



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

May 26, 2021

Worship
Join us weekly on
our website:
Firstprescf.org

Sermon: "If By the Spirit"

Scripture: Romans 8:12-17

This Sunday we will receive into membership Kristin Sjolander, and celebrate the sacrament of baptism for Madison Sjolander.

Ways to join worship: In-person with reservation, Facebook Live at **10:00am** on Sunday, by recording (to be posted on our website on Monday), via CFU Public Access channel 95.5 or 18 on Saturday nights at 7:00 p.m. and Sundays at 12:00 noon (CFU services lag by a week).

Prayer of Preparation

Holy God, creator of all goodness, you came in flesh for the life of the world and sent your Spirit that your love might abide within us. Teach us how to love each other this day, that our community may have life, and have it abundantly, with you, in Christ, and through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Memorial Day Ponderings

Below are excerpts from an article by Dorothy Sanders Wells, rector of Saint George's Episcopal Church in Germantown, Tennessee. She reflects on Memorial Day 2020 and the lessons we have yet to learn. Sometimes amplifying the voices of others is our next faithful step. For the full article, please visit The Christian Century.

**On the anniversary of the murder of George Floyd,
I remember my Black father's military service**

Monday, May 25, 2020, was Memorial Day, the day on which Americans honor members of our Armed Forces who have given their lives in the service of our country. Memorial Day is a day on which we give thanks for the sacrifices of the men and women who have helped to safeguard our freedoms.

But May 25, 2020, was a day that would be remembered for other reasons. Early that morning, a Black man named Christian Cooper went into an area of New York's Central Park known as the Ramble, pursuing his hobby of bird-watching. He encountered a White woman named Amy Cooper (no relation), who was walking her dog off-leash in the Ramble, where dog owners are required to keep their pets on-leash. When Christian Cooper asked Amy Cooper to leash her dog, she instead called the police and reported that an African American man was threatening her life.

Except he wasn't. Because he had recorded the encounter on his cell phone, Christian Cooper had video to show that the only person being threatened in the encounter was him.

Twelve hours later, police in Minneapolis were called to a convenience store, where a Black man named George Floyd allegedly tried to purchase cigarettes with a counterfeit 20-dollar bill.

Continued on page 2...

Church Birthdays
May 26-Ryan Helgerson,
29-Jozlyn Lee, Madison
Lockey

For your prayers...
Bruce & 'Pete' McCart
Brad and Sandy Jensen's
sister-in-law, Julie


Tristan Warren

NOTE: The office will be closed on Monday for Memorial Day. The Sunday worship video will be posted on Tuesday.

Notice of important upcoming events: *A full schedule is on page 2.*

Wednesday, May 26
6:15 pm Jr. High Shine
(last regular Wednesday night Shine for summer.)

Sunday, May 30
10:00 am In-Person worship. See page 2 for attendance requirements.

 **Zoom Fellowship Hour is being suspended for the rest of May.**

Under Minnesota state law, this nonviolent crime is a misdemeanor—an offense which, had Floyd survived to be charged, tried, and convicted, likely would have yielded no more than a year in jail and a fine.

Floyd, of course, never made it to a police precinct. A teenager's cell phone video bore witness to the more than eight minutes during which a police officer, Derek Chauvin, knelt on the neck of a handcuffed Floyd on the street in front of the convenience store, killing him.

Memorial Day 2020 left some of us wondering about the freedoms that hosts of African American men have served to protect and defend. My father was one of those men. He answered the call to serve in the US Army as a 28-year-old man. He served in World War 2, proudly and honorably—even though the America to which he returned was a place where he was still, at age 30, called “boy,” among other names used for Black men in the Jim Crow South. He was legally discriminated against in every walk of life, with laws limiting where he could sit or stand, drink water, use the restroom, get a job, buy food, or buy a home. He knew fear at home—for his safety and the safety of his family—that was at least as great as the fear he knew at war.

In spite of all that, he never lost his sense of patriotism and love for our country. He went on to work as a civil service employee for 25 years. Had he given his life for his country in the war, he would have done so with pride. His hope and prayer always were that “things would get better.” I wonder what he would say if he were alive today.

We've learned that if we thought we lived in a post-racial world, we were wrong. There is still work to do, there are still eyes to open, there are still hearts to change.

But it's not too late. It's not impossible.

The disciples had some work to do after Jesus' death, too. After the joy of reuniting with a resurrected Jesus, they had to survive the disappointment of letting him go a second time as he ascended into heaven, to overcome their fear, and to accept their mission to go out into the world as witnesses, continuing his work. The book of Acts gives us a glimpse of the diverse world of Jews and Gentiles into which the disciples were called to share this new message of God's love. They were rich and poor, devout keepers of faith traditions and having no faith tradition at all, sick and begging at the temple door, authorities of the Roman Empire, eunuchs, and slaves. The apostles were called to minister to all of God's people—and even when they weren't so sure how or to whom to tell God's story, the Holy Spirit always seemed to empower them.

There are so many lessons for us from the first disciples. Like them, we are called to stand together—from our differing backgrounds, with our differing expectations, in our brokenness, sorrow, grief, fear, confusion, and with our shattered hopes—to look after, uplift, and love one another. We are called to truly hear one another's stories and give thanks for the ways that we all stand to be enlightened by deeply listening to how each of us sees the world.

Like the first disciples, we are called to share the story of God's love with all of God's people, in all of our differing states and conditions, until all know that they are loved by God and worthy of God's grace. We are called to share the gifts that God has given us and to trust that those gifts are enough for us to answer the call to be God's hands and hearts of healing and reconciliation in this world, enough for us to seek justice and righteousness for all.

Sunday Fellowship Hour via Zoom is being suspended for the remainder of May.

See page 3 for Sunday Worship sign-up instructions!

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Lynette Cline

Music: The Worship Team

Computer Operator: Kirk Eastman

Liturgical Decorations: Dave & Sue Luck

Shepherds: Doug & Sandy Lawry, Jean Boller, Jan & Kevin Thedens

Lawn care: Doug & Sandy Lawry

ONLINE SIGN-UP TO ATTEND WORSHIP...

Please read carefully!

May 30 In-Person Worship

Below is the sign-up link for Sunday, May 30, 10:00 am worship. Session has expanded attendance to 100 people.

- You may begin arriving at 9:30 am
- You must wear a mask, social distance and your temperature will be taken when you arrive.
- We have some masks available if you forget yours. They are required *even if you have been fully vaccinated*. (There are some exceptions.) Please keep your mask over your nose and mouth.
- The offering basket will be at the back of the sanctuary.

Sign up using the link below...

REMEMBER TO PUT FAMILY SIZE THE *QUANTITY BOX!*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-may30worship>



Pentecost Offering - you can still give!

The Pentecost Offering nurtures the faith of those who are the church now and to come – children, youth and young adults. **40% of the Pentecost offering from our church goes toward our Soles for Souls shoe gift project for children and youth.** The Pentecost Offering helps young people begin life with a solid foundation of faith. Offerings may be made payable to the church with ‘Pentecost’ on the memo, or sent via PayPal.

Thank you for caring!

We collected \$2,731 for this year’s **One Great Hour of Sharing** Offering.

The donations received for the **Northeast Iowa Food Bank** in celebration of Easter totaled \$1,045.

We continue to strive to meet the needs of our community and beyond with your generous gifts!

This week’s schedule (Zoom and on-site)

• Wednesday, May 26

11:00 am Working for Justice: Breaking Bias, Zoom

6:15 pm Jr. High SHINE (last for summer), Zoom

• Sunday, May 30

10:00 am Sunday Worship, sanctuary

— Fellowship Hour suspended for May

• Tuesday, June 1

5:30 pm Book Group, Zoom

6:30 pm Session Meeting, Zoom

• Wednesday, June 2

6:30 pm Deacons, dining room

• Thursday, June 3

9:30 am Martha Circle, dining room

THERE’S a NEW GROUP at CHURCH!

WORKING for JUSTICE: BREAKING BIAS

Are you curious about this new group and what they are doing? We meet on Zoom and continue to learn more about racial inequalities and systemic poverty in our country and locally.

On May 19, UNI Emeritus Professor Al Hays joined us to speak about the Black Hawk Racial Justice Consortium and its focus on changing Black Hawk County’s record of sending a disproportionate number of African Americans to prison. He shared ideas with our group about what we might do to help combat racism in the Cedar Valley.

You can listen to the recording of our May 19 meeting at this link: <https://zoom.us/rec/share/VsTlhHtZuUllYdCulBRRzqn5rxwZ6YMj2OD-KlOLOuJBOo4Pr8eXMwighpELm5zpJ.WlqrijKthw2aiVN8>
Passcode: =Ltx5+%9

Join us on June 16 at 10 AM! Pastor Dave Kivett will join us to talk about his work on the Cedar Falls Human Rights Commission.

We will meet via Zoom on the 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 am during June, July and August.

Congratulations

Len & Ellie Tompkins are celebrating the birth of their first great-grandchild. James Marvin Glander was born to Laura and Nate Glander on April 25. Len & Ellie's daughter, Kristy, is James' grandmother.

Joyce Hufferd Funeral

A funeral service for Joyce Hufferd will be at our church on Saturday, June 12, 10:00 am. The family is welcoming members of our church to attend. Space is limited. There is no reception afterwards. Covid protocols still apply as per a worship service.

Sundays - Worship Leaders **Needed!!**

We are looking for people to lead worship with Pastor Julie on Sunday mornings. Please sign on our Sign Up Genius Form: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-worship>

Did you sign up for camp??

If so, please log on to our church's sign-up page to fill out your child's name, camp session and date *so we can send in payment*. Spots are limited due to Covid, so register now! Log onto our church's form **to apply for payment**: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-camp>



Mondays - The Lectionary Study

Please join us on Mondays at 10:00am as we explore the sermon texts for the following Sunday.

[https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?](https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTkYLTdGTEJteWJ0dz09)

[pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTkYLTdGTEJteWJ0dz09](https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTkYLTdGTEJteWJ0dz09)

Meeting ID: 946 4461 9364

Passcode: 158493

To phone in: 1 312 626 6799

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

Northeast Iowa Food Bank Volunteer Survey

Have you volunteered for serving at the Northeast Iowa Food Bank in the past? Are you curious about volunteering in the future? If so, we want to hear from you. The Community Ministries Team is trying to discern whether there is enough interest to commit to providing a group of volunteers for NIFB. Please follow the link and submit your (confidential) answers. Please note that there are ads in the link – just ignore them! Thank you for your time.



Here's the link: [NIFB Interest Survey](#)

Welcome to our church family!

Andrew Hagee was received into membership on Sunday, May 23. He was received by letter of transfer from Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church.

Thank You Deacons and Elders

On Sunday, May 23, we installed new Deacons and Elders for the 2021-2024 term.

Elders: Judy Burfeind, Carol Dotseth, Hope Goering and Neal Leeper

Deacons: Jim & Lanny Zimmer, Dot Clausen, Andrew Hagee and Jeverna Mulligan

Outgoing Session members and Deacons are:

Elders: Patti Humpal, Stephanie Marra, Mark Mortenson

Deacons: Doug & Sandy Lawry, Steve & Jo Moon, Lee Nicholas

Your Turn to Shepherd

We need 6 "shepherds" per service to guide worshipers through the building on Sundays. To sign up, please click on the **Sign-Up Genius link**: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-shepherds1>

-On the week/s your serving, click on the 'sign up' box.

-Then click 'submit and sign up' at the bottom

-Enter your name, email & phone, & click 'sign up now.'

*If signing up as a shepherd, **do not** sign up for worship.*