



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

May 6, 2020

Adult Forum

On hiatus

Worship

10:30 am

### This Weekend - Mother's Day

An online worship experience will be available for viewing any-time 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 Good Shepherd," based on John 10:11-18 and Psalm 23. Spread the word and the link to worship. Invite your family and friends to join us for virtual worship!

### Pastor's Ponderings - Brad Braley

The Lord knows we are dealing with plenty of fears and frustrations, anxiety and apprehension as we start the seventh week of this isolation and social distancing. Perhaps you could use some spiritual guidance to help you cope individually or as a family.

In Lloyd John Ogilvie's 1984 book, *Falling Into Greatness* (page 50), he outlines a seven day prescription for learning to trust the Lord, which I think may help us in these uncertain times. It is based on the twenty-third Psalm, which will be one of our texts this week.

Ogilvie breaks the psalm into seven parts and suggests we focus on one part each day for a week. Pray about and perhaps even memorize each message so that it can soak into the fabric of your thinking and feeling.

First Day: **The Lord will work for me!** "The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."

Second Day: **The Lord will provide for me!** "He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters."

Third Day: **The Lord will keep me going!** "He restores my soul."

Fourth Day: **The Lord will guide me!** "He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake."

Fifth Day: **The Lord will protect me!** "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."

Sixth Day: **The Lord will heal me!** "You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup runs over."

Seventh Day: **The Lord will pursue me!** "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

Ogilvie suggests reading the whole psalm each day, memorizing the new phrase for that day and repeating the promise for that day. Then all through the day reclaim that promise for various situations. By the end of the week you will have memorized the whole psalm. It might be worth repeating each day after that to keep you grounded in God's good promises.

I invite you to live with Psalm 23 together with me this coming week, and I look forward to worshipping with you!

### Church Birthdays

May 7-Parker Connolly, 8-Lillian Fisher (103 yrs.), Lindsey Humpal, Kathryn Braley, 12-Judy Burfeind, 13-Neil Clapp

### 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 families of...

Margaret Willoughby who died last week and had many friends in our congregation; and Bill Sanders, who died last week. He and his wife Marge worshipped awhile with us several years ago.

### For your prayers...

**Bruce Braley** is scheduled for knee replacement surgery next week.

**Bruce McCart** undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

## Thanks for serving last week:

**Reader:** Lynette Cline

**Pianist:** Connie Herbon

**Vocalist:** Mason Sealock

**Videographer/Reader:** Eric Braley

**Lawn mowing the week of May 3:** Gary Clark

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

## Exercise while Social Distancing!

We are in need of lawn mowing volunteers. Please email: [firstpres@cfu.net](mailto:firstpres@cfu.net), call the office 277-3930, or use the Google Doc link below to sign up. A monthly 'sign up' roster will be in the newsletter. You may mow anytime that week. Two self-propelled lawn mowers are available.

Google Doc: [Mowing Sign Up](#)

Thanks!!

## The week of :

**May 10:** Eastman

**May 31:** Lawry

**May 17:** open

**June 7:** open

**May 24:** Lawry

**June 14:** Lawry



**Pentecost Offering:** This year Pentecost Sunday falls on May 31. Pentecost is known as the birthday of the Church, when the Holy Spirit touched the lives of Jesus' disciples and sent them out into the world to share the Good News.



**PENTECOST OFFERING**

Presbyterians celebrate Pentecost with a special offering to support children, youth, and young adults in our congregation and through denominational programs. 40% of the offering stays with our congregation. We have used that money for our Soles for Souls program to provide shoes for children in need in the Cedar Valley.

25% supports national ministries with you and those who accompany them.

25% supports the Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteer program, where young adults give a year to serving in areas of need nationally and around the world.

10% supports child advocacy work by Presbyterians seeking to better the lives of one million children.

Please generously support the Pentecost Offering this month by designating your gift for Pentecost Offering.

## Church Camp Information

Lakeshore Center Presbyterian Camp is postponing the start of camp season until (hopefully) July 6. More information to come.

**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 other home resources:

- [d365.org](http://d365.org) (Daily devotions that include brief sections to pause, listen, think, pray and go)
- [devotions@fourthchurch.org](mailto:devotions@fourthchurch.org) (Daily devotions from Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago.)
- [prebyterianmission.org/yearbook/](http://prebyterianmission.org/yearbook/) (The daily mission reading, with listing of daily scriptures and a prayer)
- daily prayer and meditation
- If there are other ideas that can be shared, send a note to Jean Boller at [bollelrama@cfu.net](mailto:bollelrama@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](http://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.