

FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of
Estherville First
Presbyterian Church



May 2021

In this issue...

- 4 Celebrations at First Presbyterian Church!
- 5 Committee Happenings
- 6 By the Numbers
- 7 May Calendar

Pastor's Ponderings



Last month I wrote about the victory we have in Jesus and the power of the resurrection. This month is all about the actions taken at our April Session meeting with groundwork being laid through answered prayer as the Prayer Team has been lifting up needs and possibilities and we have been blessed with some answers.



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.

The place of the church in the world is vastly different from what it was just a year ago. We are now in the minority with only 47% of the population that belong to a church, synagogue or mosque. Of those who are Christian, only 39% think of themselves as attending most Sundays and 55% who almost never attend. Each year there is more of a decline in those numbers. Membership in all denominations is declining. That is the bad news. The more hopeful statistic is that over 40% of Americans consider themselves to be very religious!

What these statistics say to me is that we need to make changes in the ways we do church. The reality with the impacts of the coronavirus and the shifts that have happened in our society over the past year is that we have no choice but to continue to adapt and make changes.

So, the questions pop up: Do we want to change? Change what? What don't we want to see change?

We will offer an opportunity to join one of three groups that will meet twice at the end of May to complete a Congregational Survey. One group will meet following worship, another will meet on a weekday and a third will meet on an evening. Please sign up on the form [below?] to indicate the time that will work the best for you to participate. You will have the opportunity to go through the survey before the group meets and then talk and share with others to share your opinions and add to the responses. The results and all input will be compiled anonymously to prepare a roadmap to guide us into our future. Those who do not sign up will be assigned to one of the three groups as we are interested in involving as many people as possible.

The second major project the Session approved was to tackle the audio/visual components of Sunday worship. We have talked a little over several months and done research and work with experts as well as lift up our needs through the Prayer Team, and again our prayers are being answered with shifting possibilities being presented to find what we trust will be the best options for our building our worshipping community.

We will begin with adding microphones for the choir and other musical plans for the future as well as picking up the congregational singing for our broadcasts so the singing will be more full than just the Pastor's voice. Since we are already doubling up on some of our inputs there will also need to be additional sound board.

We will combine the Cable and Facebook feeds by running the output through a computer, and also have software to make it a far more professional looking broadcast. Another component is to add video screens inside the sanctuary that would project the bulletin items and hymns plus sermon illustrations and other video presentations to enhance our worship both inside the sanctuary and on the broadcasts.

I have applied for a technology grant from the presbytery (more answered prayer) that will give us a good start on the project.

The last bit of news from Session is a joy for Amber Hall, our Administrative Assistant, who has been hired full-time at the school. Sadly, that means we will have to replace her here at church by August 15, so pass the word that we are in need of filling her very big shoes.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Dave Ullom <*}}}><



Congregational Survey

Please choose which group best works for your schedule and return to the church office.

_____ **Group 1** – I would like to meet after worship on Sunday.

_____ **Group 2** – I would like to meet during the day on a Friday

_____ Morning

_____ Afternoon

_____ **Group 3** – I would like to meet at 7:00 pm on

_____ Tuesday

_____ Wednesday

_____ Thursday

(Please rank your choices 1, 2 or 3)



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 - Tom Egeland
02 - Larry Harsin
04 - Tim Greving
06 - Onalee Robinson
11 - Janet Anderson
13 - Jeanne Egeland
18 - Lola (Willey) Severin
19 - Judy Bixby
19 - Lois Jensen
19 - Deb Shomaker
24 - Heidi Origer
25 - Monique Titus
26 - Diane Clabaugh
27 - Claire Christensen
27 - Elaine Kaltved
28 - Richard Peton

Anniversary Congratulations

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, May 2nd, 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 2nd) 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, May 10th, 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, May 3rd, at 5:30pm –Lori Donovan, Chairperson



Prayers and sympathy to Molly Jo Anderson and family the recent passing of her mother, Mary Jo Huntley.



Meet the Need for May is:

Food Pantry

Items needed but not limited to:

- Canned Fruits/Vegetables
- Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Cereal
- Peanut Butter
- Etc.



May

Paul Moffitt
Chelsey Moffitt
Pat Johnson
Beth Carrico



Join us Sunday, May 9th at 9:30am (before worship) as we recognize our 2021 High School Graduate, Kendyl Ruschy!

Please come help us congratulate Kendyl for all her hard work and success and to wish her well on her next endeavor!

Funeral Notice

The Funeral for Jean Wiant will be on

May 18th at 11:00am.

By the numbers...

Average Worship Attendance

April 2019 – 58

April 2020 – 0

April 2021 – 44

General Budget

2021 General Budget: \$ 80,000.00

Last Week Giving: \$ 191.00

Yearly Total: \$ 45,217.87

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

1707

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Worship, 10:30am Building & Grounds Meeting, 11:30am	3 Worship Committee Meeting, 5:30pm	4	5 Confirmation, 1:45pm	6	7	8
9 Worship, 10:30am	10 Deacon Meeting, 5:30pm	11	12 Confirmation, 1:45pm	13	14	15
16 Worship, 10:30am	17	18 Session Meeting, 7:00pm	19 Confirmation, 1:45pm	20	21	22
23 Worship, 10:30am 4H Cooking Class, 4:00pm	24 <hr/> 31	25	26 Confirmation, 1:45pm	27	28	29
30 Worship, 10:30am						

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