



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

April 3, 2024

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



April 7 – Second Sunday of Easter

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

Scriptures: Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1-2:2

Guest Preacher: Rev. Ian McMullen, Pastor to the Presbytery

Will You Devote Yourself to the Church’s Fellowship?

This week we continue our confirmation series, Big God Big Questions. This week’s question is, “Will you devote yourself to the church’s fellowship?” The stories of the earliest Christians show us what it means to be disciples of Jesus Christ and members of a diverse Christian community. In Acts, the disciples of the early church share everything and testify together to Jesus’ resurrection. The psalmist of Psalm 133 sings of the beauty of unity: “How good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity.” And First John commends us all to walk in the light of God together in fellowship.

The Greek word *Koinonia*, “fellowship,” expresses the idea of sharing in a common bond. The word refers to communion in the sense of “something used or held in common.” Action is always included in its meaning. Fellowship is not just being together; but doing together.

As disciples of Christ, what is God calling us to do in our community?

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

Church Birthdays

Apr. 3-Joyce Wellhouse,
4-Brad Jensen, 13-Julie
Erkel Hagee, 14-Lee Nich-
olas

Notice...

Sunday, April 7

Leaders & Members Re-
treat. [See page 2!](#)

Wednesday, April 17

10:00 am Border visit
presentation by Brad Bra-
ley, dining room

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

Sunday, April 21

3:00 pm Bel Canto Spring
Concert, sanctuary

It’s not too late to give to
the **One Great Hour of
Sharing** offering. Make
checks payable to the
church with “One Great
Hour” on the memo.

Sign up anytime online:

Worship Leader Sign Up:

[Sign Up: Worship Leaders](#)

Or sign up in the narthex!

Thanks for serving last week:

Worship Leader: Cyd Grafft

Computer Operator: Dave Luck

Videographer: Neal Leeper

Easter Sanctuary Decorating: Sue Luck, Phil Batchelder

Easter Refreshments & Clean-Up: Shirley Hill, Dot Clausen, Jean Boller, Patti Humpal, Justice Humpal, Sue Luck

Pew Vacuuming: Jim & Jane Seeley, Brad Jensen, Lynette Cline

Stairs; Plant Care: Jim & Jane Seeley

Thank You

Thank you one and all, in Jesus Christ, for the birthday and Easter cards from the Deacons at First Church.

Sincerely, Roger Dean

Offering Totals

Thank you to those who contributed to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance offering on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. The offering will be designated for the Israeli/Palestinian relief in Gaza.

Maundy Thursday - \$468.00

Good Friday - 553.11

Total **\$1021.11**

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, April 3

10:00 am White Ally Training, dining room

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, April 4

1:00 pm Esther Circle, dining room

Saturday, April 6

9:30 am Sarah Circle, classroom

Sunday, April 7

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary

11:30 am Congregational Meal, dining room

12:00 pm Leaders/Members Retreat

Tuesday, April 9

6:30 pm Session Meeting, library

7:00 pm Audubon Society, dining room

Wednesday, April 10

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Membership Anniversaries

Donna Henn, 4/2/1969 - 55 yrs.



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.

THIS 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 7th noon to 4 p.m.

Where: Church Dining Room – lunch will be served at 11:30 AM (after worship.) The meal will be **catered** so everything is provided.

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 contact the church office: office@firstprescf.org or (319-277-3930) so we know how many will be attending for the meal.

Refugee Resettlement Update From: 902 Main Sponsor Group

The group of individuals from the Mennonite and First Presbyterian Church working to sponsor a refugee family to the Cedar Valley have been assigned a family! The newcomers consist of a mother and her two teenage sons. They will be coming from Venezuela and can arrive anytime the next 1-3 months.



The next big task was to find suitable and affordable housing. Many places declined the request to rent because the prospective tenant did not have a credit score or paystubs or even a job. However, Babic Properties listened to what we were doing and how we would manage this unique situation. They agreed to allow us to rent a two bedroom apartment from them without the typical requirements, a very generous offer!

Here is why... They remembered what it was like when they and their families came to America from Bosnia to start a new life. They told us it was because of the kindness of people like us, they were able to get jobs, learn English, raise their families and be a part of the community. Over the past 20 some years they have worked hard building their rental property business. They wanted to help our newcomers get a hand UP just like what they had received. Now, they felt this was an opportunity to “pay it forward.”

In the next few weeks, the group will begin setting up the apartment with furnishings. While many items are being donated from a deceased family’s household, right now we need a very small dining table with three to four chairs. A more detailed list of needs will be forth coming.

The financial contributions from many of you, along with your words of prayer and support, have played a big role in moving this project forward. Thank you!

Contact Rhonda Braley with any questions.

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. This opportunity 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!

Area Book Discussions

- Colby Martin, author of: and THE SHIFT is coming to the Cedar Valley. **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.**
- Black Hawk County Sheriff, Tony Thompson has written a book “Anyplace but Here: The Uncomfortable Convergence Between Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System.” There will be two community discussions:
 - * 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.

Scholarship Opportunities

The ***Dorothy Horn Scholarship*** provides financial assistance to women from Presbyterian churches who attend the University of Northern Iowa.

The ***First Presbyterian Church Scholarship*** provides financial assistance to students seeking post-high school educational opportunities. Applicants must have a direct connection to First Presbyterian 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. All applications must be returned by Friday, **April 15, 2024**.

Community Ministries Projects

The Community Ministries Team invites you to view the 2024-2025 financial support for missions by stopping by the bulletin board across from the church office. Our service work in the community is funded by local budget, additional individual gifts, and by earning three Presbytery grants - all working together to enable First Presbyterian Cedar Falls to be known as a "Matthew 25 Church."

Find monetary designations and all the ways our Community Ministries' dollars touch our area and beyond pictured on the board. Please consider which project interests you and how you might offer a hands-on way to serve.

Contact Hope Goering, Community Ministries moderator, for more information.



Egg Hunt Fun at First Presbyterian!

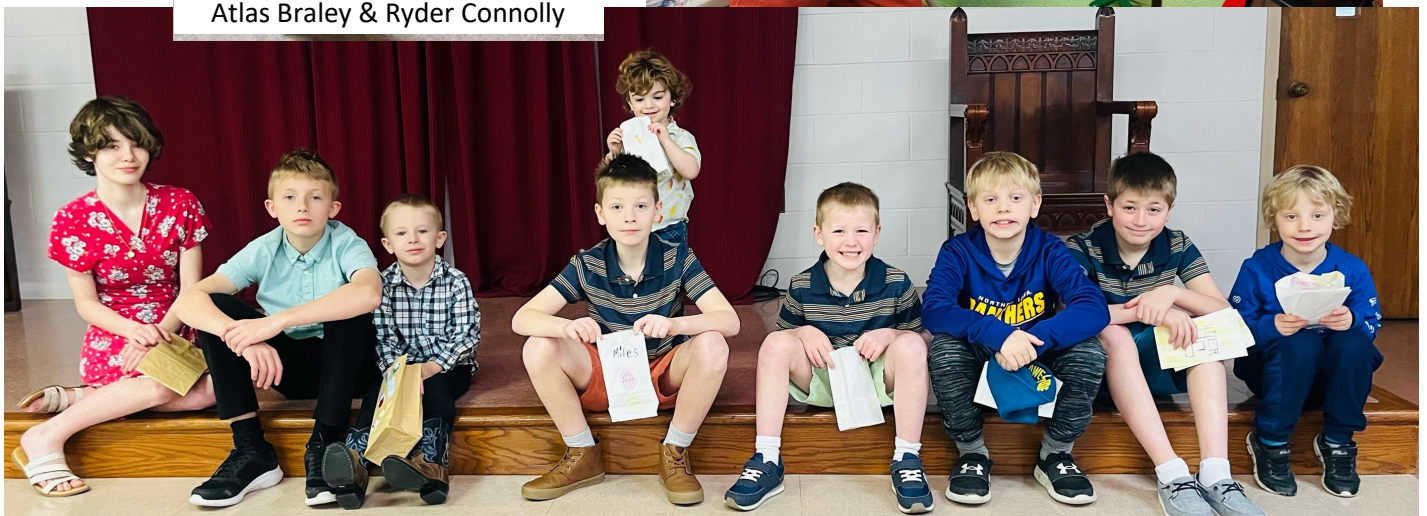
Thanks to everyone who helped: Justice Humpal, Scott, Noah & Ryder Connolly, and all the people who supplied the candy and who stuffed the plastic eggs. It was a great Easter morning fellowship.



Atlas Braley & Ryder Connolly



Miles Braley



Back: Atlas Braley | Front l-r: Nelliene, Damon & Bastion Glissmann, Miles & Caleb Braley, Parker Connolly, Eli Braley, Bennett Connolly