



THE GOOD NEWS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Marshalltown, Iowa
641-753-5929

Volume 85, No. 8
August 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*.

September Memory Verse

*"Whether you turn to the right or to
the left, your ears will hear a voice
behind you, saying,
"This is the way; walk in it."*

Isaiah 30:21



**The church will be
closed Monday, September
7, for Labor Day.**

Optimism Grounded in Hope

"I am fundamentally an optimist," said anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela. "Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair."

Some say optimism is naïve, "a generic good idea about the future" (Walter Brueggemann, *Reverberations of Faith*), and distinguish it from hope. But Mandela's 27 years in prison and other sufferings would indicate that, in his case, optimism is anchored in deep hope.

Our hope is grounded in God's power to bring life from death, primarily in Jesus' resurrection, and in other acts of deliverance. God brings joy from sorrow, healing from brokenness, love from hate. We can't fathom what goodness awaits us down the road (Could Mandela, in prison, imagine becoming South Africa's first black president?!), so we keep looking up and moving forward. Such optimism is rooted in profound hope — and is a gift of God.

When God Crosses Our Paths

Pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, "God will be constantly crossing our paths and canceling our plans by sending us people with claims and petitions." Last spring, the whole world had plans canceled, first by Covid-19 and then by God "sending us people with claims and petitions." Some needed prayers for healing or for coping with grief. Medical staff, teachers, pastors and others serving long hours needed support: meals, check-in calls, "thinking of you" cards. Parents working remotely while helping kids with distance-learning needed encouragement. Crucial nonprofit work still required donations.

Pre-pandemic, you may not have realized that staying home or wearing a face mask could be a ministry. Or that sending a card expresses love in Jesus' name. Or that buying takeout from a local restaurant can be a gift to the owners. When our calendars empty, God "crosses our paths" in new ways — both to be with us and to nudge us toward others (even if virtually, or six feet apart!).

Always Within Reach

As I grow older, I appreciate help getting up from the couch. Often, my husband extends his arm to boost me up. This act of kindness reminds me how the Lord reaches out to me each morning. He

is the strength to lift me up, so I needn't depend on myself.

Looking back through the years, I can see how the Lord endlessly extended His arm to me. Isaiah 33:2 says, "O LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for You. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble." Too often I haven't waited for the Lord, and my impatience resulted in no-good results. Waiting for — and accepting — God's guidance isn't always easy, but He always comes through, and we're never out of his reach.

I'm so thankful my heavenly Father graciously extends His arm to help me up, get me "unstuck" and keep me from trouble.

—MaryAnn Sundby

Birthday Card Shower

Char McGrew's 80th birthday is coming up on September 4. Her family would like to have a card shower for her. Cards may be sent to:

Char McGrew
Orchard Terrace Room 210
111 Moorings Park Dr
Naples, FL 34105

Happy Birthday, Char.

Circle News



Elizabeth Circle will not meet in September as the church is not open.

Sarah Circle will not meet in September as the church is not open.



Family Night in Sept. 2020 will be live streamed on Sept. 16, at 6:15 p.m.



There will be NO Hymn Sing program during September.

Is Your Pledge Current?

Be sure to keep your pledge up to date by mailing your donations to First Presbyterian Church, 101 S. Center St., Marshalltown, Iowa 50158.

Financial Report for July

| JULY 2020 | Actual |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Total Receipts | \$26,466.00 |
| Budget | 31,392.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$25,335.00 |
| Budget | 32,531.00 |
| Year to Date: | |
| Total Receipts | \$201,943.00 |
| Budget | 242,888.00 |
| Difference | (40,945.00) |
| Total Expenses | (\$212,117.00) |
| Budget | (243,462.00) |
| Difference | 31,345.00 |

Cross Crosslet



This cross is formed of four smaller Latin crosses joined at their overlapping bases. The cross as a whole represents the spreading of the gospel to the four corners of the earth.

This cross is often used in connection with missions.

Mosaics



If you do not have your mosaic tile finished, now is the time to get them done. Please put your name on the back or in the corner so we can assemble the mosaics when they are returned. If you need help or will not be returning to church right away, please contact Michelle for assistance michelle@fpcmarshalltown.org. I can also resend tiles that may have been misplaced or damaged.

---Michelle Wilkinson

Blessing of the Backpacks



Mark Wednesday, September 2, on your calendars. We will have a special Family Night that evening from 5:30 – 6:00. You are invited to load up the kids and their backpacks or online learning tools and head to the church parking lot for some socially distanced special music and words of encouragement. Everyone is welcome to stay with their cars in the parking lot.



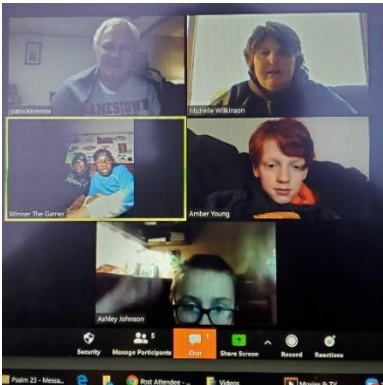
Introducing Wednesday Club To-Go, our pandemic-friendly program for kids in grades K-4. We will be putting together a grab and

go program that includes music, lesson, craft, and snack. Volunteers will be needed to provide pre-packaged snacks and package weekly kits. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry, please contact Michelle.

Sunday School

Sunday school continues to be conducted by families at home through Facebook posts. The children are learning about God through His creation this summer. Our lessons are based on Indescribable: 101 Devotions about God and Science by Louie Giglio. This month we learned about our eyes, mountain climbing, cave formations, storms, and magnetic attraction. Our amazing, loving God created them all! In September, we will return to our rotation curriculum, similar to the spring. Adam and Eve will be our first unit of study. Thank you to **Roger Anders, Jan Faber, Paul Podhajsky, and Thomas Wilkinson** for recording devotions for August.

Awesome Presbys



Awesome Presbys continues to meet via Zoom on Wednesdays unless there is Family Night. We talked about the storm and how they helped their families clean up. Many of our families were without power over a week. When asked

the best thing about getting power back, one Awesome Presby said being able to join our group Zoom! Though sometimes it is hard to see in this crazy, sad pandemic time, God is still mightily at work in our lives and in our world. Who can you lift up today?

God is so good! He sent three neighbors with chainsaws and skills!! He sent a college student in her last day before heading to ISU and her MHS

sister and Mom to carry debris from my backyard. He sent a neighbor with COPD to offer help and her front boulevard as a place to put my debris. He provided me a YouTube video that made it possible for ME (Not a DIY'er) to take down a crushed section of chain link fence, so the BIG Tree Guys will have access to our backyard. He sent my son and granddaughter here from KC just when they were needed to help and to encourage. He sent my daughter and grandsons just when Nancy and I needed some fun!! And He kept us well and safe from harm in it all! God is SO good! God is faithful! – **Pat Kremer**



Where have you seen God today?
A delicious peach
Talking to friends
Beautiful flowers
Cabin time
Watching kitten play
Storm was scary but we were safe.
Perfect half moon
The power is back on!
I no longer have trees on my roof!

Many Parts, One Body



Through the teaching, support, sacrifice, worship and commitment of the church, utterly ordinary people are enabled to do some rather extraordinary, even heroic acts, not on the basis of their own gifts and abilities, but rather by having a community capable of sustaining Christian virtue. The church enables us to be better people than we could have been if left to our own devices.

—Stanley Hauerwas and William Willimon



The **Emergency Food Box** will continue with its adjusted schedule through the summer months. **The open hours are 1:00 - 4:30 Monday through Thursday.** If you have friends or family who are struggling due to job loss, reduced hours, or increased food needs please

inform them we are here to serve anyone for whatever reason.

Marshall County families can be served once a month. They only need to show a valid ID. The Emergency Food Box address is 109 S. 3rd Street, Marshalltown. If you have questions, the phone number is 753-0486.

We are now accepting food donations, during open hours. Suggested foods are **soups, canned fruit and vegetables, peanut butter, pasta, Mac 'n Cheese, spaghetti, boxes of potatoes, and cereals.**

Monetary donations are always appreciated. It is suggested they be sent to Emergency Food Box, PO Box 391, Marshalltown, IA 50158. The Emergency Food Box especially wants to thank the community for its generous support.



Deacons and Members: Thank you for your kindness in remembering my mother, Shirley Bowman, with your flowers and donation to her memorial. Your thoughts and prayers were so appreciated. The entire family is grateful for all the love and support. We are honored to belong to this church family.

--- Cindy & John Wise
And the entire Bowman Family

A huge thank you to the group of people from First Presbyterian Church who came out to my place and cleaned up the downed trees and branches on Friday, August 21. They took about 10 pick-up loads of debris from my place to the landfill. What a blessing to have so many people care and come help me with this overwhelming project.

---Mavis Gray

Thank you to all the utility workers who have restored power, still at it, and thanks to volunteers who are helping others after the storm.

---Bill Eilers

Thank you to my wonderful adopted church family for all the prayers, cards and calls during my recent health scare. I'm assured my surgery on 7/29 was successful. I've started cardio rehab here in Marshalltown and feel myself getting stronger. I much appreciate all the cards - they sure brighten my days.

---Marlene Snyder



our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of August: **Diane & Matt Broshar, Mercedes Dirksmeyer and Jackie Hughes.**

If any of you can help Matt cook or serve at the House of Compassion Soup Kitchen on Thursday, September 17, please contact Matt or the church office and leave your name. Thank you.

Words from Rev. Tom Bower

"When things don't go according to plan!" You've heard that before. Can you remember things in your life that turned out quite differently than you had planned or hoped for? I'm sure that we could all tell stories, especially related to 2020.

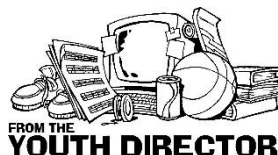
"The best made plans of mice and men go awry." That proverb comes from a Scottish poem written by Robert Burns. It signifies the futility of making detailed plans when the ability to fully or even partially execute them is uncertain. For the Christian believer, we might prefer the words of Proverbs 16: 9, *"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps."*

All of which is to say: In our topsy-turvy world, we need to be flexible, pliable, moldable, malleable, stretchable, and resilient. We could add a few other words too, but you get the point. Change is the name of the game. And yet, we need to be people who are stable, stand our ground, have firm beliefs and convictions, and are able and willing to stand up for the right. Ephesians 6 tells us to *"Stand firm with the belt of truth buckled around your waist."*

So, we walk that tightrope – planning ahead and planning as thoroughly as possible while, at the same time, being open to new things and flexible about old things. As Christians we can have the confidence that our lives and times are in HIS hands and He will not leave us or forsake us. We press on together as staff and congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown, especially mindful of our dear pastor, Rich King.

*"Do not be afraid or terrified because of them,
for the Lord your God goes with you;
He will never leave you nor forsake you."*

Deuteronomy 31:6



Every Christian should have at least one sermon in them. It's been said and I believe it! As John and Peter said in Acts 4:20: "As for us, we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard." It should be the same for us as we share how God is working in our lives and the good news of the Gospel.

The last time I preached, I challenged each of you to write your “one sermon.” It can take whatever shape or form you want it to. It can be whatever length it needs to be. How are you coming on those? I hope you will take seriously my challenge and begin to write something down. Consider it an opportunity to share what you cannot help but speak about.

Especially in these days, the world needs to hear the good news. Share it with your family, your church family, and others. Send me your questions, rough drafts, your finished sermon, etc. Let’s be a church full of Christ followers who are sharing what they have seen and heard God doing in their lives!

Jon Rottink

AUGUST SESSION ACTIONS

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown, met via Zoom, August 18, 2020.

Moderator Rev. Tom Bower opened the Session meeting at 7:05 p.m. with prayer. Lynne Bovenmyer presented the devotions and prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion prevailed to approve the July 21, 2020 Stated Session minutes as printed.

Staff reports were presented.

Finances: Matt Broshar presented the financials. Due to the Coronavirus, the church is still closed since the middle of March. Giving is below last year’s giving and below the budget. Spending is also below budget. Many people continue to mail their donations to the church and people are encouraged to continue to mail their faith pledge to the church. Some interest has been earned on the church investments.

Finance/Stewardship: No report.

Mission/Evangelism: Matt Broshar reported the committee is working on three Presbytery grants at \$1,500 each like those we’ve received previously at \$3,000 each. **Motion prevailed** to request a \$1,500 each grant from Presbytery for Wells for Sudan, Jonathan’s House lunch program in Central African Republic and MorningStar Missions in Honduras. Dave Freel reminded people to support taking evening meals to the King family. They are looking at doing some clean-up work at the King home following the storm and are helping clean-up Mavis Gray’s trees and yard. They want to get a group to help clean up things around the church grounds. They will discuss this with Jon Rottink and Don Feld, Property Committee chairman, for things they need to have done.

Worship & Music: Wynona Anderson reported the outdoor service they’d planned at Grimes Farm was cancelled due to the derecho storm and so many

trees down there. Real bouquets of flowers are being used on the altar since people have signed up to sponsor them. The Deacons are encouraged to come get the bouquets and take to someone.

The sub-committee continues to meet to determine a safe way to proceed with reopening the church. The committee is not ready to open the church for Sunday services.

Christian Ed: Doug Bacon reported that Sunday school continues on-line. They are discussing how they can do Wednesday Club in the fall.

A & P: Richie Ritter reported and discussed reopening the church. Richie is contacting all the staff to see how they are doing. He will meet with Pastor Tom Bower to finalize paperwork on his contract to preach at the church for three months while Pastor Rich King recuperates from a stroke. He will meet with Rich and Valerie King to get their input and update regarding Rich’s recuperation.

Membership & Involvement: No report.

Property: Don Feld reported two of the air conditioners on the Gathering Place were blown over during the derecho and Ethington’s was called to get the air conditioners set upright and restarted. They changed filters in the furnaces in the Gathering Place. Cowan’s Roofing has been contacted to look at the church and Gathering Place roofs. Don has installed a foot pedal on the inside of the bathroom doors by Fellowship Hall, so people don’t have to touch the door handles when leaving the bathrooms. They discussed applying for a \$5,000 grant from Presbytery. **Motion prevailed** to have the committee apply for the \$5,000 grant from Presbytery. Don will contact Jeannie Stolee at the N. Central Iowa Presbytery office to get more information and fill out the grant application.

Motion prevailed to keep the church closed until the September 15, Session meeting. A week or two will be needed before the church is opened for training of ushers and greeters. The group will continue to meet weekly on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. via Zoom until they are able to open the church safely.

Other: Purchasing a four-channel system to project the services in the Fellowship Hall was left on the table to be discussed at a future Session meeting.

Rev. Tom Bower closed the meeting with prayer at 8:15 p.m.



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 OCT. 2020 information is due Monday, Sept. 21, 2020 for anyone wanting to submit an article.



Reminder:

Sept. 7—Labor Day - Office Closed

Sept. 11—Patriot Day

Sept. 13—National Grandparents Day

Sept. 15--Deacons

Sept. 15—Session

Sept. 22—First Day of autumn

September 2020 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 Jinita Boyd Susan Turbiville | 2 James Reed | 3 Matt Tullis | 4 Char McGrew | 5 Bill Eilers |
| 6 | 7 Kelsey McKibben Jim Mosher Cary Nason | 8 Marvin Hawkins Irene Sheeler Steve Strand | 9 | 10 Bea Lebuda | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Rose Muschick | 15 Quinn Flack Bryce King | 16 | 17 | 18 Hank Bradbury Rose Elsbecker Barb Hawkins | 19 Julie Batterson Karin Podhajsky Naysa Rottink Cathy VanStaalduine |
| 20 Dick McBride | 21 Reese Buschbom Madelyn Irvine | 22 Joan Gerbo Jim Grimmus Case Hegeman | 23 | 24 Loren Vogt | 25 David Butler Ross Turbiville | 26 Margaret Meyer |
| 27 Laura Johnson | 28 Diane Oleson Blake Ostrem | 29 Blair VanStaalduine | 30 | | | |

| | Sept. 6 | Sept. 13 | Sept. 20 | Sept. 27 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Worship Leader... | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Greeters..... | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Fellowship Hosts.. | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Cup Washers..... | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Nursery..... | _____ & _____ | _____ & _____ | _____ & _____ | _____ & _____ |
| Deacons..... | Roger & Donita Anders | Jackie Hughes & Susan Lawyer | Rhonda Buzbee & Barb Schrum | Brenda Miller & Carole Permar |
| Donuts | No Donuts | No Donuts | No Donuts | No Donuts |
| Flowers | No Alar Flowers | No Altar Flowers | _____ | _____ |
| Ushers | FIRST SUNDAY | SECOND SUNDAY | THIRD SUNDAY | FOURTH 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 |
| Usher Alternates in alphabetical (9:00 a.m. – All Year) | Bonnie Bradbury Roger Bristley Doug Butler Jim Grimmus | Craig Henze Pat Kremer Doris Langenbau Orlyn Langenbau | Dennis Ostrem Tracy Ostrem LaVern Paul Harlan Quick | Yasuyo Smith Barb Vovos |
| | | | Marcia Quick Jerry Schaudt Brenda Severson Don Smith | |

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER 2020

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | 1 9:00am Staff Meeting Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people. 5:30pm – A & P Zoom Meeting 7:30pm – CE Zoom Meeting | 2 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people. 6:15p Family Night Blessing the Backpacks @ church parking lot 7:00pm - Church Reopening – Zoom Mtg. | 3 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people. 7:00p – Property Committee Meeting via Zoom | 4 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people. | 5 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people. |
| 6 9:00 a Worship - online Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people. | 7 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people 6:30p W & M/Zoom 7:30p CE Meeting - Zoom | 8 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people | 9 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people | 10 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 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people |
| 13 9:00 a Worship - online 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 5:00p – Finance via Zoom | 15 9:00am Staff Mtg. 7:00 p.m. Session-Zoom Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people | 16 Tentative Schedule Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people 6:15p Family Night – Live streamed | 17 Newsletter Articles Due Tentative Schedule Tentative Schedule 8:30 am Flapjacks 12:00p.m. Oasis 12:00p Pastor's Prayer Grp. | 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 Tentative Schedule 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15a Fellowship Time 10:30a -Sunday school – all ages | 21 Tentative Schedule Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people | 22 Tentative Schedule Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people | 23 Tentative Schedule Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people | 24 Tentative Schedule 8:30 am Flapjacks 12:00p.m. Oasis 12:00p Pastor's Prayer Grp | 25 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people | 26 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people |
| 27 Tentative Schedule 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15a Fellowship Time 10:30a -Sunday school – all ages | 28 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people | 29 Church building is closed to everyone except staff & a few worship people. | 30 | | | |