



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

June 30, 2021

Worship
Join us weekly on
our website:
Firstprescf.org

This Weekend's Worship - Communion
10:00 am In-person and on Facebook live

Sermon: "Blessed Are the Meek"

Scripture: Matthew 5:5

Question of the Week: How do you make yourself aware of the needs of others? Go to our [Facebook page](#) and tell us your answer.



Prayer of Preparation

Generous Creator,
We praise you for making this beautiful world. Help us use what we have and treat the earth with respect and love.

We want to be gentle, kind, and humble—true strength in your eyes. Help us remember we are your children, and everyone else is too. Amen.



The Beatitudes – "Blessed are the Meek"

"Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." – Matthew 5:5

This Sunday we will sit with Jesus atop the mountain reflecting on what it means in Matthew when he says, "Blessed are the meek (humble) for they will inherit the earth." In this text, the meek were those who were treated as nobodies. No wealth, no power, no honor. And if you were wealthy, that wealth came at someone else's expense and often in unjust ways. It is something interesting to ponder as this scripture happens to be the one we are reading on Independence Day. In our communities we will be celebrating "the land of opportunity;" A place where everyone has a chance to be successful. Yet, our communities seem to be more divided than ever, and inequity is rampant. Is this what God's kingdom is supposed to look like? In the latest Presbyterian Outlook, Julie Raffety puts some of my thoughts into words:

"Until we learn how to truly live in community – to work together – progress will only be partial, because cooperation is nowhere near complete. We have built our country upon the myth of the American dream — that if you individually work hard, you will be able to achieve success on your own. But there are always dependent factors; our success, whether we choose to admit it or not, depends significantly on the job we can

get, the family who supports us, the intersection between the needs of society and the talents we can lean on. And that is spinning it positively; it ignores the dependent factors working against some more than others: the built-in racial hierarchies, sexist pay scales and ableist infrastructure. We like to point to our independence when we succeed, but we succeed (or do not succeed) just as much because of our interdependence."

What does this mean for Christ-followers? What defines "success" for a Christian congregation? How has stubborn independence influence the way we minister to (or rather, with?) others? I look forward to reflecting on these questions with you. If you are able, please start the conversation by answering the question of the week on our Facebook page.

Remember, as we move through this series, we will be engaging in multiple ways. Many of us will be traveling this summer and many of us will be worshipping from home. As we enter our new worshipping normal, let's take advantage of the creative ways we have learned to stay connected during the pandemic.

Your fellow mountain climber,

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Jul 2– Richard Betterton,
3-Sue Weinberg, 5-Ellie Tompkins,
6-Denise Brown, 8-Lisa Woodruff

Family Page

See the activity page attached to this email.

For your prayers...

Jean Boller's cousin in Pennsylvania recovering from bypass surgery.

Tom Mulligan's cousin, Julie Jensen, recovering from surgery in Robbinsdale, MN for a tumor.

Bruce & Pete McCart battling cancer.

Member Anniversaries

Judy Burfeind, 7/19/71-50 yrs

Office Note:

The office will be closed on Monday, July 5 in recognition of the Independence Day holiday.

Thanks for serving last week:

Computer Operator: Dave Luck

Shepherds: Mike & Julie Rokes, Jan Thedens

Vocalist: Stephanie Marra

Lawn mowing: Nicole and Reese Stolte

Furniture moving, tile floors: Gary Sabey, Jim Seeley

Ways to join worship:

- 10:00 am Sunday in-person with a mask while inside
- Facebook Live at 10:00am on Sunday
- by recording (posted on our website on Monday)
- 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)

Joining from home? We will be celebrating communion during the service. Set your space with whatever representation of bread and wine you have on hand. God meets us where we are and uses what we have!



CONCERT INVITATION

Brad Jensen will be conducting a portion of the Waterloo Municipal Band concert on Thursday, July 8, beginning at 7:30 PM. The concert will be held at the RiverLoop Amphitheatre in Waterloo and admission is free.

Consider adding this to your summer entertainment plans!

Sponsor a camper this summer!!!

(2019 Photos)

We have four kids from our church attending camp this summer. The total cost to send all four is \$2,450.

Please be a sponsor for these young campers by sending a donation **payable to the church with "camp"** on the memo. There was no camp last year due to Covid, so this is a special

opportunity to help our young people back into the fun, fellowship and faith that camp provides.



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

• Sunday, July 4

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary

10:45 am Social Time, west lawn

• Monday, July 5

— Office Closed for the holiday

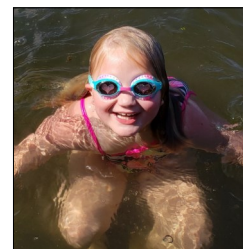
10:00 am Lectionary Study, dining room & Zoom

• Wednesday, July 7

1:00 pm Personnel Team, dining room

• Thursday, July 8

6:30 pm Covid Team, Zoom



Personal Care Drive

The Community Ministries Team is collecting personal hygiene products from now until July 18.

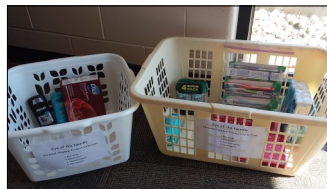
Then we will pack 'personal care kits' to donate to the Eye of the Needle Outreach. Items need to be of a size that will fit in a gallon zip-lock bag.

Individually wrapped items requested are:

Bar soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and deodorant.

Monetary gifts will help purchase baggies and more care items.

Donated items will be part of Eye of the Needle's school uniform drive for children.



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

UPDATE! We are planning to assemble the hygiene kits following worship on Sunday, July 18 on the front lawn of the church.

An Invitation from the National Matthew 25 Initiative Leaders

I want to thank you again for accepting the Matthew 25 invitation and for all of the work you do every day in your community. Jesus calls us to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned and poor. By joining us on this journey, we are uniting in common mission to become a more relevant presence in the world.

If you haven't already done so, I encourage you to join the Matthew 25 Facebook group. You can do so here: [Matthew 25 in the PC\(USA\) Church and Mid Councils](#)

The purpose of the group is to continue the connectional relationship with churches and facilitate the sharing of resources for living out the Matthew 25 vision. By connecting with others who have accepted the invitation to become a Matthew 25 church, you can support and inspire each other while embarking on this journey together.



[Voices Rising: A Choral Affirmation of Black Lives](#)

Last Sunday, Mary McCalley invited us to view the concert linked above. "Voices Rising: A Choral Affirmation of Black Lives" is a collaboration of 200 singers from 12 local choral organizations delivering a united artistic response to the murders of George Floyd and Daunte Wright that have placed the Twin Cities at the heart of our nation's racial reckoning. The concert will amplify the perspectives of spoken word, dance, and visual artists and activists from the Twin Cities' Black community.



Monday Lectionary Study – **In-person and via Zoom!**

Join us on Mondays at 10:00am for lectionary study. We discuss the upcoming worship scriptures and ponder how they address our present lives. Each week stands on its own and preparation isn't necessary. Just drop in when you can **in the dining room or via Zoom**.

[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

Volunteer Opportunities

We need **YOU** to make our ministry thrive! You can sign up **online** using the links below, or sign up in the narthex using the **sign-up sheets**.

Weekly Lawn Mowing Volunteers

Please use the link below to mow the church 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/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-worship>

Sundays - Your Turn to Shepherd

We need ushers to guide worshipers on Sundays.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4BA9A728ABF4CF8-shepherds1>