

FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of
Estherville First
Presbyterian Church



November 2020

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Pastor's Ponderings

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Malachi 3:10

Have you ever felt like you were in the presence of angels or that an angel may be trying to communicate with you? It's very possible that you were and you didn't even know it. I have been reading about angels and decided to write about our potential experiences with God's messengers this month. Hebrews 1:14 teaches us: "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?"

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.

Angelic guidance can be in dreams and insights. It can also come more subtly like drawing our attention towards signs and guiding us in the right direction. It is easy to miss those spiritual connections, but if we are open and seeking, we can increase our awareness of them. Some will talk about feeling a tingle or seeing a warm glowing light around you. There might be a sweet floral scent or a ringing in your ear. I like to think about images in the clouds and, of course, rainbows are promises from God. Angels often come to help calm you in a particular time of need.

Angels often touch us through music and can influence us in various ways. I find myself waking up with a special song in my head and then it really connects when I hear it on the radio. Or, you may be drawn to different songs that have similar themes as you listen through the day. The words might reaffirm your feelings or a song might lift your spirits and give assurance that all will be well.

Curious lights or shimmers or even noticing a bright star in the sky can be ways of catching our attention and lifting us up. God might use people in your life, or sometimes strangers to tell you exactly what you need to hear in that very moment. Sometimes, a random person you meet will mention something that you desperately needed to hear or know, that you wouldn't have otherwise heard had you not come across their path. If you are feeling divinely guided by someone, it may be God speaking to you.

I had an idea last year about possibly building some interest in our gathering at church by hiding angels for people to try and discover. At our last Session meeting the Worship Committee said they were doing something with the idea, so we have something to look forward to - beginning, I think, at the end of the month as November 29 is the first Sunday in Advent and the church will be transformed for Christmas.

This month is also our annual focus on Stewardship. Actually, I should probably talk about stewardship more throughout the year, if I were to follow Jesus' example. Sixteen of the 38 parables were concerned with how to handle money and possessions. In the Gospels, an amazing 1 out of 10 verses (288 in all) deal directly with the subject of money. There are 500 verses on prayer in the Bible, under 500 on faith, and more than 2,000 verses on money. In fact, 15% of everything Jesus ever taught was on the topic of money and possessions - more than His teachings on heaven and hell combined.

I pray that each and every person who reads this will pray about their giving for the coming year. There is truly little to say to most of you... you have been so faithful in your giving, especially through this very challenging year. **BUT**, there are others who have not made even a single gift of any size. I would like to challenge you to seriously think about responding in faith and put God to the test as the Prophet challenges in Malachi 3:10 to see that God will bless abundantly more than we can give.

The Generosity Committee is encouraging you to plan to pledge a little more than last year and return your completed pledge card either in the offering plate or to the office.

I pray you will be inspired in looking for God and angel sightings in the beauty of His creation around us - from the falling leaves to the falling snow – look for God revealing glory.

Seeking God's Angels in Faith,

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 - Everett Dreves
 02 - Abby Sander
 03 - Craig White
 04 - Eli Hanson
 04 - Melissa Thelen
 05 - Jessica Sabwa
 09 - Jan Greig
 09 - Mark Gruwell
 12 - Patti Egeland
 12 - Zachary Titus
 15 - Olivia Evans
 15 - Brad Hermanson
 15 - Georgia Whitehouse
 16 - Mary Clabaugh
 17 - Tanya Clabaugh
 18 - James Rosendahl
 19 - Cheryl Baddeley
 24 - Lynda Hart
 27 - Kaiya Brechwald
 27 - Frederick Sabwa
 27 - Joy Sabwa
 28 - Norma Myers
 28 - Judy Shadle
 29 - Sharon Archer
 29 - Dean Christensen
 30 - Helen Nitchals

Anniversary Congratulations

04 - Tim & Patti Egeland
 04 - Jim & Julie Willey
 22 - Lowell & Diane Swalve
 24 - Steve & Jean Rose
 25 - Neal & Bobbi Jo Ruschy
 25 - Frederick Sabwa & Miss Lee Muleka
 30 - Andrew & Melissa Thelen

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, October 4th, 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 – September minutes and Treasurer's Report were given and approved, showing ending balance of \$173.03. October bulletins are being delivered by Mary and November bulletins will be delivered by Jan and Mary. No Home Communion during this COVID time. Cards and concerns were shared by each Deacon.

Next meeting will be Monday, November 9th, 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 – Upcoming Holiday Season was discussed. We are going to try to have the white poinsettias again, but instead of a flyer in just the bulletin, it will be available in the newsletter as well. They will be the same cost as last year with deadline for ordering being November 30th.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 2nd, at 5:30pm –Lori Donovan, Chairperson

Thank you

Thank you for the many thoughts and prayers during Don's illness and death. Being part of the church family has always been important to us. Our faith gave us comfort in the difficult days and I know I will rely on it in the days ahead. We wanted to extend a heartfelt thank you from Don and I and our family. Blessings to First Presbyterian.

~Arlene Gage



November

Lowell Swalve
Diane Swalve
Kevin Sander
Marcy Sander
Izaak Sander
Abby Sander



**Meet
the Need**

**Meet the Needs for November is
TBA**

*Thank you for helping support our
community with your donations
throughout the year.*



The Christmas season is around the corner. This Christmas we are celebrating "The Angels Among Us". During the advent season an angel will be hiding in the Sanctuary. Each Sunday, the person who finds the angel will receive a Christmas gift.

Please join us in celebrating Christmas and the Angels among us at this difficult time.

-Worship Committee



If you would like to be the first to receive your monthly Newsletter, get it by email!

Simply send an email to the church office to add yourself to the emailing list!

Church office email:

info@esthervillepresbyterian.com

By the numbers...

Average Worship Attendance

October 2018 – 53

October 2019 – 50

October 2020 – 27

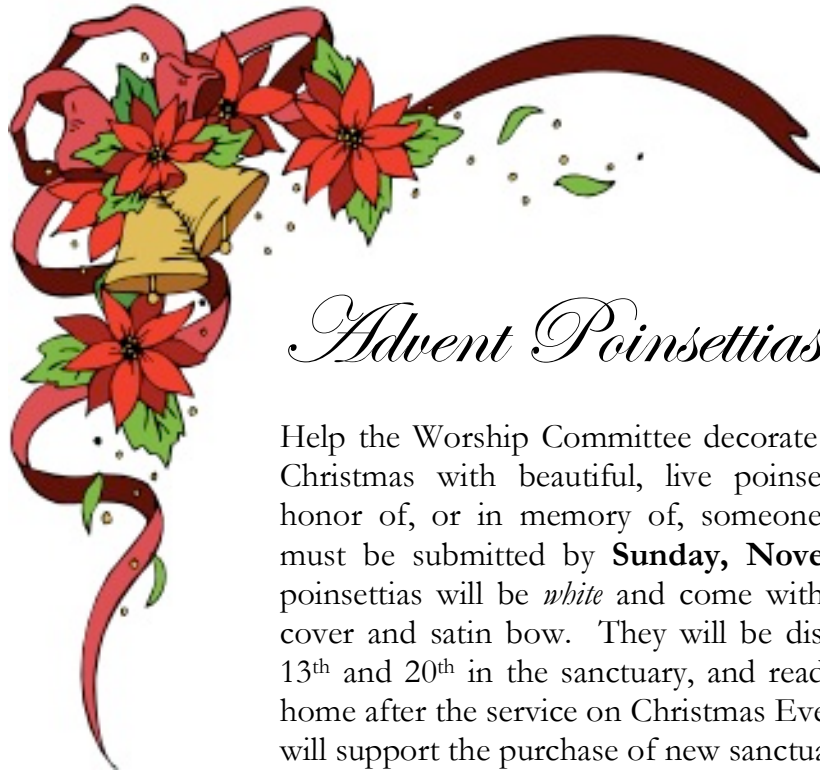
General Budget

2020 General Budget: \$99,000

Last Week Giving: \$1851.00

Current Yearly Total: \$96,418.22

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



Advent Poinsettias

Help the Worship Committee decorate the sanctuary for Christmas with beautiful, live poinsettias, donated in honor of, or in memory of, someone special. Orders must be submitted by **Sunday, November 29th**. All poinsettias will be *white* and come with a decorative foil cover and satin bow. They will be displayed December 13th and 20th in the sanctuary, and ready for you to take home after the service on Christmas Eve. Placing an order will support the purchase of new sanctuary decorations.

\$15 for a 6" poinsettia

Given by (your name) _____

Please indicate: in honor of (living person), or in memory of (deceased person):

Please use **one order form per poinsettia** and give orders and payment to Amber in the office. Checks can be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, with "poinsettia" in the memo line. **Poinsettias are not tax deductible** and may be picked up following the worship service on Christmas Eve.

November

ZUZU

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship, 10:30am Building & Grounds Meeting, 11:30am	2 Worship Committee Meeting, 5:30pm	3	4 Estherville Hope Youth Group, 6:30pm	5	6	7
8 Worship, 10:30am	9 Deacon Meeting, 5:30pm	10	11 Estherville Hope Youth Group, 6:30pm	12	13	14
15 Worship, 10:30am	16	17 Session Meeting, 7:00pm	18 Estherville Hope Youth Group, 6:30pm	19	20	21
22 Worship, 10:30am	23	24	25 Estherville Hope Youth Group, 6:30pm	26	27	28
29 Worship, 10:30am <i>Poinsettia Form Due</i>	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,, 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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