



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



## Sunday, January 22, 2023

### Worship for Sunday, January 22:

A Tale of Two Kin(g)doms

**Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-18;  
Matthew 4:12-12-23

### Prayer of Preparation

God of radical presence,  
as we are gathered here as disciples.  
Guide us by your Spirit to cultivate  
curiosity and boldness. Amen.

### Pastor's Ponderings – A Tale of Two Kin(g)doms

This week the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL) has placed two texts together in a way which seems jarring. Matthew 4:10-18 tells the story of disciples answering the call of Jesus to take on bold challenges to live differently in the world—individually and together as a community. Many of us are familiar with the story from the Sunday School song, “I Will Make You Fishers of Men”. We often look to this narrative for inspiration to follow the call of Jesus. It leaves us with an aspirational challenge to live faithfully, just as the first followers of Jesus did at the beginning of church history.

In light of the Gospel reading, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 is a real downer. The apostle Paul is writing to the church in Corinth about their bickering ways. He writes, “Now I appeal to you, sibilings, by the name of our savior Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my sibilings.” I imagine if he were writing a present time email, he would insert a facepalm emoji here.

How could communities established by followers of the Ultimate Liberator become ensnared in internal quarrels? The Corinthian church was competing amongst themselves about whose baptizer was best. You read that correctly—they were competing about the who was the Most Righteous Dunker (and we're not talking about basketball). They were raising their voices in ways that detracted from the liberating work of Jesus rather than raising their voices to proclaim the liberating work of Jesus.

In the present church, one would like to think we are now immune to such destructive behavior. But, to paraphrase [Professor Nancy Lammers Gross](#), “When competition among congregations or traditions becomes more important than the ministry of Jesus, we find ourselves in the same boat with the Corinthian followers.” What good kin-dom work will we miss if we find ourselves sailing with the Corinthians? How might we as a community follow Christ in bold ways?

Your partner in the journey,

*Pastor Julie*

### Church Birthdays

Jan. 19-Chad Lee, 20-Margaret Clark, 26-Brad Braley, 27-Tom Mulligan, Duane Dean

### Notice...

Our **Wednesday 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 also the 29th at 9:30 am in the dining room.

**Sign up anytime online:**

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

*Or sign up in the narthex!*

**Sunday Supper Helpers**  
sign up online:  
[Sunday Supper Volunteer Signup](#)

## Thanks for serving last week:

**Computer Operator:** Kirk Eastman

**Videographer:** Neal Leeper

**Office Help:** Nancy Hoppe

### 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.

A monetary contribution to the cost of the meal is welcome but not required.

### ANNUAL MEETING of the CONGREGATION– 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. A meeting docket will be made available.

⇒ An **adult forum** on the Annual Report will be that morning at **9:30 am** in the dining room. The Annual Report is attached to this email, and hard copies will be in the narthex this Sunday.

### 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.

## Upcoming schedule

### Wednesday, January 18

10:00 am Working for Justice: BB, Zoom  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

### Sunday, January 22

10:30 am Worship, sanctuary

### Wednesday, January 25

5:30 pm Wednesday Meal, dining room  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

## 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 "1<sup>st</sup> Cedar Falls". All meals are held at First Presbyterian Church in Waterloo.

### [Sunday Supper Volunteer Signup](#)

## Welcome Home!

Due to lack of use, sign ups for greeters via online or in the narthex are being discontinued.

Instead, we encourage every member of the church to be a greeter! If you arrive 10-15 minutes before worship and no one is standing at the door, you may be a presence and greet familiar faces as well as new ones until worship begins.

No need to sign up or wear a name tag. It's ok to be a spontaneous greeter. No training or prior commitment is required.

Thank you for being a back-door apostle! (Front door, too!)

## CPR, First Aid and AED Training Opportunity

The Safety Committee has scheduled a CPR, First Aid and AED Class for staff and interested members of the congregation.

The class will be held on January 31 at 6:00 pm in the Dining Room. The cost for church members is \$65. We still have two openings available. To sign up simply complete the form on the attached link. Also let Kay Leeper know that you plan to attend: kleeper@cfu.net

<https://form.jotform.com/230085367919161>