



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

March 16, 2022

10:30 am  
Sunday Worship  
[Firstprescf.org](http://Firstprescf.org)



### This Weekend's Worship

Lenten Series: Roll Down, Justice  
Sermon: "I Dream of a Church:  
Christ's Representatives"  
Scripture: Matthew 25:31-40

### Prayer of Preparation

Spirit of God, Holy is your wisdom.  
Reveal to us all that has narrowed our imagination, confined our world views and distorted our sense of what's possible.  
Renew in us holy boldness.  
Spur us to release what holds us back and embrace the simple, serious work of love.  
Amen.

### Presbyterian Disaster Relief: Ukraine

The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) launched [an appeal Tuesday](#) for funds to help support the Church's humanitarian response to the war started last week when Russia attacked Ukraine.

[According to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees](#) (UNHCR), the situation is on pace to become Europe's largest refugee crisis this century with more than 660,000 having already fled Ukraine to neighboring countries. All neighboring countries are keeping their borders open to Ukrainian refugees, the UNHCR says. PDA is addressing Ukrainian refugee needs through their International Refugee Program (DR000156). Read more [here](#).



To donate: Donations to Presbyterian Disaster Relief's efforts for Ukrainians can be made online [here](#) or through the church. All donations sent through the church should be marked "Ukraine".

### Northeast Iowa Food Bank - 2X Matching!

Thanks to a generous grant from the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, your gifts to the food bank will be matched up to \$40,000!

- Give today-this match expires *April 30!!*
- Make checks payable to the church with 'Food Bank' on the memo.

The annual **Empty Bowls** event and silent auction for the NE Iowa Food Bank is Friday, March 25 from 6:00 pm-9:00 pm at the Hilton Garden Inn. Read more online and to get tickets for this event: [Empty Bowls](#).

### Church Birthdays

Mar. 17-Gary Sabey, A.J. Humpal, Maya Humpal, 18-Patti Humpal, Lance Zimmer, 20-Roger Dean, Scott Connolly, 24-Mike Rokes, Eli Braley, 25-Sandy Jensen, Brad Wells

**For your prayers...**  
Ned Ratekin

### Notice...

**NO** Wednesday evening Lenten devotional this week due to spring break.

- Holy Week Info: pg. 3
- Easter, Apr. 17  
9:30 am— Refreshments for all ages, Egg Hunt and activities for all kids  
10:30 am Worship

### Covid Protocol Update & Memorial & Funeral Services Policies:

Please see page two for these new actions as per Session.

**Volunteers can sign up anytime online:**

### Greeter Sign Up:

[Sign Up Genius: Greeters](#)

### Worship Leader Sign Up:

[Sign Up Genius: Worship Leaders](#)

## Covid Protocols at Church

It was difficult to apply covid protocols (masking, social distancing, sanitizing, etc.) when the pandemic began. It's equally as difficult to remove the protective actions we've taken as the pandemic winds down and becomes endemic, like the seasonal flu or common cold.

Therefore, the Session has decided to slowly ease off the covid restrictions between now and April 1<sup>st</sup>. This way, everyone has time to prepare for further easing on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### Starting Immediately, We Welcome...

- Congregational singing while masked during our worship services.
- Live music from the Praise Band and soloists without masks, but at a distance.
- Removal of distancing ribbons from the *outside rows of pews*.
- Use of *all rooms* in the building (including the Dining Room) for meetings and gatherings of church groups and other community groups.

### We Will Continue To...

- Offer Facebook Live and Vimeo recordings of worship services.
- Utilize screens and website to share the Order of Worship.
- Collect offering at the door.
- Gather outside after worship when the weather permits.

We've found that these changes have been helpful beyond protocol needs.

### Starting April 1<sup>st</sup> if Community Spread Stays Low...

- The kitchen will be open and available for use.
- Masking will become welcome, but not required.
- All other COVID-19 protocol will be lifted.

**\*Please note:** while we hope that it will not be necessary to reintroduce mask wearing or social distancing, we do not know what the future brings. If the situation changes, we will enact whatever restrictions are necessary for the wellbeing and health of the congregation and all those who use our building.

In the meantime, enjoy springtime and we look forward to seeing you in worship where we share the love of Jesus Christ with our members, our neighbors, and everyone in God's kin-dom.

## Funeral & Memorial Services Policy Update

When the time comes to plan a funeral or memorial service for a loved one there are many details to address. The church can provide leadership for worship planning and help for the reception, but the remaining details are best handled by a funeral home. Funeral homes are our partners in ministry during the difficult time of laying to rest those we love.

There is a growing trend for families to forego the help of a funeral home when planning funerals and memorials. When this is the case, many additional responsibilities are put on the family and the staff and volunteers of churches. Unfortunately, churches often do not have the needed resource to take up these responsibilities.

It is becoming increasingly common for congregations in our area to require funeral home involvement to use church facilities for such services. This way, families are given the space to grieve, and congregations can focus on offering the spiritual support they need, while our funeral home partners take care of the details.

For these reasons, the First Presbyterian Church Session unanimously voted to instate this policy going forward: *"All families wishing to hold a funeral or memorial service at First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls shall employ services of a funeral home."*

We appreciate your understanding on this matter. Contact us if you have questions.

### Thank You

Thanks to all my church family for your thoughts and prayers, visits, cards and gifts in recent weeks. It has been a hard time and it helps to know you care. I still have more therapy ahead. I am moving this week. Come visit me. God bless you all.

Love, Ellie Tompkins

*Contact the office for Ellie's address.*

### Thanks for serving last week:

**Worship Leader:** Cyd Grafft

**Videographer:** Kevin Thedens

**Computer Operator:** Scott Connolly

**Greeter:** Jan Thedens



### EASTER DONATIONS NEEDED!!

We are looking for small items that can fit inside a plastic Easter egg (erasers, chocolate, stickers, etc.) to share with the SHINE families. During the week, leave donations in the plastic tub in the **library**. We'll have it in the **entryway** for your convenience on Sunday. The donation deadline is April 3. Thank you!

### Lenten Classroom for SHINE

Children, youth and their families are invited to explore and observe Lent in our Google Classroom. Visit this site for books, activities, recipes, music and more! We hope your Lenten journey is enriched through these offerings: [SHINE Classroom](#).



### Thank You

Thank you so much for the generous support of the ThreeHouse! We are so grateful for the \$1500 North Central Iowa Presbytery Grant. A special thank you to Brad Jensen for applying for the grant. We greatly value our partnership. David Glenn-Burns, Director/Campus Minister

### This week's schedule

#### Sunday, March 20

10:30 am Worship, sanctuary  
-SHINE breakout sessions

#### Tuesday, March 22

7:00 pm Audubon Board Mtg, dining room

#### Wednesday, March 23

10:00 am Working for Justice, Zoom  
6:30 pm Lenten Reflections, dining room

### Re-formation of the Congregation

You are invited to join Presbyterians from across Iowa to a four-part seminar on revitalizing and reforming our congregations. The purpose of the seminar is to equip church leaders and pastors for ministry in this rapidly changing time, and help them strengthen the local church's worship, witness, and engagement in God's mission. Ministers and members are invited, although the program is directed at the ministry of the laity. The four sessions will include intentional study, worship, and fellowship. Participants are encouraged to commit to attending all four sessions and a limited amount of reading.

- [More Information Here](#)
- [Register Here](#)

### HOLY WEEK with Cedar Valley Presbyterians, PC(USA)

- **Maundy Thursday** - April 14, 2022 - 6:00 pm

*Hosted at First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls -*  
[902 Main Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613](#)

Join us for a service of contemplation in three movements. We will open ourselves to the radical possibilities of grace as we: *remember* God's claim on us through baptism, *share* at Christ's table through communion, and *respond with love* through the Spirit's prompting. Encounter, connect, and be transformed!

\*All are welcome to partake in communion. Childcare will be available.

- **Good Friday** - April 15, 2022 - 6:00 pm

*Hosted at First Presbyterian Church of Waterloo -*  
[505 Franklin Street, Waterloo, Iowa 50703](#)

This service will feature a joint choir that blends together voices from our churches. The pastors will share brief meditations from the Iona community of Scotland and read the seven last words of Christ from the gospels. The congregation will have the opportunity to come forward and place nails in the cross. Childcare will be available.

Participating Congregations:

[Westminster Presbyterian Church](#), Waterloo

[Unity Presbyterian Church](#), Waterloo

[First Presbyterian Church](#), Waterloo

[First Presbyterian Church](#), Cedar Falls

[Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church](#), Cedar Falls