



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

February 24, 2021

Worship
Join us weekly on
our website:
Firstprescf.org

**This Weekend's Worship –
Second Sunday of Lent**
Sermon: *Take Up Your Cross*
Scripture: Mark 8:27-38

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.

Pastor's Ponderings - Guest Column by Rev. Le Anne Clausen de Montes

A colleague introduced me this morning to the concept of 'devotional rituals to sustain the world.' I believe she was asking folks what small things they do in the course of their week in a prayerful manner, as part of her sermon preparations. It got me thinking.

There are a few things I do in quiet contemplation (wordless prayer, if you will) each day, that I do believe make the world a better place.

First, I feed the neighborhood birds and provide water in a heated bird bath on the ground. By day, they eat (and the squirrels and rabbits take care of the crumbs below); by night, the water is also used by the alley cats. In spring, ducks will come as well. I put a dish out for the cat as well every night, in hopes of keeping them away from the birds by day. Stewarding the nature that visits our yard keeps me connected to creation, even in the middle of our small city, and helps when I get frustrated by the inhumanity of humanity.

Second, I compost. There is just something to the idea of gathering up the scraps of food that neither we humans (nor our pet guinea pigs) can consume, and using them in a way that nourishes the earth. To be honest, it also helps me to cope with the frustration of how much food my kids waste through spillage, etc.

I lived for a year in Iraq, as a civilian peacemaking and human rights worker. I observed a beautiful devotional custom there, whenever we were invited to a local family's home. After every meal, every crumb that had fallen on the tablecloth was carefully gathered--every grain of rice,

even--and placed outside on the windowsill. There were rarely 'front yards' in the city; it was easy for a passerby to pick up the food as they went along. It was so important that no crumb be wasted or trampled, in case someone else needed it to survive.

I also remember in Iraq my afternoons with a woman named Katrina, who had lost her family through war and misfortune, and lived in a stall in a shuttered shopping center after the war. There were many such families there, each in their own nook, after their homes had been destroyed in the bombing. Each 'household' would receive a small box of rations with things like rice, noodles, cooking oil, tomato paste, and tea; she would insist on feeding me each time I came to visit, and showed me how to make these simple, sparse foods into filling meals. Now, as a mother of young children half a world away and twenty years later, I have made these recipes for my own family and I remember her.

I give thanks for the gift of readily accessible food where my family now lives; and I also continue to do what I can to ensure that everyone, everywhere, has enough to eat and live.

What 'rituals' do you have, what regular devotional acts might you have and maybe don't even realize, to heal and sustain the world?

Le Anne Clausen de Montes is a Pastor-at-Large living in Mason City. Her strong advocacy for the neurodiverse and LGBTQ communities is a gift to our presbytery. You can find her many ministry efforts on Facebook.

Church Birthdays
Feb. 27-Dot Clausen,
Addison Wells, 28-Walt
Stephenson, Mar. 3-Vera
Brunskill

For your prayers...
'Pete' McCart
Sue Eastman
Joyce Hufferd
**Marlys Folkers' grand-
son**

Zoom Meetings
Wed., February 24
6:15 pm Jr. High aged
SHINE
7:00 pm Lenten Reflec-
tions via Zoom
Friday, February 26
10:00 am 'Caste' Book
Study Group
Sunday, February 28
11:00 am (link below)
[Fellowship Hour.](#)
2:00 pm Deacons Mtg.
4:00 pm Jesus at the
Movies, see pg. 3
Monday, March 1
7:00 pm CYF Min. Team
Tuesday, March 2
6:00 pm Grand Sweep
Bible Study
Wednesday, March 3
6:15 pm Elementary
Aged Shine
7:00 pm Lenten Reflec-
tions

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Hope Goering

Organist: Louann Flaherty

Vocalist: Beth Culberson

Snow Removal: Jim Seeley, Gary Sabey, Gary Clark

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=MGM3WFZUmpEdlY1T3FROGVpcVFTQT09)

[pwd=MGM3WFZUmpEdlY1T3FROGVpcVFTQT09](https://zoom.us/j/9364922206?pwd=MGM3WFZUmpEdlY1T3FROGVpcVFTQT09)

Meeting ID: 936 4922 2206

Passcode: 634605

To phone in: 1 312 626 6799

Member Anniversaries

Marge King, 3/16/51 - 70 yrs.

Kirk Eastman, 3/20/11- 10 yrs.

Len & Ellie Tompkins, 3/25/76 - 45 yrs.

Dennis Reimer, 3/26/61 - 60 yrs.

In Sympathy

Sympathy to the family of Lillian Fisher, who passed away Tuesday, February 16 at the age of 103 years old. Her obituary can be found on the Kaiser-Corson Funeral Home, Waverly website.



Souperbowl of Caring: Thanks to workers Kat Braley; Pastor Julie and Jakob; Chad, Sally, Gabby, Gracie, and David Lee; Patti Humpal. We had 16 vehicles/walkers show up for our drop-off event. We raised \$355 for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Thank you to everyone who contributed.

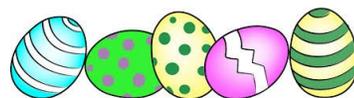


Presbyterian Pantry Opportunities

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

DONATIONS NEEDED!!

We are looking for small items that can fit inside a **plastic Easter egg** (erasers, chocolate, stickers, etc.) to share with the SHINE families. Leave donations in the plastic tub in the entryway. We will collect donations until March 10. Thank you!



"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. Each week in Lent will have a new theme covering one of the many definitions of Shalom. 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 28: *Jesus Christ Superstar*

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

March 7: *The Greatest Story Ever Told*

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LszPCSws4I>

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>

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

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

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.

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. -

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](#).