



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

July 1, 2020

Adult Forum

On hiatus

Worship

10:30 am

Pastor's Ponderings - Thank You!

"Wow!" That is a technical theological term that describes how blown away I was by the outpouring of kindnesses and good wishes for me (and Rhonda) over the last week during my last worship service and celebration event.

I grieve that we did not have the opportunity to say goodbye to each other in person. I have deeply missed seeing your faces and listening to your stories and laughing or crying with you these past four months.

But like the saying, "When life hands you lemons, make lemonade," Kay Leeper and her committee went above and beyond what I could have envisioned to make some delicious "lemonade" in planning a wonderful farewell celebration that even surprised me in a few places. 😊

Thank you to Kay and her committee! I don't know who you all are, but I want you to know how much I appreciate all your efforts.

Thanks to the staff for the beautiful flowers and gift cards! I have appreciated working with such talented and dedicated people all these years. You made the work easier and fun.

Thanks so much to the congregation for the VERY generous cash gift! I about fell over when I opened the card and saw the size of the check. I put it in a new account for travel to some place special when that becomes possible again. We have had some amazing adventures the past 21 years, with lots of sorrows and celebrations along the way. It has been my honor and privilege to share that journey with you!

Thanks to the Praise Team for coming together to share your beautiful music with us once again: to Connie Herbon, for all her help organizing the musicians for last weekend and throughout this time of virtual worship; to Stephanie Marra, Steve Moon, Mason Sealock, and Taylor Dengler for their beautiful vocalizations; to Louann Flaherty for playing organ, piano, keyboard and violin all in one week; to Kirk Eastman on drums and djembe, Dave Luck on guitar, and Sam Stover on bass, for enhancing the music with their multiple talents. It was wonderful!

Thank you to the worship and celebration participants last week, for adding your part to make it such a meaningful time where I felt drawn closer to God and to each of you. To Pastor Julie for being so pleasant to work with during this transition; to Presbytery leader Ian McMullen for finding a way to share his memories of our times together in Nevada; to former Pastor to the Presbytery Dave Feltman for his touching words of affirmation of God's work through this ministry; to Pastor Tricia Jacobs for stepping in at the last minute to help with the dissolution of call liturgy; to Kay Leeper, Dot Clausen, and Evelyn Boice for creating the beautiful story quilt to remind us of our time with you; to all the families who shared pictures and messages from your children (they will be missed!); to Jenny Connolly for sharing the memories of a youth and now a parent; to Pastor Pete for her words of blessing; to Mark Mortenson for representing the congregation in the service of dissolution; to Brad Wells for sharing his video skills to help with the celebration recording.

Especially I want to thank Eric Braley for sharing his time and audio-video skills to pull so many different pieces together into such a meaningful, coherent whole, despite the difficulties of dealing with the emotional finality of it all. Your dad is so proud of you!

All the nice cards, emails, and texts with well-wishes and responses to the services have been overwhelming. I'm going to have to read them all again (and again) to absorb and process all the love you have shared. Thank you so much for letting me be a part of your lives all these years. Know that you will always be a part of mine!

God bless you now and always!

Pastor Brad

Church Birthdays

Jul 1-Emily Helgerson, 2-Richard Betterton, 3-Sue Weinberg, 5-Ellie Tompkins, 6-Denise Brown, Liam Hendrickson, 8-Lisa Woodruff

Contact Update

Pastor Brad has a new email address. Contact the office for information.

Office Note:

The office will be closed on Friday, July 3 for the Independence Day holiday.

For your prayers...

Susan Runkle i

Jean Boller's father and Jean's cousin Brian.



This Weekend's Worship - "Sufficient for the Call" - Pastor Julie

Feeling overwhelmed by the enormity of needs in the world has become a new normal. How can we possibly heed the call to meet those needs? Texts: John 1:14, 16 and 1st Peter 4:7-11.

Be prepared to celebrate communion with whatever version of the bread and cup you have on hand. Please also have ready a small dish of water to remember your baptism!

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

Our 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.

Thank You to all who made Pastor Brad's celebration event and video possible. Your help and talent made the day a great success!

Planning Committee members:

Margaret Clark
Kirk Eastman
Shirley Hill
Patti Humpal
Jill Mortenson
Jim Seeley

Those who helped out behind the scenes:

Eric Braley
Sue Luck
Kat Braley
Dot Clausen
Dick Goering
Connie Herbon
Lynette Cline
Brad Wells

Coordinator: Kay Leeper!

Presbyterian Publications

The summer quarter of These Days Devotionals (July, Aug, Sept) are available in the northeast entryway vestibule as well as the current issue of Presbyterians Today magazine.

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.

We're asking people to collect personal care drive items like laundry detergent, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, etc. until August 8. You can drop items off in the northeast entryway of the church.

Lawn Mowing Volunteers!

Please sign up by contacting the church or use the Google Doc link to sign up. 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 28: Lawry

July 19: Clark

July 5: Clark

July 26: Clark

July 12: Lawry

August 2: *Open

Thanks to Brad Jensen for mowing the week of June 21!

Presbyterian Women

PW yearbooks and Bible study books will be available to pick up at east entry. Names and book costs will be on both items. You may pay for your study books and pledge when your circle meets.

Mission in Action:

In April our Community Ministries Team for and received a \$1,500 grant from the North Central Iowa Ministry and Mission Commission to help with emerging local mission needs. It was decided to give this money to help immigrant families connected with Hawkeye Community College's Adult Education and Literacy program.

We received the following thank you:

"I wanted to let you know that we have used these funds to pay the rent of two AEL students who are struggling financially due to COVID-19. We have spent the remaining COVID-19 AEL Emergency funds on two different students and their families who have been affected by COVID and were in great need of food, supplies, diapers, and such. Much thanks to your church for securing these funds for our students. They have really made a difference to these four families."

Laura Hidlebaugh

Director, Adult Education and Literacy Programs
Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center