



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

April 29, 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 Luke 24:13-35 and how *"We Had Hoped ..."* We will celebrate a virtual communion. Have whatever communion "elements" you want to use nearby!

Pastor's Ponderings - Updates - Brad Braley

The Session met April 27. Due to Covid 19 restrictions, this was our first meeting via Zoom. After some initial challenges by the host (me), things went fairly smoothly with 12 out of a possible 14 in attendance.

The main decision made was to continue to not have public worship or any other meetings at the church through May. We are aware the governor has said that churches may hold worship services again, but with our county still seeing a rise in the number of Covid 19 cases it was decided that it was best for the greater good of our members and the community to let this run its course for another month and then re-evaluate our plans based on updated information from the state and county.

Our discussion also included the observation that, even when we do open our doors for worship again, it won't be back to exactly the way things were done before. The Session has talked about some ways to maintain social distance in the worship space safe practices. We will have more detailed plans and suggestions when we actually determine a date to resume public worship.

As much as I have missed all of you, I have appreciated your responses to our virtual worship. I am curious to know how many of you are NOT able to connect with us for worship each week. Is there something we can do to help you be a part of our worshipping community each week – mailing an order of worship and/or the sermon, etc.?

Today I participated in another Zoom meeting with other Presbyterian pastors and educators in the Cedar Valley regarding summer plans for children's programming. It was decided NOT to hold Vacation Bible

School in June, as was previously scheduled. Instead it is hoped to have some kind of one day event together in August before school starts, dependent on where we are at with restrictions on gatherings by then.

The Community Ministries Team submitted a grant request to the Presbytery Ministry and Mission Committee as part of a new grant process in response to this pandemic. Tuesday that committee approved our request for \$1,500 (the maximum grant), to support the Emergency Relief Fund for Hawkeye Community College's Adult Learning Center students. Many of these students have been laid off from work. Many are immigrants who may not qualify for government assistance or may be afraid to seek it. This will meet some emerging needs due to the pandemic.

It was a joy to have our incoming pastor, Julie, join us for the meeting. The Personnel Team and Pastor Nominating Team have been working hard to help her transition smoothly here. She plans to move to Cedar Falls sometime the first week of June.

This was the final stated meeting for ruling elders Jean Boller, Jeannette Mukayisire, Sue Luck, Phil Batchelder, and Rhonda Braley. I really appreciate their outstanding service to God and to our congregation during their terms. They have helped lead us through some major changes and challenges! Please join me in passing along your thanks to them for their leadership.

If anyone has any pastoral needs, I am still here to serve you. Just contact me or the office.

I hope to worship with you this weekend!

Church Birthdays

April 28-Gabby Lee, Gracie Lee, May 2-Avery Woodruff, 4-Marge King, Nick Federspiel, 5-Eric Braley, Matt Humpal, Brock Swarbrick, 7-Parker Connolly, 8-Lillian Fisher (103 yrs.), Lindsey Humpal, Kathryn Braley

Notice...

The church building is closed but staff is available. Call 277-3930 or email: firstpres@cfu.net if needed.

First Presbyterian **Women's Circles** are all postponed until further notice.

Sympathy to...

- the family of **Julie Rokes**, whose father, Carroll Conklin, died April 8 after a lengthy illness.
- the family of **Jim Zimmer**, whose brother died April 24

For your prayers...

Bruce McCart undergoing chemotherapy treatments this week.

Thanks for serving last week:

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Organist/Violinist: Louann Flaherty

Vocalist: Mason Sealock

Reader: Rhonda Braley

Videographer: Eric Braley

Lawn mowing: Jim Seeley, Doug & Sandy Lawry

Plant care & other misc. caretaking: Jim & Jane Seeley

Mission in Action:

Thank you to everyone who responded to the plea for facemasks for Hawkeye Community College Adult Learners. Many people who are making masks or know someone making them volunteered some of their masks. The serving seamstresses include Hope Goering, Sue Luck, Ann Crawford, Carolyn Stephenson, and friends of members. Rhonda Braley is coordinating mailing the masks to the recipients. So far 75 masks have been distributed. THANKS!

Thank You

Thanks to so many of you who sent your well wishes in the last weeks. I had my surgery March 11 and it was a great success. My legs are both the same length and I am learning to walk and getting stronger every day. I am anxious to get back to church so I can thank you in person. Peace and love,
Ellie and Lennie

Dear Friends,
On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers of the NE Iowa Food Bank, I would like to thank you for your recent contribution of \$1,050. Your donation will continue to help us acquire more food in a time when our shelves dry up and large-scale food donations dwindle. With sincere appreciation,
Barbara Prather, Executive Director

Dear First Presbyterian,
Hawkeye Community College believes that every student matters and that every student can succeed. We could not do this without you. We greatly appreciate your generosity and support. Your gift of \$800 to the Family Literacy und will help us continue to meet the educational needs of the college.

Warmest regards,
Holly Johnson
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement
Monies were from the local mission budget and individual gifts.

Exercise while Social Distancing!

We are in need of lawn mowing volunteers. 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 :

May 3: open **May 24:** open

May 10: open **May 31:** open

May 17: open



Adult Education Update: While Sunday morning forums are not happening right now, the Adult Ed. team would like to encourage us all to take some time during the week to "grow in our faith". Along with the weekly worship experience provided online, here are a few resources that can be utilized at home:

- d365.org (Daily devotions that include brief sections to pause, listen, think, pray and go)
- devotions@fourthchurch.org (Daily devotions from Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago.)
- prebyterianmission.org/yearbook/ (The daily mission reading, with listing of daily lectionary scriptures and a prayer)
- These Days Daily Devotions for Living by Faith (available at church)
- daily prayer and meditation
- If there are other ideas that can be shared, send a note to Jean Boller at bollorama@cfu.net. Thanks!

Presbyterians Serving Together

We encourage people who are healthy and not at risk to consider **volunteering at the Food Bank**. The Food Bank shifts are for volunteers to come and pack food boxes and Backpack bags that will be distributed. Sign up at www.northeastiowafoodbank.org under the blue button.

A food drive for Blackhawk-Grundy Mental Health will last until May 31. 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.