



A monthly publication of the **First Presbyterian Church** of Lake Forest



Dear friends,

It may sound strange, but Lent is one of my favorite seasons of the Christian year. Yes, it is somewhat “dark,” with all the talk of wilderness and sacrifice. Yet Lent also offers a time for thoughtfulness and prayer ... a time for purpose and intention.

And, of course, in the end, Lent reminds us that the darkness is never the last word. Instead, as we walk through these 40 days, through Holy Week and even to the cross, we will end the journey in a place of unexpected joy. For God is in the business of resurrection, and we rest in the promise that new life will come.

I am so grateful that my final weeks with you coincide with Lent. I can't wait to see what growth God will work in us, and what joy we will find at the end.

Every blessing,

Reverend Dr. Christine Chakoian

Forgiveness: A Lenten Study by Marjorie Thompson

Study guides are available in the office for \$8.50

Beginnings: A Kinship Appeal

Luke 15:11-32

The Christian faith is indelibly marked by the invitation to receive, and the imperative to offer, forgiveness. Forgiveness is the fountain from which new life flows in a wounded, strife-weary world.

Self-Examination: Prelude to Forgiveness

Psalms 51 and 139

One of the greatest impediments to recognizing what makes for peace is our reluctance to look closely at our own hearts – what we are actually feeling, imagining, assuming or pondering. Awareness, acknowledgement and confession are the foundation for seeking and receiving forgiveness.

Honesty: Engaging the Inner Struggle

Matthew 5:43-48 and 7:1-6

Only as we become aware of our inner condition can we express ourselves honestly before God. If I can admit that my heart fights to keep certain people outside the boundaries of my love, I can at least begin asking God to help me stretch those boundaries.

Repentance: Getting a New Mind

Luke 23:32-43

God's justice and love are fused into a single response and a singular invitation. As the Word made flesh, Jesus takes divine judgment into his own body on our behalf. Repentance means adopting a new mind-set, going beyond our ordinary ways of thinking, perceiving and responding to life.

Forgiving: Embracing Freedom

Matthew 18:23-35

We know we are bidden to forgive one another as God, in Christ, has forgiven us. Sometimes we don't want to forgive, and sometimes we can't yet forgive. Hearing stories of how others have forgiven others can give us courage and inspiration to see that forgiveness is possible even in the direst situations.

Beginning Again: Reconciliation and Restoration *Luke 7:36-47*

As we absorb the magnitude of God's undeserved gift of forgiveness, we can respond only with heartfelt repentance and gratitude. God exercises judgment in the service of salvation and grants mercy in hopes of reclaiming us from the sad spectacle of our sin and its consequences.

March 1, 2017

ASH WEDNESDAY

Morning Worship & Breakfast

7AM, Chapel - 7:30AM, Parlor
Worship led by Pastor Christine Chakoian

Family Worship

5:30PM, Sanctuary
Worship led by Pastor Amy Pagliarella

Dinner & Program

5:45PM, Fellowship Hall
\$5 per person/\$15 per family
reserve your seats at firstchurchlf.org/ashwednesday or
call the church at (847) 234-6250

Traditional Ash Wednesday Worship

7PM, Sanctuary
Includes communion and imposition of ashes

Lenten Small Groups

Lent is almost upon us, a season for examining our hearts and lives as we move toward the good news of the resurrection of our Lord Jesus. Adult Faith Formation invites you to participate in a small group during Lent. This weekly spiritual commitment lasts for five weeks. A small group can be an amazing spiritual experience, particularly during Lent. We are in the process of creating new groups right now. Contact Pastor Dave (dbianchin@firstchurchlf.org) if you are interested. Please indicate the best time for you to participate (day and time of day).

first@five Update

Due to staff shortages and transitions occurring now, the pastors and staff are unable to continue *first@five* on Sunday evenings. Recognizing the disappointment this is to our faithful *first@five* attendees, we look forward to considering a restart in the fall. Thank you for your patience and understanding in this time of transition.

Wednesday Morning Lenten Services 7:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Breakfast following in the parlor

Lenten service on Wednesday mornings has been a tradition at First Pres for many years. It is held at 7:00 a.m. so that people who work in Chicago can worship and reflect before catching the train into the city. The service lasts 30 minutes including communion which is served each week. Breakfasts following worship offer attendees time for fellowship and relationship building. These services continue to focus on the meaning and importance of the Christian season of Lent.

Wednesday, March 1	Ash Wednesday	Christine Chakoian leading
Wednesday, March 8	2nd week in Lent	Dave Bianchin leading
Wednesday, March 15	3rd week in Lent	Nick Redmond leading
Wednesday, March 22	4th week in Lent	Christine Chakoian leading
Wednesday, March 29	5th week in Lent	Sean Kelly leading
Wednesday, April 5	6th week in Lent	Dave Bianchin leading

WE WORSHIP

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

9 & 11 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian Leading

SUNDAY, MARCH 12

9 & 11 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Dave Bianchin Leading

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

9 & 11 a.m.

Rev. Amy Pagliarella Leading

SUNDAY, MARCH 26

9 & 11 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Christine Chakoian Leading



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First Presbyterian Church
of Lake Forest

700 North Sheridan Road
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15th of every month.

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



Join us as we **honor** and **thank**
Rev. Amy Pagliarella
for her years of ministry at First Pres

*A purse will be collected for Amy as a parting gift.
The church is collecting financial gifts. Please note that your gift
is for Amy's farewell purse.*

Sunday, March 19
10AM Fellowship Hall

Blessings to Amy as God's Spirit carries her into the future

Upcoming Service Opportunities



PADS (Providing Advocacy, Dignity, and Shelter) needs volunteers to donate food, serve dinner and breakfast, and prepare bag lunches on Tuesday, March 14 and Wednesday morning, March 15 at the overnight shelter in Waukegan that serves approximately 50 homeless men. Learn more and sign up at firstchurchlf.org/serve-at-pads or contact deacon Martha Zeeman.



On the third Friday of the month, our Soup Kitchen mission serves up to 200 people at the Holy Family Church in Waukegan. The food or time donated to this ministry is greatly appreciated. Leftover food is not wasted; it is delivered to other locations in need. The next service date is March 17. Get more information and sign up at firstchurchlf.org/soupkitchen or contact deacon Shawn Ward.

On the third Friday of the month, our Soup Kitchen mission serves up to

Meal-a-Month

Meal-a-Month for March will focus on Shield's Township Food Pantry. The list of items needed for Easy Meal Month will be offered to the congregation after worship on March 5. We ask that the items are returned by Tuesday, March 14. Thank you for sharing so generously.



All Church Auction – Celebrating Service Together

Saturday Evening, April 22, 2017

Onwentsia Country Club

Join us for an evening of fellowship and fun as we seek to make a difference in the lives touched by our mission funds.

Cocktails, dinner and auction. More detail to come.

For questions, to donate, or to help with the event, please contact Marcy Kerr at

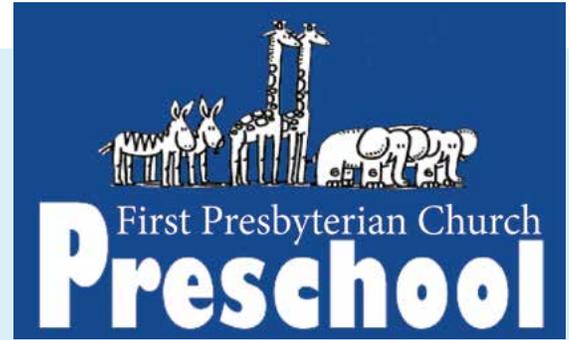
m.kerr4@comcast.net, Lisa Murray at lisa_murray_lf@yahoo.com or Tracy Tolmie at tracy.tolmie@gmail.com.

To make a contribution to the silent or live auction, please contact Tina Young at athenayoung@me.com.



Vacation Bible School on Hold

The Children’s Faith Formation Committee has decided to take a Vacation Bible School (VBS) sabbatical this summer. For the past three years we partnered with Church of the Holy Spirit to host this event. Due to changes in their church, they are unable to participate with us. And, our Lake Bluff friends cannot participate due to a change in school schedules. Our Children’s Faith Formation Committee reflected on these concerns which led to a unanimous decision to take a pause on VBS for this year while looking forward to 2018! Join us for VBS all summer long as we incorporate the “Fun Factory” VBS materials into summer Sunday School!



Preschool Enrollment Open

First Presbyterian Preschool is now accepting enrollment for 2017-18. Please contact preschool director Ruth Luke at 847-295-1214 or register online at preschool.firstchurchlf.org.

9AM AND 11AM WORSHIP
FOLLOWED BY FELLOWSHIP

JOIN US FOR
SUNDAY WORSHIP

700 N. Sheridan Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045
www.firstchurchlf.org

First Presbyterian Church
OF LAKE FOREST

