



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

March 20, 2024

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



### March 24 – Sixth Sunday of Lent

#### Palm Sunday

Guest Column: Excerpt from “Confronting difference in a spirit of peace”  
by Yvette Schock

Jesus’ last week in Jerusalem is full of confrontation. He enters in a way that is purposefully conspicuous, his homespun parade a kind of counterprogramming to the imperial show of force in Pilate’s procession into town. The next day Jesus disrupts the buying and selling and money-changing in the temple, and in the days following, religious leaders come at him repeatedly trying to discredit him and get him into trouble. But all of this confrontation begins with a sign of peace: Jesus rides into town on a borrowed donkey, recalling Zechariah’s promise of the humble king, riding not a war horse but a donkey; the king who would “command peace to the nations.”

Jesus confronts and disrupts all of the domination systems that harm, corrupt, or diminish the wholeness of God’s good creation and all of its people—not just on Palm Sunday but in his whole ministry, with his whole life. Jesus confronts and disrupts—with a sign of peace.

How might we confront and disrupt—with a sign of peace, in the spirit of peace, with the skills and will for peace—the forces that foment fear and turn us away from our neighbors? This Palm Sunday I’ll be waving a palm branch and walking the neighborhood with my church, but I hope we will also be wrestling together with these questions and seeking new ways to engage in our community with Jesus’ disruptive, life-giving spirit of peace.

– Yvette Schock is a Lutheran minister and the chaplain of Riverview Retirement Community in Spokane, Washington. Her full article can be found in [The Christian Century](#).

#### Church Birthdays

Mar. 20-Roger Dean, Scott Connolly, 24-Elijah Braley, 25-Sandy Jensen, Brad Wells

#### For Your Prayers...

**Marlene King**  
Sympathy to **Nicole Stolte** upon the death of her mother

#### Notice...

*Sunday, March 24*  
Flower donation deadline

*Holy Week and Easter*  
**Maundy Thursday, 3/28**  
6:00 pm First Presbyterian  
-Cedar Falls

**Good Friday, 3/29**  
6:00 pm First Presbyterian  
-505 Franklin, Waterloo

**Easter Sunday, 3/31**  
9:00 am- Refreshments  
then Egg Hunt  
10:00am- Worship Service

**Sign up anytime online:**

**Worship Leader Sign Up:**  
[Sign Up: Worship Leaders](#)  
Or sign up in the narthex!

## Thanks for serving last week:

**Computer Operator:** Eric Braley

**Videographer:** Neal Leeper

**Office Desk Modification:** Jim Seeley

## Easter Flower Sponsors



The Worship Team will be providing a floral arrangement for Easter. You may donate toward the arrangement in memory or honor of a loved one. Forms are in the narthex. **Deadline: Sunday, March 24.**

Any amount is welcome. Proceeds after expense will go into our sanctuary decorations fund.

Names will appear in the March 27 newsletter and posted in the narthex on Easter Sunday.

## Upcoming schedule

### Wednesday, March 20

10:00 am White Ally Training, dining rm  
Noon-1:00 pm Stations of the Cross, sanctuary  
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

### Palm Sunday, March 24

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary  
- SHINE breakout sessions

### Wednesday, March 27

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

### Thursday, March 28

6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship,  
sanctuary

### Friday, March 29

6:00 pm Good Friday Worship,  
First Presbyterian Church,  
505 Franklin St., Waterloo

## Sunday, April 7

### YOU ARE INVITED TO COME!

**Who:** You and your spouse, significant other or best friend. All members of the church.

**What:** Church Leader Retreat led by Rev. Ian McMullen, Pastor to the Presbytery

**When:** Sunday afternoon, April 7<sup>th</sup> noon to 4 p.m.

**Where:** Church Dining Room – lunch will be served at 11:30 AM (after worship)

We've invited the Rev. Ian McMullen to lead us in imagining what is next for our church. The retreat is not just for church officers, it's for all members who want to participate.

Webster's dictionary defines change as a verb meaning:

*"to make different",*

*"to give a different course or direction",*

*"to put on fresh clothes", or*

*"to undergo transformation or transition"*

We all know that our church, First Presbyterian in Cedar Falls, has changed. We will look at how we have changed and identify what that means moving forward. Have we put on "fresh clothes"? Who were we when you joined this church? Who are we now? Are we "transforming"? Rev. McMullen will be helping us look at these questions and discover how we move forward with intention toward building a new vital church.

We need to know how many people plan to attend. You can email Neal Leeper or contact Lynette in the church office: [office@firstprescf.org](mailto:office@firstprescf.org) or (319-277-3930) or sign up in the narthex on Sunday so we know who will be attending.

## Book Discussion Opportunities

Colby Martin, author of: UNCLOBBER (showing how the Bible is not anti-LGBTQ) and THE SHIFT (a survival guide for becoming a progressive Christian) is coming to the Cedar Valley April 7 and 8.

**Sunday morning, April 7**, he will be preaching at the 8:00 and 10:00 am services at St. John Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls. **At 6:30 pm, he will be speaking at Lang Hall on the UNI Campus.** Colby will share some of his story and his in-depth study of the six Bible verses that get used to “clobber” the LGBTQ+ community.

Dr. Courtney Stufflebeam will be hosting a discussion “Unclobbered” on **Sunday March 24**, 3:00-4:15 at First Congregational Church, 608 W. Fourth St. Waterloo. No RSVP to attend.

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Black Hawk County Sheriff, Tony Thompson has written a book on the way that the criminal justice system has become a provider of mental health patients. There will be two community discussions where Sheriff Thompson and others will talk about this important issue.

- Sunday, April 21 at Jubilee UMC Freedom Center, 2:00 p.m.
- Sunday, April 28 at Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian Church, 2:00 p.m.

Sheriff Thompson’s book, “Anyplace but Here: The Uncomfortable Convergence Between Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System” can be found at the Waterloo Barnes & Noble or on Amazon.

## Scholarship Opportunities

The ***Dorothy Horn Scholarship*** provides financial assistance to women from Presbyterian churches who attend the University of Northern Iowa. Dorothy Horn attended the University of Northern Iowa and her estate established this scholarship endowment, which is administered by our church.

The ***First Presbyterian Church Scholarship*** provides financial assistance to students seeking post-high school educational opportunities. This fund is financially supported by the Donna & Greg Hickman Trust. Applicants must have a direct connection to First Presbyterian Church of Cedar Falls to qualify.

Contact First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls for an application packet: 319-277-3930 or by email: [office@firstprescf.org](mailto:office@firstprescf.org). All applications must be returned by Friday, **April 15**, 2024.

## HOLY WEEK with Cedar Valley Presbyterians, PC(USA)

- **Maundy Thursday** - March 28, 6:00 pm  
**at** our church, First Presbyterian, 902 Main Street.  
Join us for a service of contemplation. All are welcome to partake in communion.

- **Good Friday** - March 29 - 6:00 pm  
**at** First Presbyterian Church, 505 Franklin St, Waterloo  
This service will feature a joint choir that blends together voices from our churches.

Cedar Heights Community Presbyterian and Unity Presbyterian will also participate.

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## **Easter Sunday, March 31**

*9:00 am* Refreshments in the dining room

Egg Hunt and Children’s Activities

*10:00 am* Worship in the sanctuary

## One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing works to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. Checks may be made payable to the church with “One Great Hour” on the memo.