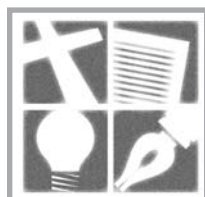




First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

Faith CONNECTIONS



Synopsis of **Christian IDEAS:** *Right and Wrong*

Each of the works studied provides an anchor for our sense of morality, answering Socrates' question of what defines moral virtue: God's will and the unchanging general principles of natural law; human reason and the inherent dignity of rational creatures; and "right" and "wrong" as transient products of evolution rather than concepts with transcendent significance.

Questions and issues remain. The discussion group pondered various ways in which God's command in Deuteronomy to kill the Canaanites can be considered "right," none of which was fully satisfying. And if that command was "wrong," by what standard would it be wrong? Second, what is the relationship of morality to Christianity? Do the life and teachings of Jesus provide Christians a unique standard of morality? Does Jesus present the perfect example of moral behavior that applies to Christians and non-Christians alike? Or does Christianity's unique understanding begin after we accept the notions of Right and Wrong and realize to our chagrin that we do not always do what is Right.

That's right. We sin. To get a deeper look at the **Christian IDEAS** exploration into *Right and Wrong*, go to www.firstchurchlf.org/adult.

700 N. Sheridan Road
Lake Forest, IL 60045
(847)234 6250
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www.firstchurchlf.org



Christian IDEAS

Completes First Discussion Series –
Right and Wrong

Christian IDEAS successfully completed its first series of reading and discussion, an exploration of fundamental concepts of morality. "Success" can be defined several ways, and there were several ways in which this new small group ministry succeeded.

- It succeeded in keeping a group of a dozen Christians regularly reading, meeting, and discussing ideas that are central to Christianity. The group ranged from college-aged to, let us say, those more advanced in years. It included Catholics and Presbyterians. Some participants had read or studied much of the material previously, while others were newcomers to the readings.
- It succeeded in reading works on morality that ranged from relatively simple to particularly impenetrable. Each dealt in some way with the question of what defines morality. What makes something right or wrong?
- It succeeded in actively engaging each participant in thoughtful discussion about the ideas in the texts and how they relate to each other and to our faith. In some cases, the discussion aimed at simply understanding the author. Where the meaning was more clear, the group grappled with implications of the work and how it reinforces or challenges our notions of Christian morality.
- It succeeded in sustaining sufficient interest to continue on to a new topic, starting in late January.

That brings us to **Topic II – Good and Bad**, beginning January 23. New participants are enthusiastically welcome. Information of this study is available on the web site at www.firstchurchlf.org.



A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY DEVOTED TO
READING & DISCUSSING CLASSIC WORKS
ADDRESSING BASIC ISSUES OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

For further information, contact
Kevin Warnke at warnkek@sbcglobal.net
or (847) 615-2002 (evenings)

Topic II - Good and Bad

Why, when we know what is good,
do we do what is bad?

Readings include Aristotle, Augustine, Aquinas, Milton, Poe
and selections from Scripture.

Sessions resume Tuesday, **January 23**, at 7:00 PM
NEW PARTICIPANTS, VISITORS, AND OCCASIONAL GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

MORE DETAILS AT

<http://www.firstchurchlf.org/adult/adult.html#study>

RECOGNIZING **THE POWER OF CHRIST** TO TRANSFORM LIVES,



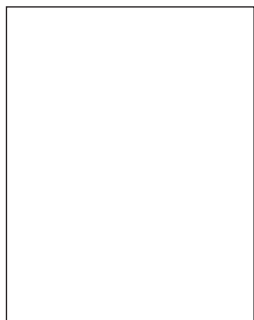
THE CORE MISSION OF FIRST CHURCH
PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE
PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE
& PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE.

Dear friends,

It is our custom every year at the end of January to hold our **Annual Meeting of the Congregation**. This year is no exception: our meeting has been called for Sunday, **January 28** at 10:00AM in the sanctuary.

What is exceptional this year is an expanded focus for our meeting. In addition to our normal budget review, the Session will present its long-range "game plan" for the congregation, which was presented by Long Range Planning Council and approved at the December Session meeting.

One of our main goals is to continue to have all the leadership in the church "on the same page" about putting our faith first. One of the immediate, tangible ways we can do that is to focus our devotional life together. To that end, associate pastor Patrick Day is writing a special devotion for every month in the year ahead. Beginning in January, all the committees, boards, and study groups in the church are encouraged to use this common devotional. We hope this will be helpful in building the faith we share.



I look forward to seeing you at the congregational meeting January 28 - and to hearing from you about the focus and vision of our congregation's ministry.

Every blessing,

Christine Chakoian

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

SESSION HAS CALLED THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR **SUNDAY, JANUARY 28** IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE 9:00 SERVICE. THE CONGREGATION WILL REVIEW AND VOTE TO RECEIVE THE BUDGET AND APPROVE THE TERMS OF CALL FOR CALLED PASTORS. **PART II** OF THE ANNUAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR **SUNDAY, MARCH 18** AND WILL INCLUDE THE REPORT OF THE **ALL CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE** AND THE ELECTION OF NEW DEACONS, ELDERS AND MEMBERS OF THE **ALL CHURCH NOMINATING COMMITTEE**.

LA TRATTORIA
A Winter's Eve Get-Together

SAVE THE DATE
March 10
at LAKE FOREST CLUB



First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
847-234-6250

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

The Reverend Christine Chakoian

Kindergarten Bible Sunday at 9:00

New Members Received at 11:00

Lectionary: Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a
Luke 4: 14-21

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9:00 & 11:00AM Worship

The Reverend Christine Chakoian

Annual Meeting Part 1

Lectionary: Jeremiah 1: 4-10
Psalm 71: 1-6
1 Corinthians 13: 1-13
Luke 4: 21-31

IN MINISTRY TOGETHER

Pastor/Head of Staff

Rev. Christine Chakoian

cchakoian@firstchurchlf.org

Executive Associate Pastor

Rev. Dr. Don Dempsey [Interim]

ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org

Associate Pastor **Rev. Patrick Day**

pday@firstchurchlf.org

Parish Associate **Rev. Kent Kinney**

kkinney@firstchurchlf.org

Children's Ministry **Donna Birney**

dbirney@firstchurchlf.org

Director of Youth Ministries **Kristie Finley**

kfinley@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

Church Business Manager **Herb Smyers**

hsmyers@firstchurchlf.org

Church website www.firstchurchlf.org

Faith Connections is published bimonthly and mailed to 1300 members and friends of **First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest** 700 North Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045. Submission due dates are the 1st and the 15th of every month. Submissions may be emailed (preferred method) to publish@firstchurchlf.org

PROCLAIM CHRIST'S MESSAGE

New Member Class

First Church is offering a two-session class for anyone interested in joining the church community on Thursday, January 18 from 7:00 to 9:00PM and Saturday, January 20 from 8:30AM to 12:00 PM (brunch is served). On Sunday January 21 new members will be received at the 11:00 AM service. Child care is provided Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

The guiding principles of these classes are contained in First Church's core mission:

**“Recognizing the power of
Christ to transform lives,
the First Presbyterian Church
of Lake Forest
affirms our core mission is
to Proclaim Christ's message,
Provide a community
of spiritual nurture,
and Promote God's justice.”**

The class offers each participant the opportunity to share his/her faith journey; to learn more about First Church and its history; and to learn about the mission of First Presbyterian Church. A recent new member stated, “We really enjoyed learning more about the church and getting to know the members of the membership committee. We found the experience to be very gratifying.”

We look forward to getting to know you! Contact Dr. Don Dempsey ddempsey@firstchurchlf.org or Beth Gillies egillies@firstchurchlf.org

reaching out....gathering

First Presbyterian
Church of Lake Forest

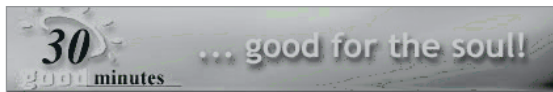
OUR FAMILY OF FAITH:
Telling the Story, Following the Way

together... working for Christ

The following is summary Preliminary financial information for December 2006 and the year-to-date period through the end of that month. (Unaudited)
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKE FOREST FINANCIAL REPORT
For the period ending December 31, 2006

	Current MONTH	Year To Date CURRENT	ANNUAL BUDGET 2006	YTD DIFFERENCE FAVORABLE (UNFAVORABLE)
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 320,868	\$2,350,645	\$2,405,750	\$ (55,105)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 217,072	\$2,371,647	\$2,405,750	\$ 34,103
NET INCOME	\$ 103,796	\$ (21,002)	\$ -	\$ (21,002)

PROMOTE GOD'S VISION OF JUSTICE



The Reverend Christine Chakoian may be seen and heard regularly on **30 Good Minutes**, a weekly ecumenical and interfaith program, at 5:00PM on Sunday afternoons, Channel 11 WTTW.



A speaker presents a spiritual topic with a question and answer period following.

Another person reflects on the same topic.

Christine will be reflecting on

Faith on February 4,

Diversity on February 25 and Justice on March 18. You can see the full schedule at www.30goodminutes.org.

...aids soldiers

As the mom of PV2 Heidi Allen, Jessica Allen has become involved in an all-volunteer organization that makes adaptive clothing for wounded soldiers. *Sew Much Comfort* was founded by Ginger Dosedel. Her 10-year-old son, Mike, has cancer. It was his idea to make adaptive clothing for the wounded soldiers, just as his mother and grandmother had been making for him over the years. Through the thoughtfulness of this young man and his family, *Sew Much Comfort* was born.

Jessica has been making adaptive clothing for this organization and is coordinating a 'sew-in' at Lake Forest High School scheduled for **Saturday, February 3**. She would like 20-30 people who are experienced at sewing and interested in assisting soldiers to contact her at (847) 234-8456, or Mom2gabs@aol.com. To learn more about this organization which has received a commensurate grant from the Department of Defense, go to

www.sewmuchcomfort.org



is the **3rd Friday** of **Every Month** by 4:00PM in Fellowship Hall kitchen contact Bill Shriver (847) 295-5415

January 19, 2007
February 16
March 16
April 20
May 18
June 15
July 20
August 17
September 21

Soup Kitchen

Lunch Bunch will gather on **Friday, January 26** to welcome **Bill Newton**, a Lake Bluff neighbor of Sue and Lloyd Hood. Bill, a WW2 Air Force veteran, has some fascinating stories to tell including a rescue in Yugoslavia by the partisans when his plane crashed. He is also a gifted Chicago artist who planned many Marshall Field's Christmas windows! Come to South Parlor at noon for a good time. Reservations are needed by Tuesday, January 23, please, by calling the church (847) 234-6250. Cost is \$5.00 at the door.

Work Trip 2007 Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, **January 21** at **6:30 PM**
Fellowship Hall

Members of our Senior High Work Trip will talk about our plans for this year's trip and share stories from previous Work Trips.

The Work Trip Participants and Advisors will
Cook and Serve You
A Delicious Spaghetti Dinner!

Tickets are \$ **15.00**

Call the church office and ask for Kerry Spera to make your reservation. (847) 234-6250
Tickets can be purchased at the door - Space is Limited

(This is our Spring Fundraiser)

IN MEMORIAM

Albert "Mac" Smith died January 3, 2007 in Huron, South Dakota. There was a service in Huron on January 8. A memorial service will be held in Lake Forest at a later date.

Lucille Heine died Christmas Day at Lake Forest Place. Lucille was a church member for 54 years. There will be a memorial service at The Senior Center in Lake Forest on Saturday, January 20 at 3:00 to remember her.



But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.
2 Corinthians 4:7

Save the Date

Bid For Better Lives

Saturday, **April 28** at Onwentsia

PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SPIRITUAL NURTURE



TOP 5 REASONS TO DONATE BLOOD SUNDAY, JANUARY 21!

- ① Free juice and cookies!
- ② It's easy and convenient - it takes about an hour and you can make the donation before or after services on January 21!
- ③ Nobody can ask you to do any heavy lifting as long as you have the bandage on - it's your badge of honor.
- ④ You will be helping to ensure that blood is there when you or someone close to you may need it. Most people don't think they'll ever need blood, but many do.
- ⑤ You will be someone's hero.

American Red Cross Blood Drive
First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest
Sunday, January 21 7:00 AM - 1:00 PM

To schedule an appointment or get additional information, please contact Paul Bergmann at (847) 295-7957 or paul.bergmann@comcast.net.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday **February 4**, our Senior High

Youth Group will be collecting donations after the 9:00 and 11:00 worship services. The Souper Bowl is a simple effort to "love the Lord our God...and love our neighbors" by encouraging people to give one dollar each as they leave worship on Super Bowl Sunday. All funds collected are designated to an agency that our Senior High Youth Group selects. The "Souper Bowl" began in a Senior High Fellowship in South Carolina and enables young people to see that by God's grace, they can make a difference in the world. So that our young people might learn, they are involved in the collection of funds and in the decision as to where the funds are sent. Our 2006 collection of \$864.00 went to the Heifer Project. On Souper Bowl Sunday, ask the young person at the door with the large pot, "Where are we sending our funds this year?"

Preserving Lake Forest: *The Heritage of Our Oldest Institutions*

will be held at Gorton Community Center on Wednesday, **January 24**. Lake Forest College and Lake Forest Academy are celebrating their 150th anniversary in 2007. This sparked the interest of the LF/LB Historical Society to present a panel discussion of historical insight. **Reverend Christine Chakoian** will represent First Church; other panelists include Rosemary Cowler/Lake Forest College, Francis Farwell/former Lake Forest mayor, Janice Hack/LF/LB Historical Society, James Herber/LF Preservation Foundation, Rita MacAyeal/Lake Forest Academy. Robert Kiely, LF City Manager will moderate. There is no charge for this opportunity to review our community's history. Refreshments and socializing begin at 7:00 PM; the program begins at 7:30 PM. RSVP to (847) 234-5253 or info@lflbhistory.org

KINDERGARTEN BIBLE SUNDAY

will be held on **January 21**, during the 9:00 worship service.

Kindergarten Bible Sunday is our church's acknowledgment that the Bible is a vitally important book that is central to our life and faith as Christians. Kindergartners are invited to receive, as a gift, a children's Bible storybook.

This storybook has colorful illustrations and child-friendly text that introduces children to the main characters in the Old and New Testaments. If you have a kindergartener and did not receive a letter regarding Bible Sunday, please contact Donna Birney at (847) 234-6250

The Children's Choirs
annual play is moving to

April 29, 2007

Don't miss *By the Sea* in worship
at 9:00 & 11:00

*A story of people looking to Jesus
for healing, for food and for friendship
just like we do!*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

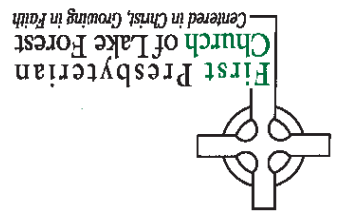
Mark you calendar for **February 7**
at 11:30AM in South Parlor.
We will be making Valentines
for our shut-in members and friends -
and have a delicious soup-and-salad
lunch together. All the materials will be
provided to inspire your enjoyment
in making Valentines that make many
people happy. Call Michele Montgomery
(847) 615-1690 or Rita Fossell (847) 234-4761.

Please send submissions to publish@firstchurchll.org

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www.firstchurchll.org

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FIRST CHURCH VISION STATEMENT

Called together and centered in Christ's service, we are a fellowship growing in faith.

Relying on God's grace, we commit to fulfilling God's purpose for us by creating a welcoming, inclusive environment that inspires spiritual growth and celebration.

We journey together, caring for each other as we make deeper connections through prayer, worship, education and mission outreach.

We embrace the challenge to be faithful stewards of our God-given gifts and talents.

Inspired by our heritage of service and leadership, we are disciples of Christ, committed to making a positive difference in our families, community and beyond.

We call others to join with us as we journey into the future, strengthened by God's guidance and love.



COLLEGE YOUTH ON WORK TRIP

McNeil Parker, Alexander Wyckoff, Jonny Morgans, Ben Holland, Greg Ryan, Christine Binkley, Todd Laesch, Jim Parker, Jim Cochrane, Jim Mayhall and Youth Director Kristie Finley spent a week



working in Sunset Gap, Tennessee with Josh, director of the local Community Center. Their project was to show the love of Christ to Diane as they worked on home repairs for her. The youth lived their faith, had fun and praised God. We thank the Lord for their energy, love and commitment!