



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

February 17, 2021

**Worship**  
Join us weekly on  
our website:  
[Firstprescf.org](http://Firstprescf.org)

**Ash Wednesday with the Mennonites**

We will be worshipping 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. If you would like to participate in the self-imposition of ashes, prepare your worship space with some wet soil or a spent match for each person.

There will also be time to name prayers. Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83368274350>  
Meeting ID: 833 6827 4350  
To Phone In: 1 312 626 6799



**Ash Wednesday SHINE Event**

There will be an *Ash Wednesday* service for all children and youth TONIGHT, February 17 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). The Zoom link was emailed yesterday.

**Pastor's Ponderings - Ash Wednesday, Give it up?**

As we have been approaching Ash Wednesday this year, I have been doing a lot of pondering about how it could be approached in this anything-but-normal season. Instead of giving up something for Lent, should we give up Ash Wednesday? Everything already feels a good bit ashen. Then I saw [Rev. Dr. Melva Sampson's](#) Facebook post this morning and knew I needed to share her words. The following is an excerpt.

"Today is Ash Wednesday commencing the reflective season of Lent. Many Christians will observe this 40 day journey by seeking to perfect their piety. They will give up sugar, meat, libations in an effort to be informed by their existence as mortal beings...

...I offer the following [alternative]: Shift your Lenten gaze from piety to radical communal responsibility. Piety does not free people, not in this life nor the next. Sacrifice more complex vices like greed, complacency, whiteness, theological black face, homophobia, sexism, militarism, etc. Add on educating yourself about Black Religion (watching the Black Church documentary on PBS is a good start).

Jesus was a revolution and the new thought being brought to Judaism was revolutionary. To observe Lent is to say yes to the revolution. It is to say yes to discomfort. It is to go back and fetch your history, your people to strategize and to listen."

Immediately following Rev. Dr. Sampson's post was a story about a PC (USA) congregation's active response to uncovering the fact that a significant gift given to construct their building had conditions attached. Please take the time to watch the video here: [Confessing the Story of a Racist Gift.](#)

Fort Knox took relative passive listening and learning about racism and put it into action in their community. They dared to look into their own past and confess what they found there and say yes to discomfort. This Ash Wednesday let us dedicate ourselves to listening for voices we often miss and ask God for the strength to act with humility and compassion on this 40-day journey (and beyond).

Your fellow traveler,  
Pastor Julie

**Church Birthdays**

Feb. 19-Daniel Humpal, Michael Boller, 21-Jan Reimer, 27-Dot Clausen, Addison Wells, 28-Walt Stephenson

**For your prayers...**

**Sue Eastman** at home being treated for a pulmonary embolism.

**Joyce Hufferd** at MercyOne being treated for an irregular heartbeat.

**Lynette Cline's** mother now at Rosehaven Nursing home in Marengo and is improving.

**Zoom Meetings  
Wed., February 17**

6:15 pm SHINE for all Ages-Ash Wednesday activities  
7:00 pm Ash Wednesday w. CF Mennonites

**Friday, February 19**

10:00 am 'Caste' Book Study Group

**Sunday, February 21**

11:00 am (link below)  
[Fellowship Hour.](#)

4:00 pm Jesus at the Movies, see pg. 3

**Tuesday, February 23**

6:00 pm Grand Sweep Bible Study

**Wed., February 24**

6:15 pm Jr. High aged SHINE  
7:00 pm Lenten Reflections via Zoom

### **This Weekend's Worship – First Sunday of Lent**

**Sermon:** *And He Was with the Wild Beasts*

**Scripture:** Genesis 9:8-7, Mark 1:9-15

#### **Prayer of Preparation**

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days, and minister to us through your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Joy to Celebrate**

Tom & Jeverna Mulligan are scheduled to receive their Covid vaccine this week and will then be allowed to visit Jeverna's mother, Harriett Bullock, in-person at Pinnacle Specialty Care.

#### **Thank You**

Thank you so much for the prayers for my cousin Brian. He has reached the milestone of day 100 after his stem cell transplant and is back home in Altoona, with follow-up appointments and low dose chemo periodically at Mayo. He's getting stronger every day. Thanks for your support.

Jean Boller

Dear Church Family,

Rob and I are so grateful for your texts, calls, cards and prayers during my mother's diagnosis with Sundowning Syndrome due to vascular dementia. It has been a challenge but knowing that our church was praying for us gave us peace and hope. Thanks especially to Pastor Julie, Nancy Hoppe, Hope Goering, and Kay Leeper for their professional insight and assistance.

In humble gratitude,

Lynette Cline

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your generous support of Three-house Collaborative Campus Ministries. We are so grateful for the \$1500 North Central Iowa Presbytery Grant and for all the extra effort necessary for the application. In spite of the pandemic, we continue to reach out, engage and grow with the students and staff in new, creative ways. We cherish our partnership with you.

With heartfelt thanks,

Dave Glenn-Burns,  
Director & Campus Minister

### **Thanks for serving last week:**

**Worship Leader:** Margaret Clark

**Pianist:** Connie Herbon

**Vocalist:** Mason Sealock

**Snow Removal:** Jim Seeley, Gary Sabey

**Office Substitutes:** Nancy Hoppe, Hope Goering

### **Souperbowl of Caring**

#### **NEW, NEW DATE!**

We are giving this one more try. Due to frigid temperatures, the Souperbowl of Caring event is re-scheduled for SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21 from 10:00 am - 11:00 am. This will be a drive through, drop off event. You may donate non-perishable food items or a cash gift. Details are in the attached flyer. If the weather does not cooperate, we will take donations in another way to be announced. Thank you for supporting our kids as they engage in mission!

#### **Presbyterian Pantry Opportunities**

If working at NEIFB is not an option for you, consider volunteering at the Presbyterian Pantry at Westminster in Waterloo. They have options that greatly limit contact with others for safety reasons. Please call the church directly at 234-5501. PANTRY LINK: [wpcw.org/volunteer](http://wpcw.org/volunteer)

#### **Wednesday Lenten Reflections**

Our traditional Lenten Reflections will be available on Zoom this year each Wednesday at 7:00pm starting on February 24 and running through March 24. The reflections will be recorded and will be available to view later for those who can't join at that time.

(no session on March 17 due to spring break.)

[https://zoom.us/j/9364922206?](https://zoom.us/j/9364922206?pwd=MGM3WFZzUmpEdlY1T3FROGVpcVFTQT09)

[pwd=MGM3WFZzUmpEdlY1T3FROGVpcVFTQT09](https://zoom.us/j/9364922206?pwd=MGM3WFZzUmpEdlY1T3FROGVpcVFTQT09)

Meeting ID: 936 4922 2206

Passcode: 634605

To phone in: 1 312 626 6799

**"The Way to Shalom--A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness"** is an online daily devotional that is available to each of us in our own homes this season. In the Bible, Shalom can be translated not only as peace, but also as tranquility, security, well-being, health, welfare, completeness and safety. Each week in Lent will have a new theme covering one of the many definitions of Shalom, exploring how we can receive this gift and, in turn, bestow it upon the world. The devotional can be accessed at [Presbyterians Today Lenten Devotional 2021](#).

## “Jesus at the Movies: A Cinematic Experience for Lent”

For the 2021 Lenten season, the Christian Education committee invites you to discuss four different films about the life of Jesus and how they relate to Scripture. These conversations will take place via **Zoom on Sundays at 4:00 PM** starting February 21 and ending March 14.

Participants are encouraged to watch the films at their leisure *before* that movie’s particular discussion each Sunday. You may access these movies for free by the YouTube links provided below. You might also choose to watch them on your streaming services/subscriptions.

Here is the **schedule** of when we’ll be discussing each movie:

### **February 21:** *Jesus of Nazareth*

YouTube links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Elm0vKn07PA> (Part 1);

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfcoqUIwhr4> (Part 2)

### **February 28:** *Jesus Christ Superstar*

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyVNEHoqZWY>

### **March 7:** *The Greatest Story Ever Told*

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LsszPCSws4I>

### **March 14:** *Tyler Perry’s The Passion*

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EHn0ijTE4zw>

Here is the recurring Zoom link you’ll need to click on each Sunday at 4:00 PM to participate in these conversations: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89363512864>

### **Thursdays - 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](#).

### **Fridays- 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.

### **Sundays - Fellowship Hour**

Join us on Sundays at 11:00 am.

Topic: Fellowship Hour

[https://zoom.us/j/97475746240?](https://zoom.us/j/97475746240?pwd=RXlwT1FncXhuMTk4MlZ3OGc4NEdDUT09)

[pwd=RXlwT1FncXhuMTk4MlZ3OGc4NEdDUT09](https://zoom.us/j/97475746240?pwd=RXlwT1FncXhuMTk4MlZ3OGc4NEdDUT09)

Meeting ID: 974 7574 6240

Passcode: 504524

To Phone In: 1-312-626-6799

### **Mondays - 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?](https://zoom.us/j/93698745489?pwd=eWxCa20zL2NYb3g3L2wrWVRLMVlaZz09)

[pwd=eWxCa20zL2NYb3g3L2wrWVRLMVlaZz09](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. -**

### **Tuesdays - 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