

First Presbyterian Church

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Connections

June 2025



Pastor's Thoughts

Last year the Session approved a new Mission Statement along with how we were going to implement that statement. In the last four newsletters, I have sought to explain each of the four parts of that statement. This mission statement provides a focus for the types of ministries and missions we will invest our time, talents and resources in. What is self-evident is that First Presbyterian does not have the luxury of waiting for people to choose to come, attend and take part in ministry with us. This is not the culture our parents grew up in nor is the church the church of the 1940's and 1950's. There are so many different aspects of this culture that are having an effect on us, and unless we acknowledge these influences and adjust our perspective on what the church is and how the church needs to be involved in and with the culture, there won't be a church, here or anywhere else.

What is fascinating and comforting about all of this is that God says, "I am the same, yesterday, today and tomorrow." The gospel is not up for revision. To understand all of this, we have to be better students of God's Word as we chart the course of ministry and mission, letting the Word shape what we do. That means we must continue to find new ways to reach out to all the communities of people in and around Burlington and Des Moines County, as well as those wonderful, needy folk who live on the east side of the Mississippi River. And, like it or not, that means all the people, not just those we like or relate to or feel comfortable around.

The Session has encouraged the Mission Committee to reach out to any and all people, recognizing that every person is a child of God who will enjoy a richer life as a result of the love to be found in Jesus Christ. Everyone is enriched when all of God's blessed children worship, pray, play and work together. We, at First Presbyterian Church, embrace being a congregation that believes we are called to Diversity, Equality and Inclusiveness. Therefore, we will explore as often as possible any and all opportunities to let people know that our doors are open and all are welcome. That is what we call "Courageous Outreach." We're putting ourselves out there where we have no guarantee of anything. We're doing it because this is what our Lord expects of us.

One of the most public ways we will do this is by having floats in all of the community's parades. We have a magnificent story to share about Jesus Christ and the rich history of our church, stories that has made a tremendous impact on all of our lives. We know that Christ can do for others what he has done for each of us. Not everyone knows that, or, trusts that to be the case. So, we have to get out there in the world. We need to create relationships with new communities. We need to be open to the Holy Spirit, who has the power to take old things and make them new, who transforms lives by the renewal of minds.

Our next courageous outreach moment will be having a float in the Gay Pride parade in June. The Mission Committee is working on the theme for the float and you will be invited to take part in its creation, or if you choose, walk alongside the float in the parade. I know that there are some who might be anxious about our doing this, but First Presbyterian Church is not political. We're not red or blue, Republican or Democrat, liberal or conservative. We are Christian and we work from our theology and how we are instructed by scripture and our confessions.

In another separate article in this newsletter, I will explain the biblical basis for us to champion diversity, equality and inclusiveness. All of this may push some of you and your perception of the church, but please consider what God's Word has always been telling us and remains a loud voice in the shaping of our fulfillment of the "Great Commission" of going out into all the world to share Christ's name and Word, baptizing, teaching and bringing everyone into the household of faith.

Our Mission ...



Engage with the lost



Establish in faith



Equip to serve



Empower to go

Our Biblical/Theological Understanding of Diversity, Equality & Inclusiveness

Someone said, “life would be vanilla ice cream without 31 flavors of individuality.” The children’s song says, “red and yellow, black and white, we are precious in God’s sight. Jesus loves the children of the world.” We assume that everyone understands that the DNA of the Church of Jesus Christ rests in being diverse, advocating equality of all and that our strength rests in the inclusion of all people in the entire spectrum of the church’s life. However, that is not the case.

Christians do not know what D.E.I. means or realize it is the bread and butter of ministry. To put it simply, it’s about recognizing and celebrating the differences among us, as well as embracing everyone in our community, regardless of their background, race, or status. Jesus modeled inclusivity and respect throughout His ministry, and we are called to do the same.

Unity in Christ

In the journey of faith, we must remember that our differences make us unique, yet we are united in Christ. The Bible teaches us that in Him, there is no division based on ethnicity, gender, or social status. We, as believers, are all one body, supporting and loving each other. This unity does not erase our differences; rather, it enhances our understanding of God’s diverse creation. We are called to celebrate our differences while recognizing that our identity in Christ supersedes all else. Our relationship with God encourages us to strengthen our connection with one another, reflecting His love and grace. Here’s some scriptural evidence of that:

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” – 1 Corinthians 12:12

“Here there is no Gentile or Jew, neither circumcised nor uncircumcised, neither barbarian, Scythian, neither slave nor free, but Christ is all, and is in all.” – Colossians 3:11

“Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” – Ephesians 4:3

“So in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” – Romans 12:5

Love for Others

As we delve into Bible Verses About Diversity and Inclusion, we must embrace the commandment to love our neighbors wholeheartedly. God calls us to demonstrate love, empathy, and kindness towards everyone, regardless of their background. Loving others implies understanding their experiences and standing alongside them. We, as followers of Christ, can embody this love by seeking to understand those around us, fostering an environment where everyone feels valued and welcome. Love in action carries the power to break down barriers and unite us in community, transcending our differences in the process.

“The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” – Mark 12:31

“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.” – John 15:12

“And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.” – 1 John 4:21

“Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.” – Romans 13:10

“Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.” – 1 Peter 4:8

Acceptance and Hospitality

When considering what Diversity, Equality and Inclusiveness is, we must remember the power of acceptance and hospitality. God calls us to receive others warmly and offer genuine kindness to those who may be different from us. In practice, this means welcoming strangers, showing compassion, and being open-hearted towards everyone, regardless of their backgrounds. By cultivating a spirit of hospitality, we can provide a safe haven for those seeking a sense of belonging, ultimately mirroring the love of Christ in our actions. Our acceptance of others fosters community and strengthens the bonds that hold us together.

“Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.” – Romans 15:7

“Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” – Hebrews 13:2

“The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. I am the LORD your God.” – Leviticus 19:34

“And are well known for their good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, and helping those in trouble.” – 1 Timothy 5:10

“My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.” – James 2:1

God's Creation is Beautiful

In addition to acceptance and hospitality, we recognize that God's magnificent creation is diverse and beautiful. Every person carries unique traits, gifts, and experiences that enrich humanity. We are reminded that God handmade each of us, infusing purpose within our lives. Instead of viewing differences as obstacles, let us celebrate God's creativity in creating a world filled with variation and diversity. By appreciating the beauty in one another, we foster respect and understanding, heartening the spirit of inclusion and solidarity in our communities. Let's be vessels of encouragement, highlighting what makes each person special.

“I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.” – Psalms 139:14

“After this, I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne.” – Revelation 7:9

“So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” – Genesis 1:27

“These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; for my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.” – Isaiah 56:7

“Then Peter began to speak: ‘I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism.’” – Acts 10:34

The Call to Serve

When we discuss Diversity And Inclusion, we are also drawn to the call to serve one another. Jesus' life and teachings portray selflessness and willingness to help others. As we serve our diverse community, we create opportunities to connect with one another, discover shared experiences, and enact love. Serving those who are different from us not only meets physical needs but also strengthens relational bonds. We, as part of Christ's body, are called to use our unique gifts and talents to uplift and empower others, enriching both our lives and the lives of those we serve.

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” – Mark 10:45

“You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.” – Galatians 5:13

“Not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.”
– **Philippians 2:4**

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” – **Matthew 25:40**

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” – **1 Peter 4:10**

Empathy and Understanding

Of the many layers to Diversity, Equality and Inclusiveness, we must also recognize the importance of empathy and understanding. We must strive to listen and learn from those around us, fostering genuine relationships built on trust and respect. By stepping into others’ shoes, we can better appreciate their struggles and triumphs, allowing us to support each other more effectively. Our empathetic hearts lead us toward a deeper understanding of people’s stories and experiences, ultimately bridging gaps and fostering unity. Together, we can create an environment where differences are not only respected but celebrated.

“Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.” – **Romans 12:15**

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.” – **Colossians 3:12**

“Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.” – **1 Thessalonians 5:11**

“To answer before listening— that is folly and shame.” – **Proverbs 18:13**

“My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry.” – **James 1:19**

Seeking Justice

In this conversation, it’s essential that we also reflect on the call to seek justice. Our mission as Christians involves standing up for those who are marginalized and advocating for equality. God desires us to champion fairness and support those who have been treated unjustly. This doesn’t simply mean identifying wrongs; it means actively working toward solutions that embody His love and justice. By championing fairness, we not only reflect Christ’s character but also create a world where everyone has access to dignity and respect. Together, let’s commit to being voices for the voiceless.

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.” – **Micah 6:8**

“Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.” – Isaiah 1:17

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.” – Proverbs 31:8

“Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.” – Psalm 82:3

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free.” – Luke 4:18

Building Community

If it is true that variety is the spice of life, then we realize the vital importance of community. Our faith thrives within a robust fellowship where love is cultivated across diverse backgrounds. We are called to build communities that reflect God’s kingdom, welcoming each individual into our lives. These communities should be places of support, encouragement, and acceptance, where all people feel appreciated and valued. As we bond with one another, we nurture an environment rich in understanding and compassion. Together, we need to commit to creating a sanctuary of love that mirrors Christ’s unconditional love for each one of us.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” – Hebrews 10:24-25

“All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts.” – Acts 2:44-47

“Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.” – Ephesians 2:19

“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.” – Romans 14:19

“I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought.” – 1 Corinthians 1:10

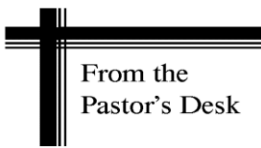
Final Thoughts

In surfacing all the scripture that speaks to diversity, equality and inclusiveness, we have unpacked the powerful messages that encourage us to unite in love and acceptance. Through each verse, we are reminded of our unique identities while embracing the oneness we have in Christ. God calls us to love our neighbors, cultivate empathy, serve with intention, and champion justice for those marginalized in society.

By fostering an inclusive community, we reflect God's heart to a world desperately in need of connection and kindness. Let us continue to grow together, celebrating the rich diversity in God's creation. When we stand together in love and understanding, we can make a lasting impact, sharing the hope that ultimately comes from Christ.

May we commit ourselves to openness, hospitality, and advocacy for justice—allowing our hearts and hands to vibrantly express the very essence of what it means to love one another deeply. Together, as one body of Christ, let us embody the principles found in God's Word, being beacons of hope in a diverse world.





June Sermon

June, July and August are months, when from the conclusion of school in May to the beginning of classes in August, kids go off the camp and families head off to the north, south, east and west on vacations. Families will gather for reunions, graduating classes with assembly to hail their time together in high school and college. And unfortunately, families and communities will gather for celebrations of life and to give witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as friends and loved ones remember someone who has passed away. Invariably, at each and every one of these occasions, stories will be a significant part of their time together.

Storytelling always involves the presentation of a story — a narrative. They can be funny or scary, the truth or exaggerations. They can be rooted in the past or send the listener into the future. My dad put me to bed every night when I was young with a story that he made up spontaneously. But no matter where, how, why or what, stories always require the use of imagination. Stories trigger the theatre of the mind where each listener imagines the characters playing out their parts in living color, and the better the story teller, the more vivid the imagination becomes. It triggers emotions and becomes a tie that binds that community together. Each story becomes a unique and personal experience as each listener recalls experiences from their own life and where they were and what they were doing. There has never been a culture that has not told stories. For thousands of years the history and stories that we call the Old Testament were passed down from one generation to another until finally written down for posterity.

The greatest of all time story-teller was Jesus. Through the use of parables, he told hard and difficult truths. Through stories, he made it possible for people to relate to and understand that which was inconceivable – like God sending a human being into the world to die to save all humankind from their sin. Through stories he broke the barriers of prejudice and intolerance, explained in plain language forgiveness, mercy, grace and love.

Each Sunday this summer we're going to center our worship on the stories Jesus told. We're going to lift up the "Top-Ten" parables that have been the bread and butter of many a Sunday School teacher. The hymn writer wrote, "I love to tell the story of Jesus and his love." Well, in a campfire-like way, we're going to allow the Spirit to take us into the theatre of the mind as we share the stories of Jesus and God's phenomenal love of each of us.

June 1	Theme: Our Role as Prophets"	Communion
Text:	John 8:21-32	
Title:	"The Truth Shall Set You Free"	
Video:	"Hey Church"	
	"This is My Body"	

June 8	Theme: "Once Upon a Time"
Text:	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
Title:	"Let's Talk About Dirt"
Video:	"Habits"
June 15	Theme: "Once Upon a Time"
Text:	Luke 10:25-37
Title:	"The Definition of True Love"
Video:	"Created"
June 22	Theme: "Once Upon a Time"
Text:	Luke 15:11-32
Title:	"Turning Back to the Light"
Video:	"In Every Season"
June 29	Theme: "Once Upon a Time"
Text:	Matthew 13:31-35
Title:	"It Only Takes a Spark to Get a Fire Going"
Video:	"Get Up and Walk"



Being a Welcome Table

I didn't grow up singing a lot of African-American spirituals, well except for the "standards." During my seminary days I encountered one that spoke volumes to me. Its title is "Welcome Table." It served as one of the parish's community songs during the ten years I served Christ Church in Belleville, New Jersey. When we arrived, the congregation was a small struggling all-white congregation in the center of a radically racially-diverse community. Within a year we had attracted a number of gay and lesbian members and African-American folk, along with Spanish-speaking men and women. On one occasion the following summer we held a picnic in the yard, one long table with white folk sharing hot dogs with black folk, people in Ghanaian dress sharing watermelon with new gay and lesbian members, and I was struck by the image of a long welcome table where everyone had a place.

The verses read "I'm-a gonna eat at the welcome table someday... Here the world will find a welcome someday... We're gonna feast on milk and honey someday..." The spiritual brings to mind the image of a great feast showing God's welcome of all people as a part of the Jewish tradition (Isaiah 25:6-9) and underlies Jesus' parable of the Great Banquet (Luke 14:15-24, even though such equality still remains unknown to many people today, just as it was to the slaves who created the spiritual.

Writing this reflection is one of the hardest things I've done. As a gay man I can understand first-hand just what it feels like to not have a place at God's welcome table. The world, and especially our own country, is struggling right now with the concept of patriarchy, that concept that the world revolves around white straight men (who speak English) as the center of the world. The conversation, if we choose to use that word, is about power and control, about who has it and who doesn't. Jesus had much to say about power and control. As a gay man I have been the subject of much conversation about that. I've had the Bible used as a weapon against me. I've had people tell me that I "made a wrong choice in choosing my 'lifestyle.'" And that I certainly was not a beloved child of God, despite the fact that I had received baptism and confirmation, not once but twice.

The early church, while it lived in the midst of a patriarchal society, saw slaves as brothers and sisters in Christ, and we know that there were women priests and bishops. It wasn't until Nicaean Christianity became the state religion in the mid-third century, that it began to become patriarchal itself. Human nature likes to have a hierarchy of importance, and we instinctively like to have people to "look down on," and have through history used verses from the Bible to "keep them in their place." We've done it to slaves and later to people of color, we've done it to women (I can well remember when Florence Adolph was elected the first Woman elder here at First Presbyterian Church),

and more recently of gays and lesbians (I remember the trial of Bishop Walter Righter, charged with ordaining a gay man as a Deacon). Currently, the social group to look down on are transgendered folk. A little secret: until you've really known some, sat down with them and shared their life stories and their concerns, and ministered to them, you've never really known them. I have as a priest, and I can tell you that, while there are many things I don't understand, there's at least one thing I do know—not a single one is anything less than a beloved child of God.

Our country is full of so much hate right now as white folk try to keep hold of an ever-decreasing majority of both power and control, many who do not know people of color, or gays or lesbians, or the transgendered, but make damning blanket statements based on what they've heard from the news media (who have their own agenda) and I have to speculate that God, who created everyone in God's image, is not pleased. If we have anything to be really concerned about, that's probably the more important issue.

It's perhaps interesting to write this in the month that we observe both Juneteenth and Gay Pride Month. Juneteenth remembers the day that the news of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation reached the people of Galveston, Texas and every black person was officially free in this country. Gay Pride Month recognizes the continuing trials and the contributions of gay men and women in this country. The Session has authorized a presence in the local pride celebration. I imagine that some of us may have trouble with it, and I'm sorry for that. We are all in some stage of that journey. Know that I'm always willing to share my story and my journey with you, the heartaches (especially from the actions of people in former days here at First Presbyterian Church), the coming to terms with who God made me, and that God has always and continues to call me a beloved child. While you may not want to believe it, the greatest thing that you can give many of the parade attendees is the knowledge that God does, in fact, love them, because so many have been beaten up by people wearing the name of Jesus Christ, using the Bible as an instrument of hate rather than love and reconciliation, and that there are places with welcome tables in this world.

Blessings to each of you in this month of June!

Randy+



Chapel Progress

Below is a photo on the progress happening in the Chapel! Work should be completed in about 3 weeks! Thank you to Doyle Ruble for submitting the photo!



Second Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, June 8, following the morning service

An Overture to Father's Day

The luncheon is free, and your generous donations help to cover the cost of the meal.





Sunday School



Our Youth Sunday School wrapped up on May 18 for the school year! Check back in the fall for when Youth Sunday School returns!



Choir Sings!

Below is a photo of our choir singing in church one Sunday in May! Members from left to right: Eva Ann Elmer, Brenda Frederick, Sandy Walz, Pat Whitmore, Vickie Carhoff, and Randy Webster on Piano! Thank you to Mary McAllister for submitting the photo!





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June Birthdays

- 03 – Michael Carhoff
- 04 – Allison Nalley
- 05 – Marin Mehaffy
- 07 – Susan Hoisington
- 08 – Wendy Bell
- 12 – Wilma Hemphill
- 13 – Sandy Russell
- 17 – Cheryl Lotz
- 20 – Gary Hadenfelt
- 25 – Matthew Briggs

2nd Sunday Luncheon

Sunday, May 11,
following morning service!

An Overture to Father's Day

Please Join Us!

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



Table for One

Our March event will be held Wednesday, 5/7 @ 5:30p.m. @ Eva Ann Elmer's home @ 1431 Cambridge Dr. #301 Burlington, IA (Will be serving Chicago dogs!)

Yum-Yums

News from Yum Yums. A group of 17 church members and friends enjoyed good food and fellowship at Fort Colony Inn in Ft. Madison, IA on Wednesday, May 21. Those attending, chose to go to Fat Jimmies in Montrose, IA on Wednesday, June 18 @ 5:30pm. We will meet at Fareway for carpool @ 5:00pm. If you have any questions, call or text Sandy Russell @ 319-572-6124



Aloha



Meeting Highlights

All of our Holy Week services went well, communion was served to 67 on Easter Sunday. Thank you to Pastor Dick and Pastor Randy for making all our services so meaningful!

The Trustees have reported that the tower restoration crew is back working on finishing the tower. They will be finishing the tuck pointing and filling the holes where the scaffolding was attached to the building. Next, they will wash the tower and seal it. That will complete the tower work. They will be scraping, painting and fixing the rotten sills on the higher windows on the north, west, and south sides of the building. These are the windows in the choir room that are in bad shape.

A big thank you to everyone who helped on the church's clean-up day.

Mission Committee has been busy, they are planning on serving a meal to the Burlington Police Department on Wednesday, May 21 at noon. They are also over-stocking the Food Pantry in anticipation of increasing demand.

We heard a report from the Nominating Committee, openings on Session and Trustees have been filled, but we are still needing people to serve on the Deacons. If you're interested, please contact someone on the Nominating Committee. Members are Jim French, Pat Saldeen and Brenda Frederick.

A special Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, May 25 after church. Installation of new officers will be held Sunday, June 8.

The next Session meeting will be Thursday, June 5, 2025 at 1 P.M.

Cheryl Lotz, Clerk of Session





A Thank You from Matthew Briggs

Dear FPC & Deacons,

Thank you very much for the gracious cards & the generous gift card. I appreciate your correspondence & thinking of me. I have just finished my 1st year at Iowa Law & I will be working in Des Moines over the summer before returning to Iowa City for my 2nd law year. As you said, law school is quite the journey, but I am confident this is the path for me. Thank you again for your thoughts & support & thank you for the meals!

Sincerely,
Matthew Briggs

A Thank You from Eva Ann Elmer

Dear Fellow Worshipers,

I want to thank each of you for your thoughts, prayers, & cards during my recent surgeries!! This has been quite the journey!!

In Christian love,
Eva Ann Elmer

A Thank you from Dick Wells

I would like to thank the Deacons and members of First Presbyterian Church for the phone calls and cards, wishing me a speedy recovery after my fall.

I appreciate all of you very much.

Dick Wells

A Thank you from Wendy-Office Administrator

I want to thank you all for the prayers for my oldest son, Dominick, who had sprained his ankle at the end of May. I am happy to report that he is now out of his boot and off his crutches! He has to have some Physical Therapy to strengthen his ankle. He is doing well!

Sincerely,
Wendy

KNITWITS

The Knitwits will meet at the church, **June 4, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.**

The group meet for about one hour and knit and/or crochet prayer shawls or lap throws. Do you know of someone who is low in spirits; has lost a loved one, companion or friend; has health issues; or just needs to know that they are loved and appreciated? Do you know of someone who is celebrating a joyous occasion such as a birthday or anniversary? The Church sanctuary has a variety of prayer shawls or lap throws; and they are FREE for the taking by anyone.

The Knitwits welcome anyone who would like to join our Prayer Shawl Ministry.

God's grace be upon you:

May this shawl be a sign of God's loving, healing presence.

May it warm you when you are weary

May it encourage you when you are discouraged.

May it assure you of God's care and comfort.

May it remind you that you are surrounded by the prayers of others.



Missions Is Up To Doing Good

Mission Committee Upcoming Meeting

The Mission Committee plans to have its monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:00 noon. Bring a sack lunch. June 5 next meeting.

A shout out to Jim Erickson and his friend, Tim, for collecting food from the postal workers for local food pantries! In return, our pantry received many bags from United Way! So, Thanks, Jim & Tim!

The Mission Committee

The Mission Committee wishes to thank those who provided food for the Burlington Police Department and the lunch served on May 21, 2025. Your help was greatly appreciated! Below is a few photos!

The Mission Committee

Special Thank You to Brenda Frederick for coordinating the Burlington Police Department luncheon on May 21st!



The Mission Committee



Shepherd's Table Menu

Shepherd's Table is on the last Wednesday of the month from 4:30pm-6:00pm
hosted by First Congregational Church & First Presbyterian Church
at 313 N. 4th St. Burlington, IA. This is a free meal.

Below is the menu for June-July 2025!

Red-Presbyterians
Blue-Congregationalists



June 25-
Beans and franks
Dessert
Cornbread
Pasta Salad

July 30-
Spaghetti
Garlic Bread
Fresh Salad
Dessert

America! Of Thee I Sing

*The Silver Singers present
music for Independence Day,
a family friendly event.*



Saturday, June 28 at 4 pm

The sanctuary of
First Methodist Church
421 Washington Avenue
Burlington, Iowa
Afterglow to follow.

Announcements!



Wendy will be out of the office for a little while or early on a few days this month. Please see the calendar for when this will occur. A reminder email will be sent out a day or 2 before as well. This is mostly due to Physical Therapy appointments for Wendy's oldest son's ankle.

As of the morning of Tuesday, June 3, our Tower work has been completed in full! Thank you to Renaissance Restoration for all their hard work!

Father's Day is on Sunday, June 15th this year. Happy Father's Day to all the Father's!

Farmer's Market on Thursday, June 19 from 4:30pm-6pm. If you or someone you know is struggling and in need of food, come on down or send them down and get a bag of food!

Yum Yums will meet on Wednesday, June 18 at Fat Jimmies in Montrose, IA @ 5:30pm. Carpool meets at Fareway @ 5pm.

Shepherd's Table is on Wednesday, June 25 from 4:30pm-6pm at First Congregational Church. This is a free meal and open to the public.

We will have a float in Pride on the Riverfront's Parade on Saturday, June 28 @ 10am.

Silver Singers presents "America! Of Thee I Sing" @ 4:00pm @ The First Methodist Church in the Sanctuary. Afterglow to follow.

Live Streaming our Worship Services

Can't make it to Sunday service? No problem! Every Sunday service is live streamed on Facebook! Please join us! Just go to Facebook on your phone, tablet, or computer and navigate to our Facebook page!

If you have not yet watched a Facebook service, or don't know how, locate Facebook on your phone, tablet or computer, search for First Presbyterian Church of Burlington, Iowa, and then sit back and enjoy. The weekly bulletin is being provided via e-mail so you can follow along and take part as you wish. Comments are appreciated.





June 2025



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 7th Sunday of Easter 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship	2	3	4 8:30am Bible Study Mission Mtg@noon <u>KnitWits</u> meets @ 10am <u>Table 4 One</u> meets @ 5:30pm @ Eva Ann Elmer's home. Serving Chicago Dogs	5 Session Meets @ 1pm	6 	7
8 Day of Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship 2nd Sunday Luncheon	9 JUNE 9 IS DONALD DUCK DAY! 	10	11 8:30am Bible Study	12 Wendy out of office early at 11am.	13 Office Closed Early @ 3pm	14
15 The Holy Trinity 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00a.m.Worship Deacon's Mtg. 	16	17	18 8:30am Bible Study Yum Yums! Fat Jimmies in Montrose, IA @ 5:30pm; Carpool meets @ Fareway @ 5pm	19 <u>Farmer's Market @</u> <u>the Church</u> 4:30-6pm Wendy in office late and out of office between 10am- 10:45am	20 Deadline For Connections	21 
22 2nd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship	23 Trustee's Mtg @ 10am	24	25 8:30am Bible Study <u>Shepherd's Table</u> 4:30pm-6pm	26 NATIONAL BOMB POP DAY 	27	28 Pride on the Riverfront Parade 10:00am <i>Silver Singers</i> <i>Presents: America</i> <i>Of Thee I Sing @</i> <i>4pm @ First</i> <i>Methodist Church</i> <i>Afterglow to follow</i>
29 3rd Sunday after Pentecost 9:00 a.m. Adult Ed. 10:00 a.m. Worship	30 					Office Hours M-W-F 1:30 pm- 4:30pm T-Th 9:00am- 1:00pm