

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Schaller, Iowa 10:00 A. M.
November 12, 2023 Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Rev. Michael Sydnor

PRELUDE Janice Ploeger, Organist

CANDLELIGHTING

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Elder

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Elder: Choose this day whom you will serve.

People: We will serve and obey the Lord our God.¹

Elder: Let us worship God!

*HYMN "Rejoice, the Lord Is King" #228

INVOCATION (Please be seated) Pastor

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (UNISON) Elder

We prepare for school, weddings, and retirement, but we fail to prepare for those times when you call us. When it is time to speak against injustice or to speak for kindness, we are frequently absent. When hunger strikes or people suffer, we frequently look the other way. Lord forgive us for our lack of preparation to take care of others. Give us the wisdom to understand that every hungry, thirsty, or homeless person represents you and your call to serve others. Then help others to join us in serving the least of these among us. (Time of silent prayer) Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor

*GLORIA PATRI #623

SCRIPTURE LESSON

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Pastor

Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, "Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God." Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you." But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD." Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD." "Yes, we are witnesses," they replied. "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him." On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.

¹ Presbyterian Church. Book of Common Worship (p. 392).

Leader: The Word of the Lord:
People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:1-13

Elder

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ “ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Leader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDRENS TIME

HYMN “Be Still, My Soul” #347

SERMON “The Oil of Hope”

***APOSTLE’S CREED**

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Prayers of Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer

Congregational Response #421 (Verse 1)



PURPLE GANG

Purple Gang meets on Wednesday’s from 3:30-5:30 p.m. for grades K-5th.

We are thrilled to give your children an opportunity to talk, eat, and play with their friends outside of a school setting. We will maintain our policy of cancelling a Purple Gang event if the school closes due to weather or illness.

The program includes a snack, Bible study, music and recreation. We hope that your children will join us in a fun experience where we learn more about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

You can get enrollment forms from Melanie Pyle (at the school) or the brown box outside the front door of the Presbyterian Church. You can return the filled out forms to Melanie or place them in the brown box. If you would like to find out more information, please contact Rev. Michael Sydnor at 712-275-4691.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER SERVERS:

NO PURPLE GANG
Nov. 15th

Marilyn King
Nov. 29th

Kirk & Julie Langner
Dec. 13th

NO PURPLE GANG
Nov. 22nd

Phil & Susan Diersen
Dec. 6th

NO PURPLE GANG
Dec. 20th & Dec. 27th

NEW JOYS & CONCERNS:

Randy Leask
(had broken hip surgery)
Carol Swanson Poston
(had broken foot surgery)
Kirk Langner
(Goes to Iowa City to see knee doctor on the 17th)

CONTINUING JOYS AND CONCERNS:

Our Pastor
Our Church
Our School
Purple Gang
Doug O'Bannon & Family
Shari O'Bannon
Joyce Deloach
Judy Wall
Willie Lang
Karla Hustedt and her family
Ken Fells Jr.
Dennis Pfrimmer & Family
George & Darlene Franzkowiak
Carol Wendel
Mark Diersen
Dexter Meseck
Malia Meyer

PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCHES

Sunday, November 12

Pastors Who Serve as Members at Large: Rev. Donna Gray
And Rev. Jason Cunningham

Sunday, November 19

Pray for the Presbytery Staff: Rev. Dr. Annika Lister Stroope,
Administrative Executive & Stated Clerk; RE Amgad Beblawi,
Mission Executive; Rev. Ian McMullen, Pastor to the Presbyteries;
Jeannie Stolee, Office Manager

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY #625

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

*HYMN "Battle Hymn of the Republic" #569

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION SONG "Freely, Freely" (V. 1) #447

*EXTINGUISHING OF CANDLES

*POSTLUDE

(*Those who are able please stand.)

2023 PER CAPITA

2023 Per Capita amount is \$48.35. It is a very important way we can contribute to the operation and mission of the Presbyterian Church. Session encourages all members to contribute. Please mark your check "Per Capita".

FOOD PANTRY:

REMINDER: WHEN BRINGING FOOD ITEMS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY, PLEASE CHECK THE EXPIRATION DATES.

NOVEMBER ELDER OF THE MONTH:

Lorna Currie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November 2023

12 Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School Classes
9:00 am Confirmation Class
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)

15 Wednesday

NO PURPLE GANG

19 Sunday

9:00 am Sunday School Classes
9:00 am Confirmation Class
10:00 am In-Person Worship in Sanctuary
(Masks are optional)

20 Monday

7:00 pm Session Meeting

BIRTHDAY WISHES:

Brooke Bailey Barber (Nov. 12th)

Cari Pyle (Nov. 12th)

Cody Pyle (Nov. 12th)

Adam Pyle (Nov. 16th)

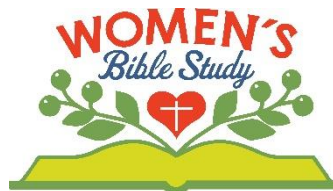
ANNIVERSARY WISHES:

Ken & Judy Fells (Nov. 26th)

MAILING ADDRESS TO SEND SYMPATHY CARDS:

Doug Ayers
3513 Masthead Drive
Denton, TX 76210

Willie Lang
314 Vista Street
Alta, IA 51002



The title of the new study is Developing Inner Strength by Dr. Charles Stanley. Stay tuned for start times coming soon!!

A veteran's service

American hero Eddie Rickenbacker (1890-1973) led a life of daring and risk, from racing cars as a teen to piloting warplanes. Throughout his experiences, Rickenbacker grew in faith while discovering that "life had no meaning except in terms of helping others."

In the first issue of *Guideposts* magazine, Rickenbacker described spending four agonizing months of 1941 in the hospital after an accident. While recovering, he pondered life and death, concluding that he couldn't give up because he still "had work to do, others to serve."

Less than two years later, that ordeal came in handy. After crashing in the South Pacific, Rickenbacker and "seven other starving men" were adrift on a raft for 21 days. Most were "so young they needed the strength and understanding of a man who had been down in the valley of the shadow, who had suffered and made sense out of his suffering," he said. "It was clear to me that God had a purpose in keeping me alive. ... I had been saved to serve."

Take time to recharge

"Then Jesus said, 'Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.' He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat" (Mark 6:31, NLT). Can you relate? Especially during the holidays, we're "coming and going" so much that we often run out of steam.

As an introvert, I learned an important lesson while navigating a busy graduation season for my son. I was happy to host a celebration for family and friends, but about 20 minutes into the party, fatigue clouded my spirit. My social battery was empty and desperately needed charging.

I sought out my cousin — who "gets" me — and admitted I needed a break. He kindly replied, "Then go into another room and just be. We've got things covered." I was heard and assured that it was okay to press pause. Even Jesus and his disciples sought privacy and rest.

In what ways do you need a break today? Even if you're an extrovert, how can you care for your whole self during the holiday rush? Pay attention and give yourself permission to proactively recharge your battery.

—Janna Firestone

