



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 89, No. 3

Youth Events

Read about what's coming up on page 2.

Reminder:

- April 1—Church Office Closed
- April 14—Confirmation Sunday
- April 14—Hymn Sing
- April 16—Session
- April 21—Movie Night

WORSHIP:

- 9:00 AM Sunday
- 10:15 AM Sunday School

WEBSITE

www.fpcmarshalltown.org



Word of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

Bright Sadness

After a beautiful spring break week, going back to more wintry weather has been tough. It also got me thinking about the connection between the season of Lent and the spring season. Literally the word “lent” means “lengthen” (as in the days getting longer) or “spring”. Of course, it is called this because the season of lent occurs in the spring, as we finally see the long, dark winter coming to an end and the bright, warm days of summer just around the corner.

However, there is also something deeply fitting about connecting Lent with springtime. Spring is a time of growth, likewise Lent is intended to be a time of growth in the lives of Christians. Like this year, spring can also be a mixed bag – warm and cold, new growth springing up but being covered by snow, longer days but gray or storm-cloud-filled skies. This too is fitting to Lent. In the Orthodox church the Lenten feeling is sometimes called “bright sadness.”

Bright sadness is the feeling of recognizing the deep depths of our own sin and God’s amazing forgiveness. It is the sadness of our distance from God and the brightness of his presence with us. It is living in a broken and hurting world where bridges collapse, wars are raging, young people are dealing with depression and anxiety, and yet choosing to celebrate Easter. In the darkest days of winter, we trust that spring is coming. The dark days of Lent lead us to the brightness of Easter when we declare that Christ has risen and is returning to bring new life, a new creation. Even as we go through sad and hard days, let us never forget the brightness of Easter.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



Youth News

Youth Spotlight

Spring is here along with lots of new activities! Catch our youth doing what they love:

April 4—MHS Home Track Meet @ 4:30 p.m.
Preston Johnson

April 18—MMS Home Track Meet
Lily Johnson & Betsy Wirin

April 22—Jazz Coffee Concert @ MHS Auxilliary Gym @ 6:30 p.m.
Winner Banissan & Betsy Wirin

April 29—Spring Band Concert—7:00 p.m.
Winner Banissan

June 10-13—VBS

If you would like to provide a Sunday night meal for the youth, you may [sign up here](#). You may also email Carissa King.

Easter Eggstravaganza:

Our Easter Eggstravaganza was a great success last week! On March 19th we celebrated Easter with our kids by decorating cookies, making crafts, hunting for Easter eggs and learning about what Jesus did for us. I want to extend a huge thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who buddied up with our students to make this an extra special time! Thank you to Ashley Johnson and Amber Young who made all this happen.

One Great Hour of Sharing

Reminder to all parents and grandparents that the children's fish banks are due back to church in the next week! Help your young ones fill up their fish and bring them back sometime before April 8th. Offering envelopes are also available in the pews. These donations help the presbytery fund mission work here in the US and across the globe!

Camp

Thank you to Joe and Diana Brummel for sharing with us about Lake View Camp in Pella on March 24th. Information for both Lake View and Lakeshore Center on Okoboji is available in the Narthex.



What's coming at FPC

Holy Week & Easter Worship

There will be a community **Good Friday** service at **Dejardin Hall** on the MCC campus on **Friday, March 29th** at **6:30 p.m.**

On **Easter Sunday, March 31st**, there will be a Sunrise service at **7:00 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall. Membership & Involvement Committee will serve an Easter breakfast from **7:45—8:30 a.m.** Worship will follow at **9:00 a.m.** in the Sanctuary.

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner' started on March 17th with good food among good friends.

The next meal will be April 28th. If you are interested, let Jackie Hughes know and she will add you to the fun. This is open to adult singles or couples.

Movie Night

On Sunday, April 21, 2024, Membership & Involvement (M&I) is planning a movie and dinner. This will start at 4:00 pm with a movie for adults in the Sanctuary and a children's movie in the theater downstairs.

After the movies, we will be serving a 'Breakfast for Dinner,' so you are welcome to wear your jammies!!

Book Study: Gentle and Lowly

Friends, I am so excited to share this book with you. *Gentle and Lowly* by Dane Ortlund is a book about Christ's heart for each of us. It explores the profound meaning behind Christ's statement in Matthew 11:28-29:

Come to me all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

This is the only place in all of Jesus's teachings that tells us about the nature of His very heart, and therefore the heart of God. Ortlund takes us deep into who Christ is and how He relates to us in our sin and suffering. It is an easy read and yet deeply moving and thought provoking.

Check out the book in the Narthex on Sunday and join us for our study. We begin this week and will read the book slowly over ten weeks together. Join us either Monday night at 6:30 p.m. or Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome!

—**Carissa King**, Interim Director of Youth, Discipleship, and Outreach

Recent Mission Blog Posts

We post to our mission blog every other Tuesday. Here are our most recent blog posts. They can be accessed here: <https://www.fpcmarshalltown.org/blog>

March 5
March 19

What is CIRSI?
ChildVoice—Nigeria Update

Wednesday Club

Wednesday Club is diving into the Bible this spring! In a change, we gave the new children their Bibles at the start of Wednesday Club so we can use them each week. So far the children have read about Daniel and how he followed the One True God even though it was dangerous. They have read Psalm 23 and learned that God is with us always. Most recently we read the Easter story. The kids are doing a great job finding books, chapters, and verses in the Bible! In April we will learn more about what Jesus did while he lived on earth. We will also take a field trip to Grimes Farm to spend some time in God's wonderful creation. April 17th is the last Wednesday Club for spring. We will once again have a short program for parents, followed by a meal for our families.

Thank you to everyone who gives their time and talents to this outreach ministry each week: **Wynona Anderson, Matt Broshar, Carissa King, Barb McBride, Anna Oswald, Garry Rottink, Terri Rottink, Bert Tice, and Nancy Van Wyk.** And also to those who have provided snack: **Bill & Susan Lawyer, Barb McBride, Barb Vovos, and Phyllis Wubben.**

God bless you!

Michelle Wilkinson



Thank you

Praise the Lord! I am finally beginning to feel better. I am so thankful for your prayers, cards, letters, and food. And I am grateful to be on the road to recovery.

—Jean Bower

Thanks so much to all of the congregation for your concerns and prayers and numerous cards and letters for Jean during her illness, hospitalization and now at-home recuperation. A special thanks to those of you who delivered meals to us! That has been most helpful. And thanks to Pastor Bryan for his timely and helpful pastoral visits.

—Tom Bower

We would like to say **thank you** to everyone who steps forward when we need additional food items to make a gathering at our church a success. Be it a request for soups, desserts, or cookies you are always there for us. Thank you!

—M & I Committee

A big thank you to the following gals who worked every Monday in March to help make baby quilts for Jonathan's House: Barb Hawkins, Diane Oleson, Carole Permar, Brenda Miller, Karen Colwell, and Marie Rives.

—Bonnie Bradbury

Thank you for hosting the March 12th Presbytery meeting. Your planning and attention to detail helped the meeting run very smoothly. Thanks to Steve for all the technical help and Wynona for sharing her musical talents. And thank you to the members who worked on planning, preparing, and serving the delicious lunch. It is a privilege to be in ministry with you all!

—Annika Lister Stroope, Ian McMullen, Amgad Beblawi, and Jeannie Stolee

A Tip of the Hat to —

The Property Committee and everyone who helped with the Work Day on March 23rd.... Dave Freel, Matt Broshar, Jacque Vance, and Garry Rottink for working on the bus....Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of March: Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, and Bert Tice.

News & Upcoming Events

Coming this Month: New Members

We welcome our new members, Mitch & Michelle Brown, and Jacob Jorgensen. They have been worshipping with us for some time and are all involved in the life of our church. Session approved their membership at the March meeting. They will be formally introduced to the congregation during a worship service in April. Mitch & Michelle have two sons, Isaac and Caleb. We will also be confirming Faith Banissan, Preston Johnson, and Oliver Young on April 14th!

Quilters

Seven quilters worked every Monday in March to create 18 beautiful and unique baby quilts. A few more are being finished at home. The quilts will be sent to Jonathan's House in Central African Republic where they will keep the children warm and comfortable. What a blessing!



Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet in the Lower Lounge, on **Thursday, April 11, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.** All are welcome.

Sarah Circle will have a field trip to First Friends Church, 2409 S. 6th St. **Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 9:15 a.m.** Meet at First Friends Church, and bring your own coffee. We will hold our meeting first then tour the four display rooms.

Hymn Sing

There will be a Hymn Sing **Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.

Pantry Update

The Pantry is meeting needs every day! At press time, at least **119** items have been donated in March. **Thank you** for your generosity to this project. And thank you to everyone who helped fill the pantry each day in March. We have also received a donation of bread through ISU Extension this month. Items most needed at this time are *breakfast cereal and oatmeal packets, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, ramen, dry milk packets, single serving and family-size meals, canned soups, and proteins, including peanut butter and tuna, bread and tortillas.* The wagon will be in the entrance through Easter Sunday. You may bring items to the wagon under the main entrance stairs any time.

Altar Flowers

There are a few Sundays still available to sponsor altar flowers this spring. The bouquets are \$26.75 per bouquet, or \$53.50 for both. You may also bring flowers from your garden (please give the church office a week's notice if you plan to do this). The available dates are:

April 7	May 5
June 2	June 16
June 23	



March Session Actions

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, March 19, 2024.

Moderator Rev. Bryan Kunz opened the Session meeting at 7:01 p.m. Roger Schoell presented devotions and the opening prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2024, Stated Session meeting.

Matters of Record: Motion carried to receive Mitch & Michelle Brown and Jacob Jorgensen into the membership and to remove Fran Smith due to her death February 19, 2024.

Search Team Report: The search team has a third interview with a candidate at the church in person with his wife this week.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan noted the Presbytery meeting at the church went well and he appreciated M&I making the meal. He held a new members class on March 10th. He is grateful for Carissa teaching Sunday school and appreciated the excellent class on Sunday.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported year to date giving is ahead of the last three years. Mission grants for the little pantry and United for Ukraine have been received.

Committee Reports:

Property: Steve Anderson said the committee is looking for quotes for the NE door. They have also contacted a company to look at building security. The furnace in the Gathering Place is the oldest one, is not working well, and may need to be replaced.

Mission/Evangelism: Lee Wilkinson reported the committee is continuing to reflect of their retreat and is focused on setting priorities.

Worship & Music: There were 119 for communion in March.

Christian Education: The Easter Eggstravaganza was small but successful. The youth mission trip has been cancelled for this summer and may be replaced with service to the Marshalltown community.

A&P: Policy updates have been turned in and will be compiled.

Membership & Involvement: Tracy Ostrem reported that in addition to other activities, they are planning a family movie night April 21st. Valerie King said the first Guess Who's Coming to Dinner went well at their home.

Memorials: Steve Anderson updated Session on unallocated funds.

Other: Lee Wilkinson reported on the Presbytery meeting.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 8:03 p.m.

Financial Report

February

FEBRUARY 2024	Actual
Total Receipts	\$40,825.00
Budget	36,265.00
Total Expenses	(\$33,835.00)
Budget	(36,190.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$68,273.00
Budget	69,530.00
Difference	(1,257)
Total Expenses	(\$80,125.00)
Budget	(82,654.00)
Difference	1,273

Newsletter deadline with MAY 2024 information is Sunday, April 21, 2024, for anyone wanting to submit an article.



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 bryan@fpcmarshalltown.org – Secretary/Editor at church@fpcmarshalltown.org

April 2024 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3 Terri Rottink	4 Ann Bresler Thomas Wilkinson	5 Michele Hala Becky Hatcher	6 Amy Drummer Bethany Wirin	
7	8 Lisa Simpson	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16 Barry Bryant Carter Strand	17 Ellen Hofman Shelby Bovenmyer	18 Henry Johnson	19 Brenda Severson Julie Lynch	20	
21 Judy Erion	22 Tina DuBois	23	24 Ken Brandenburg Ashton McKibben Graham Turbiville	25 Lynne Bovenmyer Drew King	26 Doug Bacon Owen Randall	27	
28	29	30	<div style="border: 1px solid gray; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Praying for each other brings us closer together. Please pray each day for those listed. </div>				



Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	April 7	April 14	April 21	April 28	
Worship Leader	Craig Henze	Don Feld	Bethany Wirin	Doug Cooper	
Greeters	Diane & Keith Oleson				
Fellowship Hosts	Greg & Suzanne Brown	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Diane Broshar	Jackie Hughes	
Cup Washers	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Jacob Jorgensen	Diane Broshar		
Donuts	Terry & Rhonda Buzbee	Greg & Suzanne Brown	Jacob Jorgensen	Andy & Anna Randall	
Nursery	Bethany & Betsy Wirin & Madi Stull	Barb Hawkins & Madi Stull	Rachel Coulter & Madi Stull	Rhonda Buzbee & Madi Stull	
Flowers		Matt & Diane Broshar	Greg & Suzanne Brown	Terry & Rhonda Buzbee	
Deacons	Karen Schoell & Marlene Snyder	Doug & Jinita Boyd	Wynona Anderson & Lisa Simpson	Pat & Nancy Kremer	
AV Tech	Diane Broshar	Steve Anderson	Bill Lawyer		Steve Anderson
Usher Teams	FIRST SUNDAY	SECOND SUNDAY	THIRD SUNDAY	FOURTH SUNDAY	FIFTH SUNDAY
Team Captain	Terry Buzbee & Larry Schrum	Stan & Nancy VanWyk	Roger & Karen Schoell	Josh Grosvenor & Andy Randall	Dick & Barb McBride
Ushers	Tim Bell Mick DuBois Harlan Quick Bruce Wirin	Amy Drummer Jeff Drummer Barb Vovos	Pat & Mary Hemming	Ryan Flack Lucas Johnson Matt McKibben Ross Turbiville Kyle Young	Chuck Colwell Karen Colwell Steve Strand
Usher Alternates (any Sunday)	Bonnie Bradbury Craig Henze LaVerne Paul	Diane Broshar Pat Kremer Harlan Quick Barb Vovos	Doug Cooper Arlene Lange Anna Randall Lee Wilkinson	Bonnie Grimmus Dennis Ostrem John Simpson	Jim Grimmus Tracy Ostrem Lisa Simpson

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Church office closed 6:30p Book Study	2 6:00p Worship & Music Comm.	3 11:30a Book Study 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	4 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	5	6 7:30a Men's Group
7 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 5:30p – MS Youth	8 6:00p M & I Comm. 6:30p Book Study 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	9 6:30p Property Committee	10 11:30a Book Study 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	11 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle Lower Lounge	12	13 7:30a Men's Group
14 Confirmation Sunday 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 3:00p – Hymn Sing 5:30p – MS Youth	15 6:30p Book Study	16 9:15a Sarah Circle 7:00p Session	17 11:30a Book Study 3:30p Wednesday Club 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	18 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion	19	20 7:30a Men's Group
21 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 4:00p Movie Night w/ Breakfast for Dinner Newsletter Articles Due	22 6:30p Book Study	23 6:00p CE Comm.	24 11:30a Book Study 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	25 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Memorials & Special Gifts – Fellowship Hall	26	27 7:30a Men's Group
28 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 5:30p – MS Youth Night	29 6:30p Book Study	30				