



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

May 5, 2021

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

**This Weekend's Worship – 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**Sermon:** "Easter People: A Community of Love"

**Scripture:** John 15:9-17

**Prayer of Preparation**

Loving God, help us to love others  
as Christ has loved us.  
Bring us into the spiritual joy  
of living our lives as your friend,  
and teach us to abide in your love,  
that we may show that love to the world. **Amen.**

**Pastor's Ponderings - Radical Love**

*"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you..."* John 15:12

Last Sunday we explored the rich image of who Jesus as is and the nature of our relationship to him as The Vine. Jesus as vine helps us imagine the essential interrelationship of our community of faith with God and one another in order to be a truer reflection of a kin-dom community. This week we delve into what Jesus meant as he emphasized that living in the vine is living in love. What *does* that mean? It is easy to go directly to a sentimental understanding—one that demands little of us—but if we have been paying attention to the teachings of Jesus at all, we know that it must go much deeper.

Bishop Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, recently authored the book, *Love is the Way*. In it he explores what living in the way of love looks like "even as we walk it in a world that feels at times closer to a nightmare than to a dream." And he cautions against being satisfied with love as sentiment. "love the sentiment a nice feeling that rises up inside us becomes love the sedative. It's a sweet thing that leaves us complacent and sleepy. No, the love I'm asking you to discover inside yourself, or reconnect to, is something fierce. This love is a verb: it's an action, with force and follow through. When we pull lives out of the abstract, really put it to work, it starts to reveal its extraordinary power. Love as an action is the only thing that has ever changed the world for the better."

He continues, "The way of love is a commitment to seeking the good and well-being of others. When we truly do that, we are all blessed. In fact, if we all made the commitment—to loving beyond our nationality, or ethnicity, our politics, our religion, or any other difference—we and the earth itself would be blessed." This love is radical love. This is the love for which Jesus died. This is the love that raised him from the grave to give us life. What is our next faithful step in this way of love? Let's seek it together.

Your fellow seeker in the way of love,

*Pastor Julie*

**Church Birthdays**  
May 7-Parker Connolly,  
8-Lindsey Humpal, Kat  
Braley, 12-Judy Burfeind,  
13-Neil Clapp

**Sympathy to...**  
Jean Hall upon the  
death of her sister, Mari-  
lyn, in January.

**Zoom Meetings**  
**Thursday, May 6**  
6:00 pm Covid Team  
6:30 Esther Circle  
**Sunday, May 9**  
11:00 am (link below)  
[Fellowship Hour.](#)  
**Monday, May 10**  
6:30 pm Worship Team  
**Tuesday, May 11**  
6:30 pm Caste Book  
Group  
**Wednesday, May 12**  
11:00 am Working for  
Justice: Breaking Bias  
6:15 pm Jr. High aged  
SHINE

**In Person Meeting**  
**Monday, May 10**  
10:00 am Martha Circle  
**Wednesday, May 12**  
6:30 pm Covid Team  
**Thursday, May 13**  
2:00 pm Safe Ministry

## Thanks for serving last week:

**Worship Leader:** Carol Dotseth

**Communion Preparer:** Julie Rokes

**Pianist:** Connie Herbon

**Vocals:** Beth Culberson

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

**Plant Care:** Jane Seeley

**Lawn mowing:** Jim Seeley

**Building and sanctuary cleaning:** Doug and Sandy Lawry, Darrel and Marsha Flater, Mark and Jill Mortensen, Kirk Eastman, Jean Boller, Margaret Clark, Michelle Luzaich, Shirley Hill. Gary Sabey, Jim and Jane Seeley

## Weekly Lawn Mowing Volunteers

Please use the link below to pick a slot to mow the church lawn. Two self-propelled lawnmowers are available. You will receive an email reminder 2 days prior.

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

- Click on the week you wish to mow
- Then click 'submit and sign up' at the bottom
- Fill out your name & email, then click 'sign up now.'

## 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?pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTkYLTJdGtKJteWJ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 946 4461 9364

Passcode: 158493

To phone in: 1 312 626 6799

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

## Sundays - 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

## Your Turn to Shepherd

In order to have in-person worship services, we need 5 "shepherds" per service to guide worshipers through the protocol that will keep everyone safe. If you are willing to serve, please click on the **Sign-Up Genius link:** <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-shepherds1>

- You may sign up for one or more Sundays.
- On the week you wish to serve, click on the small 'sign up' box (5 slots are available per Sunday.)
- Then click 'submit and sign up' at the bottom
- Fill out your name, email & address, then click 'sign up now.'

*IMPORTANT NOTE! If you are signing up as a shepherd, DO NOT sign up for worship. Thank you!!*

**Sympathy to** the family of Marney Wasserman, who passed away on April 19

The family is planning a memorial service on Saturday, **May 8**, at 11:00am New Mexico time and will be live streaming it on Zoom.

## Member Anniversaries

Jessie Schunk-5/5/1996, 25 yrs.

Ray Burfeind, Holger Petersen, 5/15/66, 55 yrs.

Jenny Connolly, Matt Humpal, 5/18/1996, 25 yrs.

Daniel Humpal, Kyle Cline, Jay Koontz, Mark McCalley, 5/20/01, 20 yrs.

## Beware!

Another round of scammers has been actively targeting churches with cons. These will often appear as emails designed to look like they are from church offices or pastors requesting donations usually in the form of gift cards. Please know, we will never solicit donations in this way.

## To My Church Family,

Please accept my belated thanks for all of the calls and cards which were shared with me over recent months as I recovered from my fall and surgery. I am grateful for all your care and concern for me. Many cards made me laugh and the calls made me smile. My recovery continues to go well and I look forward to the day when I will be able to greet you all in person on an upcoming Sunday morning. Caryl Nielsen