

# FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of  
Estherville First  
Presbyterian Church



April 2021

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## Pastor's Ponderings

Christ is Victorious! I enjoy the hymn "Victory in Jesus," the lyrics of the chorus are: "Victory in Jesus, my Savior forever. He sought me, and He bought me with His redeeming blood. He loved me 'ere I knew Him, and all my love is due Him. He plunged me to victory beneath the cleansing flood!"

I doubt any of us would ever say we like to experience defeat in our lives. At least for me, I would rather be a part of a winning team than a losing team. I proudly shared on Sunday that my favorite sports team had won the national championship as the Iowa Hawkeyes reign supreme in wrestling. That is an opportunity to celebrate!



*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](http://www.esthervillepresbyterian.com) and click on "make a donation" to give a one-time gift or to set up regular*

## Pastor's Ponderings Cont.

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We celebrate as Christians because of our Savior's resurrection over 2,000 years ago that the victory WAS, IS, and WILL BE ours!

As Easter Sunday is upon us, I wanted to be sure to reach out to you during this challenging time for so many. While many of us are physically back at church, I realize some have chosen to stay away for a while longer. Please know that we certainly understand the desire to stay safe as we continue to go through this unprecedented pandemic.

Since so many of our members have received Covid-19 vaccinations, the Session has voted to relax our mask policy. We encourage wearing masks while entering and exiting, but leave the decision to your individual discretion to remove them while in the pews. Numbers attending have increased, but we still have plenty of space to distance, especially with the balcony.

I am sure the Easter Season will feel quite a bit different watching services online, or on cable. I believe in the tremendous importance of the fellowship we share being together physically, yet it's a different day "for now." We may be apart, but we are not alone. By Easter Sunday I will be able to visit at Good Samaritan again as it will be two weeks past my 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination.

In the Gospel of Matthew we read how an angel appeared to the women at the tomb early that first Easter morning. The angel explained to them that Jesus was not there because He had been raised from the dead, just as He said! Matthew tells us that the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy. Remember, those women had extra reason to fear. They could not legally testify in a court of law, but God had given them a testimony that would transform the world!

That's what the resurrection does. It takes our fear, our worry, our hurt, our sadness...and it puts it all into perspective. We are on the winning side with Christ. Sin and its consequence, death, has been defeated! We receive the prize of eternal life!

The fact that Jesus is risen from the dead, that He was victorious over death and sin, is reason to celebrate. It is that fact that gives us joy despite our circumstances and through whatever we may face. What happened on that first Easter day still brings us joy and it still changes lives today.

I hope you will join us on Easter Sunday to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, that you will be filled with joy no matter what your circumstances, no matter what you face. Rejoice and sing as we celebrate how Jesus still changes lives today. Perhaps you can share that possibility for joy with someone else. It has never been easier to invite someone to worship. Besides Sunday in the sanctuary or with the cable service, you can invite someone to watch on my Dave Ullom Facebook page on Sunday, or at any time it is convenient for them.

Christ is Victorious! There is victory in Jesus! We celebrate His resurrection together!

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- Janine Johnson  
02 - Craig Kesler  
04 - Bev Stump  
05 - Teresa Dalen  
05 - Julie Willey  
06 - Izaak Sander  
08 - Tara Anderson  
10 - Lee Christensen  
16 - George Johnson  
17 - Domonique Titus  
22 - Naomi Fox  
22 - June Spoo  
24 - Travis Brechwald  
24 - Kate Ruschy  
25 - Dora Aldrich  
26 - Juanita Clabaugh  
28 - Keegan Brown  
28 - Chad Moffitt  
29 - Bobbi Jo Ruschy  
30 - Kevin Streng

### Anniversary Congratulations

15 - Jason & Sarah Kollasch  
30 - Kevin & June Spoo

### 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, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 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** – February minutes and Treasurer Report were approved. Mavis is delivering March bulletins and Kevin will do April. Will not be having Maundy Thursday service this year. Community Good Friday (April 2<sup>nd</sup>) services will be held at Methodist Church. Visitations, card mailings, and concerns were shared. Thank you from Brad and Lisa Hermanson for sympathies after Brad's father's passing was shared.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, at 5:30pm –Lori Donovan, Chairperson



Since a large number of our members have received the Covid-19 vaccination, the Session has approved wearing masks entering and leaving the sanctuary, but once seated it is up to individual discretion to keep masks on or take them off.



Meet the Need for April is:  
**CAASA**

Items needed but not limited to:

- Diapers
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Soap/Body Wash
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes
- Other Hygiene Items
- Etc.



**April**

Lavonne Ruschy  
Grace Ruschy  
Kate Ruschy  
Hillary Ruschy  
Kendyl Ruschy



*My long-term position is over and I will be in the office between 9:30am - 12:30pm on the days I am not subbing.*

*I still encourage you to call before stopping by to make sure I'm in if you need me. Otherwise, leave a message and I will get back to you as soon as possible.*

*Thank you again for your continued flexibility and patience,  
Amber Hall*

## By the numbers...

### Average Worship Attendance

March 2019 – 48

March 2020 – 50

March 2021 – 40

### General Budget

**2021 General Budget:** \$ 80,000.00

**Last Week Giving:** \$ 1,085.00

**Yearly Total:** \$ 41,062.62

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

# April

2021

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



**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 & Paul Moffitt

**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

723 First Avenue S.

Estherville, IA 51334

712-362-4772

[www.esthervillepresbyterian.com](http://www.esthervillepresbyterian.com)