



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 89, No. 5

Scuba VBS Information

Learn about VBS on page 2.

Our Graduates

Meet our graduates on page 3.

Reminder:

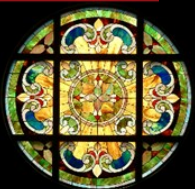
June 10-13—VBS
June 14—Flag Day
June 16—Father's Day
June 16—Reception for
Carissa King
June 16—Hymn Sing
June 18—Session
June 19—Juneteenth
June 20—1st day of
summer

WORSHIP:

9:00 AM Sunday
10:15 AM Sunday School

WEBSITE

www.fpcmarshalltown.org



Word of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

Letters From a Skeptic

I just recently finished reading the excellent book “Letters from a Skeptic: A Son Wrestles with His Father’s Questions About Christianity” by Gregory and Edward Boyd. As you can hear from the subtitle, the book is a series of letters between a Christian son (who happens to be a PhD educated theologian) and his unbelieving father. At the beginning of the book the father agrees to discuss religion with his son, but his one requirement is that his son keep the arguments simple enough for the average person (non-philosopher/theologian) to understand. This stipulation makes for a very approachable apologetics book.

This is not to say that the book is by any means simple. It is an exploration of some of the most common questions and issues that non-Christians bring up, so it will make you think. Greg Boyd responds to these questions and issues with well-reasoned arguments and helpful metaphors. While I don’t agree with all of his arguments, his rational arguments for the truth of Christianity are excellent.

For example, in one section of the book he lays out clear arguments for the validity of the Bible as both a historical book and as the word of God. He walks through the composition and construction of the Bible in a way that is truthful and faith filled, not dodging hard questions, but declaring clearly how all of scripture hangs on the person of Jesus Christ. He manages to act as both theologian exploring practical issues and as loving Christian son who is pointing his father to a life-transforming relationship with Christ.

Overall, I highly recommend the book. It will help you think through your reasons for believing in Christianity and encourage you to go beyond the intellectual and deepen your relationship with God. As Gregory explains in the final chapters, even if you know something to be true you sometimes have to revisit the old arguments to remember why they brought you to that truth. If you decide to read it and want to discuss it, I would enjoy having a conversation around any of these topics.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



Youth News

Youth Spotlight

June 10-13—VBS

June 16—Youth @ Wirins

VBS

SCUBA VBS is just a little over a week away! We are still taking registrations, so keep inviting your family, friends, and neighbors. VBS is June 10th - 13th and will run from 5:45 - 8:00 pm, with dinner for the whole family served beforehand at 5pm. If you are interested in helping out with VBS as a volunteer or are interested in helping ahead of time by making decorations at home, contact me at carissa@fpcmarshalltown.org. We would love your help! Thank you to all who have donated money, supplies, and time to make VBS happen. We could not do it without you!



Thank you!

I wanted to take a minute to thank you for all of you have given me these last 7 months as a congregation. First, thank you for letting me serve on staff here. When I ended up back home for this year between degrees, I had no idea what God had in store. This job has been an abundant provision from the Lord in more ways than one. I have so enjoyed building relationships with the precious children and youth of our church, while reconnecting with the many of you that cared for me as I grew. Second, thank you for allowing me to grow alongside you. Thank you for your constant encouragement as I developed new skills. I have learned so much through the opportunity to teach you all. Third, thank you for all your prayers. Slowly but surely I have seen healing in my eyes this year. While I know I will continue to lose portions of my vision, I am comforted to know I have a faithful church family interceding for my healing as I encounter new challenges. Finally, thank you for the opportunity to apply and receive a scholarship to fund a part of my continued education. I am so grateful for your portion of God's provision and it means so much to have your support even as I leave again for a new chapter.

I am sad to say my last Sunday serving here will be June 16th and my last day in the office will be June 21st. On June 23rd I will be flying to Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia, where I will be serving for a month with Summit Ministries as their Girls Staff Mentor. Summit Ministries is a Christian organization that hosts 2-week-long student conferences that teach teens and young adults how to live out their faith in a secular culture. They attend classes on Christian worldview and are discipled one-to-one by a staff member. This summer I will be pouring into the female staff members and coaching them on how to best disciple their students. It was such an honor to be asked to take this position after my first summer with the ministry last year, and I am excited for the opportunity to do ministry in this setting again.

After my month with Summit, I will be returning home for a few weeks and preparing to head back to Wheaton College. I will be starting Wheaton's Marriage and Family Therapy Program in the hopes of using these skills to work long-term overseas with children who have experienced relational trauma. This ministry population has been on my heart for many years. After returning from my internship in Guatemala, I knew the Lord was calling me to go back to school to become better equipped to heal the wounds caused by developmental trauma. I have elected to go back to Wheaton because they offer a Trauma Counseling Certificate that I can pursue while obtaining my master's in counseling.

While I lament leaving this space, I am excited to see what God has in store for this next chapter. It has been a joy to be back with this church family and be able to give back just a little to the community that guided my walk with the Lord for so long. As I step into a new season, I would appreciate your prayers of protection over my eyes as I go back into the stressful environment of academia and prayers for financial provision from the

Continued on p. 3

What's coming at FPC

New pictorial church directory coming!

The Membership & Involvement Committee is getting ready for a new pictorial directory. Mark your calendar for **October 1 & 2** when a company will be here to take individual & family pictures, which can be purchased and should be back in time for Christmas. The directory will be printed and digital. The digital version will be updated over time. More information will be coming. See Tracy Ostrem with any questions.

Reception for Carissa King

Sunday, June 16th will be Carissa King's last Sunday with us before she heads off on the next leg of the path God has set for her. We will be having a cake and ice cream reception for her during fellowship time following worship that Sunday. Plan on staying and thanking Carissa for the great job she had done for our youth and church family over the past months. She will be missed!

Picnic at the park

Coming **August 25th!** Be looking for information about our church picnic at the park in State Center. It will be a fun afternoon of visiting, eating, games, splash pad, and fun!

M & I seeking ideas

M & I is always looking for fun things to do to bring our church family together by playing and eating together. Talk to Tracy Ostrem, Jackie Hughes, or any other member of the committee if you have an idea for something we can do together from a class, a meal, a concert, sporting event, you name it!

News from the pews

If you have news you would like to share with your church family you can put your photo, clipping, or other information on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

2024 Graduates

Congratulations to our graduates!



Shelby Bovenmyer graduated from Green Mountain-Garwin High School. She will be pursuing a degree in accounting at Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, and plans to become a CPA. Shelby is the daughter of Brian & Lynne Bovenmyer.

Thomas Wilkinson graduated from DMAAC-Boone with his AA. He will attend UNI in the fall to complete his degree in accounting and finance.



Recent Mission Blog Posts

Continued from p. 2

We post to our mission blog every other Tuesday, but this month we had a bonus post. Here are our most recent blog posts. They can be accessed here: <https://www.fpcmarshalltown.org/blog>

May 14

Presbytery Connection Newsletter

May 28

House of Compassion Supply Closet

Lord, I am currently looking for the right part-time position in Wheaton to help me pay for my living expenses and scholarships that can make tuition more attainable.

I look forward to seeing you all again in early August and in the coming years. You will always be my church home.

—Carissa King

Summer Series

This summer's sermon series will be "Faithfulness in the Brokenness". I have been asking around over the last two months and have gathered some ideas that are all loosely connected to the idea of living faithfully in our broken world. I have also heard great feedback from the last time that I included a conversation with a short sermon (what some have affectionately called the "podcast style" sermon) and this series will hopefully often include conversations. Here are the topics I am planning to cover:

Anger and Forgiveness
Apathy and Sloth
Work
Parenting
Prayer
Morality

This might be extended a few more weeks, I am contemplating a couple of other topics but they will depend on finding the right person to join me in conversation.

We will also have adult Sunday school this summer, with some breaks when I am gone. We will begin an overview of Daniel on June 2. I am planning to spend 6 or 7 weeks equipping you to better understand the book and apply it to our present time. For the rest of July and part of August we will cover a few stand-alone topics that have come up recently and then in September we will begin a more in-depth study of Revelation.

—Pastor Bryan



Thank you

Deacons,

Thank you for the beautiful May baskets filled with delicious goodies and to Paul for delivering it. We truly appreciate you thinking of us.

—Orlyn & Doris Langenbau

Thank you, **Jan Faber** for your long, faithful service and dedication to the table & church decoration ministry at First Presbyterian Church. We have enjoyed many years of beauty with our worship and fellowship because of your talent and efforts.

—First Presbyterian Church

Dear members of 1st Presbyterian Church,
Thank you for your recent donation to the Emergency Food Box. Your kindness makes it possible for us to help meet the emergency food needs of people in Marshall County. The Emergency Food Box program is supported entirely by donations from individuals, organizations, and churches. We are grateful you have chosen to be a part of this program. Your support is greatly appreciated.

—John Fink, Emergency Food Box

Thank you so much for the flowers, past and present, delivered by my special friends Pat & Nancy Kremer. And thanks to Michelle for her kindness.

—Charlotte Ann Hokel "Hoke" Farr

Thank you to Suzanne Brown and the M & I Committee for the beautiful May baskets filled to the brim with goodies. Thank you for thinking of us, they were an extra special treat.

—Pastor Bryan, Carissa, & Michelle

A Tip of the Hat to —

LaVerne Paul for helping identify breaker panels and testing emergency exit lights....**Matt McKibben** for fixing sharp edges on downspout waterways....Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of May: **Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, Rich King, Bert Tice, and Michelle Wilkinson.**



News & Upcoming Events

Coming this Month: 60th Wedding Anniversary

This June marks 60 years since **Tom & Jean Bower** and **Larry & Lavonne Watkins** were married. Thirty years ago they celebrated together after church with a big, three-tiered cake that Lavonne made. They will again celebrate their impressive milestone together after worship on **Sunday, June 23, 2024**, in Fellowship Hall. And yes, Lavonne will make another cake, but she says it will not be six-tiers. They invite everyone to help them celebrate that Sunday.

Music & Choir

Choir and bell choir will not meet in June or July. They will restart in August.

Special music is needed throughout the summer. If you would like to provide special music, or if you know of someone who might, please talk to Wynona Anderson.

House of Compassion Supply Closet

The House of Compassion Supply Closet helps vetted individuals and families with three hygiene or household items per month. They are currently in great need of liquid laundry detergent, dish soap, toilet paper, and diapers. Other needs are shampoo & conditioner, tooth paste, feminine hygiene supplies, and paper towels. There will be a bin in the Narthex through June 9th for you to drop items off. Monetary donations can also be given by writing "HoC Supply Closet" on the memo line of your check to First Presbyterian Church.

Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will meet in the Lower Lounge, on **Thursday, June 13, 2024**, at **1:30 p.m.** We will be studying lesson #3. All women are welcome.

Sarah Circle will not meet over the summer.

Hymn Sing

The May Hymn Sing was blessed by the special music of Amy Bradbury Redhage and three of her children.

There will be a Hymn Sing **Sunday, June 16, 2024**, at **3:00 p.m.** in the Sanctuary. All are welcome.



Pantry Update

At press time, at least **116** items have been donated in May. Over **1,000** items have been donated in 2024! We appreciate everyone's generosity to this project. Items most needed at this time are *breakfast cereal, canned fruit and vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, ramen, shelf-stable milk or dry milk packets, single serving and family-size meals, canned soups, and proteins, including peanut butter and tuna, bread and tortillas*. You may bring items to the wagon under the main entrance stairs any time.

Altar Flowers

There are many Sundays available to sponsor altar flowers this summer. 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:

July 14, 21, & 28

August 4 & 11



May Session Actions

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, May 21, 2024.

Moderator Rev. Bryan Kunz opened the Session meeting at 7:02 p.m. Anna Randall presented devotions and the opening prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the April 16, 2024, Stated Session meeting.

Search Team Report: There are 3-4 candidates in the beginning of the process.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan said he is a bit behind in visiting after taking a week off. He has been working on the policies & procedures and the third floor. He and Carissa are working on handing off her work, and he will miss her when she leaves.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported weekly giving lower than the past few months but ahead of last year. Expenses were up because of an increase in the cost of the elevator inspection.

Committee Reports:

Memorials: Steve Anderson brought several housekeeping motions to Session that are needed due to Presbyterian Women (PW) no longer existing.

Property: Steve Anderson reported on the tuckpointing bid

for the north wall of the Gathering Place. There was discussion of what work should be done before planning begins on the renovation project next year, and some were concerned about the overall condition of the building. This will be investigated before going forward. The committee will be looking into building access control as one of the security recommendations.

Mission/Evangelism: Lee Wilkinson reported the committee will have an outreach event on June 8 to connect with people in the community. **Motion to approve M & E Committee Responsibilities carried.** They have also lined up one of the missionaries we support to speak for adult Sunday school.

Worship & Music: There were 111 for communion in May.

Christian Education: Pastor Bryan reported on changes to the child protection policy since April. **Motion carried** to approve the Child Protection Policy.

A&P: Pastor Bryan presented the Anti-Harassment and Anti-Racism Policy and the **motion to approve it passed.** He brought the church's scholarship for ministry students forward. **Motion carried** to award a \$2,500 renewable scholarship to Carissa King for her education. **Motion carried** to reestablish a 3-person scholarship committee to raise funds and recommend students to Session.

Membership & Involvement: Tracy Ostrem said the church picnic will be August 25th at

State Center City Park. Church directory pictures will be October 1-2, 2024.

Other: Elders need to take presbytery Boundaries Training every 36 months.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 8:45 p.m.

Financial Report

April

APRIL 2024	Actual
Total Receipts	\$31,236.00
Budget	33,265.00
Total Expenses	(\$34,714.00)
Budget	(34,026.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$142,127.00
Budget	145,295.00
Difference	(3,168)
Total Expenses	(\$146,897.00)
Budget	(151,952.00)
Difference	5,055

Newsletter deadline with JULY 2024 information is Thursday, June 20, 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


June 2024 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Praying for each other brings us closer together. Please pray each day for those listed.						1
2 Lauren Mosher	3 Ruth Feld	4 Diane Broshar Reena Pearson	5 Diane Starn	6	7 Rich Daniels	8
9 Kurt Lynch	10 Mary Hemming John Simpson	11 Stan Van Wyk Michelle Wilkinson	12	13 Doris Strand	14 Larry Erion	15 Anastasia King
16 Marylou Beckmann	17	18 Craig Henze	19 Dennis Ostrem	20	21	22
23 Linda Allen Lynn Jensen	24 Anna Randall	25 Roger Anders Kallen Flack	26	27	28	29 Austin Tullis
30						

Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	June 30
Worship Leader	Lee Wilkinson	Craig Henze	Brenda Severson	Valerie King	Matt Broshar
Greeters	Bill & Susan Lawyer	Bill Eilers			
Door Greeter	Tracy Ostrem	Lee Wilkinson	Valerie King	John Simpson	Michelle Ritter
Fellowship Hosts	Don & Ruth Feld	Jackie Hughes	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Larry & Lavonne Watkins	
Cup Washers	Don & Ruth Feld	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Jacob Jorgensen	Larry & Lavonne Watkins	
Donuts	Doug & Jinita Boyd	Marlene Snyder	No donuts	No donuts	Case Hegeman
Nursery	Barb McBride & Madi Stull	& Madi Stull	& Madi Stull	Barb Hawkins & Madi Stull	& Madi Stull
Flowers	Steve & Wynona Anderson	Garry & Terri Rottink	Pat & Mary Hemming & Marlene Snyder	T & J Bower; L & L Watkins	Barry & Sue Bryant
Deacons	Larry & Judy Erion	Karen Schoell & Marlene Snyder	Doug & Jinita Boyd	Wynona Anderson & Lisa Simpson	
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

JUNE 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
2 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Adult Sunday school	3 6:00p Worship & Music Comm. 6:00p M & I Comm. 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	4 6:00p Deacons 6:30p Property Committee	5 8:30p Praise Team	6 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	7	1 7:30a Men's Group
9 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Adult Sunday school 1:08p – I-Cubs game	10 5:00p VBS	11 6:00p Bible Study 6:15p Bible Study 5:00p VBS	12 5:00 VBS 8:30p Praise Team	13 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle 5:00p VBS	14	8 7:30a Men's Group 4:00p M & E Outreach event
16 Father's Day 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Adult Sunday school 5:30p – MS Youth Night	17	18 7:00p Session	19 8:30p Praise Team	20 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion 7:00p CE Committee <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	21 Carissa's Last Day	22 7:30a Men's Group 2:00p Presbytery Boundaries Training in Newton
23 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Adult Sunday school	24	25 6:00p Bible Study 6:15p Bible Study	26 8:30p Praise Team	27 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	28	29
<div> <div></div> <div>Pastor Bryan on vacation</div> <div></div> </div>						
30 8:40a – Prayer -Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person	<div> <div></div> <div>Pastor Bryan back in office</div> <div></div> </div>					