



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

April 11, 2024

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



April 14 – Third Sunday of Easter

“Will You Devote Yourself to the Church’s Teaching?”

Scriptures: 2 Timothy 1:1-14, Hebrews 12:1-2

Will You Devote Yourself to the Church’s Teaching?

This week we continue our confirmation series, Big God Big Questions. This week’s question is, “Will you devote yourself to the church’s teaching?” As part of the church’s ongoing commitment to “faith seeking understanding,” we devote ourselves to the study of the Scriptures and the teachings of the church. In so doing, we come to understand more fully the nature of the faith we profess in Baptism and at Confirmation.

Knowing God includes knowing about God. When we love someone, we want to know about them, how they think, and what they like to do. We also benefit from knowing what other people know about the beloved. So it is with God. The word, “tradition” comes from a Latin verb that means “hand over.” When Paul reminds the church at Corinth about the propriety of the Lord’s table, he writes, “For I received from the Lord what I also *handed on* to you” (1 Corinthians 11:23; italics added). Teaching and learning to content of the Christian faith is like learning about a new friend from an old friend.

As disciples of Christ, how can we learn in community?

Check out the [Session Eight Video Here](#).

Church Birthdays

Apr. 13-Julie Erkel Hagee,
14-Lee Nicholas,
18-Carolyn Stephenson,
19-Jean Hall, John Koontz,
Jeverna Mulligan

Reminder:

Applications for the Dorothy Horn and First Presbyterian Church scholarships are due Monday, **April 15**.

For Your Prayers...

Gus Hill

Jill Mortenson’s brother passed away.

Notice...

Wednesday, April 17

10:00 am Border visit presentation by Brad Braley, dining room

The Monthly Meal for April has been **moved to April 17**, 5:30 pm.

Sunday, April 21

3:00 pm Bel Canto Spring Concert, sanctuary

Sign up anytime online:

Worship Leader Sign Up:

[Sign Up: Worship Leaders](#)

Or sign up in the narthex!

Summary of the Congregational Retreat and Follow Up Session Meeting

Congregational Retreat 4-7-24

41 members of the session, deacons, and general congregation met from 12-4 pm Sunday afternoon, April 7, in the church dining room to discuss the current status and future of the church. Those present were a very good cross section of the church that provided very active, thoughtful, and insightful contributions to the discussions. Rev. Ian McMullen, Pastor to the Presbytery, facilitated the discussion.

Reverend McMullen summarized the conclusions and decisions we had made during the New Beginnings process in 2016 and the revisit we did in 2019 as part of the process that led to Pastor Julie joining us. We discussed in small groups how we worked to implement the decisions made, the impact COVID had on that implementation, and the adjustments and ongoing work post-COVID. Reverend McMullen then led us thru a review of our Vision and Mission Statements and emphasized the importance of clearly understanding and agreeing to central “why” of our ministry before we get into the “what” and “how” of what we do. What is the central “why” that we can refer back to that should guide and define what we do as a congregation and how we do it?

We then completed a group analysis of our ministry. The following were determined to be our top strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths – We are an open, affirming, and accepting congregation. We have a good music program. We respond well to specific needs with money, time, and talents.

Weaknesses – We have a congregation that is getting smaller and older. This negatively impacts our current and future financial resources but also impacts the overall energy to do the work of the congregation.

Follow Up Session Meeting 4-9-24

The session met on April 9 to review the outcomes of the meeting on Sunday and to define our direction from here. We agreed to designate our current Vision Statement as our “why”:

In response to our relationship with Jesus Christ, we commit to grow in our personal faith, unite in love as a family of faith, and reach out in service to others.

Our plan is to evaluate and prioritize the current and future work of the church using the three commitments of the Vision Statement. We want to do this in a way that recognizes the realities of a smaller and older congregation while striving to increase the overall vitality of the congregation and maximizing our positive impact on the community around us. We decided that each Ministry Team will evaluate their current activities and decide what they might release and what could be refreshed. After this is complete, Session will identify ways that feedback from the congregation as a whole will be gathered.

A huge thank you to all of you that participated so actively and thoughtfully during our meeting Sunday afternoon. We look forward to working together in faith as we chart our future together.

Thanks for serving last week:

Guest Preacher/Facilitator: Rev. Ian McMullen

Worship Leader/Communion Prep: Cyd Grafft

Computer Operator: Kevin Thedens

Videographer: Neal Leeper

Retreat Meal & Clean Up: Neal & Kay Leeper,
Sue Luck, Patti Humpal, Cyd Grafft, Jeverna
Mulligan, Dot Clausen, Kevin & Jan Thedens,
Rob & Lynette Cline, Judy Burfeind

Rearranging Hymnals: Connie Herbon

Bel Canto Concert

The Bel Canto Spring Concert, "Which New, Wild Joy" will be at First Presbyterian-Cedar Falls on Sunday, April 21 at 3:00 pm.



Concert tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at the door.

Cookies and lemonade will be served downstairs after the concert.



We had a great turn out at the Congregational Retreat on Sunday.

Thanks to all who participated and helped in any way.

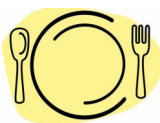
Wednesday Supper

Join us for our monthly Wednesday meal **April 17**, 5:30 pm in the dining room.

Everything is provided.

A freewill offering will be received.

Volunteers are needed to clean up afterwards.



YOU ARE INVITED

Border Visit Presentation

Working for Justice: Breaking Bias invites the congregation to hear Brad Braley's presentation about his time at the U.S.-Mexico border. The event will take place on Wednesday, April 17 at 10:00 AM in the church dining room. There will be time for Q&A following the presentation. Please join us for this important opportunity!

Upcoming schedule

Sunday, April 14

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary
Shine Kids breakout sessions

Monday, April 15

6:30 pm Worship Team, Zoom

Wednesday, April 17

10:00 am Southern Border Presentation, dining room
5:30 pm Monthly Meal, dining room
6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Refugee Resettlement Update From: 902 Main Sponsor Group

The group from the CF Mennonite and First Presbyterian Churches sponsoring a refugee family have been assigned a mother and her two teenage sons. They will be coming from Venezuela and can arrive anytime the next 1-3 months.

In the next few weeks, the group will begin setting up the apartment with furnishings. A detailed list of needs will be forth coming.

The financial contributions, words of prayer and support, have played a big role in moving this project forward. Thank you! Contact Rhonda Braley with any questions.