

From Denise's desk....

[In] the Sailboat church, how we live in response to the presence of the Holy Spirit is important. Some actions generate positive energy with the Spirit while others blunt the Spirit's power among us" (65).



In Chapter 8 of *Sailboat Church*, Joan Gray talks specifically about the importance of spiritual formation, and the need for congregations to take seriously the communal nature of these practices. It is all well and good for members to practice spiritual disciplines as individuals, but the early Church stressed that communal practice of these disciplines allowed the Holy Spirit to work in and among them.

Gray offers several questions for reflection, including the following:

--How in our life together do we make time for people to experience God in ways that empower them?

--How do we challenge and support people to move out of their comfort zones to serve God?

--How does our congregational culture encourage generosity, including tithing, as a spiritual discipline?

--Where in our congregation do people get beyond surface relationships to share their struggles and know one another deeply?

--What things do we as a congregation need to stop doing so that we can focus more energy in growing toward God and doing God's mission in the world? (66)

Then, Gray suggests that a Sailboat church begins to answer these questions by practicing sanctified imagination, rising above one's own self-interest for the good of the church, being willing to risk and fail, creating a culture of abundance and generosity, helping one another discern and use their spiritual gifts, loving one another, and growing through hard times.

When Gray talks about sanctified imagination, she is talking about the ways the Holy Spirit prompts us to ask the question, "What will it look like for us to be faithful to God's call at this particular place and time?" This church is not Stonebridge or Lutheran Church of Hope, and it is not located in a major metropolitan area nor filled with tons of young families with children. Still, God has a purpose for this congregation. What is it?

Gray also points out that self-interest is not the most important thing for a Sailboat church. Rather, Sailboat churches are willing and able to give up their own personal preferences for the good of the congregation. As an example, she shared one congregation's decision to start a mid-week service, one geared to the college students that were moving into the area. Even though the Session was comprised of people who did not like contemporary worship or music, one of the elders indicated that he was willing to promote that kind of service if it meant they might reach young people with the good news of Jesus and his teachings.

Gray then brought up another point that many churches don't want to admit. We often don't want to try new things because we don't want to fail. However, she shared one of Jesus' parables that shows clearly that we only truly fail if God gives us a task, and we refuse to do anything because we want to play it safe. Read the Parable of the Talents to see what Jesus said (Matthew 25:14-30). Sometimes, we have to take a chance in order to move ahead in faith.

Gray has many more things to say about how a Sailboat church operates, and you might want to ask the Session members what those things might be, but I will share one more example: growing through hard times. She shares that every church goes through good and bad times, and it is important to remember three things: 1) God can bring good out of anything; 2) God can use our weaknesses; and 3) God leads, and we follow. We know these things, correct? However, we often try to lead without asking God to show us the way, which means we are "putting the cart before the horse." If we truly wish to do God's will, which we say every Sunday when we recite the Lord's Prayer, then we have to put our faith into action, to show through prayer and prayerful response that we have heard what God wants of us, and we have listened well enough to step out in faith to sail into uncharted territory.

And now, a question: "How does [this] congregation discover people's gifts and talents and put them to work for God's mission?"

Peace,

Pastor Denise

Congregation Connections



Sarah Ruth Circle

GOD'S PROMISE: I AM WITH YOU

Wednesday, September 18, 1:30 pm

Eastern Star (East Lounge)

Lesson: Betty Stribling (Chapter 6)

Hostess: Norma Pink



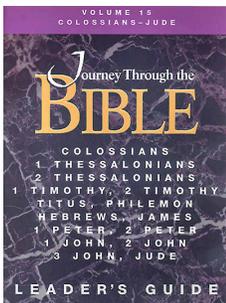
Sunday, September 15

11:10 am (or immediately after worship)

The purpose of the meeting is to elect the 2019 Nominating Committee, which did not take place last year when we normally elect the committee. According to the bylaws, the committee is comprised of three active members of the congregation, one of which must be an elder currently serving on the Session. Please give careful and prayerful consideration to saying "Yes!" if asked.

Thank You

I cannot thank you enough for the continuous support throughout the last 4 years at BVU! The scholarship money I received every semester helped me to purchase books and to help pay off my tuition expenses. I have officially graduated from BVU and I started grad school at the University of Wisconsin La Crosse in June. Thank you again for all the support the last 4 years! Serena Sandvig



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Beginning September 15, 9:00 am,
the Adult Bible Study class will start their journey through Colossians–Jude. Join us in the Fireside Room if this is of interest to you.



You can have a huge IMPACT on Communion Sunday

- Cereal
- Peanut butter
- Canned soups
- Boxed dinners
- Canned meats
- Juice
- Pasta
- Sauces (gravy, spaghetti, taco, etc.)

Church Leaders

Session 2019

David Anderson
Dick Criner
Linda Hora
Rick Lynch
Curt Nystrom
Marck Nystrom
Kristen Pepples
Deb Prouty
John Stribling

Deacons 2019

Jill Anderson
Debi Jenson
Kelsey Moline
Sue Nystrom
Devon O'Tool
Breanna Streeter

Church Phone 515-432-2174

Pastor Denise Phone 515-298-3464

Church Address 703 Greene Street Boone, IA 50036

Dates to remember

Happy September Birthday



3-Jane McCaffrey, Doug Harr

13-Jackson Hora, Joey Rivera, Jordan Walker

14-Don Elsberry, Bill Behling

19-Megan Sprecher

28-Jennifer Rivera

30-Don Dodd

Pray for Each other:

Presbytery of North Central Iowa

First Presbyterian—Marshalltown (Rev. Rich King)
First Presbyterian--Mason City (Rev. Paul Collier)
First Presbyterian—Maxwell (CP Adrian McMullen)
First Presbyterian—McCallsburg (Rev. Tom Poppe)
First Presbyterian—Nevada (Rev. John Molacek)

Congregation

Emma Hyatt
Aaron Michael
Stephanie Michael
Claire Moline
Nolan Newcomb
Kyle Workman

Eastern Star

Peg Gus
Barb Lilly
Char Nystrom
Louise Payton



Prayer Team:

Members of the Prayer Team regularly meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month (9:30am) to pray for the members and friends of the congregation as well as situations that affect our nation or world. The current members of the Prayer Team include Daryl Boelman, Dick Criner, Evelyn Criner, Betty Stribling, John Stribling and Pastor Denise Group. If you have a prayer request, please call the church office (515) 432-2174 or any member of the prayer team. If you would like to join the Prayer Team, please join us at our next meeting.

September Coffee Hour

Sept 1 Shirley Powers & Karen Musser

Sept 8 John & Marlys Wassenaar

Sept 15 Dick & Evelyn Criner

Sept 22 Jodi Tymeson

Sept 29

September 1 Communion

Scott Michael*

Jessica Michael

Betty Cox

Diana Lawson

Oct 1 please send a card, a picture, a memory to celebrate Ruth Parman's 100th birthday

Hello Family and Friends!

This year on November 8th our mother, Ruth Parman, turns 100 years young! We are planning a party for her that weekend to celebrate this milestone.

For this event we are putting together a memory book for her and we are hoping you can help by contributing something such as a card, a special memory about her, or a picture.

If you have something to send, please send to the following address or email. The sooner you could get your item(s) to us the better, but please not later than Oct. 1st.

Diane Lengyel

170 Dry Bear Creek

New Braunfels, TX 78132

or

dianelengyel4@gmail.com

(please note it's my name and the number 4, not 14)

If you are in the area and would like to attend her birthday party, it will be

held Sunday, Nov. 10th at Opportunity Presbyterian Church in Spokane, WA following that morning's church service. The service starts at 10:00. The address is:

202 N. Pines Road
Spokane Valley, WA 99206

Thank you so much!

Diane Lengyel and David Parman
719-651-4358 - Diane's cell



A Message from our General Presbyter

When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip,
“Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?”

Philip answered him, “It would take more than half a year’s wages to buy enough bread for each one to have a bite!”

Another of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, spoke up, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will

they go among so many?"

As Presbyterians, we celebrate our connected nature, that we are greater together than apart, and also, we respond with joy to what God has already done for us in Christ. These characteristics help us prepare a shared witness by offering what we have.

Presbyterians support the work of the larger church with offerings called 'Per Capita' named such because the amount shared is calculated 'per member'. Over the years, Per Capita has been labeled a tax or dues that must be paid. When we join the Presbyterian family, it makes sense that we offer our support to the work of the church. Similar to the account of Jesus feeding the 5,000 with the equivalent of a Happy Meal, we see God moving to meet the needs of God's vast church with a small offering. Again, our mindset as Reformed Christians is to respond joyfully to what God has already done for us.

Certainly, Per Capita pays for Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly offices, personnel, meetings and travel, but these are the necessities of joining in God's mission on a regional and international scale. Per Capita funds also provide training for Clerks of Session, Presbytery volunteers, and mission co-workers (missionaries). These funds enable national searches for new pastors, and large gatherings like Synod School and General Assembly.

Sometimes, people and churches have withheld their 'dues' thinking they are punishing the larger church for a decision with which they did not agree. Here are some people and ministries we are 'punishing' when we withhold our Per Capita dollars:

Your pastor – As a member of the Presbytery, s/he relies on Per Capita to employ support personnel who care for their needs. How do we provide pastors to the pastors? Per Capita.

Church camps – Camps offer children & adults a connection to their spiritual side that often changes the course of their lives. Many go on to a lifetime of ministry.

Mission trips and mission grants – Our combined witness meets the needs of disaster victims as well as local food pantries. Even more importantly, when we engage with our fellow humans, we are cultivating relationships that benefit everyone involved.

Ecumenical relationships – Finding unity among fellow Christians and

other faiths helps to build the kingdom of God. Without intentional engagement, these connections don't happen.

Justice for all – Native American ministries, racial and minority justice issues, equality for all, and anti-bullying initiatives are supported by Per Capita dollars.

Would anyone say the boy who offered his lunch so that others may eat was paying his dues? Or that a tax was imposed upon him? He gave a small offering so that all may be fed. Per Capita is an equitable means to provide for the witness of the larger church. Per Capita dollars should rightly be part of a church's mission budget.

By the way, the boy who offered his lunch got to eat his fill too. We are blessed to be a part of God's ministry.

Rev. Ian McMullen
General Presbyter of Prospect Hill & North Central Iowa Presbyteries

CHANGE HAPPENS

As most of you already know, Pastor Denise will be leaving FPC at the end of this year. You might be wondering what will happen when she leaves. Session members have already been discussing all options we have available to us, and with the congregation in mind, we are prayerfully evaluating all of those options.

Those options for a pastor to fill our pulpit are:

Temporary Pastoral Relationship – are agreed upon by the Session and the Presbytery. The contract is year to year, but can be renewed. (This is what Denise has been for us.)

Designated Pastoral Relationship: Selected by Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and approved by Presbytery; this would be a Designated three year relationship that can be renewed.

Installed Pastoral Relationships – will require a Pastor Nominating Committee, elected by the congregation, to search for the new minister.

*We are working with a couple of pastors representing the Presbytery to direct us through the process laid out in the Book of Order and Presbytery policy.

Currently, the Session has been working to define who First Presbyterian Church wants to be. We have discussed what should be the mission and ministry of this Congregation?

We have discerned the following :

- We want our Congregation to feel like family
- We want the sermon to remain faith driven
- We want to maintain and improve our visibility in the community
- We want a strong home ministry

You might ask – What can I do to help with the process?

While it is ultimately the Session’s job to determine the best course for this church, it will be important for everyone to come together and build a strong and united congregation. We would willingly accept your thoughts on the future of this church and how we might full fill that vision. Of course, we ask that you pray for the Session as we work through the important and somewhat difficult job that is to be done. As all of us are striving to continue the mission and ministry of this church. We can best do so with the direction and guidance that comes from God whom we seek through prayer.

How does Session plan to keep the Congregation informed of decisions?

We have been meeting frequently, so when we have accomplished a milestone in the process it is our intention to keep you informed. This may go fast or slow depending on which option we choose. It is our desire to be transparent as we serve you.

~Submitted by Linda Hora

Elevator Update

In order for us to worship and serve others, we need to get safely and easily into this building. Our elevator has assisted us to do that in many ways.

We use it to transport people into the sanctuary on Sunday morning, and it also gives us access to the Fellowship Hall.

When we have a funeral, the funeral directors use it to bring the casket upstairs, and those who come to mourn also often use it.

At Christmas time, we use it to bring decorations upstairs, and it has

been invaluable for bringing tons of food in for Friday Food Friends and our Deacons Boxes.

A large percentage of you came into this sanctuary today by way of the elevator. It is a valuable tool for this congregation, and it has served us well since 1983. However, things change, and we are required to update the elevator to bring it up to the State of Iowa code. Upon inspection, code violations were discovered, and we will need to invest more than \$7000 to meet the required changes by May of 2020. Of course, this comes at an expense to us.

The Session has determined that we need to begin a fundraiser to help cover the costs. At this time, we already have \$2907.95 designated towards this fund. Donations from the congregation have started to come in. The elevator donations should be above and beyond your pledged amounts.

I want you to think about how this will affect the mission and ministry of this church. Will it affect you personally? Will you be able to attend worship, gather for fellowship, or otherwise participate in the life of this church? Will people in our community be able to use the building in the ways they have in the past? As you consider these questions, please give generously to keep our elevator running. Without the upgrades, we will not be able to use the elevator.

Checks need to be made to First Presbyterian Church Elevator Fund. Watch for updates on giving in the sanctuary on Sunday morning.

~Submitted by Linda Hora

Time & Talent Survey First Presbyterian Church 2019-2020

Please send or bring to church
Can place in offering plate

Please complete this form (one per person).
Indicating your current participation and/or possible future
interests in supporting the work of this church as we move into
a time of transition between pastoral leadership.

Name _____ Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Session - Serve when asked

Session Committees:

Global and Community Outreach

Finance Committee

Building and Grounds

Personnel

Congregational Life

Deacons - Serve when asked

Organizing Christmas Boxes

Packing Christmas Boxes

Delivering Christmas Boxes

Worship

Make announcements

Read Scripture

Open worship

Lead Confession/Assurance of Pardon

Do Teachable moment

Provide Sermon

Choose music for worship

Usher for worship

Decorate sanctuary

Help plan worship

Prepare elements for Communion

Serve Communion

Clean up after Communion

Help plan special worship service

provide prayers

Give Minute for Mission

Share musical talent

Christian Education

Facilitate Adult Bible Study

Sunday Other time

Teach youth Sunday School

Work with Youth Group

Substitute teach

Administration/Stewardship

Serve on audit committee

Count money (Mondays)

Office Volunteer

Mailings (Pilot)

Answer phone

Bulletin print/fold

Technology

Microphones

Website

Facebook/Twitter

Buildings and Grounds

Assist with Clean-up or Work Day

Paint inside projects

Repair projects

Help with outside grounds keeping

Care for plants/Flower beds

Clean-up kitchen (yearly)

Assist with weekly church cleaning

Application of Ice Melt in winter

Maintain kitchen supplies

Support yearly church cleaning

Learn climate controls

Mission

Pack bags for Friday Food Friends

- Deliver food bags to schools
- Purchase food in bulk for FFF
- Donate food for Impact
- Donate school supplies for Impact
- Donate to Special Offerings
- Participate with Quilting
- Provide pie/ice cream for Band Concert
- Prepare pies and set up for Ice Cream/Band Concert
- Work the ice cream social for the Band Concert

Congregational Care

Provide transportation

- Worship/ Church events
- Doctor/shopping ___AM ___PM
- Calling/Sending cards to on shut-ins (Care Centers)
- Calling/Sending cards to hospitalized
- Calling/Sending cards to newcomers
- Calling/Sending cards to inactive members
- Serve Communion to shut-ins

Grief care ministry

- Call on family
- Coordinate funeral activities/reception

Assist with congregational events:

- Prepare or provide food
- Serve food
- Assist with set up/clean up
- Participate in Prayer chain
- Provide baked goods when needed
- Provide time-of-need meal for family
- Serve funeral reception
- Clean up funeral reception
- Serve/prepare food for Coffee Hour

Assist with congregational fellowship activities

- Plan/brainstorm ideas
- Carry out activity
- Clean up after activity

September 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat																																																																																																		
1 Worship 10:10a	2 Labor Day Office Closed	3	4 9:45a Quilters	5	6	7																																																																																																		
8 8:30a Prayer Tree 9:00a Adult Bible Study	9 6p Stewardship	10 6:30p Session	11 9:45a Quilters	12 Kathy out	13	14																																																																																																		
15 9a Adult Bible Study 10:10a Worship Congregational meeting 2-3:30p 4-H	16 Community rehearsal	17 Community rehearsal	18 9:45a Quilters Community rehearsal	19 5p until done Pirates of Penzance	20 5p until done Pirates of Penzance	21 Children in the Middle 8:30-12p 5p until done Pirates of Penzance																																																																																																		
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