



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

January 25, 2023

10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Sunday, January 29, 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting

Worship for Sunday, January 29:
Heavenly Minded for Earthly Good
Scripture: Micah 6:1-8; Matthew 5:1-12

*See the Annual Meeting docket
attached to this email!

Prayer of Preparation

Holy God,
you call unexpected disciples—
those who are poor and meek,
those who are hungry and thirsty,
those who are reviled and persecuted—
to be a blessing for the world.
Number us among those saints,
that we may serve your purpose
and share the blessing;
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Pastor's Ponderings: "Heavenly Minded for Earthly Good"

Our scripture readings for Sunday are two very familiar passages. The Micah passage contains a verse which pops up often in sacred and cultural settings in a truncated form, "...do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God." In the Matthew passage we climb a mountain and listen to Jesus teach us who is blessed. Often called the beatitudes, this passage gives us a glimpse of the countercultural values of God's realm.

Often our human tendency is to adopt these passages as spiritual guideposts for our personal spiritual edification. There is comfort in knowing that those who mourn are seen by God (Mt. 5:4). Love and humility are attitudes that we often hope to embody (Mc 6:8). But, as always when we remove scripture from its context, there are aspects of these passages we often miss when seeking to apply their teaching to our personal spiritual lives. There is an old saying in church circles which points to an imbalance in our relationship with the divine and others, "Too heavenly minded to do any earthly good." In other words, when our hope is fixed on the hereafter, we tend to look past present needs in our communities and overlook the enfleshed, relationship building, God-with-us we say we follow.

What if we were to actively rewrite that phrase acknowledging that our spiritual lives cannot be separated from our lived reality? Perhaps we could reorient it by saying, "We're heavenly minded *for* earthly good." Through this lens our scripture passages become calls to very real action in our communal lives with Jesus as our teacher, Creator as our source of strength, and Holy Spirit as our guide. I look forward to exploring these thoughts with you on Sunday.

Your partner in the journey,

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Jan. 26-Brad Braley,
27-Tom Mulligan, Duane
Dean, 30-Donna Henn,
31-Louann Flaherty

Notice...

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

- The **ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION** is this Sunday, Jan. 29 during 10:30 am worship.
- An **adult forum** on the Annual Reports is also this Sunday at 9:30 am in the dining room.

Coming Soon...

Sunday, Feb. 12

Souperbowl of Caring
Donations for the Food
Bank will be received.
Watch for details.

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:

Worship Leader: Scott Connolly

Acolyte: Ryder Connolly

Computer Operator: Dave Luck

Videographer: Kevin Thedens

Snow Removal: Gary Clark, Gary Sabey, Kirk Eastman

Greeters: Shirley Hill, Margaret Clark

All-Church Meal – TODAY, January 25!

Join us for our monthly drop-in meal and fellowship in the dining room today, January 25, at 5:30pm.

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

Dessert tonight is furnished by Donna Henn in celebration of her 70th Birthday!

ANNUAL MEETING and ADULT FORUM

Our **annual meeting** will occur this 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. In preparation for this service, please look through our annual report attached to this email or pick up a paper copy in the narthex.

- An **adult forum** on the Annual Report will be that morning at **9:30 am** in the dining room.

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, January 25

5:30 pm Wednesday Meal, dining room

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday, January 29

9:30 am Forum on the Annual Report, dining rm

10:30 am Worship & Annual Meeting, sanctuary

Tuesday, January 31

6:00 pm CPR/First Aid Training, dining room

Wednesday, February 1

10:00 am Working for Justice: BB, Zoom

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, February 2

1:00 pm Esther Circle, Zoom

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](#)

Thank You

Dear Friends,

A very delayed, but sincere thank you to the 10 carolers who came out to my place. Also, for the greeting cards from everyone. I really enjoyed all the festive greetings! May you have a great 2023!

Miss you,
Vera Brunskill

I would like to thank my church family for their support during my recovery from foot surgery. The cards, messages, visits and offers of help were much appreciated and a reminder of how we are connected as a faith community!

Jean Boller

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>