

THE GOOD NEWS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Marshalltown, Iowa
641-753-5929

Volume 85, No. 3
March 31, 2020

The Purpose Statement for the First Presbyterian Church of Marshalltown

- G** Growing in Christ through *worship*.
- R** Reaching out in *fellowship*.
- A** Affirming faith through *discipleship*.
- C** Caring for the lost through *evangelism*.
- E** Embracing others in mission and *ministry*.

April Memory Verse

Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:13

Easter Lily Orders



There is still time to order an Easter Lily to put in the Sanctuary. You may sponsor one or more of the Easter Lilies wrapped in gold foil that will be on display. **The cost of each plant is \$11.50.**

You may pick up your plant any time after the church reopens.

Please return this form to the church office with your check by Sunday, April 5, 2020.

Check one: _____ in memory of _____ in honor of

Given by: _____

2020 Lenten Breakfasts



Lenten Breakfasts have been cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Easter Around the World

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!

Circle News



Elizabeth Circle will meet Thursday, April 9, at 1:30 p.m. in the Lower Lounge (if the church is open).

Sarah Circle will meet Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. in the Lower Lounge (if the church is open).

All Things in Common



Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ...Through the interchange of [Christ's] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther,
Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament

Family Night in April 2020 will be discontinued until further notice.



The next Hymn Sing is tentatively scheduled for Sunday April 19, at 6:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Beth Townsend will be the guest pianist for the evening. Plan to attend.

Financial Report for February

FEB. 2020	Actual
Total Receipts	\$29,491.00
Budget	31,393.00
Total Expenses	\$30,865.00
Budget	30,260.00
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$56,306.00
Budget	68,785.00
Difference	(12,479.00)
Total Expenses	(\$78,663.00)
Budget	(83,817.00)
Difference	5,154.00

A Modern-Day Parable

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand ...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like *600 volunteers* searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.

Milk and Bookies



In February we hosted a "Milk & Bookies" event for young children. Everyone brought a book or two to

donate to children in need. Then they baked cookies, made a craft, went on a scavenger hunt, met some puppets, had a couple of stories read to them, and yes, ate their cookies! The books have been sorted and will be given to several local mission projects. Thank you to all who helped, donated, or participated.

Camp in 2020

Camp Sunday was cancelled due to not having in-person worship on March 22. On March 17, Harry Gabe, camp director, explained that as of at that time they are planning to have camps as scheduled, but with extra procedures in place for

safety. He cautioned that this is a changing situation, so that may change. The camp's COVID-19 statement is available here:

https://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/uploads/1/1/1/3/111332253/lco_covid_19_statement.pdf

Camp scholarships will be available to all children from this church who want to attend. The form will be available on the church website:

www.fpcmarshalltown.org

Camp offerings and other information is available here:

<https://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/summer-camp.html>

Sunday School



Sunday school children learned about the Prodigal Son in March, and their lesson ended with the first broadcast of the puppets! (You can watch on the church's Facebook page. If you don't have Facebook, you can type "First Presbyterian Church Facebook" into your browser and find it. You do not have to join. Click on the "Video" tab on the right.)

Sunday school is currently being conducted through Facebook. A special private page has been set up where the students and teachers can share. The lessons are also posted on the church's public Facebook page so our Wednesday Club friends and others can access them. Please be careful what you post in the comments of the publicly posted Sunday school and Gathering lessons and everyone and their uncle can see them. Our Sunday school teachers are helping to prepare Easter lessons in this new format. We will have the opportunity to teach some lessons we don't normally get to teach, including a Sunday on Psalm 23.

Thank you to our March preschool helpers **Barb McBride** and **Heather Rottink**.

Awesome Presbys



The first Wednesday in March the Awesome Presbys met and sorted, labelled, and boxed the books donated for "Milk & Bookies." They did a great job and had fun while figuring out the best way to get the

job done. They will meet on a Zoom call Wednesday, April 1, @ 6:15 p.m. Parents, be looking for an email explaining how that will work. All other activities are suspended until we can safely meet.

Wednesday Club



Wednesday Club was only able to meet once in March, but it was a Spirit-filled meeting. The kids and helpers did a great job finding and reading Bible passages about God's love for them. At this time, it is

uncertain if Wednesday Club will meet again this spring. Please pray for the children and youth helpers as their worlds have been turned upside down.



Seeing God when you are isolated can be a challenge, but it is a good one to take on. Some people are spending a lot more time at home alone or with the kids, and others are working a lot more hours in dangerous conditions to care for the sick or make sure the shelves are stocked with our basic needs. Everyone has seen life change quickly and dramatically, offering us an opportunity to seek God in new ways. Where do you see Him today?

Peace and quiet
 Beautiful day
 Music
 Good practice
 The crock pots were found
 The awesome food and fellowship
 Tracy's Jell-O set up!
 Hang out with my Christian friends
 Going to the park
 People helping each other
 All the firefighters, police, EMS, ambulance
 God gives us hope

Vacation Bible School



There are a lot of uncertainties surrounding the dates for VBS this year. Currently, VBS is scheduled for June 21-25, but with questions surrounding when life will return to "normal," when school will end, and when it will be safe to gather in large groups again, we realize that the dates may

change. Thinking about our theme, *Rocky Railway: Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through*, is a reminder that we have Jesus in this hard time. His power will help us do hard things like stay away from our friends and loved ones, gives us hope that we will make it through this tough time, and it will help us be bold when we need to go out to work or the store. Jesus' power also lets us live forever so we don't have to worry in a pandemic, and it helps us be good friends even when we can't meet in person. I believe we will have a much richer VBS experience this year because of our current challenges. Please consider how you can help with this church-wide event.

Luke's Ministry Keeping in Touch Response to COVID-19

After reviewing guidelines issued by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and other denominational agencies as a staff we agreed to:

- Stay home if you are feeling sick and or have a fever. If you have a fever do not return to work until you have been without a fever for

24 hours and have not used medication for fever reduction.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use a hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your face
- Clean surfaces you touch
- Help keep common/public spaces in the office clean by wiping door handles, light switches, counter tops, tables, chairs and office equipment with household detergent or disinfectant wipes.
- If a staff member becomes ill and does not have sufficient sick leave to use during their illness, the synod executive and the personnel committee chair will advise regarding conditions on the length of their leave.
- Travel - at this time we have not banned travel within the United States, however, we will make decisions to travel on a case by case basis.
- In person meetings - we have not banned in person meetings, but we are making use of Zoom when practical.

Considerations for congregations:

Many congregations have begun to take precautions. Here are suggestions from congregations, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Center for Disease Control.

For Worship:

- Encourage church members and staff to stay home if they are ill or concerned about becoming ill. Older adults and those with chronic/preexisting health concerns are at a higher risk for serious COVID-19 illness.
- Do not shake hands when entering or leaving worship and also during the "passing of the peace." Instead, smile, wave, place hands over the heart, bow or elbow bump.
- Consider printing the words to hymns in the bulletin to avoid spreading germs through the use of hymnals.

In the building:

- Clean children's toys in classrooms, nursery, sanctuary and daycare facilities after each service or class. Mix one-part bleach to ten parts water (make fresh solution for day of use) or use a surface spray with bleach. Let parents know toys are cleaned weekly or daily.
- Encourage parents to clean the toys and blankets their children bring to church.

- If your church has cloth bags in the sanctuary for children to use during worship, ask someone to take the bags home each week to wash.
- Have ample soap and disposable towels in restrooms and other places for hand washing.
- Place hand sanitizer and disposable towels or tissues at building entrances. Have an open bin nearby for easy disposal of towels and tissues.
- Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces (door handles, light switches, handrails, faucets, pews and telephones) with household detergent or disinfectant wipes.
- Take precautions when visiting members in their homes. Check with care centers and hospitals regarding visits.

Planning ahead:

- Have a clear plan for who will make decisions about canceling events or worship. How will these decisions be communicated?
- Think of ways the community can stay in touch if they cannot gather in person.
- Think of ways to support those that are ill. Offer to drop off groceries or pick up a prescription at the drugstore. A short phone call to say hello can boost morale.
- Make a plan for welcoming people back.

---Presbyterian Disaster Assistance & Center of Disease Control



➤ **The Emergency Food Box is OPEN but will be adjusting their schedule, starting Monday March 23.**

➤ **It will be open 1:00 - 4:30 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs.**

- **It will NOT be open on Fridays.**
- **Individuals need to bring a valid ID.**
- **Families living in Marshall County can visit the Food Box once a month.**

The address is 109 S. 3rd St., Marshalltown. The phone number if you have questions is 641-753-0486. Any donations may be dropped off during open hours.

• Specific food needs are as follows: peanut butter, mac n cheese, spaghetti, canned fruit and vegetables and cereal.

Monetary donations are always welcome.
Contact: Cindy Seberger, 752-8363.



As much as I'd like to avoid the subject, I am going to talk about "you know what." I was driving back to my house, turning on to my street, thinking about all the possible ways and places you could pick up the virus. For some reason I pictured little viruses floating in the air as I drove up to my house, as if the unseen was seen for a moment. I thought to myself, "how can something so little cause so much trouble?"

I was immediately reminded of Matthew 17:20 "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

It is easy to feel trapped, helpless, and out of sorts in this time. It's frustrating that this tiny unseen enemy is at the root of it. But remember, God uses the little things too. And though our faith may be small and hanging by a thread at times, that's all God needs to move mountains. Hold fast to your faith. Ask God what He has specifically for you in this time. Is it time in the Word? Family time? Prayer time? Phone calls, letters, emails? Working on your personal health: emotionally, physically, spiritually? Remember that God is faithful, He hasn't abandoned you, and He has a plan for all of this. It may be too small to see it now, but in time we will!

Jon Rottink



Thank you to all those who sent me birthday cards and greetings for my birthday February 9. I very much appreciated each card and love the greeting messages in each one.

---Mavis Gray

Thank you for sending the newsletter to us. It helps to keep us up on our fellow Presbyterians, even though names change.

---Ralph & Rhoda Bender

Dear church family

Thank you for your kindness and sympathy at a time when it is greatly appreciated. We are forever grateful. Your cards, prayers, messages were comforting and a blessing when Don's mom passed away.

---The family of Rose Ann Turbiville

Dear First Presbyterian Church

Thank you so much to our church family for all your love, support, messages and prayers during this difficult time. We are so grateful for you all.

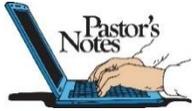
---The Drummers



Thanks & a Tip of the Hat to...

Wollam.

our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of March: **Matt Broshar, Mercedes Dirksmeyer, Ed Jackson, and Barb**



Pastor's Notes

“When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah his sores, then Ephraim turned to Assyria, and sent to the great king for help. But he is not able

to cure you, not able to heal your sores.” (Hosea 5:13) Where do we turn for help? Where do we look for healing and wholeness? Certainly, we turn to doctors and nurses in our clinics and hospitals, but do we turn to God? Is God our go to source for healing and wholeness? Today, we need healing and we need a wholeness that goes beyond our current virus. We need a rejuvenated faith! A faith that relies upon God. A faith that is bigger than our everyday reality. A faith that guides us to what is eternally important!

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people (Matthew 4:23). Jesus came and as a sign of the salvation to be found in him, He healed those who were sick. His life, death and resurrection point us far beyond our physical healing, yet it includes that. Jesus is our source for healing now and ultimate healing in the future. When we let our faith in Him grow during this time of social distancing then we can grow into the people God wants us to be.

My challenge to you is to use this time, without all the social things we do, to renew your connection with God. Without church or Bible study groups, Seek God! Let God fill you and then turn and use that filling to minister to your family or others that God directs you to.

Pastor Rich

MARCH SESSION ACTIONS

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown, met in the Fellowship Hall Tuesday, March 17, 2020.

Moderator Rev. Dr. Richard A. King opened the Session meeting at 7:09 p.m. with prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion prevailed to approve the February 18, 2020 Stated Session minutes as printed.

Staff reports were presented.

Finances: Matt Broshar presented the Financial reports noting that February giving was stronger. Having people give electronically is encouraged. Now that the church will be closed for several weeks, people can mail in their offerings. He explained the graph chart and went over the revenue and expense report. The invoice for the fire alarms and fire extinguisher inspection is due and is more than we budgeted. Money was received from the Mike Miller memorial to help pay for the new projector.

Gail Boliver reported the Finance & Stewardship Committee is looking at ways we can generate income if the church is shut down for an extended length of time.

Mission/Evangelism: Dave Freel presented the report. Matt Broshar shared with the committee a historical document that tracks budgeted mission dollars versus actual Mission & Evangelism allocated dollars and dollars allocated by Project; from 2018 going forward. They discussed new Mission & Evangelism opportunities. The “One Great Hour of Sharing” materials are at the church to be shared on Palm and Easter Sundays. They discussed the mission opportunities we are already involved in and plan to continue. Several books on Evangelism were distributed to the committee. They approved giving Jan Faber some support for her medical mission trip to Honduras.

Worship & Music: Wynona Anderson reported. **Communion**—133 on Feb. 2, and 138 on March 1. The February Hymn Sing had about 30 people attending. Garry Rottink led the group and hymn stories about three well-known hymns were shared. There was no Communion service held at Glenwood Place in February. Thirty-six people attended the Ash Wednesday service. The church services have been cancelled following the March 15, service due to the COVID-19 Coronavirus pandemic. Forty Easter Lilies have been ordered from Isle of Green. This number may be changed if church services are still cancelled at Easter time. The Maundy Thursday services have been cancelled but a service will be shown online, and Pastor Rich is hoping people will participate in their homes with the Communion service while it is being shown online. The Community Good Friday services are cancelled.

COVID-19 Planning Meeting: A group of 10 church leaders met to determine how church will operate during the Coronavirus pandemic. They determined that there would be a closed worship service and Sunday school time – limited to the people creating the event which would be shown on-line. The weekly bulletin and schedule for the

week will be put on the church Webpage each week. Activities for the children and youth will be put on the church Facebook page. If the church has a funeral, it would be limited to 10. Rich will not be doing any face-to-face visitations but will make phone calls to people in the church. He will be putting daily devotionals on the church Webpage. Other groups in the church will be asked to phone church members to keep in touch or send cards and letters to church members. The group discussed cleaning and disinfecting the church on a regular basis.

At Session: **Motion prevailed** to approve the changes to the worship service until the middle of April. An amendment was made to the motion to approve the changes until April 21, when Session will meet again. **Motion prevailed** to eliminate all meetings held at the church until April 21. Each group will be contacted regarding to this decision.

A & P: No report.

Membership & Involvement: Case Hegeman reported. They are working on several activities for the future, but for now, all their plans are on hold during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Property: Ron Kauffman and Matt Broshar reported the new projector has been ordered. They discussed getting a contract to resurface the south parking lot but will hold off on this project for a while. They discussed the barber shop using space in the Gathering Place and will negotiate signing an annual lease. A plan for the lease will be brought to Session before taking it to the barber shop owner.

Other: None.

Rich King closed the meeting with prayer.

Members in mission making a difference.
GOOD NEWS from First Presbyterian Church is published monthly. Deadline for the following issue is published in the calendar. Comments and contributions are welcome.
 Church office phone: 641-753-5929
 Web Site www.fpcmarshalltown.org
 Email Church at church@fpcmarshalltown.org
 Pastor at rich@fpcmarshalltown.org
 Youth & Families Director at jrottink@hotmail.com
 Office Mgr./Editor at nancy@fpcmarshalltown.org
 Christian Education Director at michelle.firstpres@gmail.com

Newsletter deadline with MAY 2020 information is due Monday, April 20, 2020 for anyone wanting to submit an article.

Reminder:
April 5—Palm/Passion Sunday
April 5-12— Holy Week
 April 9— Maundy Thursday
 April 10—Good Friday
April 12—Easter
March 21—Session
 April 22—Administrative Professionals Day



April 2020 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Terri Rottink	4 Ann Bresler Christey, Doug & Patrick Sharpshair Thomas Wilkinson
5 Michele Hala Becky Hatcher	6 Janell Dommer Amy Drummer Bethany Wirin	7	8 Kelli Grabau	9	10 Emily Bradbury- Redhage	11
12	13	14 Aaron Anderson	15 Kari Hancock	16 Barry Bryant Robin Curler Carter Strand	17 Ellen Podhajsky	18 Shelby Bovenmyer
19 Brenda Severson Julie Lynch	20	21 Judy Erion	22	23 Lee Duff	24 Ken Brandenburg Ryan Grimmius	25 Lynne Bovenmyer Drew King
26 Doug Bacon Owen Randall Alaina Severson	27	28	29	30		

	April 5	April 12	April 19	April 26	
Worship Leader...	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Greeters.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Fellowship Hosts..	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Cup Washers.....	_____	_____	_____	_____	
Nursery.....	_____ & _____	_____ & _____	_____ & _____	Deb Williams & _____	
Deacons.....	Sue Bryant & Bert Tice	D. & J. Boyd & Ruth Feld	Barb McBride & Marge Wolfe	Tim & Deanna Bell	
Donuts	No Donuts	No Donuts	No Donuts	_____	
Flowers	No Alar Flowers	EASTER LILIES	No Altar Flowers	Jim & Bonnie Grimmius	
Ushers	FIRST SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY
Team Captain	Terry Buzbee Hank Bradbury Ed Jackson Harlan Quick Larry Schrum Don Turbiville	Brenda Severson Donita Anders Roger Anders Stan & Nancy VanWyk Barb Vovos	Roger & Karen Schoell Pat & Mary Hemming Karin Podhajsky Paul Podhajsky	Jon Rottink Youth	Dick & Barb McBride Doug & Karen Bacon Doris & Orlyn Langenbau Steve Strand
Usher Alternates	in alphabetical (9:00 a.m. – All Year)				
	Bonnie Bradbury	Craig Henze	Dennis Ostrem	Marcia Quick	Yasuyo Smith
	Roger Bristley	Pat Kremer	Tracy Ostrem	Jerry Schaudt	Barb Vovos
	Doug Butler	Doris Langenbau	LaVern Paul	Brenda Severson	Dale Wedgwood
	Jim Grimmius	Orlyn Langenbau	Harlan Quick	Don Smith	

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	2 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	3 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	4 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.
5 Palm Sunday 9:00 a Worship - online Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	6 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	7 9:00am Staff Meeting Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	8 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	9 Maundy Thursday Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	10 Good Friday Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.	11 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people.
12 Easter Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people	13 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people	14 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people	15 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people	16 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people	17 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people	18 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people
19 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people	20 Newsletter Articles Due Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people	21 9:00am Staff Meeting Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people 7:00 p.m. Session	22 Tentative Schedule 6:30p Youth 101 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Choir 8:30p.m. Praise Team	23 Tentative Schedule 8:30 am Flapjacks 12:00p.m. Oasis 12:00p Pastor's Prayer Grp.	24	25 Tentative Schedule 18 Men Who Can Cook – Orpheum Theater
26 Tentative Schedule 9:00 a.m. Worship - Choir 10:15a Fellowship Time 10:30a -Sunday school – all ages	27 Tentative Schedule 5p Girl Scout Mtg. – GP	28	29 Tentative Schedule 6:30p Youth 101 6:30 p.m. Bells 7:30 p.m. Choir 8:30p.m. Praise Team	30 Tentative Schedule 8:30 am Flapjacks 12:00p.m. Oasis 12:00p Pastor's Prayer Grp		