

FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of
Estherville First
Presbyterian Church

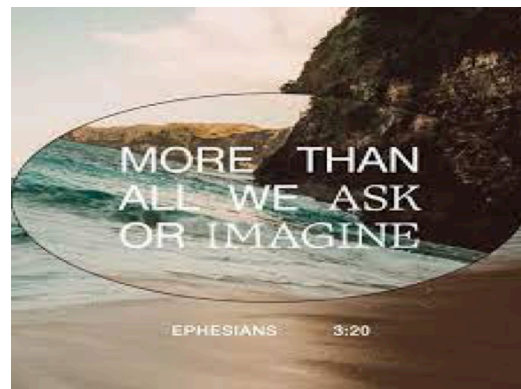


June 2021

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Pastor's Ponderings



A few years ago, a pastor took an online poll asking, “What is the point of the church?” Responses ranged from personal opinions to Scriptural references to quotations from the Westminster Catechism. The response that I found most poignant was an observation about the wildly divergent answers that read, “If you ask any of the employees at Chick-Fil-A what the purpose of the company is, they will all say the same thing. Everyone knows it. Yet these posts show that Christians have very different understandings of what the point of the church is.” Since Jesus died for the church, shouldn’t we know its purpose?



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.

Our modern confusion stands at odds with the early church's strong sense of purpose. Jesus' first followers were constantly involved in spreading the good news about his death and resurrection (Mat. 28:18-20). Then, as these followers joined together in communities where Jesus was treasured and people were cared for (Acts 2:37-47), their long-term strategy was sharing the Good News of Jesus with more people.

The world has changed around us, and that change has accelerated in the last year. I began writing about this last month and shared some of the things I and the Session have been working on to help us move forward. We have been asking you to sign up for a discussion group, and now **it is important for everyone connected with our worshipping fellowship to participate** in one of those groups. Each group will meet two times and complete a Congregational Study that I have compiled. I searched for some kind of instrument to help guide us and asked for help from the Presbytery, but when none was forthcoming, I worked to put an instrument together myself and pray that God will use it to help us plan for future ministry.

Copies of Session One of the Congregational Study are available on the bulletin tables in the sanctuary, and I will email them to all those who I have an address for so you can write down responses before we come together in groups to discuss. In the groups one person's responses can connect with another or spark further ideas that we will compile anonymously and use to move forward. Please contact me or the church office to have a copy mailed to you. Please contact me if you would rather participate in one of the groups via a Zoom connection and I will set up a link.

The first group will meet on **Tuesday, June 1**, at 7:00 pm and again June 8. Two more groups will meet after worship **Sunday June 6** and June 13.

There are not right or wrong decisions for us, but perhaps there are choices between what is good and what is better. We seek to be led by God and pray that direction will come through these discussions together. I read an article this week that said the Southern Baptist Convention, the largest protestant denomination, since its peak in 2006 has lost 14% of its membership through 2019, United Methodists lost 18% in that time, and unfortunately PCUSA (us) had a 42.5% membership decline over those years. Our congregation has mirrored that decline and that indicates to me that we need to consider doing ministry differently.

Eph. 3:20-21 promises, *"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us,"* ²¹ *to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."*

I know that the Lord has a plan for us: *"The plans I have for you... are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen. If you look for me wholeheartedly, you will find me."* Jeremiah 29:11-14. Please pray for these discussions and our church. Please send me an email if you would like to receive the weekly Prayer Team email to guide your prayers.

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 - Liz Bixby
02 - Ardis Pilquist
02 - Cole Anderson
02 - Sandy Harsin
05 - Brent Baddeley
08 - Dee Zinnel
13 - Emily Origer
14 - Shirley Moffitt
18 - Dante Titus
22 - Deborah Gruwell
22 - Grace Johnson
23 - Grace Ruschy
24 - Sally Nitchals
28 - Jolene Greving
30 - Eric Anderson

Anniversary Congratulations

06 - Paul & Shirley Moffitt
09 - Nick & Katie Hanson
09 - Dennis & Belva Henrickson
12 - Jack & Judy Bixby
14 - George & Barb Johnson

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 – Aaron and pastor Dave met with Stan, from A.V.I., on May 14th to start with solutions and quotes for technology and some members of the congregation are offering to donate to.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, June 6th, at 11:30am. –Aaron Ruschy, *Chairperson*

Christian Education – The Estherville Hope Youth Group will not meet during the summer months.

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 13th, 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 – The committee took the cross down. For Pentecost Sunday on May 23rd the members will wear red.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 6th, at 5:30pm –Lori Donovan, *Chairperson*



Summer Office Hours

Beginning May 31st, the office will be open from 9:30am - 12:30pm Monday-Thursday through summer.



June

Ev Drevs
Kevin & Evy Streng
John & Cheryl Klingbeil

Radio Ministry



Just a quick THANK YOU for showing your support and contributions to our Radio Ministry!

Thanks to you we only have FIVE broadcasts available for the 2021 year! If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in October, November or December, act fast!

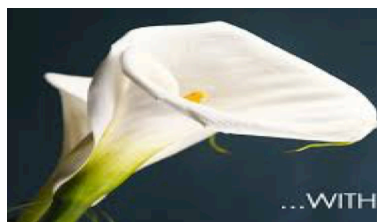
Thank you again for your continued support and dedication to spreading our ministry.



Meet the Need

Meet the Need will break for June and July and resume again in August with a school supply donation.

Have a great Summer!



...WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY

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

By the numbers...

Average Worship Attendance

May 2019 - 55

May 2020 - 0

May 2021 - 47

General Budget

2021 General Budget:	\$ 80,000.00
Last Week Giving:	\$ 332.00
Yearly Total:	\$ 51,683.84

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

June

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6 Worship, 10:30am Building & Grounds Meeting, 11:30am	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Worship, 10:30am	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Worship, 10:30am	21	22 Session Meeting, 7:00pm	23	24	25	26
27 Worship, 10:30am	28	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 Streng, John Klingbeil, Mary Clabaugh and Pat Johnson

Building & Grounds – Aaron Ruschy (Chair), Jack Bixby, Walt Jensen, Larry Harsin, Kevin Streng

Christian Education - Liz Bixby, Natalie Brown, Katie Hanson, Heidi Origer, & Bobbi Jo Ruschy

Congregational Life/Outreach – Molly Jo Anderson (Chair), 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, Judy Ullom

Prayer Chain - Belva Henrickson, Velma White, Dee Zinnel

Worship – Lori Donovan (Chair), Paula Beaver, Beth Carrico, Paul Moffitt, Evy Streng, Margaret White, Kelly Claude

Pastors and Staff –Rev. Dr. Dave Ullom, Pastor; Amber Hall, Administrative Assistant/Treasurer; Craig Kesler, Custodian

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