

FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of
Estherville First
Presbyterian Church

June 2020

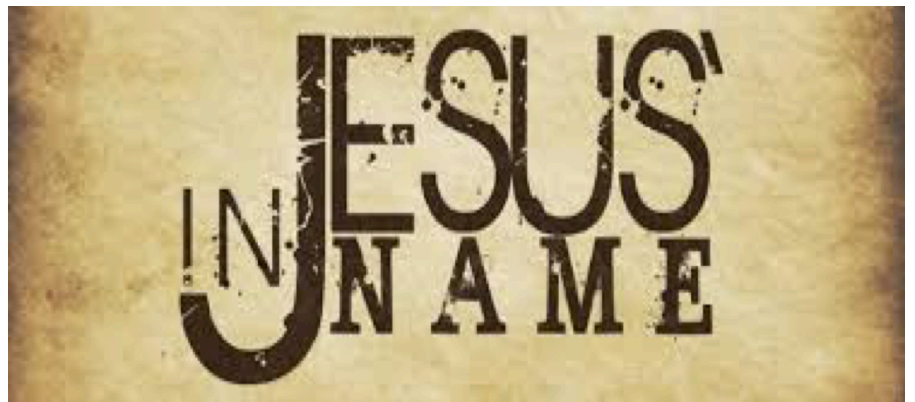


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Pastor's Ponderings



I pray that these words find you well. The greatest struggle that I have had for the last couple months is a loss of connection with many. I am thankful that in the last month we have been able to lift up praises to God and worship together in person. Half of the normal body that gathered pre-corona has been coming together during the month of May.

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 greatest loss has been one of being unable to visit our shut-ins. The separation has been most specifically onerous when I have not been able to visit the hospital. Phone calls lack a human touch. The lesson I draw from this is that I (we) need to make a greater effort to be connected. That is what this coming Sunday is really all about – the celebration of Pentecost.

But, what in the world is Pentecost??? The word “Pentecost” designates the 50th day after Passover, which was a Feast Day. Also known as the Feast of Weeks or Feast of Harvest.

The Book of Acts records that it was on this day that the Holy Spirit was poured out on 120 or so followers of Christ who were gathered in an Upper Room in Jerusalem. It was on this day that the Church was born in a literal blaze of Glory complete with visions like tongues of fire appearing on their heads.

Dr. Jerry Vines has written that, “The average Christian and the average Church are bogged down somewhere between Calvary and Pentecost. They have been to Calvary for pardon, but they have not been to Pentecost for power. Bethlehem means God with us. Calvary means God for us. But Pentecost means God *in* us.” Many Christians do not understand the role of the Holy Spirit and they have not connected with the power of the Holy Spirit in their own personal lives.

I think that those thoughts are especially important for us in the midst of the current crisis. It is easy for us to feel helpless and powerless as we face an invisible virus and there is no way for us to know who is safe for us to be near and who isn't. This meant less to us a month ago when there were no positive cases identified in Emmet County than it does today as I write these words and there are 7, and I am sure that number will rise in the coming days. I am thankful to note that 3 of those 7 have already recovered, and I pray that each of those who experience this affliction will be strengthened and healed.

Pentecost reminds me that these are not just empty phrases or hoping that things will work out for the best. Pentecost means connecting with power. The Holy Spirit coming to dwell within us means we are plugged into God. Acts 1:8 promises, *“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”*

We are gifted with the Power of Worship as the Holy Spirit helps us to worship God in spirit and in truth. Real worship demands participation no matter if you are at home or in a sanctuary. The Holy Spirit will help you to worship God in the Spirit and help you lift your soul to touch God's heart with yours.

We are gifted with the Power of Prayer. John 16:23-24 promises: *“Whatever you ask of the Father in my name, he will give it to you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”* Pentecost reminds us that there is power in our prayers, that when we ask in the will of God, i.e. in the name of Jesus, the prayer of faith will bring healing (James 5:15).

So, on Sunday morning put on something red, gather around the TV, radio, computer or sanctuary and worship in the power of Pentecost!

Together in Prayer and Praise,
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 - Liz Bixby
 02 - Abby Erickson
 02 - Ardis Pilquist
 02 - Cole Anderson
 02 - Sandy Harsin
 05 - Brent Baddeley
 08 - Dee Zinnel
 13 - Emily Origer
 14 - Shirley Moffitt
 18 - Dante Titus
 22 - Deborah Gruwell
 22 - Grace Johnson
 23 - Grace Ruschy
 24 - Joseph Erickson
 24 - Sally Nitchals
 28 - Jolene Greving
 30 - Eric Anderson

Anniversary Congratulations

06 - Paul & Shirley Moffitt
 09 - Nick & Katie Hanson
 09 - Dennis & Belva Henrickson
 12 - Jack & Judy Bixby
 14 - George & Barb Johnson

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 – Grell Roofing out of Fort Dodge made repairs to the roofing on the west side of the church. Strong winds in April had loosened a small section of semi-flat roofing on the main portion of the church. Also a big thanks to Dean Christensen for delivering and allowing Grell Roofing to use Christensen Construction's large lift to access this portion of the roof.

Brad Hermanson has installed a couple LED bulbs in the attic as another possible tactic to keep our winged mammal visitors at bay. As we well know bats do not like light and with the cheep operating cost and long life of an LED bulb this will be a very inexpensive experiment.

As some of you may have noticed the bench that was built and donated by the Vernon and Vera Origer family in memory of them, was delivered on Sunday May 10th, which was a very fitting gift for Mother's Day. If you get a chance, drive by or stop by and take a look and rest your legs on this nice addition to the east side of our church where the new landscaping had been waiting for this final piece to complete it.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 7th, 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, June 8th, 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, June 1st, at 5:30pm –Lori Donovan, Chairperson



Meet the Need for June 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



Please uplift Velma White in your prayers as she has been placed in hospice, utilizing a higher volume of oxygen.

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



A Big Thank You to Blake and Cullen
Bixby for volunteering to mow the church
lawn this Summer!



June

Ev Drevs
Kevin & Evy Streng
John & Cheryl Klingbeil

A good NEWS STORY

Brad Hermanson placed LED lights in
the attic of the church a few weeks
ago, since we have not found any bats
in our traps! We have been
BAT FREE!!!

By the numbers...

Average Worship Attendance

May 2018 – 52

May 2019 - 55

May 2020 – 26

General Budget

2020 General Budget: \$99,000

Last Week Giving: \$393.32

Current Yearly Total: \$51,725.74

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

June

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Worship Meeting, 5:30pm	2	3	4	5	6 Presbytery Meeting via Zoom
7 Worship, 10:30am Building & Grounds Meeting, 11:30am	8 Deacon Meeting (?), 5:30pm	9	10	11	12	13
14 Worship, 10:30am	15	16 Session Meeting, 7:00pm	17	18	19	20
21 Worship, 10:30am	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Worship, 10:30am	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 – 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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