



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



First Church's priorities guide everything we do.

**We Proclaim Christ's Message; Provide
a Community of Spiritual Nurture and
Promote God's Vision of Justice.**

**We provide a community of spiritual
nurture through small groups. A new
Small Group session begins the week of April 6
and concludes the week of June 1.**

Even if you have not participated in
either of the previous sessions, we would
love to have you sign up. We have had
people move in and out of groups each
session with over 100 people involved in
these groups. Below is a reflection from
Jeff Hinch about what this experience
has meant to him.

*"I have participated in two separate small
groups this past year. One was with couples
and now with an all men's peer group.
Both groups have added significant value
to me personally, spiritually and emotionally.
The process of reading, reflecting and most
importantly listening to peer perspectives on
the scripture and life events as it may be
influenced by the weekly scripture have
broadened my vision of the church, religion
and myself. The result of my participation
in these groups has greatly increased my
sense of community with these group
members and the church as a whole.*

*If you have not yet given the Small Groups
a try, then I highly recommend that you
see if you can join one in the next cycle."*

Registration forms should be available in the
office and on-line by the time you read this.
If you have any questions, or are interested
in leading a group, please contact
Patrick Day, pday@firstchurchlf.org.

Holy Week

As we begin Holy Week, "we set aside our normal routine to follow in the way of Jesus," stated Reverend Christine Chakoian. The story of Jesus' final week from his arrival in Jerusalem through the last supper with his disciples, his betrayal & abandonment in the garden, his death on the cross and his rising to new life will be told in services throughout the week in worship that will engage all the senses in participatory worship.

Palm Sunday, March 16 9:00 & 11:00^{AM}

Children and parents are encouraged to help lead the joyous palm processional that begins both services with the congregation waving their palm branches. The procession includes bells, choir, children, parents, Pharisees, disciples and a crowd of people. The Pharisees and disciples walk with Jesus into the temple, the disciples share Passover with him and he goes to the garden in solitude.

Maundy Thursday, March 20 at 7:30^{PM}

This is the day on which Jesus celebrated the Passover with his disciples, sharing a meal with them which we call the Last Supper. "Maundy" refers to the command given by Jesus at the Last Supper, that his disciples should love one another. Tenebrae and stripping of the altar follow communion. During Tenebrae candles are extinguished after each scripture is read. The stark appearance and darkness of the sanctuary mirrors the silence maintained at the end of Tenebrae.

Good Friday, March 21 at noon

A worship service focused on the seven last words of Christ is offered at noon. At the end of the service, prayer stations in the sanctuary will be open for personal meditation and reflection. Each station invites us to experience the passion that Jesus experienced on our behalf. These stations will be open until 8:00 p.m. and can be experienced in any order and for as long as desired.

Easter, March 23 at 7:00, 9:00 & 11:00^{AM}

Easter is a sacred holiday and the most important religious feast in the Christian liturgical year. It celebrates the resurrection of Jesus, which occurred on the third day after his crucifixion.

The World Sings Alleluia! All are welcome for a joy-filled, upbeat early service at 7:00^{AM} We will join our voices with Christians from around the world through songs, prayers and the Word. Continental breakfast follows in Fellowship Hall.

Sing Alleluia! in a celebratory worship service at 9:00 or 11:00^{AM}. An inspired, joy-filled message by Reverend Christine Chakoian will be shared. Music offered by the Sanctuary Choir and brass presents a highly festive tone. The worship space is decorated with lilies and hydrangeas representative of the joy Christians feel. Fellowship follows both services and nursery care is available in *The Ark* all morning.

Parking Shuttle will be available on Easter Sunday beginning at 7:45^{AM}

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



Easter is March 23rd.
 Maybe you'll be in church.
 Maybe you'll be on vacation. (It's Spring break.)
 Maybe you're one of the really good people who goes to church on vacation.
 Regardless, think about this.

Christians believe that Jesus was raised to new life the day the disciples found the tomb empty. Not just one day of new living, but new life.

How do you want your life to be different?
 Where are you feeling called to make your life different?

Christ was raised to new life, not for himself, but for us, for others.

How is your life being lived for others? How would you like it to be?

Albert Schweitzer said,
"The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve."

Have you found that place?

Challenge yourself during the Easter season to move into that new life.
 What seems like sacrifice at first becomes its own reward.

Peace.

Reverend Patrick Day

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 **Reverend Patrick Day**..... pday@firstchurchlf.org
- Associate Pastor **Reverend Corey Nelson**..... cnelson@firstchurchlf.org
- Parish Associate **Reverend 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
- Director of Communications **Donna Birney**..... dbirney@firstchurchlf.org
- Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**..... hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org
- Church website..... www.firstchurchlf.org



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
 847-234-6250

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*Reverend Christine Chakoian
 Palm Processional*

*Sanctuary Choir, Lakemister Ringers
 & Jr. High Choir at 9:00 & 11:00*

Confronting Evil

Luke 19: 29--23: 56

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE

7:30PM

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

NOON

PRAYER STATIONS UNTIL 8:00PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

EASTER/RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

7:00AM

Reverend Corey Nelson

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*Reverend Christine Chakoian
 Sanctuary Choir, Brass & Timpani*

Bringing New Life

Luke 24: 1-12

**CHURCH IS CLOSED ON
 MONDAY, MARCH 24**

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

*Amy Pagliarella
 Sanctuary Choir at 9:00*

Meeting Us Still

Luke 24: 13-39

**- ANNUAL MEETING -
 Part 2**

**Sunday, April 6, 2008 -
 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary
 to elect elders, deacons and members
 of the All Church Nominating Committee**

We hope you can join us for...



Bid for Better Lives

All Church Auction '08

SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS

An evening of Fellowship,
Dinner & Auction
to support
Lake County Missions
Saturday, April 19
Knollwood Country Club

6:00^{PM} Fellowship
& Silent Auction
8:00^{PM} Dinner
& Live Auction

Yes, I want to be a part of the All Church Auction!



DINNER & FELLOWSHIP: Please reserve... Total
___ Fellowship Reservations @ \$30 / each = ___
___ Dinner Reservations @ \$80 / each = ___
___ Drink Tickets @ \$ 1 / each = ___

CARING CONTRIBUTIONS... Total
To further the work of our sponsored Lake County Missions
Please accept this donation of \$ _____

___ I would prefer my donation remain anonymous and not printed in the program.
___ Caring Contributions must be received by April 7 for acknowledgment in the program book.

Total Payment Enclosed: \$ _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

*Program booklets will not be mailed in advance;
to see a preview of our auction items, include your email!*

PAYMENT Check payable to *First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest*
or Credit Card ... Visa ___ ... MasterCard ___

CARD # _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

..... DUE DATES

NEW! Online reservation option Please respond by April 7 by either...
Submitting Reservation & Secure Credit Card Payment via www.firstchurchlf.org
or...
Sending form and payment to:
First Presbyterian Church 700 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045

SEATING PREFERENCE Circle One Option
1. Reserve a complete table of 10 people (to confirm this request, all payments for all guests must be received before table will be assigned)
2. Request to be seated with others (include requested names below)
3. Mix & Mingle - we'll seat you with others

SEATING REQUESTS List Names & Addresses of all to be seated together here:
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

While we try our best to honor all seating requests,
we appreciate your willingness to be flexible if needed...

Questions? Please contact Nancy Hensel at (847) 295.2913

Whew! You're done! See you on April 19th!

Your "Menu" for Mission



Dinner Reservation (\$80 each)
"I'm in for the whole evening!"
Appetizers, Fellowship,
Silent Auction, Dinner
& Live Auction

Or...



Fellowship Reservation (\$30 each)
"I can't stay for dinner, but want to support our Missions!"
Appetizers, Fellowship
& Silent Auction



Drink Tickets
Drinks are purchased at the event with the use of tickets.
1 Ticket = \$1
Average price of drinks as follows:
Soda = 3 Tickets, Beer = 7 Tickets,
Wine & Cocktails = 9 Tickets,
Premium Cocktails = 11 Tickets

Drink tickets also available for purchase at the event.

PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE

New Member Class

The Membership Committee invites everyone – whether you are new to the community, a visitor, or have attended for some time – to join us for the new member class. First Church members are guided by three foundational principles: to proclaim Christ’s message in worship, to provide a community of spiritual nurture through small groups, Sunday School and youth groups, and to promote God’s vision of justice through our mission giving and actions.

Won’t you join us for our spring new member class?

The dates are: SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 12, 8:30 A.M. – NOON

THURSDAY EVENING, APRIL 17, 7:00 – 9:00

SUNDAY, APRIL 20, WELCOME AT THE 11:00 AM WORSHIP SERVICE

To register or for further information please contact Beth Gillies egillies@firstchurchlf.org or the Reverend Dr. Don Dempsey at ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org (847) 234-6250.



Vacation Bible School

Save the Date

June 10-13
(Tuesday through Friday)

Preschool Art Show & 5th Annual Ryan Nyland Memorial Toy Drive

The First Presbyterian Church Preschool held its **6th Annual Spring Art Fair** in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 1. Over 120 preschool students showcased the artwork and sculptures they created this past year. Together with their classroom teachers and Art Appreciation teacher, Ms. Lindy Rubin, the students explore various art elements, themes, and mediums which come alive in the children's artwork for all families to view at this annual event. As in years past, in conjunction with the Art Fair, the Preschool has joined with the Nyland Family to raise funds and collect toys for ill children at Children's Memorial Hospital as part of the Ryan Nyland Memorial Toy Drive. The Preschool feels blessed to be a part of this annual toy drive as it is truly an extension of the mission of the Preschool and the church.

“This year marked the **5th Annual Ryan Nyland Memorial Toy Drive**. In the past 5 years, we collectively have delivered more than 1300 toys and over \$12,500 to the Children’s Memorial Hospital in Ryan’s name. We feel blessed that with your help, we again, were able to bring joy to so many children at Children’s Memorial Hospital. We would like to thank the First Presbyterian Church Preschool children and their families for all the donations.

This year’s drive was very successful, with 250+ toys

being donated. We look forward to the toy drive each year. For it is in giving we receive.

Thank you again and God Bless!”



Kim, Jay, Nicholas, Katie and Samantha Nyland

PROVIDE SPIRITUAL NURTURE

DISCOVERING OUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

CHRISTINE VOGEL ANNUAL LECTURE

sponsored by Stephen Ministry and Adult Faith Formation
featured speaker is

The Reverend Dr. Virginia B. Smith

Associate Executive Presbyter for Ministry
Presbytery of Chicago

Saturday, April 12

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

**ALL ARE INVITED TO
ATTEND THIS WORKSHOP**

Register with Kerry Spera
kspera@firstchurchlf.org
or (847) 234-6250

Lunch will be provided - \$5.00

Each Christian has received certain gifts to be used to build up the body of Christ. The promise is there in the Bible: "We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us" (Romans:12:7).

"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good" (I Corinthians 12:7). No one has received all the spiritual gifts, but God has given at least one gift, and often several, to each individual.

Christians are called to use their gifts in service, to meet the needs of their congregations and communities.

In this way they act as Jesus' hands, feet, eyes, and ears in the world, serving others in following Christ's example.

As we explore our spiritual gifts, we will be addressing the following:

1. What is a Spiritual Gift?
2. Who has Spiritual Gifts?
3. How are Spiritual Gifts given?
4. Why are Spiritual Gifts given?
5. Are all gifts equal?
6. Do Spiritual Gifts differ from natural talents?
7. Are Spiritual Gifts different from the fruit of the Spirit?
8. Do we keep the same Spiritual Gifts all our lives?
9. Why has there been so little emphasis on Spiritual Gifts?
10. Why do I need to know my Spiritual Gifts?
11. Is it possible to make too much of Spiritual Gifts?
12. How do I discover a Spiritual Gift?
13. What should I do with my Spiritual Gifts once I know what they are?
14. What can a spiritually gifted person do to develop a ministry?
15. How can a church help its members develop Spiritual Gifts?
16. How will the Spiritual Gift-conscious church benefit from an emphasis on Spiritual Gifts?

SUCCULENT-EN MEALS

Reverend Corey Nelson, Associate Pastor for Mission, sends the following message:

"Thank you for making the Lenten Meals a wonderful success. Over 60 members of First Church were able to savor delicious meals, share personal stories, and affirm our deep connections to this church and community. Some have joked that I gave up cooking for Lent! Now, I might have to invite you to join me for sessions at the gym after Easter. Some people have talked about offering additional opportunities for shared meals and fellowship in the future, so if you have ideas, please let us know."

STAFF NEWS

The congregation responded very kindly to the news of the heavy personal losses suffered by staff members in the last month. The staff of First Church is incredibly grateful for the generous outpouring of support from members and friends of our church family. Thank you for sharing the love of Christ with all of us.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE



PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE



Christian Ideas studies *Faith and Reason*

The Christian Ideas group resumes its weekly discussion sessions on Tuesday, April 1. No fooling. Readings for the next few months will focus on faith and reason - whether they support each other, oppose each other, have nothing to do with each other, or do all of the above.

Christian Ideas uses a reading and discussion format. There is a reading schedule, usually about two hours' worth per week, followed by weekly discussions on Tuesday evenings. The readings are selected to span the wide variety of Christian (and some non-Christian) thinking on the theme at hand.

Faith and reason will be explored by readings that include Socrates' musings on the afterlife, scripture selections (wisdom literature and selections from Romans), Pascal's wager, and selections from Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Fides et Ratio* ("*Faith and Reason*," appropriately enough).

New participants are particularly welcome. The group has found, over the past year and a half, that this material can be read and understood by typical adults. Specialized education is not necessary - just a willingness to read and the curiosity to explore ideas. Despite the occasionally intimidating readings, the discussion is structured so that each of the participants emerges with an understanding of the works and how their ideas relate to our Christian faith today.

Watch the bulletin for details. For further information, contact Kevin Warnke at warnkek@sbcglobal.net.

Dedicate Flowers at Easter

Honor a special beloved person with a dedication that will be listed in the church bulletin on Easter Sunday, March 23.

Contributions can be made using the Easter Flower envelope found in the pew rack. It may be placed in the offering plate during worship or returned in person or by mail to the church office **no later than Wednesday, March 19**. Be sure to print names clearly on the envelope so they can be spelled correctly in the bulletin. The donation may also be given to the Glory of God, in celebration of a special occasion, in honor of our brave soldiers, or for any reason you may want to share with our congregation. Please make your tax deductible donation payable to *First Presbyterian Church Flower Ministry*.



Once Upon A Parable 🎵

The children of First Church were worship leaders on February 24 as they presented the sermon. Five parables that Jesus told were recounted in word and song including the house on a rock, the good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the prodigal son and the story of Zaccheus. The children were directed by **Elizabeth Weismehl** with **Anne Clapper** accompanist. Thank you to the children for their interpretation of these stories and to their parents for supporting this wonderful ministry.



PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE

WORLD MISSION CONFERENCE

"Let Your Light Shine"

was the theme of the Eighth Annual World Mission Conference at First Presbyterian Church in Gainesville, GA. Pastor Corey Nelson and Mission Committee member Jon Bayer attended on our behalf. Conference leaders shared with over 200 people some of the dynamic and growing mission agencies and programs that make a dramatic difference in the lives of people around the world. Pastor Corey Nelson was the music and worship leader and also taught several workshops on Global Worship in the Local Church.



SHARING RESOURCES • CHANGING LIVES

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have. Hebrews 13: 16a

Sharing is difficult; giving up part of what we believe is ours can seem like a burden. But as we progress in our Christian journey, we come to realize that all of our gifts come from God and that sharing enriches us. **One Great Hour of Sharing** is a special offering of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and other Christian denominations collected during Lent since 1949. This offering gives us an opportunity to share with people in need around the world. Communities and families are given not only clean water and food but the tools and training to live healthier lives and build sustainable sources of income. When we share with our sisters and brothers around the world, we are blessed.

The Session of First Church approves participation in this annual offering due to its impact and its long-term benefits. Envelopes will be in the bulletin on Sunday, March 16 and in the pew racks for the rest of March. Please give generously in support of this ministry.



The purpose of the conference was to inspire, to teach, to share global needs and to raise \$90,000 for specific mission programs (a goal that was achieved on Sunday during the offering!). The keynote speaker, Ben Mathes, Director of Rivers of the World, encouraged us to step forward in faith to make even more of a difference in our world.

Corey and Jon learned a great deal about how a local church can increasingly raise awareness and involvement in mission and were reminded that we are all part of one worldwide body of believers. First Presbyterian Parish Associate, Rev. Matt McGowan noted that, "The church whose light shines furthest away, always shines brightest at home."



Your Blood Makes a Difference - Give Blood on Sunday April 13!

sponsored by the Board of Deacons

8:00_{AM}— 1:00_{PM}

We all expect blood to be there for us, but barely a fraction of those who can give do. Yet sooner or later, virtually all of us will face a time of great vulnerability in which we need blood. And that time is all too often unexpected. If you are healthy, at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds, and have not donated blood in the last 8 weeks (56 days) you are eligible. Please sign up on Sundays beginning March 30 outside the hospitality office.

VOLUNTEERS still needed for Habitat for Humanity

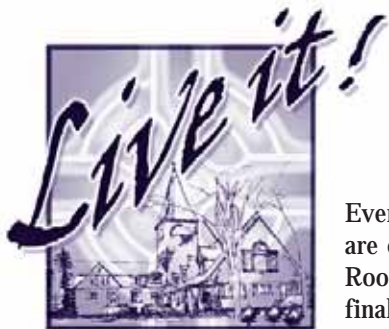
Volunteers of all skill ages above age 16 are needed to work on the latest Habitat home in Waukegan at Carter Crossing.

Help is needed on **Saturday March 22 and April 26** from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

To contribute to this ministry, contact deacon **Carl Stevens** (224) 522-5506 who will provide directions to Carter Crossing.

IN MEMORIAM

Jacqueline Christine Chakoian died on February 23, 2008. Mrs. Chakoian was active in her churches, serving as a deacon and Sunday school teacher at Community Presbyterian Church in Mt. Prospect. She was the loving mother of five. She will be missed by her husband Hank and her five children, spouses and grandchildren including the Reverend Christine (John Shustitzky) Chakoian and granddaughter Anna. A memorial service was held in the sanctuary on February 29, 2008, Reverends Patrick Day and Kent Kinney officiating.



The Core Mission of
First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

•
PROCLAIM
CHRIST'S
MESSAGE

•
PROVIDE A
COMMUNITY
OF SPIRITUAL
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•
PROMOTE
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OF JUSTICE

THE 58th ANNUAL SPRING RUMMAGE SALE IS SATURDAY, MAY 3rd

Even though the snow continues to swirl, the signs of spring are everywhere for our Rummage Mission. The Rummage Room is starting to fill up. The tents are ordered and the final details are currently being settled.

We can use your help in the following ways:

We need plastic milk crates for building shelving and displaying sale items. If you have any at home please drop them off at church. Don's had been our source for many years.

Join us for a Saturday morning sort. We will open the Rummage Room on Saturday, April 5 from 9:00am until 12:00 noon for an Expert Sorting morning.

We are inviting church members with expertise in artwork, golf equipment, men's clothing, trend clothing and more to help us identify and price upscale sporting goods.

We hope department chairmen might also spend a morning sorting with us to see how their department merchandise is handled during the year.

We can always use furniture donations and now is a very good time to contact us for a pick-up. Leave a message for us on the Rummage Sorting Room phone and we will call to arrange the pick-up of your furniture donations.

MARCH 1, 2008
FAITH CONNECTIONS
IS PUBLISHED TWICE MONTHLY.
SEND SUBMISSIONS TO
publish@firstchurchlf.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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Church of Lake Forest



LUNCH BUNCH Friday, March 28 - at noon



First Church
member
Phyllis Metcalf

recently returned
from her sixth trip
to Guatemala with
Hearts in Motion.
This agency sends

30-60 doctors, nurses, dentists,
pharmacists, fire fighters, carpenters,
translators and "go-fers" to Guatemala
each month to build schools, run
daycare centers, perform surgery
and teach search and rescue to
rural Guatemalans. Phyllis has
some unbelievable stories to tell us.
Please join us as we learn more about
Phyllis and how she shares Christ's
love with others.

\$5.00 for lunch RESERVATIONS:
kspera@firstchurchlf.org or
(847) 234-6250 by March 24