



The CHIMES

The Newsletter of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights

March/April 2019

Choose love. Be the light. Change the world.

From the Pastor

“Where Do Beliefs Come From?”

By Rev. Alex Lang



Recently, I was having a conversation with a member of our congregation who asked me a profound question, “How exactly did you come to your beliefs about Christianity?” When she asked that question, I realized I had never taken the time to explain to the members of First Pres how I developed my belief system.

Let’s first turn the question back on you. Have you ever considered where your beliefs come from? Although many people assume their beliefs are the result of their own reflections on life, this is often not the case. Many of our beliefs are acquired through osmosis from our environment. For instance, a study conducted by Christopher Ojedaa and Peter K. Hatemia in 2015, *Accounting for the Child in the Transmission of Party Identification*, concluded that if a child feels loved and accepted by their parents, then the child is more likely to mirror the political beliefs of their parents. In other words, if you know your parents hold conservative political beliefs, it is likely that you will hold conservative political beliefs if your parents are supportive of you. This is true regardless of whether those beliefs are conveyed overtly or learned by observation.

Therefore, even though most of us come to a point in our adolescence and adulthood where we actively make a choice about what we do and do not believe, we are often only affirming the beliefs that have

surrounded us since childhood. The same pattern holds true for religious beliefs. The way you were raised religiously will often be reflected in your adulthood. If you were raised with traditional Presbyterian values, then it is likely that you will adhere to those values as an adult if you had a positive experience with the church.

All this to say, the idea that we are choosing our beliefs is somewhat of an illusion. In order to really make a choice about a belief, you have to become disconnected from it. You have to break the belief down, examine it as an outsider would, and then assess its validity. This process is what happened to me when I entered seminary. Every belief I held true coming into seminary was questioned and broken down.

For example, Christians believe Jesus died for our sins. For the average lay person who has grown up in the Christian faith, the source of that belief is the Bible and the New Testament. However, in seminary, you learn this is not entirely true. Yes, the concept that Jesus died for our sins is found in the New Testament (1 Cor. 15:3), but the belief in the way we know it today was derived from the theologian Anselm of Canterbury (1033-1109 AD). Anselm developed this doctrine of atonement in his writing, “Cur Deus Homo” (“Why God was a Man”), in 1098. Prior to Anselm, the dominant view was that Jesus’ death was necessary so that Jesus could descend into hell to defeat Satan. My professor of theology explained to us that this idea that Jesus died for our sins was only fully developed 1100 years after Jesus’ time on Earth.

This information upended my world. I thought Jesus dying for our sins was a universal belief held by the disciples from the very beginning of the Christian faith. If something so central to Christianity was developed so late, what else did I believe was original to the Christian faith, but was developed centuries

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Session Highlights

By Clerk of Session, Barbara MacDowall



From the January 14, 2019, meeting:

- Rev. Alex Lang thanked everyone for their support in making this year's Christmas Eve Pageant so great. Many attended the Christmas Eve worship services. Moving the last service to 10:00 pm brought in 100 more people than in past years.
- The Stephen Ministers have been busy with visitations, many with older congregants.
- Jan's Jam, which took place on January 4, was very successful.
- The fire sprinkler leak was found and repairs will be done at the end of January.
- Session approved the Revised Operating Budget for 2019.
- The Administration and Finance Committee thanked Bill Lyon for his leadership during the last three years.
- An average of 44 people per week watch our worship services online.
- The Deacons need additional people to help with Communion.
- Stewardship is exploring how we can better communicate with people of all ages in our congregation.
- The Communications Committee plans to hold 2-4 forums a year to help our congregation be better informed.
- Session approved the Terms of Call for Rev. Alex Lang, Rev. Judy Hockenberry, and Rev. TC Anderson.
- A Women's Retreat is planned for Saturday, May 4, 2019, at the East Bank Club in Chicago.
- The first-ever Children's Ministries' Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will be held Sunday, January 27, from 7:30 - 10:30 am in Fellowship Hall.
- Youth Ministries is planning a silent auction fundraiser this summer.
- The CollegeCARE Ministry expects to send college care packages this February.
- Session was invited to attend the Discipleship Gathering for 10th grade youth on Monday, February 11, at 6:00 pm.

From the February 11, 2019, meeting:

- After meeting the 10th grade confirmands at the Discipleship Dinner Gathering on February 11, Session recommended welcoming the confirmands into church membership.
- Session gave approval for our confirmands to serve Communion on Confirmation Sunday.
- March 3 is "Youth Sunday." Youth Ministries will have a Stock Sale on March 3, and they will hold a Silent Auction on June 2.
- The Valentine's Drop-Off event held on February 10, was very successful.
- "New Members Welcome Sunday" will be on March 24, at the 10:30 am service.
- The next theme for God's Honest Truth, which takes place on Wednesday evenings, will be "My First Day: Walking in for the First Time."

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"Where Do Our Beliefs Come From" Continued...

later? As I discovered, quite a lot. Every belief you hold about the Christian faith can be traced to a theologian who brought that belief into prominence.

Through my seminary training, I came to find that my beliefs were a patchwork of various theologians from different eras of history whose thoughts had come to define the modern Christian belief system. Most of my peers at seminary were fine with this reality, but not me. This discovery is what began my quest to redefine my belief system. I wrote down all of my beliefs. Then, one by one, I researched the theologian(s) who defined that particular belief. I would ask myself, "Does this belief make sense? Is it a reflection of Jesus' original movement?" Sometimes the answer was yes, but often the answer was no.

By the time I was finished, I had constructed an entirely new belief system. The difference between my belief system before I entered seminary and after I left is that I knew exactly where my beliefs came from, and more importantly, exactly why I believed what I believed. This is why my views on Christianity are so different and unique compared to prior pastors of this congregation.

I tell you all this because if you ever have a desire to discuss your beliefs and where they came from, my door is always open. I am a firm adherent to the philosophy that knowledge is power, and this is particularly true when it comes to our Christian beliefs.

Session Highlights from February 11, 2019, Meeting Continued...

- A Care Fair will be held on Sunday, March 10. Deacons will staff a table in the Narthex and explain volunteer opportunities associated with the various Deacons Ministry Teams.
- The Deacons will host the annual "90th Birthday Celebration" on Sunday, April 28.
- The Congregational and Community Life Committee is planning a church-wide intergenerational food packing event for Wednesday, June 19, at the Feed My Starving Children location in Schaumburg. Sign-ups will be held prior to the event.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will be collected from March 6 through April 14.
- The burst pipes and damaged ceiling in the Fellowship Hall kitchen have been repaired.
- The fire sprinkler leak has been repaired, and inspection was completed on January 22.
- The approved 2019 Budget shows an anticipated \$90k reduction in overall giving levels from 2018. Budgeted spending is reduced in planned building projects and improvements and includes an expected use of \$60k in accumulated reserves.
- Session approved the receipt of a gift of four cemetery plots valued at \$6,195 each. The Trustees will oversee the sale of these plots.
- The Communication Committee is looking at ways to increase the visibility of First Pres in the community through media.
- Session Forums will be held approximately three times a year based on the need to provide real-time updates to the congregation.
- Rev. Judy Hockenberry, Katy Allen, and Michele Holifield presented a well-attended workshop at a national conference on MissionFactory, a Vacation Bible School Program for 5th and 6th graders.

Children's Ministries

By Katy Allen, Director of Children's Ministries

Pancakes and More!

The smell of pancakes and sausage wafted up from Fellowship Hall throughout the building as we welcomed families and singles, youngsters and seniors to the Children's Ministries Pancake Breakfast fundraiser in late January. All proceeds of the breakfast will go toward supporting Children's Ministries' programs.

Lots of helpers were on hand to mix, pour and flip pancakes, brown sausage, staff the drink table, and clean tables for additional guests. Many remarked how nice it was to have a pancake breakfast again and how fun it was to share breakfast with new and old friends.

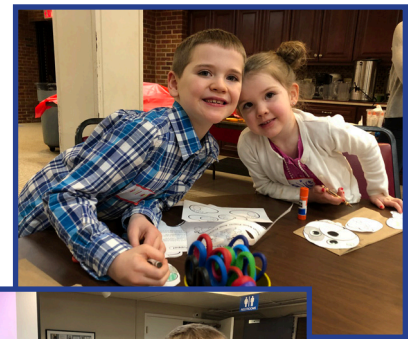


Children's Ministries would like to thank everyone who attended or who gave a donation to the breakfast! We offer a special thank you to everyone who volunteered to make the breakfast a great success!

Valentine's Day Out

The Sunday before Valentine's Day might seem like an ordinary day, but for those parents and kids taking advantage of Children's Ministries 3rd Annual Valentine's Day Out, it's anything but! While parents enjoyed two hours to themselves, kids were busy in Fellowship Hall working on all sorts of activities.

We made puppy Valentine's Day bags, decorated paper crowns, created marshmallow and toothpick structures and Valentine's ornaments, and crafted Valentine's picture frames. We also created our own trail mix of Fruit Loops, fruit snacks, conversation hearts, pretzels, and goldfish crackers! A great time was had by all! Thank you to our volunteers for making this event possible!



Association of Presbyterian Church Educators (APCE) Conference and Workshop Presentation

Pastor Judy Hockenberry, Michele Holifield, and Katy Allen attended the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators conference in Galveston, Texas, in early February. APCE, as it's known, is the PC(USA)'s premier Conference on Christian education/faith formation. Held annually in different cities around the country, APCE brings together educators, pastors, youth directors, and others for a week of learning, fellowship, networking, nurturing, and renewal. Over the years, APCE has opened its doors to more than just Presbyterians, welcoming Moravians, Methodists, Lutherans, and the Presbyterian Church of Canada.



This year, Pastor Judy, Michele, and Katy presented a workshop on MissionFactory, First Pres' tween VBS program. We were excited to share this program with others working with tweens who were looking for ideas or a

framework on how to create a similar program in their churches. As MissionFactory enters its fourth summer at First Pres, we had a lot to share; from mission activity ideas to bumps in the road. Our audience was very receptive, offered great questions, and walked away from the workshop inspired and encouraged.

This trip was possible because of the incredible support Children's Ministries receives from our congregation, and the value our church places on continuing education and seeking out opportunities to continually retool and improve the work we do. We offer our sincere thank you for allowing us the time and resources to learn and grow in areas that will improve ministry, mission, and education for our First Pres family and community.

Vacation Bible School 2019

Summer will be here before we know it and with summer comes Vacation Bible School! This year's theme, "**ROAR: Life is Wild: God is Good.**" **ROAR VBS** will be offered **Monday through Friday, July 8-July 12, from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm** each day. Online registration will begin on Sunday, March 17. Check out firstpresah.org/children to register!

VBS is open to 4-year-olds through 4th graders. Each day is fun-filled and packed with excitement. Children visit stations throughout the morning, learning about the Bible story of the day, playing games outside, experimenting with "sciency" gizmos, learning new and exciting songs, sharing snack time with one another, and enjoying time with friends.

VBS requires a lot of support from our congregation – from donations of snack supplies to volunteering with crews of kids or in stations – and we couldn't do it without you. If you are interested in volunteering for Vacation Bible School this summer, please contact Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org for more information. There are opportunities for everyone!



Save the Date for our Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 13, at 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall! Watch the Children's Ministries Weekly News for RSVP information or see Page 11!

Parents' Day Out Registration Opens March 3

By Coleen Anzalone, Director of Parents' Day Out

Parents' Day Out will officially kick off the 41st registration season on Sunday, March 3. PDO continues to create a fun, educational, and creative learning environment for the children of First Pres and the community. If you would like to see what PDO is all about, please contact the Director, Coleen Anzalone, through email at coleenanzalone@firstpresah.org.

You can also find all things PDO on our church website under the Grow section at firstpresah.org/grow/parents-day-out/.



The Schantz Pipe Organ: History You Can Hear

By Larry Olson

For centuries, the church has revered and protected much of the world's classical art forms such as stained glass, sculptures, and paintings that have encouraged and perpetuated sacred creative beauty. Pipe organs have also been at the center of this effort, adding exquisite sound along with visual beauty to church sanctuaries. Our Schantz pipe organ in the Sanctuary is a lasting testament of faith, given by one generation to the next, providing our worship space with architectural and aesthetic beauty.

Recognizing the need in 1972 to replace an aging Austin pipe organ, the Organ Committee selected the Schantz Organ Co. to install a new 39 rank pipe organ at a cost of \$83,000. In 2018, the organ would cost \$502,000, and considering recent improvements, replicating the Schantz today would cost over \$1 million dollars. The 1972

Schantz pipe organ was a well-built instrument providing a solid base on which to build. Each rank (a set of pipes) has 61 notes playable on four divisions identified as Great, Swell, Choir, and Pedal.



The Pedal Board

Our organ has three manuals (keyboards) and a pedal board played with the feet. The visible pipes represent 20% of the total, the rest are in chambers on either side of the Chancel. The pedal division pipes are located on the right side of the Sanctuary made from either wood or metal; the largest are 16 feet in length. An electric motor drives a blower similar to a furnace fan bringing wind to each pipe.

In 1999, heavy rains and a faulty roof caused extreme water damage to the Swell and Choir divisions. All the pipes and chests were removed, cleaned, repaired, and replaced. A suspended metal ceiling was installed with a drainage system in each chamber to prevent a repeat event.

Spearheaded by former Director of Music, Lee Nelson, and Organist, Chris Urban, the organ has been transformed into an outstanding instrument. Fortunately, the organ chambers were designed with enough space to add more pipes and digital speakers. The additional ranks were carefully chosen to not only provide more versatility, but also variations of sound across the musical spectrum. Twelve new ranks have been added over the past 20 years for a total today of 51 ranks of 2325 pipes. In 2005,

six new ranks were added; 2008 a Vox Humana stop added in recognition of Lee Nelson's retirement; 2009 saw 4 more ranks and new draw knobs installed; an 8' Diapason came in 2011; in 2013 Ron Connor honored his parents with a Zymbelstern; and in 2017 a new Trumpet in the Great was added in memory of Jan Olson. These improvements, made possible by Session support, memorial gifts, and generous donors, offer many tonal pipe variations providing the organist with hundreds of stop selections.



Of course, there is always a "wish list." High on the wish list is a desire to raise the organ console from the "pit." A console on wheels could then be moved to the center of the nave for a true recital setting.

Organists are artists in every sense of the word. With all of the resources of the instrument at their fingertips (and toes) they create subtle soft tones as well as harnessing the power of the full organ. From delicate, contemplative unassuming music wafting across the space or thunderous with the big Trumpet, our pipe organ

The Schantz Pipe Organ: History You Can Hear Continued...

is up to the task. It's an awesome instrument capable of affecting listeners in countless ways. Our organist, Chris Urban, accomplishes this task Sunday after Sunday. We live in a world where music is omnipresent. It is important to set aside a place where music that has stood the test of time can be heard in all its majesty. The next time you hear the Prelude or Postlude, listen to what you are hearing. There could be sounds you've never heard before. More importantly, you are listening to musical history that has been sustained across the ages. A special thanks to Chris Urban and Lee Nelson for their assistance in the writing of this article.

From the Music Stand

By Adam Hendrickson, Director of Music and Worship



The Music Ministry at First Pres has many proud offerings to present during the months of March and April. The Ash Wednesday worship service (March 6) will feature a choral rendition of "All Flesh is Grass." As Lent continues, March 10 will feature a sizable orchestra, comprised of First Pres members accompanying the choir on a new piece of music, "Come, Follow Me." The fun continues as First Pres presents our first ever Community Talent Show as part of our First Pres Concert Series on March 17! If you've ever wanted to share a talent of any kind, email Adam Hendrickson at adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org, to have your entry approved! The Spring Choral Concert will take place on April 14, and this is an event you won't want to miss. Choir, Orchestra, and dance are all incorporated into this concert! This will also be an opportunity to reflect on your life and the lives around you, so that you might walk through Holy Week and experience a resurrection of your own when Easter morning arrives on April 21. It's a wonderful time to be a member of First Pres, and you won't want to miss out on any of the Sunday morning services, Wednesday@Noon recitals, or Concert Series events.

Preparing for Lent

By Rev. Alex Lang

As we prepare for the season of Lent, we also prepare for a new sermon series. Traditionally, Lent is a period of 40 days where Christians walk alongside Jesus as he journeys towards Holy Week. During Holy Week we mourn Jesus' death and celebrate his resurrection. In order to experience this journey alongside Jesus, we are asked to walk in Jesus' footsteps. One of the ways that we can follow in Jesus' footsteps is by examining the various stages or steps in his ministry.

Our sermon series during Lent is called, *The Footsteps of Jesus*. The goal of this series is to explore how each of these steps of his ministry are aspects of our journey as Christians that we need to mirror in our own lives. Each sermon will explore an aspect of Jesus' ministry, and how by engaging with that particular footstep, we can become transformed into a different person.

There are ten steps in the process and the themes are as follows: Step 1: Deprivation (Ash Wednesday); Step 2: Disciples; Step 3: Teachings; Step 4: Healings; Step 5: Parables; Step 6: Miracles; Step 7: Temple (Palm Sunday); Step 8: Dinner (Maundy Thursday); Step 9: Crucifixion (Good Friday); Stepping into the Future (Easter). This series follows Jesus' ministry as it is portrayed in the gospel of Matthew.

Each step will provide us with a different perspective on how we can mirror and implement Jesus' own ministry in our lives. In the end, my hope is that you will feel a close connection to Jesus during Lent so that the celebration of Easter is truly a moment of rebirth in your commitment as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Thank you!

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide blankets for survival to so many suffering from hardship and disaster through our Blanket Drive. Thank you so much for your support this year!



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

By The Mission Committee

During Lent, the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering is collected by Presbyterians around the world. The OGHS offering provides safety, sustenance, and hope to individuals and communities in need. The OGHS is used for three distinct areas.

1. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) – receives 32% of funds raised - These include floods, mudslides, tornadoes, typhoons, wildfires, etc. PDA works alongside communities, nationally and internationally, to show the healing love of Christ by caring for communities adversely affected by these events. From the initial disaster response to ongoing community development, PDA provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.
2. Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) – receives 36% of funds raised - PHP works to alleviate hunger. PHP provided food relief to more than half a million people last year! PHP also works with individuals to provide training, knowledge, and products (such as native, quality seeds) to empower individuals to provide their own healthy food.
3. Self-Development of People (SDOP) – receives 32% of funds raised - The Presbyterian Committee on SDOP works with low-income communities across the US to overcome oppression and injustice. Projects focus on advocacy, youth-led initiatives, skills development, farming, worker rights, and immigration/refugee issues. With OGHS offering support, over 5,000 projects in poor communities in the US and around the world have developed solutions to their own challenges.

Your support of the OGHS offering changes lives, improves living conditions, and gives people hope. Our OGHS offering will be collected from March 6 through April 14. The Mission Committee invites you to give to this offering! Fish Banks will be available if you want to make collecting loose change a family affair. Envelopes are also available. We think our congregation can raise at least \$7,500 for One Great Hour of Sharing. This is our challenge to this amazing congregation!

Baby Shower for Christopher House



Please donate unwrapped baby and toddler items for the young mothers in need who are helped by Christopher House. Rattles, onesies, lotion, shampoo, wipes, wash cloths, nursing pads, and first aid kits for newborns are always needed. Please drop off your gifts in the baby shower boxes in the Narthex from **March 24 through April 21**. They will be delivered to Christopher House on April 23, when the Auxiliary meets. As always, all church members are invited to join us at an Auxiliary meeting!



Youth Stock Sale and Silent Auction

The Youth Stock Sale will be happening on Sundays, March 3 through 17! Make sure to get your stock for \$10 a share. 100% of the proceeds support Youth Missions! Then, on June 2, we will be having the 2019 Silent Auction! This will be a great opportunity for our church members, families, and friends to bid on spectacular items and experiences to support our Youth Ministries program. Keep watching for more details!

ACT/SAT Prep Class

High school students from First Pres and Faith Community Homes can register for a \$50 four-week course focusing on math subject areas of the ACT and SAT tests. The \$50 fee covers materials for the class. This course, which can cost hundreds of dollars, will be offered by church member Don Rowley. A retired math teacher, Don taught for 39 years at Hersey High School and has taught ACT and SAT prep classes for 25 years.

Dates: Wednesdays, March 13, 20, April 4 and 10, from 7:00-8:00 pm. Registration is required and students are expected to attend all four weeks. **Register for the spring session by March 8.** Contact Carol Vega in the church office at carolvega@firstpresah.org to register. Should you not be able to afford the \$50 course fee, scholarships are available, contact Rev. Alex Lang directly at alexlang@firstpresah.org or 847-255-5900.

CCL Needs You!

The Congregational and Community Life Committee (CCL) needs more volunteers from the congregation to join its committee. The committee meets once a month. CCL is looking for volunteers to help with the Mane Event in Arlington Heights and the Fall Kick-Off Block Party. Please contact Susan Kogan at sbk29@comcast.net or at 847-767-5530 if you are interested in joining CCL!



Celebrations

Toni Eaton on the birth of her grandson,
Spencer JaeYoung Jay Kim

Peter Mills on the birth of his granddaughter,
Josephine Elizabeth Figiel

Sympathy

Please join in extending sympathy to:

The family of **Mark Thomas**

Ed Slivovsky on the death of his wife,
Barbara Slivovsky

Sympathy Continued

Mary Larson and family on the death of her
stepfather, **Eliot R. "Pete" Long**

Leslie Crowe on the death of her sister,
Michelle Behm

The family of **Ruth Byrne**

Baptisms

Margaret Lopuszynski

Ash Wednesday & Holy Week Worship

Ash Wednesday, March 6: Worship will be at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Palm Sunday, April 14: Worship will be at 9:00 am in the Chapel and 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday, April 18: Worship will be at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Good Friday, April 19: Worship will be at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 21: Worship will be at 6:30 am at North School Park in Arlington Heights; at 8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am in the Sanctuary

Days of Restoration

Our church initiative, Days of Restoration, which began last Easter, 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 what Christopher Glass reflected upon when we asked participants to write down what they were thankful for.

I'm thankful every single day for my children; without them I would not be alive. I say that so many times, and it's true, however I find that when I'm writing it now... for some reason it's hitting me much more emotionally. Growing up I always wanted to be a father, and when I talk to my kids, or am lucky enough to spend time with them in person, I cherish every single second. My heart is never as warm or full as it is when they are around, and in fact, I've never felt true love until the day my daughter was born. I am completely thankful that they are in my life, and I get to be in theirs...

I'm thankful that I'm able to make ends meet and be able to provide for myself. I do not take my career or the chances and opportunities I've been given for granted. I have an affordable place to stay, with a vehicle that (mostly works), and some basic food essentials. It's more than enough to get by, and I am so thankful for those who have given me a chance to succeed and to God for the direction on how I can make the most out of those chances...

To sign-up for Days of Restoration, visit our website and search "Days of Restoration" in the search bar.

PW Upcoming Events

Tuesday, March 19 / 7:00 pm - Presbyterian Women Circle 7 invites you to join them at the home of Ridgely Jackson (299 N. Dunton Ave., #508 in Arlington Heights, phone: 312-995-0385) with co-hostess Jo Christian. Our study for March continues with *Psalms, Discovering Authentic Worship* by Sue Edwards, with the discussion of Lesson 3, "Celebrate Hope: Psalm 42."

Wednesday, March 20 / 9:00 am Parlor, Narthex, and Boardroom - Morning Circles will be studying "God With Us as Emmanuel." Join us for refreshments, fellowship, and Bible study.

Tuesday, April 16 / 7:00 pm - Presbyterian Women Circle 7 invites you to join them at the home of Deb Artman (1720 N. Kaspar Ave. in Arlington Heights, phone: 847-394-2017) with co-hostess Diane Platt. Our study for April continues with *Psalms, Discovering Authentic Worship* by Sue Edwards, with the discussion of Lesson 4, "Celebrate Each Day: Psalm 90."

Wednesday, April 17 / 9:00 am Parlor, Narthex, and Boardroom - Morning Circles will be studying "God With Us as the Holy Spirit." Join us!

Upcoming Events

Family Night: Enjoy a meal together with the families of First Pres and learn about the opportunities for learning, faith, and fun each Wednesday evening from September through May during Family Night! Drop-in dinner is from 6:00-7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall and all-ages programming is from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Dinner ONLY March 6 and, NO Family Night March 27.

Wednesdays @ Noon Recital: Wednesday, March 6, at 12:10 pm in the Sanctuary / Join us for a midday recital featuring Marisa Boynton and Kathleen Monson.

Deacons Care Fair: Sunday, March 10, following worship services in the Narthex / Join our Deacons to learn about volunteer opportunities with the various Deacons' Ministry Teams. Brochures explaining each team's functions will be available. You will be able to ask questions, request additional information, or sign up to volunteer for the team of your choice.

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. March 12: "Introduction to 19th Century Musical Nationalism, and the Music of the Bohemians Dvorak and Smetana"; April 2: "Edvard Grieg, the Norwegian Nationalist"; April 30: "The 19th Century Russian Musical Nationalists"

First Pres Talent Show: Sunday, March 17, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary / It's time for those in Arlington Heights and the surrounding communities to share their talents with each other! Solo, ensemble, musical, or otherwise, contact Adam Hendrickson at adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org for further details and to have your entry approved. There will be four categories: K-5th grade, 6th-12th grade, Adults (non-retired), and Adults (retired). There will be a plethora of prizes. Don't miss your chance to shine!



International Touring Artist, Emmet Cahill: Sunday, March 24, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary, Tickets \$30-45 / Emmet Cahill, award-winning Irish tenor and principal singer with the popular Irish music show,

"Celtic Thunder," is returning to First Pres for a much anticipated concert! Tickets may be purchased online at emmetcahill.com. **Questions:** Contact Adam Hendrickson at adamhendrickson@firstpresah.org

Wednesdays @ Noon Recital: Wednesday, April 3, at 12:10 pm in the Sanctuary / Join us for a midday recital featuring Christopher Urban on the organ.



Children's Ministries/PDO Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt:

Saturday, April 13, 9:00 am in Fellowship Hall / Children's Ministries and Parents' Day Out are partnering for our annual Easter Brunch and Egg Hunt. In addition to a delicious Easter brunch, there will be activities and fun for the whole family, with egg hunts for preschool - 5th graders. Families are asked to bring a sweet breakfast treat or fruit to share. **RSVP** to Katy Allen at katyallen@firstpresah.org

Spring Concert: Sunday, April 14, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary / The closing concert of the series will be a celebration of life for those living and those who have moved on into eternal light. Howard Goodall's, *Eternal Light*, will be the featured work, and it will be experienced as it was when it premiered in Oxford, England, with orchestra, choir, and dance. We will mark the beginning of our journey into Holy Week by acknowledging the love and loss that we feel as we move through life. We will walk together, "one step" at a time, and by Easter morning we will be reborn into hope with a sense of renewal as we bear witness to the resurrection of Jesus!

Aluminum Can Drive: Saturday, April 27, 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.

90th Birthday Celebration: Sunday, April 28, at 10:00 am in the Parlor / The Deacons cordially invite you to attend our annual 90th Birthday Celebration for cake, punch, and the joyous honor of recognizing our amazing nonagenarians!

THE CHIMES

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Congrats Roger!

Roger Fick is a forty-nine-year member of our congregation. He has served as both an Elder and a Trustee, and his wife of 58 years, Joy, is also an active and faithful member. Roger was recently named as “Person of the Year” by the Illinois Landscape Contractors Association. Roger and Joy came back to Chicago from their home in Arizona to receive this award during the coldest week we have had in many years!

Among the testimonies given on Roger’s behalf were: “Roger is a spectacular nurseryman”; “He is a visionary who set the bar in the landscaping business”; “He is a leader in high quality products.” Roger partnered with Carl Wilson to form Wilson Nurseries in 1972. Today, there are four locations and a Wilson Landscape Supply Company. His daughter, Jenn, and his son, Andy, are partners with him in Wilson Nurseries, handling the day-to-day running of the businesses. Roger learned his love of gardening from his mother. All of us who know Roger know that he is all about relationships. “It’s not about how big you can make your business; it’s about people and relationships,” says Roger. When asked about himself, Roger says, “At the end of the day, I still like being on a tractor.”

