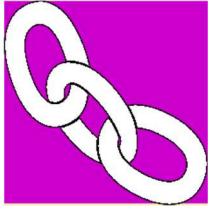


First Presbyterian Church

321 N. 5th St., Burlington, IA 52601

1stpresb@1stpresb.org

www.1stpresb.org



Connections

April 2023

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, April 2

Palm Sunday

Wednesday, April 5

Service of Tenebrae at 7PM

Thursday, April 6

Maundy Thursday
service at 7PM in
Edward's Chapel

Friday, April 7

Good Friday service
from 1-3PM in the
sanctuary

Sunday, April 9

Easter Day
Easter breakfast at
8AM, and morning
worship at 10AM.

Mission Committee Soup Supper

Thank you to all who supported or attended our 1st time Mission Soup Supper. It was a great success! We raised \$840 for more mission projects to be determined at a later date. A special thank you to Pat Saldeen, Pat Whitmore, Janet Calvin, Jill, Lily & Henry Nalley, Leona Byars, Brenda Fredericks, Bernie and Barb Garcia and Jeff Huddleston for ALL of your help to make this event happen.

Terri Huddleston
Moderator



Did you know?

Our neighborhood church, First Congregational recently put up a Little Free Pantry out in front of their building. They're looking for donations of paper products, baby food, baby wipes and diapers, and items of that nature. If you'd be willing to donate, just stop and drop them off. If you know someone who could use these items, spread the word.

Thank you for your generosity.





Post Easter Sermons

It will be a great celebration! Plans for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter have been in the works for months. In fact, these plans began as we were cleaning up from Christmas, putting the candles away and taking down the Christmas tree and wreaths. But after the Easter Lilies have been taken home and we have cleaned up from Easter breakfast, what then? Well, let me tell you what then.

Until Pentecost, the services and sermons are going to focus on the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus and the myriad of reactions people experienced when the thing they least expected happened. It was an unbelievable 50 days that rocked the disciple's world, and those who were shockingly thrust into the depths of grief. They all had gone to the mountaintop of hope with Jesus, only in a manner of a few hours on a hill outside Jerusalem's walls, to have those hopes die on a cross anchored in blood-soaked soil. While their hearts were broken and they were trying to get on with their lives, Jesus returns alive and well. He meets them on the highways and byways, the seashore and mountaintop, and to each, Jesus revives God's plan for establishing his kingdom. His plan was very much alive and now needed to be implemented.

The excitement of Easter never really ends as these post-resurrection appearances will show. In fact, the excitement has only just begun to build and grow.

April 16 Second Sunday in Easter

Psalm 118:14-24

John 20:11-18

"Beyond Her Control"

April 23 Third Sunday in Easter

Psalm 116:1-3, 10-17

Luke 24:13-32

"This R Us"

April 30 Fourth Sunday in Easter

I John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-29

"Seeing is Believing"

May 7 Fifth Sunday in Easter

Lord's Supper

Revelation 5:11-14

John 21:1-19

"Killing Worms Did Not Sound Fun"

May 14 Sixth Sunday in Easter

Genesis 1:1-2, 4a

Matthew 28:16-20

"What Should We Do Now?"

May 21 Ascension Sunday

Psalm 47:1-9

Acts 1:3-11

"From Passive Spectators to Active Witnesses"

Table for One

In April, our event will be held Wednesday, 4/26. Once again, Eva Ann Elmer will be our hostess. All are welcome!



Yum-Yums

This group meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. Watch your bulletins for more detail about the April gathering.



April Birthdays

- 1 - Janice Kemp
- 3 - Kenneth Logan
- 4 - Dal Thompson
- 6 - Laura Mehaffy
- 11 - Kelle Haller
- 13 - Charles Bell
- 16 - Sally Bell
- 18 - Mike Binks
- 22 - Jaxon Kunz
- 25 - Pat Saldeen

2nd Sunday Lunch

Join us at 8:00 a.m. on Easter Sunday for a festive breakfast. This will replace the 2nd Sunday lunch.

Check us out!!!

If you're unable to join us for worship in person, but still want to be part of the service check out our Facebook page. If you tune in on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m., you'll be able to watch the service LIVE! We tested it out last Sunday, and the service is on the page if you'd like to watch it. We'll be making this happen very soon, so check us out!!!



All-church birthday party

Sunday, March 26 was a very nice day of fellowship with our church family to celebrate everybody's birthday and bring a gift for the treasure chest. Thank you for the gifts you brought for the children in the SFCH cancer unit, they are all gifts that will bring hours of enjoyment to the children that receive them. Thank you for blessing them with your love. My sincere thanks to our Deacons for making this very special day possible.

Blessings - Janet.

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday begins on the most intense weeks in the Christian year – Holy Week. It is an emotional, spiritual roller coaster with three very powerful services taking place in a 72-hour period. We begin with the highest of highs - Jesus' entry into Jerusalem with Palms waving and people cheering.

Then comes Maundy Thursday – the Last Supper, betrayal and an arrest. But the lowest of lows is Friday. We call it “good,” which causes many to scratch their heads, because how can it be good when a man is publicly humiliated, whipped and tortured, nailed to a cross and dies? How can it be good when a stranger removes the lifeless body and places it in a borrowed grave? But the emotional roller coaster doesn't stop there, because there is an even more joyous high with Easter and the words, “He is risen!”

Holy Week is intense, and I am exhausted at the conclusion of services on Easter, but what an experience. I wouldn't trade it for anything, because every part of it has profoundly affected and shaped my life, and I'm sure I am not alone with that feeling and experience. That's why each of these services mean so much to me and why I have to plan and conduct them. That leads me to wanting to share something important about Good Friday.

This year, we're turning the calendar back 30+ years. It used to be on Good Friday the banks closed that day for 2-hours to allow their employees to attend a community service. For those 2-hours Protestants and Catholics alike assembled to observe Christ's seven last words. This year, from 1-3 p.m., we're holding a service to which everyone in the community is invited. They may come for all of it or parts of it as schedules allow, but we're inviting the Christian community to join together in remembering what Jesus said and felt and why. This becomes a time for the Christian community to come together, to share the tie that binds us together in and because of God's love in Jesus Christ. At a time when so much is pulling us apart, this becomes 2-hours when we can feel drawn together. I don't expect the banks to close and business to halt, but I am hoping that for whatever portion of that time, people will feel the need to “gather at the foot of the cross” and feel united in the sacrifice of Christ. He didn't come and die for just one denomination or another, but for all of God's children who believe and find their hope and life in Christ.

Would you please let people know everyone is invited and welcome? Put it on your Facebook page. Invite people because you want to let them know how special it is that you share this magnificent savior with them. Plan to meet them, sit with them, pray with them. Good Friday, April 7th, 1 – 3 p.m. at our church.



April Happenings...

Here are a few of the meetings and events happening at First Presbyterian in April. Please make note, and put them on your calendar if you're involved or wish to attend.

The **Mission Committee** will be a meeting after worship on Sunday, April 2.

Session meets on Sunday, April 16 after worship.

Deacons will meet after worship on Sunday, April 16.

Trustees will meet after worship on Sunday, April 30.

On Saturday, April 22 we'll be stewarding our fellowship hall to serve a meal to the Southeast Iowa Symphony prior to their concert that evening.

Dear friends,

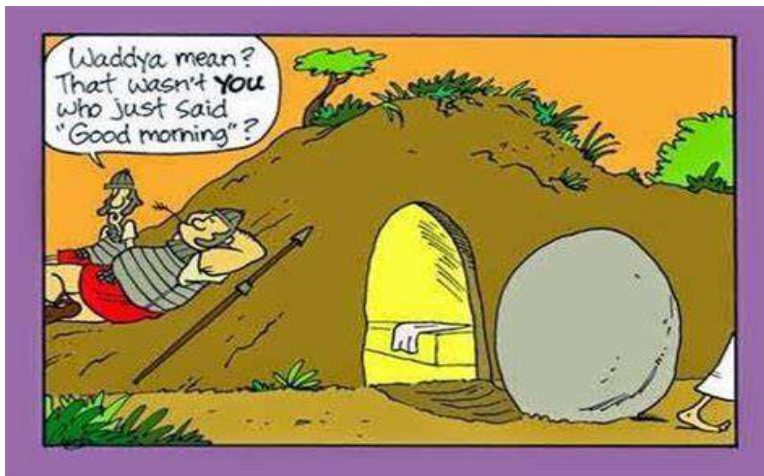
We are asking your help during the month of April in some "easy evangelism."

First, if you are on Facebook, please "like" any of the posts that come from the church, and, even better, "share" them. This simple act gets the word about the church to the community very easily.

Second, invite someone to come with you for Easter breakfast and to stay for church. That person could be a family member or neighbor or friend, or it could be a member whom you haven't seen in a while. Food always makes a great invitation!

Lastly, we will be hosting the Shoquoquon Children's Choir concert on Friday, April 28 at 7 pm. Randy needs your help as an usher, especially with help with the elevator, or a host at the reception following. The event will not be long, but this is a great way to show to the wider community our gracious hospitality.

Blessings during this month of April.
Pastor Dick and Randy



Meeting highlights

PASTOR'S NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Pastor Nominating Committee met on March 22nd and reviewed the latest group of Pastor Information Files that were matched to our church. We did not feel any of them stood out to meet the qualities our church is searching for. We also talked about the importance of meeting each month to keep in touch as a committee as we go forward.

Respectfully submitted,

MaryAnn McCartney
Chairperson

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM MARCH 12, 2023 MEETING

- The PNC continues their task of searching for a permanent pastor, reading PIF's and listening to sermons online.
- The Mission Committee has been busy with soup - collecting cash and soup on Super Bowl Sunday and hosting a soup supper in March. This summer they plan to continue giving food at the Farmer's Market but limit it to the third Thursday of the month and set up outside our church building, rather than on Jefferson Street.
- Worship seeks to be considerate of the world and each other: the palms to be used on Palm Sunday were ordered through an eco-friendly group and the number of Easter lilies in the sanctuary will be limited to reduce the effects of pollen and strong fragrance on those with sensitivities.
- Tech is pleased to announce that Michelle has gained access and will be updating the church Facebook page and also the church website. Check it out at www.1stpresh.org. There are hopes to try a method to record and post our church services online.
- Pastor Dick will be working with committees to outline their purpose, goals, and tasks to provide a framework for functioning purposely to do God's work. The building use policy was revised. Use of the building continues to require approval by session, and the church office will have the current stipulations.
- Session voted to move some members' names to the inactive list. More will be considered in the future. A member is always contacted in advance by letter or personal contact to determine their wishes regarding membership status.

Next session meeting will be April 16, 2023.

Carol Brotherson, Clerk of Session

Youth Happenings...

The Interdenominational Youth Group will be meeting on Sunday, April 16 at the Loft at First United Methodist Church. The youth will head over at 10:00 a.m. to cook a meal for the youth from all three churches. We are looking for two adults to join us and help with cooking. Please contact Millie if you are able to help.

On Sunday, March 19, the youth from 1st Presbyterian, First United Methodist and Zion UCC all participated in a skate party at Kenny's Roller Ranch. A good time was had by all! Here are a few pics...



**Minutes of the Annual Congregational Meeting
January 22, 2023
First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Iowa.**

The 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Burlington, Iowa, was held in the Sanctuary after worship service on January 22, 2023. The Moderator, Rev. Richard Johnson, opened the meeting at 10:58 a.m. with prayer.

A quorum was present.

JoAnn Williams, acting Clerk of Session, read the call for the meeting:

We are gathered for the 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting of First Presbyterian Church. The purpose of this meeting is to review and receive the reports of the officers, staff and committees of the Session, as well as the Deacons and Trustees. In addition, the Session will present the 2023 budget to be received by the congregation.

Rev. Richard Johnson referred everyone to the Annual Report, a copy of which is attached. Referring to Sections A, B, C and D, beginning on Page 3, we have the Pastor's Report, as well as the reports of each committee, including the Personnel Committee, Interim Pastor Search Committee, Nominating Committee, Christian Education Director, Minister of Faith & Worship, Hallelujah Handbells, Christian Education Committee, Yum Yums, Mission Committee, and Board of Deacons. Rev. Johnson pointed out that all committee moderators were present if there were any questions. No questions or comments were made by members present. A motion was made to accept all these reports, which motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Rev. Johnson then referred everyone to Section E of the Annual Report, including the Endowment Committee Report, Trustees Report, and the 2023 Operating Budget. Charles Bell, Moderator of the Trustees, came forward to present further information on the building maintenance and repairs required this year, as well as damage that has been sustained due to areas that need to be worked on. Extensive and expensive repairs need to be addressed in the near future, and the Trustees are focusing on items that will prevent further damage and expense if not corrected, as well as a long range capital improvement plan that will help in future budget development and financial decisions. A motion was made to accept the Reports for the Endowment Committee and the Trustees, which motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Charles Bell then presented the 2023 Budget which has been approved by Session. After a few questions were posed by members present and had been answered by Mr. Bell, a motion was made to accept the Budget, which motion was seconded and passed by unanimous voice vote.

Rev. Johnson then advised that we need to elect one member to serve on the Nominating Committee and requested nominations from the floor. Jim French was nominated by Patty French to fill this position. No further nominations were made, and a motion was made and seconded to close nominations. Election was then held, and Jim French was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee by unanimous voice vote.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved by voice vote, and Rev. Johnson closed the meeting with prayer at 11:19 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

JoAnn Williams
Acting Clerk of Session

Reverend Richard Johnson
Moderator

From your Minister of Faith & Worship...

As a young organ major in undergraduate school, I remember vividly the day when my teacher explained to me how we as organists make notes receive more emphasis. Unlike playing the piano, you cannot hit the keys any harder and receive any results. While we may maneuver the instrument mechanically through the use of swell shades (those louvered doors on the front of the organ case which work much like Venetian blinds), or by the adding or subtracting of stops, the way we make one note distinct from another, or more dramatic than another has little to do with the actual playing of the note itself. It has, rather, everything to do with the silence that precedes the note (and sometimes which also follows it).

For example, if I play several notes in a row that are the same pitch, using the same pipe, how does your ear tell you that the notes are different? It is the same pipe receiving a stream of air through it. The sole way that you can tell one note from another is the amount of silence that separates one from another. In order for one note to have more emphasis than those around it, it has to have a bigger silence preceding it.

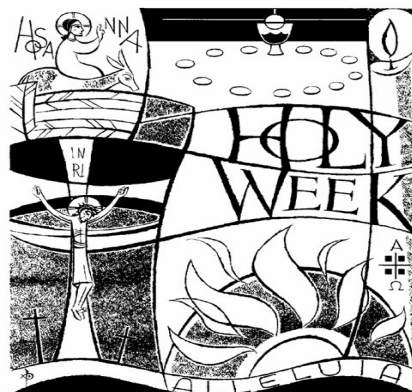
That phenomenon is much like our own spiritual lives. At our major celebrations, and the upcoming Easter celebration is the best example, we cannot possibly experience the “sound” of the Easter notes without the silence that comes before it. Can you actually experience a beautiful dawn without the darkness of night that precedes it? Is a special meal really special if all of our meals are feasts? I think not.

The Church is on the threshold of the yearly journey through the darkness. I do not believe that the glorious splendor of Easter is really all that glorious if we have not also entered into the dark silence of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, along with its “prelude” of the Tenebrae on Wednesday. They have been planned so that your own journey through the darkness of Holy Week might speak to each of you in your own way. I cannot urge you enough to try and make a very special attempt to attend as many of them as you can. Each of us needs to put away some of our individual “busyness” and center ourselves in the quiet of First Presbyterian Church during this very special and important time for us as Christians.

Each of us needs to be reminded of the importance of the sacrifice that God through Jesus Christ made for each of us in the events of Holy Week.

Come and join with us as we make our journey through the darkness, that we might truly see how gentle is the Lamb and exclaim in unbridled joy “The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia, Alleluia!”

Faithfully,
Randy+



BEL CANTO

(Italian: "beautiful singing")

The Shoquoquon Children's Choir

Friday, April 28, 7PM

First Presbyterian Church
321 North 5th St.
Burlington, IA 52601

Cory Byrne, Donna DeBose, Bobbi Huebner, and Randy Webster, Directors

The concert is free.

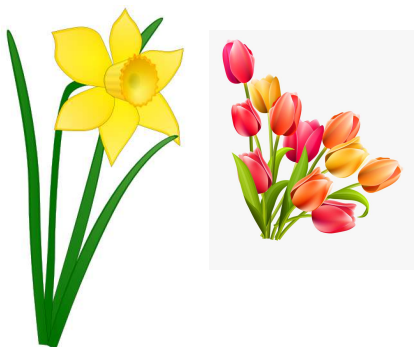
Beautiful music for voices, strings, harpsichord, organ, and piano.

Join us for a reception following the concert in Fellowship Hall.

Easter Flowers

Easter lilies are hard to find this spring, but a supplier has been located.

This year, the single bloom plants will be \$16 and \$38 for multiple-stem pots. Lilies for us in the sanctuary on Easter will have the following options. They must be ordered by Tuesday, April 4.



The options will be both single and multiple stem lilies, potted daffodils and potted tulips. Please contact the office by phone or email by Tuesday, April 4 if you'd like to order this year and we'll get a form filled out for you.

April

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 <i>PALM SUNDAY</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday school & Adult Ed. 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:15 a.m. Mission Comm.	3	4 Easter Flower orders due in office.	5 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Service of Tenebrae	6 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service in Edward's Chapel	7 1 - 3PM Community Good Friday service in the sanctuary	8
9 <i>EASTER SUNDAY</i> 8:00 a.m. Easter breakfast 10:15 a.m. Worship	10	11 National Pet Day	12 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	13	14	15 WORLD ART DAY
16 <i>2nd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday school & Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Youth to 1 st Methodist 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:45 a.m. Session 11:30 a.m. Deacons	17	18	19 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	20 6:00 p.m. Yum-Yums	21	22 EARTH DAY SEIA Symphony meal in Fellowship Hall
23 <i>3rd Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday school & Adult Ed. 10:15 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Trustees	24	25	26 7:15 a.m. Men's Bible Study 8:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study 5:30 p.m. Table for One	27 <i>Administrative Professional's Day</i>	28 Take your Son or Daughter to Work Day	29
30 <i>4th Sunday of Easter</i> 9:00 a.m. Sunday school & Adult Ed. 10:15 a.m. Worship	27	28	REMINDER: The deadline for submissions to the May Connections is Thursday, April 20. All entries must be in the church office by then. You're welcome to send an email, drop off your announcement, or mail it in. Thank you for your cooperation.			