



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

January 5, 2022

10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



This Weekend's Worship – The Baptism of Jesus

Sermon: The Holy Spirit Descended
Scripture: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Worshipping from Home? We will be remembering our baptisms together this Sunday. You are invited to prepare your worship space with a dish of water for this meaningful practice.

Prayer for Baptism of Jesus Sunday

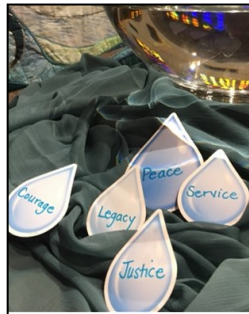
“Holy God, when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan the heavens opened, the Spirit descended, and your voice affirmed your love in Jesus for the healing of the human race and all creation. By water and word you lovingly invite us into this same life-giving mission. May your Spirit, moving like a stream of water flowing from its source, work in us this day to realize your vision of a world made new in Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.”

Pastor's Ponderings – Water Words

This Sunday we will contemplate the significance of the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River. It was a baptism of water and the Holy Spirit where a voice from heaven claimed Jesus as a beloved child. It is also a time when we remember that we, like Jesus, through baptism are named as God's own.

You may remember that when I led worship as your solo pastor for the first time, I shared with you my moving experience in a seminary class that secured “remembrance of baptism” at the top of my liturgical favorites list. I am bursting with joy to be leading us in this practice again on Sunday.

Last year we began a tradition of distributing “water words” as well. It is very similar to the tradition of “star words” or “star gifts” which some of you might know. You were given a waterdrop shaped piece of paper with a word written on it and invited to hang it up where you are sure to see it every day. It could be on your bathroom mirror, next to your computer screen, on your fridge, or even in your car. Last year they were sent in giving statements. This year you will be able to pick one up in person!



Of course, if you are not able to join us in person, we will send one to you through the mail. Email me, pastor@firstprescf.org, and I will be happy (even giddy) to send one along.

This year we will ponder what significance our words might have in our lives, and how God might be speaking through it. Often, looking up the word in the dictionary opens definitions we haven't thought of. Googling the word can show us where it is showing up most often in our context. And looking for occurrences in scripture can illuminate how believers have encountered the word through time.

I look forward to sharing insights with each other as we listen for God's guidance in 2022. Whatever God is calling us to through our water words this year, we know that the grace we have received in our baptism is sufficient for that call!

Yours in the journey,
Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Jan. 8-John & Michelle Luzaich, 10-Rob Gerken, Stephanie Marra, 12-Mary McCalley, 15-Sue Gerken

For your prayers...
Pete McCart battling cancer.

Notice...
Office Closed, January 17 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Sunday, January 9 we will be taking down the Christmas decorations after worship. Anyone wishing to help is welcome. (There will be no lunch.)

Annual Reports are due from Ministry Teams by Thursday, January 13.

ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation - Sunday, January 30:
9:30 am - Forum on the Annual Reports in the dining room
10:30 am - Worship and Annual Meeting in the sanctuary

Greeter Sign Up:
[Sign Up Genius: Greeters](#)

Worship Leader Sign Up:
[Sign Up Genius: Worship Leaders](#)

Thanks for serving last week:

Plant & Parament arrangements: Patti Humpal, Dave & Sue Luck

Refrigerator troubleshooting: Neal Leeper, Jim Seeley

Thank You

Dear First Presbyterian Family,
What a surprise it was to get the Christmas Card [from the Deacons] yesterday! It was much appreciated. I love playing at church. I often wonder how many people realize what a wonderful instrument we have.

Thank you and the church for your thoughtfulness.
Phil Batchelder



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

Wednesday, January 5

- 10:00 am Working for Justice, Zoom
- 1:30 pm Personnel Team, Zoom

Thursday, January 6

- 1:00 pm Esther Circle, Zoom

Saturday, January 8

- 10:30 am Bruce McCart Memorial Service, sant.

Sunday, January 9

- 10:30 am Worship-Baptism of the Lord Sunday -SHINE breakout sessions

Tuesday, January 11

- 6:30 pm Session Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, January 12

- 10:00 am Working for Justice, Zoom
- 6:30 pm Worship Team, Zoom

Thursday, January 13

- 3:00 pm ANNUAL REPORTS DUE

Sympathy to...

Rev. Marian 'Pete' McCart upon the death of her husband, **Bruce McCart**. The memorial service is set for Saturday, January 8, 10:30 am here at the church. (No lunch.)



Congratulations!

Hayden Scott Helgerson was born Dec. 31, 2021. His parents are Ryan and Molly Helgerson. Sue & Kirk Eastman are Hayden's grandparents.

Save the Date for the ANNUAL MEETING– January 30.

Our annual meeting will be January 30 during worship. We will be voting on our budget, the pastor's terms of call, and new officers. Copies of the annual report will be made available one week before the meeting. There will be a **forum to discuss the annual report at 9:30 am** prior to the service that day.

It's Not Too Late to Join In!!

Working for Justice: Breaking Bias

Reading and Discussion for January 2022

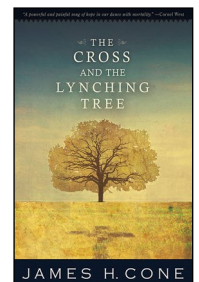
The Cross and the Lynching Tree by James H. Cone

In a work that spans social history, theology, and cultural studies, Cone explores the message of the spirituals and the power of the blues and the witness of black artists, writers, preachers, and fighters for justice. And he remembers the victims who perished during the lynching period. It's a landmark in the conversation about race and religion in America.

Discussion Schedule:

Discussions will be held on Wednesday mornings at 10:00 AM on Zoom.

- January 12: Chapter 2
- January 19: Chapters 3 & 4
- January 26: Chapter 5 & Conclusion



Purchase your book, mark your calendars, start your reading, and plan to join us!! All are welcome!
**Contact us to participate.