

Grow in faith. Unite in love. Reach out to others.



E-Link



Sunday Worship
10:00 am
firstprescf.org

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN **October 21, 2026**

Sunday, October 25 @ 10:00 am

Preacher: Rev. Edward Ludt

Worship Leader: Carolyn Stephenson

Scripture: Mark 5: 1-20 (English Standard Version)

Sermon: The Life Altering Power of Christ

Theme: The power of Christ to restore those enslaved to sin

Cheerful Giving of Resources, Time, and Talents

2 Corinthians 9: 7 & 12 NIV ⁷Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. ¹²This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.

Verse 7 is one I have gone back to many times. Verse 12 has become a favorite more recently. I most often think of verse 7 in the context of giving of money. Similarly, while "service" in verse 12 sounds like activity, its context in chapter 9 is that of donations. Having said that, I think we need to look at "giving" and "service" in these verses as relating to money AND time and talents. It is not just about the donations we give, but also about the time and abilities we share.

Often, we hear "give until it hurts". We give of our money, time, and abilities begrudgingly based on a feeling of duty or responsibility. This is not what God requests. We are blessed as individuals and as a congregation. God is asking us to give joyfully out of gratitude for the abundance we have been given, and in recognition of His good work that our giving facilitates.

This leads to verse 12 that reminds us that what we give, whether its money or time and talents, not only provides for our congregation, community, and world but also expresses thanks to God for his abundant giving and plan.

These verses remind us to give out of joy and thankfulness for what we have been given, as well as in recognition of the good that it provides others and the thanks it gives to God.

We will again be receiving a Time and Talent Survey with our pledge card. Please prayerfully consider what skills and service you can cheerfully offer in the coming year.

Kevin Thedens

Stewardship Committee

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1 – immediately following worship

An informational meeting for the congregation will be held in the dining room.

This will be an update on the interviews with Session regarding the future direction of the church and an opportunity for the congregation to ask questions.

Church Birthdays

Oct 24-Marsha Flater

Nov. 2-Tracy King

Office Note:

The office will be closed on Friday, October 23.

Upcoming Events...

Sunday, October 25

UNICEF Sunday

Saturday, October 31

Feminine Hygiene
deadline

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Sunday

**After worship: an
informational meeting
on the direction of the
church interviews.**

Sunday, November 8

Friendsgiving Potluck
With the CF Mennonites

**Sign up anytime
online:**

Worship Leader Sign Up

[Sign Up: Worship Leader](#)

Or sign up in the narthex!

Sunday Supper Sign Up:

Jean_seeland@vccv.org

Thanks for serving last week:

Guest Preacher: Rev. Leah Elrod
Worship Leader: Dot Clausen
Time for Wonder: Carolyn Stephenson
Computer Operator: Gary Clark
Videographer: Neal Leeper
Office Substitute: Jane Seeley
Lawn Mowing in October: Muchie Dzika

Friendsgiving Potluck

Sunday, November 8 will be our Friendsgiving Potluck with the Cedar Falls Mennonites.

Serving for the meal will begin at approximately 11:30 am.



Sliced turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, rolls and desserts will be provided. Members of the congregation are asked to bring a side dish.

Members of the Mennonite Congregation will join us after their service.

The Deacons are encouraging you to make your way to the dining room immediately after the conclusion of our service and have a seat at a table where the Bluegrass Boys will be providing entertainment.

Newsletter Update

Due to technological changes in our software, the newsletter looks a little bit different. Your patience with the reformatting process is appreciated.

Upcoming Schedule

Wednesday, October 21

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

Thursday, October 22

1:00 pm Personnel Sub-Cte., library

1:30 pm Nominating Team, classroom

Sunday, October 25

10:00 am Worship/UNICEF offering

11:15 am Fellowship, narthex

Wednesday, October 28

6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal, sanctuary

UNICEF Sunday

Bring your coins (folding money works too!) for our Noisy Offering **this Sunday, October 25.**

Children & Youth: you may wear your Halloween costume to church that day to help with the Noisy Offering.



Esther Circle will host a time of Fellowship after worship.

Community Organ Recital

Sunday, November 1, 4:00 pm

United Church of Christ, 608 W 4th St, Waterloo

Theme: America's 250th Anniversary

The event is free to the public. A freewill offering will be received to support the education of future organist.

Phil Batchelder will be performing.

Housewarming donations

Our friend George will be moving to Waterloo at the end of the month to a home better suited to his needs, where he can receive more support. To help him refresh his living space, we are collecting donated household items. Think of it as a housewarming shower for George!

[Use this link](#) if you would like to contribute a gift to George.

Please have items at the church by October 29th.

Smaller donated items can be left in the library. Contact Rhonda Braley about larger items.

ThreeHouse Community Meal

Rhonda Braley has signed up to serve the Sunday Community Supper for students on November 1, 5:30 pm at ThreeHouse. Anyone interested in assisting her with the meal and/or serving should contact Rhonda.

Feminine Hygiene Drive

It's time for our annual feminine hygiene drive to support students in need in the Waterloo School District. Products are expensive and not often available at the Food Bank. Making sure nurses or family liaison workers have some available sometimes is the difference between being at school or having to stay home.

Please: no panty liners!

Items will be collected during the month of October and can be placed in the marked tubs in the entryway. Thank you for your support of young women!