



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

October 19 2022

10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Worship Celebration—Sunday, October 23, 2022

Scripture: Psalm 84:1-7; Luke 18:9-14

Sermon: “At Least I’m not...”

Prayer of Preparation: Source of wisdom and joy, you reveal to us the way of goodness and life.

Teach us humility that we may trust in your power, and not our own, and make us ever grateful.

We Did It! – A Joyous Installation Celebration

Dear Ones,

What a joy it was to gather with you all for my Installation Service last Sunday. Perhaps the most often heard phrase that afternoon was, “finally, it’s official!”. It was so meaningful to celebrate our ministry partnership with vows of our mutual commitment between congregation and pastor to the ways Christ will lead us into the future. The service was full beautiful liturgy, beautiful music, and beautiful people. There is no doubt that I felt loved and supported in that space.

But, while it is indeed “finally official”, I want to make sure you all know that the previous 2 years, 4 months, and 15 days have been no less a wonderful ministry partnership. We have navigated tremendous challenges and grown together through it all. We have imagined and reimagined how we do life together as people of God—learning to take one faithful step at a time, leaning on the guidance of the Holy Spirit. There is no doubt that our future is one guided by God.

Our family is delighted to be here in Cedar Falls. The community and the congregation feel like home to us. We look forward to many more years of learning, growing, supporting, and loving with you all.

I cannot name all those who worked so hard to make the service and reception such a beautiful and meaningful time (I really don’t want to leave anyone out), but know that from running slides to dishwashing, your contributions are deeply appreciated. Here’s to many more years of imaginative, resilient, Spirit-filled ministry together.

Your partner in the journey,
Pastor Julie



Church Birthdays

Oct. 20-Jill Mortenson, 24-Marsha Flater, 27-Joe Sjolander, Monica Clark, 30-Connie Seeliger, Bruce Braley

For Your Prayers...

Kevin Theden’s mother

Notice...

This afternoon, Oct. 19
The office will close at 2:00 pm for our regularly required Financial Review.

Sunday morning, Oct. 23
UNICEF Sunday-Children’s Noisy Offering and PW Bake Sale

Sunday, October 30
All Saints Sunday: Families may light a candle during worship in memory of loved ones.

Sign up anytime online:

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

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

Or sign up in the narthex!

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Rev. Dave Glen-Burns and students from ThreeHouse

Computer Operator: Dave Luck

Videographer: Kevin Thedens
- Installation Service -

Reception: Margaret Clark and the reception committee

Computer Operator: Rob Cline

Videographer: Kevin Thedens

Pianist: Connie Herbon

Pastor's Stole: Kay Leeper, Sue Luck, Dot Clausen

Greeters: Hope Goering, Michelle Luzaich, Shirley Hill
(Mowing the week of 10/16– Nicole & Reese Stolte)

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, October 19

2:00 pm Financial Review, office

6:30 pm Chancel Choir, sanctuary

Sunday, October 23

10:30 am Worship & Noisy Offering, sanctuary
PW Bake Sale for UNICEF, narthex

Monday, October 24

6:30 pm Worship & Music, Zoom

Tuesday, October 25

6:30 pm CYF Meeting, Zoom

Wednesday, October 26

6:30 pm Chancel Choir, sanctuary

...a few more installation pictures!

Thanks to Hope Goering and Jan Thedens for all of Sunday's photos.



Look Out for October 23rd!

CONGREGATION:

*Bring money for the yummy PW Bake Sale fundraiser for UNICEF in the narthex.

*Bring your coins for a noisy offering!

CHILDREN:

*Wear your Halloween costumes and help us collect a noisy offering!

TRICK
OR
TREAT

FOR unicef

Thanks to ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministry for sharing their time and talent in worship with us October 16.



Better TOGETHER

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them."* – Matthew 18:20 (NRSV)

"Better Together"

On Sunday, the Rev. David Glen-Burns, our campus ministry partner, talked about how Three House has changed over the last 20 plus years. In the past several denominations each had their own campus ministry programs, but going-it-alone proved to be unsustainable. Now five denomina-

tions and ten congregations support the vital Three House ministry and its students. It's just one example of how we are better together.

As Presbyterians, we are part of a "connectional church". The theology of being connected is grounded in the Bible and in the life of the church stretching back over 20 centuries. The relationship between Jesus and his disciples is not that of a charismatic leader and his followers or a gifted teacher and his students, but is (according to John's Gospel) like that between a vine and its branches and (according to Paul) like that between a human body and its head.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). Jesus does not say, "You ought to be branches! You ought to get connected to me!" But rather, "You are the branches." Our life together flows from God. Similarly, Paul tells the Christians in Rome: "For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another" Romans 12: 4–5).

Because we are connected and the body of Christ, we can do more, have more impact, reach out more to those in need of our help. Like the sap that flows through the branches and fibers of a tree, our love and commitment flow through our church out into our community and the world.

Three thousand year ago, the Old Testament prophet Micah spoke out against the injustices in Israel and Judah; injustice toward the outcasts, the lowly and less fortunate of society and the mistreatment of women and children. We have still have those societal injustices today. Micah's advice is:

*"What does the lord require of you
but to do justice and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God." – Micah 6:8*

Together we can do this.

Neal Leeper - Stewardship