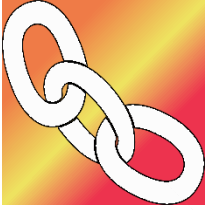


# First Presbyterian Church

321 N. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Burlington, IA 52601, 319-752-6626

1stpresb@1stpresb.org

www.1stpresb.org



## Connections



August 2024



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### Pastor's Reflections

I learned how to drive a tractor when I was 7 years old. Dad needed help and mom wasn't available because she had a new baby and a toddler to care for. Desperate times require desperate actions, so, Dad took me out and taught me how to drive our John Deere 50 tractor. I was fortunate in that John Deere tractors in those days had hand clutches so my short legs were not a problem.

My first test was raking hay. We went around the hay field countless times while I was taught the fundamentals I would need to know to accomplish this task. Now I should note that I was not alone in the field and I was forbidden to change the speed or gear in which I was driving. It was a magnificent day and with each round completed, I became more capable of doing more.

Let's fast forward 5 years and the day a brand new John Deere tractor was delivered to the farm. In the 5 years since my first lessons, I had graduated from raking hay with a fixed throttle and chaperons to spending 8 - 10 hours plowing, disking, cultivating, and everything else that is done on the farm. On this historic day, I ascended onto the seat of the biggest tractor I had ever seen and told to hook up the plow and get going.

I thought I had died and gone to heaven! If you have ever had the opportunity to pull a plow, you know that you split your time watching where you are going and where you have been. I had spent 4 hours in heaven when Dad came out to see how it was going. I proudly told him look behind the plow: "Just look at all the ground I have plowed!" Dad was pleased with what had been accomplished, but then gave me a reality check. "You've done well and accomplished a lot, but you need to look at all the ground in front of the tractor. There's more to be done before we can enjoy what has been done."

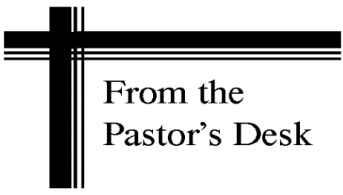
That was the moment I learned that the past can't be changed and is over. What I can change and have an impact on is what remains in front of me, and there seems to be more of that than what has been finished. For all these years

of my life I have never forgotten this critically sobering lesson. We can celebrate over and over again what we did in the past, but nothing will be changed. The real work is out ahead. What makes the past fun to recall and enjoy is that it is fixed and can't be changed. But the future, what lies ahead, that's another story. It's a story waiting to be written and is rich in unknown.

That, dear friends, is what our ministry is all about. We have a wonderful past but it is over and will produce nothing new for the here and now. What is ahead of us is unexplored and that is exciting as well as scary. We like the predictability and security of the past, but the unpredictability of what lies ahead can be unnerving.

That is where faith comes in. God is constantly shining the light onto our path so we won't get lost or misstep. God has packed our bag with all the resources and tools we'll need. God has provided us a guide in Jesus who has said repeatedly he is with us always no matter how far we go, and if that's not enough, God has given us his Comforter in the person of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing to be gained in fixating on the past. Our work is out ahead of us.





From the  
Pastor's Desk

## August Sermon

Remember that God has a plan for you, and it's not in the past. Christians are a new creation through Christ, so it's time to move forward into what He has prepared for you. In reality, in which we live is that God does not leave us unchanged. Nothing happens by coincidence and God is always at work moving things and people around so that God's will might be fulfilled. Nothing has ever been achieved by basking in the glow of past accomplishments or grieving a broken and painful past. Therefore, we must daily be ready to move (possibly be moved) into new and often uncharted territory and experiences. Therefore, we need to trust that the Lord will help us move forward and guide us to make the best choices. We need to let our faith be our motivation, and not dwell on the past. Instead, focus on what's ahead and move forward with confidence in Christ.

Following his resurrection according to Matthew, Jesus met his disciples well outside the city limits on a mountain top. He took them away from where he had died and the house in which they cowered in fear for their lives. He took them out of the past because that is not where he was or ever would be and he showed them a world ripe with opportunity and new life for themselves and those they had not yet met, but whose lives they would be forever changed because of them. He didn't want them looking backwards, but see out ahead of them a brand new creation - the church.

God is in the business of justice and righteousness. His Word brings life and renewal, transformation. The apostle Paul's letters scream new life. He is constantly offering the invitation to leave the past in one's rear view mirror and look out the windshield to the brilliance and excitement of what is ahead. God doesn't just want us to move forward, but expects and needs us to move forward because he loves us. It's been said that sharks don't ever stop or sleep because they need to keep water flowing through their gills otherwise they will die. It might be suggested that the same could be said of us and the church. The sermons for August will be anchored in texts that call us to "Move Forward."

August 4      Lord's Supper  
Texts: Isaiah 43:16-21  
Philippians 3:7-1

August 18  
Texts: Psalm 32:6-10  
Hebrews 12:1-3

August 11  
Texts: Isaiah 40:28-31  
Philippians 1:3-11

August 25      Worship At Crapo Park  
Service Under Construction

# Farmer's Market & Food Pantry

Our Food Pantry, located on the north hallway across from Fellowship Hall, is fully stocked and always ready to meet the needs of those who come periodically, seeking food assistance, as well as our monthly distribution on the third Thursday of each month, which coincides with the Farmer's Market. In addition, the Mission Committee has a chest freezer located at the end of that same hallway in which they store the frozen items we receive to distribute.

All of the food we distribute is made available by the Iowa Food Bank in Des Moines at a cost not much more than the cost of transportation. We place an order each month and shortly thereafter a pallet arrives, on which is piled canned goods, dry goods, fruits, frozen meats and cheese. Because we are part of the USDA commodities program, we must adhere to the Civil Rights laws pertaining to equal and fair access. Those who monthly distribute bags of food are required to undertake annual Civil Right Training. Said training is being undertaken here in the last of July and the first part of August. Rev. Johnson provides the training that takes about 60 minutes.

This project, along with the Hased Project, is part of our engaging mission initiative. We want to be involved in the transformation of lives, create relationships and opportunities rooted in our love of Jesus Christ and our desire to share him, his grace, love and mercy.

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider**





## A reflection: It's all about relationship

In Matthew 22: 36-40 Jesus is asked about the greatest commandments. Here is how he responds:

*“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

How do we respond to what Jesus says? I think that the confessions of the church speak to this. I think the best way is through the illustration of the three-legged stool.

Recently I had the opportunity to speak about an illustration for our common life together, the three-legged stool. For us as a community of faith, the legs are called relevant worship, engaging mission, and courageous outreach. Perhaps the word that echoes through all of them is “relationship.”

**Relevant worship.** What does that mean? The word “relevant” means “closely connected or appropriate to what is being done.” Hopefully the word worship does not require much explanation. Relevant worship speaks to an experience which uses language that we understand, and expressions of faith that speak to our current experiences. Pastor Dick and I make every effort to bring liturgy and music to the table that speaks to the subject at hand, so that our worship experiences are wholistic, and bring us closer to God and to each other.

**Engaging mission.** The word “engaging” means “to involve or establish a meaningful contact or connection with,” which implies a relationship with. Mission, which might be better called social action ministry, is an “organized effort to carry on activities in the name of the Christian faith.” For me those relationships bring about change in individual that change forever. I am personally excited about the new Hesus program, because I realize the power it has for making people better, and breaking cycles of poverty or homelessness. Mission activities which are “check-book” in nature (writing checks for other people to do work for us), or giving free turkeys away simply because it makes us feel good about ourselves, which are not bad in themselves, can betray our calling to mission. It's all about relationship.

**Courageous outreach.** This is the component that gives many of us the most angst. Courageous mean “brave or not deterred by danger or pain.” Outreach is “an activity of providing services to any population that might not have access to those services.” For us, both individually or as the Body of Christ, this might be best described as “reaching out.” What are some possible ways that might happen?

*Recently Burlington had its first Pride parade. I was asked many times why our congregation was not a part of that event. What might have happened if we were brave enough to hand out cards that said “You are God’s beloved child” to those who have not heard that from “church?” That’s reaching out in relationship.*

*Recently Burlington had a Very Vintage Market. One of our sister church churches was there in the midst of thousands of shoppers handing out cups of cold water to visitors. Large cost? No, only a couple of bags of ice and some plastic cups. “Everyone who gives even a cup of cold water in my name does it to me...”*

*Facebook. The church regularly posts things on its website. If each of 100 members hit “share” as a simple two-second response, reaching all of their friends, it could generate a reaching out to maybe as much as 50,000 people. One simple flick of a button on our part.*

*In the coming months we will be hosting events, especially of a musical and theological nature. Share those events with friends and family. It may provide places for theological reflection through music that they might not get in their home churches or bring those who do not have a relationship with God to one. That is reaching out in its best form.*

As you can see, it does not have to be scary! Learn these three expressions for yourself. How does the three-legged stool relate to your own journey of faith?

In the end it’s all about relationship.

Blessings!

Randy+



## *An update about the Polish the Jewel Campaign...*

The *Polish the Jewel* campaign was started some time ago to finish the restoration of our pipe organ. The “jewel” in the title is our magnificent Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ.

First Presbyterian Church was gifted by Millie (Parker Smith) Eastman in 1952 with a new pipe organ as a memorial to her parents, which was built by the Aeolian-Skinner Company of Boston, Massachusetts. G. Donald Harrison, who was the best tonal finishers in the world and president of the company, came to Burlington and spent about six weeks here finishing the installation of the new instrument, and Virgil Fox, one of the leading organists of the time, came from New York City to play the first recital. Rod Levensen, of the Levensen Organ company who maintains our instrument, places a value of about \$837,410 on it at the moment.

Like anything we own, there are things that need to be repaired over the course of time. If we own a home, the roof needs to be replaced, or if we own a car the tires need to be replaced periodically. In the case of the organ there are little leather pieces which allow the wind to enter the pipes and make them sound. Over the course of time the leather gets old and does not respond the way it once did and needs to be replaced. This job is time consuming because each piece has to be cut and installed in the windchests by hand.

The organ itself is made up of several components, the Great Organ, the Choir Organ, the Swell Organ, the Pedal Organ, and the console. All of the pieces have been restored except for the Swell Organ. The current estimate for that work is \$67,326, of which we have generated \$22,506.92 already, leaving about \$45,000 yet to be raised.

Be on the look-out for several upcoming community fundraising events being organized to help fund this last piece.

Randy Lee Webster+, organist





### August Birthdays

- 17 - Lou Harter
- 17 - Bob Snider
- 21 - Dane Mehaffy
- 23 - Damian Haller
- 24 - Ramona Sandroock
- 25 - Barb Garcia
- 26 - Marilyn Nuss
- 30 - Jordan Huddleston
- 31 - Logan Haller

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunch**

Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup>, following morning service;

### *Summer Brunch from an Iowa Garden*

**Please Join Us!**

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



### Table for One

Our August event will be held Wednesday, 8/7 @ 5:30p.m. @ Eva Ann Elmer's home @ 1431 Cambridge Dr. #301 Burlington, IA 52601

## **Yum-Yums**

News from Yum Yums. A group of 16 church members & friends enjoyed dinner and fellowship at Yarmouth Filling Station in Yarmouth, IA on July 18, 2024. Come join us next month! We will meet on August 15, 2024 @ 6:00pm @ The Grange in Mt. Pleasant. If you would like to carpool, meet @ 5:30pm in the parking lot of Fareway Grocery. If you have any questions, call or text Sandy Russell @ 319-572-6124.





# Messages from the Deacons

Church In The Park!  
Worship in the Park!  
Lunch in the Park!  
Party in the Park!

Whatever you want to call it....Please join us!

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 25th at 10 AM**

**CRAPO PARK** shelter house across from the red curly-Q slide. We will worship with First Congregational Church and Hope Community Church!

Sack lunch to follow the service (provided by the Deacons)  
Picnic tables and benches will be available in the open shelter house but feel free to bring a lawn chair if you would like.



*Worship  
in the Park*

## Greeting Cards Update!

Want to send a card to someone in the congregation that you are thinking about? Birthday, get well, thinking of you, and more are there for you to choose. The cards will now be at the table in the sanctuary with the rest of the sign-up sheets. A church directory is nearby so you can look up the address of a fellow church member. Leave the addressed envelope on Wendy's desk in the office. She will add a stamp and put it in the mail.





A Thank you from Barb Garcia

Thank you for the visits, cards, and phone calls during my mom's (Anita Erickson) recent hospital stay.

Barb Garcia

A Thank you from Linda Tickel!

Dear First Presbyterian Church Friends,

Thank you to Sue Sattler and the Deacons for thinking of me on my July 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday. It was so nice to receive a birthday card in the mail from her. All is well here in Waukee and I hope you all are having a great summer!

Warmly,  
Linda Tickel

A Thank you from Janet Calvin

MY SINCERE THANKS TO ALL THAT SENT CARDS TO ME FOR MY BIRTHDAY .I REALLY ENJOYED GETTING THEM . YOU ALL MADE MY BIRTHDAY A VERY SPECIAL DAY . MANY BLESSINGS TO YOU AND FAMILIES .

Janet Calvin

A Thank You from Community Action

We want to extend our sincerest gratitude for your generous food donation. It has helped our pantry a lot! Thank You!

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

A Thank you from Janet Calvin

I could feel the love and comfort through all your prayers! Thank you so much to everyone!!

Janet Calvin

# 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, August 7th**. 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



# 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. August 7th next meeting.



**A special thanks to Jill, Allison,  
Lily and Henry Nalley  
for helping out with the  
Farmer's Market Food Giveaway!  
Your help was greatly appreciated!**



## **Back To School Supplies**

Starting August 4th through August 25th, we will be collecting school supplies for local schools and for the Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City. There will be a box in the Sanctuary on the table for school supplies donations.

Thank you for your support!

The Mission Committee





# Des Moines County Fair!

Congratulations to Allison, Henry, and Lily Nalley and also Dominick(Wendy's son) for their accomplishments at the Des Moines County Fair last week! A special Congratulations also goes to Allison Nalley, who was crowned Des Moines County Fair Queen! These kids work hard all year long to prepare for Fair week! Below is a few photos! (Photo cred. goes to Allison Lohman Photography and the Burlington Beacon Newspaper, a few were submitted by Wendy and Jill.)





# County Fair Cont'd...





**You are cordially invited**  
to a  
**Service of Installation**  
for  
**Rev. John Allen Taylor Bankson**  
as the  
**Nineteenth Pastor**  
of  
**Union Presbyterian Church**  
**Fort Madison, Iowa**

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**Saturday, 3 August, 2024; 1:30 PM**  
**719 Avenue F**  
**Fort Madison IA 52627**

**Presbytery of East Iowa**  
**Synod of Lakes and Prairies**  
**Presbyterian Church (USA)**





# Announcements!



Mission Committee is taking donations of school supplies starting August 4 through August 25. Please place items in the box in the sanctuary. Items go to benefit local schools and the Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital in Iowa City.

Worship In The Park is August 25 @ 10am in Crapo Park, across the street from the red curly-q slide. We will be joined by First Congregational Church and Hope Community Church. A sack lunch will be provided by the Deacons.

Keep on the lookout for a few upcoming fundraisers for the "Polish the Jewel" campaign to finish restoring our beautiful pipe organ. Thank you to Randy Webster for overseeing this project.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon will be August 11 and the theme is "Summer Brunch from an Iowa Garden" Please join us!

## 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.







# August 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Office Hours:</b> <b>M-W-F</b> <b>1:30pm-4:30pm</b> <b>T-Th</b> <b>9:00am-1:00pm</b>				<b>1</b>  HOMEMADE <b>PIE DAY</b> <small>AUGUST 1</small>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00a.m. Worship	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>  <small>National</small> <b>ROOT BEER</b> <small>AUG-6</small> <small>2016</small> <b>FLOAT DAY</b>	<b>7</b> 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study <b>Missions meets at Noon</b> <b>Knitwits meets @ 10:00 am</b> <b>Table for One meets @ Eva Ann Elmer's home 5:30pm @ 1431 Cambridge Dr. #301 Burlington, IA</b>	<b>8</b> <b>Session Meets @ 1pm</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00a.m. Worship <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Luncheon "Summer Brunch from an Iowa Garden"</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>15</b> <b>Yum Yums @ 6pm @ The Grange in Mt. Pleasant, IA</b>  <b>Farmer's Market @ the Church 4:30pm-6pm</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>  <small>World</small> <b>Honey Bee Day</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship <b>Deacon's Meet</b>	<b>19</b> WORLD PHOTOGRAPHY DAY 	<b>20</b> <b>Deadline For Connections</b>	<b>21</b> 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  <b>* first day of school *</b>
<b>25</b> <b>Worship in the Park!</b> 10:00 a.m. Worship <b>At Crapo Park across from red Curly-Q slide. Sack lunch provided by the Deacons</b>	<b>26</b> <b>Trustees Meet @ 10 a.m.</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study <b>Shepherd's Table 4:30pm-6pm</b>	<b>29</b>  NATIONAL <b>LEMON JUICE DAY</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>