



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

October 11, 2023

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



**“Go out into the crossroads and invite everyone you can find.”
Matthew 22:9**

Scriptures: Philippians 3:4b-14, Matthew 22:1-14

The Parable of the Wedding Banquet

Anger, murders, and gnashing of teeth—oh my! This is a wedding feast that has certainly gone awry. On Sunday we will look at the parable of the wedding banquet in the gospel of Matthew and question what it could possibly be teaching us about stewardship in the kingdom of God.



This parable is the third of three parables Jesus tells in this section of the gospel of Matthew. Like all parables, this one invites us to be disoriented and unsure. Unlike most parables, this one is also downright disturbing and makes us question if we really understand who God is at all. I’ll admit, the temptation is to just turn the page and act like this story is an accidental inclusion that escaped an editor’s eye.

But alas, it *is* intentionally included in our sacred story. And, amid the mess, there is overwhelming beauty and welcome. So, I hope you will join me as we explore the hard stuff together.

Your partner in the journey,

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Oct 11-Vanda McRoberts, 12-Mark McCalley, 13- Steven Brown, Hope Goering, Bastion Glissmann, 17-Doug Herbon, 18-Neal Leeper, 20-Jill Mortenson

Office Note:

Lynette will be out of the office Tuesday & Wednesday, Oct. 17 & 18. Please call before stopping by.

For Your Prayers...

Emy Mountain, daughter of **Dave & Sue Luck**

Brad Jensen’s father

Coming Soon...

Sunday, October 15
1:00-5:00 pm Historical Churches tour, pg. 2.

Sunday, October 22
2:30 pm Interfaith Speaker, see page 3.

Sign up anytime online:

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

Or sign up in the narthex!

Sunday Supper Helpers!

[Sunday Supper](#)

Make Plans to Attend!

The Cedar Falls Historical Society is sponsoring a tour of the historic churches of Cedar Falls **this Sunday**, October 15 from 1:00-5:00 pm. Churches on the tour are:

- First United Methodist
- St. Patrick's Catholic
- First Presbyterian
- Our Redeemer Lutheran
- First Evangelical Free
- St. Luke's Episcopal



Tickets are \$15 (12 and under free)

Advanced tickets are available at the CF Historical Society, 308 W 3rd Street, Cedar Falls, 319-266-5149, or on the day of the tour. Contact the historical society for more information.

Mission Giving Opportunity

The Mission Committee is sponsoring a feminine hygiene product drive during the month of October. There will be a tub in the entryway near the food bank box. The products will be donated to two middle schools in Waterloo. We have been made aware that some girls miss school due to a lack of supplies and want to target these students.



Thanks for serving last week:

Lawn Mowing: Jim Seeley

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, October 11

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Saturday, October 14

9:30 am Sarah Circle, classroom

Sunday, October 15

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary

1:00 pm Historical Churches Tour

Tuesday, October 17

6:30pm CYF Team, Zoom

Wednesday, October 18

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

White Ally Training in the Evenings

If there is sufficient interest, an evening group will be set up.

This offering is open to our congregation as well as the general public. Consider this valuable opportunity and invite a friend!

Sponsored by Working for Justice: Breaking Bias

Facilitated by the CF Mennonite Congregation

There are seven sessions; an evening schedule would be set by the participants.

Contact Sandy Jensen by November 1.

Thank You

A HUGE THANKS to all those who sent and gave me birthday cards for my 90th birthday. I thought of each of you with a happy smile. The flowers at church meant so much to me too! I am still enjoying them at Oak Park. The birthday celebrations at Circle brought me so much surprise and joy! I feel so blessed to have such a wonderful church family!

With deepest gratitude,
Dee Lynch



Dee's 90th birthday with Esther Circle (f-b, l-r: Sue Weinberg, Dee Lynch, Margaret Clark, Dot Clausen, Kay Leeper, Jeverna Mulligan, Judy Burfeind, Nancy Hoppe, Lori Abernathy, Jan Thedens, Michelle Luzaich, Hope Goering

Volunteer Opportunity

Feed My Starving Children food packing event at Westminster Presbyterian, 1301 Kimball, Waterloo, will be October 16-18. (Wednesday evening is just for youth.)

Below is a link to provide monetary support and/or to volunteer to pack. Funds donated will go directly will help pay for the meals we will pack in October.

Westminster FMSC Mission Team

To donate/volunteer: give.fmssc.org/westminster

Civility in the Face of Political Harm

*A presentation and discussion
with Connie Ryan of Interfaith Alliance of Iowa*

Sunday, October 22
2:30 pm
**First Presbyterian Church
of Cedar Falls**

902 Main Street, Cedar Falls



Connie Ryan
Executive Director
Interfaith Alliance
of Iowa



Join us for a discussion about what it means to practice civility in the face of harm being done to the LGBTQ community, communities of color, religious minority communities, people living in poverty, and more.



Time is Precious

We all are familiar with the 3 “T’s” of stewardship; “Time, Talent and Treasure. I believe we are called to give of our time AND our talents AND our treasures to God in gratitude for all that we have been given, but this week I’d like to talk about “time”.

With summer ending, another school year has started, church activities resumed, and I am reminded of how precious the gift of time is. When we are young, time seems to go by so slowly. And as we age, time seems to quickly slip by. We can’t buy “time”, we can only use it wisely.

I am guilty of telling new parents that time will go by in the blink of an eye. It’s hard to believe that when you’re in the middle of the infant and toddler years. But then your kids become teenagers overnight and you suddenly realize that you only have a few more years of having them at home with you. And that happens at the same time that your kids realize that it isn’t cool to always have their parents around.

Now as a grandparent, I am looking for opportunities to spend time with my kids and grandkids. Sometimes that looks like doing an activity together but most of the time it looks like just being present. My goal is to make sure they know that I love them and I want to be in relationship with them. One way I can do that is by giving my time and being present in their lives.

We have also heard the saying “time is money” and although I believe that to be true in the world of commerce, I don’t believe giving of our money is the same as giving of our time. I believe time is even more precious. So, what does it mean to be a good steward of your time?

In our fast-paced world, stewardship of time is hard. We are explicitly and implicitly told that we should be on-the-go and to do that we must be working or actively engaged doing things and going places. But that is not the example that Jesus set for us.

Jesus didn’t spend his limited time on earth working, trying to make more money or checking off a bucket list. Jesus spent his time with people. Jesus met people where they were and gave them his time. He fellowshiped with friends and welcomed everyone with open arms. Jesus spent his time being present with people. When Jesus wasn’t with people, he was resting or praying.

Time is a precious gift given to us by God. Be like Jesus and be a good steward of your time; be present with the people you love, spend time in relationship with God, and rest.

Stewardship Chair

Adapted from a letter by Robert Hay, Jr., Senior Ministry Relations Officer of the Presbyterian Foundation.