

# FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of  
Estherville First  
Presbyterian Church

May 2020

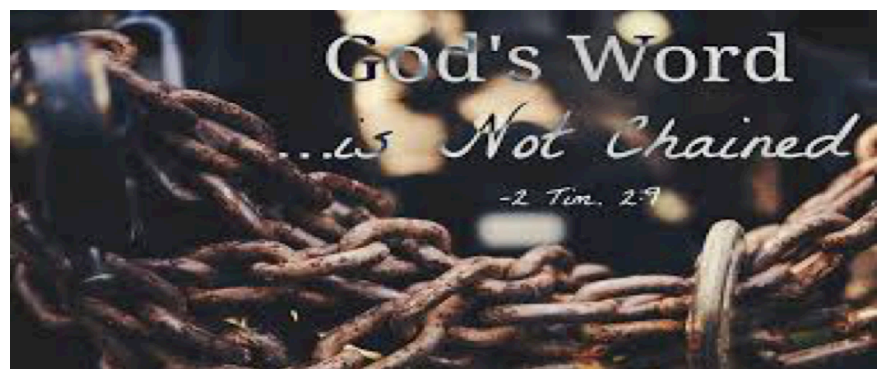


## In this issue...

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## Pastor's Ponderings



Our world continues to change around us each day, and God gives us reasons to give thanks every day.

I am thankful that my oldest son, Mat, was able to re-open his chiropractic office this week in Fort Collins, CO. Judy and I also were positively impacted through this pandemic from the perspective that our second son, Nate, and a helper spent a little over a week putting walls and woodwork back in our basement as work he planned on was cancelled because of the Covid-19 situation.

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](http://www.esthervillepresbyterian.com) and click on "make a donation" to give a one-time gift or to set up regular

## Pastor's Ponderings Cont.

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Each worship situation is different just as each person's situation is different. Churches in Emmet County with 0 Covid-19 cases and bordered by counties with 0, 1, and 5 cases are far different than Blackhawk with 941 cases, Polk with 813 or Woodbury at 695. There is plenty of space in our sanctuary to allow families to have a 10 foot distancing and we have the balcony. I don't know how many of you might like to attend worship again and how many might choose to continue to join us from home, but...

With Gov. Kim Reynolds removing restrictions on congregations gathering for worship, our Session voted to approve opening worship for those who would like to attend. However, with an eye toward taking extra measures to protect the health of those who attend, our worship will look different than we are used to.

We will make the following adjustments to keep our members far safer than a visit to the grocery store or other businesses in town.

1. Anyone who does not feel comfortable attending worship due to age or underlying physical conditions, or is not feeling well, is encouraged to stay home and continue joining us in worship via TV, radio or Facebook.
2. Someone will be stationed at the two outside doors to open them for attendees so no one needs to touch a surface that someone else has touched. The handrail on the stairs will need to be sanitized if used.
3. Hand sanitizer will be available at the entrances.
4. Offering plates will be placed in the back of the sanctuary and will not be passed to collect the offering. Bulletins will be laid out individually to pick up when you enter the sanctuary.
5. We will not move around to Pass the Peace, or get closer than 6 feet from each other at any time, including while entering or exiting the church, or for conversation.
6. Masks may be worn if you feel more comfortable doing so, or to protect others in case you may have contracted the virus and are without symptoms.
7. Those who count the offering should use gloves or wash or sanitize their hands before touching their face or other items

I trust that following these measures will grant us the sense of freedom in worship that will glorify God as we take steps to move forward in our current world situation. It is important for us to be vigilant with our hygiene, washing our hands frequently, covering a cough or sneeze with an elbow, keeping safe distances, but even more importantly, we need to be in prayer that this virus will be eliminated, we need to continue to pray for the safety of those in our community. We need to pray for those working in services around us, and finding our way through opening businesses around us, in our state and the nation. We pray for healing and restoration.

II Timothy 1:4-7 includes these words: *"I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith... For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God..., for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control."*

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

02 - Tom Egeland  
02 - Larry Harsin  
04 - Tim Greving  
05 - Arlene Gage  
06 - Onalee Robinson  
11 - Janet Anderson  
13 - Jeanne Egeland  
16 - Betty Kraft  
18 - Lola (Willey) Severin  
19 - Judy Bixby  
19 - Lois Jensen  
19 - Deb Shomaker  
24 - Heidi Origer  
25 - Monique Titus  
26 - Diana Clabaugh  
27 - Claire Christensen  
27 - Elaine Kaltved  
28 - Richard Peton

### Anniversary Congratulations

### Way to Go...

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

*\* Thank you to those who continue to help support our Radio Broadcasts and our church through your donations and pledges during this time!*



# Committee Happenings

## **Building & Grounds** – No Notes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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. –Molly Jo Anderson, Chairperson

## **Deacons** – No Notes.

Next meeting will be Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 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, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30pm –Lori Donovan, Chairperson





Join us Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 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 May is:

**Food Pantry**

Items needed by not limited to:

- Canned Fruit/Vegetables
- Microwave single serving meals
- Canned Foods like Spaghetti o's
- Peanut Butter
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Cereal
- Any other Non-Perishable Items



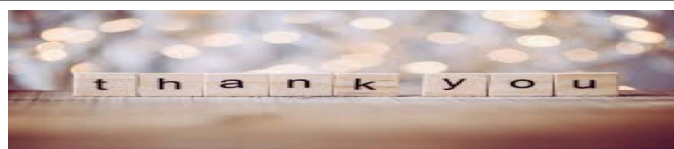
**Thank you** for continuing to support your church and worship through the mailing of your pledges and donations!

Every little bit helps during this time and is greatly appreciated.



**May**

Paul & Chelsey Moffitt  
Pat Johnson  
Beth Carrico  
Lynda Hart



*We want to "thank you" for the services you provide on KILR radio station.*

God's Blessing,  
Lowell & Jane Christensen

Online Donations can be made at  
<http://esthervillepresbyterian.com>  
via the 'Donation' tab  
on the top right corner.

## By the numbers...

### Average Worship Attendance

April 2018 – 75

April 2019 - 59

April 2020 – 0

### General Budget

**2020 General Budget: \$99,000**

**Last Week Giving: \$935.00**

**Current Yearly Total: \$43,821.67**

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

# May 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Worship, 10:30am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Graduation Sunday Worship, 10:30am	11 <i>Video Conference?</i> Deacon Meeting, 5:30pm	12	13	14	15	16
17 Worship, 10:30am	18	19 <i>Video Conference?</i> Session Meeting, 7:00pm	20	21	22	23
24 Worship, 10:30am	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Worship, 10:30am						

**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** – Molly Jo Anderson (Chair), Jolene Greving, 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

## First Presbyterian Church

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