

FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of
Estherville First
Presbyterian Church

April 2020



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Pastor's Ponderings



Dear People of God in Christ,

A famous evangelist once described the North American church as a “sleeping giant.” This description says that she may look impressive and pompous, but there is little real and genuine spiritual life present. The only sound coming from this pompous organization is a very comfortable snoring sound. It needs a lot of prodding to get such a giant moving and to make any significant difference in the world.

Did you know you can make automatic contributions to the church? Never worry about writing a check or missing the offering plate! Go to www.esthervillepresbyterian.com and click on “make a donation” to give a one-time gift or to set up regular

Pastor's Ponderings Cont.

“The maximum impact of the church is not when the building is full... the maximum impact is when the building is empty and the people are scattered to where they live, because where they are, Jesus Christ is – in them.” ~Rev. Rich Halverson, Pastor of 4th Presbyterian Ch, Bethesda, MD and 14 years US Senate Chaplain.

Some people are feeling chained down by the restrictions to remain in our homes due to Covid19, or feeling chained down by illness. Some are feeling chained down by the fear of going to the doctor. In II Timothy 2:9 the Apostle Paul tells about his suffering and being chained like a criminal. *But the word of God cannot be chained.* The Word of God comes to us as the breath of life. The promises of God will bring daily blessing if you open your Bible either physically or electronically. Nothing can keep the encouragement and wonder of the Word of God from infusing your life if you open yourself to it.

I left the church on Wednesday and headed to the grocery store to pick up a few things Judy had asked me to get, and it was a strange feeling as it was so quiet on the streets. Social distancing was easy in the store as I was nearly alone (although one of our members spotted me as he was out on a similar mission). These times are easy for me as I am naturally an introvert and have no problem being alone. I have an advantage living in the country to get outside multiple times each day and have many things to do while I am out. I take care of the chickens and cats, throw stones off the lawn and back onto the driveway, there are lots of sticks and branches to pick up after winter storms... My point is to encourage you to get outside even if you don't have jobs to do out there. A little exercise and moving around has both physical and spiritual benefits as we are invigorated, besides, those are wonderful times to turn your mind to God and lift up others in prayer.

I hope you have taken the opportunity to join in worship either on Sunday morning with the video on our local cable channel or KILR radio. These have been a real blessing for our members and many more in our community. My son Josh has been working to improve the video possibilities in his church and has shared some things with me that I hope to incorporate into our system. The last two Sundays I have done a livestream on my Dave Ullom Facebook page, and you can go there at any time to take in our service at any time that fits best with your schedule at www.facebook.com/dave.ullom. I was blessed on Monday to receive a text from my son Ben as he quoted one of the scriptures I had used in the middle of the sermon. He was escorting prisoners to the hospital and had time while he waited for them. I have received many such blessings with 142 who have watched the first service and over 100 the second so far.

Those numbers are far higher than would have joined in without this crisis keeping us away from worship. What a blessing! Please support our worship with your prayers. Pray for the music and message. Pray a blessing for those who tune in. Pray for expanding the ministry God is giving us through this time.

Pastor's Ponderings Cont.

We have cancelled our Maundy Thursday plans. I don't know what will happen with Easter worship, but we all need to take the extra effort to keep in contact with others. Pick up the phone, send a text, or send a card – especially for our elderly.

Put a sign of hope in your window. One of our members has suggested cutting out an image of an angel and taping it in your window to remind yourself and others that God sends His angels, His messengers, to watch over us (Psalm 91:11-12). *Be a messenger of God and bring blessing to others... it is guaranteed to flow back to you: "Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."* Proverbs 11:25. *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work."*¹⁰ *He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness."*¹¹ *You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God."* II Corinthians 9:8-11. *"The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully."* II Cor. 9:6.

Mizpah, "The LORD watch between you and me, when we are out of one another's sight."
Genesis 31:49.

Blessed to be a Blessing,
Pastor Dave Ullom <*}}}}><





Something to celebrate at First Presbyterian Church

If you have something to celebrate, let us know so we can share it with our family of faith in next month's newsletter!

Birthday Wishes

01 - Don Gage
 02 - Janine Johnson
 02 - Craig Kesler
 04 - Bev Stump
 05 - Teresa Dalen
 05 - Julie Willey
 06 - Izaak Sander
 08 - Tara Anderson
 08 - Mavis Loewenberg
 10 - Lee Christensen
 16 - George Johnson
 17 - Domonique Titus
 22 - Naomi Fox
 22 - June Spoo
 24 - Travis Brechwald
 24 - Dennis Erickson
 24 - Kate Ruschy
 25 - Dora Aldrich
 26 - Juanita Clabaugh
 28 - Keegan Brown
 28 - Chad Moffitt
 29 - Bobbi Jo Ruschy
 30 - Kevin Streng

Anniversary Congratulations

15 - Jason & Sarah Kollasch
 30 - Kevin & June Spoo

Way to Go...

** Thank you to those who help members in our community through their Meet the Needs donations.*

** Thank you to those who volunteered and donated to help make our Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper a success!*



Committee Happenings

Building & Grounds – No Notes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, April 5th, at 11:30am. –Aaron Ruschy, Chairperson

Christian Education – No notes.

The next meeting is TBA. – Chairperson

Congregational Life/ Outreach – No Notes.

The next meeting is TBD. –Jolene Greving, Chairperson

Deacons – Minutes and Treasurer reports were given and approved. March bulletins delivered by Mavis, Kevin will do April. March 1st Home Communion delivered by John and Pastor; April 5th by Lavonne and Pastor. Upcoming activities include: April 12th Second Sunday Snacks and Easter Service, April 27th Community Meal at VFW, we provide workers. Deacons shared member visitations, cards, and concerns.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 13th, at 5:30pm. –Lavonne Ruschy, Moderator

Finance – No Notes.

The next meeting is TBA. –Kevin Sander, Chairperson

Generosity Team – No Notes.

The next meeting is TBD – Craig White & Beth Carrico, Co-Chairpersons

Worship – No Notes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 6th, at 5:30pm –Lori Donovan, Chairperson



Join us Sunday, May 10th at 9:30am as we recognize our High School Graduates. This year's graduates are: Keegan Brown, Isaac Hanson, Luke Kollasch, Izaak Sander and Riley Shryock. Please come help us congratulate them for all their hard work and success and to wish them well on their next endeavor!



Meet the Need

Meet the Need for April is:

CAASA

Items needed by not limited to:

- Diapers
- Hygiene Items:
 - Shampoo
 - Conditioner
 - Soap
 - Body Wash
 - Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
 - Etc.



PANCAKE SUPPER UPDATE

A big THANK YOU to those who volunteered and donated to the Pancake supper!

With your help, we served
93 people and raised over \$500.00!



April

Lavonne Ruschy
Grace Ruschy
Kate Ruschy
Hillary Ruschy
Kendyl Ruschy



Many Thanks to those who helped deliver
Estherville Home Delivered Meals in March!

By the numbers...

Average Worship Attendance

March 2018 – 59

March 2019 - 48

March 2020 – 50

General Budget

2020 General Budget: \$99,000

Last Week Giving: \$0.00 (No Service)

Current Yearly Total: \$39,556.77

Weekly Amount Needed to Meet Budget: \$1,903.84

April 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship, 10:30am	6	7	8	9 <i>Mundy Thursday</i> – No Service	10 <i>Good Friday</i> – No In-Person Service	11
12 <i>Easter Sunday</i> Worship, 10:30am	13 <i>Video Conference</i> Deacon Meeting, 5:30pm	14	15	16	17	18
19 Worship, 10:30am	20	21 <i>Video Conference</i> Session Meeting, 7:00pm	22	23	24	25
26 Worship, 10:30am	27	28	29	30		

Ruling Elders – Eric Anderson, Kevin Sander, Walt Jensen, Brad Hermanson, Beth Carrico, Kelly Claude, Molly Jo Anderson, Aaron Ruschy and Lori Donovan

Deacons – John Klingbeil, Mary Clabaugh, Pat Johnson, Evy Strenge, Jan Greig, Cheryl Klingbeil, Jim Hill, Mavis Evans, Denna Hill, Georgia Whitehouse, Lavonne Ruschy and Kevin Strenge

Building & Grounds – Aaron Ruschy (Chair), Jack Bixby, Sharon Archer, Walt Jensen, Larry Harsin, Kevin Strenge.

Christian Education - Liz Bixby, Natalie Brown, Katie Hanson, Heidi Origer, & Bobbi Jo Ruschy

Congregational Life/Outreach – Jolene Greving (Chair), Lisa & Brad Hermanson, Paul, Shirley & Chelsea Moffitt, & Lavonne Ruschy.

Finance/Personnel– George Shadle, John Klingbeil, Lavonne Ruschy & Kevin Sander (chair)

Generosity Team – Beth Carrico (Co-Chair), Craig White (Co-Chair), Janet Anderson, Lisa Hermanson, Kevin Sander, Diane Swalve, Eric Anderson

Prayer Chain - Belva Henrickson, Velma White, Jean Wiant, Dee Zinnel

Worship – Lori Donovan (Chair), Paula Beaver, Beth Carrico, Paul Moffitt, Evy Strenge, Margaret White, Kelly Claude

Pastors and Staff –Rev. Dr. Dave Ullom, Pastor; Amber Hall, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer; Craig Kesler, Custodian

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