First Presbyterian E-Link

August 6, 2025

10:00 am
Sunday Worship
Firstprescf.org



Art: "The Light of the World"
William Holman Hunt, 1827-1910

Next Sunday:

Sunday, August 10 @10:00am

Sermon: "Treasures of the Heart"

Scriptures: Psalm 33:13-22; Luke 12:32-40

We will continue in Luke chapter 12 this week. Jesus continues to speak to the disciples and to the crowds as he makes his way around the community. We will hear about permanent purses of plenty and staying alert for the master's knock on the door. What is a purse that does not wear out? How can we stay alert without sinking in anxiety?

Church Birthdays

Aug 11-Greg Dotseth,
14-Rhonda Braley

Office Notes!

During **August**, the office will be closed on Fridays.

Sympathy to…

Phil Batchelder

For Your Prayers…

Gus Hill

Upcoming schedule

Wednesday, August 6

11:45 am Sarah Circle, Los Cabos-Cedar Falls

Thursday, August 7

12:30 pm Women's Social, Perkins-4045 Hammond Ave, Waterloo

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/Communion Prep: Cyd Grafft

Videographer: Neal Leeper

Computer Operator: Gary Clark

Lawn Mowing: 8/3– Eric Braley

Lawn Mowing 8/10 - Neal Leeper/Muchie Dzika

Women's Social Gathering

The meeting room at Perkins, 4045 Hammond Ave, Waterloo has been reserved for lunch at 12:30 pm, Thursday August 7 for the Esther Circle social.

Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to all of you that were willing to open your doors for severe weather sheltering needs during RAGBRAI. Fortunately, we had great weather and did not need to enact any sheltering or evacuation plans. Thanks for taking the time to respond to my request, meet with me to walk through your facility, confirm contacts and all the details so we would be ready if needed.

Many thanks,
Stephanie Sheetz
Director of Community Development



A New Way to Sign Up!

We now have an easier way to sign up to help with Sunday Suppers.

Simply email Jean Seeland: jean_seeland@vccv.org

Let her know what days you wish to work.

Part-Time Staff Position Applications

First Presbyterian is taking applications for a 6-8 hours per week, part-time custodian.

This person will perform a variety of tasks for cleaning; move tables and chairs as needed, and other minor related tasks to assist other staff, and congregation volunteers. This is a self-directed position requiring personal resourcefulness, flexibility, and initiative to manage both recurring activities and unscheduled events.

If you know of a person who might be interested, contact the Lynette: office@firstprescf.org. Applications need to received by **August 15.**

- Personnel Team

Documentary Film Viewing

"Pushout– The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools."

A documentary by Monique Morris & Jacoba Atlas will be presented by Iowa United Women of Faith.

- Waterloo Public Library, 415 Commercial St, Waterloo
- Sunday, October 12, 2:00 pm

A discussion will follow the documentary, 3:15-3:45 pm.

LeChristopher's Southern Cuisine meal will be available that day at 12:00-3:00 pm, Jubilee UMC, 1621 E 4th St, Waterloo. The meal is $20 per person payable at the door.

International Students 'Free Store' Volunteers Needed

Monday, Aug. 18 from 3:00-6:00 pm will be the ThreeHouse 'Free Store'! Movers and/or folks with trucks or trailers to help would be greatly appreciated!

This store is for newly arrived International Students at UNI. Many are moving into empty, unfurnished apartments. The Free Store provides them with necessary housewares including beds, tables, and dressers.

This is a fun event and a great way to meet students arriving from around the world. If you can help for all or some of the time, please call ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries at 319-266-4071, or email ross@threehouse.org.

ThreeHouse is located at 2422 College Street in Cedar Falls.

LEAVE A TRACE

Stewardship of God's Creation

I love the outdoors in any season, but in spring and early summer, with the wildflowers blooming and the mosquitos and other bugs not yet out in full force, I enjoy being out in nature more than in the heat of mid-summer or in the cold Iowa winters. Whether I'm on a walk around Big Woods Lake or biking through the George Wyth Park, I enjoy being unplugged from technology and taking time to soak in the natural beauty of God's creation.

When visiting the outdoors, I'm conscious to minimize my impact on the land. To be a good steward of the outdoors, one should practice *"Leave No Trace"* principles. These are seven principles that provide a framework for how to enjoy shared outdoor spaces while being conscious of the effects that our actions may have on plants, animals, other people, and entire ecosystems. The seven principles are:

Plan ahead and prepare.
Don't damage fragile ecology.
Properly dispose of trash.
Leave the area better than you found it.
Minimize your personal impact.
Respect nature.
Be considerate of others.

By adhering to the Leave No Trace principles, we can play a vital role in protecting our natural world so that it may be enjoyed by generations to come.

In my role on the Stewardship Committee, I have talked about stewardship…a lot. We are called by God to be stewards of all that we have generously been gifted by God. The dictionary definition of stewardship is "the responsible overseeing and protection of something worth caring for." I describe stewardship as thanking God by the way we live our lives and spend and share our resources.

It's interesting to me that to be a good steward of the natural world, we should aim to leave no trace. We should enjoy nature in a way that makes it seem like we were never there. When it comes to being stewards of our personal time, talents, and treasures, we should aim for the opposite—we should aim to leave a trace. Our acts of generosity, no matter how great or small, should have an impact on other individuals and our communities. Those impacts can happen immediately, and they can live on, even after we leave this earth, through our legacies. The stewardship Leave a Trace principles are:

Plan ahead and prepare – have a Will and estate plan that includes our church.
Don't damage fragile ecology – take care of all that you have been given.
Leave the world and your church better than you found it.
Maximize your personal impact while doing God's work.
Respect nature and the environment.
Be considerate of others.

I am who I am today—we are all who we are today—because of the traces that others have left behind as they have faithfully stewarded their gifts for the glory of God and the work of the church in this world. I grew into faith as a child because of my Sunday School teachers who selflessly gave of their time to prepare lessons and to teach the Bible in ways that were accessible and fun. I've benefited from the example of those in the church who have shown me how to live a life of grace and truth and giving. These individuals and churches, because of their generosity, left traces on my life that have had lasting impacts. I will forever be grateful for the ways people have given of their time, talents and treasures in ways that have nurtured my faith.

In gratitude for the ways we have been blessed by God and by others, may we all grow deeper in the spiritual discipline of stewardship, thanking God by the way we live our lives and spend and share our resources, aiming to leave a trace in the world.

Neal Leeper