



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

April 1, 2020

Adult Forum

On hiatus

Worship

10:30 am

Palm/Passion Sunday and Holy Week

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 "A Different Kind of Parade," based on Jesus' parade into Jerusalem in Matthew 21:1-11. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated.

The Presbyterian pastors of the Cedar Valley are partnering to offer a brief worship experience Monday-Saturday of Holy Week. Six different pastors will offer a meditation on some aspect of Holy Week, along with some music and prayers. Tune in!

Pastor's Ponderings - "How are You Doing?" - Brad Braley

What an April Fool's Day this is! It feels like we are being pranked with April Fools every day.

As we move into another week of this new normal we are living in, and with word that it will continue at least through April, I think it is important that we check in with each other and ask: "How are you doing?"

How are you doing at keeping connected with the essential services you need: food, income, laundry, etc. How are you doing at keeping connected to other people: your family, your church family, friends, classmates, -workers? Are there ways in which we in the church can help keep you connected – with emails, phone calls, a note, or an on-line message? Are there practical things you need to have done that we could explore helping with – delivering some groceries, setting out your garbage, calling to check in on you regularly?

As you think about how YOU are doing and what you need to keep connected, you might also consider how you might be available and willing to help meet some of the needs mentioned above, or others. Not everyone can or should do those things, but I think there are some people who may be looking for things to do in safe, socially distanced ways that could really help out others. Contact the church office if you would like to help in some way.

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank is still needing volunteers to work in small groups to keep their vital programs going to feed those who are most vulnerable.

It is also important that each of us ask, "How am I doing?" – not just with enough groceries or money, but how am I doing mentally and emotionally and spiritually with all these changes? All this "together time" for families may have moments of intense rewards, but also moments of exhaustion while parents are trying to work from home or find a routine for their families. For those living by themselves, it can be a lonely time cut off from regular social opportunities at church, going out to eat, playing cards, going to plays, concerts and ballgames, etc.

I appreciated hearing from some of you about your participation in worship last week. It felt strange for me to wake up on Sunday morning and not have to rush off to get everything ready to lead worship. As we continue to tweak how we present our worship services to you I'd like your feedback on a few things. I heard from some families with small children that they'd like a nursery during the service. While we can't do that, I wonder if having a children's message separate from the service would help, so they could watch it and then go play.

Do you like the length of the service? Are there parts of the service you prefer to omit, or things that you missed which you would like included?

Finally, if you have any particular prayer requests, please get them to the church office by phone or email by Thursday noon and I will work them into the prayers of the day.

I look forward to hearing from you and to worshipping with you again this week!

Church Birthdays

Apr. 2-Ray Burfeind, 3-Joyce Wellhouse, 4-Brad Jensen, 8-David Lemons, 11-Mel Reimer

CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

The church building is closed until further notice. Lynette will be in during regular hours so you may call or email. The work of the church goes on, so please continue your support with your prayers and by sending in your offerings.

For your prayers...

Ray and Judy Burfeind request prayers for their daughter Sarah's in-laws, Daryl and Cheryl Troscclair.

Notice...

Worship for April

Our pre-recorded virtual worship service will be on our website by the weekend. No password required.

Thanks for serving last week:

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Vocalist: Mason Sealock

Videographer: Eric Braley

Presbyterian Women Updates:

- Esther, Martha and Sarah circles will NOT be meeting in April. Esther's May meeting is yet to be determined.
- PW circles are encouraged to use their discretion in determining if/when they will meet.

Mission update: Souper Bowl of Caring

WE MADE IT! SHARE SOME GOOD NEWS!

At this time of uncertainty and concern for our neighbors during a global pandemic, the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign reminds us that we must always focus on our local neighbors in need, sharing our gifts with those who don't have enough soup in their bowls.



The Souper Bowl of Caring is celebrating 30 years of tackling hunger with our best campaign YET! A record-breaking \$10,560,000 has been reported through our campaign to date, shattering our goal of \$10.5 million! Many of those collections are being used RIGHT NOW to support our food charities.

Since 1990, over 2 million youth have helped to support more than 5,000 charities with over \$160 million worth of food and cash all over the world. It is amazing how even one dollar can make a difference. If we all give a little, we change a lot.

Congratulations to ALL who help make the Souper Bowl of Caring happen each year!

Our children and youth collected over 100 food items and raised \$608, all of which went to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

NO activities are taking place at the church building until further notice. The staff is still working and available to respond to anything with which we can help. Call or email the church office.

Serving This Coming Week

The Deacon Driver service is being temporarily suspended. Sunday Suppers are suspended until further notice.

Avoid the spread!!

We ask that you **refrain from walking through the building** at this time. If you are dropping off donations, please use your **elbow to active the electric door openers** so as to not touch the door handles. Thank you!

Quarterly Devotionals

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

Mission Donations

If you are bringing donations for the Young Parents Together or the Easter Egg fillers, please leave them in the tubs in the downstairs entryway. Lynette will check on them periodically and bring them upstairs. Thank you!

DONATIONS NEEDED!! We are looking for small items that can fit inside a **plastic Easter egg** (erasers, chocolate, stickers, etc.) for our Egg Hunt - whenever that may be. We will be collecting until further notice.

During Lent **Community Ministries** will be collecting diapers, wipes, and other baby hygiene products for Young Parents Together. Items can be left in the marked containers in the north entrance by Easter. Thank you!



Thank You

We are so grateful for your faithful financial gift of \$4500 for our ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries. Your generosity enables us to be here to listen, guide and care to today's college students. We especially appreciate the times Pastor Brad led Wednesday night worship. Your support in the form of prayers, advocating for campus ministry, financial support and ministry partnership is a joy of our ministry. Dave Glenn-Burns
Director and Campus Minister

\$3000 was from the Presbytery's Mission Grant and \$1500 was from First Presbyterian's Campus designated account.