

First Presbyterian Church

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Connections



April 2024



“Please, Lord, Forgive This Fool”

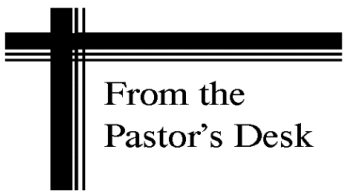


A month ago I began feeling a pain over my right kidney. This came after a number of weeks of lower back pain I rationalized as arthritis. However, I concluded the new pain had all the indications of being Kidney stones. Making an appointment with my doctor who ordered a CT scan, I sat back waiting for the results and what I assumed would be a quick resolution. You have to understand that in all my adult years, I have never had a medical test that indicated problems. Blood tests have always been spot on great, so I had no reason to believe things would be different with this scan. I took it for granted that apart from having a stone, all would be well.

A few days later the doctor's nurse called and confirmed that I did have a kidney stone, but then she delivered a punch to the gut. Not only was there a very large stone, but there existed cysts on each kidney, and in addition to that I had gall stones, and in addition to that I had a severe enlarged prostate gland, and in addition to that, there was a spot on my pelvis!!!! All those years of being told I was in great shape. All those years of smugly taking for granted my health, and in one fell swoop, I have a number of issues, some of which could have very serious implications.

Let me end the suspense by telling you all the issues are not life threatening and will require nothing more than the removal of the one kidney stone. In the wake of all this I stand before my Lord asking for forgiveness for having the audacity to take my health for granted. I don't know that I have ever said thank you for every good test and for a life without medication. I have been blessed and never appreciated that. I say that realizing there are many who have not enjoyed that blessing. I have foolishly forgotten that everything about my life is a gift from God and every day I need to give thanks because in he blink of an eye it could be gone.

The past couple of weeks of recovering from surgery has helped me focus on what is important. I have been humbled and am acutely aware that I am vulnerable every day to things changing. Therefore, this is one very fortunate but penitent guy who will now look at lab reports not with smugness, but deep appreciation and thankfulness. No longer can I or should I take anything about life for granted.



April Sermon

Easter has come and gone and we enter a period living in the in-between. In the rear view mirror is the empty tomb and in fifty days it will be Pentecost. It is a time to bask in the glow of forgiveness before the Holy Spirit descends to empower us to go out into the world with the invitation to come and see what God is and will do in Jesus Christ.

So, the sermons for the April portion of this “in-between” time will be coming primarily from the book of Deuteronomy. This magnificent book tells the story of a people who are between leaving their enslavement in Egypt, wandering in the desert asking the question “What’s next?” and the challenge of the Promised Land. The in-between is fraught with anxiety and unknowing, of fear of what might be, and the constant need to be flexible to change.

So, my friends, let’s put our seats and trays in the upright position and fasten our seat belts for a journey into the in-between.

April 7 The Lord’s Supper Celebrated

Texts: Deuteronomy 31:1-8

Title: “Between Despair & Hope”

Theme: Our pain is real, but so is the presence of God

April 14

Texts: Deuteronomy 4:44-46, 5:1-22

Title: “Between Memory & Imagination”

Theme: How the past can give you and identity and a hope

April 21 Confirmation

Texts: Psalm 98:1-9

John 15:1-17

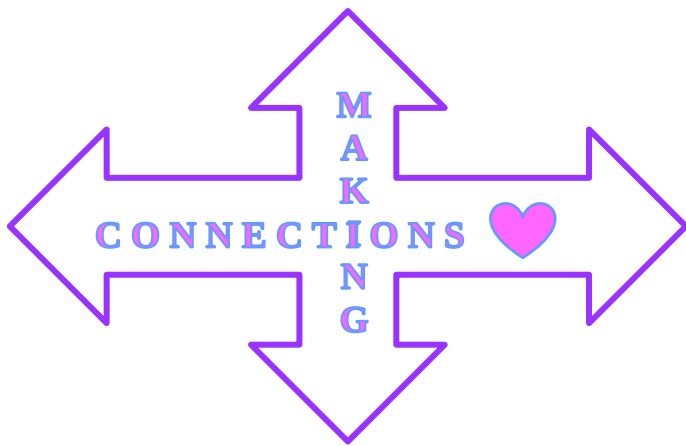
Title: “I Choose YOU!”

April 28

Texts: Deuteronomy 1:1, 5-8

Title: “The Hardest Part of the Journey”

Theme: It’s okay to ask, “Are we there yet?”



April Birthdays

- 01 - Janice Kemp
- 04 - Dal Thompson
- 06 - Laura Mehaffy
- 11 - Kelle Haller
- 13 - Ted Francis
- 16 - Sally Bell
- 25 - Pat Saldeen



Table for One

Our April event will be held Wednesday, 4/3 @ 5:30p.m. @ Eva Ann Elmer's home @ 1431 Cambridge Dr. #301 Burlington, IA

Yum-Yums

News from Yum-Yums! 17 people enjoyed dinner at The Busted Cup in March. Those who were there, chose to go to The Pink in Lomax in April. All are welcome to come with us and you bring a guest if you would like! Our next get together will be at 6:00 P.M. on Thursday, April 18, 2024, @ The Pink in Lomax, IL. To carpool, meet at Fareway Grocery parking lot @ 5:30pm. If you have any questions, call or text JoAnn Williams at 319-754-8535.

2nd Sunday Lunch

Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, April 14 for the All Church Birthday Party put on by the Deacons!

Maidrites, Cupcakes, and Ice Cream will be provided.

Please bring a side to go with maidrites for all to enjoy and also a little gift for our Treasure Chest!

Luncheon is free and gracious donations help to defray the cost.



The Shepherd's Table

Folks continue to gather 'round the tables for food and fellowship at the monthly Shepherd's Table community dinner. Thank you to those who have contributed food, worked at the dinner or attended the dinner, and especially to our hard-working Mission Committee for being shepherds of this outreach. Please extend your personal thanks to committee members Pat Whitmore, Pat Saldeen, Leona Byars, Terri Huddleston, Brenda Frederick, Jill Mehaffy-Nalley, and Janet Calvin.

This month's community dinner will be **Wednesday, April 24, 4:30 – 6:00 P.M.** at the Congregational Church, 313 N 4th Street. The menu is egg casserole, pastries, and fruit. We need volunteers to help provide these items: 5 coffee cakes, 2 large bags of mandarin oranges, and 4 or 5 large containers of fresh strawberries. Food can be brought to our church kitchen, labeled for Shepherd's Table, Tuesday, April 23, during office hours 9 AM – 1:00, or Wednesday morning, April 24, by 9:15 AM. Please call the church office, 319-752-6626, or sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary to volunteer to bring food or help at the dinner. Thank you.



Messages from the Deacons

Hello fellow Presbyterians!

Please put on your calendars

1. April 14, 2024 for the All Church Birthday Party

When: After Service

Where: Fellowship Hall

Maidrites, Cupcakes and Ice Cream will be provided.

Please bring: A present for the Treasure Chest

Please bring: A side dish to compliment the maidrites for all to enjoy!

2. Summer Church In The Park - August 25, 2024! More details will come as we get closer to the date.



Greeting Cards!

Make sure to check out the card box in the hallway leading to the fellowship hall. This is for your convenience to send a card to someone you are thinking about. Birthday, get well, thinking of you, etc. Cards are available for you to choose from and there is a directory nearby to provide you with addresses of fellow parishioners. All you need to do is add a stamp!





Thank you from Community Action

We want to thank you for your generous donation. This will have an impact on helping individuals and families in our community! Thank you!

With Gratitude,
Your Community Action
Neighborhood Center Family
Kim, Shelby, Stacy, Salina, Pat, and Tom

A Thank you from Burlington Community
School District

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the Burlington Community School District, I would like to thank you for your donation of fleece jackets, thermal shirt, undergarments, gloves, hats, scarves, backpack and socks valued at \$315.

The Board of Directors was pleased to accept your contribution at the 2/5/24 board meeting.

Your gift is sincerely appreciated and we thank you for all your support to the students of the Burlington Community School District.

Sincerely,
Robert Scott
Superintendent of Schools

Thank you from Janet Calvin!

My sincere thank you to our church family for all your prayers for my granddaughters, Kerri and Xiomara, who are both going through cancer. Xiomara has had 2 surgeries this past month. Kerri is taking treatments and having tests.

Your prayers are felt and so appreciated, both are staying positive and determined to do what they need to get well.

I, too, want to thank our church family for all the support I have received. The phone calls, cards and prayers. I miss all of you and enjoy so much hearing from you!

Many blessings to all of you! I hope you all have a very special Easter weekend!

Janet Calvin



Carmel the bunny!

It has been awhile since I shared something about my kids! My oldest, Dominick, hopped his bunny rabbit, Carmel, along with the rest of his 4-H Rabbit Club, at Ridgeview Assisted Living on Saturday, March 16! Carmel is a Lion Head/New Zealand Cross breed, he is now about 1 ½ yrs old. (He looks like he didn't hop in the photo, but he did, eventually, hop over that pole instead of trying to go under it.)



KNITWITS

Want to be warm, able to relax, enjoy conversation with others and not feel guilty about it? We have the perfect answer for you: join the prayer shawl ministry group. Stop by the Church Parlor for an hour between 10:00 and 11:00 on **Wednesday, April 3rd**. Whether you know how or would like to learn to knit or crochet, we will have willing and patient teachers on hand to help. Needles and yarn and some patterns will be provided, or you can bring your own.

Hope to see you there.

Questions?

Contact Pat Whitmore 319-850-6803





Sunday School



Come join the fun every Sunday morning starting at 9:00 a.m. downstairs in the church basement and learn all about Jesus!



Adult Education




Come join us and learn more about the Bible and Jesus! Adult Education meets every Sunday morning before church at 9:00 a.m.

The subject matter for study for the remainder of this spring, will be “the sermon on the mount”, particularly, the “B” attitudes.

Missions Is Up To Doing Good

Mission Committee Upcoming Meeting

The Mission Committee plans to have its monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. Bring a sack lunch. April 3rd next meeting.



**Thank you to everyone who
donates to the Treasure Chest!
This is a monthly mission
that is mailed to the Iowa City Stead Family
Children's Hospital
to children receiving treatment.**

***Please note that items
need to be under 12 inches in size.
We use a 12"x12" box to
keep postage at a minimum.**

**Your generosity is greatly
appreciated!!**

Mission Committee

Announcements!



Remember the office will be closed for Good Friday and on Monday, April 1st in observance of Easter. We will resume normal office hours on Tuesday, April 2nd.

Farmer's Market @ the Church will be on Thursday, April 18 from 4:30pm-6pm! If you know someone that is struggling and could use some food, please send them down! It is always the third Thursday of the month. See a Mission Committee member for more information!

KnitWits will be meeting at 10am-11am on Wednesday, April 3. If you would like more information, please contact Pat Whitmore.

Handbells will be rehearsing on Thursdays at 10am. Rehearsals will resume on Thursday, April 11.

Confirmation Graduation will be on Sunday, April 21st! Come help celebrate these wonderful graduates on their accomplishment!

Live Streaming our Worship Services

Can't make it to Sunday service? No problem! Every Sunday service is live streamed on Facebook! Please join us! Just go to Facebook on your phone, tablet, or computer and navigate to our Facebook page!

If you have not yet watched a Facebook service, or don't know how, locate Facebook on your phone, tablet or computer, search for First Presbyterian Church of Burlington, Iowa, and then sit back and enjoy. The weekly bulletin is being provided via e-mail so you can follow along and take part as you wish. Comments are appreciated.





April 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office Hours: M-W-F 1:30pm-4:30pm T-Th 9:00am-1:00pm	1 	2	3 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study <u>Mission meets @ noon</u> <u>Knitwits meets @ 10:00 am</u> <u>Table for One meets @ 5:30pm @ Eva Ann Elmer's home</u>	4 Session Dockets Due	5  Bell Bottoms Day!	6
7 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed. 10:00a.m. Worship 3pm-4:30pm-Confirmation Class	8	9 	10 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	11 Session Meets 1pm-3pm Handbell's meet @ 10am	12	13
14 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed. 10:00a.m. Worship 3pm-4:30pm-Confirmation Class 2nd Sunday Luncheon "All Church Birthday Party"	15	16	17 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	18 <u>Handbells meet @ 10am</u> <u>Yum Yums @ 6pm @ The Pink in Lomax, IL. Carpool @ 5:30pm @ Fareway</u> <u>Farmer's Market @ the Church 4:30pm-6pm</u>	19	20 
21 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship Confirmation Graduation Deacon's Meet	22 Trustees Meet @ 10 a.m. Deadline For Connections	23	24 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study <u>Shepherd's Table 4:30pm-6pm</u>	25 Handbells meet @ 10am	26	27
28 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship	29	30 				