



The Good News of First Presbyterian Church

Marshalltown, Iowa
641-753-5929

Volume 88, No. 8
August 29, 2023

Reminder:

- Sept. 4 – Labor Day
- Sept. 10 – Sunday School & Youth Activities Start
- Sept. 19 – Deacons
- Sept. 19 – Session
- Sept. 23 – Oktoberfest Parade



Words of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

In June I wrote in this column about how we can be assured of our salvation. I talked about how it is not about how much faith we have, but *who* we place our faith in. When we place our faith in Jesus, we can trust that he will save us. However, I have recently had multiple people ask me a slightly different, though related question. The question goes something like this - sure I believe in Jesus, but how can I be sure that all of my sins will be forgiven? After all, I keep on sinning, how can I know that Jesus will forgive all of my sins?

This is an important question because it shows a misunderstanding of justification. When Jesus takes our place on the cross for us, he receives our punishment. When we accept that he did this on our behalf, we are declared to be set right with God (justified). God's justice has been fulfilled. If God was to punish us now, he would be exacting two punishments for the same sin, which is clearly unjust.

However, something even greater happens in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. By living perfectly, Jesus becomes our perfect sacrifice. This means that he takes on all of our sin. In theological

terms, our sin is imputed (put on) to Jesus – both our sins up to the point of our belief and every sin after is paid for on the cross. But this is a great exchange – Jesus takes on our sin and he imputes to us his righteousness. Paul explains this in Romans 4, where he tells us that faith is credited to us as righteousness. So despite our sin, God considers us to be as perfectly righteous as Jesus, the spotless lamb of God. No matter what you have done, belief in Jesus cleanses all of your sins and makes you as righteous as Jesus!

The challenge as Christians is that we are still sinners. We are simultaneously justified and sinful. This means that we are not trying to earn justification (it is already granted), but we are living into our new, fully righteous life in Christ. We are reminded of this each week when we hear the "Declaration of Forgiveness". We are not newly forgiven; we are reminded of the truth that we have been justified and given the righteousness of Christ. Let us strive to live that way!

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



First FPC Pie Baking Champion Crowned

Sunday, August 6, 2023, First Presbyterian Church crowned Paul Podhajsky its first-ever Pie Baking Champion with his apple-rhubarb pie. He topped eight quality competitors in



the event, taking home the traveling rolling pin trophy for his efforts.

The event was hosted by the Membership & Involvement Committee, and also featured an ice cream social with plenty of ice cream and brownies in addition to the pie. Originally planned for the State Center City Park, the fun was held at the church due to much-needed rain. Thank you to all for joining in the fun!



Membership & Involvement News

Let all that you do be done in love.
1 Corinthians 16:14



All New News from the Pews



The Membership & Involvement Committee (M&I) is creating a new bulletin board in the Narthex to showcase the events, activities, and accomplishments of church members and their family members. Not everyone is on social media or gets the newspapers where these items might be found, so when you have items you would like to share with our church family there will now be a place to post them. Examples of items you might post are a



newspaper article, picture, or a short write up. You can put it up on the bulletin board yourself and make sure the date that you post it is on the back.

To make sure we keep the information relevant we would ask that it only be on the board for three weeks. After that time the posting will be taken down and disposed of. If you need the article or photo, make sure you grab it. The M&I committee will check to make sure the material is appropriate and up to date.



Thank you,

M&I Committee



Coming up on September 23rd, M & I will have an entry in the Oktoberfest Grand Parade

beginning at 10:00 a.m. Give us a big wave as we pass you on the parade route!



Missions & Evangelism News

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation."

Matthew 28:19



MCC Friends of International Students



The Mission and Evangelism Committee is very excited about a new opportunity for our church to

connect with Marshalltown Community College (MCC). The Friends of International Students program connects international students studying at MCC with Marshalltown residents in order to help them transition smoothly to American life and promote cross-cultural relationships. "Friends" connect with the student and invite them to do something at least once a month. This can be as simple as inviting them for a meal or to church or to a sports event or something else you are already doing that they might enjoy joining. You would not be supporting the student financially or boarding them in your home.

Our hope is that multiple individuals or families in our church will become friends of international students. We would hope to have some meals together at church for participants and we might plan some things for all of the "friends" and students from the church to enjoy together. This is

an amazing chance to share the love of Christ with students who are far from home!

If you are interested, you can find a brochure on the table in the narthex and fill out an application or you can talk to Vickie Unferth (who runs the program for MCC) or Pat Kremer or Pastor Bryan and they can help answer your questions.

---Missions & Evangelism Committee

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>

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| August 1 | CAPS |
| August 15 | Together We Can |
| August 29 | The Turks - Climate Change in Madagascar |

■ ■ ■

Christian Education Update



Sunday school for children and youth will begin September 10th. Preschool-5th graders will gather in the Sanctuary at 10:15 a.m. for Gathering Time. They will go with their teachers from there to one of the four rotation classrooms. Parents, please pick up your children from the Chapel at 11:15 a.m. We are in need of some people to help with the puppet ministry two or three times a month during Gathering Time. If you are interested in helping, please talk to Wynona Anderson.

Coming this Fall: Fancy Coffee



New this year, the 6th – 12th graders will gather from 10:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in the Lower Lounge for a “Fancy Coffee” time of conversation before going to Sunday school. Middle School Sunday School will be in the 3rd floor middle school classroom. High School Sunday school will be in the Lower Lounge. We would like some adults to lead the “Fancy Coffee” conversation with this group. If you are interested in helping occasionally with this, let Pastor Bryan know.



Pizza and a Movie night is **Thursday, August 31st** for families of children in 3-year-old preschool – 5th grade. At 5:30 p.m. there will be pizza for the family in the Lower Lounge with

a short movie in the remodeled cinema at 6:00! Come check out the remodeled space and enjoy fellowship. Feel free to bring a friend.



❖❖❖

Candle Lighter Training

Candle Lighter Training will be held **September 17th** following Gathering & Fancy Coffee time at the beginning of Sunday school. An additional session will be held on September 24th for those unable to attend on the 17th. All candle lighters (grades 3 – 7) should attend one of the training sessions.



○○○

Circle News



Elizabeth Circle will meet in the Lower Lounge, on **Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 1:30 p.m.** All women are welcome to come for study and fellowship on the second Thursday of each month.

Sarah Circle will meet in the Lower Lounge on **Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at 9:15 a.m.**

❖❖❖



There are only three Sundays still available for altar flower sponsorship this year:
October 29
November 19 & 26.

You can sign up on the poster in the Narthex or on the clipboard. It is \$53.50 to sponsor both bouquets. Single bouquets are \$26.75.



With school back in session, youth activities are in full swing again. It means a lot to our children and youth to have members of their church family attend their events and recognize their accomplishments. If your child is involved in an event or activity, and you would like members of our church family to know about it, please let the church office know.

Sept. 7 MS/HS XC meet **Lily Johnson
Preston Johnson
Elliana Rottink**

Sept. 8 Marching Band **Winner Banissan**
(1st home game in the new stadium)



Matt Tullis for mowing the lawn **Steve Anderson, Diane Broshar, and Bill Lawyer** for running the soundboard and livestream on Sundays.... **Barb Hawkins** for creating and hanging the banners in the Sanctuary.... **Lavonne Watkins and Bonnie Bradbury**, for making the curtains for the movie room.... Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of August: **Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, Rich King, Naysa Rottink, and Lavonne Watkins.**



Financial Report for July

JULY 2023	Actual
Total Receipts	\$41,770.00
Budget	39,427.00
Total Expenses	(\$22,366.00)
Budget	(32,002.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$236,416.00
Budget	249,769.00
Difference	(13,353)
Total Expenses	(\$270,257.00)
Budget	(254,918.00)
Difference	(15,339)



Lower-Level Update



The lower-level remodel project is coming along very well. Kurt Lynch and his crew are nearly finished with their work in the space, and they have done a fantastic job. The finishing touches will continue, but don't hesitate to take a walk around to view the renovation. We will plan a time this Fall to celebrate the completion and to thank the Remodel Committee and Kurt and his team for all the excellent work. The narthex office work has begun and planning for the 3rd floor is next as we continue to upgrade and optimize those spaces for ministry.

---Pastor Bryan Kunz



AUGUST SESSION ACTIONS



Session REPORT

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, August 15, 2023.

Moderator Rev. Bryan

Kunz opened the Session meeting at 7:00 p.m. and Roger Schoell presented the devotions and prayer.

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2023, Stated Session meeting.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan reported he has been working on long-term planning and believes there are some good changes happening so he is feeling good overall. He

asked Session to consider how welcoming we are as a church.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported that July giving exceeded the weekly giving target. The church is in a good position.

A & P: Pastor Bryan said he has a lead on a couple of individuals who may be interested in our intern position.

Mission/Evangelism: Case Hegeman submitted a written report.

Worship & Music: Pastor Bryan had nothing to add to the written report. There were 108 for communion in August.

Christian Education: Ashley Johnson reported they have a great need for volunteers to spend to time with youth. They also need high school Sunday school teachers and a teacher for the middle school youth group. They will be replacing the Chrome books with iPads in the Bibleland.com classroom. Sunday school begins September 10th.

Memorials: Steve Anderson reported the committee decided they can approve funds via email vote.

Membership & Involvement: Tracy Ostrem reported there was a good turnout for the pie baking contest.

Property: Don Feld reported the insurance company would like to close out the claim on damage from the break-in, but Greg Brown is still pursuing the repair for the piano top and is awaiting an estimate. Don will build the free pantry. He has put a hasp on the bus door and is looking into repairing the bus window and installing a motion light/camera near the bus. Gutter work will be occurring. Don is also working with York Construction to get three doors replaced following their foreman's death. The contract may be adjusted. Steve Anderson is getting quotes to improve Sanctuary lighting.

Terry Buzbee reported much of the lower level remodeling project is complete with an expected \$10-15,000 cost overrun. Some things cost more, and the committee did more. They are very pleased with the work Kurt, Karen, and Tyler have done. Options for covering the cost overrun were discussed but no decision was made. The project without the music room is expected to be completed August 25th.

Other: Sarah Erikson resigned from Session as she moved out of the area.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 8:14 p.m.

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.

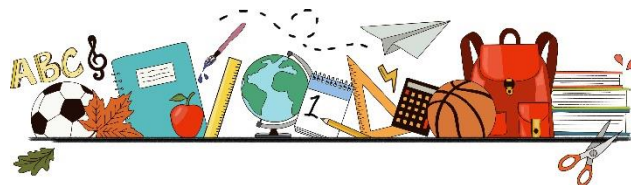
Church office phone: 641-753-5929
Web Site www.fpcmarshalltown.org
Email Church at church@fpcmarshalltown.org
Pastor at bryan@fpcmarshalltown.org
Secretary/Editor at church@fpcmarshalltown.org

Newsletter deadline with OCTOBER 2023 information is Wednesday, September 20, 2023, for anyone wanting to submit an article.



“Most of life’s great moments — the ones that resonate in our hearts and minds — involve other people,” writes John C. Maxwell in *Today Matters*. “Rarely do we experience these times alone. And even when we do, our first inclination is to share them with others.”

Maxwell then poses this challenge: “Think back to the most important experiences of your life, the highest highs, the greatest victories, the most daunting obstacles overcome. How many happened to you alone? I bet there are very few. When you understand that being connected to others is one of life’s greatest joys, you realize that life’s best comes when you initiate and invest in solid relationships.”





September 2023 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Jinita Boyd Susan Turbiville	2
3 Matt Tullis	4 Char McGrew	5 Bill Eilers	6	7 Kelsey McKibben Jim Mosher Cary Nason	8 Irene Sheeler Steve Strand	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Quinn Flack Bryce King	16
17	18 Hank Bradbury Rose Elsbecker Barb Hawkins	19 Karin Podhajsky Naysa Rottink	20 Dick McBride	21 Reese Buschbom Madelyn Irvine	22 Joan Gerbo Jim Grimmus Case Hegeman	23
24	25 Esme Kunz Ross Turbiville	26 Margaret Meyer	27	28 Diane Oleson Noel Vogt	29	30

Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	Sept. 3	Sept. 10	Sept. 17	Sept. 24	
Worship Leader	Lavonne Watkins	Pat Kremer	Amy Drummer	Valerie King	
Greeters	Barb Hawkins	Bill Eilers	Chuck & Karen Colwell	Carole Permar	
Fellowship Hosts	Chuck & Jackie Hughes	The Brown Family	Don & Ruth Feld		
Cup Washers	Chuck & Jackie Hughes	Karen Schoell	Don & Ruth Feld	Rich & Valerie King	
Donuts	Karen Schoell	Bill & Susan Lawyer	Don & Ruth Feld	Chuck & Jackie Hughes	
Nursery	Terri Rottink & Deb Williams	Michelle Wilkinson & Deb Williams	_____ & Rhonda Buzbee & Lily	_____ & _____	
Flowers	Lee & Michelle Wilkinson	Craig & Tedra Henze	Ed Jackson	Josh & Allison Grosvenor	
Deacons	Keith & Diane Oleson	Jim Grimmus & Ruth Feld	Paul & Karin Podhajsky	Barb McBride & Terri Rottink	
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 LaVern 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
SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 12:00p Office Closed	2 7:30a Men's Group
3 9:00a Worship – online & in person	4  Church Office Closed	5 5:45p Worship & Music	6 5:30p M&I Committee 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	7 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	8	9 7:30a Men's Group
10 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages	11 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	12 7:00p Property Committee	13 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	14 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 1:30p Elizabeth Circle Lower Lounge	15	16 7:30a Men's Group
17 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 10:30a – Candle Lighter Training	18	19 9:15a Sarah Circle Lower Lounge 6:00p Deacons 7:00p Session	20 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	21 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion	22	23 7:30a Men's Group Oktemberfest Parade
24 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Sunday school – all ages 10:30a – Candle Lighter Training 2:00p Pres. Refugee Ministry Network @ Boone	25	26	27 6:30p Bell Choir 7:30p Choir 8:30p Praise Team	28 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p Memorials/SG Committee	29	30 7:30a Men's Group