



10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Sunday, January 8, 2023
Baptism of Jesus

Next Sunday—Remembering the baptism of Jesus and our own baptisms

Scripture: Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:13-17

Worshipping from Home? We will be remembering our baptisms and celebrating the Lord’s supper together this Sunday. You are invited to prepare your worship space with a dish of water for the remembrance and a representation of bread and wine for communion.

Prayer of Preparation

“Holy God,
 when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan
 the heavens opened,
 the Spirit descended, and your voice
 affirmed your love in Jesus
 for the healing of the human race and
 all creation.
 By water and word you lovingly invite us
 into this same life-giving mission.
 May your Spirit, moving like a stream of
 water flowing from its source,
 work in us this day to realize your vision
 of a world made new in Christ,
 in whose name we pray. Amen.”

Pastor’s Ponderings – Water Words

This Sunday we will contemplate the significance of the baptism of Jesus by John in the Jordan River. It was a baptism of water and the Holy Spirit where a voice from heaven claimed Jesus as a beloved child. It is also a time when we remember that we are also named as God’s own.

We will again be distributing “water words” for this year. You will be given a waterdrop shaped piece of paper with a word written on it and invited to hang it up where you are sure to see it every day. It could be on your bathroom mirror, next to your computer screen, on your fridge, or even in your car.

In the coming year, we will ponder surprising ways it pops up in our daily lives and how God might be speaking through it. Where does the word occur in scripture? How does a dictionary define it? How can the word influence the way we live our individual and collective lives?

I look forward to sharing our insights with each other as we listen for God’s guidance in 2023. 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. 4- Rob Cline, 8- John & Michelle Luzaich,
 10- Stephanie Marra,
 12- Mary McCalley

For Your Prayers...

Dennis Reimer
Jean Boller

Notice...

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

We’ll be taking down Christmas decorations after worship this Sunday. Anyone wishing to help is welcome! (no lunch)

The **ANNUAL MEETING** OF THE CONGREGATION is Sunday, January 29 during 10:30 am worship.

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 Leaders: Kay Leeper, Margaret Clark, Cyd Grafft

Computer Operator: Dave Luck

Videographer: Neal Leeper

Presbytery Grant Writing: Hope Goering

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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.

Working for Justice: Breaking Bias Update

The regularly scheduled January 4 meeting has been canceled. The next meeting will be January 18 at 10:00 am on Zoom. Working for Justice: Breaking Bias meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 10:00 am and will hold their January and February meetings via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to participate!

Upcoming schedule

Thursday, January 5

1:00 pm Esther Circle, Zoom

Saturday, January 7

9:30 am Sarah Circle, classroom

Sunday, January 8

10:30 am Worship with Communion, sanctuary

11:30 am Taking Down the Greens

Monday, January 9

4:00 pm Community Ministries, Zoom

Tuesday, January 10

7:00 pm Audubon Society, dining room

7:00 pm Session Meeting, library

Thank You

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for coming out to Oak Park to sing Merry Christmas to us all!

Everyone really enjoyed and appreciated your presence. It meant a lot to all of us! Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Very sincerely,

~Dee Lynch and Oak Park residents

Save the Date for the ANNUAL MEETING – January 29

Our ANNUAL MEETING of the Congregation will occur on 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. Please save the date and look for a forthcoming email containing the annual report, meeting docket, and details about ways to participate.

Year End Reports

Annual reports from our Ministry Teams are due into the office on Friday, January 13 by noon. Please have reports in a Word or Excel format and email to: office@firstprescf.org. Thank you!

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. To attend, contact St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Women of Faith of the Cedar Valley is an interfaith 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](#).