



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

June 17, 2020

Adult Forum

On hiatus

Worship

10:30 am

This Weekend's Worship

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. Or tune in to CFU Cable channel 18 or 95.5 at 7:00 pm Saturday or 12:00 noon Sunday to watch it.

Worship this week will focus on hearing the story of Hagar in Genesis. Spread the word and the link to worship. Invite your family and friends to join us for virtual worship!

Co-Pastor's Ponderings - Julie Erkel Hagee

What a lovely day it was for our "Drive By" welcome on Sunday. My family and I were finally able to see many of the faces that make up First Presbyterian and it was a delight! Over sixty of you drove by with warm greetings. A big "THANK YOU" goes out to all who helped coordinate the event. My family and I feel welcomed and loved.

One subject of conversation while greeting each other was about when and how we keep necessary work on justice issues such as racism and discrimination at the forefront of our ministry. Indeed, if we are to meet the needs of our community and share the love of Christ, we must engage this difficult work.

The most important thing those of us with the cultural advantage of being white can do is to listen to the stories of people of color. Read books and articles by African American authors and discuss them. I know it doesn't sound glamorous or earth shaking, but hearing, seeing, and amplifying the voices of those long ignored is essential for changing an oppressive system. Sometimes their words will elicit a posture of defensiveness on our part. Defensiveness is a signal that should not be ignored.

It is a sure indication that they've hit upon something that we need to hear. It is hard, but this is when we need to take a deep breath (or three), lean into the discomfort, and get curious. Why are we reacting this way? What does it say about what we really believe?

The twentieth century theologian, Karl Barth, said, "take your Bible and take your newspaper, and read both. But interpret newspapers from your Bible." The Bible holds many stories and teachings that can help us understand and address our current challenges. We will be engaging one such text on Sunday, the story of Hagar in Genesis 21:1-21. For insightful reflections on how this text and other lections might assist in holy work, sign up for weekly emails from The Presbyterian Outlook [here](#). Also, look for future communications regarding a weekly opportunity to gather with me and others to discuss scripture in our present context. We are in this together.

May the peace and love of Christ guide us,
~ Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Jun 17-Jeannette Mukayisire, 18-Harriett Bullock, 19-Gary Clark, 21-Darrel Flater, 23-Jenny Allen, 24-Noah Connolly, 25-Jaxstyn Graham

Contact Update

You can contact Pastor Julie via her new email: pastor@firstprescf.org.

Congratulations

Kirk and Sue Eastman will be celebrating their 5th wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 20.

For your prayers...

Chad Lee

Joyce Hufferd

Marlys Folkers' grandson, Eli Morretz.

Thanks for serving last week:

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Vocalists: Taylor Dengler, Mason Sealock

Videographer: Eric Braley

Communion Preparation: Lynette Cline

Lawn Mower-June 7: Carolyn Stephenson

Restroom & narthex ceiling maintenance: Jim Seeley

Drive-By Welcome Coordinator: Kay Leeper

Congratulations

Richard & Maribelle Betterton's grandson, Andrew Lugo, graduated from Florida State Univ. May 1 with a finance degree. He begins his MBA program at FSU in August.

-Betterton's granddaughter, Jacqueline Lugo, graduated with high honors from Cypress Bay High School in Weston, Florida, on June 1. She begins summer classes at Florida State University next week.

Kevin & Jan Thedens' granddaughter Emma Holden will be graduating from Waverly-Shellrock High School. Emma's plans are to study political science/pre-law at Central College in Pella. She is Kathleen & Ryan Holden's daughter.

Lawn Mowing Volunteers!

Please sign up by contacting the church or use the Google Doc link to sign up. You may mow anytime during the week 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 :

June 14: Braley

July 5: Clark

June 21: Jensen

July 12: Lawry

June 28: Lawry

July 19: Clark

Personal Care Drive

The Northeast Iowa Food Bank will be hosting our annual Personal Care Drive! Government food assistance programs do not provide for personal care items. Lack of these products leads to poor hygiene, health issues and damage to a family's well-being.

Beginning from July 1 to August 8, we're asking people to collect personal care drive items like laundry detergent, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, etc. You can drop items off in the northeast entryway of the church.

Thank You



Our first Drive-By event EVER was a success! Pastor Julie and her family were welcomed by over 60 people in 30 cars. Thanks to all our volunteers: Jim Seeley and his team of traffic guides: Tim King,

Gary Sabey, Kirk Eastman, Gary and Margaret Clark; Dave Luck, Brock Swarbrick and Rob Cline; Site Hostesses Jane Seeley & Dot Clausen, Cameraman Neal Leeper. Thanks also to the Deacons for the Birthday Cookie Cake and gift bag for Jakob.

From Personnel Committee, Kay Leeper Moderator

Watch a brief video of our drive-by welcome for Pastor Julie. Thanks to Neal Leeper for making the video: <https://vimeo.com/429085595>

Dear First Presbyterian,

Hawkeye Community College believes that *every student matters* and *every student can succeed*. The Hawkeye Foundation is honored to serve as a resource for them to be successful.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and support. Your gift of \$1,000 to the Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center Emergency Fund for transportation will continue to help us meet the needs of the college.

With warmest regards,

Holly Johnson

Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

The donation was from the local mission budget.