



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

August 10, 2022

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



This Weekend's Worship – 10:00 am

Summer Series: I've Been Meaning to Ask...

Sermon: Where Do We Go from Here? *Part 2*

Scripture: Cornelius, an outsider to Jewish Christ-followers, summons Peter, the ultimate insider Jewish Christ-follower. Peter learns to practice openness, hospitality, and humility in a new way.

I've been meaning to ask...
where do we go from here?

Prayer of Preparation

God of radical relationship, we too often allow our lives to be bounded by where the world says we (and "they") belong. Inspire us to see new ways forward in the face of a culture which says there is not enough for everyone. Help us see where we go from here. Amen.

I've Been Meaning to Ask... Where do we go from here? Acts 10
An Artist's Reflection by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity at [A Sanctified Art](#)

I admit that when I read the first sentence of this chapter, I immediately made assumptions about Cornelius—labeling him an oppressor in the clean-cut categories in my mind. As a Roman Centurion, Cornelius holds significant military power and stature, able to summon the might of six hundred soldiers. But the next few sentences disrupted my quick judgments, for we learn that he instead inspires his entire household to be devoted to God, he gives generously to the people—the Jewish Jesus followers—he is employed to fiercely patrol or even harass, and he prays constantly. Instead of nationalism or the emperor, he worships God. His life reflects his devotion from the inside out.

We don't know how or when Cornelius was converted to compassion, but we might imagine that his deep spiritual formation prepares him to receive and respond to God's messenger, and subsequently, to summon Peter into his home. Cornelius breaks the law to welcome Peter. Without questioning or gatekeeping, Cornelius bows before Peter and simply asks him to share everything God has directed him to say.

In that moment, Peter tells the crowd what he, too, has learned—that God is more expansive than he had realized. He tells them what he knows to be true—that the story of Jesus has transformed their reality. The room fills with Pentecost. The Spirit dances upon them, encircling them in an ever-widening bond.

I don't have answers for where we go from here. But in this story I see clearly a way to take the next step—by allowing compassion to shape me from the inside out, by opening myself to God's holy imagination. But mostly, by looking into the eyes of one God has named beloved and saying, "Tell me: what have you learned, and what do you know to be true?"



Even Wider
by Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Inspired by Acts 10
Digital painting w/mixed media collage

Church Birthdays

Aug. 11-Greg Dotseth, 14-Rhonda Braley, 21-Noah Tollefson

Address Change...

Vera Brunskill has moved. Please call the office for contact information.

Coming Soon...

Sunday, August 21
11:00 am - Worship will be at 1st Presbyterian-Waterloo

Sunday, September 11
10:30 am worship time resumes
Fall programming Kick-Off Shine Backpack Blessing

Sunday, September 25
CROP Walk

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:

Videographer: Brad Jensen

Computer Operator: Gary Clark

Communion Preparer: Lynette Cline

Computer Repair: Kyle Cline

Light Fixture Repair: Gary Sabey, Jim Seeley

(Mowing the week of **8/7** - Eric Braley)

Prayer Update

Nick Federspiel will be having his second cochlear implant procedure on Monday, August 15.

This week's schedule

Wednesday, August 10

4:00 pm Community Ministries, Zoom

Thursday, August 11

12:00 pm Sarah Circle, lunch downtown

Sunday, August 14

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary

Special music: organ/violin duet by Phil Batchelder and Erik Rohde

SHINE Volunteers Needed!


We are seeking volunteers to help teach Sunday SHINE this year! We will have easy to follow lesson plans available each Sunday. The amount of teaching time is brief, but would bring much joy to your week! You would be working with another volunteer or member of the CYF Ministry Committee to teach a small group of kids. You can volunteer only once, or on a regularly scheduled basis. If you are interested in this fun opportunity, please contact us.



Update from Working for Justice: Breaking Bias

The Working for Justice: Breaking Bias group will be reading the book [*Organizing Church: Grassroots Practices for Embodying Change in Your Congregation, Your Community, and Our World*](#) by Tim Conder & Dan Rhodes over the summer. We decided we want to explore faith community organizing.

We will resume meetings in September and plan to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10-11 AM. New members welcome.


**Ride-sharing information for the August 21 service
at Waterloo 1st Presbyterian Church**

Please **Email** the following information to office@firstprescf.org

Name(s): _____


Need a ride to Waterloo 1st Presbyterian _____

- Your phone number _____
- Your street address _____

Would provide rides to Waterloo 1st for _____ passengers

- Your phone number _____
- Your street address _____

**A sign-up sheet will also be available in
the narthex on Sunday morning.**



Session Highlights

Session met on Tuesday, August 10, for their monthly stated meeting. Below are some highlights of general interest.

PASTOR JULIE:

Installation service scheduled for Sunday, October 16 at 2:30pm.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY TEAM:

The Threehouse Block Party is September 27. We will supply hotdogs and buns. We are looking for volunteers to represent First Presbyterian and provide warm welcoming presence while serving our student neighbors.

Motion made and passed, "To approve the Community Ministry Team to apply for three (3) Mission and Ministry grants through the North Central Iowa Presbytery, including \$1,500 for [ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministry](#), \$1,500 for [Family Literacy](#), and \$3,000 for [Eye of the Needle, Inc.](#)"

CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY TEAM:

Plans are going well for worship at First Presbyterian in Waterloo on September 21. Sunday SHINE will begin on September 11 with a backpack blessing. Also seeking SHINE helpers. New Shine Curriculum:

[Watch this video about our new Whirl Lectionary Curriculum from Sparkhouse.](#)

Meal once a month

CORPORATE MINISTRY TEAM:

There is a new tenant for the south parking lot. Salon Zola (hair salon) will pay our standard rate of \$1,000 per year.

PRESBYTERY NEWS:

CommUNITY: An all Presbyterian gathering sponsored by the Tri-Presbyteries will be held in Boone on August 27 from 10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. All are welcome! The program and registration are on the presbytery website at <https://dmpresbytery.org/iowa-presbyterian-gathering/>.

Re-Formation of the Congregation: Session 1: The Church and Its Witness - RECORDING

[Part 1: The Vocation of the Church in the World with Amgad Beblawi, Presbytery Executive for Missions](#)

[Part 2: Ruling Elders in the Presbyterian Church with Ian McMullen, Pastor to the Presbytery](#)

[Re-Formation of the Congregation: Session 2: RECORDING](#)

Biblically-Grounded Churches With Karoline Lewis

[Re-Formation of the Congregation: Session 3](#) Saturday, September 24, 10am to 3pm

The Dangerous Act of Worship and Its Implication for Faithful Witness

With Rev. Erica MacCreaigh & Rev. Dr. Annika Lister Stroope - What impact should encountering God in authentic worship have on our lives as individuals and faith communities? And what can we learn from the faithful generations of Christians who have gone before us as we respond to difficult and contentious issues in our society?

LEADERSHIP CONVERSATION: Creating a Communications Covenant

NEXT MEETING DATE: September 13 at 7:00 pm in the library.