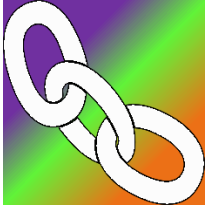


First Presbyterian Church

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

1stpresb@1stpresb.org

www.1stpresb.org



Connections



October 2024



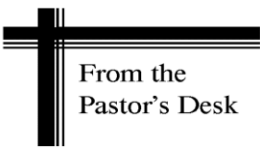
Pastor's Thoughts

On Sunday, October 6th, Christians around the world will gather in their respective time zones, and for 24 hours, will celebrate the Lord's Supper in their own language and tradition. We've done this for so long we don't think much of it. For many, this is no big deal, but we don't always appreciate, that for many of our brothers and sisters, they do this at great risk because their government makes it difficult to worship the Lord Jesus or they are a minority group shunned by their culture. For them, the idea of having brothers and sisters of faith in other parts of the world supporting them in prayer and sacrament makes their risk taking possible.

World Communion Sunday is all about Protestants and Catholics and Orthodox Christians united by our faith in Jesus Christ. On this Sunday there are no "insiders" or "outsiders." In the name of Christ, everyone approaches the table as sinners in need of the grace experienced in eating the bread and drinking from the cup. On that day we all look the same to the Lord. We are children of God who require a hug and encouragement as we seek to live out our faith and give witness to the world that our God is an awesome God and Jesus is the undeniable Savior of all, even if they don't wish to acknowledge it.

We're adding a new dimension to this year's celebration - we're going to share the sacrament with our friends at First Congregational Church. It matters not which building we're in. We'll be gathered together and experience the most amazing love any of us have ever known. This is our witness that name or polity doesn't matter. As we have been loved, so we are showing our love for one another.

I want to encourage you to make every effort to attend this service. I want through your attendance, to declare to those who can see and understand that we are stronger because we are together in Christ. With the cooperation of the internet, we will hopefully live stream the service to show the power and joy of unity in Christ.



October Sermon

There have been a few occasions during worship when we have sung the song, "Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart" written by Henry Smith in 1978. In today's standards, that is no longer a new song. It is a standard classic contemporary Christian song written at the forefront of new era Christian music. Regardless, it is a magnificent song with a tremendous message. What I appreciate about this song is that it very simply reminds us of the loving, benevolence of God, who is vigilant in providing our every need, every day without prompting and regardless of who we are.

A real tragedy is that there are scores of us who are not conscious of this until we are reminded, and even then for some, it doesn't always mean much. One can only give thanks to God when one understands all this and has a grateful heart. Sometimes that means having been hit on the head by a strong blast of reality, and then, one can see that God isn't just a God of the moment, but a God of all moments. At that point we come to understand that God doesn't take days off or go on vacation. Like Psalm 139 says, "O Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord." God metaphorically cares when I stub my toe as well as when I break my leg. Our God is the God of what some might call the trivial as well as the momentous.

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, Give thanks to the Holy One, Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son." Everything begins with God's love whether you feel the same for him or not. So, the sermons for October will focus on giving thanks to God with grateful hearts because every single one of us is loved like we have never been or ever will be loved.

October 6th World Communion Sunday
Service will be shared with First Congregational Church in their church

October 13th Ordination & Installation
Text: Ephesians 5:11-20
 Psalm 18:25-33
Title: "How Blessed I Am"

October 20th
Text: I Thessalonians 5:12-24
 Psalm 89:5-13
Title: "God's Got You No Matter What"

October 27th
Text: Colossians 3:12-17
 Psalm 49:1-11
Title: "Jesus is My Song"



October Birthdays

- 01 – Carol Brotherson
- 02 – Allie & Ashley Brink
- 06 – Debbie Bell
- 08 – Dick Johnson
- 14 – Javier Garcia
- 16 – Ann Comiskey
- 16 – Eva Ann Elmer
- 17 – Lynda Murray
- 18 – Cathy Brink
- 21 – Carey King
- 29 – Jim Erickson



Table for One

Our October event will be held Wednesday, 10/2 @ 5:30p.m. @ Eva Ann Elmer's home @ 1431 Cambridge Drive #301 Burlington, IA 52601

Yum-Yums

News from Yum Yums. A group of 11 church members and friends enjoyed a dinner & fellowship at The Fort Colony in Ft. Madison, IA. Come join us next month! Those attending chose to go to Applebee's in Burlington, IA. We will meet on October 17, 2024 @ 6:00pm. If you have any questions, call or text Marilyn Leight @ 319-470-6512.



2nd Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, October 13th,
Autumn Returns to Iowa
following morning service!

Please Join Us!

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



Meeting Highlights

On Sunday, September 29, 2024, immediately following the worship service, we will hold a special meeting of the congregation during which we will elect Sue Gilchrist as an elder to serve a 3-year term and at the same time ordain and install her. In addition, we will amend the By-laws of the congregation by deleting Section 21 on the establishment of an Endowment Committee. This will be all the business conducted at this meeting.

The Session received and accepted an invitation from the First Congregational Church to join them on Sunday, October 6th to jointly celebrate World Communion Sunday. This means that we will not be holding worship in our church that day, but will join our friends at the First Congregational Church to observe the Lord's Supper together and declare our unity in Christ around the Table.

The next Session meeting is **Thursday, October 3, 2024 at 1 PM.**

Cheryl Lotz, Clerk of Session



Messages from the Deacons

Just a reminder of the card box on the table in the sanctuary. It is there for your convenience. Send a card to anyone you are thinking and praying for. Pick out a card, make your message, address it and put it in the office after church. Wendy will put a stamp on it and be sure it gets mailed. Stamps have been provided by an anonymous giver. There is a directory in the box also for addresses of our members.

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

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





A prayers request from Eva Ann Elmer

Dear Church Family,

Sunday morning (9/22/24), my son Mike texted me that they needed prayers!!

His wife, Vicki, is in ICU in Boca Raton, FL

She got to the ER Friday morning & was diagnosed with blood clots in both lungs. The surgery Friday afternoon removed massive clots!!

Her oxygen is still low, but her heart has recovered from the stress & is fine this (Sunday) morning.

She has permanent lung damage & is struggling with her new reality!

Update! As of 9/26/24. At doctor follow up appointment, her lungs are healing and her oxygen is at 93% without the help of oxygen. Things are looking up!

Their address is: 401 Brighton J
Boca Raton, FL 33434

Thank you in advance!
Eva Ann Elmer

A Thank you from Christine Dwight

Thank you for your prayers for my niece, April. A new doctor had a sonogram test done and her gallbladder was past due to come out. With this taken out, the issue in her body will go away. She could have gone septic. She had her doctor appointment and her surgery was a few days later.

Christine Dwight

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, October 2nd**. 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. October 2nd next meeting.

**We Collected \$195 and \$100 gift card for our School Supplies Mission!
Below is a few photos of our deliveries!**



Delivery of School Supplies to U of I
Stead Children's Hospital!

Megan(left) is the tutor & Rhonda(right)
is the nurse that receives the boxes we
send to the kids getting treatment!

They both expressed how our Missions
mean SO MUCH to the kids!! It's like
Christmas every time they open a box!

So, a BIG Thank You to everyone who
gives to the treasure chest. This is an
ongoing monthly Mission!



Delivery of School Supplies to North
Hill School!

Darci(left) is the school nurse &
Amanda(right) is a teacher!

A \$100 gift card for the Dollar Tree
was given to Darci, also, to be used
for supplies for the clinic!

So, Thank you everyone who gave to
this important Mission too!

Missions Cont'd.



School Supplies donations that were received and also bought with the donated funds towards this Mission!

Thank you all for your generosity!

Big Thank you to our Volunteers!

We would like to thank Susan Hoisington for helping with September's food giveaway! Chery Lotz & others who get the word out on social media about the monthly food giveaways! This is truly a group effort!

Also, Brenda Frederick for doing the monthly paperwork that is required by the Iowa Food Bank and Wendy for placing the online orders, helping keep our pantry full!

The Mission Committee





How awesome is this place!

Hymn Festival

giving thanks for the restoration of the bell tower and the new roof

Sunday, October 20 at 3 pm

Reception to follow.

How can I help? Invite your friends and neighbors to attend. There are posters and invitation cards at church; help get them up and around the community. Share the items on Facebook (this is REALLY important!) Offer to come and be hosts for visitors in our home.

Courageous Outreach

Saturday, October 5 Silver Singers present Homage to Jerome Kern in the sanctuary at 6 pm. A fundraising dinner precedes the program at 5 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Saturday, October 12 The Southeast Iowa Symphony Orchestra has dinner in Fellowship Hall prior to the concert at the Capitol at 7:30 pm

Saturday, October 26 Bel Canto Chorale has lunch in Fellowship Hall at noon, following the final rehearsal for the concert at First Methodist Church on Sunday afternoon.



Harvest Smorgasbord

Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25

Serving 5-7 pm.

Proceeds benefit the Polish the Jewel Campaign.

Announcements!



World Communion Day is on Sunday, October 6th. We will be joining for Worship with First Congregational Church at their church.

Silver Singers will present “Homage to Jerome Kern” on Saturday, October 5 in the Sanctuary at 6:00pm. A fundraiser dinner will be held before the concert at 5pm in the fellowship hall.

Second Sunday Luncheon will be on Sunday, October 13. The theme this month is “Autumn Returns to Iowa”.

Farmer’s Market at the Church will be on Thursday, October 17 from 4:30pm-6pm. If you know someone in need of food, please, send them down!

Hymn Festival “How Awesome Is This Place” will be held on Sunday, October 20 at 3pm in the Sanctuary. Reception to follow.

Harvest Smorgasbord will be on Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25 from 5:00pm-7:00pm. Proceeds go to “Polish the Jewel”

Shepherd’s Table will be on Wednesday, October 30 from 4:30pm-6pm at First Congregational Church.

[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





October 2024



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 	2 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study <u>Missions meets at Noon</u> <u>Knitwits meets @ 10:00 am</u> <u>Table for One meets @ Eva Ann Elmer's Home</u>	3 Session Meets @ 1pm	4	5 Silver Singers present "Homage to Jerome Kern" @ 6pm in the Sanctuary. Fundraiser dinner @5pm
6 World Communion Day Joint Service @ First Congregational Church 10:00am Worship	7	8	9 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	10 	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00a.m.Worship 2nd Sunday Luncheon	14 	15	16 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	17 <u>Yum Yums @ Applebee's in Burlington @ 6pm</u> <u>Farmer's Market @ the Church</u> 4:30pm-6pm	18 Deadline For Connections	19
20 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship Deacon's Meet Hymn Festival "How Awesome Is This Place!"	21	22 <i>National Nut Day</i> 	23 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	24 Harvest Smorgasbord Serving 5pm-7pm	25 Harvest Smorgasbord Serving 5pm-7pm	26
27 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship	28 Trustees Meet @ 10 a.m.	29	30 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study <u>Shepherd's Table</u> 4:30pm-6pm	31 		Office Hours M-W-F 1:30 pm-4:30pm T-Th 9:00am-1:00pm