



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

August 9, 2023

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Summer Worship Series

This is the last week of our worship series exploring basic Christian spiritual practices as ways to build up resiliency in times of crisis, chaos, uncertainty, and distress. We've considered body care, grief, forgiveness, anger, connection, and grace. This week we'll ponder sacred gratitude.

Worship on Sunday, August 13 "Sacred Gratitude"

1 Thessalonians 5:12-24

Gratitude is rarely a controversial practice, and many Christians hold the 18th verse of this scripture as one of their favorites. Yet to "give thanks in all circumstances" is easier said than done, and a forced gratefulness can do real harm. Practicing gratitude, however, does not exclude us from lament or anger or exhaustion. It is simply a way of witnessing to Christ; taking ourselves out of the world's power—which is constantly trying to convince us to want more and more—and putting us into God's power, through whom what we have and who we are is enough.

"When we are allowed to hold onto our grief, or anger, or pain, with one hand, but also invited to grab hold of gratitude with the other, that's when transformation can happen. When we are free to acknowledge all that is wrong in the world—and there is so, so much wrong in this world—yet also empowered to claim all that is good and beautiful and just—that's when we gain strength to walk through the storms."

The Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett

Prayer: God of glory, your gift of grace is overwhelming. Help us name your blessings which surround us, so that the example of Christ reflects in us. Amen.

Church Birthdays

Aug. 11-Greg Dotseth,
14-Rhonda Braley

In Sympathy...

Nick Federspiel upon the death of his brother Dan.

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: Jolene Moon

Communion Preparer: Julie Rokes

Computer Operator: Scott Connolly

Videographer: Neal Leeper

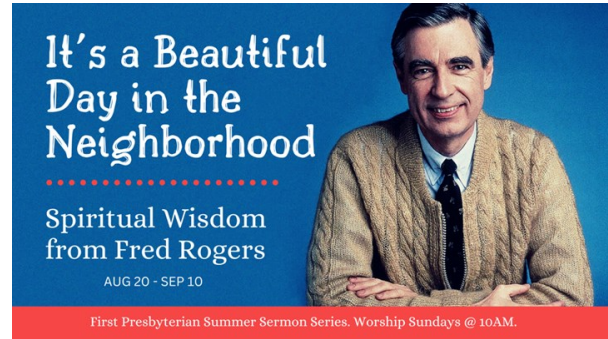
Sink Repair: Jim Seeley

Dead Tree Removal: Gary Clark, Jim Seeley

Lawn Mowing: Brad Braley

Lawn Mowing 8/13: Eric Braley

Coming soon...



From Eye of the Needle's Facebook Page...

We would like to thank Kimball United Methodist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and all others in the Community, who assisted us in providing 154 school backpacks and hygiene kits to 150 pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students, and 4 UNI Hawkeye Community College Students. We also provide shoes for those students.

In the Hawkeye Community College Newsletter...

Last year one of our Cedar Falls church funders helped fund a BEAR (Be Excited About Reading) project. My Family Literacy program funded 225 books and the Cedar Falls First Presbyterian, funded the bags and also the supplies. The church also wanted to help assemble all of these bags, so I went over to their church and we assembled all 225 book bags.

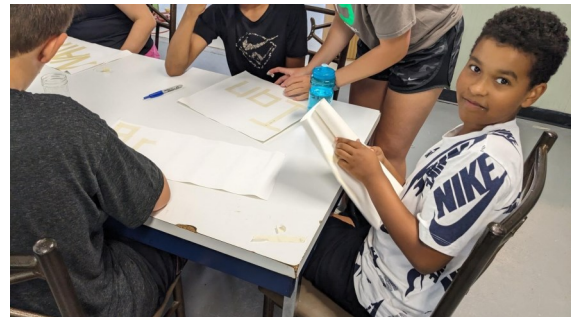
The literacy bags are intended for families to take home and read the book and then do the activities together with their children. This project was a such a huge hit last year, that Cedar Falls First Presbyterian Church agreed to fund 225 books, bags, and materials again for us to continue this project for another year.

Kelly Heth, Family Literacy Program



Lakeshore Center at Okoboji

Our own **Noah Tollefson** was caught on camera enjoying his time at camp this year!



Thank You

The Hawkeye Community College Foundation is honored to serve the resources of every student to help them succeed.

We greatly appreciate your generosity and support. Your gift of \$5,500 to the Family Literacy Fund, and Van G. Miller Adult Learning Center Emergency Fund will help us meet the educational needs of the college.

With warmest regards,

Heather Bremer-Miller,
Executive Director of Institutional Advancement

Monies are from the local mission budget and donated designated mission gifts. Funds went for Family Literacy, BEAR reading project, and transportation.