



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

January 11, 2023

10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Sunday, January 15, 2023

Worship for Sunday, January 15

—Jesus invites us to “come and see”.

Scripture: John 1:35-42

Prayer of Preparation

God of radical presence, as we are gathered here as disciples. Guide us by your Spirit to cultivate curiosity and boldness to invite others to “come and see”. Amen.

Pastor’s Ponderings – Practicing Presence

Last Sunday we received our Water Word for the year: “presence”. Unlike previous years where we each received individual words, this year our word is communal.

Practicing presence seems straight forward. After all, isn’t it really just showing up? Well, yes and no.

We just celebrated Christmas—the ultimate practice of presence. God-with-us shows up our ordinary, unglamorous, and even harsh world. Born as a vulnerable baby the plan seemed vague. Setting off on a long journey without reservations for lodging, a king’s baby shower guest list comprised of lowly shepherds given a last-minute invitation and wandering magi using a star as their global positioning system seems more like a hot mess than a meticulously designed royal celebration.

As we begin to follow the life of Jesus as an adult the plan seems much the same. Jesus goes wandering, talks to whoever shows up, and sits in the homes of whoever invites him along the way. He says things that are at best interesting and at worst, completely confounding. But one thing about the plan that never wavers is showing up. Jesus practices presence in ways that use his whole embodied self. He listens with curiosity, touches with compassion, steps with intention, and dines with inclusion. What can we learn and how can we grow as we pay special attention to the ways Jesus practices presence in the Gospel of Matthew and of the ways Holy Spirit is present in our lives this year?

Post your water word somewhere you will see it regularly. If you haven’t received one yet, let me know and I get one sent to you. They are also available in the narthex. I look forward to pondering the surprising ways God will show up in our practice of presence this year. Whatever God is calling us to through our word this year, we know that the grace we have received in our baptism is sufficient for that call!

Your companion in the journey,

Pastor Julie



Church Birthdays

Jan. 12– Mary McCalley,
19–Chad Lee, 20–Margaret
Clark

For Your Prayers...

Jean Boller

This year’s confirmation
class

Notice...

The office will be **closed**
on Monday, January 16
for Martin Luther King, Jr.
Day

Our Wednesday Shared
Meal will be January 25,
5:30 pm.

The **ANNUAL MEETING**
OF THE CONGREGATION is
Sunday, January 29 during
10:30 am worship. An
adult forum on the Annual
Reports is at 9:30 am.

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: Connie Herbon

Computer Operator: Kevin Thedens

Videographer: Gary Clark

Snow Removal: Gary Clark, Jim Seeley

Sunday Supper: Sue Weinberg, Jenny Allen

Table Cloths for Communion Tables: Sue Luck



Rev. Marian "Pete" McCart passed away Monday, January 9. No funeral service is planned, but she will be recognized this Sunday during worship. A gathering hosted by our church will take place in the spring to celebrate Pete's life and ministry.

All-Church Meal – January 25!

January's monthly meal will be on the last Wednesday this month. Join us for our monthly drop-in meal and fellowship in the dining room on Wednesday, January 25, at 5:30pm.

Save the Date for the ANNUAL MEETING – January 29

Our ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation will be Sunday, January 29, as part of the worship service. We will be voting on our budget, the pastor's terms of call, and new officers. An **adult forum** on the Annual Report will be that morning at **9:30 am** in the dining room. An annual report, meeting docket, and other details will be available soon.

Upcoming schedule

Sunday, January 15

10:30 am Worship, sanctuary

11:30 am CF Mennonite's Potluck, dining room

Monday, January 16

— Office closed, MLK Jr. holiday

6:30 pm Worship Team, Zoom

Tuesday, January 17

6:30 pm CYF Team, Zoom

Wednesday, January 18

10:00 am Working for Justice: BB, Zoom

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

2022 Year-End Giving Statements

Giving statements are available in the narthex for those who donated in 2022. **PLEASE** pick yours up and help save the church postage.

Sunday Suppers Volunteer Opportunities

At long last the Sunday Suppers hosted for those in need of a warm meal and fellowship by five PC(USA) churches in the Cedar Valley have returned! This is an incredibly meaningful ministry which strengthens the community and enriches our connectedness with our siblings in Christ. Our congregation will supply 4 volunteers each Sunday: 2 for the opening shift (3:30-5:30pm) and 2 for the closing shift (4:30-6:30pm). Sign up to be a part of this good work at this link. Please choose only slots which are designated "1st Cedar Falls". All meals are held at First Presbyterian Church in Waterloo.

[Sunday Supper Volunteer Signup](#)

Presbyterian Women

Members of Esther Circle gathered on January 5th for lunch and social time with Jill Mortenson hosting at Prairie Wind, Western Home Communities. Jill planned for a soup and salad luncheon along with a few group activities and plenty of laughs. Esther Circle is a Bible study group and part of the larger organization, Presbyterian Women. All women of the church are welcome to participate. Contact the office if you would like to learn more.



**Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley:
A Conversation on Faith, Values, and Abortion
Tuesday, January 17 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

In June 2022, the U.S. Supreme Court reversed the 1973 Roe v. Wade ruling which had asserted that unduly restrictive state regulation of abortion is unconstitutional. This new Supreme Court decision leaves it up to individual states to decide whether abortion should be legal.

Views of abortion vary among and within different faith and humanistic communities. At our Tuesday, January 17 meeting, we will share our thoughts about the Supreme Court's recent decision and how our views have been shaped by our faith traditions and/or personal values. Our discussion will be moderated by retired psychologist Dr. Naomi McCormick.

While we may differ in our views of abortion, we are certain to learn from one another in respectful discussion. Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley is an interfaith group that meets monthly in person or by Zoom. If you would like to attend, please contact us.

Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley is a group whose goals are to encourage conversation, understanding, friendship, and the promotion of peace, justice, and prosperity, especially for women and girls, [visit our website](#).

Thank You

We are so grateful for the people who bless our lives—people like you. We hope you had a great Christmas.

Thank you for the Adopt-A-Family gifts.
Myca Bond, Kara Bond, Khamicre Young

Dear Friends,

It is our pleasure to acknowledge your gift of \$500 to the Theological Fund. Your gift will safeguard the next generation of those called to ministry. Thank you for supporting the future ministers of Christ's Church.

Rev. Lee Hinson-Hasty
Senior Director, Theological Education Fund Development
Money was from our 2022 mission budget.