



A monthly publication of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest

## Moving Forward with Staff, Mission, Deacons, Stewardship and Rummage

What a glorious “send-off” we had for Pastor Corey Nelson on Sunday, July 31! After nine years of his amazing leadership, we will miss him deeply. If you were not able to be part of worship, you can find the audio recording of his sermon at [firstchurchlf.org/sermons](http://firstchurchlf.org/sermons), as well as more pictures from his and Miriam’s farewell reception on our Facebook page, [facebook.com/firstchurchlf](https://facebook.com/firstchurchlf). A huge thanks to Joy McGreevy and the Board of Deacons for hosting fellowship. One of the most amazing parts was having small stones to sign with a message for Corey and Miriam. If you haven’t had a chance to sign a rock or contribute to the collection for Corey’s “purse,” you can

find the rocks at the Hospitality Desk and you can drop off your gift in Yehuda Jacobi’s mailbox.

**What happens next?** For the short-term, Corey’s responsibilities have been divided up among staff and volunteers. For now, Pastor Christine Chakoian will be staff liaison to Mission, Deacons, Stewardship and Rummage. The whole staff, along with volunteers, are sharing responsibilities for pastoral care and *first@five* leadership. We’ll also be adding some administrative staffing to make sure that crucial details don’t fall through the cracks.

In the meantime, an ad hoc committee is discerning what our long-term needs will be. The committee includes Jim Seymour and Bruce Keith from Personnel Committee, Tracy Tolmie and Laura Johnson from Mission, Joy McGreevy from Deacons, and Nancy Thomson from Long Range Planning and Governance. This group has already met once; our hope is that they’ll have a recommendation for Session this fall. If it’s clear that we need to fill Corey’s position, we’ll proceed with a search immediately. If more time is needed to discern our long-term needs, we’ll fill in with some additional, interim help.



## Explanation of the Covenant of Closure of PC(USA) Pastors with Their Congregation

*From Rita Fossell, Clerk of Session*

Now that Corey Nelson has been called to serve another church congregation, his pastoral focus must shift to his new congregation. As such, he must refrain from and we should not ask him to return here to do weddings, funerals, counseling, etc. Pastoral relationships are precious and when they end, we must honor the ending, too.

This is not to impede friendships that exist, only to prevent misunderstandings regarding our church’s work moving forward and to allow Corey to move forward in his new calling.

It allows cherished friendships and relationships that have grown over the last nine years to continue with openness and appreciation.

We send Corey off both sadly and joyfully. We will keep him and Miriam in our prayers and our thoughts and hope he will keep in touch with us as a valued friend.





Dear friends,

I usually think of summer as a quiet season, but this year it's been anything but quiet! These last two months have been packed—Vacation Bible School and “Playground Church,” our high schoolers off to Work Trip and then Youth Triennium, our summer worship and study series on “Practicing our Faith,” and, of course, Corey Nelson’s huge news of his upcoming move to Ft. Collins, Colorado! It’s been a whirlwind of saying good-bye and planning for the future.

Exciting plans are in place for the fall to focus on mission—and together we’ll insure that even Corey’s leaving won’t slow us down! “Called as Partners in Christ’s Service” is our focus, based on a book that Corey picked out especially for us. (You can pick up a copy of the book at the Hospitality Desk for \$10.) We’ll be exploring what mission means to us, and how great mission depends on our spiritual grounding. You can get a taste of how mission impacts our faith by joining our Work Trippers as they lead worship on Work Trip Sunday, Aug. 21 at the 10 a.m. service.

I am sad to miss worship that day as I’ll be off on vacation and furlough for much of August, spending time with our daughter in Albuquerque and with extended family celebrating my Dad’s 94th birthday. But because of that time away, I know I’ll come back for the fall spiritually refreshed and physically renewed—and ready to roll up my sleeves, serving Christ in partnership with you!

Every blessing,

Reverend Dr. Christine Chakoian



## News and Notes

As summer winds down and we prepare to go back to school, we invite you all to join us for our annual “**Blessing of the Backpacks**” on Sunday, Aug. 21 at 10 a.m. worship. Word for Children will once again be part of worship and we encourage all children to come up during this time to receive blessings for the new school year. We also will be blessing backpacks filled with school supplies, as well as the supplies people have generously donated over the summer, that will be distributed to students in need.

We are also pleased to **welcome Rev. Peter Smith** who will be preaching on Sunday, Sept. 4 at 10 a.m. worship. Rev. Smith served at First Pres from 1973 to 1982. He served in Christian Education and Youth Ministry; our work trip began while he was pastor. He was called to Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church in Detroit, Mich., and served as pastor there until his retirement in 2015. Peter and his wife Linda moved back to Lake Forest and are again part of the First Pres community.

## WE WORSHIP

**AUGUST 14**

10am Worship

Rev. Dr. Dave Bianchin Leading

**AUGUST 21**

Work Trip Sunday

10am Worship

Senior High Students Leading

**AUGUST 28**

10am Worship

Sean Kelly, M.Div., Leading

**SEPTEMBER 4**

10am Worship

Rev. Peter Smith Leading



is published monthly  
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**First Presbyterian Church**  
of Lake Forest

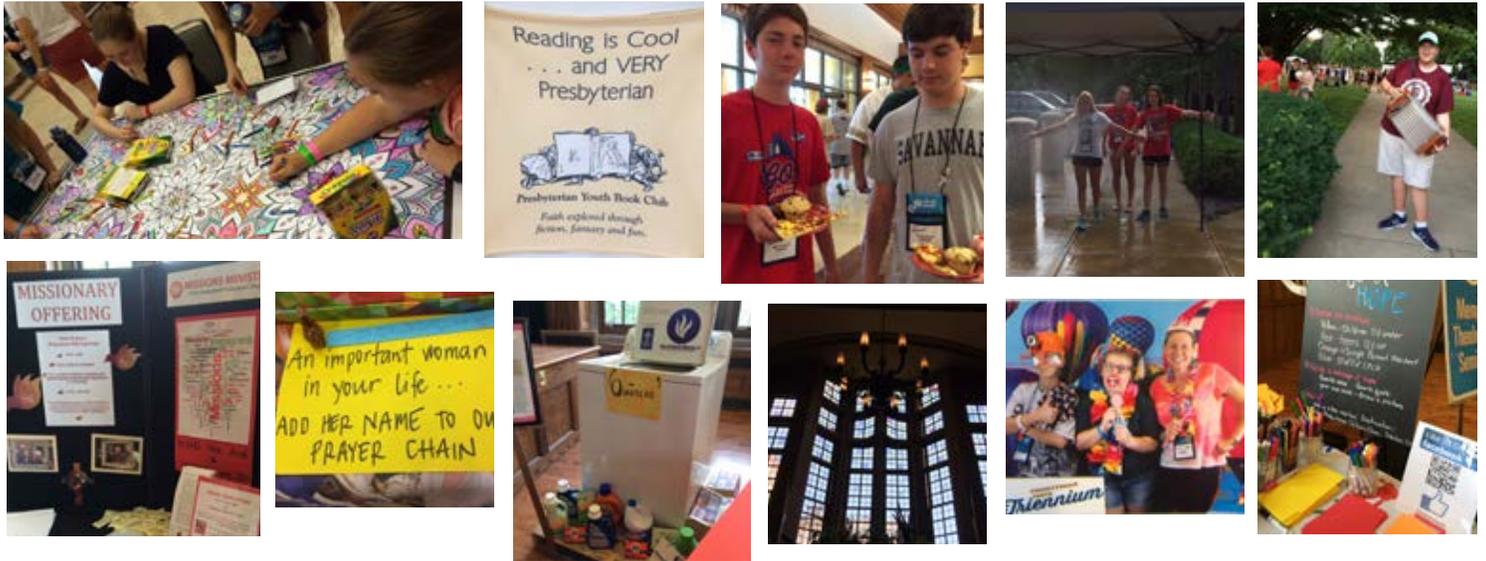
700 North Sheridan Road  
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045

*Submission due date is the  
15<sup>th</sup> of every month.*

CHURCH OFFICE (847) 234-6250  
HOURS: Monday-Friday 9AM-5PM

# Senior High Youth Take Part in the 2016 Triennium

Last month, our high school youth joined other church groups from the Presbytery of Chicago for the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium. Held at Purdue University in Indiana, the Triennium is a gathering of more than 5,000 Presbyterian high schoolers from all over the world for a week of worship, small groups, fellowship and fun.



## Flat Jesus Travels Across the U.S.

Thank you to everyone who took Flat Jesus with them wherever they went this summer. We hope that as you took the photo, you also took a moment to notice where you felt God's presence that day. Based on the photos, it looks like Flat Jesus was loving Maine this summer!



Maine



Maine



California



VBS



Illinois



Maine

## Volunteers Needed for Annual Lake Forest College Scavenger Hunt



It's that time again for the Annual Town Scavenger Hunt with Lake Forest College! We are once again looking for leaders who can explore the town with incoming freshmen on Wednesday, Aug. 17, from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

As we did last year, we will have dinner, the scavenger hunt and then ice cream. If you can't assist with travelling around town but would like to serve in another way, we need table hosts and greeters at doors, too! If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Sean Kelly at (847) 234-6250 or [skelly@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:skelly@firstchurchlf.org).

## Rummage Sorters Needed



Do you love fashion? Do toys strike your fancy? Then we want your expert eyes to help find the perfect items to sell at our Fall and Spring Rummage Sales!

Rummage sorters are needed Mondays and/or Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the Rummage Sorting Room. Training is provided and putting in nine hours of sorting per month gets you shopping privileges year-round!

We need sorters for these departments:

- toys
- fashion
- shoes
- garden
- linens
- housewares

Contact Maureen Olsen at (224) 433-6179 to sign up.

**The Fall Rummage Sale is just around the corner, Oct. 1 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

## There's Always Room for Dessert!



Looking to participate in a program that promises interesting people, tasty treats and a relaxed atmosphere to help you go from busy bee-ing to zestful be-ing?

Then "Just Dessert" is calling your name! On Aug. 28, we will be gathering in groups of three to four households to enjoy dessert and get to know each other. We are looking for households to host and provide the place, beverages, table settings and set the menu. We are also looking for guests to contribute to the dessert offerings and a willingness to connect with other people in the church they may or may not already know.

Sign up to host or be a guest at [firstchurchlf.org/dessert](http://firstchurchlf.org/dessert). Questions? Please call, text or email Susan Sailor Daly at (847) 271-6270 or at [ahoymates@comcast.net](mailto:ahoymates@comcast.net).

## Summer Soup Kitchen



Hunger isn't seasonal and we need your help to ensure that the 200 people we serve at **Soup Kitchen** have delicious, healthy meals this summer. Served jointly with St. Mary's church in Lake Forest on the 3rd Friday of each month at Holy Family Church in Waukegan, we need both food and servers, and we would be delighted for you to provide either. A sign-up sheet is available on the bulletin board in the church hallway outside the main office or you can sign up at [firstchurchlf.org/soupkitchen](http://firstchurchlf.org/soupkitchen). For more information or to be added to our monthly distribution list, please contact Shawn Ward at [shawn66@comcast.net](mailto:shawn66@comcast.net). The next service date is Friday, Aug. 19.

## Congratulations to our Plansoen Family Scholarship Winners

The Plansoen Family Scholarship, provided through First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, awards financial assistance to deserving Christian students at Lake Forest College. This year's recipients are: **Paloma Albarran**, sophomore, music education; **Evelyn Bello**, senior, psychology and Spanish; **Paul Dunham**, senior, politics; **Anna Faber**, sophomore, biology; **Maribelle "Hannah" Gomez**, junior, math and computer science; **Malia Hansen**, senior, neuroscience and math; **Casey Jewett**, junior, finance and sociology and anthropology; and **McKenzie Mac**, junior, business.

The mission of this scholarship is to not only help them pay for their education, but to also continue to develop and strengthen their faith through practical church, community and service activities. During their time at the College, we look forward to presenting avenues for scholarship recipients to hone their leadership and charitable talents by taking active roles in church life.

Plansoen Family Scholarship recipients will be required to participate in First Pres ministries on mutually agreed upon arrangements. Some of the activities available include:

- assisting with Church Rummage Sale preparation;
- assisting with and attending a youth or young adult retreat;
- working on a charitable project (i.e. Bernie's Book Bank, Feed My Starving Children)
- helping with Church services set-up and execution (i.e. ushering, first@five, fellowship, etc.)
- singing in the Sanctuary Choir; and
- supporting Youth Ministers with Confirmation preparation.

## New Children's Music Program for 2016-17



All 3rd through 8th graders are invited to join the Youth Chime Choir! Come for Choir and stay for chimes:

- Tuesday 3:45-4:15 p.m.  
Cherub Choir (age 4-kindergarten)
- Tuesday 4:15-5 p.m.  
Carol Choir (grades 1-5)
- Tuesday 5-5:30 p.m.  
Youth Chime Choir (grades 3-8)—  
There are up to 10 ringing positions to fill!  
Sign up today!
- Sunday 10:20-10:50 p.m.  
Middle School Choir (grades 6-8)

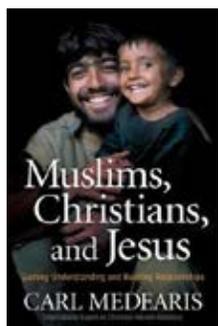
Contact Director of Children's Choirs Susan Noble for more information: [snoble@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:snoble@firstchurchlf.org) or Dr. Barry Wenger, [bwenger@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:bwenger@firstchurchlf.org) for info and to sign up for Chime Choir.

Pray for our middle schoolers as they embark on our annual Middle School Mission Trip—a three-day, two-night service trip to Chicago. We'll be staying at Fourth Presbyterian Church on North Michigan Avenue, Aug. 14 - 16, and will work with a different church mission partner each day. In the evening, we will reflect on these experiences, and how service connects to our faith.



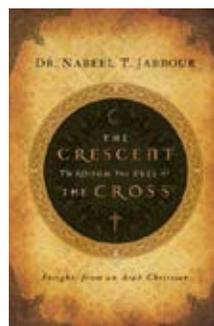
2016  
SUMMER  
*Reading List*

Summer Reading on Christianity and Islam: Titles recommended by Adult Faith Formation and The Syria-Middle East Workshop:



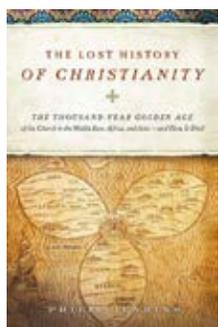
*Muslims, Christians, and Jesus: Gaining Understanding and Building Relationships*  
by Carl Medearis

This book examines what Islam really teaches and how today's Muslims live and think. Medearis shares practical information and personal stories instead of focusing on differences.



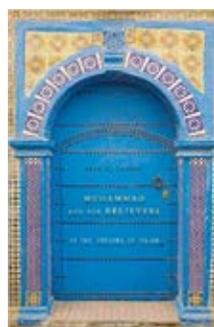
*The Crescent through the Eyes of the Cross: Insights from an Arab Christian*  
by Nabeel Jabbour

Dr. Jabbour, an Arab Christian raised in the Middle East, has lived and taught in the US for 25 years. He explores Muslim grievances, our own prejudices and assumptions, and the origins of radical Islamic fundamentalism.



*The Lost History of Christianity: The Thousand-Year Golden Age of the Church in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia—and How It Died* by Philip Jenkins

This is the story of how the churches to the East of Rome, once the dominant expression of Christianity for its first 1,000 years, are now nearly extinct.



*Muhammad and the Believers: At the Origins of Islam*  
by Fred McGraw Donner

For those curious about Islam's beginnings, Donner (University of Chicago Professor of Near Eastern History) presents an original, evenhanded, and succinct account.

More information on these books can be found at [firstchurchlf.org/summerreading](http://firstchurchlf.org/summerreading).

# Our Prayer Partner, the Presbyterian Church in Fairouzeh, Syria



Rev. Yacoub and his wife Grace

First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest, as part of the The Presbyterian Church USA, recognizes that we are called to stand in greater solidarity with our partner churches in the Middle East in this time of crisis; to strengthen ties; and expand relationships. Thus, in addition to our current mission support, we have established a prayer partnership so that we may:

- learn new ways to reach out to share God's love for others;
- realize our common Christian community by witnessing how the ties of God's love reach across barriers of nationality, language and culture;
- bear witness in our home country to God's work in Middle East, especially with our partner church;

- experience from each other the power of God's love, the meaning of being brothers and sisters in Christ, and the joy of sharing with and learning from one another; and
- through prayer, care for each other, support one another's joys and concerns, and know that we are all God's people.

Through guidance and prayerful reflection, we have partnered with the Presbyterian church in Fairouzeh, Syria. Fairouzeh, a suburb 3 miles southeast of Homs, is home to Rev. Yacoub and his wife Grace. Fairouzeh's population has swelled from about 5,000 before the war to more than 12,000 today, due to the influx of refugees. The church serves all who come to its doors, regardless of denomination or faith. Until last year, Rev. Yacoub served as a pastor in northeastern Syria, where the current civil war forced him and his whole congregation to leave their town. Several years prior, according to Rev. Elmarie Parker during her May 19 talk at First Pres, Rev. Yacoub had been captured by Islamist extremists but was let go when it became clear that he would not waver in his faith.

Rev. Yacoub shares a brief history of his new home: *The evangelical community in Fairouzeh was born due to the missionary work more than 170 years ago in Hafar Area, 65 km east of Fairouzeh. There is a town near Hafar called Sadad, which is considered the mother of all the Syriac Orthodox and the mother of Fairouzeh as*

*well. Many of the evangelical families started to travel away from Sadad and reached Fairouzeh 120 years ago—so we can say that our church in Fairouzeh is 120 years old. Our first baptism took place in 1905. Many pastors were called to take care of this church here. Officially, I am number 22.*

Despite the current difficulties, Rev. Yacoub is pursuing his theological education, working towards a Master of Sacred Theology degree at NEST (Near East School of Theology). He commutes from Homs, Syria to Beirut, Lebanon weekly (not an easy drive!) to pursue his studies where he has been granted a full scholarship.

Rev. Yacoub sends his greetings to all of us, along with this prayer: *We pray fervently to our Father to keep you and hold you close to His heart. We pray that you shine like light all the more where you are and be salt to the earth you inhabit, that all around know you are the people of God and His true children.*

Please lift Rev. Yacoub, his wife Grace, and his whole congregation in your prayers. Weekly prayers in the bulletin lift up people in peril, including our prayer partner in Fairouzeh.

*Let us pray for God's guidance and strength as Rev. Yacoub and Grace struggle to serve all who come to their doors, while members flee in fright from continued fighting and hardships. In Christ's name. Amen.*

## 2016 Theologian in Residence Series Begins Sept. 18



Dan McNerney

Our 2016 Theologian in Residence is Rev. Dan McNerney, associate director of Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship (PFF). PFF, one of our church's long-time mission partners, is an organization that seeks to stimulate congregational involvement in mission among people who live where there is no indigenous church. Rev. McNerney has helped PFF begin new frontier mission work in the Middle East, as well as Latin America and parts of Europe.

He has a passion to share Jesus' teachings with the Muslim world and is quite knowledgeable in Islam. He leads a very successful study group with Muslims in the northern suburbs.

As our Theologian in Residence this fall, he is focusing his series on the Christian response to Islam. To learn more about Rev. McNerney and the Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship, visit [www.pff.net](http://www.pff.net). In the next several weeks, be on the lookout for more information about the series, which begins on Sunday, Sept. 18.

# WANTED

## Confidential and Dependable Confidants

Stephen Ministry Training  
starts in early September.

Contact Donna Birney,  
[dbirney@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:dbirney@firstchurchlf.org),  
for more information.



**STEPHEN  
MINISTRY**

## New Exploring Grief Group

We are pleased to announce three new six-session Exploring Grief Groups that will be run by our Mission partner, Samaritan Counseling Center. This free series provides a confidential, supportive and educational environment to grieve the loss of a loved one or friend.

Meetings are led by Erin Sharp, MDiv, MS, who has extensive experience with grief and loss through her work with clients and as a pastor. Erin will design a unique presentation for each meeting tailored to the needs of the group. The group meets every other Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.

- Fall Session (Oct. 5 – Dec. 14) will be held at First Presbyterian of Lake Forest, 700 N. Sheridan Road in Lake Forest
- Winter Session (Jan. 11, 2017 – March 22, 2017) will be held at Church of the Holy Spirit, 400 E. Westminster Ave. in Lake Forest
- Spring Session (April 12, 2017 – June 21, 2017) will be held at St. James Lutheran Church, 1380 Waukegan Road in Lake Forest

For more information or to register for any of the six-session groups, please contact Erin at (847) 446-6955 ext. 22 or [esharp@northshoresamaritan.org](mailto:esharp@northshoresamaritan.org).

## Be a Part of The Lay Liturgist Ministry

We invite everyone to join us on Tuesday, Aug. 30 at 6 p.m. for Lay Liturgist Training. All are welcome—whether you have been a liturgist before or are just curious to see what is involved. There will be great fellowship that evening as well.

The training will be done in small groups, rotating through four stations:

- Walk Thru** (Sanctuary);
- Order of Worship** (Chapel);
- Scripture** (Location TBD); and
- Prayer Drafting** (Location TBD).

In the meantime, check out the Liturgist Sign-Up page at [firstchurchlf.org/liturgist-sign-up](http://firstchurchlf.org/liturgist-sign-up), or get more info by contacting Carl Traynor at [carl.m.traynor@gmail.com](mailto:carl.m.traynor@gmail.com) or Tom Tropp at [ttropp@firstchurchlf.org](mailto:ttropp@firstchurchlf.org).



# Be Partners in Christ's Service at First Presbyterian Church!

**RALLY DAY • SEPT. 11, 2016**

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**9 & 11AM, 5PM Worship Services**

*\*The Nursery (Room 212) is open 8:15AM - 12:15PM for all children in need of care.\**

**9AM Sunday School**

**10AM & 12PM Fellowship**

**6PM Light Dinner following  
first@five evening service**

Pick up a copy of this season's sermon guide,  
*Called as Partners in Christ's Service*, for \$10 at the Hospitality Desk.



*Thank you* to all who took part in our website usability and satisfaction survey! Your input helps ensure that our website provides you with the information that you need and keeps you connected with the church—wherever you are. We've read all the comments and are making adjustments to address your concerns for better navigation and an easier way to find events and sign-ups.

We aim to have improved usability by the end of this month.

## All Church Beach Picnic Aug. 21 at 11AM

Come casual to 10AM worship then caravan together to the beach immediately after worship. (Or just meet at us at the beach at 11AM.)

*lunch • fun & games • splash & play*

**\$10/person - RSVP at [firstchurchlf.org/beachpicnic](http://firstchurchlf.org/beachpicnic)**

Calling all parents of older 3 year olds and young 4's! **First Presbyterian Church Preschool** still has room in our Discovery and Adventure classes for this coming school year! Your child will discover fun, new adventures while learning and making new friends!

Visit [preschool.firstchurchlf.org](http://preschool.firstchurchlf.org) for more details.

9 & 11 AM, 5 PM WORSHIP

RALLY DAY, SEPT. 11

FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP

10 AM

MAY 29 - SEPT. 4

SUMMER WORSHIP

JOIN US FOR

AUGUST 2016

PUBLICATION DATE

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

700 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045

First Presbyterian Church  
OF LAKE FOREST

