



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

July 12, 2023

10:00 am  
Sunday Worship  
[Firstprescf.org](http://Firstprescf.org)



### Summer Worship Series

#### WALKING IN THE STORM: Spiritual Practices for a Resilient Faith

*a summer worship series designed by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett*

In this eight-week worship series we're exploring basic Christian spiritual practices as ways to build up resiliency in times of crisis, chaos, uncertainty, and distress. Centering on the story of Peter walking on water, the series looks at body care, grief, forgiveness, anger, connection, grace, and gratitude. Be sure to join us as we build resilient faith together.

#### Worship on Sunday, July 16 "Sacred Forgiveness"

Genesis 18:20-33; Matthew 18:21-22

We frequently quote scriptures extolling God's compassion, mercy, and forgiveness, and rightfully so. But there are also stories in scripture of how hard it is for God to forgive and the work that goes into God's compassion. Such scriptures provide relief for us mere humans who also struggle with the work of forgiving, especially if, as in the gospel of Matthew, we must do it over and over and over again. Forgiving requires an exhausting, complicated combination of mental and emotional and even physical effort. To forgive is to struggle with the limits of our own power, to say that we cannot go back and make things right in the past, but also to reach out and grasp the very heights of God's power, to say that there may be a way to move forward rightly into the future.

"Forgiving is spiritual work. Forgiveness is a form of spiritual rest. Forgiveness looks at the wounded heart and the troubled mind and says enough. Be still. So if we cannot forgive, then that suggests there is still work to be done, in the relationship, in our understanding of the situation, in our own souls. Don't be afraid of the work, and don't add guilt that it takes time. Because it simply does. But there is rest at the end."

The Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett

**Prayer:** God of grace, you show us what it means to forgive. Open us to the Spirit's guidance in the way of forgiveness, so that the example of Christ reflects in us. Amen.

#### Church Birthdays

Jul 12-Susan Duncan, Marlene King, 13-Gus Hill, 14-Kay Short-Sutherland, 16-Cyd Grafft, 18-Sue Luck, 20-Ava Wells, Miles Braley, 23-Jan Thedens

#### For Your Prayers...

##### John Luzaich

Cheryl James, daughter of Carl & Evelyn Boice

Lois Thedens, Kevin Thedens' cousin

#### Coming Soon...

Friday, July 21, 7:00 pm  
Cedar Valley Chamber Music Concert, here in the sanctuary

#### Sign up anytime online:

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

*Or sign up in the narthex!*

#### Sunday Supper Helpers!

[Sunday Supper](#)

## Thanks for serving last week:

**Worship Leader:** Cyd Grafft

**Computer Operator:** Rob Cline

**Videographer:** Neal Leeper

**Lawn Mowing:** Gary & Margaret Clark

**Lawn Mowing 7/16:** Brad Braley

## In Sympathy

Darlene Luchtenburg passed away June 25. She and her late husband Don were former members of our church. Darlene's obituary can be found with the link below:

[Darlene Luchtenburg](#)

## Cedar Valley Chamber Concert

July 21, 7:00 pm

First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Falls

(Re)-Inventions

Bach is known for writing two, three, and four part inventions for piano. What if you re-invent the invention as something else? Elena Kats-Chernin asks this question for the CVCM's final program of the season. To see the entire schedule, go to their website:

[2023 Festival Season July 14-21 \(cedarvalleymusic.org\)](http://cedarvalleymusic.org)



## Per Capita 2023

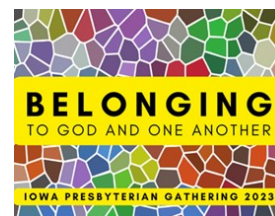
Information on this year's per capita offering will be available next week, as well as a mid-year pledge giving update.

## NORTH CENTRAL IOWA PRESBYTERY NEWS

**Register Now for the Iowa Presbyterian Gathering 2023**

**August 26, 2023**

**Northminster Presbyterian  
Ames, IA**



Registration is now open for the Iowa Presbyterian Gathering! Worship, keynote, and workshops will all center around the theme of Belonging to God and to One Another.



[Learn more and register](#)

## Links from Last Sunday

At our last worship service, we explored the spiritual discipline of sacred lament.

Many of you appreciated the sung prayer of lament,

“Plowshare Prayer” by Spencer LaJoye. You can [find a recording of “Plowshare Prayer” on YouTube](#).

We also shared a resource called “A Lament Table Liturgy” to be used at home. That liturgy is attached to this email as a PDF or download it from the web [here](#).



## Hygiene Product Drive

The Community Ministries Team is collecting personal hygiene products again this year for Eye of the Needle.

Products requested are:

**bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant**  
only those items, please.

**\*\*We are short on deodorant. Please look for gender-neutral scents (unscented or regular) if possible.\*\***

Donations can be left in the marked baskets inside the north entrance of the church from now until [July 23](#).

We will pack donated items into hygiene kits for Eye of the Needle's back to school drive.

**Monetary donations are welcome, too!** Make checks to the church with “hygiene” on the memo.