



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

February 16, 2022

10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



This Weekend's Worship
Dismantling Structural Racism

Joint Service with the
Cedar Falls Mennonites

Scripture: Micah 6:6-8

Guest preachers: Mem-
bers of the Working for
Justice: Breaking Bias



MATTHEW 25

Prayer of Preparation

God of Grace,
your kin-dom is not of this world.
You sent Jesus into this world to proclaim
the coming of your holy realm of justice,
equality, and dignity for all.
Strengthen us to serve you, bringing good
news to people who are poor and liberty to
those who are oppressed, until your will is
done on earth as in heaven; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

Matthew 25 Initiative – Spotlight on Dismantling Structural Racism

Matthew 25: 31-46 calls all of us to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive and we wake up to new possibilities. We will work dismantle structural racism by fearlessly applying our faith to advocate and break down the systems, practices and thinking that underlie discrimination, bias, prejudice, and oppression of people of color. The PC(USA)'s Confession of 1967 (9.44) guides us and encourages us in this work: "God has created the peoples of the earth to be one universal family. In God's reconciling love, God overcomes the barriers between us and breaks down every form of discrimination based on racial or ethnic difference, real or imaginary. The church is called to bring all people to receive and uphold one another as persons in all relationships of life: in employment, housing, education, leisure, marriage, family, church, and the exercise of political rights. Therefore, the church labors for the abolition of all racial discrimination and ministers to those injured by it. Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize [others], however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess."

The text of Matthew 25 doesn't explicitly mention racism. How does the focus of dismantling structural racism fit in the vision?

In Matthew 25, Jesus addresses the nations and focuses on "the least of these," revealing his concern for groups of people who experience marginalization because of how others respond to their most basic needs — food, water, clothing, welcome, healing and freedom. Harsh judgment is pronounced on those who lack compassion and fail to act justly toward people who are marginalized. Today in our country, people of color are among the most marginalized communities because of racism. Studies on racism reveal that people of color are disproportionately impoverished, imprisoned and denied access to economic and educational benefits enjoyed by white Americans. It is also worth noting that the Greek word for "stranger" in Matthew 25 is *xenos*, the root of our word "xenophobia," meaning hatred or prejudice toward people from other cultures or countries. Racism violates God's command to love one another. Matthew 25's principle to treat marginalized people with love and justice is the basis for the lofty goal to dismantle the sinful practice of systemic racism. When you embrace antiracism work, you are pledging to stand up and find inspired ways to chip away at this terrible injustice in our world.

Find out more about the Matthew 25 Initiative to Dismantling Structural Racism [here](#).

Church Birthdays

Feb. 19-Michael Boller,
21-Jan Reimer, 27-Dot
Clausen, Addison Wells

For your prayers...

Harriett Bullock

Darrel Flater

Bob Hall

Len Tompkins

Notice...

Our recorded worship service on TV, is shown on **CFU Public Access Channel** Thursdays at 6:00 pm.

Ash Wednesday Worship

March 2, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary with the CF Mennonites

Greeter Sign Up:

[Sign Up Genius: Greeters](#)

Worship Leader Sign Up:

[Sign Up Genius: Worship Leaders](#)

Thanks for serving last week:

Preacher: Rev. Betsy Thompson

Worship Leader: Margaret Clark

Videographer: Neal Leeper

Computer Operator: Gary Clark

Audio Archive for Worship: Eric Braley

Finance Help: Patti Humpal, Neal Leeper

Thanks to our SHINE group for helping with the Souperbowl of Caring.

Men's Retreat

Lakeshore Center at Okoboji

February 25-27

What does it mean to be a better man? Lakeshore and the Presbytery of North Central Iowa bring a unique opportunity for men to rest, reflect and connect with other men who are interested in pursuing meaningful, purpose driven lives. The facilitator is Denny Elenz, a psychologist with a non-profit group called LeaderWise in Minneapolis.

Prices include **2 nights of lodging and 5 meals:**

- Bunk rooms - \$100 per person (bring bedding)
- Lodge room shared: \$175
- Lodge room single: \$225

Meals only (staying elsewhere or coming for the day) \$50 or \$10 per meal. See attached flyers for info.

Ash Wednesday Worship

Join us on Wednesday, March 2, 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. We will reflect on Ash Wednesday in a joint service with the Cedar Falls Mennonites. Holy Communion will be celebrated.

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

Wednesday, February 16

10:00 am Working for Justice, Zoom

6:30 pm Worship Team, Zoom

Thursday, February 17

5:00 pm Working for Justice Worship Rehearsal

Sunday, February 20

10:30 am Worship, sanctuary

-SHINE breakout sessions

Wednesday, February 23

10:00 am Working for Justice, Zoom

Summer Camp at Lakeshore Center

Summer 2022 Theme is "What's in a Name?"

Names have great power. We will be reminded that God knows us and calls us each by name into a relationship. Along the journey, we discover who we are and how God equips us to care for others. Learn more here: [Summer Camp at Lakeshore Center](#)

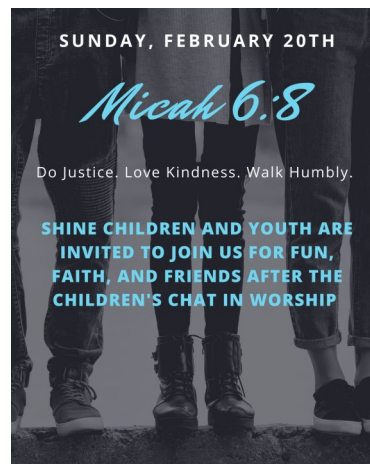
CAMPERSHIP DONATIONS REQUESTED!!

Friends—

We are asking for

YOUR DONATIONS

to help send our kids to camp! Make checks payable to our church with "camp" on the memo.



2022 Lenten Devotional – Lent of Liberation

Working for Justice: Breaking Bias

As a Matthew 25 Church, we have committed to the work of dismantling structural racism.

To that end, our 2022 Lenten Devotional is "Lent of Liberation: Confronting the Legacy of American Slavery."

This Lenten devotional invites us to learn more about the brutal institution of slavery and its impact on Black people in America and how it continues to harm the United States today.

Each of the forty devotions includes the testimony of a person who escaped slavery through the Underground Railroad, a Scripture passage, and a reflection connecting biblical and historical themes of liberation. Reflecting on Lenten themes of exodus, redemption, discipline, and repentance, readers, both Black and white, will be empowered for the work of racial justice. Find more information to booksellers [here](#).

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

March 2: Introduction and pgs. 7-35

March 9: pgs. 36-60

March 16: Spring Break

March 23: pgs. 61-83

March 30: pgs. 84-117

Purchase your book and plan to join us!! All are welcome!