



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

July 5, 2023

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



Summer Worship Series

Worship on Sunday, July 9

“Sacred Lament”

Scripture: Psalm 42

Like our psalm last Sunday, Psalm 42 is a psalm of lament. It is rich with the psalmist’s tears and trust. To lament is not just to cry, but to cry out—to direct your sadness, grief, confusion, and pain somewhere other than yourself. In scripture, we are taught to lament to God. Despite much of American Christianity’s emphasis on happiness and positivity as the ultimate sign of faithfulness, scripture teaches us that lament is a faithful act.

Our Jewish neighbors know this well and it is witnessed clearly in their rituals of mourning. The fundamental message of Judaism about death and bereavement is that we are not alone in our grief and their traditions and practices reflect this understanding. Through *tahara* (ritual cleansing of the body), the *shomer* (one who guards the body until the funeral), sitting *shiva*, and the meal of condolence the community carries grief together. Even in this time of lament, the *Kaddish* is prayed. Far from denying their sadness, mourning is embraced. And in the midst of the mourning the *Kaddish* recited at graveside. The Mourner’s *Kaddish* is commonly used, (find a [Mourner's Kaddish lesson and translations here](#)). It is a prayer that praises God in the midst of (not in denial of) sorrow.

Likewise, every biblical lament ends in a declaration of trust, that God is still good, that God is still present, that God is still the rock upon which we stand, even if we can’t feel it. Even if life isn’t good, God is still good.

*Lament does not try to answer the question of why we are hurting. It is not satisfied with pat answers like “it’s all in God’s will” or “it’s for a greater purpose.” Lament does not talk about God. Lament talks to God.*

The Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett

**Prayer:** God of peace, hear the cries of all who lament the losses and injustices. Hear the choirs of gratitude and make Holy all that pours from broken hearts. May your eternal embrace be our comfort and our resting place—the place of return—where we can always find each other. Amen.

*Prayer inspired by M Jade Kaiser’s poem, “[Where we still find each other \(in death\)](#)”.*

Church Birthdays

Jul 5-Ellie Tompkins,  
6-Denise Brown, 12-Susan  
Duncan, Marlene King, 13-  
Gus Hill, 14-Kay Short-  
Sutherland

For Your Prayers...

Cheryl James

Lois Thedens

Mowers Needed...

Please sign up in the nar-  
thex.

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:** Connie Herbon

**Computer Operator:** Kirk Eastman

**Videographer:** Neal Leeper

**Communion Preparer:** Cyd Grafft

**Lawn Mowing:** *Available*

**Lawn Mowing 7/9:** *Available*

## In Sympathy

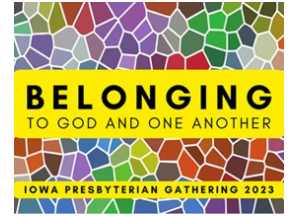
Leland "Lee" Thomson, a friend of our congregation, passed away June 29 in Des Moines. His obituary: [Lee Thomson](#).

## 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](#)

## 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 \(cedarvalleymusic.org\)](https://cedarvalleymusic.org)

## 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.)

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 which will be given to students and families along with shoes and clothes as part of Eye of the Needle's back to school drive.

