Church Friends and Family,

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our Sunday School kickoff in the park a great time. We had good music, good prayer, good sermon, good sound (thanks Dave Stein), good games, good fellowship, good weather and good food. I appreciate (and enjoy) the time that our three churches can spend together in worship.

I read an article the other day that was from christiancentury.org and was titled, “Prayer isn’t a gumball machine”. The article was written by Megan Henning who teaches at the University of Dayton in Dayton, Ohio. The title really caught my interest (I guess that is what titles are supposed to do) and I was really struck by her main idea.

I am not getting stuck in the political part of her article, but I am definitely interested in the following information that she shared. I hope we will take a few minutes to read the following sentences from Henning’s article, dwell on what she has written and consider what it might say to us.

***Supplication (asking for stuff) was a part of early Christian prayer. But it was just one part of a larger, dynamic process by which people communicated with God, reflected on that communication, aligned themselves with divine will, and spiritually equipped themselves to work for God in the world.***

***When Paul tells early Christians at Thessalonica to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thess. 5:17), he is not suggesting that they should constantly be asking God for things. He’s talking about a way of life that is always connected with and informed by God.***

***The Lord’s Prayer is more about aligning one’s will with God’s than it is about asking for desirable outcomes.***

May God bless us each with his Holy Spirit as we live a way of life that is always connected with and informed by God.

Sincerely, Pastor Bill

Session Minutes United Presbyterian Church

Clarion, Iowa September 11, 2019

The stated meeting of the Session was held Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Those in attendance: Peg Bunn, Jeff Fankhauser, Mark Fisher, Malinda Howieson, Mary Kallem, Karen Wason, Deb Olson, Clerk, and Rev. Bill Kem, Moderator. Rev. Kem opened with prayer.

**TREASURER’S REPORT:** Session voted to approve the Treasurer’s Report. $27,052.50 was raised through the matching funds challenge. $21,317.56 was paid on the principal; the remainder of the challenge funds was used to make our annual payment on our note for the building addition. The current balance of the note is $105,373.78.

$10,000.00 will be moved from the General Fund into a Pastoral Housing Fund. $35,000.00 from the Endowment Fund will be moved from the General Fund to an investment fund.

We need to clarify ($359.00) listed in the Deacons Fund. Every fifth Sunday of the month the loose offering will be given to the Deacons Fund.

**CLERK’S REPORT:** Session voted to approve the August Minutes. Rev. Kem’s church use request for the Fellowship Hall December 21 for a family Christmas was approved.

Rev. Dave Feltman sent a thank you for our church’s monetary gift for his retirement. Communion servers for September 15: Peg and Mark.

**PASTOR’S REPORT:** Rev. Kem will officiate Granny Shivers funeral service September 12.

The Clarion-Goldfield-Dows High School students occupied our church building on Monday, September 10, after being evacuated from the high school building because of a gas leak.

Rev. Kem would like us to continue thinking about emerging community needs. Elder training is being considered.

Rev. Kem has been invited to attend Creda, a conference for pastors, sponsored by the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church. Rev. Kem can choose between March in Florida or October in Virginia in 2020.

**DEACONS:** The Deacons may adjust the Backpack Program by reaching out to the families in need, asking them how we can best help. There is $17,000.00 in the Backpack Fund.

The Deacons are considering sponsoring a prayer workshop.

If our church implemented a prayer board, a leader would be needed to facilitate it.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN:** The Ham Ball Dinner will be October 20, $12.00 per meal. PW will meet after worship on September 22. The following are ideas to raise funds for campers: serve at Pizza Ranch, church garage sale, and pancake brunch. Mary is organizing a women’s bible study on the ten commandments.

**ADVENT TEAM:** next scheduled meeting – October 2

**CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM:** The Middle School Sunday School Class will meet at the UPC this year.

**NOMINATING TEAM:** next scheduled meeting – September 18 to fill 2020 Elder and Deacon positions.

**ORDINARY TEAM:** The Peacemaking Offering will be taken this Fall. Next meeting is September 15, following worship to discuss the hayride.

**PERSONNEL TEAM:** The Team will meet October 6, following worship, to recommend a pastor compensation package and other salary recommendations by November 6.

**PROPERTY TEAM:** If the school should need to use our church building in an emergency, a Property Team member should be an additional contact person with a key, along with Rev. Kem, and Nancy Reyna. Next scheduled meeting – September 25.

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM:** Next scheduled meeting – November 6, to set Stewardship Sunday and work on the 2020 budget. Two Elders and two Deacons are needed to form the Team, along with the Treasurer.

**WORSHIP TEAM:** Some subtle changes to enhance our worship service includes: congregational response to the scripture reading; passing the peace of Christ; pastoral prayer; and changing the benediction seasonally.

**SESSION ASSIGNMENTS:** Rev. Kem & Deb – visit with Bruce Frink about Treasurer’s Report. Rev. Kem – visit with Elders & Deacons about Stewardship Team.

Rev. Kem closed with prayer and devotions at 8:43 p.m.

**WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MEALS ON WHEELS FOR OCTOBER.**

**PLEASE SIGN UP IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP**