




New Year Chapter Seven

JULY

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **7/7-Communion**
- **7/8-Knitting Group**
- **7/8—Bunko-Social Hall**
- **7/10-Session meets in the Community Room**
- **7/17 Quilt Group**
- **8/6-CDG Event in the Social Hall**



From the Pastor

Hands to Work, Hearts to God

While doing an internship in Louisville in the late 90s, one of my favorite places to visit was Pleasant Hill, an historical Shaker village in central Kentucky. Not only was it beautiful, it was interesting to learn about the Shakers.

Famous for their religiosity and their industriousness, their motto was, “Hands to Work, Hearts to God.” There are many reasons why the Shaker tradition died out (their insistence on celibacy being one!), but I continue to have admiration for their attitude that all work can be done as an act of worship and devotion to God. I think that’s something we can all take to heart.

This came back to me as I have reflected on the last several months in our congregation, and all the new things happening:

- Back in March and April we asked for volunteers to help cover for our custodian, Terry Jackson, as he recovered from back surgery. We were amazed by how many people signed up to vacuum, clean bathrooms, and take out the trash.
- As the temps warmed and the grass grew, we asked for volunteers to mow the lawn each week. Again, several people stepped up and shortly we had the schedule filled through mid-September.
- Our choir loft project required folks to help move out the pews and demo the risers. Taking advantage of the dumpster we rented, we also asked for volunteers to clear out various storage places. So many came to help!
- From June 17-23, we led our own VBS, “Water Around the World.” This required countless volunteer hours of preparation before, during, and after that week. It was a wonderful week and we could not have done it without our incredible volunteers!

This doesn’t even count the “usual” work of Sunday mornings, flower beds, committees and Session, Meals on Wheels and the Sunday Evening Meals Program. (If I’ve forgotten something, please forgive me!)

We’ve had so many “hands at work.” I hope that in serving the congregation—and in our labor at work, home and in the community—it has also been “hearts to God.”

Thank you for all the ways you serve God by serving one another!

Grace and peace,

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

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The office hours are Tuesday through Friday mornings 9:00 am until 12:00. pm

Church Phones:895-6060
Office Manager:
Cheryl Jackson
mvfirstpres@q.com

Pastor Lori Wunder.
431-2227 (cell)
Lewunder@gmail.com

Treasurer: Barb Bjork
bjorkbarb@gmail.com.

Director of Music:
Julia Andrews
julia.andrews4444@gmail.com



FAITH FORMATION

Vacation Bible School Comes to First Presbyterian Church!

“Water All Around the World”



Water Around the World VBS Wrap Up

It was an amazing week of VBS here at First Pres, June 17-22! We didn't quite know what we were getting ourselves into when we decided to do our own VBS this summer, but I think all of us agree it exceeded our every hope and expectation!

Each day, the children learned about how people live in a different country (Mexico, Cuba, Honduras, Haiti and Ghana) and the challenges they face getting clean, safe water for themselves and their families. We also sang songs and made music, learned a different Bible story about water, did all sorts of scientific experiments with water, played water games, made crafts, made bricks and then built an adobe structure with those bricks. Phew! Fortunately, we also had delicious snacks every day to fuel all the fun!

One of the things the planning team is very proud of is how wherever possible we used what we already had, found donations, or recycled, making our VBS low-impact on the environment and the budget.

When asked what their favorite part of VBS was, many of the kids said, "Everything!"

Thank you, God, for a wonderful week of learning, playing, singing, praying, and growing together!



VBS Thank Yous!

Our “Water Around the World” VBS would not have been possible without the “VBS Dream Team”—Julia Andrews, Kristi Karwal Clark, Sue Deibner, Pat Hogan, Elizabeth Riechers, Emily Walsh, Jonathan Walsh, and Lori Wunder.

We had dedicated volunteers who showed up every day: Ginny Chamberlin, Madi Cranston, Marissa Cranston and Larry Purvis. And Cooper Bechthold, Jaegen Bechthold, Marie Riechers, Laura Werkman and Jo Williams helped when they could.

Thanks also to the Mount Vernon Middle School for allowing us to use their microscopes, Doug Hanson, Jay Proffitt, and Pete Rian for providing clay, Connie Proffitt for sharing about the Cameroon, John and Amanda Rhomberg and One Mission for sharing items from and their family’s stories of Haiti, and Greg West for setting up the tents.

Finally, thank you to these children and families for joining us for VBS: Teddy Bonewald, Bella Buck, Corbyn Clark, Collin Clark, Caleb Hogan, Sadie Hogan, Macie Jo Hogan, Lindy Johnson, Brogan Meyer, Camden Meyer, Beckett Meyer, Alaina Mozingo, Imogene Rian, Henry Rian, Marlena Rodenberg, Liesl Rodenberg, Fritz Rodenberg, Briley Sellnau, Charlie Stewart, Konnor Stewart, Nora Stewart, Jesse Thoreson, Edwin Walsh, Franklin Walsh, Ruth West, Mia Whitman, Ava Willems, Emery Willems, Marlie Willems.



Choir Loft Update

Much has happened in the last month!

In early June, a team of volunteers took out the pews and risers in the choir area, plus cleared out many cluttered storage areas. We filled a dumpster! The pews were saved and are in storage in the Community Room and the third floor storage area.

Ed Bjork with assistance from Jonathan Walsh constructed and installed the frame work for new risers. They are deeper and higher and face the congregation.

In late June, wiring for some additional outlets for sound and electrical was installed. There is a bit more sound work that needs to be done before the risers are closed up. Then the electrical and sound work can be completed and carpet can be installed.

Thanks to Scott Peterson who has been acting as project manager, coordinating the many moving parts and keeping us moving forward and on schedule. We also thank Ed Bjork for coordinating (and doing most of) the work on the risers.

A few additional things to note:

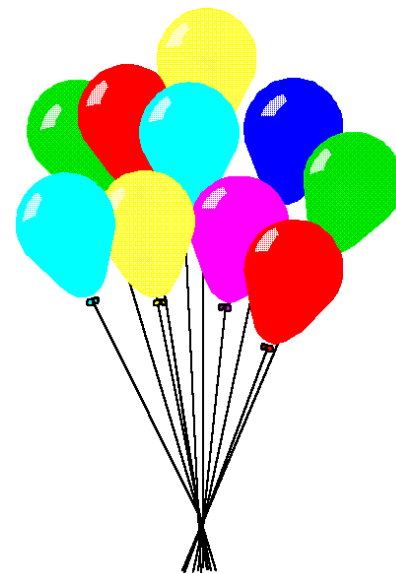
- At our May meeting, the Session approved ordering 20 oak and upholstered chairs for the choir. These should be here by the end of August.
- There may be choir pews available. They are 12.5 feet long but could be cut down (by you!) as desired. Talk to Pastor Lori if you are interested.

The costs of this project are coming from the endowed Music Fund, and we are doing our best to keep the cost low using donated materials and labor wherever possible.

Thanks to everyone who is helping to make this happen!



JULY BIRTHDAYS!



3-Tasha Whitman
6-Kim Benesh
8-Trevor Weber
8-Sharon Weddle
15-Andy McCollum
16-Kathryn Crawford
18-Aubryn Recalde
19-Keith Burge
22-Lydia Benesh
22-Kylea Weber-Brautigam
23-Guthrie Burge

July—Worship Assistants

Sunday, July 7- 9:30 am – Worship, & Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Liturgist: Angie Paulson
Ushers: Al & Becky Ahrens
Communion: Pat Hogan

Sunday, July 14 - 9:30 am – Worship & Birthday Blessing

Liturgist: *Need Volunteers*
Ushers: Lauren Kelly

Sunday, July 21 - 9:30 am – Worship & Noisy Offering

Liturgist: *Need Volunteers*
Ushers: Becky & Kevin Whitman

Sunday, July 28 - 9:30 am – Worship-Gary Conners-Boe, preaching

Liturgist: Stephanie West
Ushers: Greg West

Sunday, August 4 - 9:30 am -

Worship-Gary Conners-Boe, preaching

Liturgist: *Need Volunteers*
Ushers: *Need Volunteers*

June Session Highlights

Session met on Wednesday, June 12 at 6:30 pm in the Community Room.

Present: Larry Purvis, Larry Petrick, Elaine Bishop, Jonathan Walsh, Scott Peterson, Ed Bjork, Pat Hogan (Clerk), Lori Wunder (Moderator)

Excused: Carol Daly, Carole Frazee, Allan Recalde, Roger Johanson, Greg West

- Pastor Lori reported on what she learned attending the Executive Certificate in Religious Fundraising seminar June 3-6. It was an excellent use of her continuing education funds. Priorities include developing a year-round stewardship practice and developing education around planned giving.
- Finance Committee reported that thanks to the response to the 13th Month of Giving Campaign, we are in good financial shape at the moment. We will likely need to loan ourselves money in August.
- A subgroup of Session (Larry Purvis, Carole Frazee, Larry Petrick and RE Don Burch) will meet with Zane Marshall to review her application to become an Inquirer and, if the way be clear, write the recommendation for Zane from Session.
- Session endorsed Pastor Lori participating in the “Healthy Pastors, Healthy Congregation” program which includes education and coaching for both the pastor and the congregation. Lori could receive up to \$10,000 to apply to debt or retirement. Session approved donating \$150 for three years to the program.
- Session continued a conversation about becoming a Matthew 25 Church as part of a denominational initiative. We will education the congregation about this initiative.

Next meeting will be Wednesday, July 10 at 6:30 pm.

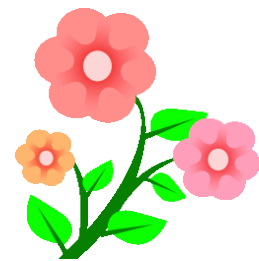
Mark Your Calendars!

Tasting Tea Fundraiser
Sunday, August 25th at 4:30 pm



Linda Nost and Laura Werkman are organizing what promises to be a delicious and fun event. Get it on your calendar and invite your friends!
And, if you'd like to help out, please talk with Linda or Laura.

We have a deficit budget this year and are addressing it several different ways, including adding some fundraising events like this one.



Thanks, Laura and Linda, for this tasty idea!



**Worship Assistants
(Liturgists and Ushers)
Are Needed for June**

(Sign-up at the back of the Sanctuary)

Worship in July

Summer Worship Series Begins...The Rainbow Connection

What the Rainbow Teaches Us About God

First Pres Mount Vernon has become known as “the church with the rainbow steps.” Since everybody loves rainbows, our steps have gained many fans in our community and beyond. But the rainbow is more than just a cheerful sign of welcome. Together we will explore a variety of meanings of the rainbow.

June 30 - The Rainbow Connection: What Is God Like? (Introduction)

Genesis 9:8-17 – After the Flood

Many ancient cultures have a story about their deity becoming angry at the depravity of humankind and then deciding to destroy everything with a flood. So while Noah and the Ark would have been a familiar story, there is a big, surprising twist at the end that tells us a lot about what God is like.

July 7 - The Rainbow Connection: COVENANT

Genesis 9:8-17 – God, Noah, and the Rainbow

God makes a covenant with Abraham and Sarah and their descendants, and continually renews this covenant, including with Noah after the flood.

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

July 14 - The Rainbow Connection: CREATION

Genesis 9:8-17 – God, Noah, and the Rainbow

When it comes to Noah's ark, we focus so much on the animals we forget the part about God destroying the earth and all its other animals and people. But it's the ending of the story that affirms the goodness of creation once again.

July Birthday Recognition

July 21 - The Rainbow Connection: MYSTERY

Job 38:4-7, 22-27, 34-38 – The Lord answers Job with the mysteries of creation

July 28 – Guest Preacher, Gary Connors-Boe

Gary always preaches a lively word. You won't want to miss this!





July 2019

*Worship Every Sunday
9:30 am*

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4 <i>Office Closed</i>	5	6
7 <i>9:30 am Worship, Communion & Birthday Blessing</i>	8 <i>Office Closed</i> Knitting Group 1:00 6:00 PM BUNKO Social Hall	9	10 6:30 PM SESSION	11	12	13
14 <i>9:30 am Worship,</i>	15 <i>Office Closed</i>	16	17 10:30 AM- 2:30PM Quilting Group in the Social Hall	18	19	20
21 <i>9:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering</i>	22 <i>Office Closed</i> Pastor Lori at Synod School	23 Pastor Lori at Synod School	24 Pastor Lori at Synod School	25 Pastor Lori at Synod School	26 Pastor Lori at Synod School	27 Pastor Lori at Synod School
28 <i>9:30 am Worship</i> Pastor Lori vacation thru August 5	29 <i>Office Closed</i> Pastor Lori vacation thru August 5	30 Pastor Lori vacation thru August 5	31 Pastor Lori vacation thru August 5	Pastor Lori vacation thru August 5	Pastor Lori vacation thru August 5	Pastor Lori vacation thru August 5

EVENTS



Session Meeting— Wednesday, July 10 in the Community Room at 6:30 PM



BUNKO—Monday, July 8, Social Hall, 6:00 PM

Knitting Group— Monday , July 8 at 1:00

Quilt Group— Wednesday, July 17, 10:30 to 2:30



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

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

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