



New Year Chapter Five

**APRIL**

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- 5/5—Graduate Recognition
- 5/8—WEO
- 5/8—Session
- 5/13—Knitting Group
- 5/13—BUNKO
- 5/19—Choir's Last Sunday



## A NEW CREATION

Easter baskets and Easter bunnies. Hunts for colored eggs, both dyed at home and plastic and filled with goodies. Pastel wrapped candies and plaid shirts, flowery dresses. Gatherings with family and friends.

As far as our culture is concerned, this is what Easter is all about. I have sympathy for this because let's face it—the Easter event can be difficult to get our minds and hearts around!

In our experience, no one, no matter how beloved they are, comes back from the dead. And yet that is exactly what the Christian faith proclaims.

Logically, the resurrection does not make sense. In seminary, I remember confessing to a professor that I didn't know if I believed it, and she confessed in return that it was a leap of faith for her. That was a big help for me, and I have been able to take that same leap of faith.

I can't explain the resurrection, but I can trust it. We see evidence of resurrection all around us in this season, as trees, shrubs, patches of ground that looked dead come back to life. But even more we experience it in our lives and the lives of those around us. We've all experienced life events that knock the wind out of us and bring us to our knees—divorce, illness, job loss, death. And yet, we still rise from these...sometimes better than ever (eventually). The powers of death do NOT have the final word.

New life, new creation are all around us, woven into the patterns of creation.

Martin Niemoeller, the German pastor and theologian who was part of the resistance to Nazi Germany, wrote these words:

"Easter is not a part of the old accustomed divine order,  
of the ordered world in which we live,  
but it is an absolutely new, unexpected act of the living God,  
which interrupts and runs counter to the uniform rise and fall  
of the world's rhythm.

Here we have the beginning of something new."

During the season of Easter—the Great Fifty Days, or seven weeks, between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday—our worship will focus on this new creation promised to us. May we all find that God is up to all kinds of new things in our lives, our congregation, our world.

*Pastor Lori*

### First Presbyterian Church

301/309 First Street NW  
Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Phone: 319-895-6060

We're on the web:

[www.firstpresmv.com](http://www.firstpresmv.com)

Follow us on

Facebook:

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon



Twitter:

FirstPresMV

The office hours are Tuesday through Friday mornings 9:30am until 12:30. pm

Church Phones:895-6060  
Office Manager:  
Deb Klopp  
[mvfirstpres@q.com](mailto:mvfirstpres@q.com)

Pastor Lori Wunder.  
431-2227 (cell)  
[Lewunder@gmail.com](mailto:Lewunder@gmail.com)

Treasurer: Barb Bjork  
[bjorkbarb@gmail.com](mailto:bjorkbarb@gmail.com).

Director of Music:  
Julia Andrews  
[julia.andrews4444@gmail.com](mailto:julia.andrews4444@gmail.com)



## FAITH FORMATION

### Our last W.E.O. (Wednesday Early Out) – May 8 2:00\*-3:30pm at the church

It's our last WEO and we're going to celebrate! We will have a sneak peek of our summer VBS program, "Water All Around the World" and there will be snacks and Gaga Ball! Join us!!!

*\*Please not the later dismissal time*

### Vacation Bible School Comes to First Pres! "Water All Around the World"

Monday, June 17 through Friday, June 21  
Mornings, 9am-Noon

We all need water to live and grow and thrive. But clean, safe water is not easily available everywhere. Each day, we will learn about how children in different parts of the world live, and especially how they get water. We'll also learn a Bible story about water, enjoy tasty snacks, and try our hands at crafts and some water "magic!"

For four year olds on up. Let Pastor Lori know if you plan to attend. Friends are welcome, but our limit is 30 kids!



### 2019 Camp Wyoming Summer Camp

Consider signing up to attend Camp Wyoming!  
(details are provided on page 7).



### Adult Forum - Estate Planning 101: Legal Basics Sunday, May 19 at 11:00 am

We can't take it with us, but we can plan ahead to share what we have with the people, places and organizations that matter most to us. Attorney Scott Peterson will present information on planned giving and the basic legal premises of estates.

## April Session Highlights

Present: Elaine Bishop, Ed Bjork, Carol Daly, Carole Frazee, Pat Hogan, Roger Johanson, Scott Peterson, Larry Petrick, Larry Purvis, Jonathan Walsh, Lori Wunder  
 Excused: Allan Recalde, Greg West

- Session will be doing a study of the PC(USA)'s new form of government, *Faith, Hope, Love, and Witness The PC(USA) Form of Government* by Paul K. Hooker. Lori Wunder introduced the study.
- Lori and Larry Petrick, our commissioner to presbytery, shared highlights from the March 16 stated meeting.
- Expenses for March were \$11,907.83. There has been some online giving and a few new pledges. Cash flow for the year is good because of several pledges being paid in full. We anticipate a tight summer.
- Nicholas Matthew Brautigam JR, infant son of Nick and Kylea (Weber) Brautigam, will be baptized on May 12, 2019. Amy Weber will serve as Elder.
- The office manager job description was reviewed. An ad will be placed in the April 18 and 25 *Sun*. Elaine, Scott, Barb, and Lori are names suggested for the interview committee.
- We are doing our own Vacation Bible School, "Water All Around the World," (produced by Living Waters for the World, a PC(USA) ministry), the week of June 17-21 in the mornings. The April 27, May, and June Noisy Offerings will be used to support this.
- Roger Johanson asked about doing a new series for adults. *ProFuture Faith* by Reverend Michael Dowd is an eight-session DVD and internet-based course that bridges the gap between head and heart, science and faith. The basic format includes conversation around the readings with a 20-minute video presentation and guided discussion. Roger suggested those interested commit to the series, and to meeting at a time outside Sunday mornings.
- Project Tanehope has received \$974.60 in gifts. We will round it up to \$1,000 from Blue Envelope Gifts and send it to Danny Laiser. The project is almost self-sufficient now. He has a three-fold plan: He needs money for additional medications, he will charge a small consultation fee, and he will sell bottled water at a slight increase in cost. The cost of this plan is \$700.
- We will not have a Heritage Days food stand this year but may address the congregation about having one in the future.
- Healing Touch Circle will not meet after this Sunday. Catherine Quehl Engel and Stephanie Abresch are stepping down, and no replacements have been found.

### Choir Project Update:

After a series of conversations with Session, the choir and Director of Music Julia Andrews, we have a plan for the space. The first weekend in June, Ed Bjork and Jonathan Walsh will dismantle the current choir area—the pews and risers will be removed. Ed Bjork has gotten building materials donated and is already cutting the riser supports. Scott Peterson is coordinating work that will need to be done by an electrician and a sound engineer. Elaine Bishop and Pat Hogan have looked into chairs for the choir and will have a recommendation for our May meeting. Our goal is to have everything done and ready to go by the end of the summer.

## faith and finances

### First Quarter 2019

#### General Fund Receipts

Date	Amount	Date	Amount	Date	Amount
01/16/19*	\$18,536.00	02/03/19	\$3,293.00	03/03/19	\$2,828.00
01/13/19	\$929.00	02/10/19	\$1,097.00	03/10/19	\$2,375.00
01/20/19	\$1,058.00	02/17/19*	\$230.00	03/17/19	\$1,538.00
01/27/19	\$386.00	02/24/19	\$8,809.00	03/24/19	\$1,878.00
				03/31/19	\$1,140.00
*Includes Prepaid		* Worship Cancelled			

### Church Finance Update

Back in January, we reported that we finished 2018 nearly \$20,000 in the hole and that we anticipate another large deficit for 2019. Since that announcement, we have received some additional gifts, including a monthly gift set up through our online giving option (visit [www.firstpresmv.com](http://www.firstpresmv.com) and look for "Online Giving" in the banner).

Here are some ways to help:

- **Consider a "Thirteenth Month of Giving."** An additional month's gift—or any additional gift—will help reduce the deficit.
- **Contribute \$38 Per Capita for the members in your household.** Per Capita is the money we pay that supports the work of our Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Our congregation's share is \$5054.00 for 2019.
- **Pray.** On Session we are trying to stay very close to the questions, "Are we being faithful to God?" and "Do we trust that God will provide everything we need?" We invite you to pray these questions right along with us.

The Finance Plus Committee is meeting in May and the Session will also be spending more time on our situation. A few people have mentioned ideas for fundraiser. If you have one, please talk to any member of Session.

We are grateful for this congregation's continued generosity. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us and making what we do possible!

### Thank You

To: Pastor Lori Wunder and the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon,

It is difficult for me to express how grateful that I am for your support while I was away from my custodial duties due to illness.

I would never have guessed that my position would be held open for so long for my return. I was humbled when I saw the signup sheet for volunteers to cover my duties and learned the spots were so quickly filled.

I knew from day one that the First Presbyterian Church was a good place—full of good people that deeply care for others and their community. Thank you for allowing me to continue to play a small role in that.

Terry Jackson

### SCHOLARSHIP FORMS AVAILABLE



#### Keedick/Dolezal Memorial Scholarships

Applications are now available from the church office or in Fellowship Hall for Keedick/Dolezal scholarships.

The *application deadline is May 31, 2019* and completed forms can be either dropped off at the church office or in the Finance box outside of the church office.

## May—Worship Assistants

### ***Sunday, May 5 - 9:30 am – Worship, & Sacrament of the Lord's Supper***

Liturgist: Zane Marshall  
Ushers: **Need Ushers**  
Communion: Jonathan Walsh, Carol  
Dillard,

### ***Sunday, May 12 - 9:30 am – Worship & Birthday Blessing***

Liturgist: **Need Liturgist**  
Ushers: Al & Becky Ahrens

### ***Sunday, May 19 - 9:30 am – Worship & Noisy Offering***

Liturgist: Angie Paulson  
Ushers: **Need Ushers**

### ***Sunday, May 26 - 9:30 am – Worship***

Liturgist: Stephanie West  
Ushers: **Need Ushers**

## MAY BIRTHDAYS



**2 – Alex Moore**  
**4 – Elizabeth Minor**  
**4 – Mary Palmer**  
**4 – Marie Riechers**  
**5 – Nora Stewart**  
**9 – Jeanette Madson**  
**11 – Logan Ericson**  
**13 – Linda Burge**  
**16 – Diane Clay**  
**19 – Jonathan Walsh**  
**24 – Pam Jerabek**  
**25 – Ryan Whitman**  
**28 – Kari Pendergrass**  
**31 – Susan Alexander**

*Please contact the church office  
if we missed your birthday.*

## We Need Your Help for May & June



There are multiple opportunities to fill the need for Worship Assistants (*both Liturgists and Ushers*) during the months of May and June. A sign-up sheet is at the back of the Sanctuary. Please consider signing up.

Thank you in advance for your help!

### 2019 Camp Wyoming Summer Camp Registration has Started



It's not too early to begin signing your kids up to attend a summer session at Camp Wyoming. Use the following link to view summer camp sessions, <https://campwyoming.net/summer-camp/camp/sessions/> and to register your child or children: <https://campwyoming.net/summer-camp/camp/forms/>

Note: The Keedick-Dolezal Scholarship Fund is no longer enough to pay for both camp and scholarships (camp is more expensive and we have more kids going). However, we remain committed to making the critical faith formation experience of church camp happen for our children. So we are seeking ways to cover the cost of camp for every camper from our church



*Thank You*

Volunteers who helped with the Sunday Evening Meal Program (SEMP) on April 14 included: Logan Mozingo, Burgandie Aldridge, Alaina Mozingo, Barb Bjork, Beth Simon, Connie Proffitt, Larry & Rozanne Petrick, and Jo Williams

*Thank you for your gift of time!*

## Worship in May

### Easter – the Great Fifty Days - Worship Series

# A NEW CREATION

### April 21 (Easter) through June 9 (Pentecost)

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ~ 2 Corinthians 5:17

#### May 5, 2019 – Easter 3 – A New Creation: Follow!

John 21:1-19 Jesus & Peter have breakfast on the beach  
Like Peter, we can feel unworthy and unqualified to follow Jesus.  
How can we leave aside our hesitations and claim our belovedness and our call?

*Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Graduate Recognition*

#### May 12, 2019 – Easter 4 – A New Creation: Rise Again!

Acts 9:36-43 Peter raises Tabitha back to life  
In a prayer, Pastor James Bryan Smith reminds us that "Jesus rose from the grave.  
There is nothing I cannot rise from."

*Sacrament of Baptism – Nicholas Brautigam*

#### May 19, 2019 – Easter 5 – A New Creation: Love!

John 13:31-35 the new commandment to love one another  
Acts 11:1-18 Peter tells Cornelius his vision at Joppa  
God promises a covenant with all who seek it. God's love knows now bounds!

*Choir's Last Sunday*

#### May 26, 2019 – Easter 6 – A New Creation: Heal!

John 5:1-9 "Do you want to be made well?"  
Jesus' question to the man waiting at the pool of Siloam is for us, too.





**May 2019**  
*Worship Every Sunday*  
 9:30 am



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	1	2	3	4
5 <i>9:30 am Worship, Communion</i>  <b>Graduate Recognition</b>	6 <i>Office Closed</i>  <b>6:00 PM BUNKO Social Hall</b>	7	8  <b>2:00-3:30 WEO</b>  <b>6:30 PM SESSION</b>	9	10	11
12 <i>9:30 am Worship &amp; Birthday Blessing</i>	13 <i>Office Closed</i>  <b>1:00 PM Knitting Group at Diane Clays</b>	14	15  10 AM -2 PM Quilting Group Social Hall	16	17	18
19 <i>9:30 am Worship &amp; Noisy Offering</i>  <b>Choir's Last Sunday</b>	20 <i>Office Closed</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26 <i>9:30 am Worship</i>	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28	29	30	31	

EVENTS



Session Meeting— Wednesday, May 8, Community Room, 6:30 PM



Knitting Group— Monday, May 13, 1:00 pm at the home of Diane Clay



BUNKO—Monday, May 13, Social Hall, 6:00 PM



Watch Us on YouTube!

Did you miss a service or want to watch one again?

Carl Riechers continues to record our Sunday services and now uploads them to our very own channel (FirstPresMV) on YouTube! Find it any of these three ways:

- Click on the link on our Facebook page (First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon)
- Search "FirstPresMV" at youtube.com
- Go to [www.youtube.com/user/FirstPresMV](http://www.youtube.com/user/FirstPresMV)



Hey, Facebook Users!

Want another way to find out what's going on at church? Be sure to 'Like' First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon on Facebook!

We use this page to promote events, post photos, and the occasional encouragement or interesting link.

First Presbyterian Church

301/309 First Street NW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314  
PHONE: (319) 895-6060  
OFFICE E-MAIL: [mvfirstpres@q.com](mailto:mvfirstpres@q.com)

Presbyterian Epistle Volume #2019-00005. Editor: Deb Klopp

Each Sunday, "Weekly Announcements" bulletin insert contains the most current events and times..