



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

March 17, 2021

Worship
Join us weekly on
our website:
Firstprescf.org

**Special Worship Service:
Service of Reflection and Hope
After One Year of Our Life Together at a Distance**

Prepare your worship space with a light source such as a candle or flashlight as we light candles to represent losses and hopes. You may also gather items that represent what we have missed in our last year together: photos of loved ones who have died or have been too distant to hug, event tickets, a hymnal, etc.

Prayer of Preparation

Holy God, by the cross and resurrection of Jesus,
you lift the suffering world toward hope and transformation
and open the way to eternal salvation.
As we move ever closer to the passion of Christ,
may your law of love be written on our hearts
as he draws all people to himself revealing
your love for the world. **Amen.**

Pastor's Ponderings - One Year of Life Together Online

This Sunday we will reflect on a full year of living as the body of Christ in the midst of a pandemic. What we first thought would be a short interruption of our familiar gatherings, joyous singing, shared meals, mission projects and sharing of significant life events turned into weeks upon weeks and months upon months of navigating our lives and faith in wholly different ways. Those first few months I often pondered one of the vows all teaching elders, ruling elders, and deacons of the church take upon ordination. "Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?" Answer, "I will with God's help."

We have definitely needed God's help. This Sunday we will have a Service of Reflection and Hope as we acknowledge the incredible challenges and sorrows that mark this last year. Through Psalms and prayers we will reflect on physical losses, emotional losses, spiritual losses, financial losses,

interpersonal losses, and hidden blessings. It is important for our community to process these losses and blessings together, even if we are still at a physical distance. It is also important to recognize that the hope that is beginning to blossom amongst us as vaccines are more available, is not equally experienced in all communities. Many of the injustices exposed during this time will remain if in our hope we stop listening to the sorrow.

I echo this paraphrase of Paul to you all. Dear ones, I always give thanks to God for you. Your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. I am grateful for your steadfastness and faith during the afflictions you are enduring (2 Thess 1:3-4). I am also grateful for the ways you seek to support those in our broader community who suffer injustice. May this year of pandemic lead us to a closer walk with Christ in service to others.

Your partner in the journey,

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Mar. 17-Gary Sabey, A.J. Humpal, Maya Humpal, 18-Patti Humpal, 20-Roger Dean, Scott Connelly, 24-Mike Rokes, Eli Braley, 25-Sandy Jensen, Brad Wells

For your prayers...

'Pete' McCart
Joyce Hufferd

Zoom Meetings

Wednesday, March 17

NO Shine-Spring Break

Sunday, March 21

11:00 am (link below)

[Fellowship Hour.](#)

Tuesday, March 23

6:00 pm Bible Study

Wed., March 24

6:15 pm Elementary

aged SHINE

7:00 pm Lenten Reflections via Zoom

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Nancy Hoppe

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Vocalist: Mason Sealock

Snow Shoveling: Jim Seeley, Gary Sabey

Wednesday Lenten Reflections

Our last Zoom Lenten Reflection will be on Wednesday, March 24 at 7:00 pm. Please join us for our final reflection on how pain can lead to renewal.

(no session tonight due to spring break.)

<https://zoom.us/j/9364922206?pwd=MGM3WFZUmpEdlY1T3FROGVpcVFTQT09>

Meeting ID: 936 4922 2206

Passcode: 634605

To phone in: 1 312 626 6799

We want to see your palm!

Palm Sunday is just two weeks away! We would love to include you in our virtual palm parade. Attached to this email you will find a coloring page of a palm. Print it out, color it, and cut it out, then send us a picture or video of you waving your palm (please be sure to use landscape/horizontal mode). Upload your palm picture here: <http://bit.ly/3t3vUxt> or send your palm to the office via snail mail, making sure your name is on it. We'll incorporate your palms into our service.



Invitation to Join the Book Group

A group of 7 members from 1st Presbyterian who began a book group last fall are in the process of developing a plan to make a difference as we "Reach Out to Others" individually and as a congregation. We would love to add more people. The group has been meeting on Fridays at 10:00 am, but we are willing to adjust our time and days to allow others to join. The group has set guidelines to make these meetings a safe, respectful time of idea sharing. If you would be interested in joining in a group to look at one of these books or other materials related to social justice, please contact Jean Boller, bolлераma@cfu.net or 239-9759.

Easter Giving Opportunity

Since our Easter Service this year will be on Zoom, the Worship and Music team is inviting the congregation to donate cash or non-perishable food items to the Food Bank in lieu of flowers in memory or honor of a loved one. (We will not be taking flower orders this year. An arrangement for the sanctuary will be provided by Worship and Music.) Food items may be left in the north-east entryway. Please make your checks payable to the church with 'food bank' on the memo. Financial donations will coincide with the 2x Matching Gift Challenge listed below:

Northeast Iowa Food Bank Challenge

Thanks to the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, your gift today can be matched — dollar for dollar — up to \$40,000! That means you can provide TWICE as many meals with a single caring donation.

Since your \$10 gift helps provide up to 40 healthy meals, just imagine how many families you can help with a gift of \$20 or \$30. But to take advantage of this incredible opportunity, you have to donate before April 30.

So please don't miss this opportunity to provide twice the meals with one gift. You can prevent painful hunger and make twice the difference — before it's too late.

Northeast Iowa Food Bank

Empty Bowls Is March 19-26!

This year the event will take place entirely online.

Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets and bid on both silent and live auction items.

Learn more about how to participate at:

<https://www.northeastiowafoodbank.org/empty-bowls/>

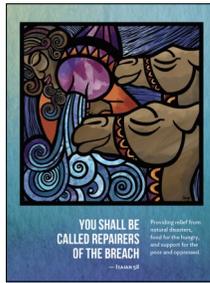
Get 25% OFF your tickets by using the coupon code:

EB2021 at checkout!

Scholarship Opportunity

The Dorothy Horn Scholarship provides financial assistance to women from Presbyterian churches who attend the University of Northern Iowa.

Those interested in more information, or an application packet, should contact First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls. Materials can be requested by calling **319-277-3930** or by email: office@firstprescf.org. All applications must be returned by **May 1, 2021**.



One Great Hour of Sharing Offering – Palm to Passion Sunday

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please consider what you can give to this offering! Checks may be made payable to the church with "One Great Hour" written on the memo or via PayPal.

"The Way to Shalom--A Lenten Journey to Peace and Wholeness" is an online daily devotional. 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](#).

Vaccine Information

Are you having trouble finding information about the coronavirus vaccine? If you have general questions about the vaccine, call 211. Resource specialists are available 24 hours a day to answer questions.

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. We have two sessions left in Lent. **Our Lectionary study will be on hiatus for the month of April.** If you have questions, please email Pastor Julie: pastor@firstprescf.org

(This link was updated last week.)

[https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?](https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTKyL2dGTkpteWJ0dz09)

[pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTKyL2dGTkpteWJ0dz09](https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTKyL2dGTkpteWJ0dz09)

Meeting ID: 946 4461 9364

Passcode: 158493

To phone in: 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](#).