



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

March 15, 2023

10:30 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



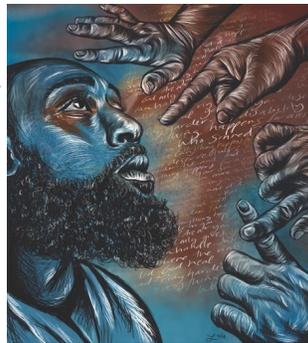
Lenten Worship Series - SEEKING: Honest Questions for Deeper Faith

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Sunday, March 19 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

“Who Sinned?” John 9:1-41

When it comes to faith, sometimes there are bad questions—questions that are formed by assumptions, questions that lead us to judgment or isolation. When Jesus and the disciples encounter a blind man along the way, the disciples immediately ask, “Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” (John 9:2). They ask a bad question. Their question assumes that illness and disability are the result of sin; it assumes that the man deserved to be born blind; it assumes that physical blindness is a form of failure. Unfortunately, the crowd continues to interrogate the man and dissect the miracle of what happens to him. The crowd also asks bad questions because their intent is to drive him out and prove that Jesus is a heretic. This week, let us pay attention to the questions we ask. What assumptions do we carry? What is our intent? When seeking clarity or understanding, what are better questions we can ask?



Insight
Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity
Silk Painting w/digital
drawing & collage

From the artist: Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity

“In this image, hands expressing denial and exclusion press in on the man. In the background, I wrote a barrage of questions I imagine emerging from the crowd: Why did God heal you? What did you do to cause this? Who sinned? Alongside those questions, I wove in contemporary statements I’ve heard spoken in situations when we think a tidy rationale will comfort us: Everything happens for a reason. God only gives you as much as you can handle. Pray harder.

I wonder what this story would look like had better questions been asked. What if his neighbors had instead asked the blind man, “How do you feel?” What if the man had asked the crowd, “What are you afraid of?” What if the Pharisees had asked one another, “What if it’s time to change?”

Surrounded by remnants of narrow vision, the man has new insight. He looks beyond the words, beyond the crowd, beyond the accusations *driving him out of town*. *Can we seek understanding without denigrating or objectifying humans in the process?”*

Church Birthdays

Mar. 17-Gary Sabey, Andrew Humpal, Maya Humpal, 18-Patti Humpal, Lance Zimmer, 20-Roger Dean, Scott Connolly, 24-Mike Rokes, Eli Braley, 25-Sandy Jensen, Brad Wells

For Your Prayers...

Melody Brindle and John Koontz

Dennis Reimer

Neal Leeper’s stepmother, Audine

Notice...

- **No activities today, Mar. 15 - spring break.**
- The office will be minimally staffed this Friday, March 17.

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](#)

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Nancy Hoppe

Computer Operator: Kirk Eastman

Videographer: Reese Stolte

Snow Removal: Rob Cline, Kenton Swartley

Office Help: Nancy Hoppe

Wednesday Soup Supper: Deacons

Bereavement Team: Shirley & Gus Hill, Marsha & Darrel Flater, Margaret Clark, Jeverna & Tom Mulligan, Patti Humpal, Dave & Sue Luck, Dot Clausen, Cyd Grafft, Sue Eastman, Brad & Sandy Jensen

Memorial Videographer: Neal Leeper



Easter Egg Help!

The CYF Ministry Committee is graciously asking for egg-filling donations. These could be small treats, candies, or non-food items that fit into an Easter egg!

Please drop off donation in the library.

Anyone who wishes to help FILL the eggs will have a chance to do so after the **March 29** Lenten meal in the library. Many hands make light work. Thank You!

You're Invited: 1619 Project Film Series

Working for Justice: Breaking Bias has arranged the following schedule to view the 1619 Video Series:

March 19: Part 3, "Music"

March 26: Part 4, "Capitalism"

No viewings: April 2 and 9—Holy Week

April 16: Part 5, "Fear"

April 23: Part 6, "Justice"

Viewings begin Sundays at noon. This Sunday we'll meet in the youth room (downstairs) and eat lunch while we watch the video. A short discussion will follow until 1:30 pm.

March Lenten Reflections with Soup Supper — I've Been Meaning to Ask...

March 22 & 29 — 5:30pm-6:30pm in the Dining Room

No Supper & Reflection this Wednesday!

Our Wednesday Lenten reflection series invites us to tell our stories and dream about a new way forward together over steaming bowls of nourishing soup. What could be better? Through vulnerability and authenticity, may our courageous conversations lead us deeper into courage and connection. Join us for an hour of good questions and good food!

Next Wednesday, March 22. . . what do you need?

Meal hosted by: Choir & Presbyterian Women

Everyone has needs, but each of us needs different things at different times. God calls us to care for one another—in seasons of joy, transition, and hardship. What would you say if someone stopped to ask you, 'What do you need?'



Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, March 15

— no activities due to spring break

Sunday, March 19

10:30 am Worship, sanctuary

- SHINE breakout sessions

12:00 pm 1619 Video Project w lunch, youth room

Wednesday, March 22

5:30 pm Lenten Meal & Reflection, dining room
(meal hosted by PW and the Choir)

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

HOLY WEEK with Cedar Valley Presbyterians, PC(USA)

• **Maundy Thursday** - April 6, 6:00 pm

at Westminster Presbyterian: 1301 Kimball, Waterloo

Join us for a service of contemplation. All are welcome to partake in communion. Childcare will be available.

• **Good Friday** - April 7 - 6:00 pm

at Cedar Heights Presbyterian: 2015 Rainbow, CF

This service will feature a joint choir that blends together voices from our churches. Childcare will be available.

First Presbyterian-Waterloo, Unity, and our church will also participate.

Easter Sunday, April 9

9:30 am Refreshments in the dining room

Egg Hunt and Children's Activities

10:30 am Worship in the sanctuary

childcare provided

Scholarship Opportunities

The **Dorothy Horn Scholarship** provides financial assistance to women from Presbyterian churches who attend the University of Northern Iowa. Dorothy Horn attended the University of Northern Iowa and her estate established this scholarship endowment, which is administered by First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls.

Those interested in more information, or an application packet, should contact First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls. Materials can be requested by calling **319-277-3930** or by email: office@firstprescf.org. All applications must be returned by **April 17, 2023**.

The **First Presbyterian Church Scholarship** provides financial assistance to students seeking post-high school educational opportunities. This fund is financially supported by the Donna & Greg Hickman Trust.

Applicants must have a direct connection to First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls to qualify.

Those interested in more information, or an application packet, should contact First Presbyterian Church, 902 Main Street, Cedar Falls. Materials can be requested by calling **319-277-3930** or by email: office@firstprescf.org. Deadline to return applications is **April 17, 2023**.

Synod School

July 23-28

Buena Vista University, Storm Lake IA

Synod school offers great classes for continuing education for church professionals, excellent programs for children and youth, mission, study and fellowship. Two catalogues are in the narthex (these are the only ones we have, so please return them when finished) or go online to: [Synod School - Synod of Lakes and Prairies](#). More information is posted outside of the office.



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing - Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People - all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Please consider what you can give to this offering! Checks may be made payable to the church with "One Great Hour" on the memo.



The Joyce Gault Piano Concert Series

The recently announced series will be hosted annually and will celebrate exceptional piano concerts offered by UNI faculty and guest artists, in honor of former faculty pianist Joyce Gault.



Joyce was a longtime member of First Presbyterian Church.

Faculty Recitals are at 8:00 pm:

March 20: Sean Botkin

March 28: Vakhtang Kodanashvili

A guest recital by Kristin Jonina Taylor will be held April 20, 6:00 pm and a masterclass on April 20, 1:00 pm.

All events are free and open to the public at Davis Hall, Gallagher Bluedorn. For more information call 319.273-2028.