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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1100 CALVIN ROAD // ROCHELLE, IL 61068  
PHONE: 815-562-7053 WEB: [PLACEFORGRACE.COM](http://PLACEFORGRACE.COM)

# WELCOME

February 1, 2026 – 9:00am

Welcome and Announcements - Bob Cartwright

Time of Preparation for Worship

Introit: We Have Come to Worship the Lord

Call to Worship —Psalm 24:1-4, NRSV

Leader: The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it;

**All: for he has founded it on the seas, and established it on the rivers.**

Leader: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD? And who shall stand in his holy place?

**All: Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully.**

Song: It Is Well

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: You asked for my hands, that you might use them for your purpose.

**All: I gave them for a moment, then withdrew them, for the work was hard.**

Leader: You asked for my mouth to speak out against injustice.

**All: I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.**

Leader: You asked for my eyes to see the pain of poverty.

**All: I closed them, for I did not want to see.**

Leader: You asked for my life, that you might work through me.

**All: I gave a small part, that I might not get too involved.**

Leader: Lord, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you— only when it is convenient for me to do so, only in those places where it is safe to do so, and only with those who make it easy to do so.

**All: Father, forgive me, renew me, send me out as a usable instrument, that I might take seriously the meaning of your cross. Amen.**

Choir Anthem: Sing We a Joyful Song

Scripture: Joshua 3:13, Hebrews 11:1

Sermon: “Step into the Water”

Song of Preparation: He Leadeth Me #461

The Lord's Supper

The Apostles' Creed

Offering and Doxology

Song: Oceans

Blessing: 1Thessalonians 5:23-24

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## THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen

**SUNDAY, February 1**  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service, Communion  
10:00 a.m. Annual Congregational Meeting  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Adult Education, Sunday School  
6:30 p.m. High School Youth Group  
6:30 p.m. Chunko's Small Group  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

**MONDAY, February 2**  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study with Connie Dougherty  
6:30 p.m. Cub Scouts  
6:30 p.m. Middle School Youth Group

**TUESDAY, February 3**  
7:00 p.m. Session Meeting

**WEDNESDAY, February 4**  
11:00 a.m. Prayer Group  
6:00 p.m. Choir  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

**THURSDAY, February 5**  
7:00 a.m. Kiwanis  
10:00 a.m. Bible Study with Jeana  
4:00 p.m. 3-5th Grade Youth Group

**SATURDAY, February 7**  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

**SUNDAY, February 8**  
9:00 a.m. Worship  
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour, Adult Ed, Sunday School  
6:30 p.m. Chunko's Small Group  
7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

For the months of January and February, Xav & Jeana Valdivieso will be our Pulpit Supply and Pastoral Care team!

If you would like to get ahold of them, their contact is:  
Xav's Cell Phone: 815-761-2005  
Jeana's Cell Phone: 815-761-4010  
Xav's Email: xjvaldi@placeforgrace.com

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Joanne Mayes has moved into Hawthorne Inn. Her new address is:  
Hawthorne Inn  
#42  
2201 Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068

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Dorothy Heltness has moved. Her new address is:  
989 N West Spruce Ave  
#113  
Corvallis, OR 97330

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Bill & Nicole McKinley have moved. Their new address is:  
9371 S 46th ST  
Franklin, WI 53132

Hello Church!

Here is a brief survey from the Pastor Nominating Committee. We need your help in finding the right person to be our next pastor. We know God has someone out there for us. Your help can steer us in the right direction.

So, thank you for taking a few minutes to share your thoughts as our church enters this season of pastoral transition. Your voice matters. This survey is an integral part of our Mission Study, helping the Session and the Pastor Nominating Committee understand who we are as a congregation, what we value, and where God may be leading us next.

Please answer prayerfully. There are no "right" answers—only your experiences, hopes, and insights. All responses are confidential and will be used only to support the discernment process.

We are grateful for your participation and for your love for our church. May God guide us together as we seek His will for the future.

In Christ,  
The Pastor Nominating Committee  
John Haselton, Kara Burke, Connie Dougherty, Brent Tracy, Sarah Chisamore,  
Mary Kay Merema, Brad Chapman

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If you have a prayer request that you would like to be put on the "Prayer Chain", please send it to Mary Kay Merema. She sends the prayer requests to the texting threads.

Mary Kay's phone number is 815-761-3428.

**SCAN HERE**  
FOR CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY



Fellowship Commission Request

Are you a lover of baking cookies? Do you enjoy walking through the cookie aisle at the grocery store, trying to choose just the right kind? If so, Fellowship Commission could use your help! We are in need of cookies (storebought or homemade) for upcoming Sundays, and any amount you could provide would be greatly appreciated!

Feel free to drop them off at the church during the week and place them in the freezer and we will take it from there! Also, we are very grateful to those of you would have provided cookies thus far to enjoy with our coffee time!

Any questions, please reach out to us. Thank you so much!

The Fellowship Commission  
Karen Cech, Rachel Thorson, Shay Good

New Adult Class Begins February 8: The Challenge of Acts

A fresh opportunity for learning and fellowship begins Sunday, February 8, as we launch a new adult class exploring N.T. Wright’s The Challenge of Acts. This short, engaging book invites readers to rediscover the power of the Holy Spirit, the bold witness of the early church, and the ongoing call for Christians to embody the gospel in today’s world. Wright’s accessible style makes the book ideal for group conversation, whether you’re new to Acts or returning with fresh eyes.

Each week, we’ll reflect on key themes from the book alongside the biblical text, considering how the story of the early church shapes our mission and imagination as a congregation. All are welcome—long-time participants and newcomers alike.

□ Books are available in the church office during the week or on the first day of class for \$12.

Come ready to learn, discuss, and be encouraged as we journey through Acts together.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS

Please keep our nursing home and rehab residents in your prayers. We list them here with their addresses - they would love to get a note or card!!

Franklin Grove Healthcare,  
502 N. State Street, Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Teddie Pohl  
Mildred Danekas  
Gary Williams  
Archie Jensen

Hawthorne Inn  
2201 Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068

Laura Bunger  
Shirley Villa  
Judy (Nelson) Messer  
David Guest  
Joanne Mayes

Liberty Village  
2203 E Flagg Road, Rochelle, IL 61068

Codelle Leonard  
Marjorie Hayes  
Nancy Detig  
Sandi Graber  
Jan Hann  
Clyda Lamb

The Meadows  
510 N State, #113, Franklin Grove, IL 61031

Larry Cleveland

Flagler Heath and Rehab Center  
300 Dr. Carter Blvd.

Burnnell, FL 32110  
Pearl Fromm

Brighton Gardens of St. Charles  
600 Dunham Road Room 326

St. Charles, IL 60174  
Bill Frederick

Sunday Greeters Needed!

The Deacons are looking for volunteers to serve as greeters prior to the 9:00 a.m. Sunday service. We hope to have two greeters (or more!) each Sunday—to assist people at the east entrance and to pass out bulletins as worshipers arrive.

Come at 8:30 a.m. and you are done by 9:00 a.m. to join worship. Easy!

For more information, or to volunteer, please contact Kathy Slattengren

Thank you!

Pulpit Supply/Pastoral Care—Xav Valdivieso  
Office Coordinator/DCE - Sara Slattengren  
Student Ministry Leader - Tessa Stouffer  
Secretary/Receptionist - Midge Berg  
Financial Secretary - Karen Hauck

Church Web Site: [www.placeforgrace.com](http://www.placeforgrace.com)

E-Mail Addresses:

Xav Valdivieso: [xjvaldi@placeforgrace.com](mailto:xjvaldi@placeforgrace.com)  
Sara Slattengren: [sara@placeforgrace.com](mailto:sara@placeforgrace.com)  
Tessa Stouffer : [tessa@placeforgrace.com](mailto:tessa@placeforgrace.com)  
Karen Hauck: [karen@placeforgrace.com](mailto:karen@placeforgrace.com)  
Midge Berg: [midge@placeforgrace.com](mailto:midge@placeforgrace.com)  
Church Office: [info@placeforgrace.com](mailto:info@placeforgrace.com)

Office Hours: M-Th 9a-4p  
Fri 9a-12Noon



## Youth Group Happenings

It's been an awesomely crazy January as we took our Middle School and High School students to Camp TimberLee for WinterXtreme in back-to-back weekends! We had 29 Middle School students go, and 12 High School students! We even had a handful of students go to camp for the very first time! A huge THANK YOU to Sara Slattengren, Julia Harris, Tarah and Gracee Holmgren, Jared Burke, and Mike Koolidge for their partnering in leadership on those weekends!

The theme of the weekends was "Unseen" and the focus was on 2 Corinthians 4:18, "We fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." Pastor Josh Petersen walked our Middle School students through Matthew 6 and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount to give us 4 points to remember about the seen versus the unseen. 1. Attention determines direction (we talked about how this works physically, mentally, and spiritually in our lives). 2. Applause will pause (this point was to encourage us to think about the audience we're trying to please). 3. You only live once forever (students were encouraged to think beyond our momentary time here, and ask what they wanted forever to look like). 4. There's a you in you that you can redo (this was a charge to students to experience renewal through trusting Jesus).

Our High Schoolers heard from Pastor James Maxwell, who kicked off the weekend by reminding students that we will not be free from trials, heartache, and grief here and now. However, we have a God who encourages us to bring everything to Him, and not hide from it. He then reminded students that faith that allows free will, necessitates an option to choose evil...but that evil is no match for God. Later we talked about what it looks like to rejoice in pain and suffering, like Peter wrote about. Students were reminded that Jesus doesn't leave us in those times. Finally, they were told that it's their turn to take action, and he challenged students to Depend on Christ, Delight in Christ, and to be Devoted to Christ.

I know this is a long update, but it's been a little while since I've updated and you have my sincere apologies for that. 41 students went to WinterXtreme, and that wasn't even everyone who regularly attends groups. Our youth groups are growing and thriving! It's very humbling, and a huge joy to have the trust and support of this church to be a part of what God is doing here! Please continue to pray for students as they come back from camp, and finish the school year!

-Tessa Stouffer

