

The Good News of First Presbyterian Church

Marshalltown, Iowa
641-753-5929

Volume 86, No. 2
March 2, 2021

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*.

March Memory Verse

*"I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn
your ear to me and hear my prayer."*

Psalms 17:6

Words of Wisdom from Rev. Tom Bower



A friend recently wrote to me, expressing optimism about the church after Covid. He said:
"While COVID looks like it hurt the church, the reverse is happening. A pastor with an audience of between 50 or 60 people, has an audience of between 150 – 300 on Facebook or YouTube every week. One church of 5,000 in Texas had between 500,000 to 700,000 people view their Easter service. God is moving – God is igniting Holy Spirit fires in people's hearts around the country."

I'm not sure where my friend gets his data, but I'd love more than anything to think he is right and that there could be revival among us. It's great to picture positive outcomes from the coronavirus, for the church, and for our lives going forward.

There is, of course, another possibility. It is that people, now accustomed to staying away from the church, will not come back, or come back half-

heartedly. I don't think that is pessimism; rather that may be realism that we need to pay attention to.

Yes, there will be outcomes from the pandemic. We may be looking at "new normals" in many areas of our lives: in finances, in politics, in education, in medical care, in travel and recreation – as well as in the church and in our witness for Christ.

I have confidence that God is still the shepherd and that we, God's sheep, can learn lessons in all of our circumstances.

Perhaps the following are lessons for us:

***Valuing of relationships.** Our world is increasingly a place of distraction and superficiality. We long for a deep sense of belonging and communion with one another. We have the opportunity to reflect on how much we miss encountering others face-to-face without fear or danger.

***Surrendering to God.** Many short-term plans have not been feasible and every day brings new questions and uncertainties. Lack of control can be disorienting. We can take our doubts and fears and frustration to the Lord.

***Respecting all Human Life.** This pandemic experience has the opportunity to help us put aside differences and unite us in a greater goal of preserving human life. Life is very frail and is an incredibly precious gift. As we seek to regard and acknowledge life as a gift, let us remember St. Paul's exhortation: "We hold this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing power may be of God and not from us" (2 Corinthians 4: 7). God is the giver of every life, and we invite the Lord to help us to learn these spiritual lessons during this difficult time.

-Rev. Tom Bower

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 14. Turn your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday evening, March 13. Be sure to check the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.



Missions News



We look forward to our 1st meeting, as the 2021 Mission and Evangelism Committee on March 1st. Thank you all for your prayers and support to the missions of our church. It is easy to feel weary in this time of struggle. Even in times like these, maybe because of times like these, there is some much good we can do!

"So let us not become tired of doing good; for if we do not give up, the time will come when we will reap the harvest." Galatians 6:9

---Amy Drummer

Laud & honor on Palm Sunday

The Palm Sunday anthem "All Glory Laud and Honor" is one of Christendom's oldest hymns. St. Theodulf of Orleans, who helped reform the church under Charlemagne, wrote the lyrics in the year 820 while imprisoned in France.

The lyrics recount Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, an event the medieval church reenacted every Palm Sunday. Clergy and townspeople processed from fields through the city gates, behind a Jesus figure riding a donkey. At the gates, children began singing the hymn in Latin — *Gloria, laus et honor* — and onlookers soon chimed in.

City gates may be a thing of the past, as the website Hymnary.org notes, yet we still praise our blessed Redeemer "because we know just what kind of King he was and is — an everlasting King who reigns not just in Jerusalem but over the entire earth. What more could we do but praise him with glory, laud and honor."

*All glory, laud and honor to you, Redeemer, King,
to whom the lips of children made sweet
hosannas ring.*

*You are the King of Israel and David's royal Son,
now in the Lord's name coming, the King and
Blessed One.*

Easter Lily Orders



It is time to order an Easter lily to put in the Sanctuary. You may sponsor one or more of the approximately 40 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 9:00 worship service Easter morning. You might take your plant to someone who you think would enjoy receiving it.

Please return this form to the church office with your check by Sunday, March 28, 2021.

Check one: _____ in memory of _____ in honor of

Given by: _____

Mosaics

With the return to in-person worship, it is time to turn in your mosaic coloring pages. We will finally get to see the whole picture! Please put your name on the back or in the corner so we can assemble the mosaics when they are returned. Thank you to everyone who has already returned their squares. 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



Circle News



Elizabeth Circle will resume meeting presuming it is safe to do so on **Thursday, March 11, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Lower Lounge.

Sarah Circle: Contact Jinita Boyd (641-485-4147) for information about their March meeting.



Snow Pile Play Time

Seven children and youth had some fun on the massive parking lot snow pile Saturday, February 20th. They spent their time climbing, sliding, digging tunnels, making snowmen, and just having fun. Thank you to Garry Rottink for bringing so many tools, Jackie Hughes for snow man expertise, and Thomas Wilkinson for digging and preparing snack and hot cocoa packs for the kids to take home.



Financial Report for JAN.

JANUARY 2021	Actual
Total Receipts	\$28,883.00
Budget	41,143.00
Total Expenses	(\$40,104.00)
Budget	(48,731.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$28,883.00
Budget	41,143.00
Difference	(12,260.00)
Total Expenses	(\$40,104.00)
Budget	(48,731.00)
Difference	8,627.00

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



The altar flower sign-up is underway. Please call or email the church office to request a date to sponsor flowers for the 2021 year. There are many dates in March and April still available.

March 5, 2021 is World Day of Prayer



Norwegian theologian Ole Hallesby described prayer as simply letting God into our lives. God “knocks,” he said, “not only in the solemn hours of secret prayer” but “in the midst of your daily work, your daily struggles, your daily grind ... when you need him most.”

Prayer, added Hallesby, is as essential to life as air. “As impossible as it is for us to take a breath in the morning large enough to last us until noon, so impossible is it to pray in the morning in such a way as to last us until noon,” he said. “Let your prayers ascend to [God] constantly, audibly or silently, as circumstances throughout the day permit.”



“Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone’s heart.”

—Mandy Hale



“No pain, no palm; no thorns, no throne; no gall, no glory; no cross, no crown.”

—William Penn

Awesome Presbys

Awesome Presbys are an amazing group of young people! They are curious, they care about others, and they like to help out. They are doing a Lenten study on the heart, basically learning what Lent is about. Meeting via Zoom has been hard, but it has also led to deeper conversations than would be had in our “normal” pre-pandemic meetings.

Sunday School



The Sunday school children have learned the Lord's Prayer and shared it with the congregation during worship. They also learned about the Lord's

Supper and why Jesus washed his disciples' feet. The children will learn more parts of the Easter story in March. There will be a Sunday school Zoom on March 14th. Thank you to **Roger Anders, Wynona Anderson, and Thomas Wilkinson** for recording video lessons in February.



Wednesday Club to Go

Wednesday Club to Go will begin again on March 3rd. There will be opportunities to help by providing snack and delivering bags. Please be praying for this ministry and the children and volunteers who will take part. We will be focusing on the Easter story this spring. If you would like to provide pre-packaged snacks for the Wednesday Club kids or deliver bags on Wednesdays @ 5:00pm, please contact Michelle. The program will run for eight weeks.



Where have you seen God lately?

Six deer browsing in a field
Watching a rabbit flop in the snow
The ice melted off the sidewalk
Airport cart
Children playing in snow
Warm weather
Pets
Money on an old gift card
Computer reset button



our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of February: **Sue Bryant, Chuck Hughes, Jackie Hughes, and Bert Tice.**

To **Don Feld** for doing the unpleasant job of clearing out the elevator sump pump pit to get the pump running again.



Thank you for the cards, letters, thoughts, and prayers for my knee surgery and recovery. Thank you also for the beautiful flowers.

-Diane Oleson

We wish to thank the church for the memorial they sent and also for all the good food that was prepared and delivered. It is so much appreciated. Also the calls and visits that Pastor Tom made. We've always felt blessed to be a part of the church.

-God bless, John Bailey family

Thank you for the prayers, cards, calls, and plants. Thank you to the Deacons for the gorgeous altar flowers. They really brightened my day. Thank you also to Pastor Tom for his many calls. My recuperation is slower than I had anticipated.

-Nancy Diggins

Keith & Diane Oleson offer their appreciation and gratitude to Tom, Jon, Michelle, Wynona, and others for all they do to "keep 1st Pres. going."

Ed Jackson wishes to thank "those who take part in streaming the service to us...they are to be congratulated for their dedication and skills in providing this service to us."



The comfort connection

Amid suffering, we might feel alone and wonder what good can come of it. But later we may discover ourselves equipped to serve precisely because of what we experienced.

Writer and civil rights activist James Baldwin stated: "You think your pain and heartbreak are unprecedented ... but then you read. [Books] taught me that the things that tormented me the most were the very things that connected me with all the



Comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

2 Corinthians 1:4

people who were alive or who had ever been alive.” Whether through books or direct human interaction, we often learn that our suffering connects us to other people and that our pain gains meaning by moving us to support someone else who’s hurting.

Paul writes of such connection: “Praise be to ... the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God” (2 Corinthians 1:3-4, NIV). May you share the comfort you have received from God with others in pain. As a bonus, along the way you’ll realize you’re not — and never have been — alone.



Dick Ploeger will celebrate his 93rd birthday on March 6. His family is arranging a card shower for him. Send Dick a birthday card at:

Edencrest-Beaverdale
3410 Beaver Ave. #115
Des Moines, IA 50310



The **Emergency Food Box** continues with its adjusted schedule. The open hours are 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. 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 **photo ID**. The Emergency Food Box address is **109 S. 3rd Street, Marshalltown (in parking lot of Elim Lutheran Church)**. Please phone if you have questions is **641-753-0486**.

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 during this difficult time.

We are always looking for Food Box volunteers. We have many different types of opportunities that are available, and we are very flexible in arranging times to fit your schedule! Contact: Cindy Staron, 752-4868.

Summer Camp

Resident summer camp will be offered this summer at Lakeshore Center on Okoboji. If you are interested, please visit the camp website <https://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org> and click on the summer camp tab. Camp can be a powerful experience in faith formation. Because of this, the CE committee has scholarships available to all children. For more information about camp, scholarships, or the new, improved registration process, contact Michelle.



FEBRUARY SESSION ACTIONS

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met via Zoom, February 16, 2021.

Moderator Rev. Tom Bower opened the Session meeting at 7:02 p.m. Wynona Anderson presented the devotions and prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion prevailed to approve the January 19, 2021, Session minutes.

PNC report: Terry Buzbee said the Pastoral Nominating Committee’s (PNC) Ministry Information Form (MIF) has been approved and sent to the denomination’s placement office. The committee has received some Pastor Information Forms (PIF), similar to a resume, already, and will begin sifting through them. The committee will also advertise in other ways in order to have a broad search. The committee asks for prayers for their work. It will take time, but Terry has confidence we will have a good outcome.

Staff reports were presented.

Finances: Matt Broshar presented the financials noting giving was down in January. The full per capita was paid that month, so there was a negative cash flow, but the balance remains healthy.

Finance/Stewardship: Matt reported the committee has not met.

Mission/Evangelism: Amy Drummer reported the committee will meet for the first time March 1.

Worship & Music: Wynona Anderson reported there will be no Ash Wednesday service. They are working to get lay leaders and people to sing hymns.

Christian Ed: Angie Pietig reported there was a survey out to guide how VBS is offered this summer.

A & P: Terry Buzbee reported the committee will focus on reviewing job descriptions, reviewing

pastor support, and working to update personnel files and processes. Pastor Tom spoke about Jon having been away the past week for health reasons.

Motion prevailed to authorize A&P to make decisions on behalf of session regarding Jon.

Membership & Involvement: No report

Property: Pat Hemming reported broadband issues with the Facebook livestream will get worse when we return to church so they are looking into changing the church's service provider. Hand sanitizer stations have been installed.

Church Reopening: Don Feld reported the committee decided to reopen February 21. It will take a lot of cooperation from everyone involved to work. Facebook livestream will continue. **Motion prevailed** to allow reopening.

Other: Motion to receive the 2020 Church Statistical Report **approved**.

Ron Kauffman will present the devotions for the March 2021 Session meeting.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was closed at 7:48 p.m. with prayer by Rev. Tom Bower and the group repeated the "Lord's 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.

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Youth & Families Director at jrottink@hotmail.com

Office Mgr./Editor at church@fpcmarshalltown.org

Christian Education Director at

michelle@fpcmarshalltown.org



March

Newsletter deadline with APRIL 2021 information is due Sunday, Mar. 21, 2021 for anyone wanting to submit an article.

Reminder:

Mar. 5 – World Day of Prayer

Mar. 7 – Third Sunday in Lent

Mar. 14 – Daylight Savings Time begins

Mar. 14 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mar. 16 – Deacons

Mar. 16 – Session

Mar. 20 – First day of spring

Mar. 21 – Fifth Sunday in Lent

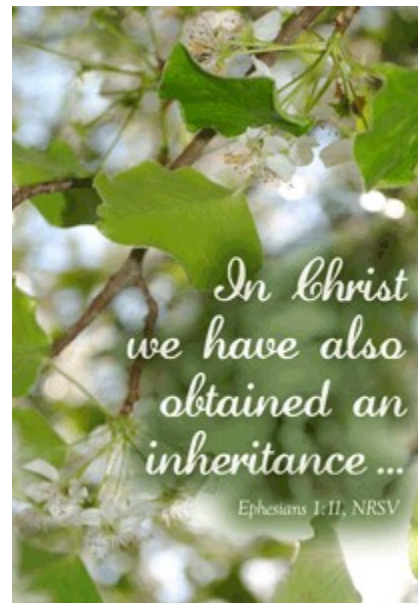
Mar. 28 – Palm Sunday

March 2021 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
MARCH  BIRTHDAYS	1 Joe Holubar	2	3 Dela Eklou Marlene Hall Ron Kauffman	4 Eva Dommer	5 Rhonda Buzbee	6 Hoke Farr Arion Hancock Dick Ploeger
7	8 Jessica Broshar-Severa	9	10 Koffi Tengue	11 Adam & John Johnson Memphis Reed	12 Donald Feld	13
14 Henry Johnson	15 Carolyn Bell Rich Lange	16 Brian Bacon Blessing Banissan	17 Isaiah Rottink Pat Stickfort	18	19 Liz Schrum Georgia Smith Jack Stickfort	20 Chad Tiller
21 Jenny Buschbom	22 Carolann Ballenger	23 LaVerne Paul	24 Don Smith	25 Scott Johnson Derek Peng	26	27 Chris Nason
28 Marcia Quick	29	30	31 Roger Schoell Lillian Tovar			



March 14



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MARCH 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30p CE Meeting - Zoom 6:30p W & M Meeting - Zoom 7:30p Missions Meeting - Zoom	2 10:00am Staff Mtg 6:30 M&I Committee - Zoom	3 5:00 – Wednesday Club to Go begins 6:00 Reopening Committee - Zoom 6:15p Family Night – Live Streamed Movie Night	4 7:00p Property Meeting – Zoom	5	6
7 9:00 a Worship - online 3 rd Sunday of Lent	8 5:00 A&P Meeting - Zoom	9 10:00am Staff Mtg.	10 5:00 – Wednesday Club to Go	11 Organ tuning	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Time begins – spring forward 9:00 a Worship - online 10:15a – Sunday school Zoom 4 th Sunday of Lent	15 6:00p – Finance via Zoom	16 10:00am Staff Mtg. 6:00 – Deacons- Zoom 7:00 p.m. Session- Zoom	17 5:00 – Wednesday Club to Go	18 2:00p First Pres serves at House of Compassion	19	20
21 Newsletter Articles Due 9:00 a Worship - online 5 th Sunday of Lent	22	23 10:00am Staff Mtg. Piano tuning	24 5:00 – Wednesday Club to Go	25	26	27
28 9:00 a Worship – online Palm Sunday	29	30 10:00am Staff Mtg.	31 5:00 – Wednesday Club to Go			



BIRDS IN THE WORD

The Bible mentions many kinds of birds. How many have you seen?

Directions: Unscramble the bird names, using the Bible references and pictures as clues. Then insert the final unscrambled bird name to complete the passage below.



VIDEO

____ (Genesis 8:8)



LWO

____ (Psalm 102:6)



GEELA

____ (Isaiah 40:31)



TOKRS

____ (Jeremiah 8:7)



APROSWRS

"Are not five _____ sold for
two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten
by God. ... Don't be afraid; you are worth
more than many _____."

LUKE 12:6-7, NIV

Answer: dove, owl, eagle, stork, sparrows

Puzzle!

Use the code to complete the blanks — and find out how God wants us to treat people.

CODE:



1,2 3 6 5 7,8 2,3 1 7,8 2,3

2 8 7 8,9 1 10 10 5 8 7,8 1 10,11 3

10,11 8 8 7,8 3 1 7,8 8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10'

3,4 8 9,10 4 5 11,12 5 7,8 4 3 1 2 4,5

8 10,11 4,5 3 9,10' 5,6 11 10 10,11 1 10

5 7,8 2 4,5 9,10 5 10 10,11 4 8 2,3

3,4 8 9,10 4 1 11,12 3 13 8 11'

EPHESIANS 4:32, NIV

Answer: Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32, NIV