



THE EPISTLE

November 2019

THE LATEST FROM THE CHURCH:

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NOVEMBER UPCOMING EVENTS

- *3rd- Worship & Communion (9:30am)*
- *3rd- Adult Forum (11am)*
- *6th- Confirmation (6pm)*
- *7th- Member Care Meeting (10:30am)*
- *10th- Worship (9:30am)*
- *10th- Church Auction (10:45am)*
- *11th- Bunko (6:00pm)*
- *13th- WEO (1:15pm)*
- *13th- New Members' Class & Dinner (5:45pm)*
- *17th- Worship (9:30am)*
- *17th- Adult Forum (11am)*
- *19th- Dementia Caregivers Support Group (4:00pm)*
- *20th- Quilting Group (10:30am)*
- *24th- Worship (9:30am)*
- *24th- Adult Forum (11am)*

LETTER FROM PASTOR LORI *Money Matters*

I learned many things from my father. One of them is my attitude towards money.

Like most of us, money was complicated for my father. Born in 1930, he grew up on a farm during the depression followed by the austere years of World War II. He served in the Korean War, followed that up with college (thanks, GI Bill!) and graduate school, finally starting his career at ISU at the age of 38. Because of this, Dad always felt “behind” in earning and saving, and this was a worry for him.

Money was tight growing up, with anxiety around car repairs, needing a new roof, that kind of thing. Our family didn’t spend as much at Christmas, or buy the top clothing brands, like others did. I realize now that some of that was economics, but it was also because my parents didn’t place value on things.

Occasionally, Dad did things that seemed beyond frugal—like one summer day when he finished a glass of iced tea and then put it in the freezer so he could use the ice cubes again. Later, I realized that action came from his deep sense of responsibility and stewardship. He would say, You can only spend money one time. Dad believed there was a responsible way to spend that money and use all of our resources.

But Dad was also incredibly generous. When I graduated and got my first job teaching in Minnesota, I bought a new to me car and he offered to pay for my car insurance for the first year. He did that kind of thing for all three of us, and he would always tell us, I’m grateful to be able to help you kids like my dad was able to help me.

His generosity was not limited to family. My parents always took their pledge to our church very seriously, trying to increase their giving each year, working toward giving ten percent. As we kids became financially responsible, Dad wrote more checks to support groups that did work in areas important to him—the environment, education, economic opportunity and justice. Dad believed that we should all share what we have, as we are able.

I am so grateful for what my father modeled in his life. How about you? What did your family teach you about money as you grew up? What events and experiences have shaped you? I invite you to reflect on the feelings and attitudes that money brings up in you and then to hold them in the light of this prayer:

Gracious God, looking back, we see the generosity of those who came before us, acknowledging their hardships and struggles, their joys and gains that bring us to the place we are now. In looking back, help us to build a foundation for those who will look back at our lives, those who will be affected by what we do, what we offer, what we give. Help us to rejoice in the knowledge that lives are being changed now and in the future because of what we are able to do with the gifts you give us, which we use and share in the name of the one who calls us, Jesus Christ. Amen.



First Presbyterian Church

301/309 First Street NW

Mount Vernon, IA 52314

Phone: 319-895-6060

E-Mail: mvfirstprese@q.com

Check out our website:

www.firstpresmv.com

Find us on social media:



First Presbyterian Church
of Mount Vernon



FirstPresMV



FirstPresMV



FirstPresMV

Office Hours:

Tuesday through Friday 8am-11am

Office Manager: Marie Riechers

mvfirstprese@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

Custodian: Terry Jackson

OCTOBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The stated meeting took place on Wednesday, October 9 at 6:30pm in the Community Room.

Present: Elaine Bishop, Ed Bjork, Carol Daly, Carole Frazee, Roger Johanson, Larry Petrick, Larry Purvis, Jonathan Walsh, Greg West, Clerk Pat Hogan, Moderator Lori Wunder

Excused: Scott Peterson, Allan Recalde

- Larry Petrick led a review of our insurance coverage. Last year, we moved from Guide One and Lee Insurance Agency to the Insurance Board and agent George Thietje. We are paying less money and receiving more coverage.
- Our Noisy Offering in October and November will continue to be directed to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.
- Nominating Committee—Carole Frazee and Larry Purvis were elected from Session to serve with Susan Alexander, Donald Burch and Elizabeth Riechers, at-large members of the congregation, elected at the Annual Meeting in January.
- Looked at a prototype for a cup holder, designed by Scott Larson.
- Noted concerns about lighting and sound in the new choir space.
- We will have a New Members' Dinner and class in November. Pat Hogan and Roger Johanson offered to help make dinner. Session members are encouraged to attend.

**Giving others love, giving others grace,
Giving others peace is a wonder-full life!**

There are wonder-full things happening at First Pres MV, and none of them can happen without the generous ways you share your time, talent, and treasure. Thank you!

During the month of November, we are inviting you to respond to God's many blessings in your life by making a financial gift through our Annual Appeal. A letter and a pledge card were sent out in October. Please return yours any Sunday in November to the church office or the offering plate. Thank you!



A WONDER-FULL LIFE

Looking at Money & Meaning

NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERIES

It's a "Wonder-ful" Life: Integrating Money and Meaning

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." -John 10:10b

In the classic film, *It's a Wonderful Life*, a crisis of money creates vastly diverse reactions from several characters that can hold up a mirror to our own relationships with money. In this four-week series, we will "look" squarely in the face of our money issues in compassionate ways that can offer more meaning, healing and wholeness. As we bring money out of the shadows, we'll discover practices to help us live a life full of meaning and wonder -- a "wonder-ful" life!

November 3 - *Looking Back + Sacrament of the Lord's Supper*

"So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

-Matthew 22:15-22

Our relationship with money has a history as long as our lives but also as expansive as the family systems and culture of which we are a part. Our first spiritual practice when it comes to money invites us to look back, to see with new eyes how and when our values and fears came to be. We look back with compassion for ourselves and others and a faith that reminds us of our true worth.

November 10 - *Looking In + November Birthday Blessing*

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." -Matthew 6:19-24

In the film *It's a Wonderful Life*, George Bailey gets a wonderful gift of seeing what the world would have been like without him in it. We live an "incarnational" faith--the belief that, like Jesus, our faith is not just an idea, but it gets lived out in our actions in the world. This week we explore our vision for our presence and impact in the world, a vision that guides how we "spend" our assets--time, energy, and money.

November 17 - *Looking Out + Noisy Offering*

"Tell them to do good, to be rich in the good things they do, to be generous, and to share with others...That way they can take hold of what is truly life." -1 Timothy 6:17-19

Do we reap love and generosity or bitterness and resentment? This week we will explore how our outer practices with money align with our values and vision. Are we creating the impact for which we hope, or at least moving in that direction?

November 24 - *Looking with Gratitude*

"The community of believers was one in heart and mind. None of them would say, 'This is mine!' about any of their possessions, but held everything in common." -Acts 4:32-35

At the heart of our relationship to money is living and giving with gratitude--whether the assets we have to give are monetary, or our time and energy for the sake of the human family. As we seek to align our practices with our vision, we end our series by looking for the hope that has been cultivated and the possibility that we can transform fear into gratitude in the act of sharing.



NOVEMBER WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Sunday, November 3rd- Worship & Communion

Liturgist: Larry Petrick

Ushers: The Austerman Family

Sunday, November 10th- Worship & Birthday Blessing

Liturgist: Stephanie West

Ushers: **Need Volunteers**

Sunday, November 17th- Worship & Noisy Offering

Liturgist: Angie Paulson

Ushers: The Ahrens Family

Sunday, November 24th- Worship

Liturgist: Craig Engel

Ushers: **Need Volunteers**

November Birthdays

- 5- Connie Proffitt
- 5- Carl Riechers
- 6- Sam Bray
- 6- Rita Swales
- 7- Meg O'Brien
- 8- Ann Cannon
- 8- Terry Kaplan
- 9- Pearl Martin
- 12- Cooper Bechtold
- 16- Beth McCollum
- 17- Amy Weber
- 19- Marianne Taylor
- 20- James Minor
- 21- Carol Dillard
- 21- Rehanna Rexroat
- 23- Lynn Boettcher
- 26- Ben Simon
- 29- Samatha Bennett
- 29- Ellis Burge
- 30- Uwen Boettcher

FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

Per Capita – What is it?

PER CAPITA is “the tie that binds”—annual support that unites the entire denomination in the ongoing and essential work that guides the Office of the General Assembly, the life of the PCUSA and benefits every congregation and every mid council ministry (presbyteries and synods). It supports work such as:

- Partnering with ecumenical bodies worldwide to promote Christian unity
- Providing support in identifying and developing pastoral leadership (both with new pastors and “old” pastors)
- Providing funding to bring presbyteries, synods and congregations together for training and other events.
- PER CAPITA supports the costs of our Presbytery of East Iowa stated meetings (five times per year), as well as the stated meetings of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies (three times per year) and the biannual General Assembly. This includes subsidizing meal costs, childcare, printing, mileage, etc.

To recognize our shared connection with Presbyterians nationwide, our church pays an assessed fee (\$38 in 2019) on behalf of each member to the governing bodies of our church (presbytery, synod, general assembly).

The total cost of our per capita assessment for 2019 is \$5,045. If you would like to recognize our connection to the PC(USA) by paying your own assessment, simply mark your check “per capita.” Thank you!



WEO

Wednesday Early Out

Upcoming WEOs

- November 13 - All About Rocks!
- December 11 - Make Our Own Christmas Pageant



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF MOUNT VERNON

ANNUAL CHURCH AUCTION

Sunday, November 10th, 10:45am - 1:00pm

LIVE AND SILENT AUCTION

Join us for lunch!

Menu: Dixie-dog, Dixie-rite, choice of salad, dessert & drink.

Cost: \$6 Adults; \$3 Children 12 & under; \$20 Family



If you have questions, something to offer or want to help, please contact Becky Ahrens (895-8212), Connie Boettcher (721-7800), or Laura Werkman (895-6781).

Advent Festival

Sunday, December 1st

WHAT IS THE ADVENT FESTIVAL?

At the Advent Festival, we will assemble emergency hygiene packets for people in crisis, and gather up the bigger items for delivery. Everything we collect will go to WayPoint Services CR (waypointservices.org) for the many women and children they serve.

Sign up to donate in the Social Hall and bring items by November 17th.

Items needed include:

- Travel size hygiene products (NEW Shampoo, Conditioner, Body Wash/Soap, Lotion, etc.)
- Child Size L/XL Diapers
- Child Size L/XL Pull-ups
- Feminine hygiene products

Contact Carole Frazee at (319) 640-6189 with questions!

Adult Forum- Fall 2019

Christianity is not a spectator sport. It calls for our active participation. Adult forum is a Sunday School for adults. We would be delighted to have anyone high school age and beyond join us.

We will begin studying the series, Pro-Future Faith.

Pro-Future Faith is an eight-session DVD and discussion curriculum. The "course bridges the gap between head and heart, science and faith." A central question is, 'how does our faith inform our actions and thinking about the environment we will leave for our children, grandchildren and all who follow?' The curriculum says, "Having 'squandered our inheritance on profligate living,' we are a prodigal species. Industrial civilization and our insatiable appetites have us hurtling toward irreversible consequences."

We want to respond in a way that grows out of our Christian faith.

Note: You can come to any session without having attended before.

New Members' Class & Dinner

Wednesday, November 13
5:45-7:45 pm in the Social Hall
Childcare provided

Are you interested in joining more intentionally with the mission and ministry of First Presbyterian of Mount Vernon by becoming a member? Join us in November for conversation with current members over dinner, followed by a "Presbyterian 101" class.

An additional class will follow with a joining date in December. Congregation members that would like to attend are welcome to bring a side dish or dessert to go with the soup provided.

Please RSVP to Pastor Lori (431-2227, lewunder@gmail.com) if you can make the dinner or are interested in membership.

Follow FirstPresMV
on Instagram for daily prayer
and reflection!



MVL Dementia Caregivers' Support Group

Caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia? You are not alone!

MVL Dementia Caregivers' Support Group
Third Tuesday of Each Month, 4:00-5:00pm- November 19
Lower Level of First Presbyterian Church, Mount Vernon

At our November 19 meeting, Brian Thompson with Peritia Insurance will answer questions about Medicare.

Each meeting will include sharing information and a time for open discussion led by Tamra Albright-Johnson from Pinicon Place, Anamosa

Questions? Call Tamra at 319-481-7012



NOVEMBER 2019



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Choir rehearsal 8:15am Worship & Communion 9:30am Adult Forum 11am	4 Office Closed	5 Acrylics Painting Class 7pm	6 Confirmation 6-7:30pm	7 Member Care Meeting 10:30am Fellowship Hall	8	9
10 Choir rehearsal 8:15am Worship & Birthday Blessing 9:30am Church Auction 10:45am	11 Office Closed Bunko 6pm	12 Acrylics Painting Class 7pm	13 WEO 1:15-3:30pm New Members Dinner 5:45pm	14	15	16
17 Choir rehearsal 8:15am Worship & Noisy Offering 9:30am Adult Forum 11am	18 Office Closed	19 Dementia Caregivers Support Group 4pm Acrylics Painting Class 7pm	20 Quilt group 10:30am-2:30pm Confirmation 6-7:30pm	21	22	23
24 Choir rehearsal 8:15am Worship 9:30am Adult Forum 11am	25 Office Closed	26 Acrylics Painting Class 7pm	27	28 Happy Thanksgiving!	29 Office Closed	30



First Presbyterian Church
301/309 First Street NW, Mount Vernon, IA 52314

PHONE: (319) 895-6060
OFFICE E-MAIL: mvfirstpres@q.com
Editor: Marie Riechers

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