

First Presbyterian Church

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

1stpresh@1stpresh.org

www.1stpresh.org



Connections



November 2024

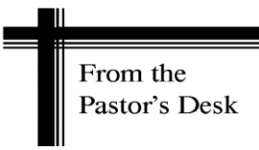


Pastor's Thoughts

The 21st century church is not the church of our grandparents. In the 1950s there was an explosion of church growth. Not only were churches being built and congregations being formed, but established churches were growing. In part this was the result of G.I.'s returning from WWII and establishing their homes and families. The nation was ready after a depression and world war for a spiritual renewal and awakening. There was a mentality in the church that "if we build it, 'they' will come." It was believed that everyone wanted, not just the church, but the faith found in the church.

This is not then. The majority of this nation is not "religious", people are "spiritual" but not religious. The church has lost its influence and importance. The church is not considered in many sectors to be relevant or purposeful. There is a radio and television commercial paid for by a group of atheists and agnostics who encourage people to openly and proudly join. He concludes the commercial by saying, "I'm a life-long atheist and I'm not afraid of burning in hell." Just consider that "Celebrations of life" are more frequently held than funerals. All of this is to say that we can't do business today in the same way it was done even 20 years ago, with the same attitude that people will awaken to their need for the church. We will die before that happens.

Therefore, we have to "re-invent" ourselves. We have to examine what it is we believe and what we do and "package" it to reflect an era where we, the church, are out in the world where they are as they are. To reflect this, I propose we craft a new image and expression of First Presbyterian Church. In part, we are doing this through the social media. We have been using Facebook to live stream our worship services, and more recently, have been posting weekly devotionals. I am in conversation with some Gen Zers on how we might also use TikTok, a site where many generations "hang out." Most importantly, we can no longer afford the "Field of Dream" philosophy: "If you build it they will come." Take a look every Sunday and notice how well that has been working. You may not like this and may feel very uncomfortable, but "the times they are a changin'." Getting out, becoming engaged, going to the places we've never been before, getting to know and developing relationships with people who the church found unacceptable in generations past. I am convinced that old dogs can learn new tricks, and what's more, must learn new tricks.



November Sermon

Generosity is the quality of being kind and unselfish, especially as it pertains to sharing money and other valuables with others. The Bible has a lot to say about generosity as a desirable character trait. Proverbs 22:9 says, “The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.” God is generous, and He expects us to follow His example.

God challenges us to be generous because He wants us to receive the blessing that comes from it. Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you” (Luke 6:38). This promise is a reflection of the truth of 2 Chronicles 16:9 that “the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.” We should show generosity to everyone, as we have opportunity: “Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you” (Matthew 5:42). Former thieves must leave their past life behind and “work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need” (Ephesians 4:28). The rich should “be generous and willing to share” (1 Timothy 6:18).

God is seeking people who will reflect His character and model His generosity. He delights to bless them and show Himself strong on their behalf. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-15, Paul exhorts the church to be generous in their giving to the Lord’s work. And he praises the Philippians for being so generous to him, adding that it is not for himself that he rejoices but for them—they will be blessed because of their gift (Philippians 4:17). We can apply these encouragements to our own lives and strive to be generous and wise with everything God has entrusted to us.

November is traditionally the month we drill down on stewardship under the banner of generosity. This has been necessary to develop a budget that will support the many ministries and missions of the church. But from what you can see, generosity is a mindset, a reflection of realizing just how we are blessed every outward manifestation of an awareness of a blessing rich life is the desire to give, to share and to care with a grateful heart.

November 3rd Lord’s Supper Received

Texts: Luke 21:1-4

Title: “What Real Generosity Looks Like”

November 10th

Texts: Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 7-11

Title: “We Are the Poor”

November 17th

Text: II Corinthians 9:6-15

Title: “Listening To Your Heart”

November 24th

Text: I John 3:11-20

Title: “The Hardest Thing to Do is Love”

TRUSTEE REPORT

The Tower work is nearing completion. The rotten wood has been replaced, epoxy coated and painted. The sills were repaired. The stone walls inside were tuck pointed, washed and sealed. The entire Tower was tuck pointed with some stones without mortar. Prayers were the only thing holding the rotten wood and stones in place. Rubber flooring will be installed inside to prevent future deterioration. Micro netting will secure the Tower. Washing and sealing the entire structure will complete the project. The scaffolding will rise higher to access the Tower peak shingles that were discovered to be asbestos. Special handling will be required of asbestos shingles. Replacing the roof has started. The Trustees want to thank everyone who contributed to make the Project completed.

All the chairs in the Fellowship Hall were steam cleaned, air filters replaced and boiler inspected for fall operation.



November Birthdays

06 – Steve Hemphill
07 – Pat Cummings
12 – Bliss Binks
16 – Caleb Hemphill
22 – Francis McAllister
23 – Randy Kinney
29 – Scott Blom

2nd Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, November 10
following morning service!

Honoring Veteran's Day
Sponsored by the Deacons.

Please Join Us!

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



Table for One

Our November event will be held Wednesday, 11/6 @ 5:30p.m. @ Sue Gilchrist's home @ 2601 Cliff Rd. Burlington, IA 52601

Yum-Yums

News from Yum Yums. A group of 7 church members and friends enjoyed a dinner & fellowship at Applebees in Burlington, IA. Come join us next month! Those attending chose to go to Gator's in Burlington, IA. We will meet on November 21, 2024 @ 6:00pm. If you have any questions, call or text Sandy Russell @ 319-572-6124



Photo of Dick and Vicki on Dick's Birthday on October 8 at their home! Pat Saldeen & Pat Whitmore were able to visit and celebrate!
(photo taken by Pat Saldeen)

Upcoming Happenings

Opportunities to enjoy the company of family

Sunday, November 10

Second Sunday Lunch following the morning service.

Honoring Veterans' Day, and sponsored by the Deacons.

Sunday, November 24

Friendsgiving, following the morning service.

The turkey and dressing will be provided. You are invited to bring vegetables, side dishes or desserts to share with the family.

Hope you'll join us!

Both of these events are free. Your gracious financial gifts help to offset the costs.

Tree Trimming Party

Tuesday, November 26

Light supper at 5pm, followed by decorating the sanctuary Christmas tree. A sign-up sheet is located in the sanctuary table. Please join us and help us prepare the church for the beginning of Advent on Sunday, December 1st.

Musical Events at the Church



The hymn festival "*How awesome is this place!*", originally planned for October 20, was moved to November 17 at 3:00pm, awaiting the completion of the work on the bell tower and the new roof. Reception to follow!

Organ Recital

Friday, November 22 at 7 pm

The Colors of the Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ

The program, played by our organist, (The Rev'd) Randy Lee Webster, draws on the many and varied tonal colors of our Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ. The program is being presented on the feast day of Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music and musicians, and especially pipe organs and those who play them.

Courageous Outreach

The Annual Holiday Lighted Parade

Saturday, November 30 at 5 pm.

We would like to enter a "float," and hand out candy canes and packets of hot chocolate to those coming to see the parade, inviting them to attend our Christmas Eve service.

How can you help?

We need gifts of individually wrapped candy canes and individual hot chocolate packets.

We will affix the invitation cards after church at coffee hour, beginning on Sunday, November 10.

Can you help us with an easy float? Many hands make light work. Do you have a small generator that might power the strings of lights?

We'll need people to walk alongside the float and hand out the invitations. Please join us!

Questions? Contact Randy Webster!

At Thanksgiving

Amid football, family, and too much food,

We pause quickly and without inconvenience to remember and to thank.

We remember ancient pilgrims, who followed dreams of alabaster cities
and financial opportunity; We remember hospitable first nation people
who welcomed them, and then lost their land; We remember other family times
filled with joy and filled with anxiety, and old scars still powerful.

We thank you for this U.S. venue of justice and freedom,
and we are aware of its flawed reality; We thank you for our wealth and our safety,
and are aware of how close to poverty we are and how under threat we live.

We gather our impulse for gratitude today, grateful to you and to our ancestors,
grateful to you for our families, our health, our government, our many possessions.

We gladly affirm that “All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above,”
But we yield to none in a sense of self-sufficiency, our weariness in needing to share,
our resentfulness of those who take and do not give. Your generosity evokes our
gratitude, but your generosity overmatches our gratitude.

We are ready to thank, but not overly so;

We remember our achievements, our accomplishments, our entitlements,
and our responsibilities that slice away our yielding of ourselves to you.
Move through our half measure of thanks and let us be, all through this day,
more risky in acknowledging that we have nothing except what you give.

You have given so much – not least your only Son.

Gift us the gift of dazzlement and awe that we may rejoice in our penultimate lives
and keep you ultimate all the day long, relishing the wonder of your self-giving love.

Prayers for a Privileged People, Walter Bruggemann, Abington Press, 2008

Messages from the Deacons

Deacons are praying for all of you individually. We draw names each month and pray for that person throughout the month. Hope you feel the love!

On the second Sunday of November, the 10th, the church will celebrate our veteran's with a lunch. The Deacons will decorate and provide the dessert. Randy will do the cooking.

Please contact any Deacon with a need. We will try to help.





A Thank you from Janet Calvin

My recuperation is slow, but I am improving!

Thank you all for reaching out to me through your prayers, cards, and phone calls that give me hope one day I will be strong enough to join you once again in worship and fellowship.

I am so thankful for the progress I have made.

Many blessings to all of you, my church family and your families!

My prayers are with all of you as well,
Janet Calvin

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 school supplies for students!

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

A Thank you from the Domestic Violence
Shelter

On behalf of the Burlington Area YMCA's Shelter Program, I want to thank you so very much for your thoughtful donation and continued support of the important work we do at Journey House.

Sincerely,
Gina Crabtree
Chief Executive Officer

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, November 6th**. 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. November 6th next meeting.



Thanksgiving Food Baskets

Missions will be collecting items starting November 1st through November 10th! Check the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
Please leave items on the large table in the Fellowship Hall!

Thank you!

Thank You!!



Thank you to Pat Whitmore, Sandy Walz & Brenda Frederick for volunteering to do the October food giveaway and also, to Kevin Eibes for helping with the set up!

“To get more out of life, give more of yourself”

Announcements!



The office will be closed for Thanksgiving and the day after Thanksgiving. Normal hours will resume the following Monday.

The Hymn Festival “How awesome is this place!” was rescheduled to November 17 @ 3:00pm. Reception to follow.

Daylight Savings Time ends on Sunday, November 3rd. Remember to turn your clocks back an hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 2nd, unless, of course, you’d like to get to church an hour early!

Just a note: We have not been able to get ahold of Matt’s Greenhouse yet about the Poinsettias for individual use. The Christmas Memorial Poinsettias information will go out in mid-November. Stay tuned for updates!

“The Colors of the Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ” Organ Recital, performed by our organist (The Rev’d) Randy Lee Webster, will be on Friday, November 22 at 7pm.

Veteran’s Day is November 11th. Thank you to the Veteran’s that have served or are still serving for our country!

Friendsgiving will be on November 24th, following Worship!

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





November 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Office Hours M-W-F 1:30 pm-4:30pm T-Th 9:00am-1:00pm					1 	2
3 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship	4	5 	6 8:30 a.m. Bible Study <u>Missions meets at Noon</u> <u>Knitwits meets @ 10:00 am</u> <u>Table for One meets @ 5:30pm @ Sue Gilchrist's Home</u>	7 Session Meets @ 1pm	8	9
10 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00a.m.Worship 2nd Sunday Luncheon	11 	12	13 8:30 a.m. Bible Study	14 	15	16
17 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship Deacon's Meeting <i>Hymn Festival "How Awesome is this place!" @ 3pm</i>	18 	19	20 8:30 a.m. Bible Study <u>Shepherd's Table</u> 4:30pm-6pm	21 <u>Yum Yums</u> @ Gator's @ 6:00pm <u>Farmer's Market @ the Church</u> 4:30pm-6pm	22 Organ Recital @ 7:00pm <i>"The Colors of the Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ"</i>	23 Hosting Presbytery Meeting 10am-12pm followed by luncheon
24 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship Friendsgiving following worship!	25 Trustees Meet @ 10 a.m.	26	27 8:30 a.m. Bible Study	28 	29 Office Closed	30 Private event in the fellowship hall Lighted Parade @ 5pm