FIRST PRESBYTERIAN E-Link February 19, 2025

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org

Sermon Series: The Art of Hearing

"Hearing One Another" – Sunday, February 23

Scripture: Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40, Luke 6:27-38

Last Sunday we explored the first part of Jesus' Sermon on the Plain in the Gospel of Luke. This Sunday's gospel text continues this challenging sermon, declaring that we are to: love our enemies; do good to those who hate us; bless those who curse us; pray for those who mistreat us. The Rev. Mihee Kim-Kort reflects on these words this way, "The miracle of our life together is that even while we may seem foreign and strange to one another, we are called together by the voice of God to hear one another's stories. We hear the voice of God in one another as we come together in conversation and experience the love that will not let us go—the love that is powerful enough to make enemies into friends."

I wonder, have you ever experienced this kind of love? What have you learned from experiences (yours or others) such as this? This Sunday we'll ponder what it means to, "do to others as you would have them do to you (Luke 6:31)."
What do these words mean for us in this present day?

Learn how Presbyterians are helping in Ukraine

The Rev. Jan Dus, a Presbyterian minister who lives in Prague, in the Czech Republic, will be speaking at First Presbyterian Church, 505 Franklin Street, Waterloo, on Thursday, February 27, at 6:00 p.m. in Calvin Hall. The public is invited.

Rev. Dus created a humanitarian organization called Camino in 2022 to help Ukrainians after the start of the war. Camino is involved in a handful of projects across Ukraine, assisting everyone from senior citizens to children. It supports House of Mercy in a small town south of Kyiv. This senior citizens' home, designed for 35 residents, has housed more than a hundred refugees, including mothers with children fleeing the war. Camino supports three orphanages, all on the outskirts of Kyiv. In Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, it helps fund a food distribution program that prepares thousands of meals a day.

Based in the Czech Republic, Camino is a fully volunteer-based, grassroots organization with no paid staff, including Dus' position as director.
When he asks Ukrainians how people from outside the country can help, "typically the first thing they mention is prayer," Dus said. "Pray for us. Don't forget about us. Remember us. Pray for Ukraine."

Rev. Dus is in the U.S. to report on current conditions and needs, and to raise funds for the projects of Camino. You can read more about Dus and these projects at the Presbyterian Foundation website, from which the summary above was taken: https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/resources/news/all-volunteer-camino-serves-food-support-and-hope-in-ukraine/

Church Birthdays

Feb. 19-Daniel Humpal, Michael Boller, 21-Jan Reimer, 27-Dot Clausen, Addison Wells, 28-Walt Stephenson

Informational Link

PC(USA) joins religious freedom lawsuit challenging ICE enforcement actions in churches Click this link to learn more about our denominations efforts to ensure religious freedom.

Coming Soon…

March 2-Shrove Sunday
11:15 am Pancake Brunch
12:00 –1:00 pm **Congregational Informational Meeting**

Sunday, March 2, 2:00 pm
Cedar Valley Justice Coalition Panel Discussion

March 5-Ash Wednesday
6:30 pm Worship

Friday, April 11-Horn and FPC Scholarships Deadline

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: Paul Braley

Videographer: Gary Clark

Computer Operator: Carolyn Stephenson

Snow Removal: Gary Clark, Gary Sabey, Jim Seeley

Souperbowl Food Packing: Jean Boller

Office Coverage: Jeverna Mulligan

In Sympathy

Condolences to Connie Herbon and family upon the death of Doug Herbon. A memorial service for Doug will be in May.



Card Shower

Stephanie Marra has moved, and we are having a card shower for her. She would appreciate hearing from you. Contact the office for her address.

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, February 19

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, February 20

10:00 am CV Justice Coalition Planning Committee, library

1:00 pm Sarah Circle, dining room

Sunday, February 23

10:00 am Worship, sanctuary
-Shine breakout session

Monday, February 24

6:30 pm PEO, dining room

Wednesday, February 26

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Panel Discussion on Racial Justice Issues in the Cedar Valley

Sunday, March 2, 2:00-4:00 PM

First Presbyterian | 902 Main Street, Cedar Falls

Speakers will be LaTanya Graves, President of Black Hawk NAACP chapter, Rev. Belinda Creighton-Smith, Waterloo City Council member, UNI instructor, and pastor of Faith Temple Baptist Church, and Al Hays, Emeritus Professor of Political Science and Public Policy.

The Lenten Season

- *Shrove Sunday Service and Pancake Brunch – March 2*

Join us for Shrove Sunday when we will contemplate what it is to be transformed. The service will be followed by a pancake & sausage brunch.

- ***Congregational Informational Meeting - March 2***

From 12:00-1:00 pm, Session will give an update on the work accomplished since last years' Session/Congregational retreat. Session is seeking input from the congregation on future plans, including Lynette's retirement and Julie's sabbatical.

- *Ash Wednesday - March 5*

Our Ash Wednesday service will be Wednesday, March 5 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. We will have a time of contemplation, communion, and the imposition of ashes.

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 First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls.

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.

Those interested in more information or an application packet for these scholarships should contact First Presbyterian Church in Cedar Falls.
Applications can be requested by calling 319-277-3930 or by email: office@firstprescf.org. All applications must be returned by Friday, April 11, 2025.

Souperbowl of Caring Update

We collected $250.83 for the Noisy Offering to benefit the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. The freewill offering of $82 for the soup lunch will also go to the food bank, for a total of $332.83! Thanks to all who gave!!



First Presbyterian Church Leadership 2024-2025

Elders with Team Assignments (*Moderator)

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class 0f 2027
Tanner Barber Connectedness Team*	Jean Boller Children, Youth, & Family Team*	Ray Burfeind Personnel Team
Scott Connolly Connectedness Team	Cyd Grafft Worship & Music Team	Brad Jensen Community Ministries
Sandy Jensen Community Ministries Team*	Kevin Thedens Corporate Ministries, Finance*	
Judy Burfeind Clerk of Session		

Additional Team Moderators

Dave Luck Worship & Music Team*	Kay Leeper Personnel Team*	Jim Seeley Properties Team*

Deacons (*Co-Moderators)

Class of 2025	Class of 2026	Class 0f 2027
Phil Batchelder	Jill Mortenson*	Kirk Eastman
Margaret Clark	Jane Seeley*	Sue Eastman
Stephanie Marra	Jim Seeley	Connie Herbon
	Sue Weinberg	Janet Reimer