

FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of
Estherville First
Presbyterian Church

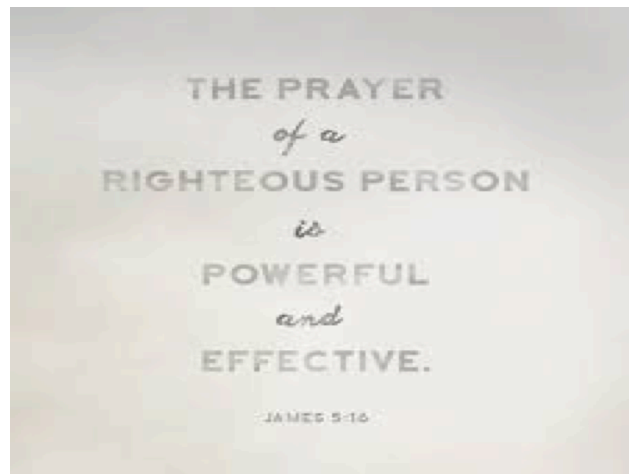
September 2020



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Pastor's Ponderings



Times like we are living in remind us of the importance of prayer in our lives for ourselves and those around us. We must pray for God's blessing and favor. When human efforts are not enough, miracles are the only option and miracles come through prayer. Persisting in prayer leads to prevailing in prayer and leads to powerful prayer. James 5:16 tells us, "The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." Powerful prayers get results.



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.

However, there may be things in our lives that can block answers to our prayers. Neglecting to pray is foremost. You miss 100 percent of the shots you don't take. If you don't pray you don't get answers to those prayers. Prayerlessness keeps us from receiving what God is ready to provide. There really shouldn't be anything more important in our day than prayer. We are filling our lives with reality TV, video games, sports, etc. and leave no time for God, missing out on what matters most. You may think God is not interested in the details of your life, but Psalm 37:23 tells us that when we delight in God, our Lord guides us in our days.

Our sin is a barrier to effective prayer. Psalm 66:18 tells us, *"If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened."* We can actually block the answer God has for our prayers with the sin in our lives. Make sure disobedience does not stand in the way of your prayers being answered. Identify any sin in your life anything you are doing or failing to do that is not pleasing to God.

The good news is the answer to overcoming sin is clear: confession and repentance. When we acknowledge our sins and repent we will be forgiven. We turn and go in a new and opposite direction. James 4:3 says, *"Yet even when you pray, your prayers are not answered, because you pray just for selfish reasons."* One way to eliminate selfish motives is to pray for others instead of yourself, and they will be blessed. Pray for God to help them and provide for them. God wants to answer. He wants to provide for them and you. We can always count on His goodness and mercy.

Our prayers can also be hindered when our relationships are not right. There can be no powerful, effective prayer as long as we are not in right relationship with others. Jesus tells us in the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5) before we worship, we must first make peace with the person who is angry with us. To get prayers answered we don't wait for others to come to us we go to them. We try to make things right.

Asking God to do something is the beginning of a powerful prayer but believing our Lord will actually do it requires faith. James 1:6 tells us, *"When you ask for something you must have faith and not doubt."* Without faith prayers can never be effective. Faithless prayers result in unanswered prayers, perpetuating the false belief that God doesn't really answer prayer.

Jesus is looking for faith from us and when He finds it powerful things happen like never before. When the Roman officer told Jesus He did not have to come to his house and pray for his daughter all He had to do was say she was healed - Jesus was thrilled. He finally had found someone who had faith in God's power.

Helplessness combined with faith produces results. Believing for specific answers, praising God for the answer in advance and spending more time in prayer will create greater faith leading to powerful prayer.

Maybe the biggest reason prayers don't get answered is giving up praying when the answer doesn't come soon enough. Jesus knew lack of persistence would be a huge issue in prayer so He told His disciples a story about how they should keep on praying and never give up (Luke 18:1-8).

God is not like an unjust judge; He will respond to the prayers of His people. We need to persist in prayer for several purposes. We may need to build up the strength to can handle the answer God gives. We may need to accumulate the knowledge in order to not waste God's answer. Or we may need to fashion the character so we are a good example for God to answer our prayers. If we keep praying however long it takes the answer will come. There can be no quit in us until we get the result.

God wants to answer our prayers. The answer may be no. It may be wait. It may be a definitive yes. But you will get the answer. God is ready to act on our behalf. Whatever is standing in the way must be identified and dealt with. Overcoming these barriers to our prayers can enable them to be powerful and effective, and we need it like never before.

Your Faithful Servant,
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 - Aubrie Streng
05 - Bailey Fredericksen
06 - Roy (Skip) Clabaugh
06 - Neal Ruschy
10 - Darby Graves
12 - Stephanie Egeland
12 - Austin Egeland
14 - Jean Rose
15 - Bob Beaver
29 - Melissa Gruwell
30 - Denna Hill
30 - Larry Aldrich

Anniversary Congratulations

02 - Larry & Sandy Harsin
05 - Dennis & Kerry Erickson
08 - Bob & Paula Beaver
21 - Ralph & Mavis Evans
27 - Mark & Deborah Gruwell
28 - Don & Arlene Gage
28 - Larry & Janet Anderson
29 - Brian & Liz Bixby

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 – The B&G Committee held a quick meeting on Sunday, August 2nd immediately following worship service. The tree that had been gradually dying on the west side of the driveway, to the chairlift entry, has been removed by the City crews. All that is left is for them to grind the stump at a later date.

Discussed the timeline for the chairlift repair. Aaron will be notified by Access Elevators & Lifts, Inc. once the part arrives so that they can return to make the necessary repairs. Hopefully sooner rather than later!

Also brought up is that we still have a few bats causing us grief along with leaving evidence of their presence. This was noted by Pastor Dave to make the janitor aware of the little extra attention that is needed in the balcony for cleaning.

No other business was brought before the committee, so the meeting was adjourned shortly after it was called to order.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 6th, 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, 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*



It's that time of year again, and a very uncertain one at that. As school begins, I will be substitute teaching as needed. Please be patient as office hours could vary significantly.

Beginning August 31st please call in advance to make sure the office is open.

If I am not substitute teaching, I will be in the office from 8:30-12:30 Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

In order to have hours you can count on, I will be in the office **every Wednesday from 2:00-4:00pm.**

If I am out of the office, please leave a voice mail or send an email to info@esthervillepresbyterian.com and I will get back to you ASAP. If there's an emergency, please contact Pastor Dave directly.

Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding during this time,
Sincerely, Amber Hall



Thanks so much for thinking of me on my graduation from Estherville Lincoln Central High School! 2020 has been quite a crazy year! I plan to head to Iowa City in the fall to attend the University of Iowa and am considering pursuing a degree in business.

I appreciate the helpful book you gave me for graduation. I plan to refer back to that book many times at college. I will miss seeing the many familiar faces at church!

*Go Hawks!
Izaak Sander*

Attached is a donation check for \$250.00 to the First Presbyterian Church. It should be put in the church offering budge in memory of our Mom, Mavis Loewenberg.

Mom always enjoyed visitors from the church while living in Windsor Manor. The church was very important to her.

Mom is at peace now and has rejoined Dad after 33 years.

Thank you,

Terry Loewenberg
Gayle Loewenberg
Roger Loewenberg

Craig Loewenberg
Carol Loewenberg Logue





I would like to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts while I was in the hospital and Good Sam.

*Thanks again,
Alice Jensen*



September

John Blagg
Jack & Judy Bixby
Lavonne Ruschy
Beth Carrico

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.



Meet the Need for September is:
Food Pantry

Items needed by not limited to:

- * Canned Vegetables
- * Canned Fruit
- * Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- * Cereal
- * Macaroni & Cheese
- * Peanut Butter
- * Other Non-Perishable Items

By the numbers...

Average Worship Attendance

August 2018 – 44

August 2019 – 42

August 2020 – 30

General Budget

2020 General Budget: \$99,000

Last Week Giving: \$ 842.00

Current Yearly Total: \$83,604.16

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

September

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	New Office Hours Begin	1 Office Closed	2	3	4	5
6 Worship, 10:30am Building & Grounds Meeting, 11:30am	7 Worship Committee Meeting, 5:30pm	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship, 10:30am	14 Deacon Meeting, 5:30pm	15 Session Meeting, 7:00pm	16	17	18	19
20 Worship, 10:30am	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Worship, 10:30am	28 Office Closed	29	30			*If other groups begin meeting, please let the office know so it can be added to the calendar.

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,, Mavis Evans, 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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