



10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



**This Weekend's Worship – 10:30 am
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Family Christmas Program**

Worshiping from home? Prepare your worship area with a light source. Your light can be lit when we light the Advent candles. This could be a candle (real or electric), a small lamp, or even your Christmas lights.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – The Light of Love

Our responsive Advent liturgy this season was written by [Maren Tirabassi](#), based on the works of theologian and civil rights leader, [Howard Thurman](#). As we light the candle of peace, we ponder the many ways God guides us in work for peace.

We will light four candles
and we will be willing to light
every taper in our communities,
for love asks for all that is needed,
for this is how incarnation happens,
how God comes.

**We light four candles
or a hundred or a thousand more
whatever it takes to remind ourselves to live in love.**

As ordinary and gentle as the holy welcome
that turns the world upside down,
comes hope, peace, joy, and love
to illuminate our Advent.

**We will light Candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long. (Howard Thurman)**

Pastor Julie



Church Birthdays

Dec. 17-Lynette Cline, 21-
Bruce McCart, 22-Jewell
Hays, 31-Jenny Connolly

For your prayers... Ray Burfeind

Steven Brown

**Bruce McCart and Pete
McCart**

Notice...

The office will close at
noon this Friday, Dec. 17.
Please call in the morning
if you plan to stop by.

Christmas Pageant, Sun-
day, Dec. 19, 10:30 am.

Christmas Eve Worship,
Friday, Dec. 24, 4:30 pm
in the sanctuary with
the CF Mennonites.

****Masks are required.
Please bring your own
as we have a limited
supply for those who
forget one.****

SHINE Schedule:

December 19
- Christmas Pageant
Dec. 26 & Jan. 2
- **No** SHINE, break

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Kevin Thedens

Computer Operator: Kirk Eastman

Videographer: Gary Clark

Greeters: Jan Thedens, Nancy Hoppe

Computer Upgrades: Neal Leeper

Plant Stand Refurbishing: Jim Seeley

Adopt-a-Family Coordinators: Julie & Mike Rokes,
Sue & Mitch Weinberg

Year-End Giving

The **deadline for 2021 financial gifts** to be received in the office (not just postmarked) is December 30.

Christmas Poinsettia Sponsors

Donations to sponsor our Christmas poinsettia arrangement are due this **Sunday, December 19**. Details are in the narthex.

We need YOU to be a greeter!

Please sign up in the narthex or online:

[Sign Up Genius: Greeters](#)

Worship Leaders-We need YOU TOO!

Please sign up in the narthex or online!

[Sign Up Genius: Worship Leaders](#)

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

Wednesday, December 15

6:30 pm Session Meeting, [Zoom](#)

Friday, December 17

5:30 pm Christmas Pageant Practice, sanctuary

Sunday, December 19

10:10 am Christmas Pageant practice, sanctuary

10:30 am Sunday Worship and the Christmas Pageant, sanctuary

Don't Miss the Christmas Pageant Sunday, December 19, during our regular worship service. Our SHINE families have been working hard to present the Christmas story.



SHINE Pageant Family Reminders

- **Christmas Pageant Rehearsal December 17 at 5:30.**
Hearty snack provided.
- **Christmas Pageant, Sunday December 19 at 10:30am.**
- Please arrive about 20 minutes early to get into costumes and settle before the service starts. *If you have not recently received the follow-up letter from Pastor Julie, please let her know: pastor@firstprescf.org
- **Sign Language Teaching Video for Practice**
In case your child or children would like to practice the sign language for "Away in a Manger" at home, here is a link for the video from which I took our signs: [Sign Language for "Away in the Manger"](#).

The tune in the video is not the one we are using, but the children will not be singing, just signing period we will sign verses one and two.

Thank you for your support! Connie Herbon

Christmas Eve Worship

Join us for a candlelight worship service Friday, December 24, **4:30 pm**. The nursery will be available. We will worship in the sanctuary with the Cedar Falls Mennonites. The service will also be live streamed on Facebook. A recording of the service will be posted later on our website.



Adopt - A - Family

Thank you to everyone who donated for our Adopt-A-Family program. A special thank you goes to Julie & Mike Rokes and Sue & Mitch Weinberg for coordinating the project and delivering the gifts!



Christmas Joy Offering

Please consider giving to the Christmas Joy Offering. Your gift helps supports church leaders among us. 50% of the offering assists current and retired church workers with critical financial need. The other 50% goes to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color.

CROP Walk Update

We had our best response in the past seven years, with a total of **\$15,818.48** raised to address hunger issues.

25%, or **\$3,954.62** of this will go to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank to assist with their ongoing work to address hunger needs in Black Hawk County and throughout Northeast Iowa.

75%, or **\$11,863.86** will go to the work of Church World Service, which addresses hunger needs throughout our nation and around the world in the midst of all kinds of challenges.

Kudos especially to St. Timothy's United Methodist Church for more than doubling last year's giving, and to the Cedar Falls Mennonites for topping \$2,000 in support. You don't have to be a huge congregation to make a big difference!

Also, well done, First Congregational UCC Church in Waterloo with twelve walkers this year!

First Presbyterian, CF came in 2nd with number of walkers at 9, and 4th in total raised with \$1,500.00.

Many thanks to each of you and your congregations for your support of the 2021 Cedar Valley CROP Walk!

- Brad Braley, Cedar Valley Crop Walk Coordinator

Thank You

Through your gift of \$610 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, we are able to shine as a light in dark places and support God's love in communities afflicted by disaster across the world.

On their behalf, and our own, I thank you for being a vital part of this spirit of compassion to bring out of chaos, hope.

The Rev. Dr. Laurie A. Kraus
Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance
Monies were donations from individuals.

Thank You

On behalf of the board, staff and volunteers, I would like to thank you for your recent contribution of \$1000 to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Our mission is to provide nutritious food and grocery products as well as hunger education programs in our 16 county service area.

With sincere appreciation,
Barb Prather, Executive Director
Donation was from our local mission budget.