

FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of
Estherville First
Presbyterian Church



March 2021

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Pastor's Ponderings



Last month I began forming a new ministry in our congregation and encouraged you to move forward to actively seek God's plan for us for the future. Step one is building a foundation of prayer. We are forming a Prayer Team and hoping for a wide base of commitment. Do you think you are not very good at prayer? This is the best way you have right now to get started. You might not want to commit the time- **You can commit** to pray for our church for **one minute a day**, I am sure everyone can.



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.

Once you start you can build. Powerful muscles are not built overnight. Muscles can't grow unless they are used. The same things are true of prayer. I am simply asking that you exercise your "prayer muscles." Call or text me at 515-341-0132 to join the team. Each week I will send out a prayer letter via email, and you can be added to the list by sending me a note to pdullom@gmail.com. God wants to spend time with you... this is a conduit toward grace... let's use it.

I have asked for prayers for me to lead this initiative and I believe one answer to that prayer was to lead me to the following thoughts, beginning with this verse: *"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."* Prov 19:17. Jesus also shared a valuable truth about who we are called to help. Some catastrophic events leave us poor in basic necessities like a home or food to eat, and we can respond through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance either donating online or designating a gift through our church. Other events might leave a person poor in spirit.

Mt 5:3 records Jesus' words, *"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."* When God tugs at our hearts and we feel compelled to help, we need to first decide how. Is there a physical need or an emotional one? Can I help by giving of my finances, my time, or just being there? God will guide us as we offer support to those suffering around us.

Maybe you know someone in a difficult situation today. Someone who needs help, but you aren't sure where to start. You can reach out to the Lord through the following prayer to determine how to help someone in need, then you will be more ready to reach out to others:

Dear Heavenly Father, I understand that we will all experience times in life that leave us devastated. Thank you for teaching us through your son Jesus how to help others going through tough times. Give me a heart to serve and a willingness to obey. Show me Your ways, Lord.

Sometimes I get overwhelmed looking at the needs around me. I want to help but don't know where to start. Please grant me wisdom and discernment as I reach out to others. Whether poor in provision or poor in spirit, You have provided ways I can help. Lead me to use what You have given me to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

With all the tragedies in the world, it's easy to overlook the needs right around me. Direct me to those people in my own family, church, and neighborhood who need the love of Jesus right now. Show me how to be a friend to someone who needs that today. And when I'm in need, thank you for sending someone into my life to offer support and care. In Jesus' name, Amen.

We are in the season of Lent and Easter is just a month away. Easter is a time of renewal and new growth. In this current season of cold (it is -20* out as I write this) this is a time of preparation. Jesus prepared for his earthly ministry during 40 days in the wilderness. Plants in the coming weeks will be marshalling their energies as they prepare to break forth with new growth. I pray that the availability of the vaccine to stop the viral pandemic will enable the grip of Covid-19 to ease and we can begin to move back to a normal.

One immediate need is to update our website and Facebook page. Please let me know if you know someone who might help. I have been hoping someone in HS might see this as an opportunity for Purple Cord hours.

Yours in Christ,
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- Riley Shryock
02 - Lowell Swalve
03 - Andy Brown
03 - Hanna Ruschy
06 - Dennis Koenecke
06 - Andrew Thelen
07 - Tim Egeland
07 - Evy Streng
10 - Bev Juhl
12 - Natalie Brown
12 - Marcy Sander
14 - Koral Rosendahl
24 - Charlee Dalen
28 - Nellya Sabwa
29 - Dawn Ruschy
31 - Elaine Jensen
31 - Mary Juhl

Anniversary Congratulations

04 - Jim & Denna Hill
22 - Lance & Heidi Origer

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!*

March

Committee Happenings

Building & Grounds – No Notes.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 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 – January Minutes and Treasurer's Report were approved. John delivering bulletins in February and Mavis will do in March. Thank you John for getting keys for three Deacons. Upcoming dates to note include Ash Wednesday on February 17th, Maundy Thursday April 1st, and Easter on April 4th. Pastor Dave encourages more Prayer Warriors to join the new Prayer Team. Jan shared correspondence from Lee Christensen. Visitations, card mailings, and concerns were shared.

Next meeting will be Monday, March 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, March 1st, at 5:30pm –Lori Donovan, Chairperson

Prayer Team

We are forming a **Prayer Team** and hoping for a wide base of commitment. Do you think you are not very good at prayer? This is the best way you have right now to get started. You might not want to commit the time- You can commit to pray for our church for **one minute a day**.

You can be added to the list by sending me a note to pdullom@gmail.com.



You are in my thoughts and prayers

sympathy messages ideas.com

Prayers and sympathy to Norma Myers and Margaret White & Family on the recent passing of son/brother, Dave Myers.



March

Janet Anderson
Eric & Molly Jo Anderson
Mary and Tanya Clabaugh



Meet the Need

Meet the Need for March is:

Camp Needs

Items needed by not limited to:

- Paper Towels
- Hand Soap
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Boxes of Band Aides
- Rolls of Stamps
- Monetary Donations



Don't forget to order your **Easter Flowers!**

Orders due by Monday, March 8th to be on display for Easter Sunday, April 4th!

By the numbers...

Average Worship Attendance

February 2019 – 46

February 2020 – 44

February 2021 – 25

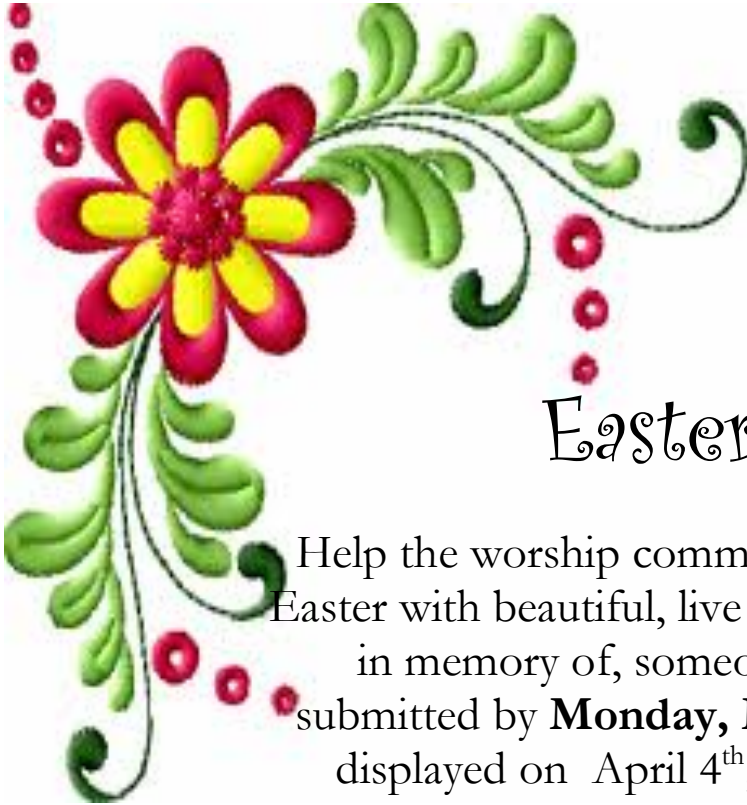
General Budget

2021 General Budget: \$ 80,000.00

Last Week Giving: \$ 635.00

Yearly Total: \$ 28,396.18

Weekly Amount Needed to Meet Budget: \$1,548.08



Easter Flowers

Help the worship committee decorate the sanctuary for Easter with beautiful, live flowers, donated in honor of, or in memory of, someone special. Orders must be submitted by **Monday, March 8th**. The flowers will be displayed on April 4th, Easter Sunday, and then are available for you to take home.

\$15 for a bulb plant such as tulips, or daffodils.

Given by (your name) _____

Please circle either :

in honor of (living person),

or in memory of (deceased person)

Please use **one order form per plant** and give orders and payment to Amber or place in the offering plate. Checks can be made payable to First Presbyterian Church, with “Easter flower” in the memo line. **Flowers are not tax deductible and may be picked up following the worship service on Easter Sunday.**

March

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Worship Committee Meeting, 5:30pm	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship, 10:30am Building & Grounds Meeting, 11:30am	8 Deacon Meeting, 5:30pm	9	10 Estherville Hope Youth Group, 6:30pm	11	12	13
14 Worship, 10:30am	15	16 Session Meeting, 7:00pm	17 Estherville Hope Youth Group, 6:30pm	18	19	20
21 Worship, 10:30am	22	23	24 Estherville Hope Youth Group, 6:30pm	25	26	27
28 Palm Sunday Worship, 10:30am	29	30	31			

Ruling Elders – Brad Hermanson, Beth Carrico, Kelly Claude, Molly Jo Anderson, Aaron Ruschy, Lori Donovan, Paul Moffitt and Walt Jensen

Deacons – Jan Greig, Cheryl Klingbeil, Mavis Evans, Georgia Whitehouse, Lavonne Ruschy (Moderator), Kevin Strenge, John Klingbeil, Mary Clabaugh and Pat Johnson

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, 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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