



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

November 11, 2020

Worship
Join us weekly on
our website:
Firstprescf.org

This Weekend's Worship

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:14-30

Sermon: Fear or Faith?

Guest preacher: Rev. Betsy Thompson

This weekend we welcome the Rev. Betsy Thompson to our pulpit. Betsy is our virtual SHINE leader and a wonderful addition to the life of our congregation as we navigate ministry in the midst of pandemic. Thank you for sharing your gifts with us, Betsy!

Pastor Julie Away from the Office

Pastor Julie will be taking some time away from the office before the season of Advent gets into full swing. Starting today, Wednesday, November 11, through Tuesday, November 17, she will be on vacation. If you are aware of a pastoral emergency, please contact Lynette in the office and she will forward the concern in whatever way is needed.

A Prayer for Veterans By Jill Duffield

“Lord of all, you long for a time when all nations will be ruled with justice and a world where everyone lives in safety and harmony. Until that time when swords are beaten into plowshares and the wolf and the lamb eat together, we give thanks for veterans who have served their country with honor and courage.

We remember the sacrifices made by members of the military and their families. We know that they endured long seasons apart from loved ones, the disruption of moves and deployments, the stress of being sent to regions engulfed by violence, the repercussions of physical, spiritual and moral injuries.

Where the pain of those injuries persists, bring healing. Where the memories of that trauma are harrowing, grant relief. Where the grief of those losses threatens to overwhelm, grant hope.

We pray, gracious God, for an end to war and for the new earth where there will be no need for military might. But now, we ask your blessing upon our veterans and those closest to them that they may know the gift of your presence and the peace that passes understanding. Amen.”



If you have a veteran or service member for whom you are particularly grateful, head over to our Facebook page ([First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls](https://www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchofCedarFalls)) and add their name(s) to today's post. We are grateful for our veterans and for the families that support them. Thank You!

Church Birthdays

Nov 11-Jean Berry, 12-Ned Ratekin, Brooke Barber, 13-Patti Zeschke, 18-Joyce Anderson, 20-Spencer Lockey, 21-'Pete' McCart

For your prayers...

Jean Boller's cousin Brian

Pinnacle Specialty Care has 3 staff members who tested positive for the virus. So far no residents have tested positive.

Deery Suites has one resident that has tested positive (not a member of our church.)

Zoom Meetings

Wednesday, Nov. 11

6:15-7:00 pm Elementary age 'Shine' Zoom

Thursday, November 12

5:30 pm Community Min

Sunday, November 15

11:00 am Fellowship

Monday, November 16

6:30 pm Worship Team

Wednesday, Nov. 18

6:15-7:00 pm Junior High age 'Shine' Zoom

Thanks for serving last week:

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Worship Leader: Neal Leeper

Vocals: Steve Moon

Videographer: Brad Wells

Editor: Eric Braley

Mission Spotlight Video: Neal Leeper

Story Book Readers Needed for Virtual Library

Please contact us by this Friday, Nov. 13, if interested!

Advent is coming and we need 9 familiar faces to read for our SHINE children and youth. We are providing a virtual library for our children this year so they can enjoy seeing/hearing some familiar people while celebrating Advent and Christmas from home. We have the books, we just need your voice. If you are able to film yourself (with good quality sound and picture) or able to schedule a time to come into the church to be recorded, please let Patti Humpal know. In order to get this put together in time, it will need to be submitted no later than Tuesday, November 24. Thanks for supporting this important ministry!



Calling Tree

Session and Deacon members are looking to restart the calling tree that we used last spring. It is an opportunity to check in on members to let them know that we are thinking about them. We are suggesting a minimum of a monthly check-in to see how they're coping and if the church can be of assistance. If you are interested in being a caller too, please contact the church office by phone or email.

Staying Connected

Our Lectionary Study

The lectionary study will be in the dining room during the cold months. Our attendance must be 10 or fewer, therefore we request an accurate list of attendees. Please reserve a spot through this link, [Lectionary Study Sign Up](#). If you aren't able to use this link, please contact Pastor Julie.

- November 16 – Matthew 25:31-46

Worship Leaders Needed

We are looking for people to lead worship with Pastor Julie. We record worship on Thursdays at approximately **3:30 pm**. If you feel called to serve in this way, you can sign up via the Google doc: [Worship Leaders](#) or call the office.

Zoom Links

Fellowship Hour—Sundays at 11:00 am

To join click the link: [Fellowship Hour](#).

To phone in: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 960 0560 9426

Passcode: 716125

Grand Sweep Bible Study - Tuesdays at 6:00 pm

Click to join: [Grand Sweep Bible Study](#)

To phone in: 1-301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 815 8301 9014

Passcode: 398420

First Presby Spottings

Elder Lynette Cline presides at the funeral of her aunt, Naomi Thompson in Montezuma, IA. If you have a selfie or snapshots of encounters with other Presbyterians; whether it be socializing, learning or doing mission work, please send your photos to office@firstprescf.org.



Decision from Session Regarding In-Person Worship

Many of you will recall that Session was looking to the first Sunday of Advent to open in-worship for a small number of people if the coronavirus numbers indicated it was safe to do so. At the meeting on Tuesday night it was unanimously decided that opening on that date was not wise considering the dramatic increase of cases in our area. They will take up the issue again in early February with the hope of gathering in-person on Ash Wednesday, February 17. We are all disappointed that Advent and Christmas will not be what we have come to cherish. We will continue to seek to use our God-given energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to find creative ways to grow in our faith, unite in love, and reach out in service to others.

Mission Opportunities

Adopt-A-Family

One of our church's favorite Christmas traditions is our annual Adopt-A-Family gift giving opportunity.

In order to choose one or more gifts from our "Three Trees," click on the links below. You can select from any or all of the three choices.

Sign up is easy! Click on the link/s, choose the item/s you wish to shop for, then click 'submit and sign up' at the bottom of the screen. You'll be directed to the next page; enter in your name, email and phone number then click 'Sign Up Now' at the bottom. **Your information is confidential**; only the church office will see it.

You will then receive a confirmation email.



13 yr old: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-adopt>



9 yr old: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-adopt1>



Household: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-adopt2>

After you have shopped for your gift, please wrap it and put a tag on the gift that tells who it is for and what it is. We will change the tag to the name only before we deliver the gift. Your gifts should be taken to the church library in the basement. **Please do not leave gifts in the entryway for security reasons.** A cart is available if needed. The deadline is Friday, Dec. 11th.

If you are unable to shop, please consider sending a check to First Presbyterian Church and put Adopt-A-Family in the memo. We would be happy to do your shopping for you.

Thank you for helping this family have a special Christmas!

Please contact Julie Rokes: 319-415-8724 or Sue Weinberg: 319-610-3376 if you have any question or need help signing up for a gift.

Sharing with Gratitude – Thanksgiving Food Drive

*If you are dropping off your box, please leave it
in the church library!*

The Community Ministries Team is offering a way to contribute to the North East Iowa Food Bank with a hands-on activity from home.

In the November days before Thanksgiving a daily contribution is added to a basket or box set out in your home as a reminder of gratitude. Plan your grocery list to include items from the list provided so you can place one item in the box each day from November 1 through 21.

Completed boxes should be left in the church library on November 22 or 23. A tan colored cart is in the entryway if needed. If you are unable to deliver your box to the church make arrangements for pick-up by calling the church office on November 22.



The daily donation list can be found on our website's 'News and Events' page under [Updates](#).

Sunday Suppers Suspended

Due to an increase in COVID-19 in our community, Sunday Supper meals have been temporarily suspended through the end of the calendar year.

CROP Donation deadline

If you are still interested in donating to CROP, please send your donation by Nov. 18 to the church with 'CROP' on the memo, or online at: www.crophungerwalk.org/waterlooia. Thank you!

Thank You

On behalf of the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, we would like to thank you for your recent contribution of \$300. Many families have found themselves in crisis due to COVID-19. The Food Bank has responded by distributing more food to families in need. Thanks to donations like yours, we can meet the needs of those in our 16 county service area.

Barb Prather, Executive Director

*Monies were donated by the Deacons in lieu of the
Annual Friendsgiving Senior Dinner.*