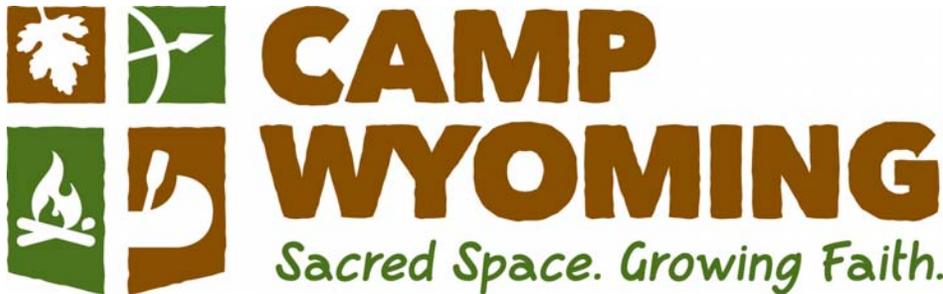


February Connections 2017

'Souper' Bowl Sunday

On February 5 there will be lots going on. The best of which is the Youth will be taking over this church. Not really, but they do have a huge role as to what will be happening. They will be actively taking part in some of the duties of the congregation in the Sanctuary before and during worship and they will be our gracious host for Fellowship Hour. The Youth will have a lunch and will be taking free-will donations to help send them to summer camp.

As most of you know Camp Wyoming is the Presbyterian camp of choice for us. It is located here in Iowa and is a place that many of us have gone throughout the years. With the generosity of Jack Naylor and the Alice Naylor Camp Wyoming Scholarship Fund, camp is possible no matter what the cost. Last year we had 6 kids from our congregation attend camp. With the new additions to the church we really hope that this means we will have even more children this year. We do have the funds in Alice Naylor's scholarship fund, but we feel that it is necessary that the kids work a little for it. Also, our hope is that we can keep Alice's Fund flowing for a very long time. That is why we will be taking free-will donations for the 'Souper' Bowl Sunday Fellowship Hour lunch. So come and let the Youth fill your bellies with some awesome soups and treats.



Camp Wyoming					Summer Schedule					
CAMP WYOMING <small>Sacred Space. Growing Faith.</small>	Grade Entering	Early Bird Rate			Price after March 15 th	June 18-23	June 25-30	July 9-14	July 16-21	July 23-28
		Tier I	Tier II	Tier III						
Partial Week										
You & Me	1-3	\$125	\$175	\$225		June 17-18				
Explorer I	1-2	\$190	\$240	\$290		June 18-20 June 21-23		July 9-11 July 12-14		
Explorer II	3-4	\$190	\$240	\$290		June 18-20 June 21-23		July 9-11 July 12-14		
Full Week										
Discovery	3-4	\$425	\$475	\$525	add an additional \$25 to each tiered price.	🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠
Pirates	3-5	\$425	\$475	\$525			🏠	🏠		
Sports I	4-5	\$425	\$475	\$525			🏠		🏠	
Music, Arts, & Drama	4-7	\$450	\$500	\$550						🏠
Pioneers	5-6	\$425	\$475	\$525			🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠
Sports II	6-8	\$450	\$500	\$550				🏠	🏠	🏠
Night Owls	7-8	\$450	\$500	\$550			🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠
Midders	7-9	\$450	\$500	\$550			🏠	🏠	🏠	🏠

Come by the office for your registration forms. Forms are due by March 12!

Glimpses of Grace....

Dear Church Family,

'Celebrating the ordinary' is what we have been doing thus far this year and will be doing in worship as we lead up to the next big thing in the church year. Celebrating ordinary time, the time of year when we are neither aiming at nor celebrating the events of Advent/Christmas or Lent/Easter, is what we do most of the liturgical year. Usually 33 or 34 weeks we spend not preparing for or celebrating the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus. Celebrating the ordinary reminds us that neither of the great celebrations of Christmas or Easter are sufficient enough to sustain us as people of faith in the day-to-day living of our mostly ordinary lives.

If you notice the liturgical colors, you will see that green is the color of ordinary. Green is also the color that most often signifies growth in creation. Thus ordinary time is the time in which we are called to be like Peter, James, John, Andrew and Matthew/Levi, and follow Jesus as we grow in our lives of faithful discipleship.

In January we were reminded of the promises God made to each one of us as He claimed us in our baptism. We also were reminded that we are cherished as God's beloved daughters and sons, as well as responsible for how we live our lives. There are always aspects of our character or our lives in need of repentance, of turning away from our self-centered wants and desires and will, and towards God and His loving mercy. Thankfully God knows this and welcomes us with open arms each and every time we do! That reality is surely something to celebrate!

In February we will be taking a closer look at some of Jesus' miracles, a reminder that God became flesh and dwelt among us. Jesus was 'ordinary' and He was also divine, which makes Him the perfect One Who understands the struggles and joys of ordinary life. He understands what it means to be human because He has gone through it firsthand. He has also promised to be with us always, through the work of His Holy Spirit, as we go through it.

So, my question for us today is: Where do we need to be turning around and following Jesus in the ordinary, day-to-day routines of our lives? My follow-up questions: Does it involve how we use our time, our talents, our resources? Does it involve how we relate to God and neighbor?

Our lives are gifts from God, given with love and care. Each ordinary day we live counts in God's eyes as something special. Thus we can 'celebrate the ordinary' 24/7!

In His service,
Deb

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for thinking of our families at Grimes Elementary School when preparing for the "Angel Tree" this Christmas. We have a family who is in a great need of assistance this winter and your timing is impeccable. We appreciate you all and everything you do. Thank you for your help and we look forward to working with you all again.

*Sincerely,
Melanie Reed, BSW
Home School Liaison*

Trustee Report

Statement of Income & Expense December 31, 2016

	Budget	Actual	Variance	Percent of Budget
Income				
Pledge	168,558.00	178,873.50	-10,315.50	106.1%
Non Pledge	24,000.00	37,136.10	-13,136.10	154.7%
Investment In- come	18,027.00	19,858.39	-1,831.39	110.2%
PerCapita	3,000.00	2,857.88	142.12	95.3%
Misc Income		4894.96		
Total Income	213,585.00	243,620.83	-30,035.83	114.1%
Expenses				
Personnel	179,160.00	174,555.59	4,604.41	97.4%
Youth Ministries	2,650.00	2,785.38	-135.38	105.1%
Radical Hospitali- ty	1,350.00	1,788.37	-438.37	132.5%
Deacons	750.00	449.45	300.55	59.9%
Property	61,330.00	53,369.60	7,960.40	87.0%
Worship	3,150.00	2,685.61	464.39	85.3%
Total Expenses	248,390.00	235,634.00	12,756.00	94.9%
Differential		7,986.83		
Estimated Income Hanna	\$31,540.00	\$29,660.43	1,879.57	94.0%
Mission Budget	\$25,180.00	25,287.95	-107.95	100.4%
Differential		4,372.48		

**Per Capita
Apportionment
for 2017 is \$36.00**

Upcoming Worship Schedule

We are doing something a little different with the preaching schedule from January through May in our effort to be more holistic with what everyone is learning and more intergenerational in our worship experience. We will be tying the Sunday school lesson, memory verse and Scripture that the children and youth will be learning into my preaching. And yes, you read correctly! We are hoping the adults will join the children in memorizing a different Scripture each week!

Feb. 5, Youth Sunday: Souper Bowl of Caring; Communion; Feeding the 5,000 from Matt. 14; memory verse: *I am the bread of life.* John 6:48

Feb. 12 Puppets; Jesus' Parables from Matthew 13

Feb. 19 Jesus walks on water from Matt. 14:22-33; memory verse: *Jesus immediately said to them, 'Take courage, it is I, don't be afraid.'* Matt. 14:27.

Feb. 27 Jesus heals the blind man from John 9:1-12; memory verse: *Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.* Matt. 22:37



GET INVOLVED



In case you weren't aware, we are having a healthy competition between the adults and youth of the church. Basically who ever learns the most Bible verses wins!

Every week Deb and the teachers will be letting you know what the verse is; you can also find them here in the *Connections*. **HINT: They are at the top of this page. If you can recite the verse to Kelle following church then you get a punch on your punch card. When you fill up your punch card (total 5 punches) you get to pick a prize out of the treasure box and leave your card. Which ever group has the most cards on April 9th wins. The winners will have fellowship hour hosted to them by the losing team.

Adults, the kids are worried that you will win because there are so many more of you. I am confident that so many of you will participate that the teachers, committee and maybe even the parents will be added to the youth team.



The Love Fund provides money for anyone in the congregation who is in need of financial help because of unforeseen circumstances. It is funded solely by donations. Loose offering collected on Sunday, February 12th will go directly to the Love Fund. Anyone can donate to the

Love Fund throughout the year by using the Love Fund envelopes located in the pews.

If you know of someone who may have a short term financial need and would want to be considered as a possible recipient of the Love Fund, please contact Reverend Kinney or any member of the Deacons.

In 2016 "Come to Church with a Can" had 1,252 food items donated to the Community Action of Southeast Iowa Neighborhood Center by members of our church. First Presbyterian Church is looking to continue this support toward a goal of 1,200 food items donated in 2017.

North Hill Elementary School Family Food Support

Our church provided holiday food baskets to 12-15 families at Easter, Thanksgiving & Christmas in 2016. During the 2016 Spring & Fall school year members of our church purchased, packed and delivered 435 food bags to the school as a weekend supplement for these families. Please thank these members for their continued support of this church mission: Grocery Purchase by Sue Carter, Pat Saldeen, Sandy Smith & Linda Tickel; Bag Packing by Allie Brink & Pat Whitmore; and Bag Delivery by Vickie Carhoff, Craig Gilchrist, Francis McAllister & Bruce Morrison.

The Mission Committee wants to thank all the congregation for their continued support of these two church missions that provide nutritional assistance to families in Burlington.

Reflections from Randy....

Called to be agents of grace in a “grace-less” world...

Lately I've grown weary of reading about and listening to the world around me; all one needs to do is to read the daily paper or spend a few minutes on Facebook. It seems as though everyone has been given carte blanc to look for, and to criticize everything in the world around them that causes their knee to jerk. Finding fault seems to have become the order of the day in this secular country of ours. The irony in so much of this is that much of America would like to be called a “Christian nation,” but we act as though we've never heard what that means. As Christians, we are all called to respond to the prophet Micah's warning: *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8, NRSV).*

As Christians, we have come to the season of Epiphany, in which we search for ways in which God through Jesus Christ is revealed to us, and then we look for ways that we might reveal that light to the world. Jesus sums up that commission in the Sermon on the Mount when he says *“You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:13-16, NRSV).* We're called to be that light on a hill to the world around us.

In baptism, we are called every day to turn from a self-centered life to one that is God-centered; we call this repenting from sin. Six weeks from now we will hear the prophet Isaiah speak on Ash Wednesday: *“Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I. If you do away with the yoke of oppression, with the pointing finger and malicious talk, and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. (Isaiah 58: 6-10, NRSV)*

Perhaps our Epiphany vocation is best summed up in the words of Frank von Christerson, who wrote these words in a hymn in 1961:

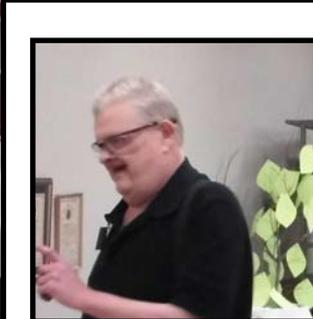
*A world in need now summons us to labor, love, and give;
to make our life an offering that others too may live.*

*The Church of Christ is calling us to make the dream come true:
a world redeemed, your kingdom come, all life in Christ made new.*

The season of Epiphany is exceptionally long this year. It runs until Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, on Wednesday, March 1. It would seem to me that we have our work cut out for us in these next six weeks. Our challenge is simple and very complicated at the same time: Be light, be salt, set your lamps on lampstands. Live into our baptismal calling by being prophet, priest and king to each other and the world around us. Look for grace, look for the good, and proclaim gospel, which literally means “good news” to a hurting, wounded world all around us.

Faithfully,
Randy+

★HAPPY★ BIRTHDAY!



Staff Reports

Pastor's Report Rev. Deb Kinney

Worship

4 worship services; 2 baptisms
1 memorial service/interment

Education

4 Bible study groups

Connections

15 Drop-ins/appointments/calls
4 home/hospital visits
9 cards/letters sent

Church Meetings

Trustees

Church Activities/Events Attended

Hope Haven Christmas party
Knitwits
Create and take down luminaria

Other

Connections work
Christmas planning
Budget work
Spiritual direction session (2)
Separate meetings with staff (9)

Vacation

1 Sunday, 5 days

Minister of Faith and Worship, and Organist Randy Webster

Sunday Worship services (4)
Christmas Eve service, with special music
Sunday worship presider (1)
Vacation coverage of pastoral care
Messiah-Sing
Staff meetings

Worship planning and consultation with the Pastor
Preparing the sanctuary for Advent and Christmas
Planning for Advent and Christmas programming
Helping with hospitality for Christmas Eve and
Christmas Day
Soloist and choir rehearsals
Private practice
Connections submissions

Interim CE Coordinator, Kelle Haller

Young Disciples
2 Services
Adult Bible Study
1 Sundays
Meetings
0 Christian Education
Activities

Christmas Pageant
Kid Zone
Cards for Deacons friends
Bulletin Board
Jesus is the best present.



The Puppet Show



FPC Newsworthy

Happy Retirement Sandy!



Dear Church Family,
I so appreciated that so many of you attended the celebration of my retirement. It is bittersweet in a way because even though Bruce & I are doing some long planned traveling, I do miss seeing you as often as I used to.
That said, I love my new Keurig coffee maker and want to thank you for it and for making my job a pleasant experience for the time I was there.
Sandy Morrison



In the past couple of months, we have had two large funeral luncheons. I want to thank all the ladies in our church family that have brought food and worked on both. The deacons have a slogan of "See a need....Meet it!" With the help of everyone, it definitely was done.

Thank you!

Sue Carter, Deacon Moderator



The results are in from the fall stewardship drive. Our projected income equals our projected expenses. I would like to thank those who pledged for the first time. I also would like to thank those who were able to increase their pledges. I must not forget to thank those who maintained their pledge from last year. Now our church family can do the work of our Lord God.

GOD IS GOOD.

Wilma Hemphill, Stewardship Chairman

The office received the most wonderful phone call.

There was the sweetest voice on the other end; it was Betty Cowan. She wanted to call and thank everyone for the beautiful poinsettia at Christmas time. She said that it was the prettiest one she has ever seen. She also loved the cookies.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We wish to express our deep and sincere thanks to Pastor Deb and to all of the members of First Presbyterian Church for your many prayers and acts of kindness, the cards and expressions of sympathy and the gifts to the memorial fund. It has not been easy during the last illness and the death of Shirley, but you helped provide us comfort and compassion during a difficult time. Your many kindnesses will long be remembered.

(Mrs.) Shirley, Randy and Paul, and Beth and Tommy

Church Happenings

Happy Birthday

February 8.....Ruby McCormick
 February 9.....Jesse McCormick
Jacob Mullins
 February 10.....Jesse Durham
 February 11.....Richard Wells
 February 12.....Leona Byars
 February 14.....Richard Fischer
 February 15Edie Blom
Marcia Bailey
 February 18.....Zachary Carhoff
 February 25.....Caleb Kunz
 February 27.....James Schafer

Yum Yum's

The Yum Yum's will be meeting for supper at Bent River on Jefferson St, right next to the church. The date is Thurs, Feb 16th @ 6pm. We invite everyone in our church family to come and enjoy the good food and fellowship. Please sign the sign-up sheet or call Bonnie White at 319-752-1244 or Sue Carter at 319-753-0683 to make a reservation.

VisionTrust Update on Mareeswari

Mareeswari is an engineering student from India we are sponsoring through the past fundraising efforts of Mariners. The Country Director continues to recommend her and says; "She is a strong believer of Jesus and good in her studies. She is sharing the Gospel with her college mates and stands as a witness among others."

Mareeswari was interviewed by a staff of VisionTrust:

How did you help your community this last year? *I did possible helps to the students who are studying with me; when I go to my village I help the other children in their studies.*

What did you learn from your mentor this last year? *I learnt about the Love and Grace of Jesus Christ in deep and also how to help others.*

What scripture really applied to your life this last year? *I applied Judges chapter 14:15. I learnt not to live the life of Samson and to fulfil God's wish in my life.*

What were your biggest challenges this past year? *My biggest challenge was to communicate in English with everyone in my college since I came from a Tamil medium school.*

What were your greatest victories? *In my first semester exam God enabled me to clear all my exams without any areas. That is my greatest victory.*



SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP TEAM: Mike Elmer, Jim French, Steve Hemphill, Pauline Johnson, Cheryl Lotz, Jill Mehaffy-Nalley, Ed Whitmore, JoAnn Williams (Clerk of Session), ruling elders.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP TEAM: Bill Carter & Sue Carter, (Moderator), Adele Coulter, (secretary), Vicki Elmer, Ruth Francis, (Vice moderator) Craig Gilchrist, Carey King, Pat Saldeen, Jay Schafer, Jolene Schafer, Bob Snider, Pat Whitmore.

GOD'S STEWARDS TEAM: Wilma Hemphill, Larry Lazenby (Co-President), Francis McAllister, (Treasurer/Co-President), LaDonna Putnam, Chuck Rucker.

OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Closed for Lunch 12-p.m.-1:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Friday Closed

First Presbyterian Church
 321 N 5th Street
 Burlington, IA 52601

February 2017

29 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Congregational Meeting	30	31	1 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	2	3	4
5 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM 'Souper' Bowl Sunday	6 6:00 PM Worship meeting	7	8 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study 9:30 AM Knitwits	9	10	11
12 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM CE Meeting	13	14	15 Connections Deadline 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	16 1:30 PM Hope Haven Birthday Party 6:00 PM Yum Yum Group	17	18
19 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship	20 OFFICE CLOSED 7:00 PM Session Meeting	21 6:00 PM Deacon's	22 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	23	24	25
26 8:30 AM Choir 9:00 AM Sunday school 10:00 AM Worship	27 7:00 PM Mission Meeting	28	1 7:15 AM Men's Bible Study 8:30 AM Women's Bible Study	2	3	4