



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

April 22, 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.

Worship will focus on the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and a dramatic reading of *"Life: A Gift of Creation."*

Pastor's Ponderings - "We Are The Church" - Brad Braley

The picture below is our localized version of a sign I saw outside a church that read: "The building is closed. The church is open."



I think that is a good reminder in these days of isolation and separation. We may not be meeting in person, but we are all still connected as part of the body of Christ, the Church, and that body is still alive and active in our community and in the world!

We had our first virtual meetings last week with Children and Youth Ministries and with Community Ministries. It takes time to get everybody (including the pastor) participating fully, but I heard how Christian Ed is still keeping connected with young people and families and Community Ministries is still working to address ongoing needs in the community, as well as being alert to emerging needs.

The Personnel Team is working hard preparing to welcome Pastor Julie and to help with that transition.

It has been a joy to hear from many of you, and many outside our church community who have participated in our virtual worship services online. It has been a learning curve for me figuring out how to go

about this, but I enjoy new challenges that bring out some creativity I hadn't tapped into before.

Although I would much prefer to be meeting together, we are finding that over 200 connections are being made each week to our worship, and that doesn't include multiple people at many connections, so we are actually reaching more people through this format than when it is just our church family gathered on Sunday morning. I've heard from high school classmates, members of my first youth group 40 years ago, family members and friends who are tuning in to worship.

I really appreciate the technical support Eric Braley gives each week to make it happen, as well as the leadership of our musicians: Connie Herbon, Mason Sealock, Louann Flaherty, and Brad Jensen to add to our sense of worship.

This doesn't just happen. Lynette does a great job of getting the worship link out to our congregation via email and Facebook. But a lot of these connections happened because our members shared the worship link with their friends and family across the country and around the world, too.

It doesn't take much time or effort to **reach out to others** and invite them to **grow in faith** with us by **uniting in love** for worship! I'll be with you again this weekend. Meanwhile, spread the word and the link to worship. Invite your family and friends to join us for virtual worship!

Church Birthdays

Apr. 23-Nancy Hoppe, 24-Vi Polk, 28-Gabbie Lee, Gracie Lee, May 2-Avery Woodruff

Notice...

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

Sympathy to

Sarah (Burfeind) Tro-sclair who's father-in-law Daryl, who was hospitalized with COVID-19, passed away.

For your prayers...

Jeannette Mukayisire's sister and brother-in-law who have tested positive for the virus.

Thank You

Thank you for all the notes and cards you have sent. With each one I read, a friendly beloved face came to mind and having you with me has been a huge comfort. Blessed be the tie that binds.
Love to you all,
Ginger Herndon and family

Our daughter in law has been cleared by the Linn County Health Department to return to work at her clinic. Thanks to everyone for the prayers and emails. Prayers are powerful.
Doug & Sandy Lawry

We want to thank Pastor Brad, the other Presbyterian pastors, associate pastors, musicians, soloists, Eric and Lynette for sharing online the daily Holy Week services with us. We so appreciate all the time and effort that put into them and will continue worship with you every Sunday online. We shared Easter and last Sunday's service with our grandson Zach's family in Shakopee, MN.
Darrel & Marsha Flater

Thank you, Deacons for the birthday card. Everything is on hold in (the town of) Hawkeye. Thank you and God bless you all in Christ Jesus.
Roger Dean

Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter lily that my deacons, Doug & Sandy Lawry, delivered to my home. It is impressive on my table and I appreciate being remembered.
Sincerely, Vi Polk

I just want to give a hefty THANKS for the Easter week services and Easter service. The messages, worship experience, and production were all very significant. The liturgical dancer made a unique and meaningful contribution.
Ned Ratekin

Thanks to Eric Braley for the worship videos and to the musicians for their collaboration. I adored the dramatic Easter portrayal at the beginning of "Mary," seeing the beautiful lilies on the chancel, listening to Brad's message, and hearing the familiar hymns. I have so missed my friends at First Presbyterian.

Your efforts are a blessing in more ways than you know, and your community is sorely missed. Many, many thanks for this gift—and heartfelt congratulations to Pastor Brad on your upcoming retirement!
Haley Steele

Thanks for serving last week:

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Vocalist/Reader: Mason Sealock

Videographer/Reader: Eric Braley

Young Parents Together Donations: Hope Goering

Exercise while Social Distancing!

Anxious to get outdoors? You're in luck!

We are in need of lawn mowing volunteers starting the week of April 26. Please email: firstpres@cfu.net or call the office 277-3930 to sign up.

We will list a monthly 'sign up' roster in the newsletter so you can see what spots are available until we re-open the building for public worship. You may mow anytime that week. Two self-propelled lawn mowers are available. Thanks!!



The week of April 19: Jim Seeley

Did you know...

All women of First Presbyterian Cedar Falls are members of the local organization, Presbyterian Women? Currently approximately 25 women gather for monthly Bible Study in three separate Circles. An annual meeting is held each May with a joint meal, a service memorializing the female members of the church who have died in the past fiscal year, and a report of the year's activities. One of the purposes of Presbyterian Women is to support the mission of the church. In recent years PW has made generous donations to The North East Iowa Food Bank, House of Hope, Wings of Refuge, Lakeshore Center at Okoboji camp ground, UNICEF and others. Money for our church kitchen is given annually.

This spring PW is donating \$300 to the work of Eye of the Needle. This local organization supplies shoes, socks and underwear to children in our area. The Soles for Souls project planners chose Eye of the Needle as the group that can best carry forward our church's mission to fund shoes for school children.

Any woman of the church who would like to participate in PW activities should contact the current Presbyterian Women president, Margaret Clark.

Jill Mortenson
Secretary, Presbyterian Women



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.northeastiowafoodbank.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.



Mission in Action:

One Great Hour of Sharing: THANK YOU to everyone who has given to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. So far we have received over \$3,000 for OGHS, almost as much as last year. This offering supports the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and Self-Development of People. If you haven't given yet, it's not too late. Just mail your check to the church or go to Paypal for online giving. In either case, be sure to note that your gift is for OGHS.

Other Ways of Giving

- To give online you can use an existing PayPal account or log in as a guest. 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!
- 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!