



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

May 27, 2020

Adult Forum

On hiatus

Worship

10:30 am

This Weekend – Pentecost Sunday!

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 story of the first Pentecost in Acts 2:1-21, when the disciples “Burst Out.” Part of the Praise Team will return to help lead our music.

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

Pastor’s Ponderings - Brad Braley

With all this stay at home time family art projects may be one activity keeping kids busy.

Jill Duffield writes (*Presbyterian Outlook*, 3/16/20) of how, “As a kid I liked glitter. A lot. I still find myself drawn to anything that sparkles. ...

“One Easter sunrise service, the church still mostly dark, a child made his way to the front pew with red lights blinking from the soles of his feet the entire way up the aisle. I loved the idea of that little child being a literal light to the world that Christ had risen indeed. Would that our discipleship were as obvious as red, flashing lights in the middle of a dark, silent sanctuary. ... Wouldn’t it be grand if we distributed God’s grace as far and wide, as insidious and relentless, as the glitter from a Sunday school art project?

... “I imagine Jesus saying, ‘You are the glitter of the world. Get in every nook and cranny to the point that it is impossible to clean up or eradicate. Be so generous with it that years from now it will turn up on your shirt and be inconspicuously transported out into the neighborhood.’ ...

“I know we are dust and to dust we shall return, but in the interim could we be Holy Ghost glitter? Could the shoes that make us ready to proclaim the gospel include blinking lights? I want us to call attention to ourselves in order that we might point to the source of the light in which we bask and play. I want our complete joy to be as unmistakable, as palpable as preschoolers sporting superhero costumes or Queen Elsa gowns, not concerned with what’s practical or socially acceptable but motivated solely by delight.

“I know we are sinners saved by grace, but in that knowledge could we be glow sticks of God, cracked open and shaken so that we shine and create whimsical patterns in the darkness for all to see? Might we be neon beacons of possibility in the middle of someone’s dark night of the soul?

“I know we are beloved children and divine images called good, fallen, corrupt, finite and flawed. But in this time could we be Jesus’ dollar-store jewelry too – audacious, colorful, accessible, large and loud, unmissable signs of unfathomable, too often invisible grace?

“How about if we thought of ourselves, honestly, as Holy Ghost dust, divine dirt, Godly grit, those who apart from saving grace are worthless, but through the love of the Almighty are deemed priceless? What if we recognized that we are this strange combination of common and sacred, totally depraved but beloved anyway, complex kaleidoscopes of Christ whose beauty is revealed when viewed through the light of the world? Wouldn’t that realization be a source of rejoicing and celebration? Shouldn’t it be a cause to get out the glue sticks and spread the glitter, break out the glow sticks and wave them with abandon or don sparkles, crowns and light-up shoes to the grocery store (or church)? We could create a parade of the redeemed and reconciled, returning prodigals and found sheep, those whose faces shine from being in the presence of God.”

Let your Holy Ghost glitter sparkle and shine today and every day!

Church Birthdays

May 29-Jozlyn Lee, Madison Lockey, Jun 5-Reese Stolte, 6-Tanner Barber

Notice...

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

Sympathy to

Sue Luck upon the death of her brother, Danny Wersinger, Saturday.

Nick Federspiel, on the death of his sister, Dixie Kramer.

For your prayers...

Jeverna Mulligan’s sister and **Harriett Bullock’s** daughter Karen recovering from a stroke.

Jeverna Mulligan’s grandson Grant recovering from a broken arm.

Roger Peterson, a friend of **Nancy Hoppe**, dealing with a health issue.

Thanks for serving last week:

Pianist/Organist: Louann Flaherty

Vocalist: Mason Sealock

Videographer: Eric Braley

Lawn mowing -week of May 17: Jean & Michael Boller

Flowers and plants: Jim & Jane Seeley

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!! - August dates are open on the Google Doc.

The week of :

May 24: Lawry

June 14: Braley

May 31: Lawry

June 21: Jensen

June 7: Stephenson

June 28: Lawry



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.

Tomorrow, May 28 is the **deadline** to donate food items to the Black Hawk-Grundy Mental Health Center. Needed items include: small jars of peanut butter, cans of soup, small boxes of cereal, ramen noodles, and small boxes of crackers. Drop items off inside the north doors at our church by 3:30 pm.

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, & Backpack bags. Shifts are 9-11 am, 11-1 pm and 1-3 pm. Go to www.northeastiowafoodbank.org under the blue volunteer button.

Pastor Brad to be Honored on Sunday June 28th

Pastor Brad Braley's retirement recognition has been changed to his final Sunday with us during the June 28th worship service. We are planning to post the service online. If restrictions change so worship is in person as well, there will **not** be a reception following the service.

Giving Options and Information

Our church is now accepting donations online through PayPal. You can donate from your smartphone, electronic device, or by visiting the church website. However, new technologies do not come without a cost. **The PayPal's fee for charitable organizations is 2.2% plus 30¢ on all transactions** (charities pay no monthly service charge.) Any donations made through PayPal are credited on your giving statement at 100% of the donation, however *the church must budget and pay the PayPal fees*.

You are encouraged to use the method that works best for you. PayPal works well for occasional or one-time donations. **A check is recommended for large donations.** Cash and checks are deposited into the church's bank account with no related fee. If you wish to set up electronic **ongoing monthly contributions** for your pledge, we have an auto-pay option with the bank at a much lower cost than PayPal. Call the church office if interested. (We do all the work!)

Congress passed the CARES Act providing economic stimulus payments. For some, this is a lifeline; and for others, it's an unexpected bonus! If the payment is a bonus for you, consider donating a portion to help people in need in our community and the church's mission.

The CARES Act also created a new charitable deduction for taxpayers who use the standard deduction. Individual taxpayers can claim a deduction of up to \$300 and married couples filing jointly can claim up to \$600.

We thank you again for your faithful stewardship through this difficult time, and we look forward to the time when we will all worship together in God's House.

The Stewardship Committee

Thanks to our Staff

A special thanks to staff for all they are doing during this time of crisis to support us and each other and provide needed service to our church.

Each week, without missing a Sunday, Pastor Brad, Louann Flaherty, Connie Herbon, Mason Sealock, and Brad Jensen have provided meaningful worship experiences for online gathering. We find comfort in familiar faces, voices, music and just being able to worship together at home. We know this does not just happen. It takes a lot of thought, creativity, flexibility, and preparation. Thank you.

A special “shout out” to Eric Braley for supporting the staff with expert videography and editing making it all come together.

We appreciate the work our staff is doing in the church office and the building not only to keep things operating but moving forward during this time of building closure. This behind the scenes work is so critical during these times, making sure all is maintained and functional. For that we thank Lynette Cline and Tammy Courbat.

Lynette Cline has been instrumental in sustaining and improving our church operations during this time. Since the early days of closure, Lynette has assisted us as we made accommodations for all staff to assure their safety and job needs were met during the public health emergency.

When Corporate Ministries choose a new web page designer to replace our obsolete web page creation program, Lynette was actively involved with the page development. Going forward she will update and maintain the web site. Using a special process for non-profit organizations, she set up a PayPal account and is completing the set up for new email addresses that uses the church domain name as part of the email address. This will no longer go through CFU. (More details to be announced when launched).

Lynette has been in the office daily answering the phone, paying the bills, and dealing with everyday needs of the congregation and public. She is assisting with activities to prepare for Pastor Julie to have a smooth transition. Meanwhile she continues to maintain the outdoor electronic sign and message boards at the entrances, set up safe and handy drop off at the north entrance, manage the calendar, and get the E-link and other communications to church members.

Tammy Courbat has been continuing to provide a clean and safe environment that is essential to protect people during activities that are occurring at the church, primarily weekly Sunday and the special Holy Week video sessions as well as for staff who continue to use the facility as needed. Tammy is also helping to prepare for Pastor Julie’s arrival assuring her office is ready and welcoming.

On behalf of a grateful congregation we Thank You.

Personnel Committee: Kay Leeper, Jane Seeley, Kirk Eastman



Pentecost Sunday is May 31. 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.

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 specifically for ‘Pentecost.’ (transaction fees apply.)