

First Presbyterian Church

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Connections



June 2024



Growing Pains

When I was a kid I would frequently wake up with pains in my legs. These pains were best described as ache or throbbing feeling. They were in the front of my thighs, my calves or behind the knee. Sometimes it was one or the other leg, but most often both legs. I could go weeks and not have any pain, but then all of a sudden have them every night for an entire week. When these pains occurred, I would limp and cry my way to mom who would rub my legs and administer an ample dose of TLC.

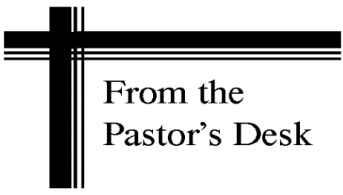
When you're a little kid, moms know everything. They are supposed to know all the reasons, all the "whys" and "how comes." So when my legs hurt and I would ask "how come my legs hurt," her answer seemed reasonable. "Honey, they're growing pains." After a few nights of hurting I asked "why does growing up have to hurt so much?"

According to the Mayo Clinic, folks who know more about those pains in my legs than my mom, growing pains don't usually happen where growth is occurring or during times of rapid growth. It's been suggested that growing pains may be linked to restless leg syndrome. But in the vast majority of children, growing pains are from overuse during the day. Overuse includes, running, climbing, jumping, which can be hard on a child's musculoskeletal system. For explanations I prefer mom's answer. Being short, I always was hoping that all these pains meant I was going to be tall, at least taller than my 4'11" inch mother. The long and short of this, is there is no cure for growing pains. Mom's TLC was and remains the best medicine for dealing with growing pains.

But, what do we do with the growing pains we feel as adults, when our souls hurt and our consciences ache? Are those pains the result of overuse? I would suggest that one such cause is the challenge God presents to grow in our faith, trust and willingness to go where God wishes us to go, do what God needs us to do, and be the people God needs us to be. Daily we are confronted with a culture that is not always reflective of or anywhere close to the kingdom of

heaven, and God has expectations of each of responding to the challenge of confronting the culture. Scripture is not a timid, wilting book of suggestions. It is a series of commands and expectations of who we all are supposed to be. Nowhere is permission given to hate or mouth the words of hate speech. The Bible does not condone division and being judgmental. there is advocating of the “survival of the fittest,” or that relationships are transactional. It doesn't take having MENSA membership to know that true believers advocate peace, love, unity, forgiveness and grace.

So the pain we feel in our hearts, souls and consciences is often the pain God feels when we fail to embrace being his children. That pain is often God working in us to be everything opposite what the culture is. It is God placing the burden on our hearts to speak and act with love; to build community and live inclusively. It is speaking truth with love and loving our neighbors as ourselves. It is building community instead of tearing it down. It's not easy to act like Jesus, but that is what's expected. These growing pains only go away when we choose to say as Isaiah said, “Here am I, send me.”



June Sermon

From the
Pastor's Desk

We have celebrated Pentecost, so what's next? In the Christian year, the next big season is Advent and with that Christmas. So, what do we do between now and then? Well, this is when we focus on what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Now is when we take time "sharpen" our tools. The sermons for June will be a kaleidoscope of topic and texts. It will be a time to sit back and consider just what it is the Lord is requiring of us.

June 2 Lord's Supper

text: Jonah 3:10-4:11

Matthew 20:1-16

Title: "Happy to be Last"

June 9

Text: Genesis 50:15-21

Romans 14:1-12

Title: "Embrace Forgiveness"

June 16

Text: Ezekiel 33:7-11

Matthew 18:15-20

Title: "Love Your Neighbor"

June 23

Text: Jeremiah 15:15-21

Romans 12:9-21

Title: "It's Your Cross"

June 30

Text: I Kings 3:5-12

Romans 8:26-39

Title: "What Do You Want?"

Special Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, June 9th , the Session has called a special congregational meeting to be held immediately following the worship service. The meeting conforms with the congregation's by-laws which requires this meeting be held at this time to elect new officers. At this meeting, the Nominating Committee will present a slate of names for election as Elders, Deacons and Trustees. In addition to this business, you will be asked to give the Trustees permission to list for sale our property of Mason Road.

A note of explanation regarding this second item of business. For old timers and those new to the congregation, over twenty-years ago a 10-acre parcel of farm ground was purchased by the church as an investment and the potential site for either a new church building, or a building that would be used for ministry and mission activities. The property was bought and paid for with money already held by the congregation. We "loaned" ourselves the funds and have since been paying ourselves back. We were/are our own mortgage holders.

In the following years, there have been discussions about building a new church on that site and relocating from the hills and concrete of downtown to a flat open site. Those conversations did not find a consensus of thought and the property continued to be rented as agricultural fields in which corn and soybeans have been raised. In the meantime we have paid the real estate taxes on this property and continued to make our mortgage payments, albeit to ourselves. It should be noted that the mortgage payment comes from General Fund contributions.

The recommendation to sell comes from the Trustees and the Session has concurred. We no longer have a viable vision for the use of this property. The congregation is smaller than it was when the property was first purchased and the cost of construction has exponentially increased, making the construction of any building a nearly impossible heavy lift. This comes at a time when we are investing over \$500,000 in the restoration and reconstruction of the bell tower and refinishing and repairing the north exterior wall of the church.

We will not know when or if this property will sell, or for that matter, what it's worth is. That is based on who would like it, what they envision as its use, and how urgently they would like to develop it. The consensus of your Trustees and Session is that there is no justification for continuing to hold onto this property. That is what is behind seeking the congregation's permission of listing it for sale.

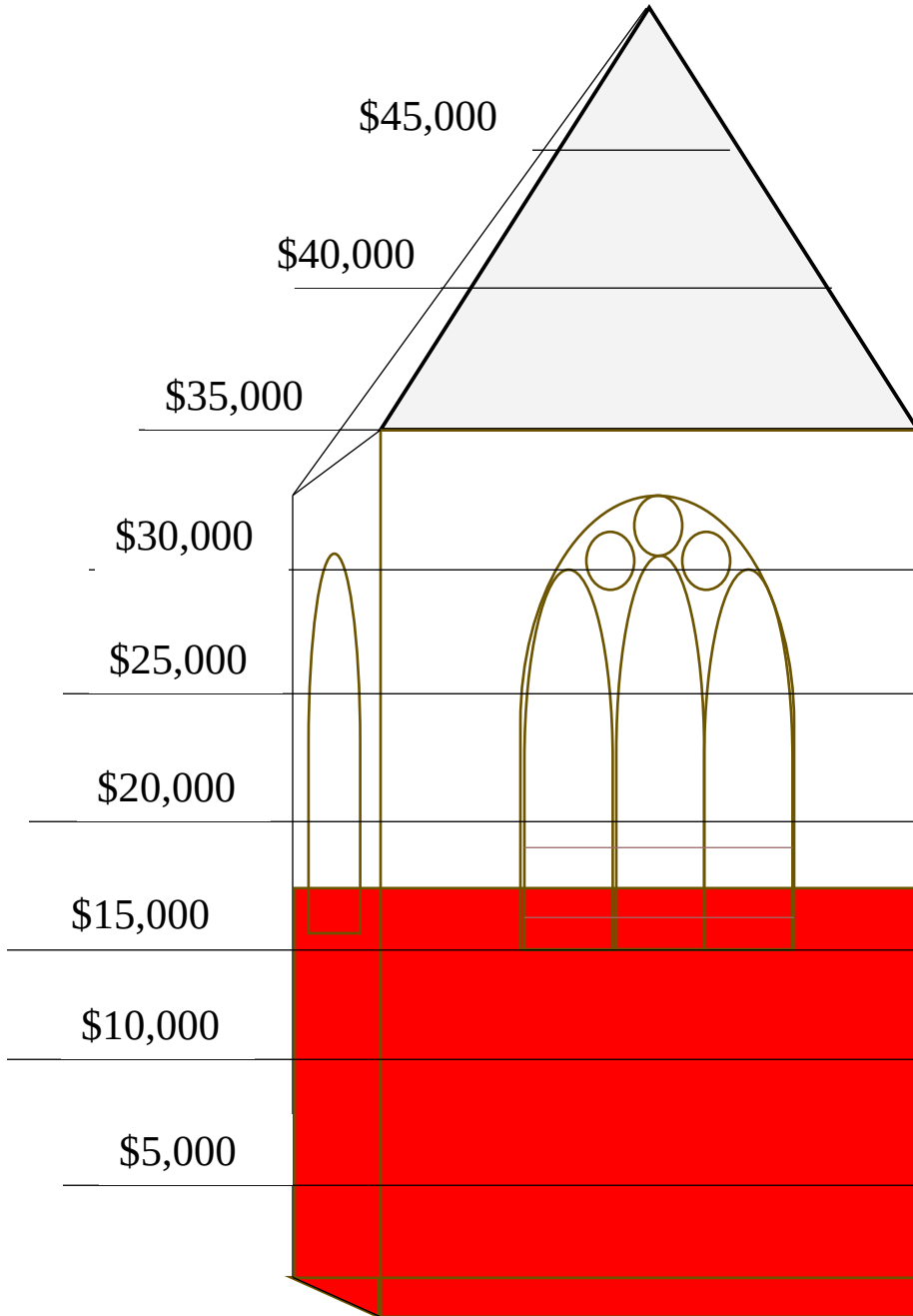
Bell Tower Repair Project Update

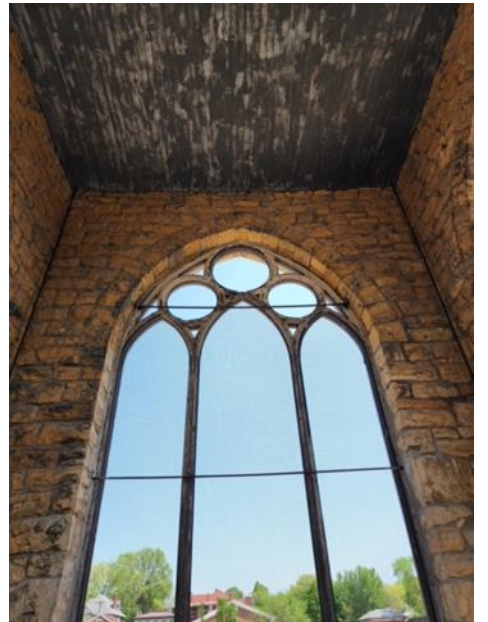
The repair and restoration of the church's bell tower is underway with the campaign to raise the remaining portion of what will be required to pay for the work required. The total cost is roughly \$560,000. We began this fund drive with \$450,000 in hand. To a large degree these funds have been made available through bequests. The remaining balance of \$100,000 will be raised through contributions. We have one church member who has anonymously pledged to contribute \$2 for every dollar donated by the congregation. Our goal is to raise through donations \$50,000. The graph shows our progress to date toward that goal.

Our responsibility as stewards is to care for everything God has provided us. That includes one of our greatest assets, the church building. From it, in it we do the work we've been commissioned to do - to preach, teach, and bring people into a vital and vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday we worship a community of faith to not just learn what God's saying through his word, but feel the encourage and inspiration from our fellowship to apply that word to life. The church building becomes the launch pad of mission projects, and it becomes a place where we can invite the community to come in and join us in music and song in the praise of God.

Every contribution is important and special, no matter the amount. Jesus found cause to celebrate the widow who gave a mite because she gave all she had and gave from her heart. Here at First Presbyterian we cherish every person and every gift, and we do and will give thanks for every dollar received. Please consider how God is leading you to support this very special project.

\$50,000 Goal





Vital Statistics – Membership

In the month of April we experienced the death of two church members: Dal Thompson passed away on April 12th and Chuck Rucker went to be with the Lord on April 21st . Sandwiched in between was the reception of the confirmation class. The Session total to receive into communicant membership: Henry Nalley, Lily Nalley, Dane Mehaffy, Marin Mehaffy and Annabelle Comiskey, who at that same time received the sacrament of Baptism. At their meeting in May, the Session received by Letter of Transfer Melanie Young. Melanie had been a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Mt. Pleasant.

General Assembly & First Presbyterian Church

What possibly do these two things have in common? Very simply, Allison Nalley. Our very own Allison will be traveling to Salt Lake City, Utah at the end of May to be the East Iowa Presbytery's Youth Advisory Delegate. She will join youth from across the denomination in providing insight and input to the GA commissioners on every subject that will be considered and decided at this year's assembly. Allison will be assigned to one of the GA's standing committees where she will contribute to what ultimately will be proposed policies and procedures to be included in the Book of Order as well as establish the mission priorities for the future. Allison will be at the assembly from gavel to gavel and often well into the night and early morning hours. This will be a wonderful opportunity for Allison to meet young people from boarder to boarder and coast to coast. She will experience worship with dynamic music, choirs, and some of the denominations finest preachers. Let's lift Allison up in prayer as she travels to Salt Lake and works with her new brothers and sisters in faith as they shape the future of the Presbyterian Church (USA).



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

June Birthdays

- 03 - Michael Carhoff
- 04 - Allison Nalley
- 05 - Marin Mehaffy
- 07 - Susan Hoisington
- 08 - Wendy Bell
- 12 - Wilma Hemphill
- 13 - Sandy Russell
- 17 - Cheryl Lotz
- 20 - Gary Hadenfelt
- 25 - Matthew Briggs

2nd Sunday Lunch

Sunday, June 9 following morning service
Pre-Father's Day Luncheon!

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



Table for One

Our June event will be held Wednesday, 6/5 @ 5:30p.m. @ Marcia Bailey's home @ 1007 Messiah Dr. Burlington, IA

Yum-Yums

News from Yum Yums. Eleven people enjoyed dinner and fellowship at the Board of Trade in Charleston, Iowa, in May. We plan to try a brand new place in Fort Madison in June. On June 20, we plan to go to the Turnwater Bar & Grill, newly built in Riverview Park, Fort Madison. All are welcome to come with us, and you may bring a guest if you like. We will meet to carpool at Fareway Grocery at 5:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 20, 2024, or you can meet us at the Turnwater Bar & Grill at 6:00 P.M. If you have any questions, call or text JoAnn Williams at 319-754-8535.



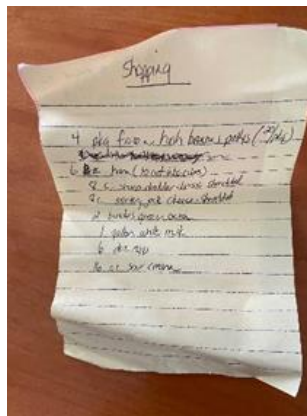
The Shepherd's Table

It takes a village...to plan and serve a Shepherd's Table meal...

Let's step back in time to the spring of 2023 and take a look at the village involved with the Shepherd's Table. The project started when members of the First Congregational Church recognized a neighborhood and community need, and wanted to help. They began serving a free monthly meal, inviting anyone to partake in food and fellowship.

After a few months, more help was needed, and First Presbyterian was invited to participate. We excitedly accepted the invitation, and became involved in April 2023. Our Mission Committee took the project under its wing, and began collaboration with the Congregationalists. Now, a year later, let's go behind the scenes to see what is involved in this monthly event.

"What's for dinner?" is the first question to answer. A planning meeting is held with women of both churches, and the menus are set for the next six months. The schedule alternates between each church furnishing the main dish or the sides and dessert. A sign-up sheet asks for volunteers to contribute food or help serve the meal. Grocery lists are made and shopping is done.



Below: Office Administrator, Wendy, prints placemats for the dinner, and volunteers bring their food to the church.



Leona Byars, Terri Huddleston, Pat S. & Pat W.



Wendy copies placemats

The day of the meal, ladies from both churches are busy preparing. The village works together to prepare and serve, and the village shows up to enjoy dinner and fellowship.



Pat Whitmore & Pat Saldeen



Dana Kinney, Deb Walz, Sandy Allgood, Pat S.



Servers Carol Brotherson & Susan Hoisington



Gathered 'round the tables

Data from the past year show that the average number of meals served each month, including dine-in and take-out, is 48. The highest number served (66) was in November 2023, and the lowest (40) was in April 2024. There seem to be no discernible trends in the numbers. That creates a challenge for those planning and preparing the food. How much is enough? Food is planned for 60, and we trust God will provide what is needed. And God does.

We are grateful to be able to serve in this ministry alongside our Congregational neighbors and fellow Christians. We welcome and need more “villagers.” Please join us in volunteering and/or enjoying the meal on the last Wednesday of each month, 4:30 – 6:00 P.M. at the Congregational Church.

Submitted by Carol Brotherson

Meeting Highlights

MAY SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The special congregational meeting for the purpose of elections was rescheduled to June 9, 2024.

The Trustees are seeking other bids for new electronic outdoor signs, since the bid from Sherwood Company in Burlington was significantly greater than expected.

The Capital Funds Campaign to raise funds to repair the bell tower was discussed. Pastor Dick has made a video asking for contributions for this and posted it on the church's Facebook page. Be sure to give it a view!

Session discussed the Mason Road property and voted to allow the Trustees to move forward to look into selling this property.

Our mission family, the Treeces, will be in the States in June, and in Burlington Thursday, June 13 and Friday, June 14, so we will try to schedule a time for them to meet with our church family.

The next Session meeting will be Thursday, June 13, 2024.

Cheryl Lotz, Clerk of Session



Messages from the Deacons

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!





A Thank you from the Level 11 of the Stead Family Children's Hospital

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the fun gifts for our kids on Level 11 of the Stead Family Children's Hospital!

It really makes them smile to receive a treasure, especially after a hard day!

Thanks again!
Rhonda Rossman

Thank you to Carol Brotherson, Francis McAllister, Brenda Frederickson, Eva Ann Elmer, Sally Bell, Doyle Ruble, & Marcia Stiefel for helping out with the cleaning of the Church on Tuesday, May 7th!

From our custodian Christine

I want to say thank you to all the volunteers who helped me clean on cleaning day. You all helped me with a boost. I did get caught up. Again, Thank you.

Christine D.(custodian)

A Thank you from Vickie Carhoff

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank you all for your concern, love, and support over this past year during the illness of my daughter-in-law. It has been a long road, especially for Angela. There is a hole in our family, but she is not fighting to survive now.

The family has also had support from the Burlington School District, Boy Scouts Troop 3, and extended family and friends. I do feel God's love.

Vickie Carhoff

A Thank you from Janet Calvin

MY SINCERE THANKS TO OUR CHURCH FAMILY FOR ALL THE PRAYERS AND CARDS I HAVE RECEIVED . MANY BLESSINGS TO ALL OF YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES .

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, June 5th**.

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. June 12th next meeting.



Thank you to the volunteers who helped with the local food drive that was put on by the United Way & U.S. Post Office on Saturday, May 11! We doubled the collection from last year with almost 6,000lbs brought in!

So, thank you to Sue Sattler, Susan Hoisington, Pat Saldeen, Pat Whitmore, Jim Erickson, and Tim for helping stock our pantry!

**Terri Huddleston
Mission Committee Moderator**

The Hallelujah Handbells

On Sunday, May 19, we had the pleasure of listening to The Hallelujah Handbells play during Worship. Below is a picture of the group!



The Hallelujah Handbells:
(Left to Right) Front: Marcia Bailey, Marilyn Leight, Sue Gilchrist, Ruth Francis, Carol Brotherson.
Back: Cheryl Lotz, Marilyn Demijan, Susan Hoisington, Karen Dewey.
Brenda Frederick was missed, as she was not able to be present for this performance due to feeling under the weather that morning.

Announcements!

The Treece family is coming for a visit! David & Sara, along with their 4 children, Joshua, Micah, Caleb, & Eliana will be in the US for a short visit this summer and will be in the Burlington area June 13 & 14. They would love to stop by the church for a short visit on one of these dates! Exact time is to be determined and more information will be coming in the next couple of weeks!

Stay tuned!



If you have a key to the church and/or office, please register with Wendy in the office. A list of key holders is needed as we will be updating the security system soon.

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.





June 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 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00a.m. Worship | 3 | 4  | 5 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study Knitwits meets @ 10:00 am Table for One meets @ 5:30pm @ Marcia Bailey's home | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00a.m.Worship Special Congregational meeting 2nd Sunday Luncheon | 10 | 11 | 12 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study Missions meets at Noon | 13 Session Meets 1pm-3pm | 14  | 15 |
| 16 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship Deacon's Meet  Happy Father's Day!! | 17 | 18  | 19 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study | 20 Yum Yums @ 6pm @ Farmer's Market @ the Church 4:30pm-6pm | 21 Deadline For Connections | 22 |
| 23 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship | 24 Trustees Meet @ 10 a.m. | 25 | 26 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study Shepherd's Table 4:30pm-6pm | 27 | 28  | 29 |
| 30 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship | | | | | | |