



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Volume 89, No. 7

Lori Adams

See what she's doing on page 3.

CE Changes Ahead

Learn about them on p. 2.

Reminder:

Aug. 20—Session

Aug. 25—Church picnic

WORSHIP:

9:00 AM Sunday

10:15 AM Sunday School

WEBSITE

www.fpcmarshalltown.org



Word of Wisdom from Pastor Bryan Kunz

Like many people, I am concerned about the state of our political system in the U.S. I feel that we are called to care for the country where we live and to be involved citizens, working for the flourishing of our city and country (to paraphrase Jeremiah). I am concerned that neither of the major party candidates are wise choices for the presidential office. I am concerned about the ways our politicians abuse their power. I am concerned about more violence.

In all of that, studying and teaching on Daniel has been good for me. It reminds me that while I might be living in another Babylon, nations and kingdoms do not last forever. I am reminded that my hope does not lie in America or its politicians. I am reminded of God's ultimate control and his power to raise up and depose kings and presidents. He might not do this in the ways I think best or when I think best, but I know his ways are better.

Psalms 33 says, "The LORD foils the plans of the nations; he thwarts the purposes of the peoples. But the plans of the LORD stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations." This is an important truth for each day, but especially for an election year. We are hearing right now about many different plans of politicians, but none of those plans can go anywhere without the permission of God, who can choose to thwart any human plan at any time.

A little later Psalm 33 includes these lines, "No king is saved by the size of his army; no warrior escapes by his great strength... But the eyes of the LORD are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love..." Our hope is not in presidents or politicians or parties or platforms.

So, in this election year I believe we are called to resist the fear-mongering and the apocalyptic language. We should also resist placing our hope in people who will fail us. We can instead declare that we know who holds the future and we can work for the good of our neighborhood, city, and country by voting and speaking up and serving our neighbor. Remember you are a citizen of the kingdom of God and work for God's Kingdom to come on earth.

—Rev. Bryan Kunz



Christian Education Update

Youth Spotlight

Aug. 23—MHS Marching band show preview—
Winner Banissan

Aug. 29—MHS cross country meet @ home—
Preston Johnson & Elliana Rottink

Aug. 30—MHS Football/ Marching band
Winner Banissan

Pastor Bryan on vacation

Pastor Bryan will be gone on vacation Tuesday, July 30 – Thursday, August 8, 2024.

Please call the church office (753-5929) or Pastor Tom Bower (751-1924) if you have any pastoral care concerns during this time.



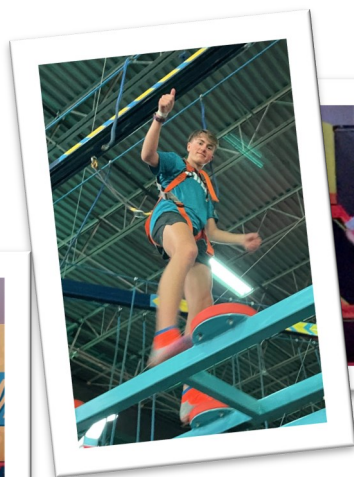
Christian Education Changes Coming This Fall

This fall we are making some changes to the structure of our youth groups. Youth Night, which was previously for 5th-8th graders, will now be for 7th-8th graders. This group will still meet in the Gathering Place at 5:30pm on Sundays. This change will align us with the public school grade divisions. We will be having occasional fun gatherings for the 5th and 6th graders, so look for information to come out soon about the first one!

We have also been thinking about the flow of Sunday mornings. Children and youth Sunday school starts at 10:15, but we have had trouble starting on time. In order to help our young people still enjoy a donut and make it to Sunday school on time, we are making a separate donut line for the children. It will be on the long tables at the south end of the Fellowship Hall. It will take some weeks to work out the exact flow of this line, but we hope that children can get their donut or banana and juice more quickly through this line, while adults can continue to use the main line past the coffee machines and the kitchen window. Parents, if you can help your child be on their way to the sanctuary by 10:15, that would be great!

—CE Committee

Youth @ Urban Air



What's coming at FPC

New pictorial church directory coming!

Picnic at the park

Mark your calendar for **October 1 & 2** when a company will be here to take individual & family pictures for our new pictorial directory.

Coming August 25th! M&I Committee is planning a picnic at Kaufman City Park in State Center. Serving will begin at 11:30, so there will be time after church to change clothes and take the short drive to the park. M&I will be grilling burgers, brats, and hot dogs, making baked beans, and providing table service and the drink. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. This is time for some visiting, relaxing, eating, games, and fun before summer is over. The splash pad will be available, so bring a towel for the kids.

News from Lori Adams

Warm greetings to my home church in Marshalltown! I'm so grateful for your support, prayer, and friendship!

Aren't these tulips beautiful?! You now what else is beautiful? God brought me housemates, administrative help, like minded ministry partners, and peace that passes understanding in chaotic times in the past half year. Would you please pray for two more housemates?

I share these newsletters with you because you are investing in our work here financially and prayerfully. THANK YOU! It's my hope that you don't see this as a Lori Show and Tell time, but an account of seeing God at work at ISU and in the Ames area.

I'm sharing what's been "life-giving" for others and me, but I assure you there are many "life-sucking" things about what we're doing here: Students "ghost me" a lot, rarely returning my calls, texts, or emails. Students aren't prone to ask "what can I do to help?" so I make a lot of asks and there are a lot of "sorry I can't". And there are many who say I'm coming, but don't. I tell you this not as a complaint, but as a commentary on the culture we share. It's hard, isn't it? But it's worth it and sharing the stories helps encourage all of us.

I'm grateful to be enjoying many things in life outside of structured ministry such as:

1. watching my friends dance with their kids at their weddings
2. experiencing Brock and Jenna Purdy's no cell phone zone wedding and reception
3. watching my dad joke with medical personnel before his carotid artery surgery and hearing the doctor say everything went well
4. going to my great nephews' concerts in town
5. being family with extended family

This summer will include:

1. FCA around my backyard campfire
2. many bike rides preparing for RAGBRAI on my e-bike with friends
3. being with friends at Christians Working in Sports conference June 21-22
4. time with old friends from Prentice, Wisconsin, in Door County
5. joining 9 lowan educators at the Christian Educators Leadership Summit in Colorado Springs

How can I pray for you?

With a hug and a high five,
Lori Adams

Editor's note: See our August 13th blog post for Lori's Fellowship of Christian Athletes update.



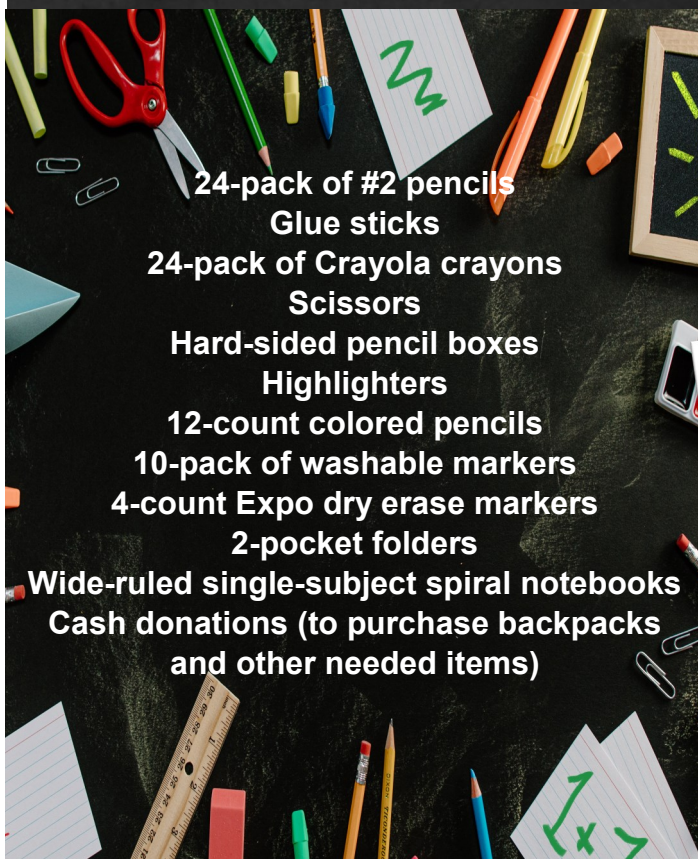
Recent Mission Blog Posts

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>

July 9 Missionaries to pray for
July 23 A Better Life - Pastor Bryan

Backpack Drive

First Presbyterian Church is partnering with Mosaic Church in their backpack drive for the 2024-25 school year. Backpacks will be given to Big Brothers Big Sisters and individual schools of the MCSD to be distributed to students and families in need. Through August 11 we will be collecting the following supplies in the Narthex:



- 24-pack of #2 pencils
- Glue sticks
- 24-pack of Crayola crayons
- Scissors
- Hard-sided pencil boxes
- Highlighters
- 12-count colored pencils
- 10-pack of washable markers
- 4-count Expo dry erase markers
- 2-pocket folders
- Wide-ruled single-subject spiral notebooks
- Cash donations (to purchase backpacks and other needed items)

You are also welcome to help at a backpack filling event Saturday, August 17 from 10:00 a.m.—noon at Mosaic Workshop in the basement of First Interstate Bank, 11 N. 1st Ave.

—Missions Committee



Thank you

Thank you for all of the prayers for me and my family over the past year or so. They are appreciated. Praise the Lord, my sister Darlene just had a great check up six months after her surgery for kidney cancer!

—Rose Elsbecker

We want to say “thank you” to everyone who stayed after worship on June 23rd to help us celebrate our 60th wedding anniversaries.

To be able to celebrate both our 30th and 60ths with our same church family and good friends who share a common faith in Jesus is a special gift indeed.

Our memories with First Presbyterian Church are rich and varied and will continue to be so into the future. Thanks again,

—Tom & Jean Bower and Larry & Lavonne Watkins



A Tip of the Hat to —

Steve Anderson, Bonnie Bradbury, Matt & Diane Broshar, Greg Brown, Jackie Hughes, Pat Kremer, and Bryan Kunz for putting the food in the little pantry in July...
Jackie Hughes for filling in in the office & printing bulletins...Our faithful workers at the House of Compassion during the month of July: **Diane Broshar, Matt Broshar, Jackie Hughes, Rich King, Heather Rottink, Isaiah Rottink, Jon Rottink, Naysa Rottink, and Lavonne Watkins.**



News & Upcoming Events

Coming this Month: Emergency Food Box

The Emergency Food Box would like to say THANK YOU for all of the support we have received through 2024 so far! Our half-year statistics show that the EFB served almost 2,700 families. We could not provide food to so many people without your help! All food items are donated or purchased with the money contributed. Any type of food donations are always welcome! At this time we also need to restock condiments, soups and cereals. Donations can always be dropped off at the Emergency Food Box. Feel free to credit your church when bringing donations if you're not interested in your own receipts. Food items or monetary (check/cash) donations may be brought to the EFB (107 N 1st St) Monday through Thursday afternoon, 1:30 to 4:30, or Fridays, 10:30 til 1:30. Please make checks payable to: Emergency Food Box. Our mailing address is PO Box 391, Marshalltown, IA 50158. Donated funds are used to buy food items from the Food Bank of Iowa and locally. Our phone number is 753-2801 if you have questions.

Music & Choir

Choir and bell choir will restart August 21st with bells at 6:30 p.m. and chancel choir at 7:30 p.m. Both choirs need people to join!

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.

Circle News

Elizabeth Circle will not meet in August. They will meet again on **Thursday, September 12, 2024, at 1:30 p.m.** in the Lower Lounge. We will be studying lesson #5. All women are welcome.

Sarah Circle will not meet over the summer.

Bible Study Fellowship

Bible Study Fellowship, an international interdenominational Christian fellowship, is offering a free 30-week Bible study for women at Grace Church beginning the week of September 9th. The 2024-25 study is on Revelation. Groups will meet Wednesdays 9:15-10:00 a.m. on Zoom, and in person Wednesdays from 6:45-7:45 p.m., and Thursdays from 9:15-10:45 a.m. The Thursday morning study includes a program for kids ages 0-6. You may register at joinbsf.com.

Hymn Sing

There will be NO Hymn Sing in August. Check this space or the bulletin for information on September,

Pantry Update

Summer is a hard time for many families that rely on school lunch to help them feed their children. We have been helping to meet their needs by putting more food in our pantry since school has been out. We have one more month to go! Thank you for your support of this ministry. **We are currently very low on vegetables, soups, pasta & sauce, and proteins (tuna, peanut butter, canned meats).** We always need *breakfast cereal, canned fruit, ramen, shelf-stable milk or dry milk packets, single serving and family-size meals, bread and tortillas.* You may bring items to the wagon under the main entrance stairs any time.



July Session Actions

The Stated Session meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Marshalltown met in the Fellowship Hall, July 16, 2024.

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

There was a quorum in attendance.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of the May 21, 2024, and June 18, 2024, Stated Session meetings.

Search Team Report: Pastor Bryan reported the search team is close to recommending a candidate for the associate pastor position after a positive third interview this week.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Bryan said he is busy preparing for fall, and he shared recent General Assembly actions with Session.

Finances: Matt Broshar reported giving for the first half of the year is up \$15,000 over 2023, and spending is in line.

Committee Reports:

Property: Steve Anderson reported the down payment has been made on the northeast door.

Mission/Evangelism: Lee Wilkinson highlighted some projects the committee is working on, such as an Iowa/

ISU game food drive and possible watch party, a school supply drive, and a fall mission fair and outreach event.

Worship & Music: There were 112 for communion in July.

Christian Education: Ashley Johnson reported on changes to the Sunday school curriculum and youth groups.

A&P: Pastor Bryan said the committee will be working on the PCUSA benefits system changes and associate pastor compensation package.

Membership & Involvement: Tracy Ostrem said the committee did not meet.

Memorials: Steve Anderson said the committee did not meet.

Other: The Hebron Temple use agreement extension was discussed and agreed to.

Motion prevailed to adjourn the meeting following prayer at 8:49 p.m.

Financial Report

June

JUNE 2024	Actual
Total Receipts	\$32,286.00
Budget	42,000.00
Total Expenses	(\$29,527.00)
Budget	(39,869.00)
Year to Date:	
Total Receipts	\$208,947.00
Budget	220,810.00
Difference	(11,863)
Total Expenses	(\$206,558.00)
Budget	(223,202.00)
Difference	16,644

Newsletter deadline with SEPTEMBER 2024 information is Tuesday, August 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

August 2024 Birthday/Prayer Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<i>Praying for each other brings us closer together. Please pray each day for those listed.</i>				1	2	3
4	5 Carlee Flack	6 Vanessa Henningsen Rich King Ben Wirin Betsy Wirin	7 Payton Pietig	8 Winner Banissan Jarrett Drummer Phyllis Wubben	9	10 Pam Brandenburg
11 Brenda Mosher	12 Arlene Lange	13 Jean Haslett	14 Afeafa Eklou Ralph Ward	15	16	17 Gail Boliver Matt Broshar
18	19 Bonnie Sievers	20 Roger Bristley Dee Daniels Parker Pietig Andy Randall	21 Samuel Afoutou Greg Brown Ray Zeisneiss	22 Chuck Colwell Connie Sanford	23	24 Audrey Bailey
25	26	27	28 Matt McKibben	29 Lyn Rakowicz	30	31
						

Role	SUNDAY SERVANTS				
	Aug. 4	Aug. 11	Aug. 18	Aug. 25	
Worship Leader	Richie Ritter	Lucas Johnson	Lavonne Watkins	Don Feld	
Greeters	Carolyn Wilkinson & Marge Wolfe	Robin Harrison & Ken Smith	Diane & Keith Oleson	Larry & Lavonne Watkins	
Door Greeter	Ashley Johnson		Steve Anderson		
Fellowship Hosts	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Don & Ruth Feld	Garry & Terri Rottink	Jackie Hughes	
Cup Washers	Mitch & Michelle Brown Family	Jacob Jorgensen		Church picnic	
Donuts	Bill & Susan Lawyer	Don & Ruth Feld	Marlene Snyder	Church picnic – no donuts	
Nursery	Bethany & Betsy Wirin & Madi Stull	& Madi Stull	& Madi Stull	Terri Rottink & Madi Stull	
Flowers	Jackson Family	Bruce & Bethany Wirin Family	Jackie Hughes;	Roger & Karen Schoell	
Deacons	Larry & Judy Erion	Karen Schoell & Marlene Snyder	Doug & Jinita Boyd	Wynona Anderson & Lisa Simpson	
AV Tech	Diane Broshar	Lindsey Van Wyk	Bill Lawyer	Steve Anderson	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	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
AUGUST 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	2	3 7:30a Men's Group
←				Pastor Bryan on vacation		
4 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Adult Sunday school	5	6 6:30p Property	7 8:30p Praise Team	8 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	9	10 7:30a Men's Group
→					Pastor Bryan returns	
11 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Adult Sunday school 2:00p Youth	12 6:00p Worship & Music Comm. 6:00p M & I Comm. 7:00p Missions & Evangelism Comm.	13 6:15p Bible Study	14 8:30p Praise Team	15 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge 2:00p FPC serves @ House of Compassion	16	17 7:30a Men's Group 10:00a Backpack Filling event
18 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 10:15a Adult Sunday school	19	20 7:00p Session <i>Newsletter Articles Due</i>	21 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Choir 8:30p Praise Team	22 8:30a Flapjacks – Lower Lounge	23	24 7:30a Men's Group
25 8:40a – Prayer - Conf. Room 9:00a Worship – online & in person 11:00a Church picnic @ State Center City Park	26	27 6:00p Bible Study 6:15p Bible Study	28 6:30 Bell Choir 7:30 Choir 8:30p Praise Team	29	30	31