



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

May 13, 2020

Adult Forum

On hiatus

Worship

10:30 am

This Weekend – Graduate Recognition

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 John 14:1-14, where Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” We will also recognize some people graduating this month.

Spread the word and the link to worship. Invite your family and friends to join us for virtual worship!

Pastor’s Ponderings - “Christian Life as Nesting” - Brad Braley

On our daily walks we are enjoying the beautiful sights and sounds of spring: blooming trees and bushes and birds singing. We notice many different bird’s nests and marvel at how they can be constructed in such precarious places, sometimes barely hanging there.

Recently Isaac Villegas wrote (*Christian Century*, 4/15/15): “Several years ago, a neighbor of mine gave me a birdhouse. It was the perfect size and structure for bluebirds to build their nests inside. I put it on a wood post in the yard, which turned out to be a bad idea. Neighborhood cats dug their claws into the wood and climbed up to kill the newborn chicks. The nest became a grave.

“I bought a metal pole to replace the wood post. The bluebird couple came back, rebuilt their nest, made some babies, and took turns sheltering their chicks while the other scavenged for food.

“This is what hope looks like, stubborn hope—like the way bluebirds come back and make space for life in the midst of a world of death. That’s what the gospel is all about: that God makes room for eternal life to grow, for divine love to multiply even in the worst conditions, even in the valley of the shadow of death. The hope of Easter is that not even crucifixion can put an end to God’s work of making space for

life in the world. God turns a grave into a place for new birth. God is stubborn for hope, stubborn for life.

“The Christian life is all about nesting—about creating a home for the gospel, a shelter for hope and joy and all things good. We are people who build nests wherever we go, wherever we happen to settle for a season. We know that God has always been mobile, living in a tent, providing the people of God a sanctuary in the wilderness. With violence and hostility and wild destruction all around us, we learn to pray the words of the psalmist: “Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me.”

“As the church, we practice a stubborn hope, the stubbornness of building nests and setting up tables wherever we find ourselves—no matter how precarious our lives, no matter the threats from enemies. We do what God does: make room for people to grow into God’s eternal life. The church is a nest where all are welcome to rest in God’s love. It is a table where all are welcome to eat and drink God’s life. In us, the body of Christ, God is made flesh, and we fear no evil.”

May we, individually and as families and as a congregation, build nests of hope and welcome for new life wherever we are and whatever we’re doing!

Church Birthdays

May 13-Neil Clapp, 20-Collin Braley, 22-Marlys Folkers, 23-Ryder Connolly

Notice...

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

For your prayers...

Bruce Braley recovering at home from knee replacement surgery

Bruce McCart undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

Dorothy Lakin under hospice care

Congratulations

to Dick and Hope Goeing on the birth of a granddaughter, Caroline Rae, born to Joe and Meghan on Friday, May 8.

Thanks for serving last week:

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Vocalist: Mason Sealock

Videographer: Eric Braley

Reader: Lynette Cline

Lawn mowing the week of May 3: Gary Clark

Window washing: Jim Seeley

Refrigerator maintenance: Gary Sabey

May/June '*Presbyterians Today*' magazines are in the east entryway.

Pastor Brad Braley to be Honored During Worship on Sunday June 28th

We regret to announce that the recognition reception for Pastor Brad Braley's retirement originally scheduled June 14th has been cancelled.

Instead we will be honoring Pastor Braley his final Sunday with us at the June 28th worship service. We are planning to post the service online. Should we be able to hold this service in the church as well, there will **not** be a reception following the service.

So, plan to join us on June 28th to celebrate Pastor Brad's ministry over the many years of his service. More details to follow as we have more information.

Thank You

Thank you to our church family for your prayers, care and concern during the Covid 19 illness and subsequent death of our son-in-law's father, Darryl Trosclair. Sarah, Josh and family are so appreciative of your thoughtfulness and many kindnesses. Bless you all and please stay safe.

Judy and Ray Burfeind

Sarah and Josh Trosclair and Family

Dear members of First Presbyterian Church,

On behalf of the families and staff of Hawkeye Community College's Van. G. Miller Adult Learning Center Family Literacy Program, we humbly thank you for your donation. To receive sustaining funds such as yours supports our ability to continue the work we do.

With deep gratitude,

Families and staff at the Family Literacy Program

Monies are from the local mission budget.

Lawn Mowing Volunteers!

Please sign up by email: firstpres@cfu.net, call the office 277-3930, or use the Google Doc link below to sign up. You may mow anytime during the week(s) you choose. Two self-propelled lawn mowers are available.

Google Doc: [Mowing Sign Up](#)

Thanks!! - July dates are open on the Google Doc.

The week of :

May 10: Eastman

May 31: Lawry

May 17: Boller

June 7: Stephenson

May 24: Lawry

June 14: Braley



Presbyterians Serving Together

The Presbyterian churches of the Cedar Valley are emphasizing a mission outreach for two areas of aid: food insecurity and mental healthcare.

First, THANKS for your response so far to the food drive for **Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Health**. The first load of food was delivered to them Friday and it was much appreciated! The drive will last through Pentecost, 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.



Also, we encourage people who are healthy and not at risk to consider volunteering at the **Northeast Iowa 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. Sign up at www.northeastiowafoodbank.org under the blue volunteer button.

Birthday Celebration

On May 22 Marlys Folkers will celebrate her 80th birthday.

Her family would like your help in "showering" her in cards, since they won't get the chance to celebrate in person this year.

Contact the church for her mailing address.



Each year on Pentecost Sunday we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and pointing us to the church of tomorrow. Each year Presbyterians mark this celebration by receiving the **Pentecost Offering**, which nurtures the faith of those who are the church now and to come – children, youth and young adults.

Psalm 72 testifies that the foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By giving to the Pentecost Offering, our congregation participates in helping children, youth and young adults to proclaim with the Psalmist: *"O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds."*

The Pentecost Offering helps young people begin life with a strong start – a solid foundation of faith formed from childhood through young adulthood. 40% is used for our congregation's initiatives with young people. For seventeen years we have used this for our Soles for Souls mission, which has provided over 10,500 vouchers for shoes for school children in the Cedar Valley!

25% of the offering goes to the Young Adult Volunteer program, which our congregation has had five people participate in over the years. 25% supports ministries with you and 10% supports child advocacy to improve lives.

Please prayerfully consider your generous response to the Pentecost Offering this month.

Please send your gift by mail: First Presbyterian Church, 902 Main Street, Cedar Falls IA 50613. Make checks payable **to the church** with 'Pentecost' on the memo line. You may also give with PayPal. Use the pencil icon to indicate the gift is for 'Pentecost.' (PayPal transaction fees apply.)

