FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

January 22, 2025

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org

Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 26

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Celebrating the Body of Christ

Paul writes to the Corinthian church about unity in diversity in the body of Christ. The foot, the ear, and the eye each have a different function, but they work together for one body. Similarly, in our baptisms, each of us is made into one body, the body of Christ. We bring all of our unique gifts, skills, and talents with us to that body, complementing one another to be the beloved community to help usher in God's kin-dom here on earth. This week we celebrate the work of this particular body and look toward what God is guiding us to in the future. Representatives from our various teams will present what they celebrate from 2024. Be sure to join us for this meaningful service!

Prayer: Life-giving God, we thank you that each one of us essential to the whole body of Christ. Guide us in the ways of communal living so that our unity will be a testimony to others. Amen.

Your partner in the journey,

Pastor Julie



PCUSA Resource Guide on Transgender Identity

The news media is full of stories about potential and enacted state and federal legislation concerning the rights of transgender individuals. The Presbyterian Church USA has published a resource guide on transgender identity that answers questions on this topic with scriptural references. It is attached to this week's E-Link newsletter and also available on the PCUSA website at this link: https://pcusa.org/sites/default/files/TransResourceBrochure_FINAL.pdf

A brochure is attached to this email.

Church Birthdays

26-Brad Braley
27-Tom Mulligan, Duane Dean, 30-Donna Henn
31-Louann Flaherty

Upcoming Events...

Sunday, January 26
During worship-
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION AND CORPORATION
Vote to change the By-Laws: see pg. 2

Pastoral Note:

Pastor Julie will be away on continuing education from January 29-February 3. Jane Seeley is the Deacon on Call.

Sunday, February 9
Souper Bowl of Caring
Noisy offering, food donations, and soup lunch after worship.
See the **sign-up sheet** to bring a lunch item to share.

Sign up anytime online:

Worship Leader Sign Up:
Sign Up: Worship Leaders
Or sign up in the narthex!

Thanks for serving last week:

Videographer: Kevin Thedens

Computer Operator: Kirk Eastman

Session Representative: Elder Brad Jensen

Fellowship: Margaret Clark

Welcome New Members

Paul Braley and Malerie Egli were welcomed into membership on Sunday, January 19.



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

The annual meeting of the congregation and corporation will be Sunday, January 26 during worship.

Giving Statements and Annual Reports are in the narthex.

Change to the By-Laws

A vote will be taken to change the church's by-laws to update the number of active Deacons to nine.

Souperbowl of Caring/Soup Lunch, February 9



Stay after worship on Sunday, February 9 for a soup lunch! We are asking for volunteers to sign up to bring your favorite soup, bread, muffins or desserts. A sign up sheet is in the narthex.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items and a noisy offering for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank.

If you are unable to attend that day but wish to bring food items, please put them **in the church library** by Feb. 9.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet Update

Pastor Julie and five members of Working for Justice: Breaking Bias attended the 46th annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Banquet on Sunday, January 19, 2025. The banquet was held at the Waterloo Convention Center. The keynote speaker was ReShonda Young, founder of Bank of Jabez, which will be Iowa's first Black-owned bank, and a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) in Waterloo, IA. ReShonda was born and raised in Waterloo, IA and graduated from Wartburg College. She was honored in April 2015 as a White House Working Families Champion of Change. She was invited to testify before Congress on two occasions and was invited to speak with the Women of Congress at an event titled "When Women Succeed, America Succeeds."



PC(USA) Response to California Wildfires

Dear Community,

Thank you for your concern and prayers for those affected by the California wildfires. We know the Presbytery of the Pacific has been affected and fires are also thought to have impacted the presbyteries of San Fernando and San Gabriel. This is a time of great grief and loss, and many are eager to help.

You may make a check payable to our church with "fires" on the memo.

Or contribute directly to the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance U.S. wildfires account, using the code DR000165: go to https://www.pcusa.org/donate/dr000165-us-wildfires

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, January 22

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Sunday, January 26

9:00 am Q&A on Annual Report, dining room

10:00 am Worship/Annual Meeting, sanctuary

-Shine breakout session

Wednesday, January 29

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary