FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

E-Link

January 8, 2025

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org

Baptism of Jesus – January 12

Scripture: Luke 3: 15-17, 21-22



Art: A Bayou Baptism
by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Mark 1:4-11

"Jesus is stretching out of the frame inviting the viewer to celebrate their own mysterious and wonderful calling from God, as he basks in his own. I chose to paint a pelican for the Holy Spirit's descent, because the scriptural texts leave some room for interpretation; the descending figure is described as 'like a dove'. So, I decided to paint a pelican which is native to the bayou and was also used to depict Christ's sacrifice in medieval Christian art. God the Creator is represented as the sun, with voice waves radiating from the center, expressing how pleased God is with Jesus."

I love this depiction of Jesus' baptism by artist, Lauren Wright Pittman. She helps us open our imaginations to what that Holy Spirit moment may have been like. She also invites us to imagine what the moment in our own context. I wonder what type of bird you think would have descended upon Jesus had he been baptized in the Cedar River. I wonder how you would feel standing along the riverbank that day. I wonder how you feel when we baptize someone in our worship services. I look forward to wondering with you about these things this Sunday as we celebrate the baptism of Jesus and remember our own baptisms.

Your partner in the journey,

Pastor Julie

Church Birthdays

Jan. 8-John Luzaich,
Michelle Luzaich,
10- Stephanie Marra,
12-Mary McCalley

Upcoming Events...

Thursday, January 9
12:00 pm - Esther Circle Potluck, dining room

Sunday, January 12
SHINE Congregational Meal after worship.
2:00 pm Cedar Valley Justice Coalition, dining room

Wednesday, January 15
6:30 pm—Choir Rehearsal resumes

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

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

Videographer: Gary Clark

Computer Operator: Eric Braley

Office Help: Cyd Grafft, Kevin Thedens, Neal Leeper

Food Bank Delivery: Brad Braley

Thank You to everyone who stayed after worship to help take down the Greens and 'store the décor."

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

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

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.

Year End Reports



Annual reports from our Ministry Teams are due into the office **THIS Friday**, January 10 by noon. Please have reports in a Word or Excel format and email to: office@firstprescf.org. Thank you!

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, January 8

6:00 pm Session Meeting, library

Thursday, January 9

12:00 pm Esther Circle Potluck, dining room

Friday, January 10

12:00 pm Ministry Team Annual Reports Due

Sunday, January 12

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary

-Shine breakout session

11:15 am Shine Congregational Meal, dining room

2:00 pm CV Justice Coalition, dining room

Tuesday, January 14

7:00 pm Audubon Society, dining room

Wednesday, January 15

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal resumes, sanctuary

Shine Sunday Meal

Sunday SHINE Meal for the congregation will be Sunday, January 12 after worship in the dining room. Everything will be provided and a freewill offering will be received.



90th Birthday Celebration!



On January 12th Mary McCalley turns 90! To celebrate, her family is wanting to do a card shower. For those who would like to celebrate with her in person, please come on January 11, 2025 to Walnut Ridge (1701 Campus Drive, Clive, Iowa) in the Walnut Room between 1:00pm-3:00pm for cake and coffee.

No gifts - just cards.

~ Lisa, John and Ann McCalley

Thank You

The 902 Main Sponsor Group and Newcomer/cook, Edibet, want to thank all those that participated in the hallaca fundraiser last month. It not only was a successful fundraiser, but provided us with a taste of a Venezuelan Christmas tradition. The hallacas are similar to a tamale, except these are wrapped and boiled in banana leaves. Being able to prepare the 100 hallacas in our church's kitchen was also appreciated. Close to $600 was raised for our newcomer family's needs.



