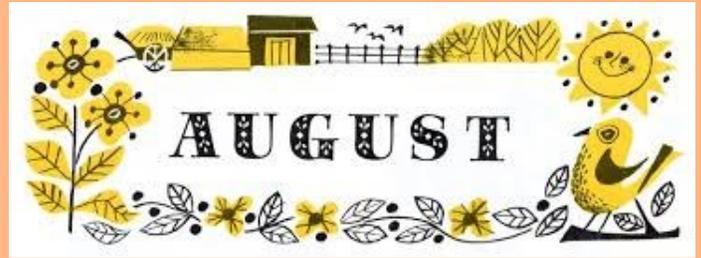


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

THE PULSE

CLASSES FOR ALL AGES - 9:00 A.M.

SUNDAY WORSHIP - 10:30 A.M.

www.firstpresbymc.com

A Note from Pastor Paul

A couple of weeks ago, at a meeting of some of the pastors in our presbytery, we were reminded of a story about the conversion of Roman soldiers to the Christian faith during the reign of the emperor Constantine.

The story goes that these Roman soldiers were to be baptized by total immersion, the way I was baptized. But when they were taken to the water, they asked if they could keep their right hand above the water of their baptism—that is, they did not want their sword hand baptized. They wanted to keep that hand free from the demands of the gospel of Jesus Christ, into which they were being baptized.

I suspect that this is more of a legend than verifiable historical fact. But it still resonates with truth, even to this day. In fact, in our discussion we spent some time suggesting how this reluctance toward total immersion in baptism might be played out today. The most common suggestion is that we would want to hold our wallets up and out of the waters of baptism. Some suggested that we would hold up our mobile phones, but I didn't really understand the connection. Maybe you do. What else might we try to exclude from the waters of our baptism? What life-style choices are we reluctant to submit to baptism, and to the demands of the gospel? What privileges? What attitudes?

This Sunday, we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper rather than baptism. But there is a similarity, a kind of total immersion, that may not be obvious at first. You know that what you eat becomes who you are. The nutrients from the food we ingest enter our bloodstream and are carried to every part of our body. What if we viewed the bread of communion, the body of Christ, in that way? And the wine or juice? So that Jesus is not just in our head or heart, but becomes present in every part of our being. We become, little by little, what we eat and drink. We become, in every part of our being, more like Christ.

It gives deeper meaning not only to the sacraments of baptism and communion, but also to what Jesus himself says: "I am the bread of life." (John 6: 35)



Upcoming Dates

Wednesday, August 8

Bible Study — 10:20 am

Sunday, August 12

Worship with Communion — 10:30 am

Tuesday, August 14

Coffee & Conversation — 9:00 am

Wednesday, August 15

Bible Study — 10:20 am

Christian Education —

Thursday, August 16

Deacons — 7:00 pm

Friday, August 17

Outdoor Movie Night — 8:30 pm

Saturday, August 18

Food Bank Saturday

Eat, Pray, Love Group — 9:00 am

PALS Dinner — 5:00 pm

(Ladybug Café, Clear Lake)

Sunday, August 19

Worship — 10:30 am

Tuesday, August 21

Special Needs & Endowment — 2:00 pm

Wednesday, August 22

Bible Study — 10:20 am

("Upcoming Events" continued on page 2)

Upcoming Dates

(continued from page 1)

Thursday, August 23

Session — 7:00 pm

Sunday, August 26

Worship — 10:30 am

Monday, August 27

“Pulse” Articles Due — Noon

Wednesday, August 29

Bible Study — 10:20 am

Guest Preacher — August 12

On Sunday, August 12, we will welcome back to our congregation and pulpit the Rev. David Feltman, Pastor to the Presbytery of North Central Iowa. Dave will preach and help lead the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.



Please make a point to be present and practice the hospitality we are known for.

A Note from the Stewardship Ministry Team

The Stewardship Ministry Team met in July to look over the financial status of the church accounts. Summer seems to be a time when our “cash flow” diminishes as we are occupied with the excitement of activities during the warm weather. This year is no exception.



Please look over your financial statement to make sure your pledge is current. If you have fallen behind and you are able to honor your pledge at this time, it would be greatly appreciated. We are concerned that the longer this goes on the more challenging it will be to get caught up. The Stewardship Team appreciates everyone who continues to make their pledges and provide support for our church.

Thank you,

The Stewardship Team

Jim Seeck, Bob Elsbury and Sarah Kress

“Understanding Grief & Loss” Support Group

Hospice of North Iowa is sponsoring a 6 week program for adults grieving a death. The support group will meet on 6 consecutive Thursday evenings from September 6 through October 11, 2018. Meetings will take place from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Hospice of North Iowa conference room, 232 2nd St. SE, Mason City. The event is free but registration prior to the 1st session is required since space is limited. Please call 1-800-297-4719 or 641-428-6208 to pre-register.

If the evening session is not an option for you, you may call the Hospice of North Iowa office to schedule an individual appointment for resources and support, free of charge.



PDA Hygiene Kits

During the week of Vacation Bible School, our kids put together 40 Hygiene Kits for the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The kits provide basic things like band-aids, toothbrushes, soap, towels, nail clippers, and combs. We hope they provide relief after any disaster when the simplest things can make a big difference.

A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated supplies!



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER ASSISTANCE**
OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

VBS 2018 Recap

What a great week!

Around 30 kids joined us on an adventure to learn all about what an adventure with God is full of. There was lots of dancing and singing, mind-bending experiments, crazy games, and four great Bible stories that shared how God is always with us as we ride the rapids of life!

Friday night we shared everything we had learned with our parents and friends, followed by the packing of our Hygiene Kits and some Wacky Water Games in the courtyard!

On Sunday, the kids shared the Bible stories in worship as well as singing the songs they learned this week.

It was wonderful, but only because we had the support of so many people in this church, so THANK YOU for continuing to make our VBS such a wonderful place for kids to come and experience God's love!



DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, August 17

West Parking Lot @ 8:30pm

Drive in or bring your lawn chairs for a fun movie night!

Free Popcorn!

Parking Lot opens at 8:00pm



Window Scavenger Hunt

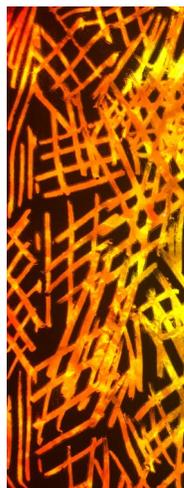
Last Month, Last Chance!

We've posted 6 new photos of the windows in our Narthex on the TV.

All you have to do is find all 6 and fill out a card to be entered for a prize.

At the end of month, we'll draw a name and award a winner.

We hope you enjoy finding all sorts of beautiful things in the windows!



Please keep the following people
in your prayers:

Family and friends of Laird Addis, brother of Yvonne Addis, who recently passed away; Warren & Mary Woerner; Lois Dougan; Shirley Dean; Steve Adair; Julie Eaton, daughter of Lee & Judy Butler



Wednesday Bible Study Readings

Wednesdays at 10:20 am



What a wonderful way to enjoy Bible study! Come join us in the Friendship Room as we look at the upcoming Sunday scripture. We laugh, share, and learn about God working in us.

August 8

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:1-8
Ephesians 4:25-5:2; John 6:35, 41-51

August 15

Proverbs 9:1-6; Psalm 34:9-14
Ephesians 5:15-20; John 6:51-58

August 22

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18; Psalm 34:15-22
Ephesians 6:10-20; John 6:56-59

August 29

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Psalm 15
James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Lois Dougan has moved from the skilled nursing care side of The Meadows in Grand Meadow, MN, to the assisted living side. Lois treasures her connection to our church and would enjoy hearing from any of you.



If you would like to send her a card, her new address is

117 2nd St. SE, Apt. 212
Grand Meadow, MN 55936

August Birthdays

- 8 — Ann MacGregor
- 11 — Arlene Mock
- 15 — Michael Mahaffey
- 16 — Skyler Eckholt
Matt Jones
- 17 — Donna Henry
Nancy Nickerson
- 21 — Roger Hunt
- 23 — Nick Helps
- 24 — Rod Helps
- 27 — Tammy Hertzell
- 28 — Rain Eckholt
Adam Kofoid
- 29 — Gene Ward
- 30 — Ralph Davey
- 31 — Kathy Stephens

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

RSVP Open House

RSVP, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program for people 55 and older, is looking for volunteers to meet community needs, especially in area schools. Most volunteers serve just one hour per week and scheduling is flexible. RSVP also provides training for volunteers.



Everyone is invited to their Open House on Friday, August 10, 2018 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at the Mason City Public Library, 225 2nd St. SE. There will be information and details about different volunteer opportunities and the positive impact you can have on your community as an RSVP Volunteer. If you are unable to attend but would like to learn more about RSVP, please contact Theresa Price, Volunteer Coordinator, at 422-4254 or theresa.price@niacc.edu.