



Community Presbyterian Church

PO Box 8; Lawton, IA 51030

Fellowship Time: None

Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

www.community-presbyterian.org



Elliott Creek Presbyterian Church

231 Pine Street; Bronson, IA 51007

Fellowship Time: None

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m.

Volume 7, July 2021

Introducing Pastor Ken Meissner Interim Pastor

The Pastor Nominating Committee is excited to announce that Pastor Ken Meissner has been hired to serve as a part time, interim pastor.



Pastor Ken retired as the chaplain and spiritual director of Buena Vista University in July of 2019 and purchased a home in Jefferson, SD. He was raised on a farm near Williamsburg, IA and worked at the Colony Village Restaurant and at Amana Refrigeration as a draftsman before going back to college at age 38. He received a BA in Social Work from the University of Dubuque in 1993 and graduated from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in 1997 with a MDIV. Pastor Ken has enjoyed ministry serving as a Student Pastor at the Rowley Presbyterian Church in Rowley, IA, and as an ordained Minister with the United Presbyterian Church of Alta, IA, followed by 19 years at Buena Vista University. He has enjoyed immersing youth and young adults into volunteering and has traveled throughout the US, Mexico, Nicaragua, the Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Nepal and focused on organizations that try to alleviate hunger and homelessness.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed meeting the members of both congregations, especially listening to the stories and adventures they offer. Laughter always seems to be alive and well, no matter where I go. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have need, emergency or would just like a visit.

Blessings to you,
Ken Meissner, Interim Pastor
712-299-1772 / meissnerk1952@gmail.com

The Annual Meeting was held on June 27th. A catered meal by Sneaky's Chicken was enjoyed by all.

Church membership is easy... Discipleship is challenging!

Early in my calling as a pastor, I had been invited to lead worship at a little country church in northeast, Iowa, a person from the congregation came up to me prior to the service to chat a bit. She asked me a question that struck me as odd.

"What do you preach against?" she inquired.

I had to pause for a moment before answering, because I had not thought of my preaching as primarily being "against" anything, but rather "for" the Gospel of Jesus Christ. An answer did come to mind, however, and it still rings true today.

"I preach against complacency and stagnation in our faith, as well as serving God as you exit the front door after worship" I replied.

Both inside and outside the church, evidence of devout practice of the Christian faith seems to be sorely lacking in our country and other Western nations. While the majority of people in our country identify themselves as Christian, many appear to be so in name only. This is not a new problem. In the New Testament Book, Hebrews 5:11-14, one teacher shares his frustrations with followers of Jesus Christ who have become "dull in understanding," and complains that they have failed to move from "milk" to "the solid food" which is for those who are mature in the faith.

If you are not a Christian, there is something wonderful Christ has to share with you. If you are a Christian, are you growing in discipleship? Are you being invited and challenged to the "solid food?" That kind of growth does not just happen, especially if one is not actively seeking it. Engaging with a community of believers, who make discipleship their goal is a great way to defend against the temptation to deadly complacency and stagnation.

"You are needed to do ministry in the name of Jesus. Consider how God is inviting you to a true journey of faith growth. Seek out a fellowship of brothers and sisters for whom discipleship is the goal. As you seek out a full-time pastor, those candidates desire a congregation that is active, willing to grow and have a hunger to be in a place where everyone is welcome. As the pandemic has caused us to worship comfortably at home, know that you are missed in our corporate worship on Sunday morning. Your presence, your voice, your life-in-Christ is all part of the Body of Christ that is vital to the Community Presbyterian Church. We walk together in faith, support one another in our celebrations and trials, forgive one another in our failures, heal one another in our hurts, and challenge one another in growth."

Blessings and Joy to You,
Pastor Ken Meissner



COMMUNITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HELP DIRECTORY

Moderator of Session: Pastor Ken Meissner
Phone: 712-299-1772
Address: 907 Lincoln Street Jefferson, SD
Email: Meissnerk1952@gmail.com

IF YOU NEED:

Funeral lunch: Toni Cooper 944-5465
Piano music: Donna Bennett 873-5295
Schedule church use: Nancy Todd 253-2747
Want to join church: Nancy Todd 253-2747
Sunday School: Amy Lahrs 712-389-6402 or email at nateandamy08@hotmail.com
Janitor: Cindy Jorgensen 873-3013
Maintenance Issues:
Trustees: Judy Fixsel, Ron Fixsel, Jerry Furne, Rod Lieber, Kyle Timmins, Lee Coulter, Jerry Holbrook



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2021 ALL CHILDREN WELCOME!

August 10, 11 & 12 from 6-8 p.m.
Nightly meal served at 5:30 p.m.

Volunteers are needed to help and serve an evening meal. Please contact Amy Lahrs to offer your assistance and/or sign up children for VBS.

Amy: 712 389 6402



Woodbury County Fair 2021 August 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8

Volunteers are needed at the Elliott Creek and Community Presbyterian Food Stand from the 2nd on.

Come and share camaraderie and fellowship at this all-important church fundraiser! There is a sign up sheet in the front entry way of the church.



Recent Prayer Concerns



- Dave Amick family
- PJ Kitchens and Dave Butcher
- Debbie Ebsen
- Ronnie Duerksen
- Patty Schultzen
- Victoria and Anna Garcia

Pray for those in rehab or at home

- Anna Packard - at *Kingsley Nursing and Rehab*
- Delores Handke - at *Sunrise Retirement*
- Dorothy Fiala - at *Sunrise Retirement*
- Ruth Rathe
- Chuck and Carol Hinds
- Velura Stilwell
- Jerry Stilwell
- Dave Butcher
- PJ Kitchens
- Larry and Lou Hansen
- Nora and Ari Reekers
- Audrey Jensen
- Henry and Esther Cole
- Darwin Brink

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

July

4, 11, 18, 25 worship at 10 a.m.

11 Communion Sunday

14 Session Meeting 7 p.m.

August

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Worship Service at 10 a.m.

1 Set up Woodbury County Fair Stand after church

2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 Elliott Creek and Community Presbyterian Food Stand Woodbury County Fair

8:30 a.m. Worship Service held at Bethel Pierro Church on the Woodbury County Fairgrounds

September

12 Regular Worship Service Returns at 10:30 a.m.



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**Community Presbyterian
Church at Lawton, IA**

You can watch the service Live on Facebook every Sunday!