

# FIRST PRESS

The monthly newsletter of  
Estherville First  
Presbyterian Church

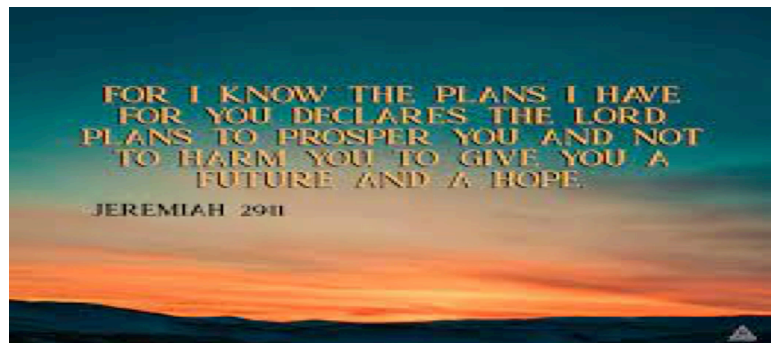


August 2021

## *In this issue...*

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## Pastor's Ponderings



Last month I started sharing the responses from the Congregational Study and some of the actions that we were moving toward. The Session reviewed two bids to add a video component to our worship and enhance our video broadcasts for the Cable and livestreaming. One bid was from AVI out of Des Moines for \$42,930 and the other from Josh Ullom who just did a similar system for Spirit of Life Presbyterian Church in Apple Valley, MN for \$17,032. The Session approved the second bid as we have the finances with the grant from presbytery and memorial funds. Steve Danielson is working on the audio equipment and adding microphones and speakers. Here are other responses from the Congregational Study:



*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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**What are the most significant weaknesses of your church?** Many people said there are fewer people than there used to be; inactive members; we are not diverse. As with most churches many said there are too few younger families. The choir is smaller. The pool of people willing to participate in the worship support positions is shrinking; limited finances; No PW; miss Bible Study; Age of the building, and its size; need for repairs; need to repair stained glass windows

**What changes would you like to see made in your church?** The Education wing, Is there any potential value in separating it from the rest of the facility? People need to step out of their comfort zone and be willing to try new things. We need to grow the congregation. Occasionally have different music. Updating equipment. Marketing, getting our name out in the community; being involved in the community. Forest Ridge kids used to come to worship; connect with college kids.

**Describe ethnic groups in our community:** Hispanic- are starting new churches, African American, Asian

**Does the membership of our congregation reflect the ethnic and socio-economic groups of our community?** Many said no; area jobs are attracting new ethnic groups; local kids tend to leave

**Describe three distinctive attributes of your community:** College; farmers; good local hospital; safe community; new pool; Apple Orchard

**Identify major trends you envision in your community during the next five years:** More number of ethnic groups; older population; less retail. Some churches merging; new industries, new housing being built Hope: more people coming back to churches; searching for what is really important

**List problem areas confronting your community that members feel your church should address:**

Percentage of people attending church is declining; Our Meet the Needs program is going well

**Are there things that we as a church might do to address those needs both for individuals and the community as a whole?** Meals; Holiday box for those in need- People could come to the church to receive it

Music in the Park programs; kids activities.

**What do you think our congregation will look like in 20 years if we continue the pattern of the last 20 years without operating differently?** The responses were all the same: empty; it won't be here; closed.

**What do people in the community know about our church?** (Is there a way to use the question as an outreach opportunity to connect with people): Have an open house in the style of Christmas Tour of Homes; Work with Brett Fuelberth on music programs; Salad luncheon used to be popular.

**Our congregation is perceived to be theologically diverse holding a variety of views.**

**What are some ways we could make our building more inviting?** Use Greeters; have more people in worship; our stairs are a challenge. Fix cracks; maintenance, it is an old building that needs work and handicap accessibility; transform the look of the east entry; there is a spot on the wall behind the piano; pipes in the basement are stained; improve basement lighting. Signage to direct people to the chair lift and bathrooms. Work needs to be done in the upstairs bathrooms to make them look better inside. We could stencil Bible verses on walls, doors, etc.

Is there a way not to have the basement bathrooms open into the dining room (add a hallway for access).

## Pastor's Ponderings Cont.

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Change the bulletin board from the old one on rollers; have a display rack instead of card table. Signs outside the church; might it be possible to have a portable sign on the Laundromat corner? Welcome banners; electronic sign; add color. The Methodists put out flags around the block, is there something we could do? Add a flagpole and light it, display US and Christian flag [*George Shadle will donate them*].

There are certainly a lot of possible things we can work on from the suggestions in the responses to these questions. There is not space to include all the responses this month, so I will continue the list next month. Our time of discussion needs to be an ongoing one. We had good responses from those who participated in the Congregational Study, but I would appreciate hearing from those who were not able to be in the meetings. Your input is valuable to share.

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<sup>nd</sup> – Karel Bishop  
 02<sup>nd</sup> – Jim Hill  
 05<sup>th</sup> – Sarah Kollasch  
 12<sup>th</sup> – Melissa Patrick  
 13<sup>th</sup> – Judy Ullom  
 16<sup>th</sup> – Blake Bixby  
 16<sup>th</sup> – Cullen Bixby  
 16<sup>th</sup> – Belva Henrickson  
 18<sup>th</sup> – Sebastian Streng  
 21<sup>st</sup> – Ed Greving  
 21<sup>st</sup> – Miss Lee Muleka  
 23<sup>rd</sup> – Pat Johnson  
 23<sup>rd</sup> – Denise Christensen  
 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sue Friesner  
 24<sup>th</sup> – Barb Johnson  
 24<sup>th</sup> – Dennis Henrickson  
 27<sup>th</sup> – Mark Guge  
 29<sup>th</sup> – Liam Brown  
 30<sup>th</sup> – Jack Bixby

### Anniversary Congratulations

1<sup>st</sup> – Aaron & Dawn Ruschy  
 1<sup>st</sup> – Larry & Dora Aldrich  
 2<sup>nd</sup> – Steve & Sue Friesner  
 9<sup>th</sup> – James & Karel Bishop  
 14<sup>th</sup> – Dan & Lori Donovan  
 17<sup>th</sup> – Dean & Denise Christensen  
 21<sup>st</sup> – Scott & Becky Olk  
 21<sup>st</sup> – James & Koral Rosendahl  
 27<sup>th</sup> – John & Cheryl Klingbeil  
 28<sup>th</sup> – Craig & Margaret White  
 30<sup>th</sup> – Mark & Norma Guge

### 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!*



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# Committee Happenings

**Building & Grounds** – Aaron will check if the chair lift inspection was done. Aaron will also replace the bulb above the picture of Christ in the Sanctuary. A motion was carried to replace the thermostat at church. Stan, from A.V.I., sent a quote regarding the audio and sound system and was reviewed last session meeting. In July, Josh Ullom sent a bid for \$17,032.30 which was reviewed and considerably less than A.V.I.s bid. Josh's bid also does not include the cost of the electrician to complete the technology updates. Therefore, motion was carried to accept Josh's bid contingent on getting the electrician's bid to run the wire. The congregation will be involved with the final placement of the T.V.'s.

The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, at 11:30am. –Aaron Ruschy, Chairperson

**Christian Education** – No report

The next meeting is TBA. – Chairperson

**Congregational Life/ Outreach** – The Ice Cream Social is scheduled for August 26<sup>th</sup>. They will be sending out cards and using social media to reach new people moving to Estherville. They also plan to put brochures in hotels.

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

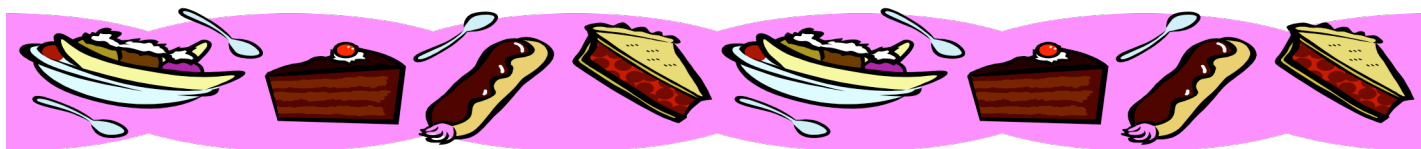
**Generosity Team** – Will meet again in September

The next meeting is TBD – Craig White & Beth Carrico, Co-Chairpersons

**Worship** – Will continue to use the communion cups at this time.

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





## SIGN UP SHEET FOR

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL AUGUST 26, 2021

Our Ice Cream Social Fund Raiser is scheduled for

Thursday, August 26, 2021 from 5 to 6:30pm in the church basement.

#### *Menu will include:*

Sloppy Joes, Baked Beans, Chips, Pie, Homemade Ice Cream, & Drink. Free will offering.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

I will donate pie \_\_\_\_\_

(please indicate the number of pies)

I will donate bag of ice \_\_\_\_\_

(please indicate the number of bags)

I will donate potato chips \_\_\_\_\_

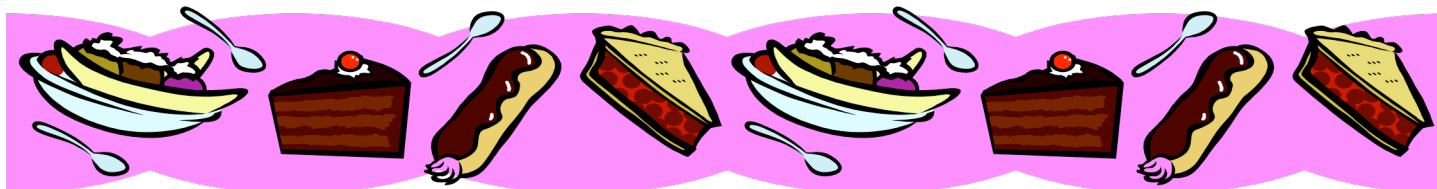
(please indicate the number of potato chips)

I will donate money \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I will help work the night of the event (Thursday, August 26<sup>th</sup>)

Before \_\_\_\_\_ During \_\_\_\_\_ After \_\_\_\_\_

*You may drop off this form in the offering plate or at the church office. Any questions call the church office 362-4772.*



**Hello**  
**My name is Becky Varcoe**

Born in Iowa Falls, Iowa and grew up between Iowa Falls and Estherville as my dad was a railroad engineer.

I've had many jobs in my career, but the longest was a nurse of almost 40 years. Though I truly loved being a nurse times were changing with politics and hands on care being harder to give with all the paper work it was time to retire.

Between John and I we have 2 boys and 2 girls, 15 grandchildren and 3 greats so with all the in-laws we have quite a herd.

John and I live on an acreage east of Gruver with 2 chickens and 4 barn cats.

I truly hope I can live up to Amber's abilities and kind manner, she has patience and will be a fantastic teacher.

Stop in anytime I am anxious to meet all of you.

**Estherville Home Delivered Meals**

(Formerly Meals on Wheels)

*Needs YOU!*

September is our month to deliver and anyone willing to help out is greatly appreciated!

Please contact:  
**Janet Anderson at 362-3755**  
with dates you're available to help.



***August***  
**Larry Harsin**  
**John KLingbeil**  
**Cheryl Klingbeil**  
**Pat Johnson**



Meet the Need for August is:

***School Supplies***

Items needed by not limited to:

- \* Pencils
- \* Markers/Crayons/Colored Pencils
- \* Highlighters
- \* Fiskar Scissors
- \* Spiral Notebooks
- \* Elmer's Glue/Glue sticks
- \* Dray Erase Markers
- \* Plastic 2 Pocket Folders
- \* Large Pink Erasers/Pencil Top Erasers
- \* Kleenex
- \* Kids Underwear

*By the numbers...*

**Average Worship Attendance**

July 2019 – 53  
July 2020 – 32  
July 2021 – 42

**General Budget**

**2021 General Budget:** \$ 80,000.00  
**Last Week Giving:** \$ 1,295.80  
**Yearly Total:** \$ 63,099.40

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

# August

2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship, 10:30am Building & Grounds Mtg. 11:30am	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Worship, Library Square 11:00am	9	10	11	12	13	14
15 Worship, 10:30am	16	17 Session Meeting 7:00pm	18	19	20	21
22 Worship, 10:30am	23	24	25	26 Ice Cream Social, 10 5-6pm	27	28
29 Worship, 10:30am	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 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, 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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Estherville, IA 51334

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