



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

April 27, 2022

10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Easter Series: The Unexpected Acts of God

Sermon: An Unlikely Friendship

Scripture: Acts 9:1-20

Communion will be celebrated. If you are worshipping from home, please prepare elements using what you have on hand so we can all partake together – near or far.

Prayer of Preparation

Living God,
you meet us in unexpected places
and surprise us with the abundance of your love.
Feed us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit
so that we may follow you this day, and always;
through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior. **Amen.**

An Unlikely Friendship

Nearly on a daily basis, we encounter people who would not naturally be in our circle of friends. Perhaps we've only been in one another's presence because you are giving or receiving goods or services. Maybe they are of a different culture or religion than we are. We might even see another as an enemy for reasons of politics or deep seeded resentment.

In our Acts narrative for Sunday, we find two people who are natural enemies: Saul and Ananias. Saul's whose life work sought to eradicate challenges Jesus followers brought to the prevailing religious system, had even approved the execution of Stephen, a Jesus follower and friend of Ananias. Ananias, also a follower and preacher of the way of Jesus, is a perfect target for Saul's mission. It's hard to imagine what Ananias felt when God instructs him to go lay his hands on Saul (who had been suddenly struck with blindness a voice from heaven) and pray for Saul's healing. Ananias understandably resists, yet incredibly proceeds to follow the guidance of the Spirit. Ananias' faithfulness led to Saul being healed and becoming a preacher of the way of Jesus himself.

God is full of surprises and often leads us into ministry which seems counterintuitive, even way-of-life-threatening. But, if we open ourselves to a new way of seeing, perhaps we will find that what we perceive as threat could really be a way to wholeness and new life. Ananias and Saul (who we know better as Paul) became unlikely partners in ministry. Their encounter opened them to new possibilities.

God has called us to culturally improbable, but holy relationships. What unlikely partners in ministry might we become if we intentionally open ourselves to the voice of God in our daily lives and in our life together as a congregation?

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Apr. 28-Gabby Lee, Gracie Lee, May 2-Avery Woodruff, 4-Marge King, Nick Federspiel, 5-Matt Humpal, Brock Swarbrick, 7-Parker Connolly

In Sympathy...

Violet Lund passed away in Meadville, MO. Vi was a longtime member and was married to Howard Lund.

For Your Prayers...

Emy Mountain, daughter of **Dave & Sue Luck.**

Notice...

Our prefilled **Communion cups** contain juice (not wine) and wheat bread. A gluten free option will be available.

Covid Protocol:

Mask wearing is welcome but no longer required.

Volunteers can sign up anytime online:

Greeter Sign Up:

[Sign Up Genius: Greeters](#)

Worship Leader Sign Up:

[Sign Up Genius: Worship Leaders](#)

Or sign up in the narthex!

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Carolyn Stephenson

Videographer: Neal Leeper

Computer Operator: Kirk Eastman

Choir Director: Brad Jensen

Parking Lot/Yard Clean-Up: Gary & Margaret
Clark, Jim Seeley

Retreat Meal: Kay Leeper, Judy Burfeind

Operations Manual: Kay Leeper

Lawn Mowing Volunteers

Volunteer mowers NEEDED!!!! Please sign up in the narthex to mow the church lawn. Two self-propelled lawnmowers are available. You may mow anytime the week(s) you select. Thank you!

Presbyterian Women Annual Meeting

The PW Annual Meeting is Friday, May 13, 3:30 pm



in the dining room. We will have a Tea Fellowship and remember those women we have recently lost during a brief memorial service.

Chancel Choir Rehearsal

We are planning to continue singing for worship services until May 22. If you are interested in joining the choir please contact us.

This week's schedule

Wednesday, April 27

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday, May 1

10:30 am Worship with Communion, sanctuary
-SHINE breakout sessions

Monday, May 2

9:00 am Properties Mtg., library

Tuesday, May 3

6:30 pm CYF Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, May 4

5:30 pm All Church Meal, dining room

7:00 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, May 5

1:00 pm Esther Circle, dining room

Member Anniversaries

Emily Helgerson, 5/25/2007—15 yrs

ATTENTION CHURCH CAMPERS!!

Now is the time to sign up for camp. Go to Lakeshore Center's website to sign up:

[https://
www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/
summer-camp.html](https://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/summer-camp.html)



If campers **sign up by FRIDAY, MAY 13** our church will pay 100% of your fee! After the 13th, the church pays 90% and the camper pays the other 10%. Lakeshore Center does have some camp scholarships available.

- When you sign up, look for the option on how you plan to pay. Choose the 'Church Pays' option.
- After signing up, contact Lynette in the office with the name of the camp you registered for so we can track our costs. Happy camping!



New Horizons Concert

Don't miss the spring New Horizons Band concert Friday night, April 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the GBPAC. It will be a great program! Members of the band include: Ann Crawford (flute and trombone), Dot Clausen (tenor saxophone), David Glenn-Burns (trombone), and Brad Jensen (trumpet). There will be free treats in the lobby after the concert. Admission is free (with donations expected).