



First Presbyterian  
Church of Lake Forest  
www.firstchurchlf.org

700 N. Sheridan Road  
Lake Forest, IL 60045  
847.234.6250 fax 847.234.6283

# Faith CONNECTIONS

## Once Upon a Parable Sunday, February 24 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Jesus was a storyteller.

He said, ***"I will open my mouth in parables. I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."***

(Matthew 13: 34-35)

He constantly regaled crowds with tales designed to teach, amuse, puzzle and even irritate. And two thousand years later, His words are still fresh – the double meanings and surprise endings of the stories challenge and enlighten us.

The Cherub, Carol and Junior High choirs with Sunday school children will tell five of Jesus' parables through the musical ***Once Upon a Parable*** by Tom S. Long and Allen Pote. In this musical, a group of energetic storytellers try to capture the humor and contemporary flavor of the parables – and use them to retell the Jesus story itself. Long and Pote want us to discover the underlying surprise in the words and life of Jesus: The love of God is always more than we expect. (excerpts from Foreward of *Once Upon a Parable*, Hope Publishing Company, 2000)

The children will guide us as we explore the Mission of Jesus through these parables: the house on a rock, the good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the prodigal son and Zaccheus. Mark your calendar!

## First Church is pursuing ways to *Proclaim Christ's Message & Provide a Community of Spiritual Nurture*. Now we begin to explore our third great end, *Promote God's Vision of Justice*.

During this contemplative season of Lent, Reverend Corey Nelson, Associate Pastor for Mission, invites you to join him for a five-week course to discern together what God's vision of justice is for the world today and how we can discern what God is calling us to do today as a part of that master plan. Through the lenses of scripture and history, current events and changing trends, we will examine the ways in which faithful people have responded to God's call to mission throughout history and determine how we should move forward into the 21st century.

For the past fifteen years, Corey served in the Presbyterian Church (USA) national and international mission efforts. During that time, he witnessed seismic shifts in the ways in which the church of Jesus Christ lives out its call to local and global mission:

- *moving away from* centralized mission agencies **towards** more 'hands-on' opportunities for personal involvement,
- *moving away from* one-directional models of doing things for people **towards** partnership models of working alongside and empowering people,
- *moving away from* disconnected assumptions that mission is only about what happens at or through the church **towards** a holistic approach of mission as something that is lived out in all aspects of our lives,
- *moving away from* guilt-driven motivations to help the less fortunate' **towards** explorations of how we can be great stewards of the power (cultural, political, economic) that we hold in the world arena.

The extent to which these global trends reflect upon and impact our congregation's mission efforts will be considered. While it will only be the beginning of a longer journey together, Corey hopes that we will begin to lay a spiritual foundation of the principals and values of mission that will help shape the next 150 years of mission at First Presbyterian Church.

Visions of Justice:  
**Mission** in the  
21<sup>st</sup> Century



DYNAMIC, INTERACTIVE FIVE-WEEK  
COURSE ON EITHER SUNDAY OR  
WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 7:00PM  
BEGINNING FEBRUARY 17 AND 20

- WEEK 1: Biblical Visions of Justice: Isaiah, Luke/Acts
- WEEK 2: Historical Visions of Justice: standing on big shoulders
- WEEK 3: Contemporary Visions of Justice: globalization & ethics on a collision course
- WEEK 4: Three Models of Mission: compassion, justice & transformation: case studies
- WEEK 5: Discerning God's Vision for Me & Us: discerning next steps

RECOGNIZING  
**THE POWER OF CHRIST**  
TO TRANSFORM LIVES,  
THE CORE MISSION OF FIRST CHURCH  
PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE  
PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE  
& PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE



Dear friends,  
**Lent is above all a season of discernment.**  
 In worship we have been focusing on Jesus' mission for his life – not only to discover more about him, but to discern at a deeper level our own true purposes.

Although discernment is, in the end, liberating, the process is some times uncomfortable. At such times I find myself turning to one of my favorite reflections out of the Jewish tradition – a poem by Joanne Greenberg found in *Gates of Repentance: The New Union Prayerbook for the Days of Awe:*

**Self-deceit is a strong fort;  
 It will last a lifetime.**

**Self-truth is a lightning bolt lost as I grasp it.  
 And the fires that it strikes can raze my house.**

**You ask me to yearn after truth, Lord,  
 But who would choose to be whipped with fire?**

**Unless in the burning there can be great light,  
 Unless the lightning that strikes terror  
 Lights enough to show the boundaries  
 Where terror ends,  
 And at the limits, still enduring and alive,  
 Shows me myself  
 And a hope no longer blind.**

May Lent illuminate the truth in your own life – not to court fear, but to invite the deepest freedom.

Every blessing,



## Lunch Bunch

On Friday, **February 29**, Lunch Bunch presents our own Dave Nash and his collection of Civil War memorabilia. For the past 20 years, Dave has been collecting a variety of items including some used under the command of General Sheridan and even some associated with Lincoln. Come for a great lunch and fascinating talk. We meet at 12 noon in the South Parlor. Please call Kerry at the church at (847) 234-6250, ext 233 by Tuesday, February 26. Cost is \$5. at the door.



**First Presbyterian Church** of Lake Forest  
 847-234-6250

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

**9:00 & 11:00AM Worship**

*Reverend Christine Chakoian*

*Sanctuary Choir at 9:00*

**Preparing Leaders**  
**Luke 9: 1-50**

CHURCH CLOSED FEBRUARY 18

FOR PRESIDENT'S DAY

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24

3RD SUNDAY IN LENT

**9:00 & 11:00AM Worship**

*Once Upon a Parable*

*Children's Choirs*

**Teaching through Parables**  
**Luke 5, 6, 7**

## IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff  
**Rev. Christine Chakoian**  
 cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Executive Pastor  
**Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey**  
 ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**  
 pday@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor **Rev. Corey Nelson**  
 cnelson@firstchurchlf.org

Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**  
 kkinney@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Ministries **Kristie Finley**  
 kfinley@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Children's Ministries **Amy Pagliarella**  
 apagliarella@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Music/Organist **Jill Hunt**  
 jhunt@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Sanctuary Choir **Thomas Tropp Jr.**  
 ttropp@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Children's Choirs **Elizabeth Weismehl**  
 eweismehl@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Music Ministry **Lesley Byers**  
 lbyers@firstchurchlf.org

Preschool Director **Ruth Luke**  
 preschool@firstchurchlf.org

Dir. of Communications **Donna Birney**  
 dbirney@firstchurchlf.org

Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**  
 hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org

Church website [www.firstchurchlf.org](http://www.firstchurchlf.org)

# PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



## WEDNESDAY MORNING COMMUNION SERVICES

SERVICE IN THE CHAPEL FROM 7:00-7:30<sup>AM</sup> Led by Lay and Clergy  
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST FROM 7:30-8:00<sup>AM</sup>

February 20: Reverend Patrick Day & a College Student

February 27: Reverend Kent Kinney and John Johnson

March 5: Reverend Christine Chakoian and Prue Beidler

March 12: Reverend Dr. Don Dempsey and Chris Coffin

THANKS TO  
MARTY FINGER  
FOR ORGANIZING  
COMMUNION &  
DIANE FONDRIEST  
FOR ORGANIZING  
THE BREAKFASTS



## Stephen Ministry

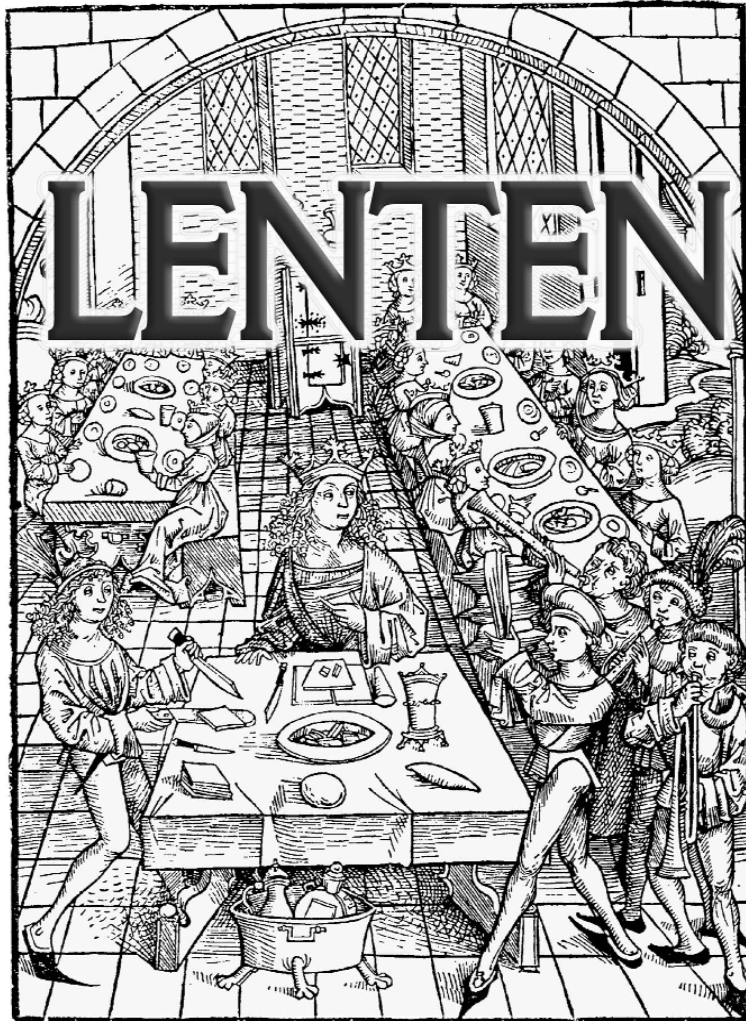
Reverend Christine Chakoian will explore the theology of pain and suffering on Saturday, **March 8** at 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. in the Parish House.

This difficult topic affects all of us at some time or another in the course of our lives.

Where is God in our pain and suffering?

What does the Bible have to say about this? are some of the questions that will be explored.

This conversation is open to the entire congregation and beyond. If you know someone who would be interested in or benefit from this presentation, invite him or her to join you. This presentation is part of the **Stephen Ministry continuing education program.**



REVEREND COREY NELSON AND THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WILL BE CO-HOSTING

## A SERIES OF MEALS FOR MEMBERS & FRIENDS TO GATHER, BREAK BREAD, AND GET TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

EACH PARTICIPANT WILL BE INVITED TO BRING A PORTION OF OUR COMMUNITY MEAL.

**BRUNCH @ 12:30 PM SUNDAYS; FEBRUARY 10, MARCH 2 AND MARCH 9**

**DINNER @ 6:30 PM SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28 MONDAY, MARCH 3 FRIDAY, MARCH 7**

MAKE RESERVATIONS WITH KERRY (847) 234-6250

# PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE



## Boys & Girls Club of Lake County February Events & Opportunities to Serve!

Contact Deacon Cesilie Price if you have questions or want more information.

### JOB SHADOW DAY

Job Shadow Day will take place on Monday, **February 18**, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. If necessary, we will run a second slot of 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m on the same day. Job Shadow Day is an opportunity for the children to learn about careers in fields they might otherwise not be able to explore. It is also an opportunity for companies to reach out to their community and join with organizations around the nation who participate in this event.

**First**, we need drivers to take members to and from the worksites:

For drop off, please be available 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m..

or pick up, please be available 12:00 p.m.-2:00 p.m.

If you would like to drive, please indicate whether you will drop off, pick up or both.

**Second**, we need work sites where our members can shadow.

It is a wonderful opportunity to meet the faces of those we are helping and to have a substantial effect on how they envision their futures.

If you would like to be a Job Shadow Mentor, please *contact Eileen Walker, Program Director, via email at ewalker@bgcl.com*. Please provide your name, company's name, your occupation, your work address, your phone number, email and the number of members you are willing to shadow (usually 1-3 members but can be more if you would like). If you have any questions, you can also contact her at the club Monday-Friday between 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at (847) 406-4667.

### CULTURAL CELEBRATION

The Cultural Celebration takes place on Friday, **February 29**, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Cultural Celebration is an opportunity for the kids served by the Boys & Girls Club to explore different countries' culture, games, sports, religion and FOOD! We are looking for food from more than 20 different countries for our members to try. If you are interested in cooking or purchasing a dish for the celebration, please contact *Eileen Walker, Program Director, via email at ewalker@bgcl.com*. If you are willing to pay for a dish but cannot pick it up, we will be happy to do the shopping. We will need enough for 300 members to have a sample size. Dishes from all countries are welcome.

### IN MEMORIAM

**Bernice Emilia (Hornig) Karnes** died on January 20, 2008. Mrs. Karnes, mother of Kathleen (Joel) Ferrin and grandmother to Mike, Tim and Nick was a loving, caring woman for whom music and celebration filled her life. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on February 2, 2008 Reverend Christine Chakoian officiating.

**George Segress**, father of organist Jill Hunt and grandfather to Bryan and Jason died January 29, 2008. A memorial service was held on February 1 at Wickline United Methodist Church in Midwest City, Oklahoma. Memorials may be sent to the Building Fund, Wickline United Methodist Church, 417 Mid-America Boulevard, Midwest City, OK 73110

### CHRISTOPHER MARTINAT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Christopher Martinat Memorial Scholarship has been established in loving memory of Christopher Martinat, a 1998 Lake Forest High School graduate. In recognition of Chris's love of nature and the outdoors, this scholarship will fully fund the tuition for a month-long NOLS (National Outdoor Leadership School) experience in the Rocky Mountains for one selected student. Rocky Mountain courses are typified by travel at relatively high altitude (8-12,000 ft.), spectacular scenery, wildlife viewing and opportunities for rock climbing and fishing.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MUST BE  
AT LEAST 16 YEARS OF AGE  
AND RESIDENTS OF LAKE FOREST,  
LAKE BLUFF OR KNOLLWOOD.

Application packets are available at First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, The Guidance Department at Lake Forest High School, Lake Forest Academy and Woodlands Academy. Completed applications, which include an essay, should be **returned no later than Friday, March 14**. A selection panel will interview semi-finalists and a recipient will be announced no later than Friday April 4. For additional information contact Linda Martinat (847) 615-0820.

This fund was established by generous donations to the Christopher Martinat Memorial Scholarship and will provide a NOLS outdoor experience for a selected student every year into perpetuity. A very special thanks to all who made this memorial possible.

### BIRTHS

We welcome **Addington Rose Leahy** born on January 18, 2008 to Cynthia and Sean Leahy. She joins her sister Sheridan, aunt Cynthia Holck and proud grandparents Linda and Larry Remensnyder.

We welcome **Matthew Sebastian Lewis** born on January 20, 2008 to Jeff and Anna Lewis. He joins his brother James and proud grandparents Dick and Marilyn Lewis.

We welcome **Elizabeth Kay Specketer** born on January 22, 2008 to Sarah and Rodd Specketer. She joins her sister Sadie and brothers James and Miles, and proud grandparents Peg and Kurt Gronau.

# PROMOTE GOD'S VISION

## "Extra, Extra! ... Read all about it!"

### Bid for Better Lives All-Church Auction '08

sponsored by the Board of Deacons

## April 19 Knollwood Country Club

**Read** how the proceeds from last year's Auction made real changes in the lives of people in Lake County...

*"Because of your continued support, we are able to add an additional professional tutor to our staff this year...We will also have the funds to expand to a fourth North Chicago school."*

-- Reading Power

*"We can never stop saving and changing our kid's lives. The club will continue to serve the kids who need us the most, because of you."*

-- Boys & Girls Club of Lake County

These comments demonstrate how your support of the All-Church Auction brings real action and real change to the people of Lake County! These quotes are just a few of the many that are received by the Board of Deacons each year. In order to continue to make meaningful contributions to each of the Lake County agencies First Church supports, we rely on your generous donations to the All Church Auction.

**Read** how we can continue the momentum for mission in '08 !

**AUCTION DONATIONS** are needed in many different areas...

- o Airline Miles
- o Vacation Homes: both near and far (Chicago, Florida, California)
- o Event Tickets ( Cubs, White Sox, Bears, Theatre, Music, etc...)
- o Cooking, Food Underwriting (to support donations of parties & other special events)
- o Specialty Lessons (sports, art, crafts)

Please contact any Deacon or Auction chairperson Cesilie Price at (847) 615-8806 or [cprice4@aol.com](mailto:cprice4@aol.com) if you have an item or an idea for donation!

## Each year, Calvin College hosts a world-renowned

### **Worship Symposium.** Seminars, workshops, and worship services feature remarkable leaders from numerous denominations and worship styles. It is one of the few places where African-American Pentecostal and classical musicians, Lutheran and Dutch Reformed pastors, evangelical, liberal and progressive lay leaders all learn together.

This is the second year that a number of your leaders have attended the Worship Symposium together. Pastors Christine Chakoian and Corey Nelson, musicians Jill Hunt and Lesley Byers, and youth ministry director Kristie Finley braved a late-January white-out drive to Grand Rapids to take in these and other seminars and worship services:

Abundant Life around the Table....Jazz Vespers....Planning Worship for the Global Village  
Redeeming Ritual: Lessons from Iona....Preaching without Notes....A Case Study in Worship Space Renovation.

*"I was impressed with discussions about the importance of youth making connections in their activities. It is not enough to collect funds for a food pantry. But when the youth collect the funds, purchase the food, take it to the pantry and stock the shelves, they learn forever what it takes to help others,"* stated Kristie.

*"My role as Director of Youth Music Ministry is my first position with worship leadership so this conference was extremely enlightening and most helpful. Learning how to locate contemporary and traditional worship music made the trip worthwhile. I feel more able to equip the youth band members to be better musicians and worship leaders,"* stated Lesley.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR Habitat for Humanity

**Volunteers of all skill levels, age 16 and older, are needed to build a Habitat for Humanity house in Waukegan.**

First Church along with five other local Presbyterian Churches is sponsoring a house in at the Carter Crossing Site in Waukegan.

Groundbreaking was in November and the foundation is now in. Volunteers from First Church are needed on the following Saturdays: Feb 16, Mar 8, Mar 22, and April 26.

To volunteer please **contact deacon**

**Carl Stevens,**

cell (224) 522-5506.

We will meet at the Carter Crossing site in Waukegan at 8:00<sup>AM</sup> and work until 4:00<sup>PM</sup>.

**Directions:** Carter Crossing is at Washington Park Ave and 12th Street in Waukegan. North on Green Bay Rd to Route 137. Right (east) on 137. Left (north) on Lewis Ave. Right (east) on 14th street. Left (north) on Washington Park to 12th Street.




The Core Mission of  
 First Presbyterian  
 Church of Lake Forest

- PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE
- PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE
- PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE

### PRESCHOOL ART FAIR

The annual Preschool Art Fair will be held on Saturday, **March 1** from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Each child will have two pieces of art on display in addition to a sculpture gallery of classroom projects available for adoption by preschool families. The Ryan Nyland Memorial Toy Drive to benefit Children's Memorial Hospital will be held in conjunction with the art fair. New toys are purchased for hospitalized children, brought to the art fair and delivered to the hospital by the Nyland family. The preschool children see what it means to care and share with others through their family's participation in this voluntary outreach project.

**FEBRUARY 15, 2008**  
 FAITH CONNECTIONS  
 IS PUBLISHED TWICE MONTHLY.  
 SEND SUBMISSIONS TO  
 publish@firstchurchll.org  
 SUBMISSION DUE DATES  
 ARE THE 1ST & 15TH  
 OF EACH MONTH.  
**SUNDAY WORSHIP AT**  
 9:00 & 11:00 AM  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL AT**  
 9:15 AM

  
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## Calling all 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Musicians!

In preparation for the **Blessing of the Animals** service on April 27, there will be an informational/sign-up meeting and our first rehearsal on Sunday, **March 2** at 4:30PM in the choir room. Bring your axes and your voice! If you have any questions, contact Lesley at (847) 736-1621 or LesleyPByers@aol.com.