



THE CARILLON

Monthly Newsletter
May 2022

First Presbyterian Church
Rev. Matt Lang, Pastor
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FROM THE PASTOR

As you all know, no sooner did I start my ministry with two lovely services on April 3rd than I was knocked back with a case of Covid. Certainly not how I intended to start my pastorate (certainly not right before Holy Week)! but a funny thing happened after I went down: everyone else stepped up. Of course this is not entirely a surprise; the fact that you all have endured an ongoing pandemic and weathered pastoral transitions in the midst of that (in the words of a colleague: *a luminal place within a luminal place*) is a testament to your willing and able leadership. Still, you had every excuse to fail and flail, and though there was probably flailing behind the scenes (or maybe under water like the feet of the swan churning, churning, churning while on the surface the swan looks to be gliding, untroubled by anything) Holy Week was a success, a triumph, a true witness to the resurrection. Alleluia!

This is a testament to your leadership and also a testament to the grace of God and the enduring power of the Holy Spirit. If not for the grace of God, there wouldn't have been a Holy Week in the first place, and if not for the enduring power of the Holy Spirit, we wouldn't be here celebrating all these thousands of years later.

Isn't it pretty good to know things can go wrong and still end up so right? Doesn't that truth set us free? I know it eases my mind and body. I breathe a little deeper and my shoulders drop and feel looser knowing that I don't have to be perfect (or even good, necessarily). I can just show up—or not show up in the case of a Covid imposed quarantine—and the Holy Spirit will take it from there, working with me and you and the best of our abilities to make our little corners of the world a better place.

Let's try to remember this as we move into the season of Easter. It's easy to get caught up with thinking about and worrying about what "needs" to be done or what "should" be done, it's easy to focus on what we're not doing but could be doing, it's easy to narrow in on what we perceive as our deficits and shortcomings, but we do not have to live like that. It's Easter! We're alive! What a gift!

Life is a gift given to us, by God, and all we have to do is the next thing. In my case, that means finishing writing this article. In your case, that means finishing reading this article. Once we're done with this thing, we'll do the next thing, and whatever that next thing is, God will work with us to make it just exactly as good as it needs to be.

Matt Lang

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

May 1 11 a.m. sanctuary
& live streaming
June 5 11 a.m. sanctuary
& live streaming



Pentecost

THREE SPECIAL DAYS

Three special days that we normally celebrate in our worship service are coming soon. The first is May 8, **Mother's Day**. May you connect by phone, email, card or flowers, maybe by Zoom, or even in person.



The second day is May 30, **Memorial Day**.

IN MEMORIAM

The names listed below are those who gave their lives in the service of their country in war and whom we remember on Memorial Day.



Memorial Day
Remember Those Who Gave Their Lives

Charles Gregory	1863
Maurice L. Colvert	1942
Robert G. Downey	1944
Walter Richards, Jr.	1944
Walter E. Johnston	1945
Peter Shrine	1945
Frank Bonham	1946
Wilford Hall Taylor	1952
Thomas Victor Lorence	1955
Park G. Bunker	1970

The third day is June 5, **Pentecost**. Pentecost in Christianity comes 50 days after Easter, that time period being called the season of Eastertide. (And for that reason, Pastor Lang has said that the Easter cross should stay up in the sanctuary until Pentecost.) When the Holy Spirit entered each of the gathered apostles on Pentecost, that time marks the birthday of the church. In the past, we have encouraged all to wear red as a sign of the flames of the Spirit on the apostles —so wear red all day on June 5, even if still sheltered in place. We remember the birth of the Christian Church and the way that the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples to proclaim Jesus as Messiah! It all started with the disciples gathered in prayer. It makes one wonder just what might happen when we worship, pray, and share Communion together.



Come, Spirit, Come!

SESSION REPORT

Regular Session Meeting, April 18, 2022

When Rev. Dudley Elvery closed his last Regular Session Meeting with prayer on Monday, December 13, 2021, he concluded his four-year run as the Teaching Elder/Moderator. Future Moderators beginning in January 2022 would have to be Interim Moderators appointed by the Presbytery of Chicago for as long as our pastor position remained unfilled. Chaplain Mike Welf became our assigned Interim Moderator for an indefinite term into the future. Then, God provided! A new called Pastor, the Rev. Matt Lang, accepted the yoked pastoral ministry in March 2022. Chaplain Welf was only here for three Regular Session Meetings and two Congregational Meetings. Pastor Matt served as Moderator of the April 18, 2022, Regular Session Meeting, his first of many to come with us. Session members greeted him with numerous bits of church and Session history to get him up to speed.

Mother's Day is coming on Sunday, May 8, 2022. Session voted to send the entire Mother's Day Special Offering to Anew (formerly the South Suburban Family Shelter) in Homewood.

The Session Elders are very pleased to see and hear the young children who are coming to church on Sunday mornings. The children participate in the celebration of Holy Communion and Moments with the Children in the worship services. Parents and grandparents are invited to bring their young family members whenever they can.

Rev. Lang endured a week of Covid-19 isolation from April 9-15, 2022, after a positive test result. He returned to lead the joint Good Friday worship service at Calvary United Protestant Church, Park Forest, on April 15, 2022, and the joint Easter worship service at First Presbyterian Church of Homewood on April 17, 2022. He thanked Ruling Elders Edward and Janet Wahl for leading the entire worship service on Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022, while he was in isolation.

Notification was received of the death of Active Member Elder/Deacon/Trustee Barbara Foerch on Sunday, April 17, 2022. Additional details for arrangements have not been determined at this time.

Notification was received of the death of the Rev. Dr. Eddie Knox, the retired pastor of Pullman Presbyterian Church, on Monday, April 11, 2022. Rev. Knox was very active in Mission Council #8 in the south suburban area.

SPAM ALERT! A spam text message was received on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, by an Elder from “Matt Lang” with the telephone number “(312) 879-9105.” Calls or texts from this number should be deleted because they are not valid.

Elders Kathleen O’Hanlon and Kathie Hazlett are working on opportunities for the news of our church being led by a new pastor, our 37th in our 163-year history, to appear in the *H-F Chronicle* and in the *Homewood Village Key*.

Respectfully submitted,
Edward C. Wahl, Clerk of Session



CHICAGO HEIGHTS MEN’S FELLOWSHIP



Chicago Heights First Presbyterian Men’s Fellowship and our men will gather for lunch on Friday, May 20, at 12:30 p.m. at Paulie’s Pub, 2736 Chicago Road, South Chicago Heights. All are welcome.

TRUSTEE REPORT

At the April meeting of the Trustees, the Buildings & Grounds Committee reported that painting of the outside of the church can begin soon, with the steeple and pillars being hired out. Grounds Beautification Committee will also begin work soon. The idea of a Spring Work Day did not get much support. The kitchen refrigerator had the compressor not working—sort of fixed but being monitored. The organ and piano have been tuned. Under Sound System, the lapel microphones have been located. Possibly they will help transmission for the live streaming services. The new computers for the offices have finally been installed, with the glitches worked out by a very competent man. The Trustees have to struggle with AT&T again as they plan a big raise for service and a forced change over to digital from analog. The pressing question is the phone in the elevator that the fire department requires. The first estimate for “pest control” was too expensive to consider. Janet Wahl

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MINISTRY TEAM

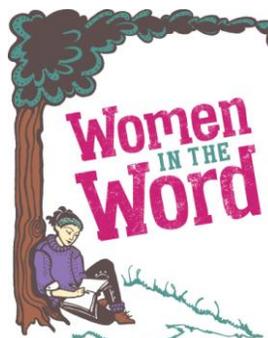
Legacy giving. What is that? In estate planning, it is the legal provision for a person to leave a legacy or bequest gift to the church. Please discuss this with your estate attorney or financial advisor. Your legacy is that the church can continue in ministry in your name after you have passed into God’s glory. Put it in your will.

The summary of receipts and disbursements for the First Presbyterian Church of Homewood for the month ending March 31, 2022, is in the following chart:

	<u>Through March</u>	<u>2022 Budget</u>
General Fund Income		
Identified Giving	\$26,045	---
Loose Offering	35	---
Initial Offering	421	---
Required Min. Dist./Stock Sale	1,977	---
Community Dinners Donations	0	---
Other Income	350	---
Dividends & Capital Gains	0	---
Sale of Investment Shares	0	---
Endowment Fund Distributions	0	---
Transfer from Designated Fund	0	---
Total General Fund Income	28,828	---
General Fund Expenses		
Missional Ventures	\$0	---
Faith Formation	0	---
Facilities	15,201	---
Staff	18,467	---
Transition	2,054	---
Administrative Support	1,469	---
Purchase of Investment Shares	0	---
Transfer to Designated Fund	0	---
Total General Fund Expenses	37,191	---
Designated Fund Income	\$5,363	
Designated Fund Expenses	4,222	
Total Active Members—March 31, 2022		96
Summary through March 2022 (3/12 of Budget):		
Income Over/(Under) 2022 Budget		---
Expenses Over/(Under) 2022 Budget		---
2022 Total Net Income (Loss) to Date		(8,363)

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRY

Please continue your personal faith formation with our Zoom classes. First Monday Book Study at 7 p.m. is starting *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead. Chapter 1 will be discussed on May 2. Contact Kathleen O’Hanlon for the Zoom link.



Tuesday Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. each week is beginning a study of women in the New Testament titled *Daughters to Disciples*, by Lyn Japinga. Contact Susan Zorns for a book and Laurie Ulrich for the Zoom link.

Tim VanNasdale's Tuesday Apologetics Study at 7 p.m. each week is on "Is the Bible Reliable?" Contact Tim at tlvannasdale@gmail.com in order to get links to a class promo, a place to purchase an \$8 study guide, and the Tuesday evening class and email notices for previews of each lesson.

There are 10 videos in this series to be watched and discussed together. Approximately two Tuesdays will be used for each video. **May 3** will be the second discussion of video #6

Still to come:

- ✚ 6. The Babylonian Conquest of Judah
- ✚ 7. Investigating the Historical Authenticity of the New Testament
- ✚ 8. The Reliability of Luke and Acts
- ✚ 9. How Archeology Backs Up the New Testament
- ✚ 10. The Trial of Jesus

Tim writes, "This study is led by an author named Stephen Meyer. It's going to focus on methods for determining text historicity along with using insights from archeology as well. I'll likely be drawing in work from Titus Kennedy and Gleason Archer as we go through the course as well."

 **PRAYER CARDS**

The following members, friends, and staff of First Presbyterian Church of Homewood will receive a card telling them that the church is praying for them. Please pray for those listed each week. Kathie Darman

Week of May 1

Emily Hamilton
Kim & Tim Hamilton
Dan & Rev Laurel Hamilton
Dan & Kiley Hamilton
Melanie Hamilton

Week of May 8

Nick & Brie Hamilton
Olivia Hamilton
Rich & Emily Hanley
Charlene Hansen
Jerry & Kathie Hazlett

Week of May 15

Tom & Tricia Hentschel
Emmanuel & Li Hilario
Bob James
Dorinda Jensen
Jessica & Ken Jursa

Week of May 22

Lina Jursa
Marilyn Jerner
Candi Kleindorfer
Melodee Leimnetzer
Nancy Llewellyn

Week of May 29

Karen Maurer
John & Debbie Maxwell
Kristen Maxwell
Bruce & Heather Miller
Ian Miller



 **HOSPITALIZED**

In the hospital during the month of March was Laura Dillman and during the month of April was Russ (the brother of Kathie Hazlett).



 **NURSING HOME / REHAB**

Jean Wenzelman (mother-in-law of organist Mary Ann), Hearts Village of Orland Park, Rm 206, 7420 W. 159th Street, Orland Park, 60462.

 **SYMPATHY**

Church sympathy is extended to the families of Barbara Foerch and Kay Johnson (friend of Shirley Armistead).



I am the Resurrection and the Life saith the Lord: he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

 **GRADUATION LIST**

Help us be accurate with the June list of graduates that will appear in *The Carillon*. If you (or son, daughter, grandchild) are graduating this year, please **let Janet Wahl at ewahl@sbcglobal.net know by May 20**. Use the form below as a guide for your email. Please include the relationship if the name does not match yours.



GRADUATE'S NAME _____
SCHOOL _____
KIND OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE _____
PLANS??? _____

 **BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

Linda Cantway Cook
Betty Owens



May God grant birthday blessings to you all this year

 **JUNE CARILLON**

The deadline for having articles placed in the June *Carillon* is **Friday, May 20**. Please turn in all materials in writing and email the Editor at ewahl@sbcglobal.net. The Editor thanks all the May reporters for their assistance.

J C = W =

A Mother's Love

Lee Hilario

Mirthful and bright
Softly hums her tunes
Joyfully bounces
Delighted baby laughs.

In the middle of the night
A whimpered cry heard
Up to her feet
To cuddle in her arms.

Sweetly sang a lullaby
To comfort and caress
Peaceful and content
Back to slumber.

A mother's touch
A mother's love
Adoringly watch
A baby asleep.

'Tis God's gift, a mother
Dedicated, complains not
Gives her very best
Nurtures with love.

Happy Mother's Day

Ephesians 6:2-3

“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on this earth.”



THE MAYPOLE DANCE

(*The Old Farmer's Almanac 2022*, Robert B. Thomas)

“Did you ever dance around the maypole as a child? Wrapping a maypole with colorful ribbons is a joyous tradition that still exists in some schools and communities.

- ✚ Originally, the maypole was a living tree chosen from the woods with much merrymaking. Ancient Celts danced around the tree, praying for good crops and fertility. For younger people, there was the possibility of courtship. If a young woman and man paired by sundown, their courtship continued so that the couple could get to know each other and, possibly, marry 6 weeks later on June's Midsummer's Day. This is how the 'June sedding' became a tradition.
- ✚ In the Middle Ages, all villages had a maypole. Towns would compete to see who had the tallest or best maypole. Over time, this Old English festival incorporated dance performances, plays, and literature. People would crown a 'May Queen' for the day's festivities.

“The strict Puritans of New England considered the celebrations of May Day to be licentious and pagan, so they forbade its observance, and the springtime holiday never became an important part of American culture as it was in many European countries.

“Interestingly, from the late 19th century through the 1950s, the maypole dance and festivities became a rite of spring at some U.S. colleges. Seen as a wholesome tradition, this celebration often included class plays, Scottish dancing, Morris dancing, a cappella concerts, and cultural dancing and music displays.

“In the 1960s and 1970s, interest waned; the May Queen and her court became more of a popularity contest. Today, the maypole dance is mainly celebrated in schools (from elementary through college) as a fun spring activity.”

MAY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Communion Heavenly Perks on website	2 7:00 Monday Book Club on Zoom	3 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	4	5 National Day of Prayer 	6	7
8 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) MOTHER'S DAY Heavenly Perks on website	9 Stewardship on Zoom	10 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom 7:00 Trustees in Parlor	11	12	13	14
15 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Heavenly Perks on website	16 7:00 Session on Zoom	17 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	18	19	20 Carillon DEADLINE 12:30 Chicago Heights Men's Fellowship	21
22 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Heavenly Perks on website	23	24 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom	25	26 Ascension of Christ	27	28
29 11:00 Worship (sanctuary & live streaming) Heavenly Perks on website	30 MEMORIAL DAY	31 10:30 Tuesday Bible Study on Zoom 7:00 Tuesday Study w/ Tim on Zoom				