

Faith CONNECTIONS

Live it!
First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
 www.firstchurchlf.org

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

WELCOME

TO NEW MEMBERS WHO
 JOINED OUR LIFE & MINISTRY
 ON FEBRUARY 15, 2009:

Meg and Steve Ther have a 15 year old son, Kenny who is a percussionist. Meg is a Senior Inventory Analyst who enjoys gardening, genealogy and caring for animals. Steve is a branch office



administrator for Edward Jones in Lake Zurich. He enjoys tennis and cooking. The Thers are part of the First Church family due to the friendliness they have felt and the excellent preaching offered by Reverend Chakoian whom they knew many years back at Fourth Pres in Chicago.

Maryanne Havey, after many years of raising children and working, wants to discern God's plan for her and to follow it! She loves gardening and sees the goodness of God as she waits



each spring for the miracle and beauty of God's creation. Mary Anne has been called her by her family; she has been a part of her grandchildren's (Lauren and Ellen Havey) growth at First Church and finds worship simple yet profound and the people warm and enthusiastic!

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

Lent



is an Old English word derived from lencten, the Anglo-Saxon name for spring. Lent survives only as the name of the religious observance of the period of forty days before the celebration of Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on the third day after his Crucifixion.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on the Saturday before Easter. Forty days is a metaphorically significant Biblical number that is meant to signal a time of self purifying, reflection and repentance. It points to the themes of wandering, waiting, walking and self purification that constitute the character of Lent as soulful preparation for meeting the Risen Lord.

Some of us remember Lent in childhood as a time when we 'gave up something' we cherished and enjoyed. A grown-up evaluation helps us see that we are purified by Christ's sacrifice of His life and, with faith and confession of sin are made clean before God.

There are many opportunities within our congregation to seek spiritual growth including worship, Bible study, sharing faith stories in small groups and serving the helpless and hopeless.

Jeanne Lane



Wednesday Morning Communion Services & Breakfast

March 4 _____ Matthew 6: 7-15

Dr. Henry Chakoian and Reverend Christine Chakoian
The more we pray, the more we gain an understanding of prayer (what we are doing, what we might expect, how it affects us) and the easier it is to pray with confidence.

March 11 _____ Psalm 4: 1-8

Karol Karlblom and Reverend Kent Kinney
Prayer can be a part of ordinary life, and ordinary life a part of prayer. We can use short and simple ways to pray throughout the day that connect us more deeply to God, ourselves, others & all creation.

March 18 _____ Matthew 6: 5-6

Gig Hender and Reverend Corey Nelson
The kinds of prayer that are best for one person are not necessarily best for someone else. Discovering our own ways of praying and gathering with others to pray both nourish our relationship with God.

March 25 _____ Mark 2: 1-12

Nancy Orbison and Reverend Kent Kinney
Intercession happens any time we bring anyone to Jesus and ask for his Spirit to be with them. When we do this, we become ministers who connect those we love to God.

April 1 _____ Luke 11: 5-13

Nick Burlaw and Reverend Christine Chakoian
If we are really honest, prayer can change the way we live our lives. If we learn to listen, God can be honest with us.



Pastor/Head of Staff... **Reverend Christine Chakoian**...echakoian@firstchurchlf.org
 Associate Pastor for Mission... **Reverend Corey Nelson**...cnelson@firstchurchlf.org
 Associate Pastor for Children's Faith Formation... **Rev. Amy Pagliarella**...apagliariella@firstchurchlf.org
 Parish Associate... **Reverend Kent Kinney**...kkinney@firstchurchlf.org
 Executive Director... **Lynnette Hinch**...lhinch@firstchurchlf.org
 Director of Youth Faith Formation... **Kristie Finley**...kfinley@firstchurchlf.org
 Director of Music/Organist... **Jill Hunt**...jhunt@firstchurchlf.org
 Director of Sanctuary Choir... **Tom Tropp**...ttropp@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 ... fax 847-234-6283... phone 847-234-6250
 First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest 700 N. Sheridan Rd, Lake Forest, IL 60045 847-234-6250



Dear friends,

As the economy continues to shudder, our church continues to find its strength in our faith. One of the concrete manifestations of that faith is our gathering together and discerning how we can help each other. At our "COMMUNITY SYMPOSIUM" in mid-February, around 60 people participated in eight different workshops. Topics ranged from real estate and financial issues to holding our families and spirits up in times of stress.

But it's only the beginning. Here's some of the feedback we heard about what was helpful, and what we should do for our next steps:

"Being informed on market and housing market – education is priceless."

"The stress/exercise session was great!"

"It's helpful to know the network is there. I'd like to see small support groups to help people."

"A good problem was that there were too many choices for workshops."

Two suggestions kept emerging: a second symposium, and small groups for particular needs.

Whether or not you attended the first symposium, your ideas matter. Please let me know how our church can be helpful to you, or to people you know, as we uphold each other through these times.

In the meantime, we continue to take comfort that we are not alone. As the Psalmist writes,

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
 though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;*

though its waters roar and foam,

though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."

Psalm 46:1-3, 11

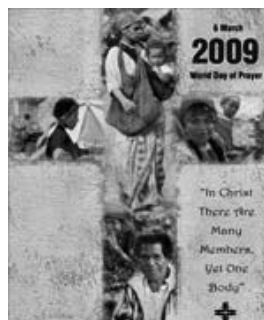
Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian

World Day of Prayer

Friday, March 6, 2009

10:00AM service at the
 Church of the Holy Spirit
 400 E. Westminster, Lake Forest
 (Child care provided)



Sunday Worship

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

1ST SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reverend Corey Nelson

Communion

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 & 11:00AM

SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 1

FIRST @ First Church
 Sunday

Dinner @ 6:00 Worship @ 7:00PM

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

2ND SUNDAY IN LENT

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

Reverend Christine Chakoian

Baptism at 11:00AM

Sanctuary Choir at 9:00 AM

Faith Connections

is published bi-monthly and mailed to 1300 members and friends of



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest.

Submission due dates are the 1st and the 15th of every month. Please send submissions to kwolff@firstchurchlf.org faxed to (847) 234-6283 or dropped off at the church office.

CHURCH OFFICE 847-234-6250

HOURS: Mon-Fri 8:30-5:00PM

Saturdays [Sept - May] 8:00-noon

All-Church Auction

150 years of giving

SPONSORED BY THE BOARD OF DEACONS



April 18

Knollwood Country Club

Our All-Church Auction makes a significant difference in the lives of many individuals & families. The Auction raises funds to support several local agencies that serve the disadvantaged.

During these difficult economic times, there has been an increased demand for the services of these ministries. These comments are representative of many that we have received:

"The Boys & Girls Club of Lake County is grateful for all the support given by the members of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. The demand for our after-school programs has grown rapidly this fall. You help change the lives of more than 700 children every day after school at our sites in Waukegan and North Chicago. Thank you!"

Cesilie Price, Chief Executive Officer

"We at Career Resource Center (CRC) know, first hand, how these troubling economic times are impacting the workforce. New client registrations are up 38% and we expect that percentage to rise. Yearly job losses are the worst since 1945...astounding statistics to most of us, but to the individuals who are personally affected the story is devastating...We at CRC are most appreciative of the partnership with the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest and the financial support we have received."

Jan Cline Leahy, Executive Director

The Board of Deacons relies upon your generous donations to make the Auction's fund-raising successful.

Many different types of items are needed.

Wished-for donations include:

- Vacation offerings (airline miles or tickets; hotel reservations, local and national; a weekend in Chicago; vacation homes or condominiums, near and far; cruises)
- Event tickets (Bears, Cubs, White Sox, theatre, concerts, opera)
- Restaurant gift certificates
- Creative parties or gatherings, including dinner with a celebrity
- Musical talents

One hundred per cent of the proceeds from the Auction benefit Lake County ministries.

Please contact Laura Sibley at (847) 615-9221 or sibleylaura1948@yahoo.com if you have an item or an idea for a donation.

The deadline for donations is March 15.

All-Church Auction RESERVATION FORM



Name _____

Phone _____

Auction Fellowship (Hors d'oeuvres only) \$30 per person \$ _____

DINNER Reservations are requested for _____ guest(s) at \$80 per person \$ _____

Angel Package \$100 Single/ \$200 Couple (Includes reservation and program recognition) \$ _____

Archangel Package \$250 Single/\$500 Couple (Includes reservation and program recognition) \$ _____

Friend of the Deacons up to \$500 (donation only with program recognition) \$ _____

Caring Partner \$500+ Individual or Business Name (donation only with program recognition) \$ _____

Pre-purchase of DRINK tickets ~ \$1/ea (tickets will be ready for you when you check in) \$ _____

(Approximate drink prices: soda - \$3; beer - \$6; wine - \$8; mixed drink - \$9)

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make your check(s) payable to
First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
or **CREDIT CARD:** VISA _____ MASTERCARD _____

CARD # _____

EXP DATE _____

Cardholder name/signature _____

(FOR PROGRAM RECOGNITION PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 3 - THANK YOU)

Seating will be pre-assigned;

you may (please circle one of the following):

- A) reserve a complete table (limit 10 people) to confirm this request, checks or charge for all guests must be received together
 - B) request to be seated with others (less than a full table)
- OR
- C) "mix and mingle" and we'll seat you with others

We will do our best to accommodate all requests but seating limitations may require some flexibility Please provide the names, addresses and phone number for all guests in your group. Thank you!

NAME(S) ADDRESS (must be completed for all parties requested at same table) and PHONE

PLEASE RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM ALONG WITH PAYMENT to Kerry Spera at kspera@fiscchurchlf.org, (847) 234-6250 or REGISTER ON LINE **www.firstchurchlf.org**

FAITH CONNECTIONS UPDATE

Faith Connections, our bi-monthly newsletter, is an important communication tool between church and home. Recognizing the technical nature of our culture and in an effort to save costs and to be environmentally friendly, the church is beginning an endeavor to distribute the newsletter by email. The newsletter is currently available on the church website so you may view, read or print them out.....in fact, you can find every issue since October 2005.

We do not want any of our congregation to miss out on a single issue! We will continue to send the newsletter through the postal service and send it by email so that you can test out the new system without missing out on any news.

If you do not have access to a computer, please fill out the form below and return it to the church office so that you will continue to receive the newsletter through the post office. Thank you for helping us! If you have any questions contact Donna Birney, Director of Communications, at dbirney@firstchurchlf.org or (847) 234-6250.

Yes... please continue to send me *Faith Connections* through the post office.

Name _____

Address _____



Broken Promises, Broken Dreams: Stories of Jewish and Palestinian Trauma and Resilience

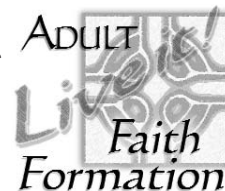
Lecture and Discussion with Alice Rothchild based on her latest book - an intimate journey grappling with the complicated historical legacy of Israel and Palestine and the author's relationship to these issues.

Ms. Rothchild is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College and Boston University School of Medicine. She is currently an Assistant Professor of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Biology at Harvard Medical School. She co-founded and co-chairs Boston's Visions of Peace with Justice in Israel/Palestine, is a member of American Jews for a Just Peace, and is a co-organizer of the Health and Human Rights Project.

Join us Saturday, March 21, 2009 at 10:00 - 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

RSVP by contacting Kerry Spera at (847) 234-6250 or kspera@firstchurchlf.org or go to our web site at www.firstchurchlf.org/adult/index.html.

Dr. Rothchild's book will be on sale at this event and she will sign copies.



Meet Our New Child Care Manager, Isabel Ortega!



Isabel Ortega!

Our Sunday nursery is blessed with the caring hands of Isabel Ortega, our new Child Care Manager. Isabel came to First Church in late 2008, after working as a full time nanny for a Highland Park family. In addition to working with children, Isabel previously provided nursing care to the elderly through the BrightStar organization.

When asked what she likes best about working with young children, Isabel says, "I like watching kids explore and helping them explore. It's a lot of fun. I just love kids!" And she's got family connections here, too: Isabel is Mom to our own Albert Epat and Aunt to Elmer Rosales both on the maintenance staff here at First Church. We warmly welcome Isabel to the First Church family!



PINEWOOD DERBY IN FELLOWSHIP HALL ON JANUARY 24, 2009

Scouts Honored

On Sunday, February 8, the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest hosted "Scout Sunday", a celebration of local boys' and girls' scout troops. Approximately 50 Boy, Cub, Tiger, Venture, Girl, Daisy and Brownie Scouts and Leaders participated in the morning processional and received a special blessing for their contribution to the community and commitment to scouting. Scout Sunday is celebrated every February by countless churches and synagogues across the United States.



PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

CHRISTIAN PERSPECTIVES DISCUSSION GROUP INVITES SMALL GROUP 'FIRST-TIMERS' TO JOIN FOR LENTEN SERIES

"But I've never joined a small group before...and I'm just not sure what to expect." Christian Perspectives, co-facilitators Susan Peet and Jeanne Lane frequently hear comments like this when asked about Christian Perspectives. The discussion group has met weekly for more than 10 years and has easily morphed and molded to fit the needs of its participants. Currently, the group selects a book or DVD series as the basis for its discussion but the most valued 'plus' is always the weekly sustenance that comes from sharing the challenges of living a faithful life.

For a deeper Lenten reflection this year, Reverend Chakoian has urged every church member to prayerfully consider participating in a small group to study the practice of prayer during Lent. To inspire this, the church has ordered a booklet, *"Praying: Meeting God in Daily Life"*, available for purchase at the church. In support of this all-church invitation, Christian Perspectives is purposefully throwing open its arms to invite guests to join its 5 week study beginning the day after Ash Wednesday guided by Henri Nouwen's acclaimed book, *The Only Necessary Thing: Living a Prayerful Life*. Ideal for weekly study and discussion, the book addresses topics including: the nature of prayer, the Holy Spirit, solitude, discipline, listening, action and intercession.

"Prayer is the bridge between my unconscious and my conscious life. Prayer connects my mind with my heart, my will with my passions, my brain with my belly. Prayer is the divine instrument of my wholeness, unity and inner peace."

Henri J. M. Nouwen

What can you expect if you come to Christian Perspectives? A warm welcome, spirited and open discussion that respects exactly where you now are in your faith journey, laughter, prayer and fellowship. The discussion is summarized in a weekly email because when life-gets-in-the-way and perfect attendance is not possible, participants can stay on track with the essence of the discussion. Christian Perspectives meets every Thursday in the Parish House Conference Room, 1-2:30 pm and refreshments are served. Jeanne Lane (cestchoc@aol.com) or Susan Peet (sbpeet@comcast.net) welcome your questions.



A Special Day for Families of Kindergarteners

Approximately 32 kindergarteners received Bibles as part of the First Presbyterian Church's annual "Kindergarten Bible Sunday" which was held on Sunday, January 25. During the service, Kindergarteners and their parents were invited forward to receive a special blessing and their very own *Adventure Bible*, a children's Bible Storybook.

Used cell phones, ink jet cartridges, laptops, iPods, digital camera and digital video cameras

are being collected by the Science Department of **NEAL MATH & SCIENCE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL** in North Chicago.

This fundraiser will support their greenhouse which several of our members have been helping develop. **Bring only those used electronics mentioned above.** Reverend Corey Nelson will see that they get to the Neal School. Thank you for supporting our growing relationship with the students, teachers and administration at Neal.

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 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 9**. A selection panel will interview semi-finalists and a recipient will be announced no later than Friday March 27. 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.



First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest
www.firstchurchlf.org

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
847-234-6250 fax 847-234-6283

MARCH 1, 2009

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
9:00 AM

SUNDAY EVENING, MARCH 1

FIRST @ First Church
Sunday

Dinner @ 6:00 Worship @ 7:00 PM

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT No. 65
LAKE FOREST, IL



WANTED: 6th, 7th and 8th grade musicians/vocalists! To lead music for the **Blessing of the Animals service** on Sunday, April 26. Informational meeting on Sunday, March 15, 5:00 PM in the choir room. Rehearsals begin Sunday, March 22, 4:00 PM, also in the choir room. For additional information, please contact Lesley Byers, Director of Youth Music Ministries, at LesleyPByers@aol.com or (847) 736-1621.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE SUNDAY, March 22, 2009



The American Red Cross aims to bring in 3 million blood donations nationwide this year for the 38,000 blood donations needed daily. The Board of Deacons is proud to assist the American Red Cross in realizing their 2009 goal, pledging blood donations from members and friends of First Church. Our donations will be used throughout the Midwest. Each unit is capable of helping three people so each contribution ensures that blood is readily available as needed.

We need your support to get there. Sunday, March 22, 2009 is designated Spring Blood Drive Day. The Red Cross will administer the Drive in Fellowship Hall. Appointments are being scheduled between 7:30 AM and 12:30 PM at 15-minute intervals. Please encourage friends and family members to join in our effort.

To reserve your sitting time, please call Paul Bergmann at 847 295 7957: paul.bergmann@comcast.net. For more information on the process and eligibility, please visit <http://www.givelife2.org>

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