring scriptures that relate to being the light, kids will also participate in fun, engaging activities that will help them experience being the light for others in the world.

We will wrap up our "Be the Light" unit with a special event on February 4. In addition to helping collect donations for the Souper Bowl of Caring that day, the Kindergartners - 5th graders will have a special gift to give away to CROSSROADS worshipers that morning!

Preschool Sunday School

Every Sunday, our preschool Sunday school classroom is full of fun and fellowship as our youngest learners take their first steps along their faith journey. Led by a team of incredible teachers, our 3- and 4-year olds are introduced to Bible stories that teach simple, faithful truths. As we begin the new year, preschoolers will learn about Jesus, his disciples, and some popular parables. Activities, a weekly video, a story Bible, and discussion are all used to teach and illustrate each week's story. With plenty of playtime included, preschool Sunday school is a warm and welcoming place for our preschoolers to learn and grow.



Winter Fun at First Pres

By Rev. TC Anderson, Associate Pastor for Children, Youth, and Families



Jan's Jam

The third annual Jan's Jam (named in memory of Jan Munz) happened on December 29-30. 85 youth, from middle school through college age, gathered in the church parking lot and loaded onto two school buses. Throughout the night, they roller skated, jumped on trampolines, solved puzzles in escape rooms, bowled, played laser tag, did a high ropes course (INSIDE), played billiards and shuffleboard, and got early morning donuts! It was an amazing, exhausting night/morning and everyone seemed to have a rip-roaring good time!

Christmas Cookie Walk Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped bake cookies for or came and bought cookies from the Youth Ministries Christmas Cookie Walk. Because of your generosity, Youth Ministries was able to raise almost \$1,000 that will go directly to doing missions both near and far! Thank you again!

Youth Sunday is Coming

Mark your calendars for February 11 because the youth will be leading worship! Both the 8:30 am and the 11:00 am service will be led by the youth of First Pres. All the singing, reading, and preaching will be done by the youth. Come and see how God is working in the lives of these young people and be blessed by their gifts they have been given.



**Some of our cookies from
the Christmas Cookie
Walk. You can almost
smell the cookies now!**



Letter from a Scholarship Student

By Roger Bertelson

Recently I received a letter from one of our scholarship students, Rosmery, who is studying to be a dentist in the Dominican Republic. It is always so gratifying to hear how our students are doing and how they are growing in their schooling and faith. I wanted to share a few parts of Rosmery's letter with you all.

"Happy Christmas, happy new year. I thank God every day for your prayers, for your support and for your love. I want to tell you a little of my adventure. In December I was on vacation with my parents for a few weeks, then I went to the missions south. I was sharing a home for the elderly. I was also working with the children of the community on oral hygiene. Thank you for everything, I hope our heavenly Father blesses you and yours. With love, Rosmery Vilorio, future dentist."

I was also sent a series of pictures from her travels she mentions. We are so proud of our scholarship students. It just goes to show how even thousands of miles away, we can change the lives of young people.

Dio Te Bendiga (God Bless you)



Rosmery during her recent December mission trip



Rosmery doing a presentation about oral hygiene to children while on her mission trip



Upcoming Events



Family Night: Come and enjoy a meal together with the families of First Pres and learn about the opportunities for learning, faith, and fun each Wednesday evening during Family Night. Family Night is on Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00 pm, September through May.

Weekly Schedule:

- 6:00-7:00 pm: Drop-in dinner time for all ages
7:00-8:00 pm: Classes and programs, including:
- * Kids Connect (grades K-5)
 - * Middle School Youth Group (grades 6-8)
 - * ENGAGE & ENCOUNTER adult education
 - * Free nursery care



Aluminum Can Drive:

Saturday, February 3, from 9:00-11:00 am in the West Parking Lot / Save and crush your cans (e.g., soda cans) for the Aluminum Can Drive. Proceeds support Men's Club sponsored charities. If you have questions or other aluminum or copper items for recycling, contact Stan and Nancy Conning at 224-735-7310.

Wednesday @ Noon Concert: Wednesday, February 7, at 12:10 pm in the Sanctuary / Join us for a mid-day concert featuring Kris Ward on hand bells and Carol Frieburg on piano.



Annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting:

The Session has called the annual Congregational and Corporation Meeting for February 11 during the 9:30 am Crossroads Worship Service in the Sanctuary. No other business can come before the body.



33rd Annual Organ Fest:

Sunday, February 11, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary / Join us as Michael Gagne, Marianne Kim, Jeffrey Neufeld, Kirstin Synnestvedt, and Christopher Urban team up to provide a program of favorites on the 52-rank Schantz pipe organ.



God's Honest Truth:

Wednesday, February 21, during Family Night / Enjoy an evening of storytelling brought to you by fellow members of First Pres. Our theme is, "Welcome to the Real World, Stories about Growing Up." Come out and enjoy dinner at Family Night (6:00 pm) followed by our storytelling program at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.



Presbyterian Women February Gathering:

Wednesday, February 28, at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall / Presbyterian Women (PW) invites all women of the church to the PW February Gathering. Join us in Fellowship Hall for refreshments, followed by an exciting presentation. Meet the sisters and wife of Alexander Hamilton as actress and scholar Leslie Goodard presents the "Women of Hamilton!" **RSVP:** Betty Launer at blauner2@comcast.net or 847-749-0402

Greg Athnos Lectures: Members of First Pres are cordially invited to attend lectures presented by Greg Athnos at The Moorings (811 E. Central Rd, Arlington Heights). Programs begin at 7:00 pm in the Harbor Room. **March 6:** Mozart, the Neglected Genius and His "Requiem" **March 13:** Beethoven and His 5th Symphony: Is It Autobiographical? **March 27:** Beethoven's 9th Symphony: Portrait of the 1789 Storming of the Bastille?

Wednesday @ Noon Concert: Wednesday, March 7, at 12:10 pm in the Sanctuary / Join us for a mid-day concert featuring Chuck Beech on piano and Christopher Urban on organ.



Marianne Kim Concert:

Sunday, March 11, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary / Marianne Kim has quickly become a fan favorite here at First Pres. Marianne is not only an accomplished organist/pianist, she is widely praised for her original compositions and arrangements as well. You will not want to miss this concert, you never know who might show up!

Upcoming Events Continued



Children's Ministries Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt:

Saturday, March 17, at 9:00 am / Join us for breakfast, followed by Easter activities and an egg hunt.

There is fun for the whole family!



All-Church Easter

Decorating: Saturday, March 31, at 9:30 am in the Narthex / Join Presbyterian Women as we decorate the church for Easter.

Meet in the Narthex for refreshments and assignments. All participants welcome! Contact Kathy Doering at 847-255-4364 with questions.

Wednesday @ Noon Concert: Wednesday, April 4, at 12:10 pm in the Sanctuary / Join us for a mid-day concert featuring Sarah Jenks on piano and Megan Hendrickson, soprano.



Spring Choral Concert:

Sunday, April 22, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary / Come and experience the beauty of the Earth through music with sacred works by the

Chancel Choir, Chamber Singers, Men's Chorus, and the orchestra. Dan Forest's "Requiem for the Living" will be the featured work. Come celebrate Earth Day with First Pres!

Freed Up Financial Living



Do you want to get a better grip on your money management and learn new ways of thinking about money? Join us to gain new perspective of your finances and the biblical impact it has on your relationships!

The cost is \$15 for the workbook and will be offered during Family Night, from 7:00-8:00 pm, beginning January 24!

Remember, Family Night starts at 6:00 pm with dinner in Fellowship Hall. Bring the entire family, there are activities for all ages occurring during this program!

Celebrations

To Kim and David Hogan on the birth of their granddaughter, Lydia Kathryn Hogan

Sympathy

Please join in extending sympathy to:

To Lisa Nelson on the death of her sister, Stephanie Nelson.

To the family of Jean Prinslow

To Cindy Hader on the death of her husband, Michael

To Jan Niemeyer on the death of her husband, Don

To Kelly, Bailey and Reagan Dean on the death of their husband and father, Paul

To the family of Mary Jane Misthos

To Jan Ashley on the death of her mother, Marj (Marjorie)

Lent Worship Schedule



Ash Wednesday, February 14

7:00 pm worship in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, March 29

Seder Meal (more details to come)

Good Friday, March 30

7:00 pm worship in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 1

6:30 am Sunrise worship in North School Park

8:00 am* *finding grace* in the Chapel

9:30 am CROSSROADS in the Sanctuary

11:00 am HERITAGE in the Sanctuary

*Please note time change

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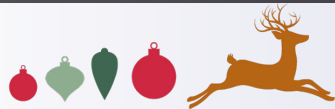
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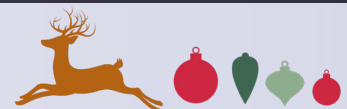
Phone: 847-255-5900

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Note of Thanks



Thank you to all the volunteers who gave their time and talent to help decorate, and “un-decorate,” the church for Christmas. We had a great group which made it fun!

Liz Armstrong	Nicholas Egea	Marty Kraybill	Patty Richard
Deb Artman	Saralu Garland	Larry and Diane Larsen	Sandy Richardson
Ron Baker	Cynthia Goldsberry	Don and Barb Larson	Jim and Val Schuffler
Bruce and Wendy Blanch	Jim and Kris Gunther	Rob and Nancy Lincoln	Jody Stautzenbach
Tom and Susan Carroll	Bill Hamilton	Sue Lyon	Mattie Stautzenbach
The Connections Work Crew	Jim Hemplemen	Barbara Martin	Marie Thomas
Nancy Conning	Don and Ruth Howard	Katie Marr	Bill Thompson
Carrie Costello	Nancy Johnson	David McLaughlin	JoAnn Thompson
Kathy Doering	Jim and Ingrid Kaufman	Jeff and Kate McVay	Bill and Sara Thornton
Fernando and Susan Egea	Matt Kogan	Wally Meyer	Larry and Meg Tidrick
	Susan Kogan	Lisa Nelson	Jayne Wellman
		Jerry Peterson	Amy Welzenbach

Thank you to all who donated for holiday flowers. Your generous contributions were used to refresh some of our Christmas decorations this year and enabled us to purchase a beautiful new Christmas tree for the Narthex that will be enjoyed for years to come.