



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

July 14, 2021

Worship
Join us weekly on
our website:
Firstprescf.org

This Weekend's Worship -

10:00 am In-person and on Facebook live

Sermon: "Blessed Are the Merciful"

Scripture: Matthew 5:7

Ways to join worship: In-person, Facebook Live at **10:00am** on Sunday, by recording (to be posted on our website on Monday.)

Question of the Week: When have you received mercy? How did it make you feel? Go to our [Facebook page](#) and tell us your answer.



Prayer of Preparation

Loving God,
Thank you for your mercy and unbreakable love which hold us close to your heart, no matter what we do or feel. Please help us be merciful this week. We want to treat each person as you do and show your mercy in all situations. Keep us connected to you and each other.
Amen.

Church Birthdays

Jul 16-Cyd Grafft, 18-Sue Luck, 20-Ava Wells, Miles Braley, 22-Doug Lawry, 23-Jan Thedens, Lindsay Graham

Family Page

See the activity page attached to this email.

Congratulations...

Lennie and Ellie Tompkins are great-grandparents to Levi Daniel Mylert was born July 1.

Bruce & 'Pete' McCart celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on July 8.

**Notice...
Sunday, July 18**

10:00 am In-Person worship.

10:45 am Social Time on the west lawn.

10:45 am Assembling Personal Care Kits

Monday, July 19

11:00 am Adult Education Planning

The Beatitudes – Blessed Are The Merciful



"Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy." – Matthew 5:7

This Sunday we will sit with Jesus atop the mountain reflecting on what it means in Matthew when he says, "Blessed are the merciful for they will receive mercy." This beatitude brings to mind an article in the magazine, *Presbyterians Today*. It introduces a PC(USA) prison ministry creating awareness about manifold issues related to incarceration. They call it Adopt-a-Prison. The ministry engaged communities and congregations to create a Prison Relations Advisory Committee to keep the prisons accountable and let inmates know that they are loved and cared for.

One of their activities was to donate bars of soap. This one simple gesture of compassion made an impact on many lives. One inmate who received a bar of soap wrote, "I broke

into tears when I got a piece of soap because I realized that somebody was reaching out to me." Her thank you note was shared with those who donated the soap, and more tears were shed, establishing a sacred connection, a bridge between people who have never met. "It can hardly be more Gospel than that." Hallundbaek said. It is an incredible story and well worth the time to read it. [Read the full article here.](#) What can we learn from those who are not often on the receiving end of mercy? If we sit and listen to them, what might we be called to do? What parts of our systems would we be called to challenge? Please reflect with me this week.

Your fellow mountain climber,

Pastor Julie

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Kay Leeper

Computer Operator: Gary Sabey

Videographer: Neal Leeper

Shepherds: Shirley Hill, Kevin & Jan Thedens

Thanks to everyone who helped move pews on Sunday, especially Jim Seeley, Gary Sabey and Gary Clark for arranging pews this week.

Thanks to **Jane Seeley** for helping to coordinate the surprise card shower for Bruce & Pete McCart. Jane delivered all the cards to the McCarts the day before their 60th anniversary.

Per Capita Offering and Semi-Annual Statement

Members, watch your mail for information regarding the Per Capita offering. You will also receive a semi-annual statement of giving.

Northeast Iowa Food Bank Event

We will be having a Food Bank work session on Thursday, August 12 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. We are hoping to have at least 6 people sign up to help. Please sign up online at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-food>

If you sign up but can't make it, log back in and delete your name or please let us know.

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

Sunday, July 18

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary

10:45 am Social Time, west lawn

10:45 am Assembling personal care kits, west lawn (if rain, we'll be in the dining room)

Monday, July 19

10:00 am Lectionary Study, dining room & Zoom

11:00 am Adult Education Planning, dining room

6:30 pm Worship Team meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, July 21

10:00 am Working for Justice: Breaking Bias, Zoom-
See page 3 for details

Thank you, camp sponsors!

Thanks to all of you who donated to camperships. We were able to quickly raise the entire \$2,450 for all four campers attending Lakeshore Center at Okoboji this year!

Personal Care Kit Packing

This Sunday is the last day we will receive donations for our Personal Care Drive. We will pack kits after worship **rain or shine!** Weather permitting we will pack outside, otherwise we'll pack items in the dining room.

Personal care items need to be **individually wrapped** of a size that will fit in a gallon zip-lock bag.

Monetary gifts are gratefully accepted.

Items can be left in marked baskets inside the north entrance of the church.

Adult Education Topics

What are your ideas for Adult Education for our congregation? A meeting is planned for Monday, July 19th, 11:00 am in the church dining room. Please feel free to join in as we discuss future plans or contact the church. **Psalm 25:4 "Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.**

The Dorothy Horn Scholarship has been awarded to Lilly Barker from West Des Moines. She attends Covenant Presbyterian Church and is extensively active with Covenant's Youth Group. Her volunteer activities include DMARC Food Pantry, Meals From the Heartland, Vacation Bible School, and Covenant Connections. Throughout high school, she volunteered with the Chrysalis Foundation, volunteered frequently in elementary schools, and also plays the violin. When not volunteering, she works part time at Target. This fall, Lilly will be a sophomore at the University of Northern Iowa, majoring in Elementary and Middle Level Education.

We congratulate Lilly on her achievements!

~ First Presbyterian-Cedar Falls Scholarship Committee

Here's how YOU can get involved:

WORKING for JUSTICE: BREAKING BIAS

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

REMINDER ABOUT OUR NEXT MEETING:

Wednesday, July 21 at 10 AM on Zoom

ALL ARE WELCOME!

We will resume our discussion about the video series "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man", and will discuss episodes 3, 4, and 5, which are linked below.

In preparation for the meeting, please watch the three short video episodes #3, 4, and 5. Each video is approximately 10 minutes in length. We will discuss our reactions to the videos during our Zoom meeting.

[Episode 3 - Uncomfortable Conversations \(uncomfortableconvo.com\)](https://uncomfortableconvo.com/episode-3)

[Episode 4 - Uncomfortable Conversations \(uncomfortableconvo.com\)](https://uncomfortableconvo.com/episode-4)

[Episode 5 - Uncomfortable Conversations \(uncomfortableconvo.com\)](https://uncomfortableconvo.com/episode-5)

If you have not yet watched the first two episodes that were previously discussed and would like to, they are linked below.

[Episode 1 - Uncomfortable Conversations \(uncomfortableconvo.com\)](https://uncomfortableconvo.com/episode-1)

[Episode 2 - Uncomfortable Conversations \(uncomfortableconvo.com\)](https://uncomfortableconvo.com/episode-2)

Thank You

Dear friends,

Thank you for your recent contribution of \$1045 to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Thanks to donations like yours, we were able to assist with providing 380,000 meals through our SNAP initiatives across northeast Iowa last year.

Barb Prather, Executive Director

Monies were from our Easter donation drive.

Cedar Valley Hospice

The upcoming **Release and Remember** is designed to memorialize the community's loved ones and will take place on Saturday, September 12 at the RiverLoop Amphitheater in downtown Waterloo. Attendees will enjoy lunch, children's activities, and live music by *Never the Less* before a short program and the release of 1,000 monarch butterflies at 2:30 pm. The event is from 1:00-3:00 pm.

At this fundraising event for the Cedar Valley hospice, a butterfly can be dedicated in honor or memory of someone for \$25. Thank you for your support.

Jennifer Siech

Director of Marketing

Monday Lectionary Study – In-person and via Zoom!

Join us on Mondays at 10:00am for lectionary study. You may join us in-person in the dining room or via Zoom. Each week stands on its own and preparation isn't necessary.

[https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?](https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTkYl2dGtKJteWJ0dz09)

[pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTkYl2dGtKJteWJ0dz09](https://zoom.us/j/94644619364?pwd=M1J6YTU1RlB1dTkYl2dGtKJteWJ0dz09)

Meeting ID: 946 4461 9364

Passcode: 158493

To phone in: 1 312 626 6799

Weekly Lawn Mowing Volunteers

Please use the link below to mow the church lawn.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-lawn)

[go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-lawn](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-lawn)

Sundays - Worship Leaders

Please sign up online to assist one or more Sundays:

[https://www.signupgenius.com/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-worship)

[go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-worship](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-worship)

Sundays - Your Turn to Shepherd

We need ushers to guide worshipers on Sundays.

[https://www.signupgenius.com/](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-shepherds1)

[go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-shepherds1](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-shepherds1)