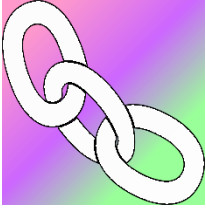


First Presbyterian Church

321 N. 5th St., Burlington, IA 52601, 319-752-6626

1stpresb@1stpresb.org

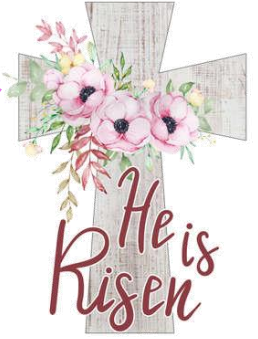
www.1stpresb.org



Connections



March 2024



The Significance of Live Streaming our Services & Events

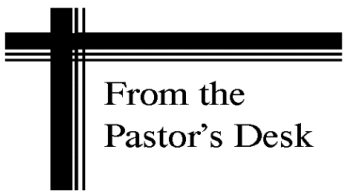
For the better part of 10 months we have been live streaming our worship services over Facebook. For \$35 for wifi microphones and Randy Webster's cell phone, we have provided anyone and everyone unable to be physically present the opportunity to worship with us in "real time."

All along this experience we have met challenges. Mostly it has revolved around the quality of sound. We have worked every week to address the issue, and only in the past two weeks were able to diagnose the problem and correct at least that part of the problem that we control. We can't do anything to correct the sound quality of the device (computer, cell phone, tablet, etc) you may be using or your own hearing challenges.

Starting on Ash Wednesday, we upgraded our equipment. Instead of using Randy's cell phone, we will be using an Ipad dedicated solely to live streaming our services. In addition, we have upgraded the microphones so that we now can eliminate distracting background noises. All of this should improve the quality of both the video as well as the audio of each service.

We have been tracking the viewership of each service. Weekly, we are averaging 20+ souls joining us remotely at the time of our services. By the end of the week some 58+ have viewed or watched each service. This is fantastic! Rather than just focusing on the number of people in actual attendance (40+), we can add those additional viewers each week so that there are services when we have had 60-70 persons engaged in worship. Add to this we have 346 followers of our Facebook page and 328 persons who like it.

Friends, we're reach out and we're speaking to more people than we often might think about. Our goal is to live stream every service, and that means special seasonal services we hold in the chapel. Be proud of your church. Tell people to join us on Facebook. Better yet, share with your friends and family our page so that they and their friends can see what we're doing. We're doing everything we can to "go out into the world" even if is remote and technological.



From the
Pastor's Desk

March Sermon

Lent is underway anchored in the theme, "The Trails of Jesus." Each week we're focusing on those who had a profound impact of Christ's journey to the cross. Join us and celebrate the power of God's love and his grace for each of us in Jesus Christ.

Sunday, March 3rd Third Sunday in Lent Lord's Supper

Texts: Matthew 26:57-68

Title: "The Voice of Caiaphas: The High Priest Faces Off with the Son of God"

Sunday, March 10th Fourth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Luke 22:54-62

Title: "The Voice of Peter: The Bold Disciples Speaks of His Weak Faith"

Sunday, March 17th Fifth Sunday in Lent

Texts: Luke 23:1-12

Title: "The Voice of Herod: One King testifies Against Another King"

Sunday, March 24th Palm Sunday

Texts: Zechariah 9:1-17

Matthew 21:1-9

Title: "The King Is Coming!"

Thursday, March 28th Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m Edward's Chapel

Anointing with Oil/Lord's Supper

Text: John 13:1-5

Title: "It's About You"

Sunday, March 31st Easter Communion

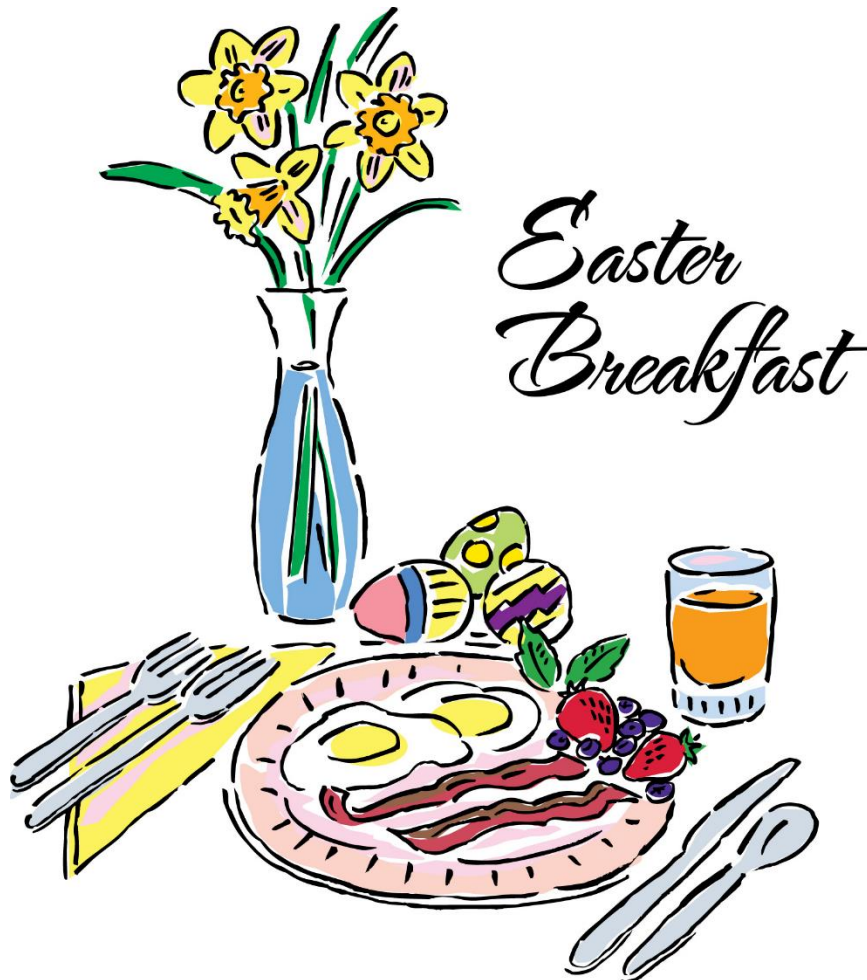
Texts: Acts 10; Matthew 26:17-28:20; Mark 14:12-16:20; Luke 22:7-24:43;

John 13:1-21:25

Title: "The Uncomfortable Truth of Easter"

Easter Morning Breakfast

Easter Sunday will begin with a hearty breakfast being served in Fellowship Hall from 8:30am to 9:45 a.m. After enjoying scrambled eggs, sausage and pancakes, with an ample dose of fellowship, we will continue the celebration of the resurrection of Christ with our worship at 10 a.m. The service will be live streamed.



Holy Week Reflections

As a young organ major in undergraduate school, I remember vividly the day when my teacher explained to me how we as organists make notes receive more emphasis. Unlike playing the piano, you cannot hit the keys any harder and receive any results. While we may maneuver the instrument mechanically through the use of swell shades (those louvered doors on the front of the organ case which work much like Venetian blinds), or by the adding or subtracting of stops, the way we make one note distinct from another, or more dramatic than another has little to do with the actual playing of the note itself. It has, rather, everything to do with the silence that precedes the note.

For example, if I play several notes in a row that are the same pitch, using the same pipe, how does your ear tell you that the notes are different? It is the same pipe receiving a stream of air through it. The sole way that you can tell one note from another is the amount of silence that separates one from another. In order for one note to have more emphasis than those around it, it has to have a bigger silence preceding it.

That phenomenon is much like our own spiritual lives. At our major celebrations, and the upcoming Easter celebration is the best example, we cannot possibly experience the “sound” of the Easter notes without the silence that comes before it. Can you actually experience a beautiful dawn without the darkness of night that precedes it? Is a special meal really special if all of our meals are feasts? I think not.

The Church is on the threshold of the yearly journey through the darkness. I do not believe that the glorious splendor of Easter is really all that glorious if we have not also entered into the dark silence of Maundy Thursday or Good Friday. I cannot urge you enough to try and make a very special effort to attend the service in Edward’s Chapel for Maundy Thursday. Each of us needs to put away some of our individual “busy-ness” and center ourselves in the quiet of the chapel during this very special and important time for us as Christians.

Two more special community events occur here during Holy Week. On Palm/Passion Sunday there will be a time of organ music at 3 pm, called *How gentle is the Lamb*, devotional music for thought and prayer. On Good Friday a chamber orchestra will present Joseph Haydn’s *The Seven Last Words* from 1-3 pm, once again offering time for thought and prayer.

Come and join with us as we make our journey through the darkness, that we might truly see how gentle is the Lamb, and exclaim in unbridled joy “The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!”

Faithfully, Randy+

Notes for Holy Week and Easter

On Sunday, March 24 at 3 pm Pastor Randy will offer a program of devotional organ music called *How gentle is the Lamb*. The sanctuary will be open for people to come for reflection and prayer as we enter Holy Week. Plan to come and spend some quiet time, and bring friends and neighbors.

On Good Friday, March 29, from 1-3, we will host a public presentation of *The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross* (German: *Die sieben letzten Worte unseres Erlösers am Kreuze*), an orchestral work by Joseph Haydn, commissioned in 1786 for the Good Friday service at Oratorio de la Santa Cueva (Holy Cave Oratory) in Cádiz, Spain. The seven main meditative sections are based on seven expressions attributed to Jesus during his crucifixion. The seven sections are labelled "sonatas" and are all slow. They are framed by a slow Introduction and a fast "Earthquake" conclusion, for a total of nine movements. The service will include scripture and prayer.

This year Randy will be decorating the sanctuary for Easter with a variety of spring blooming plants in addition to lilies. If you would like to make a financial gift towards that, there will be envelopes in the sanctuary for them. You may give whatever gift you wish in memory of someone or in thanksgiving for someone.

On Easter morning, we will enjoy the Annual Easter Morning Breakfast, with serving beginning at 8:30am. Come and enjoy a full breakfast along with community fellowship prior to the festive service at 10 am, celebrating our Saviour's resurrection.



Second Sunday Lunch:

The Story of the Stone Soup

Sunday, March 10, following the morning service

A Lenten Luncheon: The Story of the Stone Soup:

Some travelers come to a village, carrying nothing more than an empty cooking pot. Upon their arrival, the villagers are unwilling to share any of their food stores with the very hungry travelers. Then the travelers go to a stream and fill the pot with water, drop a large stone in it, and place it over a fire. One of the villagers becomes curious and asks what they are doing. The travelers answer that they are making "stone soup", which tastes wonderful and which they would be delighted to share with the villager, although it still needs a little bit of garnish, which they are missing, to improve the flavor.

The villager, who anticipates enjoying a share of the soup, does not mind parting with a few carrots, so these are added to the soup. Another villager walks by, inquiring about the pot, and the travelers again mention their stone soup which has not yet reached its full potential. More and more villagers walk by, each adding another ingredient, like potatoes, onions, cabbages, peas, celery, tomatoes, sweetcorn, meat (like chicken, pork and beef), milk, butter, salt and pepper. Finally, the stone (being inedible) is removed from the pot, and a delicious and nourishing pot of soup is enjoyed by travelers and villagers alike. Although the travelers have thus tricked the villagers into sharing their food with them, they have successfully transformed it into a tasty meal which they share with the donors.

The soup will be provided, along with bread. You are encouraged to bring side dishes of vegetables or salads or desserts to share with the community.





March Birthdays

- 01 - Marianne Briggs
- 03 - Irene Kress
- 11 - Matt Murray
- 12 - John Dewey
- 20 - Connie Bowen
- 23 - Marilyn Lyday
- 30 - Chuck Rucker



Table for One

Our March event will be held Wednesday, 3/6 @ 5:30p.m. @ Eva Ann Elmer's home @ 1431 Cambridge Dr. #301 Burlington, IA

Yum-Yums

News from Yum-Yums! Sixteen people enjoyed dinner at the Drake in February! Those who were there, chose to go to The Busted Cup in March. 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, March 21, 2024, @ The Busted Cup in downtown Burlington. If you have any questions, call or text JoAnn Williams at 319-754-8535.

2nd Sunday Lunch

Plan to stay after worship on Sunday, March 10, "A Lenten Luncheon: A Story of Stone Soup" following the morning service.

The soup will be provided, along with bread. You are encouraged to bring side dishes of vegetables or salads or desserts to share with the community.

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



The Shepherd's Table

Since last summer, we have had the joy of working with the Congregational Church to provide a free meal for the community on the last Wednesday of the month. The Shepherd's Table is now well-established and serving its purpose of providing food and fellowship for all. Pat Saldeen's pictures from the January dinner give a flavor of the event. A new feature in January was the addition of a brief praise worship time at 6:15, led by Pastor Francisco, for those who wished to stay. That will continue in the coming months.

The Mission Committee has been shepherding this project for us, planning menus jointly with the Congregationalists, rounding up volunteers, and doing much of the food preparation and work themselves. Volunteers are needed monthly to assist. Can you help? **Here's what is needed for the March 27 Shepherd's Table:**

9 pounds of ground beef (3 people each contribute 3 pounds), nine 24-oz. jars of spaghetti sauce, nine 25-oz. packages of square frozen ravioli, and nine 2-cup packages of shredded mozzarella cheese. All those ingredients will combine to create Ravioli Lasagna, enough to serve 70 people! Sides, furnished by the Congregational Church, will be garden salad, bread, and dessert. Sounds yummy!

If you are able to contribute, please sign up on the sheet in the back of the sanctuary or call the church office, 319-752-6626 and designate what you would like to bring. You may specify if you wish to bring a portion of the total needed of an ingredient. Your food would need to be brought to the church on Sunday, March 24 or Monday, March 25. Help is also needed at the event on March 27 to help serve from 4:15 - 6:00 PM, or clean up from 5:30 - 6:30. Sign up on the sheet in the sanctuary or call the church office if that is a way you can help. Fellowship is a reward included in that!

Remember that everyone is invited to come to dinner at the **Shepherd's Table Wednesday, March 27, 4:30 - 6:00 PM at the Congregational Church, 313 N. 4th St.**





Meeting Highlights

Session Highlights from February 8 meeting

The Session approved the Deacon's request to hold another church service in the park on either August 18 or 25. We will be sharing the service with First Congregational Church and Hope Community Church.

The Trustees are discussing replacing our outdoor signs, and possibly adding another one on the lower area of the church, and hoping to convert to digital signs that will be easier to change and be more noticeable to the public.

In order to improve the livestreaming of our services, we have purchased an iPad and ordered a new microphone system which will be solely dedicated to livestreaming our services.

The next Session meeting will be Thursday, March 14, 2024 at 1:00 P.M.

Cheryl Lotz, Clerk



Messages from the Deacons

Hello First Presbyterians!!

The Deacons want you to put on your calendar the date April 14th for the “All Year Birthday Party”. We will be celebrating everyone’s birthday on this Sunday!! Deacons will provide maid-rites and desserts. We invite you to share a side (salads, veggies, chips etc.) We look forward to this celebration of You!!

We would also like to thank you for your donations to the Love Fund. Keeping this funded for those in need is very important to our mission for our congregants.





To Terri and members of 1st Presbyterian Church & Mission Community

I would like to thank you for the thoughtful donations to North Hill School. We are blessed with such a wonderful community. Your generous donation benefits so many children that are in need. We are extremely grateful to you and your members.

Love, Darci Peltit
School Nurse and North Hill Staff

*\$100 gift card from Dollar Tree for supplies for school clinic/cozy tree items

A Thank you from Pat & Ed Whitmore

A huge thank you to everyone at First Presbyterian Church for responding to our need when Ed slipped on the ice two weeks ago and broke five ribs. Your thoughts, prayers, wonderful soups etc. and hands on helping with Ed were invaluable. It was hard realizing we needed help but you were there to come alongside us. We are so fortunate to have this Church and what it stands for an important part of our lives.

God Bless

Pat and Ed Whitmore

Dear First Presbyterian Members,

On behalf of UI Health Care, thank you for thinking of our patients with your generous donation. We appreciate your thoughtfulness!

The adult patients on the Leukemia & B.M.T. unit appreciate the Christmas gifts you delivered! "Love that Target"

Best Regards,
Sheri Austin
Concierge Services
UI Health Care

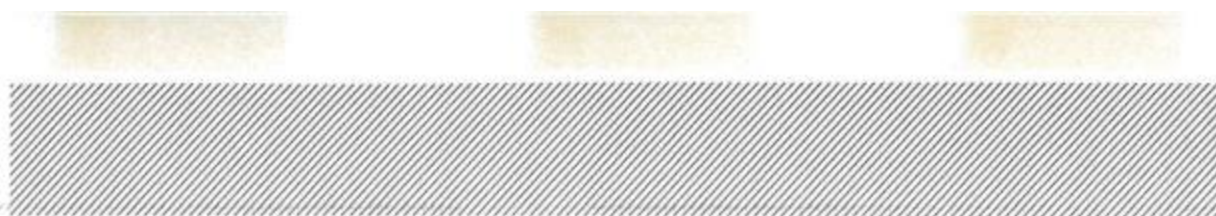
From the Burlington Area Homeless Shelter

Thank you for donating to the Burlington Area Homeless Shelter. Your generosity and support are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Burlington Area Homeless Shelter

Offering Envelopes Sample

In the recent months, we have been getting some offering envelopes that are missing a name or the amount on the envelope, etc... Below is an example of how the envelopes should be filled out. Please make sure you are writing your name, the amount enclosed and check number if offering is by check. This allows the Monday morning offering count to be more efficient. Thank you all for your cooperation and generosity. We appreciate you!



My Offering For The Work Of My Church

Name Joe Smith Amount \$ 100.00

Check # 1878



First Presbyterian Church
Burlington, Iowa

JAN 3RD SUNDAY

55

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, March 6**.

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.

Missions Is Up To Doing Good

Souper Bowl 2024



Souper Bowl 2024 was a success! 87 cans were collected, and bought, to be divided and donated to the Homeless Shelter, Transitions DMC, Community Action, and the Youth Group Project (to help stock Zion's food pantry).

Monetary donations were \$56!
Your generosity was greatly appreciated!



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. March 6th next meeting.

Announcements!



Marcia Stiefel submitted a grant to the Historical Preservation of Burlington and we were awarded a \$5,000 grant for work on the Steeple Tower.

Knitwits will be meeting on Wednesday, March 6 from 10am-11am.

March 10th Daylight Savings Time begins, remember to “spring” forward your clocks one hour on the night of Saturday, March 9th!

1st Presbyterian Church Choir and United Methodist Church Choir will be joining forces on Sunday, March 10! Both Choirs will be singing at United Methodist Church at 9:00am and then at 1st Presbyterian Church at 10:00am

March 24-Palm Sunday at 3pm The Sanctuary will be open for prayer and reflection as Pastor Randy plays devotional organ music “How Gentle is the Lamb.”

Donkey Walk-March 24 – Palm Sunday: This is being put on by the First United Church of Christ. Bring palms if you have them. The walk will be starting at the bottom of Snake Alley @ 9:00am.

Maundy Thursday is March 28. Service will be at 7:00pm in the Edward’s Chapel

Good Friday – March 29 from 1pm-3pm, we will be hosting a public presentation of “The Seven Last Words of Our Saviour on the Cross. Please see the article towards the beginning of the newsletter, for more information.

The office will be closed on March 29 and April 1st in observances of Good Friday and Easter

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.





March 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 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed. 10:00a.m. Worship 3pm-4:30pm-Confirmation Class	4  NATIONAL SONS DAY	5	6 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study Mission meets @ noon Knitwits meets @ 10:00 a.m. Table for One meets @ 5:30pm @ Eva Ann Elmer's home	7	8	9  SPRING FORWARD <small>SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR</small>
10 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed. 10:00a.m. Worship 1st Pres. & United Methodist Choirs to sing 2nd Sunday Lunch 3pm-4:30pm-Confirmation Class	11	12  National PLANT A FLOWER DAY	13 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	14 Session Meets 1pm-3pm  Happy Pi Day	15	16
17 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed.  10:00 a.m. Worship Deacon's Meet 3pm-4:30pm-Confirmation Class	18  Awkward Moments Day	19 Deadline For Connections	20 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	21 Yum Yums @ 6pm @ The Busted Cup Farmer's Market @ the Church 4:30pm-6pm	22	23
24 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship 3pm-Sanctuary open for prayer-devotional music "How Gentle is the Lamb"	25 Trustees Meet @ 10 a.m.	26	27 The Shepherd's Table 4:30pm-6pm	28 Maundy Thursday 7pm in Edward's Chapel 	29 Good Friday Office Closed 1pm-3pm- Public presentation of "The Seven Last Words of our Saviour"	30
31 Easter Sunday 8:30am-9:45am Easter Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Sunday School & Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship						

