

FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of
Estherville First
Presbyterian Church

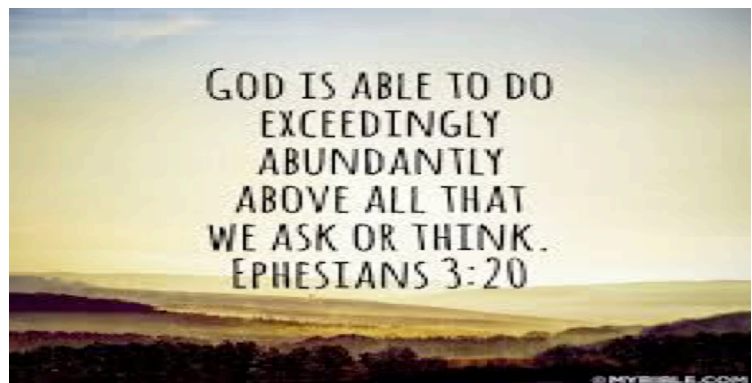
July 2020



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Pastor's Ponderings



Our worship the last few weeks has focused on the story of Abraham. Abraham was blessed to be a blessing. It was part of the 3-fold covenant God made that through Abraham all the people on earth would be blessed. We are a part of that blessing.

General Assembly "met" this past week for the bi-annual gathering of PCUSA. I participated online and was interested when Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, our Stated Clerk, said that he had always opposed TV evangelists, especially through the scandals over the years, but now we have become a denomination of TV evangelists in our response to the viral pandemic!



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.

That has been one of the positive blessings of the Covid pandemic- as I check the numbers on my Dave Ullom FB page I see that there are 100 to over 200 views of our service each week. I pray that those are not just looks, but that people are being blessed as they participate in our worship online, and I appreciate the comments, and it is interesting as folks watch through the week and not just on Sunday. I have gotten a few cards from folks who tune in on local cable, and I get texts and emails from folks who listen on KILR (many of those each week are from the Lake Park congregation). That all means that far more people are being uplifted each week than were before. God is using this time of testing as I preached about on Sunday.

The month of June found 2 additional Covid-19 cases added per day and we currently have 34 “active” cases listed in Emmet County. At least three of those are in our own congregation and thankfully we are actually recovered even though the state statistics won’t list us until after 28 days. I am one of those and am thankful that I did not experience any symptoms that I am aware of. I went to Test Iowa in Storm Lake after my exposure as they wouldn’t test me at the clinic here with no symptoms. I needed to be 100% certain I was clear before getting near our son, Josh, while he is undergoing chemo in his cancer battle. It is a good feeling to know that I can’t infect anyone else.

Even though these are low numbers in our community, the Session decided to be cautious and not meet in person through the end of June and that has been extended through the holiday weekend, so we plan to gather again on July 13 with those who would like to be in the sanctuary. We have done a good job of staying at least 6’ apart and sanitizing surfaces. We keep the overhead fans circulating the air in our large space. It is important that we remain diligent. The one thing we could do would be to use masks while singing as minute droplets can float further when we sing; and remember to wash your hands with soap for at least 20 seconds.

Back to blessing. Too often, much of our walk with God is expressed in inward spirituality. Even when the day starts with a few chapters in the Bible and time in prayer, it is easy to focus on doing my own thing without thinking about how God might bless it for others. This morning I was in Ephesians, which Paul wrote from prison before his execution. He reminds us to remain true to the fullness of our calling and that, *“Jesus is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think.”* Eph. 3:2.

The greatest sadness for me in my brush with Covid-19 was strawberries. I had put up 10 gallons or so for myself, more for my kids and a few neighbors and was planning to give a lot away. I would have shared with John Klingbeil when he brought corn for my chickens. I planned to bring a lot to church to share like I do with tomatoes. They were big, beautiful, delicious berries that went to waste except for a few who came and picked some for themselves. It feels good to share blessings. Sharing physical blessings is easy. It takes more thought and intention to share our spiritual blessings, but I trust God will provide the opportunity to tell someone about how the worship service connected with you; to share how God spoke through a verse or passage you read; to share joy over answered prayer; or post some special “God moment” insight on social media. God will provide the opportunities to be a blessing if you seek them.

Blessed to Be With You,

Pastor Dave Ullom

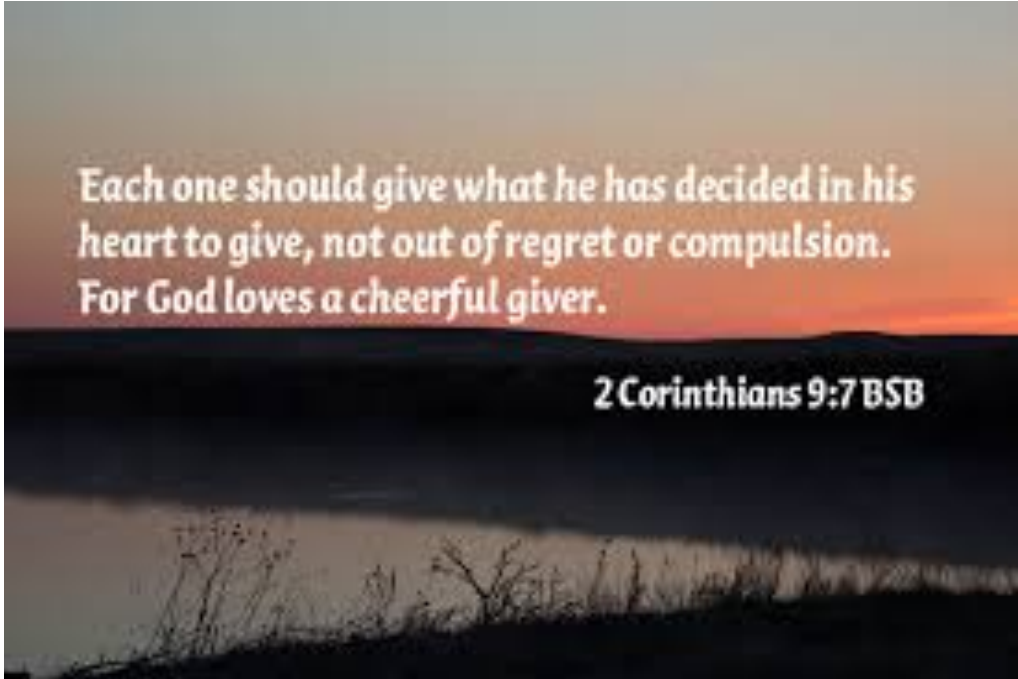
A Message from the Generosity Committee

Thank you to all the faithful supporters of the ministry of FPC Estherville. One of our interests is to enable your ongoing support to be as easy as possible for you. There is a rewarding and satisfying feeling when you place your gift in the offering plate at church that is affirmed for us in II Cor. 9:7: *“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”* God loves a cheerful giver – may we have that kind of heart.

Unfortunately, we have not been able to be in worship as normal. We have received only half as many gifts this month as compared to the same time period last year. We realize that you might not be able to support as you had, but also believe that God will enable others to provide. Thank you to those who have mailed your gifts. We would also like to highlight the opportunity to give at the church website at <https://esthervillepresbyterian.com/donate/>. You will first be asked to select a fund: “Offerings” support all ministries. “Roof Fund” builds for large maintenance needs. You may make as many “One Time Gifts” as you please, but choosing “recurring donation” means your offering will be made automatically at whichever frequency you set (weekly, monthly, quarterly, or annually). This can be very helpful as we all get busy and can forget at times. It takes an effort to look back through bank statements to see when we have missed and how much to give to catch up. We believe this is a great way to honor I Cor. 16:2, *“On the first day of every week, each of you is to put something aside as you may prosper.”* It is a spiritual principle to give our “first” and not just our “left-overs.”

Finally, you will have the choice of using either a credit card (2.6% goes to the credit card company) or a bank transfer to make your online offering. There is more information at the bottom of the page with the online donation form. Thank you for your continued faithful giving.

Generosity Committee



Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not out of regret or compulsion. For God loves a cheerful giver.

2 Corinthians 9:7 BSB



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 - Kacie Brechwald
01 - Isaac Hanson
02 - Katie Hanson
04 - Molly Jo Anderson
05 - Beth Carrico
16 - Dave Ullom
20 - Ciara Minion
26 - Amber Hall
28 - David Egeland
30 - Alice Jensen
30 - Kevin Sander

Anniversary Congratulations

13 - Tom & Stephanie Egeland
24 - Dave & Judy Ullom
24 - Kevin & Marcy Sander

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, July 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. –Molly Jo Anderson, Chairperson

Deacons – Seven Deacons and Pastor Dave met June 8th in the basement. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. March 9th minutes were read and approved (no meetings in April or May due to COVID 19). March, April and May Treasurer reports were given and approved, showing ending balance of \$284.32. Bulletins were delivered in May by Lavonne, June by Pat, July and August by Evy, and September will be John. Home Communion remains in question when that will resume. Communion will be celebrated in church on July 5th. Some address updates were given. Deacons shared visitations, cards and concerns. Next meeting will be September 14th, no summer meetings in July and August. Meeting adjourned at 6pm with Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be Monday, September 14th, 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

Radio Ministry



We have dates available on July 26th, August 2nd, August 9th and a few in September if you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast.

Thank you so much for your help broadcasting our worship to those who are unable to attend here with us.



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



July

Georgia Whitehouse
Rebecca and Grace Johnson
Paula Beaver
Lori Donovan

Worship

Please remember as we continue to journey through this difficult time that you can still enjoy worship with us from a distance.

You can listen to or view our services on KILR, the cable broadcast or on Pastor Dave's Facebook page.

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



I'd like to thank my Deacon, Mavis Evans, for the rose at my mom's funeral. And to my church family for all the cards and sympathy's expressed to me.

- Beth Carrico

By the numbers...

Average Worship Attendance

June 2018 - 56

June 2019 - 53

June 2020 - 33

General Budget

2020 General Budget: \$99,000

Last Week Giving: \$ (not counted)

Current Yearly Total: \$56,146.24

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

July 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 Online Worship, 10:30am	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship, 10:30am	13	14 4-H Interviews in Basement, 8:00am	15	16 4-H Interviews in Basement, 8:00am	17	18
19 Worship, 10:30am	20	21 Session Meeting, 7:00pm	22	23	24	25
26 Worship, 10:30am	27	28	29	30	31	

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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