



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

November 18, 2020

Worship
Join us weekly on
our website:
Firstprescf.org

This Weekend's Worship – Reign of Christ Sunday

Scripture Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

Pastor's Ponderings

This weekend we will celebrate Reign of Christ Sunday. You may also know it as Christ the King Sunday. I also like to think of it as New Year's Eve. It is that last service of worship before we start the new liturgical year with Advent (this year Advent begins on November 29) when we begin the journey to Bethlehem. So, what is the big deal about Reign of Christ Sunday? Professor and author, Karoline M. Lewis describes it as, "a day to affirm God's reign over empires that do not hunger and thirst for God's righteousness. It's a day to say this is the kingdom that we affirm. This is the kingdom that we are looking toward. It is an opportunity for the church to look back and ask, 'How did the church work out God's reign?' And look forward to Advent and ask, 'What are some of our aspirations now as we sit on the cusp of a new year a new season?'"

This year our lives lived between the last Sunday of the liturgical year and the first Sunday of the next will be much different than normal. Usually, this time would be one of homes bustling with activity and tables overflowing with food to feed Thanksgiving crowds. This year it will be a time in which we mourn the loss of these heart-warming gatherings. A silver lining, though, could be that we are provided with time to ponder the very things that Karoline Lewis suggests. Poet Kitty O'Meara, a retired

teacher and chaplain, describes the possibilities which this time holds in the following poem.

And the people stayed home. And read books, and listened, and rested, and exercised, and made art, and played games, and learned new ways of being, and were still. And listened more deeply. Some meditated, some prayed, some danced. Some met their shadows. And the people began to think differently.

And the people healed. And, in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways, the earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed, and the people joined together again, they grieved their losses, and made new choices, and dreamed new images, and created new ways to live and heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

This "New Year's Eve" my prayer is that we remember the One whose kingdom is different from any other and that we dream new images and create new ways to live which honor our Servant King. May we all experience the healing peace of Christ during this time.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays
Nov 18-Joyce Anderson,
20-Spencer Lockey, 21-
'Pete' McCart, 25-Sally
Lee, 26-Kay Leeper

Sympathy to...
Sue Luck upon the
death of her mother.
Karen Sabey upon the
death of her mother.
Greg Dotseth on the
death of his brother.

Zoom Meetings
Wednesday, Nov. 18
6:15-7:00 pm Junior High
age 'Shine' Zoom

Sunday, November 22
11:00 am Fellowship
Hour

Tuesday, Nov. 24
6:00 pm Bible Study
Wednesday, Nov. 25
NO Shine-Thanksgiving

Office Note:
The office will be closed
Nov. 26 & 27 due to the
Thanksgiving holiday.

Thanks for serving last week:

Organist: Louann Flaherty

Worship Leader: Nancy Hoppe

Vocals: Maddie Bebber

Restroom electrical updates: Jim Duncan, Jim Seeley

Yard work: Jim Seeley, Darrel Flater, Gary Sabey, Gus Hill, Gary Clark

Congregational Prayer for Reign of Christ Sunday

God of majesty,
you love us with an everlasting love
and show us the way to justice and peace.
In Jesus Christ you have reconciled the
whole world to you
and claimed us as your own,
that we may live as his body on earth and,
with all the saints, enter into your glory
on the last day. **Amen.**

Stewardship 2021

Thank you to all who have responded by mailing in an Estimate of Giving card for 2021. Your response helps us to plan our budget for next year. If you have not yet sent in a card, it is not too late to do so. Thank you for your generosity and support.

Story Book Readers Needed for Virtual Library

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!



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 30-Isaiah 40:1-11

Thank You

A big "Thank You" to everyone who sent cards or called for our recent 50th wedding anniversary. With the coronavirus eliminating an open house and the chance to be with everyone the cards were wonderful. God has blessed us with a special church and great friends.

Jim and Susan Duncan

Worship Leaders Needed

We are looking for people to lead worship with Pastor Julie. We record worship on Thursdays at approximately 3:30 pm. Please sign up via the Google doc: [Worship Leaders](#) or call the office. **Recording for next week will be Tuesday, Nov. 24 at **10:30 am** due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Church Directories

Printed directories will no longer be available in the northeast entryway. If you want a directory, contact Lynette in the office to receive a printed one, or ask for a pdf version to be emailed to you.

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

Holiday Celebrations and Giving 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.

Advent at Home

As we prepare for the coming of the Christ child, we light candles to represent the hope, peace, joy, and love he will bring. This year we will light these candles at our various homes together. The Children, Youth, and Families Team has delivered the pictured battery-operated Advent wreaths to the families with children in our congregation. Thanks to their generosity there are extras for others who wish to participate at home. They will be available to pick up in the northeast entry starting on Monday, November 23, while supplies last. If you would like one delivered to your door, let Lynette in the office know.



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](#).

In-Person Worship Update

At the Nov. 10 Session meeting it was decided not to have in-person worship at this time. They will take up the issue again in early February. We will attempt to make Advent and Christmas meaningful through online opportunities and other outreach.