



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

May 3, 2023

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



## Sunday, May 7 – Fifth Sunday of Easter

### SHINE Finale! – Recognition Sunday

Worshiping from home?

Prepare your space with some representation of bread and wine so you can participate in sharing the Lord's Table.

God can use whatever you have on hand!

**Prayer:** God of life, we are grateful for the people who dedicate their love and care to our children. This week we thank you particularly for folks who teach our SHINE children your ways through lessons and music. May they come to know the blessing they are to us and the future of the church. Amen.

### A Note of Appreciation from the Pastor

"We can do hard things." I'm not sure when this phrase became a frequent refrain in my thinking. Likely it was during the worst of the pandemic when almost everything felt difficult and nothing felt safe or familiar. It's become a prayer of sorts, helping me retain perspective when the fullness of life blocks my ability to see beyond the current challenge. It reminds me of three things.

First, it names that the situation is *hard*. Many of us were taught to just pretend that whatever life throws at us is simple a case of mind over matter—sometimes to the point of ignoring our own experience and unintentionally alienating those who could help. When we name that we are going through a difficult time, we open ourselves to help. A quick skim through the Psalms shows that naming our pain is okay. God has heard it all before and is ready to hear it again.

Second, it declares that we are not alone. *We can do hard things* because no one must do everything on their own. God strengthens us through the Spirit and through our siblings in Christ. There is great strength in a faith community when we work together.

Third, it spurs us to action. I'll be the first to admit that overwhelm can shut me down. It can also cause groups to freeze and turn inward, not knowing what to do next. Communal overwhelm is a real thing that can hinder the vitality of the community. When we sense that overwhelm, we can turn toward God and ask for guidance to take one faithful step at a time.

All of this is to say, "First Presbyterian Church, you did hard and beautiful things last week." In a span of three days you worked together to support two families who lost loved ones, even while grieving their losses yourselves. You warmly welcomed our new camp director at a special worship service. You celebrated the legacy of organ music in our congregation with a concert full of inspiration. You coordinated receptions and washed dishes; you made phone calls and gave hugs. You rehearsed, recycled, and reminded. You showed the love of Christ in these beautiful ways and more.

I thank God for you all and for the opportunity to do the hard and beautiful work of our life together with such faithful people.

Your partner in the journey,  
Pastor Julie

### Church Birthdays

May 4-Marge King, Nick Federspiel, 5-Eric Braley, Matt Humpal, Brock Swarbrick, 7-Parker Connolly, 8-Lindsey Humpal, Kathryn Braley, 12-Judy Burfeind, 13-Neil Clapp

### For Your Prayers...

**Walt Stephenson**  
**Jeverna Mulligan's** sister, Karen Bullock

### Notice...

Sunday, May 7

**Recognition Sunday Potluck after worship.** All are welcome! See page 2.

Sunday, May 14

Presbyterian Women  
Recognition Sunday

### Mowers Needed...

Please sign up in the narthex. See page 3.

### Sign up anytime online:

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

*Or sign up in the narthex!*

### Sunday Supper Helpers!

New and improved sign up. **No ads or pop-ups!**  
[Sunday Supper](#)

## Thanks for serving last week:

**-Dennis Reimer and Mike Rokes Memorial Services**

**Videographers:** Neal Leeper, Kevin Thedens

**Computer Operator:** Gary Clark

**Luncheons:** Jeverna Mulligan, Shirley Hill and the Bereavement Committee

### **-Sunday Worship**

**Worship Leader:** Jan Thedens

**Computer Operator:** Kirk Eastman

**Videographer:** Kevin Thedens

### **-Organ Celebration**

Connie Herbon, Phil Batchelder

**Videographer:** Kevin Thedens

**Tablecloths:** Jane Seeley

## Thank You

Many thanks to those who planned, prepared and participated in the organ recital and reception. It was a much needed inspirational event.

Margaret Clark

## Presbyterian Women's Gathering

A PW Fellowship for Sarah and Esther circles will be Wednesday, May 10, 3:30 pm in the dining room. This event is taking the place of the traditional annual meeting. Refreshments provided.

## Upcoming schedule

### Thursday, May 4

1:00 pm Esther Circle, dining room

### Saturday, May 5

9:30 am Sarah Circle, classroom

### Sunday, May 7

10:30 am Worship/Recognition Sunday, sanctuary

11:45 am Recognition Potluck, dining room

### Tuesday, May 9

6:00 pm Audubon Society Potluck, dining room

6:30 pm Session Meeting, library

### Wednesday, May 10

3:30 pm PW Fellowship, dining room

5:30 pm Confirmation class, classroom

## Recognition Sunday Potluck



May 7 is Recognition Sunday. Following worship will be a POTLUCK with MEAT PROVIDED. Bring a side dish of your choice to share.

(DEACONS - We are hosting the May 7 potluck and everyone who is capable would be appreciated to assist. Setup and Sunday morning duties are covered. Need as many as possible to help with cleanup. Thank you for your consideration.)

## We Shine Brighter Together

First Presbyterian Church Cedar Falls radiates a welcoming presence far beyond 902 Main St. Our reach allows our community of worshipers to shine stronger with the assistance of our online presence. Viewers checking-in online on Sunday mornings can number more than 100. We invite you to worship with us each Sunday morning. Whether your light shines from our Website at [firstprescf.org](http://firstprescf.org) by connecting through Facebook, or from a church pew; or viewing with an archive of recorded worship services that allows for access on any day and any time of day – ***we shine brighter together!***

## ATTENTION CHURCH CAMPERS!!

**Now** is the time to sign up for camp.

Go to Lakeshore Center's website to sign up:

<https://www.lakeshorecenteratokoboji.org/summer-camp.html>



If campers **sign up by MONDAY, MAY 15** our church will pay 100% of your fee! After the 15th, the church pays 90% and the camper pays the other 10%. Lakeshore Center does have some camp scholarships available. Contact Patti Humpal with questions.

- When you sign up, look for the option on how you plan to pay. Choose the 'Church Pays' option.
- After signing up, contact Lynette in the office with the name of the camp you registered for so we can track our costs. Happy camping!

## Community Choir Concert

A mass community choir from the Cedar Valley will be featured at a concert of music written by composer Mark Hayes on Monday, May 8 at 7:00 pm. Hayes is an internationally known composer and conductor. Many of his works are sung by church choirs for Sunday worship services. Hayes will conduct the community choir; instrumental performers will enhance the songs. We will have six members of our congregation performing at this concert: Brad and Sandy Jensen, Jean Boller, Dot Clausen, Connie Herbon, and Steve Moon.

The concert will be held at the Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$15.00 and can be purchased at the door. This is the final concert of the year for the Metro Community Concert Association.

### Lawn Mowing Volunteers

Volunteer mowers NEEDED!!!! Please sign up in the narthex to mow the church lawn. Two self-propelled lawnmowers are available. You may mow anytime the week(s) you select. Thank you!

### Threehouse Collaborative Ministries Trivia Night:

*Thursday, May 11 at Second State Brewery*

Check-In begins at 6:30 pm; the game starts at 7:00 pm. \$15 per person or \$75 for a team of 6!

There will be items available in a silent auction, as well as prizes for first and second place!

You can register at this link, or use the QR Code on the flyer: <https://forms.gle/sFsmnBimsgah8zRS9>

Payments can be made through Kindful ahead of time, or in cash or Kindful at the event.

<https://threehouse.kindful.com/?campaign=1247812>

## Working for Justice: Breaking Bias

Everyone is invited to upcoming meetings of Working for Justice: Breaking Bias on **tonight, May 3 and May 17** at 10:00 am in the church dining room. On May 3, we will be discussing: What is the Biblical and Theological Motivation for Restorative Action? (restorative action vs. reparations) If you'd like to join us, contact Sandy Jensen for a copy of the paper to read before the meeting. On May 17, we will be watching an interview with the woman who is working to start Iowa's first Black-owned bank; a discussion of the video will follow.

Working for Justice: Breaking Bias will be on summer break during June, July, and August. We will resume meeting on Wednesday, September 6 at 10:00 am.

### Nursery Update

This Sunday, May 7 is the last Sunday for a staffed nursery until September. The chapel is available as a family friendly space during worship.

### Sunday Supper Update!

[Check out our improved signup sheet.](#) We've removed the ads and reduced the number of slots needed for each shift. No need to look for "First-Cedar Falls." Just sign up for any open slot. With community support funding being cut and a tough economy to navigate, our neighbors need our support more than ever.