



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

April 15, 2020

Adult Forum

On hiatus

Worship

10:30 am

Worship this weekend

An online worship experience will be available for viewing anytime this weekend. Lynette will send out an email when it is ready for viewing with a link to the video. Just click on the link and it should take you right to it.

The worship theme will be *"From Fear to Peace!"* – continuing the Easter story in John 20:19-31.

A Message from Stephanie Swenson, Director of Children and Youth Ministries

My dear friends and family of First Presbyterian Cedar Falls,

The last two and a half years have been spent making many memories I will hold with me forever. Those with children and youth, thank you for welcoming me into your child's life. This congregation has put your trust in me to help grow the faith in the children and youth of this church. My heart and faith have grown so much by being a part of this family.

Over the past few months, Brady and I have spent time praying and figuring out what is best for our family. The doors have been opened for us to move closer to family in Mason City. I have accepted a job with Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's office as a Dispatcher. Brady will be working with 3M Distribution in Forest City working in the warehouse. This will give us the opportunity to be closer to both my family and Brady's.

You have been so supportive in our lives as during my time here we got married and also welcomed Sawyer. It is with all of this I say Thank You. Thank you for your love, support, grace, and memories. Thank you for allowing me into your lives. I only hope I have made an impact on them as all of you have made on me. I do not believe in "goodbye" but "see ya later".

Love and Peace be with you,
Stephanie

Pastor's Ponderings: Staff Changes - Brad Braley

I was sad to get the news that Stephanie Swenson is resigning as our Children and Youth Ministries director. She has been a joy to work with and she has brought a lot of energy, enthusiasm, faith, and commitment to her work with our children, youth, and parents.

It has been a challenging job, working half time for our congregation and half time for First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo. But Stephanie has walked that difficult line well and in the process we have developed some wonderful relationships with some children, parents and volunteers from First Presbyterian, Waterloo.

When the Christian Education Committee recommended moving our children's program from Sunday mornings to Wednesday nights, Stephanie developed a program that was well received.

The Children and Youth Team met last night and began initial discussions looking toward the future. Those plans will also include incoming Pastor Julie's input. Supporting children and parents is still a high priority.

Stephanie's last official day with us will be April 26. We hope to be able to have Stephanie come back so we can say goodbye in person at some future Sunday when we can worship together again.

Until then, join me in giving our prayers, thanks and best wishes to Stephanie, Brady and Sawyer as they begin a new chapter in their lives!

Church Birthdays

Apr. 15-Carol Downs, 18-Carolyn Stephenson, 19-Holger Petersen, Jean Hall, John Koontz, Jeverna Mulligan, 23-Nancy Hoppe, 24-Vi Polk

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

The church building is closed until further notice but staff is available. Please call 277-3930 or email: firstpres@cfu.net if needed.

For your prayers...

Doug & Sandy Lawry's son, Nick, a policeman in California and their daughter-in-law, a nurse who tested positive for COVID-19

Sarah (Burfeind) Troscclair's father-in-law, Daryl, is still hospitalized with COVID-19 and is on a ventilator.

Notice... Second Sunday Concert

The April Sunday Concert (planned for April 19) is canceled.

Thanks for serving last week:

Actor/Reader: Lynette Cline

Organist/Pianist: Louann Flaherty

Vocalist: Mason Sealock

Trumpet: Brad Jensen

Harmonica: Brock Swarbrick

Videographer: Eric Braley

Sanctuary decorations: Sue Luck and Angie Lockey

Thank You

Thank you everyone who sent a card for my 95th birthday. The day went into a week or more and I enjoyed every minute of it!

Stay well and thanks again. Love you all!

Vera Brunskill

I treasure the videos of our worship services, especially Holy Week and Easter. This has been an Easter we won't forget but hopefully next year will be in person.

Mark & I will be watching the videos while he is singing along!

Mary McCalley

Other Ways of Giving

- We have switched our online giving service to PayPal. You may use credit, debit or direct transfer from your account. You can use an existing PayPal account or log in as a guest. Please be sure to note on the memo (click on the pencil icon) if you wish your gift to go to a designated account, otherwise it will go to the general fund. Transaction fees will be deducted. A link is on our website.
- For re-occurring monthly pledges, we still offer direct autopay which has no additional transaction fees. Contact the office if you're interested!
- If you wish to donate by check, please send your offerings to: First Presbyterian, 902 Main Street, Cedar Falls IA, 50613. Be sure to write **First Presbyterian** on the "Pay to the Order of" line on your check! Otherwise it may be rejected by the bank. Write any designation (OGHS, Food Bank, etc.) on the memo line at the bottom.

Thank you for your faithful stewardship!

Quarterly Devotionals

Copies of the spring 'These Days' are available in the east entryway vestibule if you wish to pick one up.

Cancellation

The Women of Faith event that was to be held at our church on April 21 is canceled.

Presbyterians Serving Together

The Presbyterian pastors of the Cedar Valley have been discussing ways we can combine efforts to serve our neighbors during COVID-19. We are certainly able to do more when we do it together! After speaking to different agencies, we are encouraging church members who are able to focus on two areas of aid: food insecurity and mental healthcare.

- First, we encourage people who are healthy and not at risk to consider **volunteering at the Food Bank**. The Food Bank has three, two hour shifts set up for volunteers to come and pack emergency boxes, boxes for the elderly, and Backpack bags that will be distributed. The shifts are 9-11 am, 11-1 pm and 1-3 pm. The sign up is at www.northeastiafoodbank.org under the blue volunteer button.

The Food Bank requests that you donate cash only at this time. It is difficult for them to distribute donated non-perishable items. Thanks you!

- Second, we are organizing a **food drive for Blackhawk-Grundy Mental Health**. Needed items include: small jars of peanut butter, cans of soup, small boxes of cereal, ramen noodles, and small boxes of crackers.

Tubs to collect items will be inside the north doors at our church during office hours, 8:30-3:30 Monday-Thursday and 8:30-12:00 noon Friday. The drive will last through Pentecost, May 31.

We would stress that people **DO NOT** make an extra trip to the grocery store for these items, and **DO NOT** buy in bulk. Rather, when you go for a regular grocery store run, buy one or two extra items for the drive. We want to be considerate of other shoppers at this time.

We know that we all have different levels of service at this time due to our individual needs and walks of life. That's why it's important to remember that the very act of social distancing is also an act of serving your neighbor.

Thank you for your continued acts of service. Please contact Pastor Brad if you have any further questions.