



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

July/August 2019

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

From the Pastor



“Opening Our Doors”

By Rev. Alex Lang

When I was a kid growing up in my hometown of Fredericksburg, Virginia, my mother saw to it that I participated in church most

Sundays. The church we attended is called The Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg. I always found that name to be rather humorous because in most towns the first Presbyterian church to be planted in the area would be referred to as First Presbyterian Church of “insert town here.” This is how our church in Arlington Heights acquired its name.

The beauty of this system is that when new Presbyterian churches were founded you could just start counting forward by adding second, third, etc. The founders of the Fredericksburg Presbyterian church had a lot more confidence than most people who plant churches. They assumed their Presbyterian church would always and forever be the only Presbyterian gig in town.

To help you understand why the founders of this church never assumed there would be any competition, I need to tell you a little bit about my grandmother’s family. My grandmother was born into a very prominent and wealthy family in Fredericksburg. My grandmother’s grandfather (or my great, great grandfather) a man by the name of Horace Lacy, owned one of the largest plantation homes in Fredericksburg, Chatham Manor. Horace and his

family were members of The Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg.

The Presbyterian Church at that time was a very exclusive club. Only those from the upper crust of Fredericksburg society were members of that church. The way the church enforced this air of exclusivity was through what was known as pew rents. Families would pay the church a fee to occupy a certain pew. The closer to the front of the church, the more expensive the pew rent (in case you were wondering, the Lacy family sat four rows from the front). Pew rents discouraged the average person on the street from walking in and partaking in the service.

It was well known that anyone who wanted to attend The Presbyterian Church of Fredericksburg needed to have money. They assumed there would never be another Presbyterian church in town because when your church caters only to the wealthy, there are only so many people who can join. As you might expect, the last 150 years has shifted the culture of that church quite substantially. Today, pew rents have been eliminated and there is no expectation that a person needs substantial wealth to join. Everyone is welcome, but the reality is that much the same crowd tends to walk through the doors.

This is an issue with most Presbyterian churches. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once observed that Sunday morning is the most segregated hour in America. Although the laws of segregation are no longer in effect, the truth of his statement remains unchanged. Churches in America tend to segregate down racial and socio-economic lines. For instance, the PC(USA) denomination is overwhelmingly dominated by older white, affluent, middle and upper-middle class Americans. To be clear, there is nothing inherently wrong with this composition. Our church fits that demographic and we have hundreds of wonderful people in our community.

Continued on Page 4

Session Highlights

By Clerk of Session, Barbara MacDowall

From the May 13, 2019, meeting:

- Attendance was very good at our Easter services. Thanks were given for the wonderful music.
- A luncheon for our senior members (70+) is being planned for July 17.
- Volunteers are still needed to serve communion during Sunday worship services.
- The church-wide service project at Feed My Starving Children in Schaumburg is scheduled for June 19. Sign ups will continue in the Narthex on June 2 and June 9.
- Due to generous giving by our congregation, the One Great Hour of Sharing offering collected during Lent totaled \$5,408.75.
- Service Day, which was held on April 27, was successful despite cold, rainy, and snowy weather. Much appreciation goes to the team captains for their leadership and to all those who braved the weather and participated.
- The Mission Committee's theme this year is "homelessness." They are supporting Veterans Exiting Homelessness, an organization that helps veterans stock their new homes after returning from service.
- The May 4 women's retreat, which was held at the East Bank Club, was judged a success by the participants. Because of this success, another similar retreat may be offered in 2020.
- The God's Honest Truth topic on May 8 was "My First Day: Stories of Walking in for the First Time." Over 80 people attended. The topic for next October is "Outsiders: Stories About Being on the Outside Looking In."
- The Wednesday evening Engage & Encounter classes this fall will feature Pastor Alex Lang. During the Advent season, the Rev. Kenneth Hockenberry will lead the class. In the period from January to May, 2020, Pastor Lang and Donald Kaasch will lead classes on "American Christianity."
- MissionFactory registration is closed. Sixty children are signed up.
- Vacation Bible School registration is going well. Volunteer helpers are still needed for July 8-12. Volunteers need to be at least 18 years old, and must go through Safe Sanctuary training. Those interested in volunteering should contact Katy Allen.
- Many thanks to Alex Schuffler, who built the Loaves & Fishes garden boxes as an Eagle Scout project.
- Children's Ministries is looking forward to offering Summer Sunday School in the Loaves and Fishes Garden on the following dates: June 9, June 23, July 7, July 28, August 18, and August 25, during the 9:00 am worship service. Additional volunteers are needed.
- The Youth Ministries Silent Auction will take place on June 2, from 10:00 am-1:00 pm. Coffee, hot dogs, chips, and drinks will be available.
- Twenty people attended the Baccalaureate Breakfast.



The cold and damp weather didn't stop Alex Schuffler from working on the new Loaves & Fishes garden boxes. Thank you, Alex!

Session Highlights from the June 10, 2019, meeting:

- Session heard about proposed building plans, which can increase accessibility and energy efficiency, create flexible space, improve security, and meet anticipated future needs.
- Session approved the concept of the building plans with the following contingency: the idea of offering and providing space for health care services must be vetted and approved.
- Session gave permission for the exploration of funding for the proposed building plans.
- Flood restoration is 95% complete.
- Fellowship Hall flood prevention is to start on June 17.
- Discussions for the Fall Kick-Off have begun.
- The Worship, Music and Sacraments Committee approved moving to a single service at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary on Sunday, July 21. The music of the Beatles will be used to support Alex's sermon message of love.
- Congregational and Community Life will have a booth at the annual Arlington Heights Mane Event on August 2. Everyone in the church is invited to stop by the booth between 5:00-9:00 pm. This is an opportune time for us to be the light of Christ and reach out to the community to inform them of some of the worship, service, mission, and Christian education opportunities at First Pres.
- The Youth Ministries Silent Auction was successful because of the church community's generosity as a whole. The congregation and local businesses donated 70 items, and all except two items received bids above reserve.
- In mid-May, the Youth Ministries Committee hosted a baccalaureate breakfast for seven graduating seniors and their families.
- We are now coming to the summer mission season. Our middle schoolers are heading to the Quad Cities, and our high schoolers are heading to North Carolina. We pray for them to be safe, have fun, do good work for others, and positively grow spiritually and personally through these experiences.
- The Youth Ministries Committee thanks Session, Trustees, and the church community for all of their support this fiscal year. Their programs could not succeed without the support, energy, belief, and guidance of everyone involved.
- The New Business Task Force continues to explore a business partnership.
- The Administration and Finance Committee reviewed the budget for the upcoming youth Montreat trip. It appears that the youth will hit their fundraising goals, and total church expenses will be under budget.
- The Administration and Finance Committee reported that spending is still under budget because many projects and programs have not yet been funded. Because of that, cash balances remain strong and have grown.



Right: A big thank you to all our PADS volunteers who helped make our PADS program this year a success! Here we have a few of our volunteers enjoying some fellowship together after completing their volunteer shift.

Left: Our irises by Door 8 bloomed with beautiful colors in mid-May.



Opening Our Doors Continued...

The problem we face as we move into the future is that younger white, affluent, middle and upper-middle class Americans are becoming less and less interested in joining a church community. Last year, during my sermon series, *Church and State*, we talked about all the various reasons why this is happening, but the point is that we can no longer assume the younger replacements of the older generation are going to keep walking through our doors.

Given this reality, we have two options: 1) we maintain our current church culture and demographics, and over time there will be less and less people to sustain the church or 2) we open ourselves to new demographics who desire to be part of the church. In other words, option two requires that we be adaptable and reach out to a target audience of people who look and feel very different from the primary demographic of this church. This is slowly happening through the relationships being formed through our Family Night program. Those who have been exposed to our community through Family Night are beginning to attend on Sunday morning and we want them to feel welcomed and embraced.

What does this require on your part? Perhaps the most important thing you can do is be welcoming. When new people come through our doors, we need to break out of our comfort zone. Before the service, we need to leave our friends and families and say, "Hello! I haven't seen you here before. Let me know if you have any questions." Then after the service is done, approach them again and ask if they enjoyed the service. Tell them about yourself and get to know a little bit about them. This little bit of extra effort can make all the difference in changing the culture of our community so that everyone who walks through our doors wants to be a part of this community.

Like my home church in Fredericksburg, Virginia, First Pres has a very rich history. The people who have come before us have left us an amazing legacy. Together, I believe we can continue to grow our church community so that we have a bright and sustainable future.

Session Email Addresses

Have a question for one of the committees of Session? Use these email addresses to contact the chair of any Session committee! Emails sent to these addresses will be automatically forwarded to the personal email of the current leader of the committee.

SESSION CONTACT OR COMMITTEE

Clerk of Session

Administration & Finance

Adult Education

Children's Ministries

Communications

Congregational & Community Life

Mission

New Business Task Force

New Church Partnership

Nominating

Personnel

Stewardship

Worship, Music & Sacraments

Youth Ministries

EMAIL ADDRESS

SessionClerk@firstpresah.org

AdminFinance@firstpresah.org

AdultEd@firstpresah.org

ChildrensMinistries@firstpresah.org

Communications@firstpresah.org

CCL@firstpresah.org

Mission@firstpresah.org

NewBusinessTF@firstpresah.org

NewChurchPartnership@firstpresah.org

Nominating@firstpresah.org

Personnel@firstpresah.org

Stewardship@firstpresah.org

WMS@firstpresah.org

YouthMinistries@firstpresah.org

Children's Ministries

By Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries

Summer Sunday School Kick Off

Kids of all ages enjoyed digging in the new Loaves & Fishes Garden on June 9. There was a lot to do and many hands to share the work. We planted seeds (broccoli and radishes), starts (pickles and a watermelon), and beautiful flowers to line the garden beds.

We are looking forward to watching all the seeds grow, and seeing how all the starts produce lots of good food. We are anticipating a bounty of peppers, tomatoes, beans, broccoli, radishes, and even some sunflowers! The food that is grown in the garden will be shared with our community through Summer Suppers and the Wheeling Township Food Pantry, along with our own church community through our Sunday morning "Farmer's Markets" later this summer and early fall.

Children's Ministries would like to thank Alex Schuffler and his family for all their hard work in building our new garden beds. The garden beds were Alex's Eagle Scout project and we are immensely grateful for his generosity! Children's Ministries would also like to thank Sandy and Jan Richardson for the incredibly cute garden hats with our new Loaves & Fishes logo embroidered on.

Summer Sunday school will meet again on the following dates: June 23, July 7, July 28, August 18, and August 25. Preschoolers – 5th graders are welcome to join us!



Note of Thanks

Christopher House Backpacks: Thank you for your generous donations supporting our efforts to purchase backpacks for the children at Christopher House. They will be so excited to receive new backpacks for the upcoming school year.

What choir will be at worship?



Below you will find a list of the choirs and the dates they will be at worship.

9:00 am Worship

Music for July/August/September led by Compass

10:30 am Worship Ensembles:

July 7 – Women’s Chorus

July 14 – John Eckhardt, violin

July 21 – Beatles Sunday featuring Compass, Chancel Choir, and Men’s Chorus. Worship will be only at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary

July 28 – Summer Choir

August 4 – Jazz with Bruce Blanck and Friends

August 11 – Nick Pulikowski, tenor; JoAnn Thompson, soprano

August 18 – Kathy Sobeski, soprano

August 25 – Carol Frieburg, piano; Kris Ward, handbells

September 1 – Kristen Walter, alto; Steve Walter, guitar

WINGS Shoe Drive

Help us support WINGS with our Back to School Shoe Drive! WINGS (Women In Need Growing Stronger) is an organization dedicated to providing support to women and their children who have left abusive environments and need a “hand up” to begin a new and better life. We are hoping with your help and generosity we can hit our goal of donating 120 pairs of shoes for the children of WINGS.

Please stop by the WINGS Back To School Shoes table in the Narthex on Sundays through July 14 to pick up a shoe tag or make a monetary donation. All shoe donations must be **dropped off at the church by noon on Sunday, July 21**. If you have any questions or need more information, contact Karyn Kraske at 847-963-9113 or kraske5@comcast.net. On behalf of WINGS and the many families who rely on WINGS, thank you for your love and support of this mission.

Baptisms

Sarah Alice Martinka

Maren Elizabeth Osswald

Emerie Lee Byrd

New Members

Curtis and Lorene (Lori) Chandler

Pauline Pohl

Gregory (Greg) Schultz

Nancy St. Clair

Sympathy

Morgan (Acino) Estes on the death of her husband, **Stephen Estes**

Sue Taflinger on the death of her sister, **Carol Zavatsky**

The family of **James Johnson**

Marylyn Jirsa and family on the death of her husband, **Frank Jirsa**

Carl Burklund and Jeff Leach on the death of their wife and mother, **Virginia Leach Burklund**

Laury Allen and Mark, Betsy, Kristen, and Jenna Allen on the death of their husband, father, and grandfather, **George Allen**

Carl Scalet and Laury Allen on the death of his wife and her sister, **Barbara Scalet**

Ray Green on the death of his sister, **Carolyn Green Hartnet**

Priscilla Heerens on the death of her sister, **Phyllis Dammeier**

Jack Bonthron on the death of his wife, **Deaneann Bonthron**

Upcoming Events



Church Office Summer

Hours: Fridays through August 30 / The Church Office will close at 12:30 pm on Fridays.



Veterans Exiting Homelessness Donation Drive:

Ending Thursday, July 4 / The Mission Committee invites you to support a local organization called

Veterans Exiting Homelessness. This organization collects new, basic household goods such as kitchen utensils, cleaning supplies, and personal hygiene items and then donates them to veterans that have secured housing through the Department of Veterans Affairs. Veterans Exiting Homelessness steps in and helps these veterans stock their new home with necessary items we might not even think about. A box will be in the Narthex where you can drop off donated items (please no used items, thank you). If you have any questions, contact Larry Martin at larrymartin107@gmail.com.

Church Office Closed: Thursday, July 4 / The Church Office will be closed in observance of July 4.



Fourth of July Parade

Hospitality: Thursday, July 4 / The church building will be open during the 4th of July Parade. Bathrooms will be available and bottles of water can

be purchased. Parade begins at 10:00 am.



Aluminum Can Drive:

Saturday, July 13, 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.

Our January drive collected over 85 lbs. If you have questions or other aluminum or copper items for recycling, contact Stan or Nancy Conning at 224-735-7310.



Beatles Sunday:

Sunday, July 21 / There will be only one worship service, at 10:00 am, in the Sanctuary.

That day Compass, Chancel Choir, and the Men's Chorus will be leading

worship featuring music by the Beatles.



Apollo 11 Concert: Saturday, July 27 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary / The Apollo 11 space mission is one of the most significant events in human history. On July 20, 1969, humans set

foot on the moon. On July 24 of that same year, those same humans returned to Earth with a new perspective on where their "home" was. These events must be remembered and celebrated, and that is exactly what we are going to do! Come experience an orchestral concert celebrating the Apollo 11 space mission with music inspired by space, the final frontier.

Arlington Heights Mane Event: Friday, August 2, from 5:00-9:00 pm in downtown Arlington Heights / The Congregational and Community Life Committee would like to invite all church members to stop by our booth at the Mane Event this year. This is a fun event that the whole family can attend! We are going to be giving away pop sockets which have the church logo on them that attach to your phone. But more importantly, this is an opportunity for us to reach out to the community to promote the worship, mission and educational programs here at First Presbyterian Church.

Church Office Closed: Monday, September 2 / The Church Office will be closed in observance of Labor Day.

Engraved Brick Orders

Engraved bricks in the Memorial Prayer Garden honor loved ones and friends, living or deceased, in a beautiful setting. You may add your message to the garden this year by purchasing one or more engraved bricks. Engraved bricks require a donation of \$50 for two lines of 12 characters and spaces, or a donation of \$65 for three lines of 12 characters and spaces. Forms are available in the form rack by the church office.

For installation in the fall of 2019, **please have your orders in by Monday, July 22.** Bricks are ordered once each year and are installed only in the fall, usually September or October. Late orders will not be ordered until next year. Mail or deliver your completed order form and attached check to the church office. Questions? Contact Betty Launer at 847-749-0402.



THE CHIMES

First Presbyterian Church
of Arlington Heights
302 N. Dunton Ave.
Arlington Heights, IL 60004-5993
Phone: 847-255-5900
Fax: 847-255-3475
www.firstpresah.org / mail@firstpresah.org



Days of Restoration

Our church initiative, Days of Restoration, which began during Easter of 2018, has shown us some incredible acts of charity and forgiveness. The purpose of these actions is to practice the ethos of sacrifice and restoration. The more we practice these acts of sacrifice and restoration, the better we can achieve the ultimate end of the Christian faith: restoring balance to the world. Read how Marilynn Graves shares her talents with others through her love of gardening.

One of my passions is gardening. It is in my DNA going back to my amazing grandparents' ability to grow almost anything. In fact, my gardens include legacy plants - plants that I dug up from my grandparents' and father's garden and carefully moved to the gardens of every house we have lived in over the last 30+ years.

My friends know to 'see Marilynn' for what to plant, where, when, and how. So I would like to share this passion by offering my First Pres Days of Restoration friends an open invitation to ask me garden questions and landscaping design ideas. Also, an invitation to have perennial plants from my gardens that are in need of dividing (not sure quite yet which varieties that may be since it is early in the growing season). I do know some are likely my legacy plants, and I know my grandparents and father would be pleased to know their plants are spreading joy.

