E-Link

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

February 3, 2021

Worship
Join us weekly on our website:
Firstprescf.org

This Weekend's Worship

Sermon: *And He Helped Her Up*

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31; Mark 1:29-39

We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper this weekend. Please prepare your at-home worship space with whatever communion elements you have on hand. It may be a slice or roll of bread, a corn tortilla, Naan, or rice cake and a cup of juice -- perhaps grape or cranberry -- or wine, with or without alcohol, and it may be closer to a meal. Whatever it may be, it will surely be a time to experience the holy with our siblings of Christ in our community and around the world.

Pastor's Ponderings - "Get Connected"

"The Church is to be a community of hope, rejoicing in the sure and certain knowledge that, in Christ, God is making a new creation." PC(USA) Book of Order F-1.0301

Can you believe it? In just over six weeks we will be marking one year of worshiping fully online. As time in this "in-between" space goes, it sometimes feels like the time stretches forever and other times it feels short. I take that back; it almost always feels like this pandemic is forever! Days run into days and mundane chore follows mundane chore. Celebrations and parties have been reworked into Zoom gatherings and card showers.

It is clear to me and all the leadership of First Pres, that we need some more intentional, ongoing connections with each other, especially as we don't yet have an end date for pandemic precautions. The deacons have been doing a wonderful job of staying connected with some of our more vulnerable or isolated members, but let's be real, we *all* need a bit more human interaction and reminders that we have so much to look forward to when we gather in-person again!

To this end, we are launching the First Presbyterian Church Connection. It is somewhat like an old-school phone tree, but connections don't need to be by phone. We just want to reach out to let you know that you are an important part of First Presbyterian Church and the wider body of Christ. So, in the next few weeks you will get a phone call, a text, an email or even snail mail from one of our "connectors". When you do, it will be a reminder that you are loved and appreciated. I encourage you to spread the love and reach out to someone else to send the care along. Let's be the bright spots in one another's days!

Want to connect?

If you would like to serve as a "Connectors," we would love to add you to the list. Please email Pastor Julie at pastor@firstprescf.org or leave a message at the office and we will give you a name or two to contact.

Peace and wellbeing,

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Feb. 7-Julie Rokes, 8-Bob Hall, Dave Luck, 14-Ashtyn Humpal

For your prayers…

Gretchen Jones, aunt of **Pastor Julie**, undergoing testing on a tumor in her brain.

Susan Duncan recovering from shoulder replacement surgery.

Zoom Meetings

Wednesday, February 3
1:00 pm Personnel Team
6:15 pm Jr. High aged SHINE

Thursday, February 4
6:30 pm Esther Circle

Friday, February 5
10:00 am 'Caste' Book Study Group

Sunday, February 7
11:00 am (link below)
Fellowship Hour.

Monday, February 8
6:30 pm Worship Team

Tuesday, February 9
6:00 pm Grand Sweep Bible Study

Wed., February 10
6:15 pm Elementary aged SHINE

Thursday, February 11
5:30 pm Community Min

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Carolyn Stephenson

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Vocalist: Mason Sealock

Annual Meeting Assistance: Rev. 'Pete' McCart, Neal & Kay Leeper

Annual Meeting Presenters: Jan Thedens, Dave Luck, Rev. Betsy Thompson, Neal Leeper, Jane Seeley, Margaret Clark

Lenten Storybook Readers: Jean Boller, Lynette Cline, Carol Dotseth, Sue Eastman, Patti Humpal, Neal Leeper, Kay Leeper, Lindsey Humpal, Maya Humpal, Jackson Humpal

Souperbowl of Caring

RESCHEDULED!

Due to frigid temperatures forecast for this weekend, the Souperbowl of Caring event will be NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. You may donate non-perishable food items or a cash gift. **Attached** to this email are more details.

Gracie, Gabby and David Lee

Thank You

Thank you, Deacons, for the lovely wooden heart, and for Margaret Clark delivering it.
May we all be together soon.
Blessings, Marge King

Hawkeye Community College believes every student matters and that every student can succeed. We greatly appreciate your generosity and support. Your gift of $3,000 to the Family Literacy Fund to help us continue to meet the educational needs of the college.
With warmest regards,
Holly Johnson
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

The funds are from the Presbytery Mission Grant.

Ash Wednesday with the Mennonites

We will be worshiping together with the Mennonite congregation for Ash Wednesday via Zoom. The service will start at 7:00pm and will also be available as a recording afterward. Look for the Zoom link and more information in next week's E-link.

Ash Wednesday SHINE Event

There will be an *Ash Wednesday* service for all children and youth on Wednesday, February 17th at 6:15 on Zoom. Families, please prepare your worship space with a bowl/container of water, small dish of oil (olive oil or vegetable oil work great), Battery operated candle or flashlight, and something to serve as ashes to put on your forehead (potting soil, crushed Oreos, washable black marker, etc).

Heartland Habitat for Humanity Spring Auction

Our online auction event will help raise funds to support local families in desperate need of safe, decent, and affordable housing. We value your support and shared belief that **HOPE CAN'T BE PUT ON HOLD** as we transition to a special silent online auction event this year!

When: 8:00am on Monday, March 1st - 8:00pm on Saturday, March 6th!

Where: Online (link will be sent out prior to the event)

What: Your purchase of a $25 ticket gains you access to the week long online silent benefit auction event and a $20 gift card to a local restaurant!

Purchase your tickets or become a sponsor through this link or give Habitat a call at 319-235-9946!

Presby Spottings! Thanks to Jim Seeley, pictured above, and all the snow shovelers who've been tackling the heavy snowfall this season.

Annual Meeting Results

All of the motions that were up for vote at Sunday's Annual Meeting passed unanimously.

Thanks to everyone who participated and for your support of this congregations mission and ministry!

First Presbyterian Book Study

The First Presbyterian Book Group meets on Fridays at 10:00 am through February 26 with Zoom discussions of the book Caste--The Origins of Our Discontents by Isabel Wilkerson. It's not too late to join in. Contact Jean Boller, 277-8149 or bollerama@cfu.net.

The Lectionary Study

Please join us on Mondays at 10:00am as we explore the sermon texts for the following Sunday. If you have questions, please email Pastor Julie: pastor @firstprescf.org

Join Zoom Meeting
https://zoom.us/j/93698745489?pwd=eWxCa20zL2NYb3g3L2wrWVRLMVlaZz09

Meeting ID: 936 9874 5489
Passcode: 517561
By phone: 1 312 626 6799

- Use this link to participate. Emails will not be sent. -

The Grand Sweep Bible Study

The Grand Sweep Bible Study class meets via Zoom weekly on Tuesday evenings at 6:00 pm and lasts until 7:30 pm through mid-April.
Grand Sweep Bible Study

Meeting ID: 822 0157 7459
Passcode: 879309
To phone in: 1 312 626 6799

Do you miss singing?

Do you wish you had a safe way to sing in a chorus? Join the Metropolitan Chorale, the longest running community chorus in the Cedar Valley, for our spring season!
The Met Chorale will hold virtual rehearsals via Zoom in order to prioritize the safety of our singers. Members will work on musicianship skills, vocal technique, have time for socializing, and of course, singing! Our spring season will culminate in a parking lot concert on May 1. Rehearsals begin on Monday, February 8 at 7 pm and will be an hour in duration.

Visit www.met-chorale.com for further details and to register today. Scholarships are available!

Presbyterian Pantry Opportunities

Pastor Dan asked to forward the link for volunteering at the Presbyterian Pantry at Westminster in Waterloo. If working at NEIFB is not an option for you, this might be a better fit. They have options that greatly limit contact with others for safety reasons. The options are separated by Saturday mornings or Thursday evenings. Should anyone wish to help pre-pack the day prior to our pantry openings, please have them call the church directly at 234-5501.

PANTRY LINK: wpcw.org/volunteer

Fellowship Hour

Join us on Sundays at 11:00 am.
Topic: Fellowship Hour
https://zoom.us/j/97475746240?pwd=RXlwT1FncXhuMTk4MlZ3OGc4NEdDUT09
Meeting ID: 974 7574 6240
Passcode: 504524
To Phone In: 1-312-626-6799

Worship Leaders Needed

We are looking for people to lead worship with Pastor Julie on Thursdays at approximately 3:30 pm. Please sign on the Google doc: Worship Leaders.